



Friends of Huntington

From the President

Did you make any new year resolutions on January 1st, 2024?

Fresh start, reset, clean slate, new beginning, are all words associated with the good intentions we have for ourselves when the calendar turns to a brand-new year. Whether it's our health, our work, our habits, it's valuable to reflect on what will make each of us a better individual and how to improve our chosen surroundings to make them a better place. Where do you enjoy spending some of your free time?

Hopefully you will join me by answering that question with: Huntington Memorial Library! (HML). Connecting with a physical place, such as our library, can evoke a wide range of memories and present-day feelings. Perhaps you remember attending children's story hour or working on a term paper using the card catalog for research books. Maybe you recall being hushed by the librarian, or even sheepishly paying an overdue book fine! But, finding just the "right" "book for pleasure reading always brings joy!

As you know times have changed for the current library user. However, what doesn't change is that HML is a vital part of Oneonta and the surrounding communities. I encourage you to re-visit the library if you haven't stopped by in a long time. Take note of the landscaping improvements, the inviting entryway, the computers, the comfortable reading area, and the array of items that can be borrowed.

If part of your 2024 new year's resolutions includes supporting a worthwhile organization, The Friends of HML welcomes not only your financial support but we welcome your active participation by joining our group meetings. The Friends meet four times a year. We help support HML events, encourage literary events, raise and distribute funds to HML throughout the year, and find joy in a worthwhile cause!

Bonnie Lado, President Friends of HML

National Library Week
April 8 - 12, 2024
Theme: "Ready, Set, Library"

Honorary Chair: Meg Medina, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and Newberry and Pura Belpré Award winning author

The theme for this year's event resonates with the fast-paced world we live in, reminding us that libraries are the go-to destination for something extraordinary. They provide a space to connect, learn, and focus on what truly matters.'

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the USA. It promotes library use and support. National Library Workers Day is celebrated during the week- April 9, 2024, and is the perfect time to highlight the critical role library workers play in keeping our libraries running. During this week, The Friends pay special recognition to the library staff and if you have the opportunity to offer your appreciation, stop by and offer them your support.



FRIENDS' DONATIONS

\$5200 was donated to HML for Children and Adult programs, Children's area rug, library notecards, funds for E-book budget, and a fireproof file cabinet.

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

This issue of The Friends’ newsletter features HML’s staff member Ariel. Although Ariel has been employed eight months, her position title includes being the Adult Programming Librarian and the Digital Literacy Librarian. When asked what she finds gratifying in her job, she answers, “I enjoy coming up with programs to run at the library, especially those which include crafting where I also learn a new craft” and this part of her job includes ordering materials adding to the collection.



Ariel has a number of favorite books which include *I’m Glad My Mom Died* by Jeanette McCurdy, *The Weight of Zero* by Karen Fortunate and *The Air Awakens Series* by Elise Kava. Besides reading, leisure time includes crocheting, drawing and painting with watercolors.

With her many crafting talents and dedication to her job, Ariel is a fine addition to HML.

Thank you, Ariel, for being part of HML’s outstanding staff.

Highlights

A special thank you is extended to Marcella Drago who has served as The Friends’ Vice-President and is leaving the board. Marcella’s history with The Friends extends to its early founding. Her dedication and commitment during her many years is sincerely appreciated. She will be missed.

The winners of The Friends’ sponsored \$25 Green Toad Book Store gift card for submitting their membership renewal donation by November 20, 2023 wish to remain anonymous. Their continued support of The Friends is appreciated.

THE FRIENDS’ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

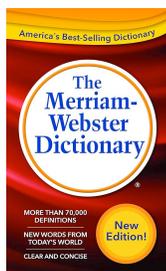


The Friends are appreciative of all who responded to our 2024 membership drive by renewing memberships or by becoming new members. Your support of our organization by assisting with financial donations has helped HML consider services and projects beyond their budget. If you have not had the opportunity to renew/become a new member, we ask for your support.

Merriam-Webster’s Word of the Year: ‘AUTHENTIC’

In an age of deepfakes and post-truth, as artificial intelligence rose and Elon Musk turned Twitter into X, the Merriam-Webster word of the year for 2023 was “authentic.” Searches for the word are routinely heavy on the dictionary company’s site but were boosted to new heights throughout the year, editor at large Peter Sokolowski told The Associated Press. Sokolowski and his team chase the data on lookup spikes and world events that correlate. This time around, there was no particularly huge boost at any given time but a constancy to the increased interest in “authentic.”

(Source: *Treasure Coast Newspaper, Vero Beach, Florida*)



**Children’s News from Miss Donna
Children’s Librarian**

We’ve had a lot off fun this fall and winter with activities from pumpkin carving to making Valentine’s Day decorations!

Our library participated in *Read for the Record* on October 26 with story times featuring *With Lots of Love* by Jenny Torres Sanchez and illustrated by André Ceolin. We also enjoyed the many pumpkins donated by the Friends of HML and carved by our patrons for Pumpkin Fest. Santa Claus made his annual visit to the library on December 2nd and read *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement C. Moore to 158 eager listeners. The children decorated ornaments while waiting for a turn to meet Santa. Thanks to our volunteers Marilyn, Nick, Betsy, and Emily, everyone had a great time.

The Homeschool children are enjoying our continuing collaboration with OWL and Alison Billman as we have begun answering some questions asked by children in Norway. She sends us regular updates which can be seen at the library in the children’s area.

Guest readers continue to join us for many of our story times. Thanks to Janet; Mayor Drnek; Sarah, who is providing a Spanish/English story time every 3rd Tuesday to our Baby & Toddler group; and Taryn, Anna, Lacey, and Tanner from Visions FCU who read to our Baby & Toddler, Preschool, Early Literacy, and Homeschool groups, and help with our activities.

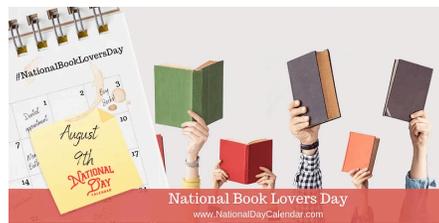
Miss Donna is planning for a flurry of summertime activities. Stay tuned.



National Book Lovers Day

August 9, 2024

This day encourages people to find their favorite reading spot and a good book to encourage the habit of reading. Remember to share the joy of reading with the young people in your life. And read the day away!



National Poetry Month

April 2024

‘Launched by the Academy of Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month is a special occasion that celebrates poets’ integral role in our culture and that **poetry matters**’.

Through the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world with tens of millions of readers, students, teachers, librarians, booksellers, families and poets marking poetry’s important place in our lives. Goals of the poetry month are to ‘highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, encourage the reading of poems and assist teachers in bringing poetry into classrooms.’

To encourage the reading of poetry, The Friends suggest **Sign up for Poem-a-Day**- the original and only daily digital poetry series featuring over 250 new, previously unpublished poems by today’s talented poets.

FRIENDS OF HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**Become a Friend of the Library 2024 dues are due now
(Membership January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024)**

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

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

Your 2024 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 or checks can be mailed to Friends of HML, PO Box 1036, Oneonta, NY 13820. Your contribution is tax deductible.

What Exactly is The Friends of HML?

The Friends is an organization consisting of a Board of Directors composed of community members whose guidelines follow the mission and bylaws of The Friends. The Friends was granted incorporation by the NYS Education Department in 1991. The Friends assist HML but is a separate entity with its own 501.c3 status. The Friends Board of Directors meet in February, May, August, October. The annual October meeting is open to all contributing members. However, comments, concerns are always welcomed.

How does one become a member of The Friends?

Annual memberships are available with varying donation amounts. Donations, however, are accepted throughout the year.

How can you assist The Friends?

By becoming a member and volunteering to assist with projects, programs and home delivery of library books.

How do The Friends financially support HML?

Donations come directly from community members, businesses and foundations. In turn, the Board of Directors carefully assess each HML Director's financial request.

What is the donated money used for?

Donations help support library programs and library projects that cannot be funded through the library's budget.

Does any money go to benefit a member of the Board of Directors?

No.

How may a donation be received by The Friends?

By check through the mail or by donating through PayPal.

Is PayPal secure?

Yes, but a small handling fee of the donation is kept by PayPal.

From the Director

Every year, NYS asks public libraries to report on activities. It's an arduous process but I enjoy looking back over the year at everything we do for the community. Our door count continues to increase and it's great to see more people returning after the pandemic.

Last year we hired two new program staff. Ariel is the Program Librarian who offers a wide variety of programs but also emphasizes digital literacy classes for youth and adults. Donna is the Children's Coordinator and has a strong emphasis on early literacy. Last year we held 154 children's programs with an attendance of 2,256. Of those, 84 programs focused on early literacy and 1,331 people attended them. The kids that attended those programs will definitely be ready for kindergarten! For adults, we held 84 programs and 736 people attended. We also held 4 family programs with an attendance of 493. Overall, we had 250 programs with an attendance of 3,499. Whew!

I was pleased to see such strong participation in the Summer Reading Program, especially since we continue to see youth reading scores decline. 226 youth and 239 adults registered for our program. Children read 2,036 books and adults read 1,273 books. In addition to reading, we offered enriching educational programs. Adults got to participate in the Craft Club and the HML Writers Group. We offered numerous youth programs and were so happy to collaborate with O.W.L., Hartwick College, OFO, and the Otsego County Public Health Department. In total, we offered 46 youth programs with an attendance of 797, and 9 adult programs with an attendance of 97. It was a fun summer.

2024 has begun and we're busy planning for another year of engaging and educational programs. Of course, we are especially excited about the solar eclipse on April 8. Stop by between 1:30 and 4:00 to view it with our special glasses or on a livestream in the library. According to NASA, the next total eclipse in the US will be in 2044 so don't miss this one.

Tina Winstead, Director

HML - THIS WAS THEN.....

Huntington Memorial Library was granted a charter from the State of New York State on February 9, 1893. Known as the Oneonta Public Library, it has come a long way from its humble beginnings more than 100 years ago. The first library, in 1837, was located in the school building that once was on Academy Street. Because of its popularity, it caught the attention of a visiting officer of the Regents of the State of New York and, upon suggestion, the Regents granted its incorporation. Outgrowing the school space, it was moved to three rooms in a Main Street building in 1895. Again, outgrowing that space, it was moved to the theater block on Chestnut Street where it remained until 1909 and again a move to Ford Avenue to a City of Oneonta building. Substantial donations helped the library grow. In 1909, the library owned 9,000 books with a circulation of 32,278. In 1917, the library board received a letter from Henry E. Huntington proposing that he donate his old family homestead as a permanent home for the library and endow it with a trust fund for its support. In return, he asked that the library be renamed "The Huntington Memorial Library" to honor his parents. The offer was accepted and in 1918, the house and grounds were deeded to the City of Oneonta to be used exclusively as a public library and park. At each main entrance to the park, there is a large boulder bearing a plaque in memory of the Huntingtons and their gift to the library. Throughout the years, the library has grown, requiring several additions and renovations. To this date, improvements to the park continue. Oneonta is proud that it has one of the largest and most beautiful public libraries in the area and with its park being enjoyed throughout the year.

Source: New York Heritage Digital Collections

Library Closings:

May 27 **Memorial Day**
June 19 **Juneteenth National Independence Day**
July 4 **Independence Day**
September 2 **Labor Day**

Huntington Memorial Library 432-1980
Fax: (607) 432-5623
e-mail: huntingtonmemorallibrary.org
website: hmloneonta.org

Library Hours:

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

Friends' Board of Directors

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Jack Holstead	Isabelle Niles
Joanne Johnston, Secretary	Dolores Noonan, V. President
Erica LaBuz	Marilyn Rosas, Treasurer
Bonnie Lado, President	Karyl Sage
Tina Winstead, Library Director	



P.O. Box 1036
 Oneonta, NY 13820

To: