



Friends of Huntington

From The President

Happy Fall Everyone!

It will soon be time for pumpkins, cider and donuts at Huntington Memorial Library. However, I don't want to get ahead of myself because over the spring and summer months The Friends helped with some special events. Due to inclement weather (what else is new living in our area?) the original date to celebrate the library's newly designed outdoor space was moved to Friday June 13th. Not an unlucky date at all because it turned out to be an ideally warm day. Starting at 5:00 pm, guests socialized on the new patio while sipping Prosecco and other cold beverages, enjoying nibbles and sweet treats provided by The Friends with live guitar music in the background. Kids were invited to paint rocks and decorate a designated tree with their own painted handprints under the guidance of staff members Ariel and Miss Donna.

HML Director Tina Winstead worked hard making the art park/landscaping become a reality. It is now fittingly a part of her library legacy. Tina took the opportunity during the evening to present newly appointed library director, Alex Benjamin, with a few helpful hints (gag props) on how to be successful. It was apparent that Tina's mentoring had

helped the transition of Alex's position to director go smoothly.

The next event was bittersweet. A potluck retirement luncheon on May 25th was given in honor of Tina, the outgoing library director. Brenda, library clerk, organized a festive party to thank Tina for her 12 years of service and to wish her well in retirement. Tina shared looking forward to travel opportunities and time to read for pleasure! The Friends' Board and library patrons will miss Tina yet look forward to building a relationship with Alex, the new director.

The Friends' Board continues to be active in securing grant opportunities, purchasing items for the library, funding activities offered at the library and supporting the director and staff of HML.

Back to pumpkins, cider and donuts....mark your calendar: Friday October 26th is the annual Pumpkin Glow in the park. Details to be announced.

*Bonnie Lado,
President The Friends of HML*

National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 19-25, 2025

We  the Friends
of the Library.

NATIONAL Friends of Libraries WEEK
OCTOBER 19-25, 2025 AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

Theme: "Drawn to the Library"

This 20th annual observance is coordinated by United for Libraries, an American Library Association (ALA) division to promote awareness and membership for Friends of the Library groups and to recognize their vital support for libraries. Support Huntington Memorial Library by considering a Friends' membership either by your renewal or becoming a new member. Your support of The Friends of HML is valued. Renew or join by November 17, 2025 to be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 Green Toad Book Store gift card.

Thank You!


The Friends' 2025 donations

\$5,000 Children's Library
\$1,000 Children's Summer Program
\$1,000 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

Meet Alex, again. Alex was featured IN THE SPOTLIGHT in 2021 then completing 4 years of service as a Senior clerk. At that time, Alex expressed that he ‘loves working with the library patrons and greatly enjoys the intellectual stimulation that comes with having a challenging job’.

Since then, Alex has become an invaluable member of the HML staff, assisting the then director, Tina Winstead, and becoming familiar with all aspects of HML. When the position of director became available with Tina’s retirement, Alex’s name was entered into the pool of applying candidates. Alex expressed the role of director of HML ‘had long been a dream of mine and citing that in the very HML building, his own lifelong love of reading began.’ Alex also relates his love of Oneonta with its beautiful parks, vibrant art scenes, fantastic local



restaurants and that Oneonta was home in every sense of the word. Alex is grounded in his beloved hometown. With many entries of support for Alex and his meeting the criteria expected of a director, HML’s Board of Trustees appointed him to take HML into the future. When asked in 2021 what Alex would like to see in HML’s future, Alex responded ‘More space for books.’ Yes, Alex, this will happen with the new Children’s Library moving to Dietz Street and the current architectural plans allowing for more space. We wish you well as you assume your new position.

THE FRIENDS SUPPORT YOU, ALEX, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

Banned Books Week

October 5-11, 2025

Theme: “Censorship is So 1984. Read for your Rights”



Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in libraries, bookstores and schools. This annual event “highlights the value of free and open access to information and brings together the entire book community - librarians, educators, authors, publishers, booksellers and readers of all types - in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas.” “While not every book is intended for every reader, each of us has the right and, especially under the First Amendment, to choose for ourselves what to read, listen to or view”. This year’s theme highlights the most frequently challenged book, *1984* by George Orwell. **Honor your right to read!**

The Friends' Annual Meeting

Oct. 6, 2025

Election of The Friends’ officers for 2026 will be held at the October 6th meeting at 3:30 in the Community Room. Voting may take place by attending, by indicating your vote by ballot on the membership form or voting by email.

(Friends.of.HMLOneonta@gmail.com) All members are entitled to vote. The slate includes:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | Bonnie Lado |
| Vice President | Dolores Noonan |
| Secretary | Joanne Johnston |
| Treasurer | Marilyn Rosas |

The Friends' Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Burrington | Ed Leone |
| Jack Holstead | Isabelle Niles |
| Joanne Johnston | Dolores Noonan |
| Erica LaBuz | Darlene Platukis |
| Bonnie Lado | Marilyn Rosas |

Alex Benjamin, Advisor

SUNY ONEONTA COMMON READ



On Monday evening October 6, 2025, Toni Jensen will deliver the 2025 Mills Distinguished Lecture *Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land* - a memoir-in-essays about gun violence, land and indigenous women's lives. Ms. Jensen was a Dayton Literary Peace Prize Finalist, a New York Times Editors' Choice Book, received the NEA Creative Writing Fellowship in 2020. She teaches at the University of Arkansas and the Institute of American Indian Arts. The Common Read advances diversity by encouraging students to examine and better understand topics such as equity, inclusion and personal history through many lenses. The campus community is asked to read this book which is then discussed in fall courses across several disciplines. The Mills Distinguished Lectureship is named to honor the memory of Professor Albert Mills and wife Helena whose bequest led to the establishment in 1988 of a fund to bring prominent speakers to the campus. The community is invited to attend a discussion on the Common Read led by Prof. Thor Gibbons on Sept. 23 at 4:00-5:00 or Sept. 25 at 6:00-7:00 at HML.

501(c)(3) SUCCESSES

When The Friends of HML considered establishing a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and being recognized as a charitable organization by the IRS, there was no hesitancy. Under the guidance of a local law firm, our application was approved. Since then, we have been able to assist HML in receiving a \$2050 grant from the Community Foundation for South Central New York for identifying and labeling HML's Park trees for children and adults to examine and study. Recently a \$5000 grant from The Community Foundation of Otsego County was received allowing for artisan design and development in the new Children's Library. The Stewart's Foundation grant of \$250 was given in recognition of the children's summer reading program. In general, foundations require an organization to be a 501(c)(3) designee in order to qualify for grant monies. Happily, with your much needed assistance, The Friends have been able to seek those grants and will continue to do so in the future.

THANK YOU !

10 Most Beautiful Libraries in the United States

1. Armstrong Browning Library, Waco. Texas
 2. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale U., New Haven, CT
 3. Boston Public Library, Boston, MA
 4. George Peabody Library, Baltimore, MD
 5. Iowa Law Library, Des Moines, IA
 6. Library of Congress, Washington, DC
 7. New York Public Library, NY, NY
 8. San Antonio Library, San Antonio, TX
 9. Seattle Public Library, Seattle, WA
 10. University of Michigan Law Library, Ann Arbor, MI
- Huntington Memorial Library, Oneonta, NY - **not listed but beautiful to us.**

“Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.”

Henry Van Dyke, American poet, author, clergyman

Children’s News from Miss Donna



As we welcome Autumn and back-to-school time, we say "Goodbye" to our Summer Reading Program. And what a great summer it's been! Nearly 200 children and teens participated in our programs this year, and they read 2,659 books. Thanks to our Friends and Stewart's Shops, we were able to offer prize books for each reading log turned in during the reading challenge. We had 10 Top Readers this year, each of whom will select three books for the library to add to our collection. Each book will have a "Recommended by" book plate with the name of the child who chose the book.

From our kick-off event through the end of August, our collaborators and guest presenters helped make this year's SRP a fun and educational experience for all of us! Special thanks to Hanford Mills, Visions Federal Credit Union, Glimmerglass Festival, OWL, WSKG/PBS Kids, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Guiding Eyes for the Blind Leatherstocking Region, BJ the Clown, Bridgette Shepardson, and, of course, Santa Claus. We also want to thank local authors Louise Patane, Raye Pietruszka, and Libby Cudmore, who very generously shared their time with our Summer Hangout and Teen Writers groups.

We could not have had a successful summer without support from The Friends of HML. From volunteering to fundraising, our Friends are always there to help us provide programs and activities for our youth. Thank you so much!

Home Delivery

Join The Friends

It is The Friends' wish that after reading this newsletter, you will consider an early membership renewal/new membership. In doing so, you will be eligible for a drawing taking place on November 17, 2025 for a Green Toad Book Store \$25 gift card. We look forward to your joining us as supporters of HML.



Unable to make it to the library due to illness or physical condition? No problem! Let HML deliver the library to you. Thanks to a number of volunteers, deliveries can be made once a month. Take out books, audiobooks, magazines and cds and will all be fine exempt. Contact HML to fill out a form or print/download the form to be given to the front desk or email it to HML at huntingtonmemoriallibrary@gmail.com. If no access to a home computer, contact the library for added assistance.

From a New Director

Hello Friends of the Library! And I do mean *Friends*. I've known many of you since I started working at the library in 2013, and I truly consider you friends of mine and my wife's. Thank you for the support you've given me on my journey to becoming Library Director.

It's an exciting time at HML, and I'd like to share some updates with you.

The Huntington Children's Library is well under way, though running a bit behind schedule. Our hope was to open by the end of summer, but it's been hampered by two of the most dangerous words when it comes to project deadlines: construction delays. The good news is that progress is happening, and we're aiming for a mid-to-late October opening.

The front porch restoration is on pace for next year. We've hired Landmark Consulting, an architectural firm specializing in historic preservation, and we're moving into the planning stage. I walk past the porch every morning, and I can't tell you how much it pains me to see it in its current state so I'm eager to see the porch return to its former glory.

We're also working on constructing a maintenance garage in the park. The library recently purchased the vacant property at 14 Church Street, adjacent to the park, and we'll be meeting with local engineers to plan the construction. This project is essential to the future

of the library. The Park renovation made maintenance more challenging, snow and ice removal has always been difficult, and while our tractor *can* handle the job, it's a bit like carving a turkey with a steak knife – there are better tools out there, and this garage will give us the space to upgrade.

And there's always the day-to-day running of the library, which is something that I'm happy to report seems to be going very smoothly. Brenda has done a wonderful job stepping in to fill my old position, and I can't express my gratitude enough to her for that.

As I write this, I realize that although I've been director for nearly three months, much of that time has been spent catching up on ongoing projects and daily responsibilities. This week is the first real chance I've had to pause and look toward the future. And what an exciting future it is!

The Friends of the Library represent the very best of what we do. You give your time and energy not for personal gain, but to help the library grow and continue serving the community. That's a beautiful thing, and I'm grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

Alex Benjamin, Library Director



Library Closings

October 13	Columbus Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 27-28	Thanksgiving
December 24-25	Christmas
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day

Library Hours:

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

Huntington Memorial Library
607-432-1980

email:

huntingtonmemoriallibrary@gmail.com

The Friends' email: friends.of.HML.Oneonta@gmail.com

THE FRIENDS OF HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Become a Friend of the Library 2026 dues are due now
(Membership January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026)



Yes, I would like to renew my membership.
 Yes, I would like to become a Friend.

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

Family/Household \$30 Benefactor \$100

Additional donation _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail and help reduce the cost of the increase in postage.
 I would like to be called upon to help with Friends' projects.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Join or renew by November 17, 2025 to be eligible to win a \$25 Green Toad Book Store gift card.

Election of Officers

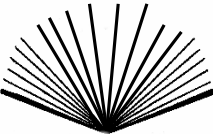
President	Bonnie Lado
Vice President	Dolores Noonan
Secretary	Joanne Johnston
Treasurer	Marilyn Rosas

I vote yes for the above slate of officers

I vote no for the above slate of officers

Please make your tax deductible check payable to: **The Friends of Huntington Memorial Library** and return to: **Friends P.O. Box 1036 Oneonta, New York 13820** or pay online at <http://hmloneonta.org/about/friends-of-hml/> using PayPal or a credit card.

FRIENDS



of
Huntington Memorial Library
P.O. Box 1036
Oneonta, New York 13820

To: