**Director’s Message**

The end of the year is a nostalgic time, a moment to reflect back on the year that passed. At the Old Forge Library, 2019 was a year of memorable moments, and putting effort into changes to help ensure a bright future.

There was a lot of programming! Concert series, kid’s events, authors, and the arts; old favorites like our friend Bill Smith and new faces like blues band George Deveny & Blueprints. We hosted two successful fundraisers, The Alice in Wonderland-themed Crazy Croquet Tournament & Mad Hatter’s Tea Party and the Wine & Rhyme. We made slime, we made crafts, we ate popcorn!

Projects were undertaken to make the library more usable. A generator was installed to keep us powered in any weather. New floor was laid in the program room, making messy projects (like our ornament-making series) more accessible. A baby changing station was added to our public restroom. The gazebo got a snazzy new paint job!

The board and staff did a lot of work behind the scenes, too; organizing, and re-ordering the collection to make materials easier to find, rewriting and updating policies, recreating our website, and securing grants to expand our goals. And we chose a new logo!

It is an honor to be involved in this organization. We work hard and we have fun doing it. Because we believe in our mission. We are so glad to have your support. Thank you for this past year, and we look forward to sharing 2020 with you.

*Linda Weal, Director*

**Book Groups**

*Monday Evening Book Group* meets at the library every last Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday Morning Group is on hiatus until April.*

New members are always welcome to join the book groups. Reserve a copy of a book to be discussed by calling the library.

**Children’s and Youth Programs**

**Toddler Wiggle Time**

*Wednesdays; 10:15 a.m.*

For children from birth-age 2 and a parent or caregiver. Led by Naomi Kelly, little ones will dance and engage in half an hour of imaginative play.

**Winter Toddler Time**

*Tuesdays, January 28 – March 3; 10:15 a.m.*

For toddlers (Ages 1 & 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 six week program.*

**School Break Story Hours**

*Tuesdays, Feb. 18, April 7, & April 14; 1-2:00 p.m.*

For children ages 3-6 years old. An hour of stories and creative play. Games, crafts, songs and other gentle activities to stimulate creative thinking.

**Linking Lives Through Reading**

*Thursdays, April 23 – May 28; 2:15–3:15 p.m.*

The spring session of this intergenerational one-on-one reading program is for first graders in the Town of Webb school district and home schooled first graders. Call the library by Friday, April 17 to register a first grader or to volunteer as an Adult *Book Buddy*. Volunteers are always needed.

**Babysitting Clinic: For Students**

*Thursdays, April 23 & 30; 5:15-6:45 p.m.*

Four instructors, over two evenings will deliver messages to preteens to help them prepare for the world of babysitting. Skills learned will also make preteens safer at home alone. Topics will include, safety, nutrition and tips about caring for younger children. *This course is open to students age 10 and up who have not previously taken it. Registration is required by April 17.*

**Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Diane Amos, with students discussing food and nutrition during the 2019 Babysitting Clinic.**
Events, Programs, Series & Workshops

Unless otherwise noted, programs are free and open to the public.

The Friends Annual Luncheon - $17.00
Monday, January 13; 11:45 a.m.
The Friends of the Old Forge Library invite the community to attend their Annual Luncheon. This year’s luncheon will be held at the library and catered by Walt’s Diner. Lunch will be served buffet style and the menu includes tossed salad, chicken parmagiana, vodka rrigies, roast beef and mashed potatoes. The Friends will provide cookies and beverages. Reserve your space and pre-pay by Friday, January 10.

Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Experience
With John & Thera Levi of Mountain Mystic Guide Company
Wednesdays, January 22; 5 p.m. & March 25; 5 p.m.
This is an opportunity to learn and practice techniques for mindful connection with nature. Cultivate balance and inspiration and release stress. Get outside and go within and learn the benefits to body mind and spirit.

Sweetheart Dessert Contest
Tuesday, February 11
• Entries accepted: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
• Reception & Dessert Sampling: 5-6:30 p.m.
Create your favorite dessert and bring it to the library to win the honors of best dessert in town!
Judging will occur in three categories:
1. Student
2. Adult
3. Master
Contest winners will be announced at the reception. The Friends of the Library invite the community to stop in to sample the delicious entries. Judging the contest will be representatives from Ozzie’s Coffee Bar, Walt’s Diner and Dough a Deer Bakery.

Singer/Songwriter Amber Nadine
Wednesday, February 19; 5:30 p.m.
Amber Nadine describes her music as country pop. In her solo performances, her music focuses on guitar and vocals. While singing has always been a part of her life, writing music only took root after she graduated from high school. Nadine plays regularly in Central Pennsylvania where she grew up. She and her family have been coming to the Adirondacks since she was four years old and she is excited to be spending the winter months here.

A Trip to Uganda with Debra Booton McCoy
Thur., February 20; 5 p.m.
Local resident Debra Booton McCoy will give a photography presentation & discussion of her trip to Uganda.
“Fr. Christopher Tusiime and I have been friends for over three years. I have tried to support him financially as I can… I promised him I would see him be ordained. And he was this summer. Keeping my promise, my husband, my niece and I went to visit him and his family in Uganda. We toured the capital city of Kampala, where he attended college. Then we went to Hoima, where he would be ordained.”
View the many pictures Debra took and commentary on visiting Africa.

Mud Season Craft Nights
Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, and 29; 5 p.m.
Mark your calendar for this great way to stay busy during mud season! All supplies will be provided. All ages are welcome. There will be themed crafts for spring holidays including an Easter Craft and one celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Used Books!
Stop by and check out our overflowing used book room.

We always have a wide selection of books for all ages available for a small suggested donation. But in January and February we are going to try something new. Fill a bag for a $2 donation, add to your collection and help us make room for more books!
ART EXHIBITS

Town of Webb Historical Association’s
McKenney & Hall Indian Prints:
History of the Indian Tribes of North America (1837-1844)
One of the Town of Webb Historical Association’s most prized artifacts, the collection of McKenney & Hall lithographs of American Indians will remain on display through February.

ANNUAL POETRY & ILLUSTRATION CONTEST

Theme: “My Story”

Contest: Entry is open to students and adults throughout the Mid York Library region, including Oneida, Herkimer, and Madison Counties and the Town of Inlet.

Entries will be accepted from January 2 through February 14. One entry may be submitted in both the poetry and illustration contests for each participant. There are four categories of experience for the judging:

1. Grades K-4
2. Grades 5-8
3. Grades 9-12
4. Adult

Deadline for entry: Friday, February 14.

Full entry guidelines available at oldforgelibrary.org or at the library

Poetry Judges: Melissa MacDonald & David Hazard
Illustration: Judges Greg Klein & Stephen Fletcher

The Exhibit: All works received for the contest will be displayed at the library from March 4 - May 22.

Reception: Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Refreshments. Winners and Honorable Mentions will be announced and awards presented. Those honored with awards will have an opportunity to read and/or discuss their work.

Instruction: The Poetry & Illustration project includes workshops. Workshop participants are not required to enter their work and contest entrants are not required to attend the workshops. All workshops will be held at the library. Participants are asked to pre-register.

Poetry Instruction Workshops
Saturday, January 18
Students K-12: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Adults: 12 p.m.-2 p.m.

Art Instruction Workshops
Saturday, January 25
Students K-12: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Adults: 12 p.m.-2 p.m.

The Poetry & Illustration Project is generously funded by CNY Arts and the Friends of the Old Forge Library.

NETWORK AND WI-FI UPGRADES

In the ongoing effort to improve service, new network wiring was installed to accommodate four additional wireless access points. The existing 100Mb internet connection was improved with upgraded bandwidth to 400Mb.

A new router and switching gear has been installed to take full advantage of the increased bandwidth and handle the increased number of connections from the new wireless access points.

We have expanded wireless coverage to the seating areas and garden outside the building.

Together, these upgrades will provide a whole new level of improved internet and network access for patrons and staff of the Old Forge Library.

Addie Gribneau and Mom, Stacey, enjoyed the craft station at the library’s Halloween party. Over 75 kids and adults stopped by during the open house to enjoy the crafts, games and spooky treats and admire each other’s costumes!

GIVING BACK

There are many ways to donate to the library. All gifts can be customized to honor or memorialize those dear to you. When you give to the library in honor of a loved one, they are notified.

Ways to give:

- Purchase a leaf or apple for the tree sculpture and let your gift be on display. Engraved leaves are customized to read what a donor inscribes and hung in the library.
- Wish List allows a donor pick from our list of materials the library hopes to buy. Books, audiobooks, DVDs, and materials for all ages and interests.
- Programming gifts are donations that can be made to help support a specific library program, concert, event or speaker.

To discuss donation ideas or how to design your own gift, contact Library Director, Linda Weal, at 315-369-6008 or lweal@gmail.com.

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Old Forge Library Association
220 Crosby Boulevard
PO Box 128
Old Forge, NY 13420
315-369-6008
www.oldforgelibrary.org

Old Forge Library
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 Lorentzszen, Joe Rintrona, Kathleen Rivet

Trustee Emerita:
Sarah Cohen

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

Library Hours
September - June:
Tuesday – Friday
10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Saturday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Check our website:
www.oldforgelibrary.org
for a current calendar of library programs.

Library programming is made possible by the generous support of library donors and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the NY State Legislature.

That’s what friends are for…
Message from the Friends of the Old Forge Library

Some folks think this is a quiet time in the Town of Webb but the Friends of the Library have been busy. The Library was decked out for Christmas on Main Street and the Friends and Library staff hosted a warming station complete with Legos, crafts and hot chocolate. Christmas themed books and ADK titles were rounded up from the Used Book room – all were on offer at the Book Mart.

As always, we invite new friends to join us in supporting the Library.

Friends of the Old Forge Library Officers
Jeanne Candee, President; Donna Zuckert, Vice President;
Butch Hartsig, Recording Secretary; Kate Bartlet, Treasurer; Judy Foley & Beverly Meeker, Directors.

News: The Friends just donated $2500 to the library’s 2020 “New Window” campaign. They matched a gift, by patrons, Debbie and Ron Greene. Watch for more news about windows in the following months….

The Friends of the Old Forge Library meet on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at 10 a.m. at the library and always welcome new members.