President’s Message

I’ve written a lot of President’s Messages over the past couple of decades, and every time Izzie asks me to write one, I spend a lot of time wondering, “What will I write about this time?” This always gets me thinking about what the Old Forge Library means to me:

The Library is welcoming. It welcomed me when I came in for the first time more than thirty years ago. It welcomed my children as they grew up. Now it’s welcoming my grandsons. With your support, it will be here to welcome their children as well.

The Library is informative and interesting. If you’re looking for information about our community, it’s here. If you’re interested in finding out something about the rest of the world, it’s here. If you’re looking for a cultural event on a winter night or on a rainy summer day, it’s here. With your support, this important source of information and entertainment will always be here.

The Library provides a great way to participate in our community. Whether it’s volunteering as a Friend or board member, or simply participating in one of our programs, the library lets everyone, year-round resident or seasonal visitor, play a role. Your active participation demonstrates your support.

The library has meant a lot to me and has contributed to the quality of my and my family’s lives for a long time. This spring, we’ll be asking for your support for the Library’s request for additional funds to support our activities. We think we’re worth every penny and we are sure you do, too.

Happy spring. See you at the Library.

Don Kelly

Old Forge Library

Significant Stats for 2017

17,453 Visits to the library
19,602 Materials Circulated
2,152 Patron Computer Usage
1,660 Library Card Holders
166 Programs Offered
3,133 Program Participants
900 books loaned to Lakeside Terrace
108 Community organizations used library space
3,945 Materials Loaned to Libraries within the Mid-York Library System
2,381 Materials Borrowed from libraries within the Mid-York Library System

Loretta Lepkowski, one of the Illustration Judges for the poetry and illustration exhibit, Shaping My Landscape, shows the audience at the opening the winning artwork for the K-4 Category, by Caitlyn Armendola.

Poetry and Illustration Exhibit

The winners of the 2018 Poetry and Illustration Exhibit, “Shaping My Landscape” were announced during the Opening Exhibit Reception held on March 13. Library Director, Isabella Worthen, who coordinates the program each year, welcomed a large gathering of family and friends and the winners were introduced by Master of Ceremonies, Michael Cunningham.

There were 121 Poetry submissions and 187 Illustration entries from the Mid York Library System counties of Herkimer, Madison and Oneida as well as the Town of Inlet. Judges for Poetry were Paula Alida Roy and Mary Shartle. Judging the Illustrations were Mitch Lee and Loretta Lepkowski.

In conjunction with the Exhibit the Library hosted Poetry Workshops led by: Alison Albright, Chris Holt and Star Livingstone. Illustration Workshops were led by Karen Beck, Martha Deming and Bronwen Keefer.

The Exhibit was hung by the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and Prizes and Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Old Forge Library. The entries will remain on exhibit until May 26. Please stop by to see the exhibit and cast your vote for your favorite poem or illustration.

The winners work will be part of a traveling exhibit and will be on display at the Old Forge Hardware, Gallery 3040, 5 Corners Café and VIEW.


Don Kelly
Book Groups
New members are always welcome to join the Book Groups. Copies of the books to be discussed can be reserved by calling the Library at 315 369-6008.

Morning Book Group: meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. April 17 ~ Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger; May 15 ~ The 19th Wife by David Ebershoff. (Morning Book Group does not meet during the summer months)

Evening Book Group: meets the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. April 30 ~ Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng; May 28 ~ 1000 White Women by Jim Ferguson and June 25 ~ Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.

^ Art Exhibits
Rome Art Association Spring Show: Artwork from talented Central NY artists will be on display at the Library from May 29 through June 30 during Library Hours. The Rome Art Association was founded in 1958. Their mission is to promote and encourage the talents and abilities of their members, to stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the Fine Arts and to encourage the development of facilities in Rome, NY for these purposes. The Exhibit Opening Reception will be held on Friday June 1 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Stop by to meet the artists and view their work. Light refreshments will be served. Acoustic music will be provided by guitarist Dan Vellone.

Watercolor Landscapes by Robert Willman: will be on display from July 3 through July 27 during Library Hours. Willman is well known for capturing seasonal changes of the Mohawk Valley in Central NY and the Adirondack Mountains. The Exhibit Opening Reception will be held on Friday July 6 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The Opening Reception provides a great opportunity to meet and talk with the artist and visit with other community members. Light refreshments will be served. Acoustic music will be provided by guitarist Dan Vellone.

Events, Programs, and Workshops: (Unless otherwise noted Programs are free and open to the public.)

National Library Week~ April 8 through 14th: We join libraries nationwide in celebrating the many ways libraries serve their communities through the transformative services, programs and expertise they offer. In honor of National Library Week, the Library is hosting a visit on Wednesday April 11 from 10 a.m.-noon with Town of Webb School's Librarian Jolene Finn and the 6th grade class.

Babysitting Clinic: A Babysitting Clinic will be held on the following 4 Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. On April 11, David Berksstresser, Paramedic Instructor, will give a talk on Health and Safety. On April 18, Kandis Griffin, Guidance Counselor, will teach a class on Childhood Development. On April 25, Karen Beck and Judy Ehrensbeck, teachers, will discuss Educational Play. During the final session on May 2, Family and Consumer Science teacher Diane Amos will discuss Food and Nutrition. To receive a Babysitter Certificate you must attend all four sessions. (You may make up one missed session by taking and passing a test). This course is open to Students age 10 and up who have not previously taken it. Registration is required by April 10 by 8 p.m.

“Teen Escape” Opening: Please join us for popcorn and soda at this National Library Week event! On Thursday April 12 at 7 p.m. the Library will christen our new Teen Escape area, a special niche just for teens to study, read, use the wi-fi, and/or network with their peers. Pictured above are Sarah Beck, David Ehrensbeck, and Alison Russell enjoying the new library space.

% Linking Lives Through Reading: The Spring Session of this intergenerational “one-on-one” reading program is open to first graders in the Town of Webb and Inlet School Districts and home schooled students. It will be held each Thursday from April 19 through May 24 from 2:15-3:15 p.m. Call the Library at 315 369-6008 by 8 p.m. on or before Tuesday April 17 to register your first grader and/or to volunteer as a “Book Buddy.” Adult Volunteers are always needed.

# Toddler Story Time: This 6-session program will be held on Fridays from April 20 through May 26 from 10:00~10:30 a.m. It is for toddler’s ages 1~2 and a parent or caregiver. Led by Jackie Engler, children will listen to stories, enjoy puppets, learn finger plays and have some toy time. Registration is not required for this program.

Spring Story Hour: The six-week Story Hour for preschoolers age 3, 4 and 5+ years old will be held at the Library each Friday from April 20 through May 26 from 11 a.m. till Noon. Library Director Isabella Worthen, Louiseette Lecours, Beverly Meeker and Fern Bick will lead the hour of stories and creative play. The children will take part in games, crafts, songs and other activities as they become acquainted with the library. Please call the library at 315 369-6008 to register by 8 p.m. on Thursday April 19. Registration is required.

Howl Story Slam~ True Stories Told Locally: You're invited to the Library on Friday May 4 at 7 p.m. for this fun event! How does it work? Storytellers (you, your friends and anyone else with a story to tell) put their names in a hat. Names are picked, and one by one, storytellers take the stage and tell us their best story in five minutes on the theme “Leap of faith/Going for it.” Two local judges will score every story to select The Howl Story Slam winners of the night. All stories have to be true and come from personal experience. No notes. You don’t need to be a professional storyteller. Just tell it from the heart! The Howl Story SLAM is brought to you by North Country Public Radio and the Adirondack Center for Writing.
Annual Bicycle Safety Clinic: The Annual Bicycle Safety Clinic for children Pre-K-6th grades will be held at the Library on Friday May 18 from 2:15-3:15 p.m. Town of Webb Police Officer Kevin Birtle will conduct the safety clinic to discuss road signs and hand signals. Also taking part will be Ted Christodaro from Pedals and Petals in Inlet who will inspect bicycles and supervise the mechanical station. Refreshments will be provided by Donna Myers and the Old Forge Fire Department Auxiliary. Advance registration is not required.

♦ Open Mic Night: The Library will host an Open Mic Night for Writers in a Coffee House setting on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. Featured Writer and Emcee will be Cheryl Pula. Cheryl is a published author of several fiction and non-fiction books. She founded the Dunham Library Writer’s Group and the Bridgeport Writer’s Group. The public is welcome to share and read from their own work or to come and enjoy readings by others. If you plan on participating on Open Mic Night please call the Library at 315 369-6008 ahead of time so they may plan accordingly but walk ins are always welcome. Open Mic Nights are held quarterly. These readings are held to inspire writers and create opportunities for regional writers to meet.

♦ “Meet Me at the Library Gazebo at 5 for Live Music”: Once a month during June, July and August you are invited to enjoy live music in the Gazebo from 5-6:00 p.m. Bring your own blanket or chair. On Friday June 15, the Adirondack duo of Jim and Bonnie Tracy will entertain you. They have been playing music together since 1979 and enjoy performing traditional music, old time country, piedmont blues and folk revival music from the 1960’s.

♦ “Songs & Stories of Dublin”: Come and enjoy a wonderful evening of stories and song by Tom O’Carroll on Tuesday July 3 at 7:30 p.m. Tom is a Dublin born folklorist, folk-singer and instrumentalist who brings a wealth of stories, humor, wit and history to his performances.

♦ Summer Writers Workshops: This year’s Adult and Young Adult Workshops, led by Mary Sanders Shartle, will be held on six consecutive Wednesdays from July 5 through August 9. The Young Adults will meet from 4-5:30 p.m. and Adults will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

# Summer Reading Program: Get ready for an exciting summer reading program as the Old Forge Library sponsors “Libraries Rock”. Don’t miss this timely way to encourage your child to continue reading throughout the summer! On each Thursday from July 5-August 2 from noon-1:00 p.m. there will be a variety of activities for children pre-k and up (K & younger must be accompanied with a parent or care giver).

# Rock the Library Magic Show: In conjunction with the Summer Reading Program kick-off, on July 5 from noon - 1 p.m., Magician Debbie O’Carroll joins Musician Tom O’Carroll in this fun and funny interactive magic show that highlights the art of music. Tom’s lively songs and tunes on the guitar, banjo, tin whistle, mandolin, Irish drum and African thumb piano will delight youngsters. Debbie’s enchanting magic illusions will involve all with some storybook characters from these magical and musical lands. Open to the public.

Old Forge Library Board recognizing Barbara Criss and her many years of excellent service to the Old Forge Library Board and the Mid-York Library Board. Standing: David Berkstresser, Judy Ehrenbeek, Barb Criss, Don Kelly, Kirsten Down, Mona Lincoln, Kathy Rivet, Jennifer Hartsig. Kneeling: Joe Rintorna, & Tim Leach. Not pictured are new members: Liz Lorentzen and Kelly Hunkins.

Chris Holt, instructor, teaching a poetry workshop for students K-6 as part of the Poetry and Illustration “Shaping My Landscape” project.
Recent Books
Steve Berry, The Bishop’s Pawn; Chris Bohjalian, The Flight Attendant; CJ Box, The Disappeared; James Carroll, The Cloister; Clive Cussler, The Rising Sea; Marisa De los Santos, I Will Be Your Blue Sky; Jude Deereaux, As you Wish; Joanne Fluke, Raspberry Danish Murder; Charles Frazier, Varina; Elizabeth George, The Punishment She Deserves; Mario Giordano, Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions; Kate Greathead, Laura and Emma; Sally Hepworth, The Family Next Door; Ray Anthony Hinton, The Sun Does Not Shine; Linda Howard, The Women Left Behind; JA Jance, Duel to the Death; Emma Kavanagh, The Missing Hours; Claire Mackintosh, Let me Lie; Phillip Margolin, The Third Victim; Emily Pan, The Astonishing Color of After; James Patterson, Red Alert; Anna Quindlen, Alternate Side; Maria Shriver, I’ve Been Thinking; Danielle Steel, Accidental Heroes; Randy J. Taraborrdli, Jackie, Jane and Lee; Randy Wayne White, Caribbean Rim; Jacqueline Winspear, To Die But Once.

Don’t forget—you can check our website, www.oldforgelibrary.org for a list of library programs or stop by the library for a printed copy.

All library programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise indicated. For more information & specific needs, call the Library at 315 369-6008.