



Friends of Huntington

From the President

Recently I found myself with a “free” hour and a half between appointments while in downtown Oneonta. It occurred to me to visit our library with no specific agenda, just to peruse the shelves. After greeting the staff, I went directly upstairs and just started to look at the various books put on display on each shelf without regard to my usual areas of interest. The book jackets are important to catch my eye. I study the use of color, the choice of graphic design or photography to convey visually what is inside the covers of the book. Book titles stimulate curiosity, evoke feelings of comfort or discomfort, and pure escapism. To me, nothing beats the physical look and heft of a book. I notice the weight of the paper and the choice of typeface and font, and sometimes even the smell of the book. I prefer the relatively new ink smell over the old musty smell. However, I know people who enjoy the challenge and supposedly have methods to get rid of the musty smells from vintage books. Upon opening the book in hand, I always look for the

publication date. The dedication page can also be interesting. In the days of old, I probably would be touting the gilded book cover titles on expensive fabric or leather and gilded edges of the book pages. Modern day devices enable another way to acquire information and read for pleasure certainly have an important part to play in our global environment. However, it does not cost anything to step into a library to relax, to read a newspaper or magazine, meet a friend, or maybe make a new friend, ask a staff member a question or ask for a book recommendation. When you do decide to visit our library next time, do not forget to peruse the discarded book sale table. Most of us book lovers wince at the thought of throwing away any book, so this is a good form of recycling that benefits the library. You never know what may catch your eye for your own bookshelf or for a family member or a friend. Remember: The next time you have some unexpected free time, stop at HML. You will be glad you did!

Bonnie Lado, President Friends of HML

Retirement Announcement

My last day as the Director of HML will be June 20, 2025. It has been my privilege to lead this library through many changes, and have always strived to meet the needs of this community. This role has been both challenging and rewarding, and as a result, I have learned a lot! I want to thank the Library Board for consistently supporting positive change and the Friends of HML for their generous contributions and program support. Public libraries are changing but I firmly believe they play a vital role in educating our community and enhancing the quality of life in Oneonta.



In Appreciation

The Friends Board of Directors dedicates this newsletter to departing Library Director, Tina Winstead, thanking her for the guidance, support and encouragement she has extended to the Friends since her arrival at HML twelve years ago. Tina has been an advisor, mentor and friend. We offer her our best wishes as she leaves HML. She will be missed.



FRIENDS' 2025 DONATIONS

- \$1000 Children’s Summer Program
- \$1000 Adult Programs
- \$200 Supplies

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

Just when we thought libraries were about books....

Enter Nathaniel. Nathaniel has been seen inside and outside of HML serving as Head of Maintenance and Grounds. Employed since January 2024, he describes the time he spends on duties outside the library as an enjoyable part of his job where he can ‘discuss current events with the resident crows.’ Nate seems to have a light-hearted nature as he acknowledges that tasks which would surprise people are ‘best to keep some tasks a mystery’ although he has been seen on a Sunday at HML with paint brush in hand. He lists as favorite books *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien and *Sacre Bleu* by



Christopher Moore. Most of Nathaniel’s leisure time is spent with his partner and cats on their farm or in his blacksmith shop hammering out historic and creative pieces. When asked what he would like people to know about the library, he readily admits ‘the library isn’t just a place to read, learn, or be entertained. It is one of the few places left that doesn’t cost a thing to exist in. No need to buy or subscribe. All it costs is your time’.

If you have the opportunity to come upon Nathaniel, give him your thanks for helping to keep HML bright and polished.

A HML extra: Nate may be Head of Maintenance and Grounds, but holds a degree in Art with a favorite being metal sculpture. Currently a grant is in the process for Nate to create some small pieces for the top of the pillars near the library. How exciting is that?

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

National Library Week

April 6 - 12, 2025

Theme: “Drawn to the Library”

Honorary Chairs: Raina Telgemeir- Award winning author and illustrator and Comic Theorist Scott McCloud.

This celebration highlights the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. First sponsored in 1958, its goal remains unchanged- It highlights the importance of libraries encouraging people to **READ**.

National Library Workers Day is celebrated during this week and The Friends pay special recognition to the library staff. Join us in offering our/your appreciation - give them your support.



The Friends and the QR code

The Friends are adopting the use of the QR code, or Quick Response code- a barcode that stores information in a grid of black and white squares. The code is scanned with a smartphone camera to access the information it contains. Ever popular because of convenience and use, the QR code can be used for many purposes, including accessing information, making payments, ordering food, providing coupons. The list goes on. Invented by Japanese auto manufacturer, Denso Wave, the original purpose of QR codes codes was to track automobile parts during assembly.

Scan the code to the Friends’ of HML page, click donate button.



From the Director

Every year, libraries report their activities in the Annual Report to the NYS Division of Library Development. The report has 14 sections and the questions are determined by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) with input from the State Libraries. The goal of the report is to help plan for the future and to document the significance of libraries across the country.

At HML, physical book circulation increased last year by about 2%. The top circulating collection was adult fiction (just like every year) which had a 5% increase. Surprisingly, the DVD and Books on CD collection did not circulate as much as the previous year. I suppose that speaks to the popularity of streaming services and the lack of CD players in cars. Electronic resources continue to be popular, but their circulation dropped slightly.

The number of computer sessions increased by about 9% to a total of 4,710. Use of our free wireless network increased to 6,270 logins.

We saw an increase of about 9% in the number of people who entered the library for a total of 75,000. Thanks to a concerted effort by the Library Clerks, we got a more accurate count of reference questions that were answered. Six times a year, we count our reference questions for a week, then calculate the average for the year. Last year, we answered 10,395 questions! The number of people who have a library card has also increased. With a total of 7,811 cardholders, 47% of them reside in the City of Oneonta.

Our program staff offered 399 programs that were attended by 4,499 people. The Pumpkin Glow continues to grow, and with the Friends of HML sponsorship, we're able to add more activities to the event. The Summer Reading Program enriches the lives of so many youth. We held 48 sessions during the six-week program with 808 attendees. We actually had more adults register for the program than youth. While I'm glad the adults had fun, please register your children and grandchildren for the Summer Reading Program. Our kids need all the help they can get to succeed in life. The summer program is fun, enriching, and will

Public Forum for Building Renovation

On Tuesday, March 11 there will be two opportunities to share your thoughts on ways to improve the library building. We encourage you to attend one of the sessions that will be held in the 3rd floor Community Room at the library.

Session 1: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Session 2: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m

Celebrate the Park

Friday, May 16, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Join us for a lively evening to celebrate the latest improvements to the Huntington Memorial Library. There will be music by Khalil Jade, a community art project, a rock painting station and refreshments

Tina Winstead, Director

Children's Library

Introducing Tomorrow's Readers: Invest in Our Children's Library

Once upon a time in a land called the City of the Hills, there was a magical place where children could read about dragons and princesses and little toy trucks.



HML has opened a fund drive for the NEW Children's Library and we appreciate your support! We've been working behind the scenes to find a location and to fundraise. We've narrowed the locations down to a few choice spots and we've raised 2/3 of the necessary funds. You'll find a simple PayPal button on our website where you can indicate your donation is for the Children's Library.

Please donate so we can say: *And they all lived happily ever after*

Children's News from Miss Donna Youth Coordinator

2025 is off to a great start for the children's programs at HML!

Our story time programs are as popular as ever. We've been having fun reading, singing, playing, moving, and building. Not to mention learning. We've already had a visit from a parakeet named Sparky' who helped make sure our pinecone bird feeders were just right; built sand castles with our new kinetic sand; had a farewell party for a friend whose family moved out of the area; and made special Valentine Day gifts for our families. It seems each week we're welcoming someone new to our group. One of my favorite aspects of story time is watching the children interact with each other. It's amazing how quickly they can go from complete strangers to working together to decorate the doll house or make words with the magnetic letters.

We now have a group of 5 teens who come to a weekly writers group. They started during our 2024 Summer Reading Program and decided they wanted to keep coming! They have fun with collaborative writing projects, individual projects, writing prompts and activities, and getting to know each other. We will periodically display their work at the library, so stop in to see how creative they are.

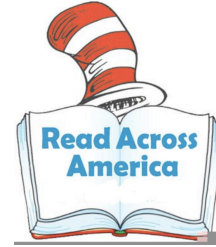
Our homeschool group has grown since 2025! We have four families who attend regularly, a few others that come when they can, and always welcome new families to the group. Our activities include building, drawing, sculpting, and so much more. One of their creations has become a very popular fixture in the children's area since they built it in December 2024: a (cardboard) gingerbread playhouse! Our friends at Visions FCU joined us in January with a really fun Financial Wellness program. We can't wait to have them back this spring.

In February we welcomed Rob King, author of a new middle-school book, **The Door in the Stone**. A Cooperstown native, Rob was happy to come to HML for his very first book talk as an author, and we're glad he did!

Our outreach programs this Spring include Oneonta World of Learning Paintfest at the FoxCare Center on March 22 from 10 am-2 pm and the Head Start Spring Carnival at the Oneonta Boys and Girls Club on May 31 from 10 am-1pm.

We're always looking for volunteers to help out with programs and events. Join the Friends and join the fun!

March is Read Across America Month



The month of March is dedicated to celebrating and promoting reading across all ages, due largely to it coinciding with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Dr. Seuss was not a doctor at all, he was a writer and illustrator of very popular children's books and received a Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for his contributions to the education of America's children and their parents.

Reading has a very long history and a time when only a few people knew how to read. "The first written communication did not happen until 3500 B.C. and the first books did not appear until around 23 B.C. in Rome. Around this time, books were also developed in some Asian countries and the Middle East. Before the printing press was introduced in the 15th century, books were quite expensive and rare but as printed books gained popularity, literacy rates began to rise".

Today, even though almost everyone can read, people's inclination toward reading has waned and, unfortunately, the reading culture as a society may be losing ground. But this trend can reverse itself. Let's all celebrate and read every day this month and next and next. Research shows that babies ages 0-5 years old need to hear at least 6,000 words per day to develop strong language skills, and the average person speaks around 16,000 words per day and include talking, reading and singing to those infants and toddlers. (HML staff member's infant daughter is present at the Wednesday Mornings Story time- a great start in developing those language skills). When we love books, good things happen. Reading strengthens our mental muscles, improves comprehension, increases imagination, and boosts memory. **Reading makes us smarter and who doesn't want that?**

"Dinosaurs didn't read and now they are extinct"

Joe Peter

The Friends Join NY Libraries Association Friends of Libraries Section -FLS

Within state library associations across the United States, roughly half have divisions like FLS that assist Friends' organizations. The Friends of Libraries Section is directed by a 13-member Board of officers and members at large who represent the geographic diversity of the Empire State- spanning Friends groups from the Southern Tier to the Adirondack Mountains, from western NYS to the Hudson Valley. In joining, this is an opportunity to increase our knowledge of the workings of Friends groups across the state. By attending workshops, meetings and bringing back to HML new and innovative ways of assistance, The Friends will further strengthen our own organization.

THE FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Friends thank all who responded to our 2025 membership drive by renewing a membership or by becoming a new member. Your financial assistance is important and, if you have not had the opportunity to renew/become a new member, please consider the support of HML that your membership will provide. Congratulations to John and Linda Chamard, winners of The Friends' sponsored \$25 Green Toad Book Store gift card drawing, for submitting their 2025 membership renewal donation by November 18, 2024.

Thank you for supporting The Friends.

Library Closings:

May 26 **Memorial Day**
June 19 **Juneteenth National Independence Day**
July 4 **Independence Day**
September 1 **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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To: