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## **NATIONAL "FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES" WEEK IS OCTOBER 20 – 26**

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

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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 local **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.

The *Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Friends Council* was formed in 2021. 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
- Clarence Public Library, 716-741-2650
- Concord Public Library, 716-592-7742 (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 - Kenmore Branch, 716-873-2842
- West Seneca Public Library, 716-674-2928

Anyone interested in starting a local "Friends" group at a library not listed above should contact Library System Assistant Deputy Director Dorinda Darden at [dardend@buffalolib.org](mailto:dardend@buffalolib.org) or by calling 716-858-7190. Ms. Darden is coordinator of the *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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