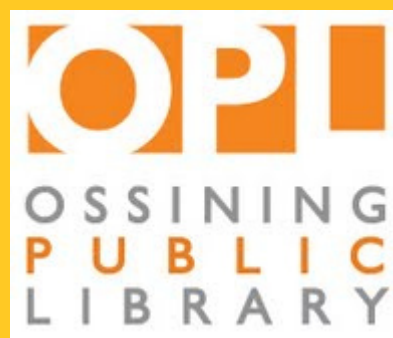


# Friends of the Library Scholarship Winners

2020

THE FRIENDS OF THE  
OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY



Each year, the Friends of the Ossining Public Library awards scholarships to qualifying pages who are headed to college. One of these scholarships is donated annually by Friends president Dennis Neuberger, in memory of his wife Eileen, a great lover of the library.

**This year, the  
Friends awarded  
three \$500  
scholarships to  
three of our  
dedicated and  
wonderful  
Children's Room  
pages.**

**Orla Hagan**

**Pujita Sunder**

**&**

**Lucia Vallejo**

**In their application essays, each shared a bit about their job, and what experiences they had at the library.**

**Here are some of the thoughts they shared.**





*Orla is seen here assisting  
with our Haunted House  
program*

# Orla Hagan

"Over the course of my two years at the library, this job has taught me numerous lessons about the importance of patience, compassion, communication, organization, and hard work. It has helped me develop crucial time management skills, both while at work and in my daily life, and has made me a more responsible, diligent, and determined person. My job at the library has given me the skills to become an independent worker, but it has also helped me determine when to ask for help. Most importantly, the Ossining Public Library has taught me about compassion--about being part of a community rooted in dedication, acceptance, respect, and kindness."



# *Pujita Sunder*

"I have always loved our public library. I grew up there, spending more evening than I can count curled up in a nook of the children's room. As I got older, I began tutoring in the library and it seemed the natural next step to sign up for my first job there -- fitting in a way. Like many people, my idea of what a library worker does was formed on the foundation of books, movies, and television. I believed that working at a library meant recommending books, making sure people were quiet and things were shelved appropriately, and reading all day. I could not have been more wrong. Luckily, I was wrong in the best possible way, because working at a modern library is far more challenging, far more engaging, and far more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. Libraries are bustling places of business where there is always something that needs attending to: Re-shelving books, helping patrons checkout books, organizing community events, the list goes on.

Yes, helping library patrons means telling them all about the new books they might enjoy, but it also means showing them how to use the photocopier or printer. It means explaining the difference between MP3s and DVDs. It means explaining what Twitter is and showing them how to sign up for an account. As a library worker, you aren't just there to help members of the community find and check out books, movies, and music. You're there to help make their lives a little bit easier, whether that means teaching them how to take pictures on their phones or informing them of the town's recycling schedule. For so many members of the community, the library is a second home. It is where parents who home-school their children come to find the resources they need, and where public school teachers come for supplemental educational materials. It is where retirees meet up in the morning to discuss local news and share a cup of coffee. It's where special needs groups congregate for group lessons and educational outings. It's where babysitters take kids to do homework or to hang out with their friends. Our library houses so much more than books and computers. It offers a home for the entire community."





# *Lucia Vallejo*

"I've learned many things during my time at the library. It all started sophomore year when I volunteered for the library's homework help program and continued throughout my time as a page. Not only has this job at the library taught me the basics like being punctual and doing things properly, but working in the children's section has also taught me how to work with children, whether it was a group of teenagers loudly hanging out after school or a kid leaving trash behind. I also learned to take more initiative and not wait to be told what to do. If a section was disorganized or if something was out of place, I would simply fix it. Furthermore, if a label or a sticker was missing, I would put it on myself instead of expecting others to do it for me.

I always thought of a job as an obligation or as a necessary sacrifice since a lot of people complain about what they do; I always thought that people disliked their jobs. However, what I've come to realize is that that's not the case. I've learned that you can enjoy what you do, and this was shown through all of the passion and devotion the staff puts into their work. I have never been part of a place where people care so much about others and put as much time and energy into their work as they do. I hope and would be very lucky to find a place to work like this in the future."

On behalf of the  
Friends and of the  
library, we'd like to  
offer our  
congratulations to our  
remarkable winners!

