

# **What's happening at the Friendship Free Library?**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 14, 2025**

## **Staff**

**Director – Sarah Trumpp**

**Collection Manager – Sebastian Merrill**

**Library Clerk – Abbygail Thornton**

## **Board of Trustees (as of 12/2024)**

**President – Michelle Baker**

**Vice President – Kay Middaugh**

**Secretary – Dee Wolf**

**Financial Officer – Sue Strickley**

**Trustee – Carey Brown**

## **Director's Note**

This January finds us all in a state of mixed emotions.

On January 2, 2025, the Depot Street apartments caught fire and left 18 of Friendship's residents homeless. Eight families lost nearly all of their possessions. Two residents lost beloved pets. Luckily, no human lives were lost, and the survivors do not find themselves without hope.

We are still in the midst of the relief efforts, but I have been awe-struck watching how the community of Friendship has rallied. Surrounding communities have also stepped up to assist, and we're not done yet.

I am filled with sorrow for those who have suffered this terrible loss but filled with hope for our future as a community. Thank you, all, for everything you have done and everything you continue to do.

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We were busy in 2024! We received a grant from the Allegany Area Foundation that allowed us to add two wireless hotspots to our collection. These have been very popular and have been in nearly constant circulation.

We also received a grant from the Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries that allowed us to build a Maker Space in our Young Adult Library. We have had several STEM projects available for patrons, including galaxy jars and bubbling potions, and are excited to bring more experiments to the space in the coming year. I've also donated several Cricut cutting machines to the space which will be available in the coming months.

A grant from the Arts Council of Wyoming County funded our summer concerts on the lawn, which were a hit in the months of July and August! Over 300 people attended the concerts held on Thursday evenings right in front of the library. We hope to receive grant money to bring bands back this summer, so stay tuned!

Our previous director, Julia, obtained \$500 for diversity programming, which we used to bring the Tai Chi Society of Alfred to the library for a Chinese Cultural Night with Tai Chi demonstrations, Chinese food, and a musical performance. We also were able to order several books by Chinese authors about their culture.

Our second annual Christmas Eve-Eve party far surpassed our previous numbers with 139 residents visiting the library to visit with Santa and Mrs. Clause, socialize with their neighbors, and eat, drink, and be merry. We were able to supply books and toys to every family who attended.

Our Children's library is getting a makeover and a brand new collection of books thanks to a grant from the Eldred Foundation, which will allow us to expand our Juvenile collection, including new shelves and a new Transitional collection (short chapter books that are exciting for newer readers).

We look forward to new adventures in 2025, and we hope to see you soon!

## **Interesting Happenings in 2024**



For the April total eclipse, we partnered with Eclipse Soundscapes to deploy an AudioMoth – a small device that recorded nature’s reactions to the eclipse. Scientists will be able to analyze this data to learn about animal behavior during astronomical events.



We partnered with Literacy West to do a recycled fashion show in 2023, which was completed in early 2024. Every participant received a prize bag including a recycled art trophy!



(left) We celebrated several strange holidays in 2024, including Children’s Book Week. Their slogan this year is, “No Rules, Just Read.”

(right) Several local acts performed on our lawn, including High Pines, Angelica natives!



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# **STATS AND DATA FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE DATA**

In 2024, we had **4809** unique visits to the library!

**Total number of new items added to the collection in 2024: 1026**

**Total items Checked out/renewed: 5737**

**Total number of items removed from the collection: 1289**

**Holds provided to other libraries: 1116**

**Holds received from other libraries: 388**

**PLUS 71 new patrons registered!**

