President’s Message

I’m sitting at my desk, looking out my window on a scene that says “midwinter” - two feet of snow, the wind shaking the trees and tossing the light snowfall about. I’ll be skiing later today (and tomorrow, and next week).

Then Linda emails, reminding me that she needs a message for the spring library newsletter. In March (and April), it seems like spring is still far away, but in a matter of just a few weeks, our snow will be gone-time to start thinking about spring and summer activities.

If your place is like mine, spring means fixing the things that took a beating over the winter and getting outdoor things ready for the summer. I’m looking forward to getting the porch rockers and the grill out. The lawn mower, rake and paint brush not so much.

It's the same for the library. In addition to cleaning up the grounds, we'll be opening up the garden and turning on the fountain. Our benches will be back out and soon flowers will fill the planters. The library is busy in all seasons, but spring and summer are special, with the building filling with visitors and returning summer residents. We get an opportunity to check in with old friends and introduce new users to the library. The pace of events and programs will increase. There’s so much to do in Old Forge in the spring and summer—don’t forget to sample what the library has to offer.

Don Kelly, President

Judges, Jim Helmes, Billy Burns and David Tracy, sampled an array of delectable dessert entries in the library's annual Sweetheart Dessert Contest February 12.

April is National Poetry Month!

The library will celebrate National Poetry month by providing poetry for cardboard coffee sleeves at local coffee stops in April.

When a customer orders a coffee at their favorite spot, the cardboard sleeve will be adorned with a unique poem courtesy of the Old Forge Library’s “Coffee Poem Project”.

Poetry and Illustration Exhibit and Contest

The winners of the 2019 Poetry and Illustration Exhibit, My Favorite were announced during the opening reception held on March 19. Library director, Linda Weal, welcomed a large gathering. Master of Ceremonies, Tim Leach introduced winners.

There were over 400 entries; 164 Poetry submissions and 256 Illustration entries from Herkimer, Madison and Oneida counties as well as the Town of Inlet.

Judges for poetry were Leslie Bailey and Colin Criss. Artists, Rob and Marie Imundo served as the illustration judges.

Many entries will remain on exhibit throughout May. Stop by to see the exhibit and cast your vote for your favorite poem or illustration. Award winning works will travel as a small exhibit to various local venues this spring.

Director, Linda Weal with First Place illustration winner for Grades 5-8, Imagin Aiken, who stands proudly next to her winning entry, My Favorite Plant Is.

Photo courtesy of Kurt Gardner.

Illustration First Place Winners, 2019: Grades K-4: Cooper Lincoln, Otter Lake, Grades 5-8: Imagin Aiken, Remsen, Grades 9-12: J. Tyler Kane, Old Forge, Adult: Ron Rakowski, Old Forge.


Book Groups

Tuesday Morning Book Group
Every third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am
Morning Book Group has been on a winter hiatus. Upcoming book sections TBA. Call the library for more details.

Monday Evening Book Group
Every last Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
March 31: The Radium Girls by Kate Moore
April 29: Educated by Tara Westover
May 27: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
June 24: A Well-Behaved Woman by Therese Ann Fowler

New members are always welcome to join our book groups. Copies of books to be discussed can be reserved by calling the library at 315-369-6008.
Events, Programs, Series and Workshops
Unless otherwise noted, programs are free and open to the public.

Adirondack Poetry Party
Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 pm
A casual evening with local guest readers who will share their favorite poems from or about the Adirondacks. The second half of the event will allow local poets to share their original works. And of course it wouldn’t be a party without cake! Join us to share your poems or to listen.

Living the Traveling Life
Presentation with Dan Szczesny
Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 pm
Dan will cover a wide variety of world travels from Hong Kong to the Grand Canyon. From Nepal to Northern England. From Quebec City to the White Mountains. This presentation covers many of the most common travel issues – how to eat, how to not get sick, how to prepare for culture shock and more. For those interested in travel writing, Dan will cover general tips and answer audience questions.

Family Histories Workshop with David Hazard
Thursday, May 16 from 5:00–8:00 pm
Participants in the workshop will learn how to think about writing great family stories. David has been an author, publishing consultant, and writing and creativity coach since 1978, developing bestselling lines of books for numerous publishers. He has written more than 30 books of his own, including several award-winning and internationally bestselling titles. Pre-registration required by May 10.

Seeds of Spring: How to Plant a Poem
Saturday, May 18, 1:00 pm
This workshop, led by Star Livingstone invites participants to “Read a poem, plant a poem, and write a poem to plant at home.” Participants will read poems printed on seeded paper to determine what grows when you plant a poem.

Free Draw Nights
Tuesday, May 21, 6:00-8:00 pm – Hideous Still Lives: Come Draw an Unattractive Pile of Objects with Friends!
Tuesday, June 18, 6:00–8:00 – Don’t Stop to Think. Just Draw! A Night of Automatic Drawing.
Join Adam Stone and Eileen Townsend for an evening of drawing. Each evening has a fun theme with a specific prompt. Dinner and basic drawing supplies will be provided. Feel free to bring any drawing materials you may prefer. Please sign up to reserve your dinner!

Grow Tower Demonstration
Thursday, June 6, 6:00 pm
Jeff Livingston, Instructor
In conjunction with the Old Forge Garden Club
We will convert a 55 gallon drum into a vertical garden. Space-saving and environmentally friendly, this informative, outdoor session is hands-on. Dress for the weather.

Music in the Gazebo
Tuesday, June 25, 4:00 pm
Join us for the first performance of the season! Future performances will be held every 2 weeks throughout the summer. Bring a blanket or folding chair. In the event of inclement weather, we will move indoors.

Water Media Paintings by Sally Clark
June 4 - June 28
Sally Clark’s work is totally abstract, using collage and stamping as well as the paint. Sally did not start to paint seriously until 1981 when she was in her forties. Taking an adult-ed course at Munson Williams Proctor Art Museum, Utica, NY, in watercolor, she was hooked. Starting with still lives and landscapes she discovered the fun of painting flowers, which began to become more and more abstract. With abstraction came the need for more oomph and texture, thus making the switch to acrylics necessary.

Opening Reception, First Friday Artwalk
Friday, June 7, 5-8 pm
Art Tells a Story:
An Open Exhibit by Artists Who Love Books & Libraries
July 2 – July 26
An opportunity for the arts community to show off the diversity of the region’s artists and to show their support for the library.

Open to all.
An artist-designated portion of proceeds from art sales will directly support future library exhibits. Entries are due June 25-26. More information and entry forms can be picked up at the library or printed from our website: www.oldforgelibrary.org.

Opening Reception, First Friday Artwalk
Friday, July 5, 5-8 pm
Children’s Programs

Linking Lives Through Reading
Thursdays, April 25 – May 30, 2:15–3:15 pm
Spring session of our intergenerational one-on-one reading program for local first graders. Call the library by April 20 to register a first grader or to volunteer as an adult “Book Buddy”. Adult volunteers are always needed.

Babysitting Clinic: For Students
Thursday, April 25, 6:00–7:30 pm
6:00-6:45 pm Kandis Griffin, Guidance Counselor, teaches childhood development
6:45-7:30 pm David Berkstresser, Paramedic Instructor, discusses health and safety

Thursday May 2, 6:00–7:30 pm
6:00-6:45 pm Teachers, Karen Beck & Judy Ehrensbeck, explore Educational Play
6:45-7:30 pm Diane Amos, Family & Consumer Science
Teacher will discuss food and nutrition
This course is open to Students age 10 and up who have not previously taken it. Registration is required by April 19.

Toddler Story Time
Fridays, April 26 – May 31, 10:00-10:30 am
Six session program for toddler’s ages 1 and 2 and a parent or caregiver. Led by Jackie Englert, Director of the Town of Webb Recreation Program, 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
Fridays, April 26 – May 31, 11:00 am-noon
The six-week Story Hour is for preschoolers age 3, 4 and 5 years old. During the hour of stories and creative play, the children will take part in games, crafts, and other activities as they become acquainted with the library. Please register children by Thursday, April 25.

Annual Children’s Author Visit
Tuesday, May 7: 9:15-10:00 am Grades 4-6
10:10-10:40 am Grades K-1
11:45-12:30 am Grades 2-3
Acclaimed children’s author, Matt McElligott, will give presentations to students from Town of Webb and Inlet schools and home-schooled students. Matt is the author of numerous picture and nonfiction books, including Even Monsters Need Haircuts. Even Aliens Need Snacks. and Mad Scientist Academy: The Dinosaur Disaster. He is an enthusiastic speaker who excites students about reading and writing, with stories of his career as a working writer and illustrator. The public may attend.

Illustration Instructor, Cynthia Brownell, at this year’s Poetry & Illustration Project.

Summer Reading Program: “A Universe of Stories”
Thursdays, July 11 – Aug. 8, noon-1:00 pm
Encourage kids to continue reading throughout the summer! Each week children enjoy space-themed activities (4 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult). Look for more information coming in the Summer Bookmark, on the library’s website and Facebook page.

Summer Programs
Save the following dates:

North Country Stories with Bill Smith
Tuesday, July 2, 6:00 pm
Popular storyteller and Balladeer, Bill Smith, delights audiences everywhere. Prepare to laugh your head off at Bill’s tall tales, step back in time with his descriptions of country life in the old days, and get nostalgic when he sings. You won’t want to miss this event!

Crazy Croquet Tournament and Mad Tea Party Fundraiser
Wednesday, July 10
Come through the looking glass with us to an Alice in Wonderland-themed party on the library lawn, with activities for all ages.
-Croquet Tournament,
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
-Mad Tea (Cocktail) Party, 3:33 pm

Author’s Seminar, Author’s Fair & Adirondack Storytelling Festival
Saturday, July 20
Many of the library’s best loved and longstanding traditions will be combined for one full day celebrating literature and folklore of the Western Central Adirondacks.

New this Spring at the Library
To better serve our patrons, we are pleased to announce the following upcoming changes and upgrades:

Public Computer Stations:
Three new chrome computers and a color printer with scanner have been purchased for patrons use. Color printing and copying as well as scanning are new services at the Old Forge Library.

Change in hours of operation
Effective July 1 – August 31
Summer library hours will be:
Tuesday – Friday, 10 am – 8 pm
Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm

Seed Library
Opens in April: The library will be accepting donated seeds and making them available to the public for free in the Seed Library. The Seed Library will be contained in an antique seed box provided by Star Livingstone.

Instructional information about planting and plant care, advice on how to deal with diseases and pests and other educational information will be provided.

There is no library card required and anyone is welcome to take seeds or donate them.
Library Programming is made possible by the generous support of library donors and NYSCA, the New York State Council on the Arts.

OLD FORGE LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Old Forge Library is to provide materials and services to enhance the quality of life in our community. We welcome and support all in the pursuit of lifelong learning. We believe that the freedoms to read, to learn, to inspire, and to discover will provide enjoyment, enrich lives and strengthen our community. We strive to provide equal access to information, ideas and knowledge through books, programs, the arts, and other resources to year-round and seasonal residents.

Check our website: [www.oldforgelibrary.org](http://www.oldforgelibrary.org) for a list of library programs or stop by the library for a printed copy.

OLD FORGE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Officers
Donald Kelly, President
Kirsten Down, Vice President
Judy Ehrensbeck, Recording Secretary
Jennifer Hartsig, Corresponding Secretary
Mona Lincoln, Treasurer

Trustees
David Berkstresser, Kelly Hunkins, Timothy Leach, Liz Lorentzsen, Joe Rintrona, Kathleen Rivet
Trustee Emerita: Sarah Cohen

Staff
Linda Weal, Director
Karen Lee, Beverly Meeker, Beth Pashley, Noreen Ferland (substitute)

Old Forge Library Association

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Spring Library Hours (through June)
Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 8 pm
Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm