

Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Date: April 1, 2026

Present: Directors: Lore DePalo, Chris Geyer, Sheila Gaudons, Cara Kirky, Naomi Kissel-Johns, Barbara Leigh, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, Mary Taylor and Donna Zeolla

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Cheryl Clancy, Rod Maturan and Megan Root

Absent: George Bain

The meeting opened at 1:30PM. Introductions were made as we welcomed members to our annual meeting.

Elections: Sue P.

The slate of directors for the three year term from April 2026 through April 2029 are:

Chris Geyer

Naomi Kissel-Johns

Barbara Leigh

Donna Zeolla

The slate of officers for a one year term are:

Chris Geyer and Cara Kirkby – Co-Presidents

George Bain – Treasurer

Lore DePalo - IT Director

Susan Parry – Secretary

A motion to accept the slate of directors and the slate of officers was made by Pam M., seconded by Sheila G. and accepted. Congratulations and Thank You!

The minutes were read online. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Barb L., seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

Director's Report: Susan M.

We are still compiling the stats for March but once again the numbers look healthy.

Spring Break Retro Week is in full swing and everyone is having a great time. Friday we will host vinyl spin art. The teen group hosted a scavenger hunt for the younger children which was a big hit.

Our annual Board of Trustees meeting went very well. We had over 68,000 in person visits to the library in 2025 and the attendance at our programs was close to 10,000 people, a 74% increase for 2024. We are good stewards of our building. After sixteen years it is beginning to show its age but we are keeping up with repairs and enhancements. We expect to have our new roof in April. 90% of the cost was paid by grants.

If you have the chance stop by the Micron exhibit in the Whitney Building at Onondaga Community College. It is amazing.

Asks: Mental Health Kit

We borrowed one from the Soule Road Branch. This is very book and resource based. We would like to have more activities and less reading material. Our suggestions are: light therapy coping cards, Buddha board, fidget toys, activity dice, sensory board, breathing Buddha white noise maker and a traveling backpack. Chris G. suggested that people with mental health issues are often overwhelmed by too many things. Perhaps we should rotate items or have two kits in circulation. Mary Beth R. suggested we purchase all the items and have two kits – one for youth and teens and the second for adults. It was suggested that we purchase generic backpacks. The kits will also contain printed resource materials. We need to be sure the language is consistent with our schools. We need to let the schools know that we are offering these kits. We would also include a check list so users could tell us what was helpful to them. A motion to spend no more than \$400.00 on mental health kits was made by Pam M., seconded by Lore D. and approved.

The rug for story time arrived.

We did not receive a Treasurer's Report from George B.

Long Range Planning Update: Pam M.

We have finalized the draft so it is ready to be shared with Susan M. After she has reviewed it, we will sit down as a Board to discuss it with her.

IT Updates: Lore D.

We have several items in our e-mail box.

Jason Douglas from Syracuse City Ballet is looking to partner with us. We need more information of what “partnering” means to them. Cara K. has already sent an e-mail back.

Sag Harbor Books is looking to buy collections of books or leftovers from book sales. Sue P. has sent an e-mail back stating that we partner with a local charity for our unsold books.

The president of the Friends group in Marcellus would like to meet with us. Cara K. will respond to that e-mail and set a time.

Several of us need refreshers on Google Drive. Lore D. will help Sue P. with Word Basics. She will also offer a Google Drive refresher class.

Brochure: Barb L.

A draft is on Google Drive. Please make suggestions. We will consolidate the “How would you like to be contacted” section to e-mail or physical mail.

Chantal Rothermel is not available to work with us until late April which still will give us plenty of time for the fall membership campaign.

Shamrock Sale: Mary Beth R.

Our profit was \$434.00. The raffles really helped drive our profit up. Thank you notes have been sent to our raffle donors. One prize still needs to be picked up from the library. We will call the winner again.

Library Speaker Consortium: Cara K.

This group partnerships with libraries for online author events. Cara K. will look at it more closely. Pam M. did search their website and found it very hard to find pricing.

Sheila G. belongs to an online book group at the Fayetteville Free Library. The group meets about a half hour before the author ZOOMs in. As far as she knows there is no cost to the library for this. Times do vary occasionally due to the author’s availability. Mary Beth R. will look into this. OFL currently offers three book clubs here: Romance, Thriller and Non-fiction history.

The Senior Artist Reception will be June 17 from 4-6PM. Donna Z. will coordinate the event. Susan M. has cleared the date with the art class.

Mary Beth R. has put out the Wishing Well Bird Cage on the Friends’ Corner.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25. Our next meeting will be May 6 at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Parry, Secretary