



FRIENDS
OF THE
VILLAGE
LIBRARY
OF COOPERSTOWN



Village Library
of Cooperstown
75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Welcome to the Village Library's Celebration of 75 Years as a Chartered Public Library!

★ ★ APRIL 1949 - APRIL 2024 ★ ★

REMARKS BY JANE FORBES CLARK

The following is a complete transcript of the remarks made at the 75th Anniversary Celebration by Jane Forbes Clark, whose family built the beautiful Village Hall and later donated it to the Village of Cooperstown.

Libraries are fun! Libraries capture us. They educate us. They inspire us. Every library does that. Yet each library has its own twist—it does something that no other library can claim:

- The Vatican Library is noted as the world's most secret.
- Reading Club 2000 is a free-for-all library in Manila that has absolutely no rules—read a book there, take it home, bring it back, or not.
- Book Capella, in St. Petersburg, Russia, charges \$100 for a four-hour reading session—only the 'elite' can go, and no book may leave.
- Biblioburro is the world's only library that can claim that it is located on the back of two donkeys—Alfa and Beto—in Columbia.

And the list of weird, strange, and beautiful goes on and on—as does the competition to be on one of those lists!

This all leads us to what our wonderful library is. It was one of the three reasons that my great-grandmother Elizabeth Scriven Clark built this building, designed by Ernest Flagg and completed in 1898. It was to be a YMCA, a library, and a museum.

- The library itself has had an impressive, multi-dimensional, 126-year career, never leaving this building.

- The members of the YMCA / then Village Club moved across the street to the Alfred Corning Clark Gymnasium in 1939.
- The museum component, to me, has been underplayed—it was largely located within the library and had two important moments:
 - > The first was when my grandfather Stephen Clark bought the collection of the New York State Historical Association in Ticonderoga and moved it to the library in 1939. He added the collection of John Browere Life Masks to that collection in 1939; they were dedicated by the poet Carl Sandburg on these steps in 1940. In 1945, the entire collection moved to its present location, The Fenimore Art Museum.
 - > He also had purchased the Doubleday Baseball in 1935 for \$5 and put it on display on the mantle in the library room. . . . The interest in the ball was so great that he had the idea of a National Baseball Museum. The addition of a Hall of Fame was the idea of Ford Frick, then president of the National League. The plans were announced in 1937, and the Doubleday Ball moved to its new home in 1939. ▶



**REMARKS BY
JANE FORBES CLARK**
(CONTINUED)

Our Village Library may not be secret. It may not be located on the backs of two donkeys. But it used to be, simultaneously, a library and a museum, the original home of what are now two internationally renowned museums, The Fenimore Art Museum and The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

In its 126-year history, this library has played a unique, special, and sentimental role in the history of Cooperstown and my family. Thank you so much for being here to celebrate its storied past and its continuing, interesting, and bright future.

Report from the Village Library of Cooperstown's 75th Birthday Celebration on June 2, 2024

While April 22, 1949, was the actual date that the library became a chartered public library, the community celebrated its 75th year on June 2, at a gala afternoon event that included 20 local book authors; a silent auction; face painting and crafts for the children; a historical look at the events and books of 1949; and speeches from **Jane Forbes Clark, Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh, NYS Senator Peter Oberacker (District 51), NYS Assemblyman Chris Tague (District 102), Library Director Heather Urtz Amendolare**, FoVL President Karen Katz, and VLOC Board President Marla Russo. Sen. Oberacker presented a State of New York proclamation titled "Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Village Library of Cooperstown." Of course, no birthday celebration would be complete without a beautiful cake donated by baker Margie Landry.

An important part of the Village Library's 75th birthday celebration was the recognition of local authors, who were invited to participate in a Meet the Author event at the Village Library during the celebration itself. Tables were set up on the front lawn of the library, and partygoers enjoyed the opportunity to meet local authors, purchase books, and ask for author signatures.

The following 20 local authors participated in the event: Robert Bensen, Gert Coleman, John Davis, Shannon Delany, Cynthia Falk, Judith Steiner Grin, Jeff Katz, Greg Klein, Alan Kozak, Jim Loudon, Bruce Markusen, Jim Mills, Mitchell Owens, Alessandra Paul, Vivian Peters, Susan Sager, Tom Shelby, Mary Ann Whelan, and Marly Youmans.

(Names in bold pictured on p.1)

CELEBRATION PHOTOS





Celebrations at the Library

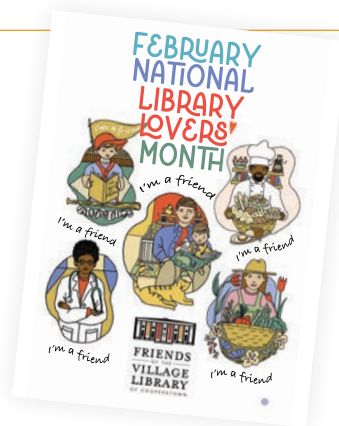
Karen Katz, President, Friends of the Village Library of Cooperstown

It feels like we are always celebrating something at our library these days—have you noticed? From small groups on the front lawn to larger gatherings on the porch, from kids to seniors . . . many of us are meeting at the library for all sorts of occasions. To name just a few:

- We loved working in concert with the Library Board and the Library Director to plan the big 75th anniversary bash.
- FoVL is delighted to participate in the monthly Welcome Home Cooperstown meet and greets, where we gather at the library for food, drink, and music to welcome newcomers to our area.
- We love dishing out ice cream at FoVL's annual Ice Cream Social event—it's a fun way to kick off the library's summer reading program.
- And we've added a fall celebration as we hand out treats on the Village Hall's porch at the start of the Halloween parade.

We hope that you enjoyed at least one of these gatherings at our Village Library this past year. We look forward to being part of many future celebrations.

Annual Library Lovers' Month



As we prepare to celebrate Library Lovers' Month in 2025, we thank our 2024 supporters: The Landmark Inn, Stagecoach Coffee, The Local Bird, and our new sponsor, Mohican Flowers, who offered a substantial discount for arrangements in book-themed vases. Local artist Peg Donahue once again designed a terrific event poster for 2024. We are grateful to the area businesses that donated more than \$750 to the library, almost doubling last year's contributions.

Upcoming Book Collections & Sales

- ▶ **Winter Used Book Collection:** Village Board Room, lower level of the Village Hall, Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ **Winter Carnival Book Sale:** Village Board Room, Friday, January 31, through Sunday, February 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ **Spring Book Collection:** Saturday, June 14, drop-off site on Fair Street sidewalk next to Village Library from 10:00 a.m. to noon
- ▶ **Summer Book Sale:** Saturday, June 21, through Sunday, June 29, Fair Street sidewalk next to Village Library from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed! Contact Ivy Bischof, ivyarali@gmail.com or Lynne Mebust, lynnemebust@gmail.com.



FRIENDS
OF THE
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FoVL Board of Directors

(AS OF OCTOBER 2024)

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4th Annual Ice Cream Social



Hadley Moore (left) and Martha Iorizzo help kick off the library's 2024 Summer Reading Program at the June 26th Ice Cream Social, with ice cream generously donated by **Stewart's Shops**.

Welcome Home Cooperstown!

Now in their second year, the Welcome Home Cooperstown "Meet and Greets" are popular events in the Cooperstown community. With support from FoVL and the Community Foundation of Otsego County (CFOC), attendance at the monthly drop-in gatherings, which take place from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Village Library, has grown to an average of 40-50 participants, including both newcomers and established residents.

All the 2024 events have featured themes to help attendees learn more about our community. In April, Dr. Amjad Qabbani shared information about the Islamic holidays Eid and Ramadan. In May, Arisai Cruz Hernandez, a pastry chef at the Otesga, spoke about Cinco de Mayo. In June, students from Cooperstown High

School's Identity Alliance bravely shared their stories at the Pride-themed event. In October, Stephanie Bauer, past president of Temple Beth El in Oneonta, shared traditions surrounding the High Holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In November, Dr. Anush Patel and his family shared their celebration of the Indian festival of Diwali. The December 2023 "**Meet and Greet and Stroll the Street**" event drew more than 150 people to enjoy hot chocolate, music, a bonfire, and a visit with Santa before visiting some 20 local businesses that stayed open on Main Street for holiday shopping.

MEET AND GREET AND STROLL THE STREET IS BACK FOR 2024!

Join us on Tuesday, December 3, from 4:00-6:30 p.m., beginning at the Village Library.

2024-2025 Sunday Speaker Series



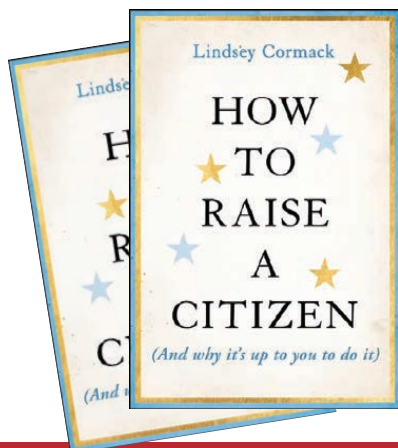
Last season's Sunday Speaker Series finished with a bang! In April, local resident and journeyman carpenter **Jackson DuBois** gave a stellar talk to an audience of close to 150 about the time he spent in Paris with the team of carpenters selected to build one of the tresses, using 19th century tools, for the new spire of the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, the iconic Paris landmark that had burned five years earlier.

The 2024-2025 season kicked off on **October 20** with author Lindsey Cormack, PhD, who talked about her recent book, *How to Raise a Citizen (And why you have to do it)*. Then, on **November 3**, for the season's second nonpartisan, pre-election program, historian **Richard Pious, PhD**, spoke on "The Paradox of Presidential Power," followed by a film presented as part of the First Baptist Church of Cooperstown's Race, Equity, and

Justice Series, titled "A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy."

On **January 26**, **William Richtsmeier, MD**, will present his research in a talk titled "How Wind, Rain, Ice, and Snow Affect Otsego Lake's Summer Safety—A Physician's View of Cyanobacteria Toxins and Us." This program is offered in memory of Dr. Antoinette Kuzminski, who passed away on August 22, 2024. T'nette was a long-standing and valued member of the Sunday Speaker Committee who, for many years, provided speakers and topics of current and local interest in the sciences to the program.

The **February 23**, **March 23**, and **April 27** programs, respectively, are focused on housing issues in the Cooperstown area, the ins and outs of the Glimmerglass Historic district as it was implemented 25 years ago, and issues facing young Cooperstown entrepreneurs.





VILLAGE LIBRARY

OF COOPERSTOWN

VLOC Board of Trustees

(AS OF OCTOBER 2024)

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Books and Programs = Community

Heather Urtz Amendolare, Library Director

Marla Russo, President, Library Board of Trustees

This past year, our library hosted a wealth of programs that engaged our community. Looking back, a highlight of the year was our big birthday celebration in June. Together with the Friends, all our efforts made for a joyous event on the anniversary of our becoming a public library.

Now more than ever, as we deal with issues of Internet access, book banning, social isolation, and rising costs of living, we serve our communities with open doors and minds. To reflect our goals moving forward, the Library Board updated our mission statement, confirming that we are **“committed to providing free and equitable access to services and resources that meet the changing needs of our community,”** and **“dedicated to advancing literacy and fostering lifelong learning in an inclusive and open environment.”**

Some of the biggest happenings in our library involve the two things we love most: books and programs. What do these mean to us? Community. A community of readers and book lovers, a community of lifelong



learners. Friendships that we are building that span beyond the library walls.

As you read about the exciting things that happened in the past year and the wonderful things to come, we hope that you will join us, whether as a patron, a volunteer, or a donor. We are deeply thankful for all the support that you have given us and hope you will continue to do so as we strive to grow our resources and programming in the coming year.

Be sure to read Heather's bi-weekly "From the Librarian" column in *The Cooperstown Crier* and online at www.thedailystar.com/community. Her first column appeared on January 3, 2024.

Program-Related Grants Awarded to the Village Library

Four special grants expanded the scope of this year's library programs:

Good news! Beginning this winter (date TBD), the library will provide **Creativebug**, an online subscription database that provides access to thousands of sewing, art, craft, and needle art classes tailor-made for a diverse community of makers. With new classes every week and downloadable templates, patterns, and recipes, this is a great way to learn in the comfort of your own home. Be on the lookout for some of these to be used in library programs, as well. This service

is funded by a second grant from the **Library Fund of the Community Foundation for South Central New York**.

With funding from the original grant awarded by the **Community Foundation's Library Fund**, we provided a number of programs relating to **"Lost Women of History,"** culminating in our author book talk this fall with **Shelley Puhak** on her nonfiction work, *The Dark Queens*. We hosted **September Schecter's** talk on the history of the women's vote; a book discussion on **Isabella Stewart Gardner**, a patron of the arts who founded Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; and an author talk with

Emma Southon on *A Fatal Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, with its focus on women of ancient Roman—just to name a few!

With funding directly from **PBS** and another through **WSKG**, we provided programs relating to **Iconic America: Our Symbols and Stories with David Rubenstein**. We highlighted two program episodes in-house, "American Cowboys" and the "Hollywood Sign," with screenings, dinner, and related books. We worked with WSKG to provide a bus trip to New York City, where we had an up-close and in-person look at the iconic Statue of Liberty and visited other iconic New York City sights during the day trip.



VILLAGE LIBRARY OF COOPERSTOWN

BY THE NUMBERS 2022 VS. 2023



PATRONS SERVED GREW
FROM **25,780** TO **34,821**



NUMBER OF RESIDENT
BORROWERS GREW
FROM **1,967** TO **2,144**



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS GREW
FROM **24** TO **82**; ATTENDANCE
GREW FROM **609** TO **2,308**



ADULT PROGRAMS GREW
FROM **35** TO **70**; ATTENDANCE
GREW FROM **507** TO **1,183**



CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS
IN DIGITAL FORMATS GREW
FROM **6,069** TO **9,004**



BOOKS ADDED TO COLLECTION:
2,078 FOR A TOTAL OF **20,437**



TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES
PATRONS LOGGED ON TO
THE INTERNET USING THE
VILLAGE LIBRARY'S WIFI
SERVICE: **144,905**

Digital Services Update: HOOPLA, LIBBY, AND KANOPY

For patrons who use our digital services to download books, audio books, and movies, we have news about **Hoopla**. With this service, the library pays per checkout, and as more patrons check out more material, the cost to the library has risen substantially. After much consideration, Heather and the Board of Trustees determined that the cost increases are no longer fiscally sustainable. **Hoopla will be discontinued effective December 30, 2024.**

Fortunately, Hoopla users may subscribe to Libby. Libby is our primary digital materials collection, a one-stop shop for eBooks, eAudio, and eMagazines offered through our Four County Library System (4CLS). Are you already a Libby user? If so, you may have noticed that its content has increased in 2024. Libraries in the 4CLS consortium have increased their contributions to Libby to significantly to improve its collection. Some of the funds that went to Hoopla will now be used for Libby to provide special content for Cooperstown card holders. You can browse the collection at <https://fourcounty.overdrive.com> or by downloading the Libby app.

NOTE: Want to learn how to use Libby?

Heather is offering one-on-one training sessions through December. Sessions will be posted on the library's November and December calendars.

More good news

On November 1, the Village Library will launch **Kanopy**, a streaming service for libraries and universities that provides ad-free films and series that can be enjoyed on your TV, mobile phone, tablet, and online. Watch critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign films, *Highlights* read-along stories for children, and more—all for free with your Village Library of Cooperstown library card. When you subscribe, you will get 25 tickets each month to be used as you wish. Shorter episodes or films may be one ticket, a feature film may be two, a series five, etc. At the beginning of each month your account will be credited with another 25 tickets (no carryover from prior months, however). Set up your account at <https://cooperstown.kanopy.com> with your library card number, an email address, and a password.

Upcoming Monthly Programs for Adults

- ▶ **Adult Craft Night:** Leave the children (or grandchildren) at home, and come join others for a fun, sometimes festive, crafting evening. Registration is required, so keep an eye on each month's calendar.
- ▶ **War and Peace Year-Long Read:** Have you wanted to tackle *War and Peace*, but find it overwhelming? Join us each month for a year-long read of this Russian classic, with monthly lunch discussions of set readings to keep us on track. (BYOL; drinks provided) Interested? Email Heather at co.heather@4cls.org by December 15 to get your copy of the book.
- ▶ **Silent Book Club:** Each month, we host an after-hours hour of silent reading. Join fellow readers, grab a cozy chair, and READ.

Instagram craft: <https://www.instagram.com/lclsmer/>





About the FoVL Annual Appeal

Friends of the Village Library of Cooperstown has been in existence since 1971 "as a source of financial and moral support." Today, FoVL raises funds for books and programs and, through its programs and events, strives to increase awareness of the library's important role as part of the community. You, the members of this community, make this possible by your involvement as patrons, volunteers, and donors. Thank you for being an integral part of the Friends!

HERE'S HOW TO DONATE TO THE FOVL 2024 ANNUAL APPEAL:

- ▶ Send your check made out to FoVL in the enclosed envelope and mail to FoVL, PO Box 661, Cooperstown, NY 13326.
- ▶ Use the QR code on this page to donate from your mobile device.
- ▶ Donate online by going to the link on the FoVL home page: villagelibraryofcooperstown.org/friends-of-the-village-library

Friends of the Village Library of Cooperstown is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in accordance with the standards and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Donations to FoVL are tax-deductible.



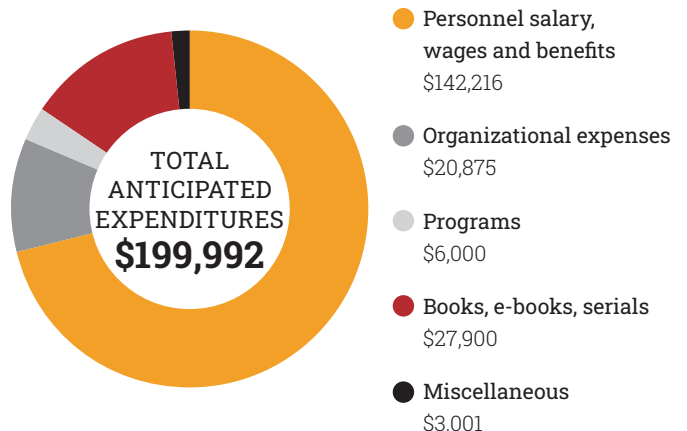
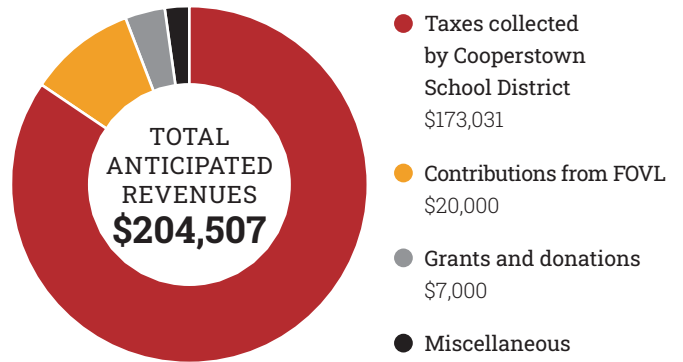
VLOC Anticipated Revenues and Expenditures, 2024-2025

FoVL Fundraising Efforts for FY 2023-2024

Kallie Moore, FoVL Treasurer

Thank you for your contributions to Friends of the Village Library! Through your generous participation in our 2023-2024 annual appeal, book sales, and other fundraising efforts, we were able to give more than \$23,000 directly to the Village Library for books, magazine subscriptions, and teen and youth programs. We also contributed lunches to our wonderful librarians during their staff training days.

Fall/Winter 2023-24 Annual Appeal:	\$10,000+
Winter 2024 book sale:	\$3,947
Summer 2024 book sale:	\$10,900
TOTAL (minus miscellaneous donations):	\$24,847





FRIENDS
OF THE
VILLAGE
LIBRARY
OF COOPERSTOWN

P.O. Box 661
Cooperstown, NY 13326

2024
**ANNUAL
APPEAL**

(see p. 7)

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**2024–2025 VILLAGE LIBRARY
FALL/WINTER/SPRING HOURS**

MONDAY	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
SATURDAY	9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

How to Contact FoVL and VLOC

MAIL

Friends of the Village Library of Cooperstown
P.O. Box 661
Cooperstown, NY 13326

EMAIL

Email fovlfriends22main@gmail.com to:

- change your mailing address
- add a name to the email and/or mailing list
- receive FoVL's emails about upcoming events and the Library's monthly e-calendar
- ask a question

VILLAGE LIBRARY SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Village Library of Cooperstown
Instagram: @CoopVillageLibrary

VILLAGE LIBRARY and FoVL WEBSITE

villagelibraryofcooperstown.org/friends-of-the-village-library

Martha Membrino, editor

Leah McDonald, designer

A library display of books popular in 1949