

## Fun Facts about GFJ Library Celebrating 100 Years of Library Service in Endicott

**F**or 100 years, the George F. Johnson Memorial Library (formerly known as Endicott Free Library, Ideal Home Library, and Endicott Public Library) has been one of the best places in the Southern Tier to lose yourself in a good book, gain a new skill, meet up with friends, get help with your taxes, and so much more.

Here are some interesting facts to celebrate the library's big centennial! A complete history is available at [gfjlibrary.org/about/history](http://gfjlibrary.org/about/history).

**George F. Johnson didn't establish or fund the first library.** A group of 40 residents raised funds to establish a free library association. One way they did this was by selling memberships for \$1 each. Johnson interrupted his vacation in January 1915 to send a telegram indicating he and his wife supported the formation of the library, stating, "will do all possible to assist."

**The library began in a hotel.** In 1915, Endicott Free Library opened in the Mattoon Hotel Building on Washington Avenue. The library had reading rooms for children and adults, a periodical reading room, and a meeting room. When hotel guests borrowed books, the ledger was simply marked, "guest." **1**



**Endicott Free Library had one of the Northeast's first bookmobiles.** A local resident donated use of his flatbed truck for the "traveling library." The truck operated two hours each evening on the north side of Endicott. **2**

**The library collected books for soldiers during World War I.** Over a three-year period, more than 2,500 books were collected and distributed to soldiers overseas.

**Books in Armenian, Czechoslovakian, Greek, Italian, Polish, and Russian sat alongside books in English on the shelves at Ideal Home Library.** The library also offered English-language classes for adults.

**A branch of the library operated on the north side of Endicott for 48 years.** Opened in 1920, the Hillside

Center Library on Odell Avenue served as a community center and library. Its offerings included reading clubs, story times, a play school, youth summer programs, classes, musical performances, and a club that taught kids about healthy habits. Endicott-Johnson also sponsored well-baby clinics at the center.



**Librarians staged plays.** On Nov. 15, 1920, the librarians presented *Little Women*, which they adapted from Louisa May Alcott's book. Intended as a single performance, a second showing was added that night because librarians didn't want to turn anyone away.

**Two librarians wrote a children's book in 1924 that is still in print today.** Ideal Home Library Director Margery Quigley and librarian Mary Clark authored *Poppy Seed Cakes* under the pseudonym Margery Clark. It's a story about a family on the north side of Endicott.

**In 1938, the Village of Endicott bought both library buildings from**

**Endicott-Johnson for \$50,000.** Today, that's the equivalent of \$832,348! Although it remained at the same site (and would until 1950), the name of Ideal Home Library was changed to the Endicott Public Library. **3**

**George F. Johnson's carriage house was used for classes and story hours.** The library moved into Johnson's former homestead in 1950, two years after his death, and was renamed George F. Johnson Memorial Library. The home's carriage house was often used for Harpur College classes and story hours. It also served as the temporary library during construction of the new library.

### Then and Now

**D**uring a century of serving the community, the library's name and location aren't the only things that have changed. Its collection grew from 1,300 volumes in 1915 to more than 90,000 today. But the biggest changes are simply the result of progress. As technology marches forward, GFJ Library continues to adapt, adding computers, online databases, digital archives, a mobile application, e-books and audio books, and other nontraditional library services. What hasn't changed? There are still friendly, knowledgeable librarians eager to assist patrons.

*Celebrate GFJ Library's centennial all year long by using your library card!*



## Discover Heroes and Their Stories This Summer at YHPL

*Every Hero Has a Story is our summertime theme, so get ready to explore superheroes and everyday heroes at Your Home Public Library. Whether you're a kid, teen, or adult, we have programs and special events you won't want to miss!*

### CHILDREN AND TEEN READING PROGRAM

Our Summer Reading Program for youths ages 3–16 runs July 1–August 22. Readers earn prizes and free books. Children ages 3–10 can read throughout the summer and choose prizes as they go. Kids and teens ages 11–16 can earn Oakdale Mall and cinema gift cards twice during the summer. The first deadline is July 24; the second is August 21. All reading logs must be turned in on or before August 21. Sign up for this free program June 24–July 17.

### PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Children ages 3 ½–5 and their caregivers are invited to join us at 10 a.m., Tuesdays, July 7–August 11 (rain or shine), at the Charles F. Johnson Park for books, crafts, rhymes, stretching, and other fun under the pavilion. *No registration required.*

### SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

*The following programs are open to children ages 6–10; all programs are free.*

#### Super Hero School: Thursdays, July 9–August 13, 1 p.m.

Get all the training you need to become a superhero! Learn about superheroes, super teams, super villains, equipment, animal sidekicks, and more. There will be crafts, games, and a graduation ceremony at the end, complete with super refreshments! Create your own superhero character and attend classes in costume. *Registration required.*



#### Make Your Own Minions: August 6, 1 p.m.

Who doesn't need a minion or two? The loveable minions from *Despicable Me* have their own movie coming out this summer, and we want you to get in on the fun! Make a minion craft, create minion snacks, and play games with a minion theme. *Registration required.*

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

*The following programs are free and open to all ages.*

#### Heroes in Our Community: Wednesdays, July 8–August 5, 1 p.m.

There are heroes right in our community and you'll have the chance to meet them, from police officers, firefighters, and paramedics to our local K-9 unit officers and their furry partners! *No registration required.*

#### Carousel Day at the Park:

July 25, 10 a.m.–noon

Stop by the library's table at the Charles F. Johnson Park in Johnson City for crafts and a scavenger hunt! *No registration required.*

#### Comic Book Creator

Mark McKenna:

August 6, 6:30 p.m.

Find out what it's like to work in the comics industry! Mark McKenna has worked for Marvel and DC Comics and is the author/illustrator of his own book series, *Banana Tail*. Following a presentation on writing and illustrating, he'll hold a question and answer session. *No registration required.*

#### Dan the Snake Man:

August 12, 1 p.m.

Dan will introduce us to all kinds of reptiles and other exotic animals. Come prepared to see, hear, and in some cases, touch extraordinary creatures. *No registration required.*

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Summer Reading Program

Registration begins July 1 for YHPL's second Adult Summer Reading Program. Participants will have the chance to win one of five gift baskets. Read three books and you'll be entered to win our grand prize, a new Kindle e-reader. Prize drawings for gift baskets will be held weekly starting July 17; the grand prize drawing will be held at our End of the Summer Party August 17.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Summer Reading Kick-off Party: July 1

Stop by the main circulation desk to sign up for our Adult Summer Reading Program. You'll get your reading log and a bookmark!

#### Weather Events: July 14, 6:30 p.m.

Experts from the local National Weather Service will present *Storms and the Southern Tier*. Through this presentation you'll learn about unusual weather events in our area, from Hurricane Agnes to the floods of 2006 and 2011.



#### Superhero Movie Series

In keeping with this year's summer reading theme, we'll be showing six classic superhero movies! Our lineup includes: *Superman* (1978), July 27 at 6 p.m.; *Batman* (1989), July 28 at 6 p.m.; *X-Men* (2000), July 29 at 1 p.m.; *The Incredibles* (2004), July 31 at 1 p.m.; *Hellboy* (2004), August 3 at 6 p.m.; and *The Avengers* (2012), August 4 at 6 p.m. Popcorn and soda will be provided.

#### End of Summer Party: August 17, 6:30 p.m.

Join us as we bid summer goodbye! Enjoy free refreshments, live music, and superhero-themed games. Remember to bring your summer reading log to be entered in the grand prize drawing for a Kindle e-reader!



# Summertime at GFJ Library

*Children and teens will enjoy wonderful books, exciting ideas, and new experiences through reading programs and special events at GFJ Library as we explore the theme of Every Hero Has a Story. Adults can join in the fun with our Adult Summer Reading Club.*



## Summer Reading Kick-off Party

Join us on the library lawn June 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. for our popular summer reading kick-off party. Stop by rain or shine to enjoy games, crafts, music, and lots of family fun. Remember to sign up for our summer reading clubs and special events.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*The following programs will be held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on the plaza in front of the library. Programs will be held indoors if it rains. No registration required.*

### Animal Adventure: July 8

Learn about and get up close and personal with some interesting animals.

### Story Laurie: July 15

This storyteller and singer transports audiences of all ages to other places and times during her captivating performance, *Small Heroes, Big Voices*.

### Nan Hoffman: July 22

Singer and songwriter Nan Hoffman presents a program about everyday heroes. Past or present, these heroes may help us explore our own potential.

### Lee Knight: July 29

Watch and listen as this dynamic performer brings beloved books to life in her highly interactive presentation, *Books Alive!*

### Chalk Art Extravaganza: August 5, 6–8 p.m.

Artist and cartoonist Eric Maruscak helps us create amazing and beautiful street art. *Note earlier start time.*

## YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

### Summer Reading Club

Registration for our *Every Hero Has a Story* reading club for preschool and school-age children begins June 22. Club members have several weeks to reach their reading goal; final prizes will be awarded August 7–31. Members who reach their goal will also have a chance to win a fabulous prize bag.

## Story Times

*No registration is required for these story time programs:*

- *Little Listeners* (up to age 2½): Tuesdays, July 7–August 4, at 10 and 11 a.m.
- *Great Beginnings* (ages 2½ to 5): Wednesdays, July 8–August 5, at 10 and 11 a.m.
- *Highland Park* (ages 2 to 5): Thursdays, July 9–August 6, at 10 a.m. in the pavilion at the park

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

*Registration is required for these two programs; registration begins June 25. Programs include books, crafts, computers, and games.*

- *The Titleholders* (children entering grades 1–3), Mondays, July 6–August 3, at 1:30 and 3 p.m.
- *The Caped Crusaders* (children entering grades 4–6) Tuesdays, July 7–August 4, at 1:30 and 3 p.m.

**Family Fun Time** Bring the whole family to the library at 6 p.m. Mondays, July 6–August 3, for a variety of heroic activities! For an extra-special treat, on July 20 renowned artist Michael Albert will be on hand to show families how to create a one-of-a-kind family collage. *No registration required.*

**Family Movie Afternoons** Enjoy family-friendly movies on Fridays, July 10, July 24, and August 7. The fun starts at 1 p.m. with a quick introduction to the movie; a brief discussion is held at the end. For children ages 5 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. *No registration required.*

**Kids Street Art** Cartoonist and illustrator Eric Maruscak is back for more street art fun July 14 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Kids ages 7–11 can learn about chalk art and

create their own amazing pictures on the library sidewalk. Space is limited. *Registration required.*

### Drawing Superheroes

Children ages 8–12 can join artist and cartoonist Eric Maruscak for a hands-on workshop July 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Materials will be supplied. *Registration required.*

## TEEN PROGRAMS

**Summer Reading Club** Teens in grades 6–12 can *UNMASK the Fun* with our summer reading club, June 29–August 7. Read a book, complete a review sheet, and enter to win a prize each week (drop your entry in the box in the teen area of the library). Three winners will be selected each week; you can win more than once. *Registration begins June 29.*

### Teen Book Discussion Group:

**Wednesdays, July 8–August 5, 3:30–4:30 p.m.** Librarian Sara-Jo Sites will lead this discussion group for teens entering grades 7–9. We'll gather in the Library Meeting Room to discuss a different book each week; books will be provided at no cost. *Registration required.*

**Teen Fun Nights: Thursdays, July 9–August 6, 6–8 p.m.** Each week we'll offer a different type of fun for teens. Programs meet in the Library Meeting Room. *No registration required.*

**Cereal Box Collage Workshop: July 20, 1–3 p.m.** Create collage art from cereal boxes and other cardboard under the guidance of artist Michael Albert. Meet in the Library Meeting Room. Materials will be supplied. *Registration required.*

**Teen Mystery Night: July 24, 6–8 p.m.** *Unmask the Killer* and win a prize at our 11th annual Mystery Night, held in the Library Meeting Room. Enjoy treats and check out the library after dark. *Registration required.*

**Teen Street Art with Eric: July 28, 6–7:30 p.m.** Create some great chalk art on the library sidewalk with illustrator/cartoonist Eric Maruscak. Bring a picture you would like to draw. *Registration required.*

## ADULT PROGRAM

### Summer Reading Club

Join us for our second Adult Summer Reading Club. Read five books, fill out a reading log, and drop it in the adult area of the library and you'll be entered to win a gift basket. Winners will be drawn the week of August 4. Pick up your summer reading packets at the Adult Information Desk beginning June 29.

### Dinner and a Book

Enjoy pizza and a discussion of favorite books August 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. *Registration required.*



*These programs are funded by the Friends of the GFJ Library, the BOOKS Program with Senator Libous; and with public funds from the Chenango Arts Council's Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the NYS Council on the Arts, with support from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature.*





# YHPL REPORT

## Message from Director Andrea Tillinghast



ANDREA TILLINGHAST

When I reflect on the events of the past year, I can't help but feel grateful and full of pride. 2014 was an exciting year—full of new beginnings and some surprises.

We celebrated the overwhelming passage of the vote to increase

library funding. We are able to continue to serve the public and maintain a full calendar of programs. Unwavering community support, good planning by our trustees, and a devoted library staff made all of this possible.

We completed the roofing project over the sunroom and front porch. We also renovated the book-sale room in the basement with the help of the Friends of the Library. We introduced new services like drop-in IT help with our adult services librarian and a new series of adult-learning programs (oil painting, drawing, Spanish, hand-quilting, and more). All

these initiatives were possible thanks to Town of Union voters. I am proud to work for such a thriving public library.

If you take a quick walk around the library, you will find job coaches assisting the unemployed, teachers tutoring students, businesspeople typing away on laptops, community groups utilizing the meeting rooms, children and their parents sharing a story, or just friends wanting a quiet place to catch up. We are happy to offer this space to everyone in the community.

The community has made an important investment in Your Home Public Library. With your help, we are fulfilling our service mission, adapting to the ways people use their local library, and evaluating best practices to inform our future decisions. Thank you for your trust and for your continued support.

## Grant Funds Accessible Ramp

YHPL recently secured a grant from Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo for the installation of a handicapped-accessible ramp at the basement entrance. Work is expected to begin in the coming months. Thanks go to the assemblywoman for her continued support of the library.



*Chip Zeise, maintenance and custodial services specialist at YHPL, refreshes the paint in the library's stairwell.*

## Restoring a JC Beauty

Restoration of YHPL's 130-year-old building, one of the original jewels of Main Street in Johnson City, continues. Renovations in the sunroom were recently made to repair damage caused by the (formerly) leaking roof; these include new drywall, plaster, and paint. In addition, gifts from two anonymous donors enabled YHPL to refinish the room's original parquet floors, as well as purchase and install new blinds throughout the building.

# GFJ CONNECTION



## Tech Center offers new classes, expanded staff

The library has renewed its commitment to digital literacy by expanding classes and staff in the GFJ Tech Center (formerly the Public Computing Center). The center offers an exciting curriculum, with classes including *Intro to Computers*, *Buying a New Computer*, *Intro to Facebook*, *Ancestry.com for Beginners*, and *How to Apply for a Job Online*. Explore a complete list of courses and register online at [gfjlibrary.org](http://gfjlibrary.org).



*The GFJ Tech Center delivers courses on a wide range of computer- and technology-related topics.*

## Learn Computer Skills at Home

With the Atomic Training suite and a valid GFJ Library card, you have access to thousands of online, on-demand video training tutorials covering more than 500 of today's most popular software applications on PCs and Macs. Learn more at [gfjlibrary.org/databases](http://gfjlibrary.org/databases).



## Master a New Language

Mango Languages uses fun and engaging interactive lessons to make learning a new language fast, easy, and effective. The system is web-based and remotely accessible, so you can learn anywhere there is an Internet connection. There is even a mobile app! A valid GFJ Library card is required. For more information, go to [gfjlibrary.org/databases](http://gfjlibrary.org/databases).

## Museum Passes Available for Loan

Patrons wishing to visit the Corning Museum of Glass may borrow a pass at GFJ Library that will permit free admission to the museum. Passes are loaned on an "as available" basis for a period up to one week. They may be reserved, but not booked for a particular date.

## Voters Approve Library Funding Increase

The November 2014 funding vote provided the first increase in funding for GFJ Library and YHPL since 2008. The 2014 vote was 8,004 for the proposition and 4,747 against, which is 63% in favor of the increase. There are 39 election districts in the Town of Union and the measure carried all of them. *Thank you voters!*

## Hours of Operation

### George F. Johnson Memorial Library

1001 Park Street, Endicott  
607-757-5350 • [www.gfjlibrary.org](http://www.gfjlibrary.org)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday–Saturday\*: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed  
\*closed Saturdays June 27–September 5

### Your Home Public Library

107 Main Street, Johnson City  
607-797-4816 • [www.yhpl.org](http://www.yhpl.org)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Friday–Saturday\*: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed  
\*closed Saturdays June 20–September 5

### George F. Johnson Memorial Library

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