

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Erie County Public Library Celebrates National Friends of Libraries Week

Erie, PA – The Erie County Public Library will celebrate its Friends of the Library group all this week as part of the 15th annual celebration of [National Friends of Libraries Week](#), Oct. 18-24.

The Friends of the Erie County Library support the five Erie County Public Library locations with funds for programming and special events such as take home programming kits, virtual programming platforms, outreach programs, staff development days and library advertising.

Fundraising efforts are conducted by the group through book sales throughout the year, and via the Bayfront Bookshelf – a used book and gift shop located in the lobby of Blasco Library. Over the past year, the Friends had also raised funds for the restoration of the Minerva statue as well as the construction of a new pedestal.

“Programming is vital to our community and treasured by our patrons,” said Colleen Donaldson, branch manager of the Lincoln Community Center Library. “The Friends allow us to do programs for all ages such as storytime, summer library challenge, Qi Gong, adult crafternoon, teenzone program, after-school programming and numerous adult specialty programs. I would encourage everyone to support our library by becoming a Friend.”

Members of the Friends organization include Peg Shenefelt (president), Carol Gettinger (vice president), Marcy Bencivenga (treasurer) and Sara Sheehan (secretary), plus nine additional board members and many devoted volunteers.

The public is invited to “Friend Your Library” by tagging @ErieLibrary in a post addressing how you appreciate Friends groups with the hashtag #FriendYourLibrary, by volunteering time to our Friends group, or by making a donation to support library programming.

Please contact the Friends at 814-451-6927 or visit erielibraryfriends.org to learn more about the group, and to find out how to become a Friend.

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. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. For more information, visit www.ala.org/united.

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