

## YHPL Celebrates its Centennial

March 17, 2017 marked 100 years since Your Home Public Library first opened its doors to the public and 6,000 people visited over its three opening days, exceeding all expectations.

After serving as home of businessman Elijah Brigham (established 1850) the private residence was acquired by Endicott-Johnson executive Harry L. Johnson to serve as a public library. One hundred years later, nostalgia meets the present with modern-day services such audiobooks, CDs and Wi-Fi now at home in the historic Queen-Anne style building,

Janet Ottman, who served as the library's director from 1977- 2005, saw the evolution from the traditional way libraries delivered information to the way they provide it today. "When someone needed information, we were limited to reference materials, books and periodicals, that we had in the library. Today the Internet puts a vast amount of information at our fingertips, an enormous improvement in the way we serve our community, and it was amazing to be part of it."

For Interim Director Natassia Enright, teaching technology to patrons has become a critical role of YHPL staff. YHPL was the first library in the Four County Library System to provide Internet usage to the public.

"Internet access is so important for people to have just to function in modern life, and a lot of low-income people don't have access to it anywhere other than a public library so that is one of the most important services we provide that's relatively new."

Although the introduction of technology is the most obvious arc in the YHPL story, Ottman, who is also a historian, said her greatest privilege is to have witnessed an ongoing immigrant saga.

"It began in the early 1900s," she recounted, "when people, like my grandfather, came here from Europe for economic opportunity, for religious freedom and for political freedom. The shoe factories were growing and didn't have a large enough local labor force. Into the 1920's and 1930's, people were coming here from Eastern Europe for these jobs."

The library played a major role in the lives of these individuals searching for a better life. They came to the library for citizenship classes and to learn English.

Fast forward to the late 1980s and early 90s, and the library took center stage for a different immigrant community.

"After the Gulf War we had a lot of people coming here from the Middle East. The Refugee Assistance Program used the library meeting for classes on applying for jobs and becoming acclimated to American culture. It was a chance to introduce library resources to them, too. We partnered with tutors from the Literacy Volunteers who would meet one-on-one teaching people English and preparing them for their citizenship exam. At one time we had our library card applications translated into Arabic, Vietnamese and Lao."

"I would tell people that I don't have to travel around the world. The world is walking right through the door of Your Home Public Library. I met so many wonderful people. This library has been an accepting place for people from all over the world. And that's what libraries do."

Then came September 11, 2001, and the library became a focal point for healing.

"In those dark, frightening days, people came here looking for more information about Islam, the Middle East and politics," said Ottman. "And also to talk to each other because it was a safe place to share."

Another seminal event in the history of YHPL was when it almost ceased to exist. The library was initially funded by E-J until the Village of Johnson City took it over in 1938. Over the course of years, library funding became eroded, and the future of the library was bleak.

Ottman says, that's when Town of Union voters stepped up.

"Together with the George F. Johnson Memorial Library in Endicott, we asked voters of the Town of Union to approve a library funding initiative. We are grateful for the voters for giving us this stable funding stream," she said.

It's not just the community that values the library. Internally, there's a lot of longevity. Barbara Williamson, senior clerk, has been working at YHPL since she was hired as a page in 1972.

"I love the people who come in and the people I work with. The 40 years have flown by and for me, it's a second home. There are kids who I saw when I helped with story hour and now they come in as adults. I can't imagine Johnson City without the library," said Williamson.

And, she's not ready to retire as "long as my eyesight and arthritis can still handle the job!" she quipped.

While it's irrefutable that the year 2017 looks very different than that eventful opening day 100 years ago, the essence of the library remains unchanged.

"To have a public space where people can just sit somewhere and not have to pay or buy something is rare," said Enright. "Even if people don't have a card, they can come here and read the books and use the Wi-Fi and have a place to be."

"Some things haven't changed at all," says Ottman. "The thrill a child gets from their first library card. The satisfaction someone gets from finding information for a do-it-yourself project. The simple pleasure of reading a great book. That has not changed. We're still doing what we were meant to do in March 1917 when we opened up our doors."

### Did you know...Your Home Public Library has:

• 7,276 registered library users

• 1,529 DVDs

• 34,706 books; 2,141 audiobooks

• 44 magazine/newspaper subscriptions



## Build a Better World! Summertime at YHPL (Johnson City)

Our summertime theme is “Build a Better World!” This summer, take the opportunity to make a difference in your own life and in the lives of others.

### CHILDREN AND TEEN READING PROGRAM

#### SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Earn prizes for reading this summer! Our Summer Reading Program for youths ages 3- 10 kicks off on June 26 and signs ups run through July 14. The SRP runs from July 1 - August 18. All reading logs must be turned in on August 21 or before.

Teens can sign up for the Teen Summer Reading Program starting June 26 and turn in reading logs to earn Oakdale Mall and Barnes & Noble gift cards twice during the summer. The first deadline is Friday, July 22. The second is Friday, August 19.

#### PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Children ages 3½ to 5 and their caregivers are invited to join us at 10 a.m., Wednesdays, July 5 – August 9, at the library for books, rhymes, crafts and more.

*No registration required.*

#### SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS (AGES 6 - 10)

*Note: Registration is requested for these three programs to ensure there are enough craft materials.*

**Build a Better Natural World: Tuesday, July 11, 1 p.m.**  
Go on a bug hunt, recycle old crayons into new shapes and create a character with... green hair?!

**Build a Better Building: Tuesday, July 25, 1 p.m.**  
See who can build the tallest newspaper tower! Create a paper bag castle! Play a real game of cat and (house) mouse! The library's LEGOs will be available for building.

#### Build Better Communications:

**Tuesday, August 8, 1 p.m.**

Learn some simple sign language, “ride” the Pony Express Relay game, make a string telephone and create a pretend tablet.

#### FAMILY PROGRAMS

*The following programs are open to everyone.*

**Dan the Snake Man: Wednesday, June 28, 1 p.m.**  
Dan will bring snakes, lizards, and other exotic animals to see, touch, and learn about. *No registration required.*

**Ice Cream Social: Thursday, July 13, 6:30 p.m.**  
Experience an old-fashioned activity as we celebrate our 100th anniversary! Create your own sundae, and enjoy social time with family and friends.  
*No registration required.*

**The Pillowcase Project: Thursday, July 27, 1 p.m.**  
Decorate Disney-themed pillowcases to create emergency supplies kits and learn how to prepare for disaster with the Red Cross. For children ages 8-11.  
*Registration required.*

**Dirtmeister! Wednesday, August 16, 1 p.m.**  
From stone tools to the discovery of electricity, learn the wild and wacky stories of inventors and their inventions. Create neat inventions of your own! Open to all ages. *No registration required.*

**Story Walk: Ongoing, July 3 through August 25.**  
Walk the library grounds any time you want and read a book at the same time! Each station will feature the page of a picture book. A new story every two weeks.  
*No registration required.*

#### LEGO Club: July 10 and August 14.

The LEGO Club will continue meeting during the summer. Bring a project to work on, or use the library's LEGOs to build your creation. Our Master Builder's Challenge will also be offered. All ages welcome.  
*No registration required.*

#### All About Space!

Educators from the Kopernik Observatory will present two exciting family programs.

#### Planetarium Program: Wednesday, July 26, 1 p.m.

Kopernik's inflatable planetarium will be set up in the children's room. Come and learn about the night sky!  
*Registration is required as space is limited.*

#### The Great American Eclipse:

**Wednesday, July 26, 2 p.m.**

Prepare for the upcoming solar eclipse by learning about how and why eclipses occur and how to safely view the August eclipse. If weather permits, educators will bring telescopes that offer a safe viewing of the sun.  
*No registration required.*

**The Paws to Read program** will continue during the summer from 6- 8 p.m., June 26, July 24 and August 28.

#### TEEN PROGRAMS (AGES 10 - 17)

#### CPR Certification: Monday, July 24, 6 p.m.

Become certified in CPR. A member of the Town of Union Ambulance Squad will teach the course and certify attendees who pass. Registration is required, and there is a \$20 fee to cover part of the certification cost.

#### T-shirt/Tote Bag Painting:

**Thursday, August 3, 6:30 p.m.**

Bring a t-shirt (any color) or tote bag for decorating with stencils, stamps, paint and other items.  
*No registration required.*

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

Summer reading isn't just for kids! Starting on June 26, sign up for the Adult Summer Reading Program at the main circulation desk to get your reading log and a free book, and enter to win prizes all summer long!

#### MyPlate: Thursday, July 6, 1 p.m.

Cornell Cooperative Extension educators will present MyPlate, a program on healthy snacking!  
*No registration required.*



#### Shopping on a Budget: Thursday, July 20, 1 p.m.

Cornell Cooperative Extension educators will present a program about shopping on a budget.  
*No registration required.*

**Fire Safety: Tuesday, July 25, 6 p.m.** Members of the Johnson City Fire Department will present a program on fire prevention and fire safety in the home.  
*No registration required.*

**Citizen Preparedness Corps: Thursday, July 27, 6:30 p.m.** Learn about common types of natural and man-made disasters as well as effective ways to prepare, respond and recover from them as an individual, family and community. *Registration required.*

#### Summer Movie Series

Come relax in our air-conditioned meeting room, enjoy popcorn and snacks and check out some of these silver screen classics. *No registration required.*

Monday, July 31, 6 p.m.  
Citizen Kane (1941)

Tuesday, August 1, 6 p.m.  
Casablanca (1942)

Wednesday, August 2, 1 p.m.  
It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

Thursday, August 3, 1 p.m.  
On the Waterfront (1954)

Friday, August 4, 1 p.m.  
Rebel Without a Cause (1955)

**Great American Eclipse: August 21, 1:30 p.m.** – New York state will experience a partial solar eclipse that will cover 75% of the sun. The Space Science Institute's *STARNet* project has selected YHPL to receive solar eclipse viewing glasses. Glasses and educational materials will be available at the main circulation desk free of charge, and if weather permits, YHPL will host a viewing party on the front lawn with snacks and beverages. *No registration required.*



# Build a Better World this summer at the George F. Johnson Library (Endicott)

Our summertime theme is “Build a Better World!” This summer, take the opportunity to make a difference in your own life and in the lives of others. All events are FREE of charge! Registration begins on Wednesday, June 21. To register, stop by the library during business hours or register online at [gfjlibrary.org/kidzone](http://gfjlibrary.org/kidzone)



## SUMMER READING KICK-OFF PARTY

Join us, rain or shine, on Wednesday, June 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. for our annual kick-off to the summer reading program. Stop by to enjoy games, crafts, music and lots of family fun. You can also sign up for our summer reading clubs and programs!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The following programs will be held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. either on the plaza in front of the library or in our downstairs meeting room. No registration required.

### Wacky Chad: July 12

Come see this award-winning entertainer and be dazzled by his pogo stick, skateboard tricks and “dangerous” juggling. Be prepared for lots of laughs and audience involvement.

### Yay for Yoga: July 19

Always wanted to try yoga but didn't know where to start? This program, designed for all ages, will be led by Casey of Spirit Song Yoga and will introduce some basic poses and movements. Wear comfortable clothes; mats will be provided.

### Tunes & Tales: July 26

Join local favorite, DJ Johnny Only, and the library's Miss Erin in an evening full of music, stories and all-around fun!

### Moreland the Magician: August 2

Celebrate the fun of reading with this lively show which incorporates magic, puppetry, comedy and plenty of audience participation!

### Chalk Art Extravaganza: August 9, 6 – 8 p.m.\*

Chalk artist extraordinaire Eric Maruscak will help us create amazing and beautiful street art.

*\*Please note earlier start time.*

## YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

### Summer Reading Club

Registration for our Build a Better World reading club for preschool and school-age children begins on June 21. Club members can read this summer and count up their minutes to earn a free book and raffle tickets for fun prizes. Books and raffle tickets will be awarded August 2 through 18.

## STORY TIMES

Registration for the following story time programs is required; registration begins June 21. Call, stop in or register online at [gfjlibrary.org/kidzone](http://gfjlibrary.org/kidzone).

### Little Listeners (up to age 2):

Tuesdays, July 11 – August 8, 10 a.m.

### Great Beginnings (ages 2 – 5):

Wednesdays, July 12 - August 9, 10 a.m.

### Highland Park (ages 2 – 5): Thursdays, July 13 –

August 10, at 10 a.m. in the pavilion at the park on Hooper Road. *Registration is NOT required for this story time.*

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

*Registration is required for these programs; registration begins June 21 and is for all five weeks. Programs include books, games, crafts and technology.*

### Build a Better World:

For children entering Kindergarten and first grade, Mondays, July 10 – August 7, 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

For children entering grades 2 and 3, Thursdays, July 13 – August 10, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

For Tweens entering grades 4, 5 and 6, Tuesdays, July 11 – August 8, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

### Maker Mondays for Families

Bring the family to the library on Mondays, July 10, July 24 and August 7 at 6 p.m. for a variety of fun, maker activities. *Registration is not required.*

### Kids Street Art

Kicking off our summer programming is perennial favorite, cartoonist/illustrator Eric Maruscak! He's back for more street art fun on July 6 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Children entering grades 1 through 6 can learn about chalk art and create their own fantastic pictures on the library sidewalk. *Registration is required and space is limited.*

### Friday Fun!

Stop in the children's room on Fridays, July 14 through August 11 to check out our new maker activity kits. Creative, self-directed fun only available on those days.

## TEEN PROGRAMS (FOR GRADES 7-12)

*Registration for Teen Learning Challenges and programs begins June 21.*

### Summer Learning Club: June 21- August 18

There are so many opportunities to learn this summer. You can read, listen and watch to be entered into a raffle to win prizes. You can participate in all learning club activities. See librarians for rules and instructions on each learning club activity.

### Teen Advisory Group (Informational Meeting):

#### We Want You! Thursday, June 29, 6 – 8 p.m.

We want you to be a part of the Young Adult department. Help organize the YA space, create programs and get leadership experience. Informational meeting will go over requirements, expectations and meeting structure for the rest of the summer. Hope to see you there!

### Teen Book Discussion Group:

#### Tuesdays, July 11- August 8, 3:30- 4:30 p.m.

Participants in this librarian-moderated group will read one, full-length novel each week and discuss it. The books will be provided free of charge and are registrants to keep. Meet in the downstairs meeting room. *Registration is required and attendance at all five sessions is highly encouraged.*

### Teen Street Art: Tuesday, July 18, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Meet on the library sidewalk and get ready to create some great chalk art with illustrator/cartoonist Eric Maruscak! Bring a picture you would like to draw. *Registration is required.*

### Double the Mystery @ the Library!

Escape Room: Phantom of the Library: Fridays, July 14 and July 28, (select time slots)

The library has been invaded by a phantom and we are calling on you, the Library Detectives, for help! Ever since a strange box arrived the library has been haunted. In groups of two-to-six, can you help us free the library from this phantom? *Registration is required.*

### Mystery Night: Friday August 4, 6 – 8 p.m.

Calling all Library Detectives, we have another mystery for you to solve! Discover the who, what, how and why to win a prize. Enjoy treats and check out the library “after hours.” *Registration is required.*

### Teen Fun Nights: Thursdays, July 6 - August 10

Programs meet in the downstairs meeting room, unless otherwise noted. Teens can receive free books for attending events. Registration is not required for the following programs:

### 3D Design and Printing: July 6, 6 – 8 p.m.

Discover the library's new 3D printer and learn about 3D designing. Play with other tech tools like 3D pens, circuits and iPads. Program held in the upstairs Tech Center.

### Teen Book and a Movie: July 13, 5 – 8 p.m.

Join us for a movie based on a YA book followed by a discussion.

### Craft Day: July 20, 6 – 8 p.m.

Be creative! All sorts of crafts are on the menu and feel free to bring your own craft ideas to share.

### Puzzle Mania: July 27, 6– 8 p.m.

Go crazy with puzzles and games. There will be jigsaw puzzles, board games and BINGO!

### Trivia Night: August 3, 6 – 8 p.m.

Gear up your minds for trivia! Questions will range from entertainment, literature, sports, history, etc. Bring a friend!

### End of Summer Teen Party: August 10, 6 – 8 p.m.

Come celebrate the end of the teen summer library program with food, drinks and fun!



*These programs are funded by the Friends of the George F. Johnson Memorial Library, the BOOKS Program and with public funds from the Chenango Arts Council's Decentralization Grants Program, a re-grant program of the NYS Council on the Arts, with support from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature. Additional support for Broome County is provided by the Stewart W. & Wilma C. Hoyt Foundation.*



# GFJ Highlights

George F. Johnson Library is proud to share some of the highlights of this past year.



From l to r: Chalk Art Extravaganza: Artist Eric Maruscak with program participants. Dance Party with DJ Johnny Only. Photo credit Mike Vanuga

GFJ has finished replacing the remainder of its fluorescent lights with energy-efficient LEDs. The new lights provide enhanced lighting and have reduced electricity consumption by about 30 percent. Seventy-five percent of the multi-year project was funded by a New York State Public Library Construction grant. Many thanks to Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and Senator Fred Akshar for their continued support of this program.

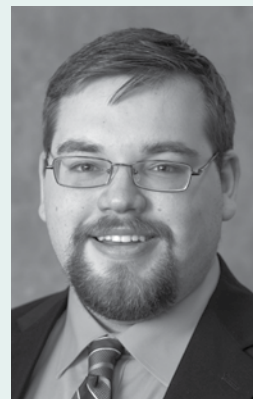
GFJ has recently been awarded a grant from the Chenango Arts Council which will be used to support our children's programming. Read more online at: [chenangoarts.org/grants/grants.html](http://chenangoarts.org/grants/grants.html).

We also thank the BOOKS program (affiliated with Senator Fred Akshar) for its financial support for our children's programming.

In addition to a great collection of print and audio-books, DVDs, and recorded music, our library offers some non-traditional items, including:

- The Tech Center which offers free computer classes
- E-books; downloadable audio-books, movies, music, comics and e-magazines
- Mango Languages: Learn 72 foreign languages (including pirate!) at home and on your mobile device. Plus, English as a foreign language for speakers of 21 foreign languages.
- Digital Archives which are composed of 100 years of local newspapers, historical photos and publications of the Endicott-Johnson Corporation and U-E School System. It includes the "E-J Workers Review" a treasure trove of 1920-era local history. Coming soon: A full run of digitized U-E High School yearbooks!
- Online databases including Ancestry (genealogy) and Morningstar (investments)
- BookMyne app to access our online catalog and your account from your mobile device
- Adult book discussion group
- On-site streaming of music performances from Lincoln Center
- Free passes to Corning Museum of Glass
- Self-serve café and free building-wide Wi-Fi
- Online safe-driving course to reduce auto-insurance rates
- Online booking of our free meeting rooms
- Year-round children's story times
- Adult drawing and painting classes
- Book clubs for grades 1 through 6 during the school year

## Changes to Young Adult Department



Kenneth Roman

Masters of Science in Library and Information Science/School Media

2016 Syracuse University

Dear Readers,

It's been just about a year since I began my current role as the young adult (YA) librarian, and it's a privilege to be part of the GFJ team.

As the YA librarian, I make sure our teens have the resources needed to further their interests, create, discover stories and better understand themselves. Since serving in this position, I have created a mission statement and five-year plan to guide me in serving teens and updating our services to them. I've also been building a connection with local school librarians to bridge our learning environments, as well as slowly introducing new technologies like 3D printing to the teen community.

This summer's theme is "Build a Better World" and we can't do that without supporting our teens; I strive to create a YA Department that does just that.

## Hours of Operation

### 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 July 1- September 9

### 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 24- Labor Day

\*\*Libraries closed July 4th

### George F. Johnson Memorial Library

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## More Building a Better World this summer at the George F. Johnson Library (Endicott)



### ADULT PROGRAMS

*Thanks to the Friends of the GFJ Memorial Library for supplying the funds for the Adult Summer Reading Club and programs!*

#### Adult Summer Reading Club

Build a better world this summer at the GFJ Library by joining the Adult Summer Reading Club! The club begins June 21 and runs through August 10. Read five books, fill out a reading log and drop it in the box near the Adult Information Desk. For every log you fill out, you will be entered to win one of three gift baskets worth \$50 each – so enter often!



#### Dinner and a Book: Tuesday, August 8, 6-8 p.m.

Join us for a pizza dinner and a leisurely discussion of favorite books you have read. It's a great way to get recommendations! Meet in the downstairs meeting room. Registration is required. Register at the Adult Information Desk or online at [gfjlibrary.org](http://gfjlibrary.org) beginning June 21.