



**COOPER-SIEGEL COMMUNITY LIBRARY INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION – Friday, July 4, 2025
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE LIVE READERS**

- **Veena Agarwal** - Mrs. Veena Agarwal was raised in Bombay (now Mumbai), India. After marriage, she moved to the United Kingdom, where she worked for Lloyds Bank of England and her husband, Dr. Amrit Agarwal, finished his residency at Oxford University. They moved to Pittsburgh in 1971 and have been here ever since; raising a family and immersing themselves in this wonderful city. Both Veena and her husband spent decades amassing a collection of old and rare books pertaining to India. Veena loves reading, gardening, cooking, travelling, musical theater, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.
- **Nisreen Al-Bataineh** – Nisreen is a junior at Fox Chapel Area High School and co-founder of the school's first Muslim Student Association. She has been practicing Taekwondo for 10 years, earning the title of Junior Master and achieving a fourth-degree black belt. In addition to martial arts, she enjoys horseback riding and is currently focused on her college applications, aiming to pursue a path in medicine.
- **Lou Curcio, Jr.** – Lou is a lifelong resident of Aspinwall. He was elected to Aspinwall Council in 2024 and appointed to the FoxWall Board of Directors in 2025.
- **Finn Gelsimino** - Finn (he/him) is the Youth Services Librarian at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library. He has always been a lover of crafts and music, learning how to play multiple instruments, crocheting and cosplaying. Finn has three silly cats at home that he's always excited to share pictures of.
- **Kaylie Glaze** - Kaylie recently joined Cooper-Siegel and Sharpsburg community libraries as our part-time Marketing and Communications Specialist. Kaylie is a writer, public relations professional, published poet, and former journalist. A University of Pittsburgh alumna, she is a recipient of the Ida B. Wells Journalism Award and certified in American Sign Language (I & II). She is currently completing a dual certification in TESOL/TEFL through Bridge Education, with a goal of teaching English to non-native speakers. When she's not buried in books, Kaylie enjoys crocheting, paranormal investigations, axe throwing, swimming, gaming, and exploring cemeteries with her wonderful wife, Nicole, and their beloved dogs, Rosetta Ilona "Rosie" and Edgar Allan "Bo" Glaze.
- **Brian Kern** - Brian is a former army combat engineer and intelligence officer who served nearly 29 years in the U.S. military, including six years deployed during the global war on terrorism. He received three bronze stars and the air medal for combat service. He currently practices primary care medicine in the veterans' administration and is the current commander of American Legion Post 106 in Sharpsburg.
- **Kazz Kern** - Kazz grew up as a military brat during her father's nearly three decades of service. She was born and raised in North Carolina, moving to the Pittsburgh area when her father (Brian Kern) retired. She is a 2023 graduate of Shaler Area High School. She works as a prep cook at the Shaler VFW and is a member of the Sharpsburg American Legion auxiliary.
- **Steve Lackey** – Steve serves as president of the board for Cooper-Siegel and Sharpsburg community libraries. He is a senior executive in global financial services; executing corporate

strategy within the context of exceeding plan, managing risk and developing talent. He is currently a board member and treasurer of the World Affairs Councils of America, and an adjunct professor at Chatham University, teaching Global Business for Chatham's MBA program; and is a former vice chairman of BNY Mellon in Pittsburgh.

- **Zhexin (Kate) Lin** - Kate is in eighth grade and a volunteer at Cooper-Siegel Community Library. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. when she was 10 months old. Kate enjoys drawing, reading and spending time with her friends. She plans to become a psychiatrist when she grows up.
- **Nadine Ostrowski** – Nadine is the Development Manager for Cooper-Siegel and Sharpsburg community libraries. She serves as event organizer for all library live readings, quarterly comedy nights and all other fundraising events.
- **Olivia Payne** - Olivia Payne has been part of the O'Hara Township community for the past seven years and has served as a council member for more than three years. With a heart for service shaped by years in nonprofit leadership, she now helps clients reach their personal, professional and health goals, and works as a realtor with Howard Hanna's Fox Chapel office. Olivia and her husband Kirill are proud parents of two kids, Khai and Lorina, along with their dog Peanut. In her spare time, she loves volunteering, reading, roller skating and singing karaoke — especially when there's a good crowd!
- **Miguel Sague, Jr.** – An artist and musician, Miguel was born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, in a region associated with the historic Indigenous town of El Caney, one of the most important centers of Indigenous tradition in the country. He grew up immersed in the culture, art and music for which his native region is famous. When he was 15, Miguel immigrated to the United States with his family, first living in Erie, Penn., and later moving to Pittsburgh. Here, Miguel built his life as a teacher, father and working musician. Miguel sits on the board of directors of the *Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center* and is active in the arts and Indigenous culture scene both in the Pittsburgh region and globally.
- **Jan Shaw** – An O'Hara Township resident for 23 years, Jan raised two sons in the Fox Chapel School District and loves living here. She is the president of Women of Reform Judaism's Atlantic District, which covers Pennsylvania (except for Erie) and New Jersey women's groups from 35 synagogues. Jan is also the past membership manager of Lauri Ann West Community Center, having retired in April 2024.
- **Naomi Weisberg Siegel** - Naomi was born in Pittsburgh, but grew up in Virginia during the Civil Rights Era, which shaped her outlook and education. She and her husband raised their family in the Fox Chapel area, where they've lived for 40 years. When she's not involved in political activism, she loves visiting family, gardening, and, above all, reading.
- **PA Senator Lindsey Williams** – Sen. Williams represents the 38th Senatorial District in Allegheny County, which encompasses the 10th, 11th and 12th Wards of the City of Pittsburgh, the North Hills suburbs, and many of the communities along the Allegheny River Valley.
- **Gabriel Yassin** – Gabriel is a student at Fox Chapel High School going into 11th grade in the fall. He has been a passionate member of the Fox Chapel Fencing Team for the last three years. He is preparing to take his SAT and ACT exams this coming year to prepare for his college applications.