



# Friends of Huntington

## From the President

### Good Things Continue at the Library

**Relatively New**—Stop by and notice the wonderful updating of the entrance to the library. A colorful ceiling, new flooring with an interesting rug and seasonal decorations surrounding the windows provide a welcoming atmosphere. The update is the result of a very generous donation by a loyal library patron. Check out the books for sale while you are there. The community is generous in gifts and donations to the library. The Friends of Huntington Memorial Library support the library with dues and donations that they receive. See the Library Director’s report in this newsletter for other successful library projects.

**New**—Weather permitting, new picnic tables and waste receptacles will be in the park. These are funded by a very generous donation from friends, in memory of Phil Santos.

Wooden newspaper racks, small side tables for laptop or personal belongings, and charging stations for technology devices will be purchased. These will be funded by the Phil Santos fund. The need for charging stations has increased as people are using their electronic devices at the library.

**How can you help?** Advise The Friends if you know of a grant or an organization that would help with support. Consider making a donation and encourage others to do the same. Stay current with activities and programs at the library by using the web site <https://hmloneonta.org> **The Friends of Huntington Memorial Library would like to thank the many contributors who support the library. All funding from donations and dues are used for library purchases, programs and materials.**

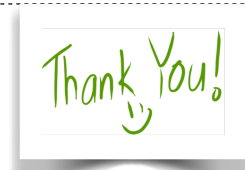
*Karyl Sage, President Friends of HML*

### National Library Week April 23 - 29, 2023 Theme: **There’s More to the Story**

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. The contribution of libraries and librarians are celebrated and library use promoted. This is a time to celebrate the contributions of libraries and its workers across the nation. The Friends of HML will pay recognition to the library staff during this week and especially on Tuesday April 25 **National Workers Day**, a day designated to recognize the library staff who keep libraries running. “Libraries work because they work.” If you have the opportunity to show your appreciation to the fine library staff, we encourage you to do so. And, while visiting the library, give your library card a workout.

## FRIENDS’ DONATIONS

\$10,200 was donated to HML in 2022. Thank you for your generous support!



## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Friends of Huntington Memorial Library shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in strengthening the library, enhancing its collections, and promoting its usefulness.

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

The Friends are pleased to introduce the newest member of the HML staff. Meet Donna, who began employment as the Children’s Coordinator in early February 2023. Donna relates that meeting people and introducing them to new books and experiences will be an enjoyable part of her new position as well as having fun. Donna was asked what particular books stood out as favorites and she lists *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith, *The Stranger* by Chris VanAllsburg. Among her favorite DVD’s are Rise of the Guardians, The Christmas Candle and The Hunt for Red October.



During leisure time and depending on the season, Donna enjoys reading, writing, or watching movies and doing jigsaw puzzles in front of the fireplace during snowy winter months and, in warmer weather, spends time at her Summit Lake cabin. Here is where you’ll find Donna enjoying a good book while sitting on the deck. When asked what she would like people to know about the library, her response was “The library can take you places you never thought you could go and show you things you never thought you would see. The library offers new adventures in every room”.

Welcome, Donna, to our fine library.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS**

Jon Coffin is the winner of The Friends’ sponsored \$25 Green Toad Book Store gift card drawing for submitting his 2023 membership donation by November 18, 2022.

The Friends, in joining libraries across the nation celebrating the importance of the First Amendment and an individual’s freedom to read any material of his/her choosing, sponsored a drawing of banned books during Banned Books Week September 18-24. The theme for 2022 was “Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us.”

Winners include: Margaret Parish *The Catcher in the Rye*  
 Diane Terry *The Lord of the Flies*

**THE FRIENDS’ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The Friends thank all who have responded to our 2023 membership drive by renewing membership or by becoming a new member. Your financial assistance is important and, if you have not had to opportunity to renew/become a new member, please consider the support of HML that your membership will provide.

**THE STORY OF FRIENDS**

The first group to name itself a “Friends group” was founded in France in 1913. The first group in the US was founded by Mrs. Al Chase of Glen Ellyn, Illinois in 1922 and was officially named Friends of the Library. At that time, \$365 was raised to help purchase books for the library. That same year another group called Friends of the Library was started in Syracuse, New York. It is not known if someone there may have known or heard of Mrs. Chase’s endeavors, or, perhaps, the name may have been one of coincidence. In 1929, The American Library Association formed a Friends of Libraries Committee to assist with the formation of more groups. Until 1980, the committee remained within ALA when it became a separate but affiliated organization called Friends of the Libraries USA. By 1965, membership swelled to include over 2,000 friends groups with approximately 600,000 members. In 2009, it merged with the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates but then again changed its name to United for Libraries.

In 1991, several Oneonta community members saw the need to provide HML with support both financially and with other services and, familiar with Friends groups across the country, formed The Friends of HML. Over these many years The Friends of HML, through community support, has met its commitment of providing funds and services to HML. The Friends of HML are proud to report that many thousands of dollars have helped fund these endeavors beyond HML’s budget. We thank you, members of The Friends, for your confidence in The Friends Board of Directors’ decisions and look forward to your continuing support.



**WHY LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL**

Today we are dependent on the internet for information - but always the right answers? Search engines provide information depending on our formulated questions or keywords and so, the data is not always relevant. Instead, one should ‘lean on libraries.’ As Eli B. Martin explains: “Because the internet is harder to sort through than a library catalog, there’s a strong case that a library’s core services are actually becoming much more important.”

Five essential reasons why libraries are important and why patrons appreciate them:

- Libraries maintain history and more importantly, truth.
- “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one.” - Nail Gaiman
- Libraries offer free educational resources
- Libraries help build communities
- Libraries are transparent with all the services they provide
- Libraries contribute to increasing economy

The importance of libraries can be appreciated by all community members. If you have not visited your local library lately, make a date. You’ll have a first-class experience.

(Note: Further information on this subject can be found on the Princh website. Yes, the internet was used).

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## THE TRAVELING BOOKMOBILE



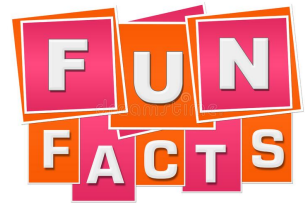
Books on wheels are on the road again into area communities according to the Four County Library System (4CLS) providing library services to residents in rural areas and unserved populations for over 40 years. The very first Bookmobile was launched by horse drawn wagon in April 1905 but other means of conveyance have included bicycles, carts, motor vehicles, trains, watercraft, wagons and in some countries camels, donkeys, elephants and mules. The first motorized Bookmobiles were introduced in 1912 and could be purchased for as little as \$1000. After 15 years of use and logging more than 200,000 miles, the 4CLS Bookmobile was replaced by a state of the art 33-foot truck built by Oneonta's Medical Coaches costing about \$230,000. Operating costs are covered by the state Coordinated Outreach Program along

with funding from various counties. The Bookmobile visits many sites in our immediate area including monthly Tuesday stops at St. James Manor, Methodist Churches in Fly Creek and Mt. Vision, monthly Thursday stops at West Oneonta's Town Hall, the Schenevus Valley Lodge in Schenevus, Westford's Fire Station, the First Christian Church in South Valley and Middlefield's Town Hall and carries a collection of about 3,000 books, large print books, audiobooks, and movies with materials for adults, children and teens. According to the 4CLS, any books, CD's or DVDs may be requested prior to the scheduled stop as well as requests for specific titles or authors or general subjects and genres. 4CLS will do its best to fulfill requests. Additionally, books may be returned to any Four County Library System library. Enjoying a library continues even if on wheels.

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### LIBRARY FUN FACTS

- Libraries have more cardholders than Visa.
- Libraries have more outlets than McDonald's.
- Libraries move more items than FedEx.
- Libraries total nearly 18,000 including branches.
- Libraries provide WiFi and have no-fee access to computers.
- A British library waived a \$52,400 fee for a book that was 58 years overdue.



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### SUNY ONEONTA COMMON READ

This fall SUNY Oneonta will again include a Common Read for students and staff and will open the author's presentation to community members. Featured authors from the past have included George Takai, Dashka Slater, Bryan Stevenson, Margot Lee Shetterly and others. As book selection details are not available at this time, further information will be forthcoming. Stay tuned.

*From the Director*

This year begins with the sense that things will go back to normal after the global pandemic. Last year was one of transition from online programs to those “in real life”. There was much less demand for curbside pickup of library material. Although the pandemic rages on, we now have tools to reduce fatalities and prevent or slow the contagion.

A lot happened to be excited about besides the park project in 2022. Some new services the library offers is superfast fiber internet connection that extends into the park. There’s also a new collection called the Library of Things. You can borrow things like fishing poles, a sewing machine, a KitchenAid mixer, an Instant Pot, a turntable and lots of STEM Learning Kits.

We also started automatic renewals so you don’t have to pay overdue fines. But even better? After the Library Board decided to waive all juvenile overdue fines, overdue fines for adults are now optional. We don’t want to turn anyone away from using our resources if they owe a few dollars and research has shown that fining patrons doesn’t encourage timely return of materials. Don’t forget that you can get notifications for overdue items or items on hold via text message too. Talk to a Library Clerk to add this feature to your account.

The entry into the library was made more welcoming thanks to a generous donation and a grant from Library Construction Aid. It’s made a world of difference to the atmosphere and for such a small space, we got a huge amount of positive feedback.

Circulation of our physical collection has skyrocketed and we hope it returns to normal this year. During the pandemic, circulation of electronic formats like ebooks and downloadable audiobooks was at its highest. Last year it continued to increase but at a slower pace. It’s great to see people coming back to the library.

We’ve added to the digitized Local History content that’s available on our website. Along with the early years of The Daily Star, we now have Oneonta High School yearbooks, and the oldest City Directories. This collection is fully searchable by any keyword you choose, and articles can be downloaded and shared directly to social media.

*Tina Winstead, Director*

**Library Closings:**

**February 20** Presidents’ Day  
**May 29** Memorial Day  
**June 19** Juneteenth National Independence Day  
**July 4** Independence Day  
**September 4** Labor Day  
**October 9** Columbus Day

Huntington Memorial Library 432-1980  
[hmloneonta.org](http://hmloneonta.org)

**Library Hours:**

**Monday- Wednesday 9:00-8:00**  
**Thursday-Friday – 9:00-5:30**  
**Saturday – 9:00-4:00**  
**Sunday- Closed**

**Friends’ Board of Directors**

Chris Burrington	Ed Leone
Marcella Drago	Bonnie Lado
Jack Holstead	Isabelle Niles
Joanne Johnston	Dolores Noonan
Erica LaBuz	Marilyn Rosas
	Karyl Sage

Tina Winstead, Director

“A library bears similar qualities to a hospital.  
 Librarians are the doctors, books the prescriptions.”

Trudy Wallis, Author of *Longbourn Library: A Novel of Pride, Prejudice, and Books*

**FRIENDS OF HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**Become a Friend of the Library 2023 dues are due now  
(Membership January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023)**

I would like to join or renew my Friends' membership.

We look forward to your membership renewal/becoming a new member.

**Your 2023 membership has already been renewed.** Thank you!

Individual \$15                       Sponsor \$60                       Superfriend \$250

Family/Household \$30     Benefactor \$100                       Additional donation

I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.     I would like to be called upon  
to help with Friends' projects.

I would like to help with home delivery.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Online payments can be made via PayPal or credit card at [hmloneonta.org/friends-of-hml](http://hmloneonta.org/friends-of-hml) or checks can be mailed to Friends of HML, PO Box 1036, Oneonta, NY 13820. Your contribution is tax deductible.



P.O. Box 1036  
Oneonta, NY 13820

**To:**