



For Immediate Release: 10/17/2022

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NATIONAL "FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES" WEEK IS OCTOBER 16 – 22

"Friends of Libraries" Help Make Your Local Libraries Great!

Are you looking for a way to give back to the community? Do you want to get more involved with your local public library? A great way to do both is by joining a **Friends of the Library** volunteer organization, of which there are several affiliated with your Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries. Many "Friends" groups are recruiting for new members right now.

Library "Friends" organizations help to make libraries stronger by providing financial, volunteer and advocacy support through assisting with various activities such as holding fundraisers, book sales and picnics, gathering prizes, purchasing programming materials, and selling refreshments during community events. "Friends" also help to promote public awareness and advocate for community and government support of library activities, resources and services.

In October 2021, the *Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Friends Council* was formed – representing 18 libraries and 17 *Friends* organizations. The Council is a member of the *New York Library Association's (NYLA) Task Force for Friends Councils*. Local members meet at least once annually (virtually or in-person) to share ideas, support, and discuss topics of mutual interest to benefit libraries.

Anyone interested in joining a "Friends" group should contact their local library listed below:

Aurora Town Public Library, 716-652-4440

Boston Free Library, 716-941-3516

City of Tonawanda Public Library, 716-693-5043

Cheektowaga Public Library, 716-892-8089 (planning to form a group)

Clarence Public Library, 716-741-2650

Concord Public Library, 716-592-7742 (planning to form a group)

Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library, 716-896-4433 (planning to form a group)

Eden Public Library, 716-992-4028

Elaine M. Panty Branch Library, 716-875-0562

Elma Public Library, 716-652-2719

Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library, 716-883-4418 (planning to form a group)

Grand Island Memorial Library, 716-773-7124

Hamburg Public Library, 716-649-4415

Lackawanna Public Library, 716-823-0630

Lancaster Public Library, 716-683-1120

Marilla Free Library, 716-652-7449

Newstead Public Library, 716-542-2327

Orchard Park Public Library, 716-662-9851

Town of Collins Public Library, 716-532-5129

Town of Tonawanda Public Library, 716-873-2842

West Seneca Public Library, 716-674-2928

Anyone interested in starting a "Friends" group at a local library not listed above, should contact Library System Assistant Deputy Director Dorinda Darden, at dardend@buffalolib.org or by calling

716-858-7190. Ms. Darden is coordinator of the *Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Friends Council*.

National *Friends of Libraries Week* is coordinated by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters.

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