President’s Message

“Sometimes, you just need to lie on the couch and read for a couple of years.”
-Julie Moffett, Author

Wow, what a fall we had. The weather was absolutely beautiful. With winter at our doorstep, we are busy preparing for indoor programming.

We have a great community-minded staff and board of directors who will continue to strive to maintain our great library. Stop by to check out a book, or see what programs are coming up in the future.

Kelly Hunkins
President, Board of Trustees

Art Exhibits

Rome Art Association Goes North
November 18 – January 10
Opening Reception: Friday, Nov. 18, 5-7 pm
Rome Art Association returns to the Old Forge Library!

RAA has several local members in our area and many accomplished regional artists will have work on display.

Seasons: Community Poetry & Art Extravaganza
March 2 – April 22
This exhibit is open to all creative folk, big & small. Entry details and more for this annual favorite on page 3.

Monday Night Book Group
Last Monday of the month, 6:30 pm
Nov. 28, Jan. 2, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 27, April 24
Check with the library to find out what book we are discussing each month, then join other book-lovers. An informal discussion group, always welcoming new members both in person and via Zoom.

December’s Book: “Seven Days of Us” by Francesca Hornak (meeting 1/2/23)

Children’s and Youth Programs

Grab n’ Go Kids Activity Bags
Call the library to reserve bags full of fun crafts and activities for kids to work on at home.

Pick up at the library!

Winter Holiday Bags • Pick-up: Friday & Saturday
Nov. 25-26
In conjunction with the CAA’s ADK Christmas on Main Street

Winter Fun Bags
Pick-up: Friday & Saturday
Dec. 16-17

MLK Day Bags
Pick-up: Friday & Saturday
January 13-14

Birds & Bugs Fun Bags
Pick-up: Friday & Saturday, February 17-18

Winter Story Time & Toddler Time
Fridays, Jan. 20 – Feb. 10, 10:15-11:00 am; 4 sessions

Toddler Time: For toddlers (Ages 1 & 2) and a parent or caregiver. Sponsored and led by the Town of Webb Recreation Program, children will have fun listening to stories, meet and socialize with other children, listen to music, finger plays and body movements.

Story Hour: For children ages 3-6 years old. Forty-five minutes of stories and creative play. Games, crafts, songs and other gentle activities to stimulate creative thinking. Led by Old Forge Library staff.

The two programs will be held simultaneously.
Registration is required for planning purposes.

Linking Lives Through Reading
Thursdays, Feb. 2 – 23, 2:15-3:15 pm; 4 sessions

Children are paired with an adult “book buddy” for reading and learning activities. The winter session of this intergenerational one-on-one reading program is for first and second graders.

Call the Library to register a child or to volunteer as a Book Buddy. Adult volunteers are needed. TOW School children can be bussed to library.

PARP (Pick a Reading Partner)
February 24 – March 28

We’ll set aside some books dealing with this year’s PARP theme and host a book raffle – win just by coming to the library!
**Children’s and Youth Programs**

**Easter Egg Dying & Decorating**
Thursday, April 6, 5:00 pm
16 colors of egg dye, crayons, markers, glitter glue and stickers for making each egg special.

**Easter Egg Hunt**
Saturday, April 8, 11:00 am
A traditional Easter Egg hunt for children.

Outside on the library lawn - dress for the weather!

**Events, Programs, Series & Workshops**
Programs are free and open to the Public

**Crafting Get-Togethers**
A social event that is fun for all. All craft supplies and instructions provided. Although supplies are free of charge, supplies are limited. Please call ahead to reserve a spot. Family friendly. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

- December 7
  - Red & White Wreaths

- December 14
  - Gumdrop Trees

- January 25
  - Quilling Trees

- February 1
  - Felt Ball Flowers

- February 8
  - String Art Heart

- February 15
  - Toothpick Cactus

- February 22
  - Painting with Rubber Cement

- March 1
  - Rose Tea Lights

*Check out CreativeBug.com’s 1000s of creative videos free with your Old Forge Library card.*

**Community Gathering**

**Outdoor Solstice Celebration**
Lantern Making courtesy of Weaving Home
Thursday, Dec. 15, 4:00 pm
Use colored tissue paper, cut-out sun, moon, and star shapes to create a mason jar masterpiece worthy of your solstice celebration.

Solstice Celebration Ceremony
Wednesday, Dec. 21, 4:00 pm
Cultures around the world have long celebrated the winter solstice. The library has partnered with LivingADK, Nicolls Nurses, Weaving Home and LM Wellness Coaching to create an opportunity to gather and mindfully focus our hearts. You are invited to bring lights. Outside ceremony - dress for the weather!

**Sweetheart Baking Contest**
Tuesday, February 14; Desserts due, 1:00 pm
Public Reception, 5:00 pm
The community’s favorite dessert contest and tasting is back, sweeter than ever. Awards for kids 4-12, teens, adults and professionals. Judges: Kathy Rivet & Linda Martin.

**Sexual Harassment Prevention Training**
Wednesday, February 22, 10:00 am
Thursday, February 23, 5:00 pm
Tuesday, March 7, 5:00 pm
On Zoom - All employers, employees and non-profit board members across New York State must fulfill an annual sexual harassment prevention training requirement. The library offers this service free of charge. At completion, a certificate is signed for those who complete the training. Depending on the group size, training takes approximately one hour.

Participants must attend with video to satisfy the participation requirements. Two additional sessions to be announced for May & June.

**Babysitting Clinic: For Students**
Thursday, February 16 5:00 - 6:45 pm
Instructors will teach preteens to help them prepare for the world of babysitting. Skills learned will also make pre-teens safer at home alone. Topics will include, safety, first aid and caring for younger children. This course is open to students age 10 and up who have not previously taken it. Registration is required.
**Community Poetry & Art Extravaganza: Contest & Exhibit**

**Theme: “Seasons”**

**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 8-28. One entry may be submitted in both the poetry and art 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: Saturday, January 28**

Full guidelines available at oldforgelibrary.org or at the library

**Poetry Judges:**
Jeanne Selander Miller & Jeanne Whyte

**Art Judges:**
Ron Rakowski & Jim Tracy

**The Exhibit:** All works received for the contest will be displayed at the library from March 2 – April 22.

**Reception:** Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 pm

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

**Honorees at the 2022 Awards Reception for the exhibit “Happiness Is...”**

**Instruction:** The Poetry & Art Extravaganza includes creative in-person opportunities. In the past there were separate workshops for different age groups. In 2022, we are setting up stations to explore creative activities, so that families, friends and neighbors can work on projects at the same time. Workshop participants are not required to enter work and contest entrants are not required to attend workshops.

**Creative Extravaganza: Art Time for the Family Saturday, January 7, 11 am – 1:30 pm**

There will be stations to create poetry, collages, automatic writing, artist trading cards, and different art mediums. Try them all!

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

**New Floors**

The library is removing carpets and installing new floors in the middle of March 2023. This will disrupt operations and may cause brief closures. We'll keep you updated!

**That’s what friends are for…**

*Message from the Friends of the Old Forge Library*

As I write this, the Friends are ready to decorate the library for the holidays and hold our popular book mart during Christmas on Main Street. As you read this, you may have taken advantage of the book mart to pick up a few presents or admired the new tree inside the library.

It's a busy season of planning, transitions and the glow of family gatherings.

On the planning front, the Friends and library staff have been organizing the used book room to be ready to accept books being removed from circulation. The vision is to have fewer books on the shelves for the Spring when new flooring will be installed downstairs.

The Friends are very proud to fund a significant portion of this enhancement to our library home.

With many Friends transitioning to warmer locations, our meetings will become hybrid; Zoom for the snowbirds and in-person at the library for winter-loving locals.

We wish you the warmth of family and friends this holiday season.

-Kate Bartlet, Treasurer

**Holiday Book Mart Fundraiser Raised:** $675.00

**Friends of the Old Forge Library Officers**

Butch Hartsig, President; Donna Zuckert, Vice President; Anne Hartsig, Recording Secretary; Kate Bartlet, Treasurer; Judy Foley & Beverly Meeker, Directors

The Friends of the Old Forge Library is a service organization who plan activities to support the library.

The Friends meet every first Tuesday of the month at 10 am. New Friends are always welcome.

**Anonymous volunteers upgraded our vestibule food pantry. Pantry items available 24/7.**
There are many ways to donate to the library. All gifts can be customized to honor or memorialize loved ones. When you give to the library in honor of a loved one, they are notified.

Annually, the Evergreen Wish List Tree is a favorite way to give. Patrons pick a book, audiobook or DVD to add to the library collection. It is in a binder at the library like a catalog or on the website near the PayPal button. For questions call or email.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

We have new staff! Be sure to say hi & introduce yourself!