

THE BOOKMARK

OLD FORGE LIBRARY

SUMMER 2020

At the printing of this newsletter we are still living in uncertain times. COVID-19 closed our building to the public for months, and reshaped our schedule and programs. It may continue to. Please know that programs – including all of those listed in this newsletter – may be cancelled. Changes may be made to operations if deemed necessary. It is best to call the library prior to visiting for updates about our services.

We will continue to provide updates on our Facebook page and website.

We wish all our patrons, and ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE good health and fortitude during these uncertain times.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings. Suddenly it's summer once again. Greenery, flowers and vegetable gardens are popping up everywhere. (A shout out of thanks to those participating in the Lending Seed Library; I love my chive plant!) Town is beginning to bustle as places slowly start to open up. Here at the library, we have increased our outdoor seating. Please come and sit, read, connect or just be. Stay tuned for updates as we continue to navigate our way to opening our doors.

A big thank you to Don Kelly for all his many years of service as President of the Library Board of Directors. The library has truly flourished under his leadership. Fortunately, he is remaining on the Board so we will continue to benefit from his wisdom and guidance. I know I will rely on his knowledge as I step into that role. Thank you! The Library is fortunate to have a strong, vibrant Board of Directors, passionate about the Library and its role in the community. I am so grateful to them and all the volunteers who help make this community such a great place to live.

I would be remiss not to mention how much has happened in our world these past months. It has been so easy to be overwhelmed but I am an optimist and am often reminded of this Victor Hugo quote from *Les Miserables* "Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise." Be safe, be positive and enjoy the sun.

Kirsten Down, President

STORY WALK AND READING GARDEN

Stroll our grounds and check out the newly decked-out storyboards with poems from the vintage children's book *Read-A-Loud Poems Every*



Child Should Know. The story walk ends near the garden, whose water feature provides a calm and relaxing area for reading, using the library WI-FI, a lunch break, or even a socially distanced visit with friends.

MESSAGE FROM LINDA & THE STAFF

We miss you! We miss the friendly conversations and we miss your faces. Although we have returned to the library to continue our work, it is not the same here without our friends. We always knew that the library was more than books and free WI-FI, but it has never been clearer what the library is. It is you. Our community, friends and neighbors.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that when we re-open our doors all of our patrons and staff will be as safe as possible. For that reason you may find that the experience is not what you expect. The upholstered seating area and parts of the library will be off limits to patrons. There will not be a puzzle to work, jelly beans or an art exhibit on display. All of our indoor programs are on hold, and will not resume until the threat from indoor activities has been drastically reduced. Our signage will tell you where to stand, how far apart to be, and even how to flush the toilet. Be prepared to wear a mask inside.

We are taking these measures for your safety and ours. Because we know there will be a time when the pandemic will end, and we want to be there and celebrate with all of you. We love you. And so please understand, that because we do, the library may not be the way you remembered it – not at first. But it is so we can all be together at the end.

In the meantime we are offering "Library Takeout". We can check out materials to you, as well as help with any copying, printing, scanning or faxing. We hope to begin outdoor programs in the middle of July.

We are at the library getting ready for you. Please call us with questions or just to say hello.

WHAT WE DID: WE READ!

Two favorite staff reads during our quarantine

Beth: *The War of the Roosevelts* by William Mann; *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

Beverly: *Beach Haven, Carolina Coast Series, Book 1* and *Driftwood Dreams, Book 2* by T.I. Lowe

Karen: *The Things We Do For Love* by Kristin Hannah; *How To Keep a Secret* by Sarah Morgan

Linda: *The Box Man* by Kobo Abe; *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara

Noreen: *Coconut Layer Cake* by Joanne Fluke; *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty

EVENTS, PROGRAMS, SERIES & WORKSHOPS

Programs are free and open to the public.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: GRAB-N-GO!

Pick up: Fridays, July 10 – August 14, from 11 am - 3 pm

A great way to encourage children to read during the summer. Fun, reading-oriented bags full of activities and crafts. Please call or e-mail the library to register your child by July 9. Children who complete the enclosed reading prompts will earn a cool prize at the end.

For planning purposes enrollment will be limited to 60 children between the ages of 4 and 12.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT IN THE GAZEBO

Tuesdays, 4 pm - Starting July 14

Please bring your own blanket or folding chair, and enjoy live music and family-friendly entertainment at a safe distance from your friends and neighbors.

July 14: The Fabulous Mojos - band

July 21: Olivia Phaneuf - clarinet

July 28: Nook and Crannie - duo

Aug. 4: TBA

Aug. 11: Soldier's Joy - duo

Aug. 18: Mary Brophy Moore & Joe Bolton - duo

Aug. 25: TBA

Sept. 1: Bernie Hurlbutt - illustrator



Nook and Crannie will perform in the Gazebo on July 28.

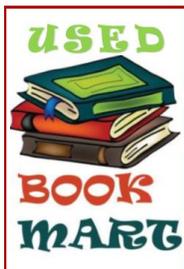
The duo, comprised of Ann Carey and Matt Mielnick, entertain with a rare combination of great original and traditional songs, stunning vocals, solid musicianship, and plenty of bad jokes.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (MINI) USED BOOK MARTS

Tuesdays, 3:30- 5:30 pm

Starting July 14 (Weather Permitting)

Load up on used books, while making a small donation to a good cause. Sanitizer, masks and distancing will all be part of the shopping experience.



MONDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP

Every last Monday of the month at 6:30 pm

New members are always welcome to join the book groups. Call the library for the current book selection.

The Book Group has been meeting electronically via Zoom for the last few months! Call or email for meeting information.

SUMMER WRITERS WORKSHOP: ZOOM EDITION

Led by Paula Alida Roy

Wednesdays, July 8 - August 12 at 7 pm

The 2020 Summer Writers Workshop will be held via the internet through the Zoom app.

Poet and published author, Paula Alida Roy, is one of the most beloved teachers in Old Forge Library history. A former Chair of the Department of English at Westfield High School in New Jersey, and a scholar-facilitator of several discussion and literacy programs, Paula has served as the director for the library's Summer Writers Workshops several times over the years.

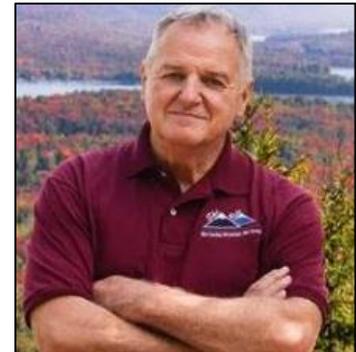
Enrollment is limited to 12 participants. Please call or e-mail the library to register.

OUTDOOR READING SERIES

Thursdays, 7 pm – Starting July 16

Please bring your own blanket or folding chair, and enjoy some family-friendly entertainment at a safe distance from your friends and neighbors.

**Mike Farmer,
Town of Webb
Publicity
Director, will
read his favorite
passages from
the classic
Western novel,
True Grit by
Charles Portis on
July 16, 7 pm.**



July 16 - Reader: Mike Farmer

Reading from: Charles Portis's *True Grit*

July 23 - Reader: Kathy Rivet

Reading from: Ann Patchett's *Run*

July 30 - Reader: Mark Salsbury

Reading from: J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*

Aug. 6 - Reader: Marianne Christy

Reading from: Her family favorites from Dr. Seuss

Aug. 13 – TBA • Aug. 20 – TBA • Aug. 27 - TBA

DONATE

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.

There are many ways to show support. For ideas or to discuss how to design your own gift, contact Director, Linda Weal, at 315-369-6008 or lweal@gmail.com.

A TRIBUTE TO IRENE MOEHS

1934 – 2020

Remembrances from Izzie Worthen

I met Irene Moehs when she and her family moved to Old Forge, in 1970. We

became good friends over the years as we had family, music, books and the library in common.

Irene helped to establish the Old Forge Library's Book Group which evolved after several of us had taken a Russian Literature course offered by Herkimer County Community College



taught by Diane Bowes at the Town of Webb Schools.

In 1976 I became the director of the OFL and in 1977 the group officially became a library program. Consequently, we are the oldest book group in the Mid York Library System. Recently I talked with several of the original members and Bea Foley remembered sitting around Irene's living room discussing books. Irene introduced us to many German novels; one of my favorites was "*The Buddenbrooks*" by Thomas Mann.

She also shared how her early life in war-torn Germany affected her and her family and gave us a glimpse into how difficult it was. Reminiscing, Diane laughingly said, "We all suffered through Bea's Science Fiction books."

But I still remember "*The Left Hand of Darkness*" by Ursula LeGuin, which gave me a new insight into human nature. Linda Clark Martin, Jackie Rivet and I pretty much leaned toward English Literature, but Dorcas Shaw would always choose New York State Literature, which I grew to love. Of course, Diane continued to share her passion for Russian Literature and since this was a library program open to the public, we found more and more people in the community interested in discussing books.

Irene believed strongly in community service and she was an active volunteer of the Friends of the OFL for many years and served as their president. She was also very dedicated to the library, serving on the board for several years.

Irene was always open to change and new challenges which was a great support to me and the kinds of initiatives I was interested in as director.

Irene enjoyed travelling, especially to Germany to visit family. There was a great deal of caring and togetherness in her family and she went as often as she could. When she returned, she would happily show me photos of her journey, her family, and the places she had been. I encouraged her to join the Summer Writers Workshop to write about her family and her experiences during the war, which she did.

These treasures can be found in "*Adirondack Reflections: A Thirty-Year Anthology from the Old Forge Writers Workshop*". You can borrow it from the library.

Another special memory I have is when Irene decided to become a United States citizen. Mirnie Kashiwa and I were very proud of her thoughtful decision. She asked us to stand up for her during the ceremony and both Mirnie and I felt so honored to be asked. I remember the day in my

mind's eye so well ~ it was lovely, the sun was shining, and it was warm as we travelled to Utica together. The ceremony was very special. Irene stood as tall as her 5` frame would allow as she pledged her allegiance to her country, America. Mirnie and I looked on teary eyed, moved and so honored to be a witness to Irene's special day. Afterward, we had coffee and a croissant at a small café on Bleecker Street. It indeed was a very special day for three friends.

Later she moved to Liverpool, NY where her son, Joachim, lived and she worked at the Onondaga County Library. Several years later Albert and I purchased a second home in Liverpool, to be near our son, Jon, and his family. Happily, Irene, Albert and I enjoyed meals together and many musical and library events, until she retired and moved to Belfast, Maine to be near her son, Morten, and his family. We stayed in touch by writing and calling each other.

I am so blessed to have known Irene Moehs and to have had her in my life for 50 years...

Izzie Worthen, Past Director

That's what friends are for...

Message from the Friends of the Old Forge Library

Like so many others in these times, the Friends have gathered around their devices and held the monthly meetings via video conference. After several months, we're old pros and have held some very productive meetings. Decisions and plans made; some decisions were difficult, some were optimistic.

The most difficult was to decide there wouldn't be a Library Bash this summer. Without the library open there's no opportunity to showcase our raffle items. With social distancing restrictions on the number who can gather, we felt the event itself wouldn't be nearly as much fun.

The most optimistic plan is for weekly outdoor Book Marts this summer at the Tuesday concert series. The library staff will resume accepting book donations, and the Friends will set up outside with a variety of used books on offer for a donation. Beginning with the first concert on July 14th, the mini-mart will be open from 3:30 - 5:30 pm. Books will be quarantined on intake and we will provide hand sanitizer so bring your mask and stock up for summer reading. Another very optimistic plan is just in the incubator stage so watch this space and the paper for something special toward an end of the summer.

We will continue to meet virtually. If you'd like to join us, please email Linda Weal at lweal@midyork.org. As always, the friends are always looking for new members. Even though we are having to learn how to do things using new methods, we remain committed to being a support to the library, and their commitment to this community.

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*



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Non-Profit Organization
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Permit Number 13

OLD FORGE LIBRARY

Officers

Kirsten Down, *President*
Donald Kelly,
Vice President
Judy Ehrensbeck,
Recording Secretary
Jennifer Hartsig,
Corresponding Secretary
Mona Lincoln, *Treasurer*

Trustees

David Berkstresser, Kelly
Hunkins, Liz Lorentzsen,
Joe Rintrona,
Kathleen Rivet,
Diane Seabright
Trustee Emerita:
Sarah Cohen

Staff

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



JULY LIBRARY

HOURS: Library Takeout

Monday 10 am - 4 pm
Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm
Thursday 10 am - 7 pm
Friday 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

AUGUST HOURS:

Stay tuned for more info

Check our website:

www.oldforgeibrary.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.

**Council on
the Arts**

**Library Takeout Services will continue
throughout July.**

**We hope to re-open the building
for browsing in August.**

At the time of the printing of this newsletter there is no borrowing between libraries in the Mid York System, but we are committed to getting the best new titles in all your favorite formats. If you have suggestions please let us know. **Here's what is new:**

New Fiction:

David Baldacci, *Walk the Wire* • Michael Connelly, *Fair Warning* • Clive Cussler, *Wrath of Poseidon* • Glennon Doyle, *Untamed* • John Grisham, *Camino Winds* • Sue Monk Kidd, *Book of Longings* • Stephen King, *If It Bleeds* • James Patterson, *20th Victim* • Nora Roberts, *Hideaway* • Emma Straub, *All Adults Here* • Scott Turow, *Last Trial* • Jennifer Weiner, *Big Summer*

New Non-Fiction:

Pete Hegseth, *American Crusade: Our Fight to Stay Free* • Mikel Jollett, *Hollywood Park: A Memoir* • Bakari Sellers, *My Vanishing Country: A Memoir* • Judy Mikovits, *Plague of Corruption: Restoring Faith in the Promise of Science* • Erik Larson, *Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill* • James Nestor, *Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art*