

What's happening at the Friendship Free Library?

ANNUAL MEETING

February 10, 2026

Staff

Director – Sarah Trumpp

Collection Manager – Sebastian Merrill

Library Clerk – Jerod Trumpp

Board of Trustees

President – Michelle Baker

Vice President – Sue Strickley

Secretary – Kay Middaugh

Financial Officer – Dee Wolf

Director's Note

Hello and Happy 2026!

When I wrote to you last, our community was shaken by the Depot Street fire, which left 18 of our residents homeless. Thanks to the generosity of our community and other local communities in the area, they had a hand up in starting over with clothes, housewares, and cash. I hope we never have to do that again, but, if we do, we know we can count on you to lend your support.

2025 was a busy year for your library bees! We received a \$5000 grant from the John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation, which allowed us to add over 450 new books to our Juvenile collection! We set a new system record for the number of books added at one time, which was a personal thrill, but processing those books took almost six months! We're setting our sights on an update for the Young Adult library in early 2026, so stay tuned for that!

We participated in several local programs including an Easter egg hunt in partnership with the Friendship Central School and the Children's Day celebration in June with the alliance of churches. We hosted a mycology workshop, several story and craft programs, and, of course, Music on the Lawn, with attendance between 30 and 80 people each week.

Music on the Lawn is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re grants Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered in Wyoming and Allegany counties by the Arts Council for Wyoming County.

As we look forward to the year to come, we have great things on the horizon! We have several story times scheduled this month, a new Music on the Lawn series to plan, and several grants in the works for collection updates, yoga classes, repair clinics, and a brand new Library of Things! Currently we have wi-fi hotspots, games, puzzles, an Empire Pass, and a pass to the Alfred Ceramics Museum available, but we hope to have many more non-traditional items available for checkout soon!

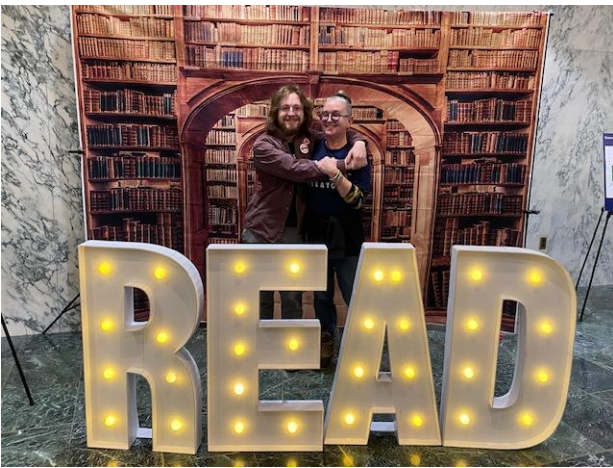
As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you soon!

Interesting Happenings in 2026



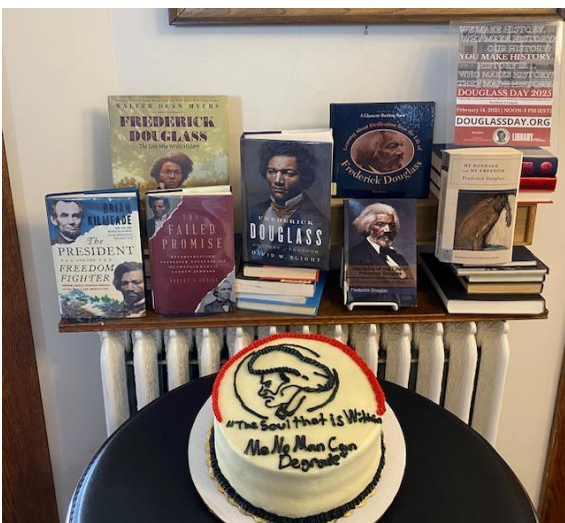
Mustard's Retreat made a stop in Friendship during their 50-year anniversary tour!

Not only did they provide an afternoon's entertainment, but they also made a donation to the library.



(right) A group of community members rallied in the cold to help Eric Jones pack snow for his snow sculpture!

(left) Sebastian and Sarah traveled to Albany for library advocacy day and talked to local legislators!



(right) SO MANY BOOKS! Our giant book order in over 13 30-pound boxes!

(left) We participated in a transcription project on Douglass day in partnership with Alfred culinary students and the Library of Congress



STATS AND DATA FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE DATA

In 2024, we had **5805** unique visits to the library!

Total number of new items added to the collection in 2024: 1272

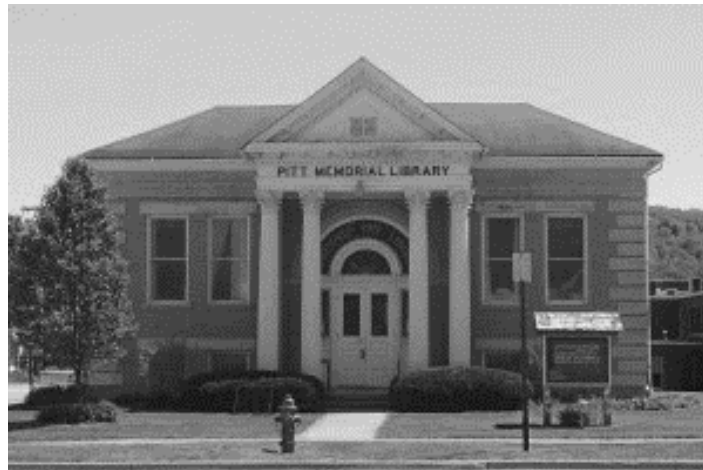
Total items Checked out/renewed: 5963

Total number of items removed from the collection: 631

Holds provided to other libraries: 1397

Holds received from other libraries: 695

PLUS 72 new patrons registered!



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