

## AURORA FREE LIBRARY FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

### HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- Submitted two Rosen Grants in January and received 60% of the requests:
  - Storytime Train 2025-26 request was \$5,750 for staffing weekly storytime and 2 book giveaways during the year to UPK and Storytime. **Received 60% which was \$3,450.**
  - Take it on the Road and Beyond 2025-26 request was for \$10,210 for Take and Makes (\$4,500), Tween Graphic Novel Book Club (\$2,075), Art Club (\$2,000) and Family Fun Nights (\$1,635). **Received 60% which was \$6,126.**
- Worked with Ellen to partner on the Auburn Public Theater Re-grants (Arts Funding). We asked for **\$2,425** to support \$1000 of Skaneateles Quartet, \$500 Nate the Great for Teddy Bears' Picnic, \$275 (1/2) Rev Theatre, \$650 Mr. Buffalo Drumming. We are awaiting word.

### GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS

#### Rosen Grants for 2024-25:

##### Rosen Storytime Train 2024-25:

- Aurora Preschool continues to visit regularly and several other families attend weekly.
- Visited UPK classrooms at Emily Howland in January and February with Hazard Library.

##### Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2024-25:

- In February we gave out a code cipher activity and the book *People of the World* Activity and Sticker book for our Take and Make. For March Take and Make is linked to 50 States Hunt.
- Our monthly Tween Graphic Novel Workshop met in February to discuss *Duel* by Jessixa Bagley and in March to discuss *Squished* by Lloyd and Nutter.
- Kathy and I emailed the person who offered the February Challenge Island event (which was full) and she will offer another STEAM program over April Break.
- Painted Art Club was cancelled in February, but will meet this week to do a Glow in the Dark Art Painting activity.

#### Statewide Community Re-grant from Auburn Public Theater 2024:

- Planned to have Bells and Motley Olden Music and Storytelling to put on *Bawshou and the Dragon* Performance with Chinese Instruments with a workshop beforehand this Saturday, March 22.

### PROGRAMMING/PR

- Held Movie nights: *Wicked* in February and *The Producers* in March. *Dog Man* will be April 12th.
- Fiber Arts Group celebrated two year anniversary this past week.
- Gave out Books at SCCS in February before the school break and Kathy attended a Book and Pizza event in early March that 28 families participated in. These were funded by Hazard Rosen Grant.
- Helping to coordinate a visit from author Jeff Mack on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Emily Howland with Rosen Funding that Hazard received.

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- Renewed Swank Movie License needed due to copyright for showing movies.
- Attended a *Storytime Stuff* Webinar in early February with Kathy McMillan.
- D & D group of Teens continues to meet weekly and we continue to recruit for an Adult D & D group.
- Peachtown and Aurora Preschool continue to visit.
- Scavenger Hunts continue to be popular. 79 kids enjoyed the Chinese Zodiac Animal scavenger hunt for Jan/Feb. We currently have a 50 States one going on and when completed kids are given a Road Trip book (Take and Make). This is meant to go with our USA Road Trip program this Monday by a local family who visited 48 states last summer over 5 weeks.
- For Take Your Child to the Library Day we highlighted Artist Alma Thomas. There was a craft and two storytimes with a book about the author.
- We held several programs over the February Winter Break which included Lego Domino Challenge, Challenge Island STEAM WARTS program (funded by Rosen Take it on the Road), *Wicked* movie and Game Time (video and board games). Most events were well-attended.
- The Aurora Art Club gathered for a Zoom tour of Morgan Library in NYC on February 7<sup>th</sup> and again for their March meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> where they shared their art with the theme "orange".
- We have been planning for an upcoming Travel Talk by the Baliva Family on March 24, Lego Club March 28, and several programs in April including a Garden Talk on April 7<sup>th</sup> on Plants for Tricky Spots, Repousse Art Workshop by the Johnson Art Museum on April 16<sup>th</sup> and another Challenge Island STEM program.
- Kathy and I have also been planning Summer programming and booking some performers including Wildlife Rockstars who will bring 6-7 animals, the Auburn Public Theater Arts Grant Programs and Jeff the Magic Man as well as another Kick-Off with Create Kindness.
- We hosted a Community Read Zoom discussion of *Man's Search for Meaning* on 2/6/2025.
- SCCS students who are planning to put on *Hamlet* in the MOH have met several times in the Jail to rehearse.
- Attended Color Our World: Teen Summer Reading Program Workshop Webinar.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for February and March Hub Newsletters and article for March Tribune.
- Updated website with webmaster and posted to FB and Instagram and used Mailchimp to alert patrons of latest events. Created PR for events and sent out press releases.

### ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- Attended February and March FLLS Directors' Meetings.
  - Likely that Erate will go away. Covers 70% of internet costs and Meraki licensing and hardware. We would need to pay that additional 70% for our internet in the future.
  - Federal grants are most likely in jeopardy.
  - One house budgets for Senate and Assembly have been released to be considered for NYS Budget:
    - Senate - \$109.6M in Library Aid/\$54M Construction Aid
    - Assembly - \$107.1M in Library Aid/\$68M Construction Aid
    - Governor - \$104.6M in Library Aid/\$34M Construction Aid
      - School Library Materials Aid currently at \$6/student:

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- Senate proposed \$11.33/student
  - Assembly proposed \$11.50/student
- Consider putting together Bullet Aid letters.
- IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) funding is in jeopardy which would affect the State Library who receives a lot of funding from them.
- Filled out FLLS Survey on Director Benefits.
- Filled out FLLS Satisfaction Survey.
- Completed the NYS Annual Report 2024 and submitted it after Board approved it. Received word from FLLS that it looked good and was sent on to NYS.
- Planned for the AFL Annual Meeting and put together the slideshow and numbers.
- Working on a Tri-Fold Annual Report Brochure for 2024.
- In touch with Dave and Steve regarding NYS Construction Grants.
- Attended SCCS Literacy Committee meeting at end of February.
- Reviewed the MOH Rental Contract that Ellen shared with Dave and me.
- Aurorafest Committee has used the library for meetings (filled out meeting use form).
- Attended February and March FLLS Member Library Support Groups Meetings.
- Returned loan from Aurora Historical Society Christmas in Aurora ornament display (owned by the Village). We can borrow whenever we would like in the future.
- Sent out Press Release with AFL Board Meeting dates for the coming year.
- In touch with Ellen about use of MOH by Peachtown, local teens, and Tyburn for plays.

### FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- In touch with Sue about Fargo Fundraiser on Fri. April 25<sup>th</sup> and Robin wrote about plant sale the day before Mother's Day on May 10<sup>th</sup> and BLB date of Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Filled out the Tax Cap form online for the override and gave to Dave to send to SCCS.
- Filled out paperwork and voucher to receive Cayuga County Funding (\$3,500).

### DOOR COUNT: \*Daily door count (not including those who attended programs).

Month	2023	2024	2025
December	314* + 345 at Programs	368* + 395 at 23 Programs	
November	326* + 347 at Programs	334* + 376 at 21 Programs	
October	327* + 622 at Programs	448* + 937 at 28 Programs	
September	352* + 336 at Programs	352* + 500 at 18 Programs	
August	420* + 162 at Programs	622* + 170 at 11 Programs	
July	428* + 634 at Programs	732* + 678 at 25 Programs	
June	395* + 650 at Programs	433* + 700 at 16 Programs	
May	242* + 259 at Programs	389* + 213 at Programs	
April	219* + 305 at Programs	370* + 273 at Programs	
March	266* + 865 at Programs	376* + 781 at Programs	
February	250* + 569 at Programs	376* + 674 at Programs	<b>363 + 710 at 23 Programs</b>
January	225* + 107 at Programs	399* + 100 at Programs	<b>357 + 155 at 17 Programs</b>



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### BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

#### NEW ITEMS:

- **\*\*Dave took a sample of our water to get tested** for lead. Result was below harmful level.
- **\*\*One shade in main room was brought by Dave to Syracuse. Working now.**
- **2023/24 Maintenance/Checks** have occurred: Stair Chair (8/14/2024), Fire Extinguisher Check (10/21/2024), Service Alert (4/16/2024) and Fall Visit (10/8/2024), Furnaces/Navien Boiler maintenance Holbrook Heating (1/29/2025), Holbrook Heating AC maintenance (5/8/2024), Window Washing and Power washing (4/20/2024).
- The groundlight in front damaged by Hale still needs to be fixed. **Dave met with Dave Brong.**
- NEED SEVERAL NEW FLOOR GRATES in main room- **OPEN ISSUE**
- AFL/MOH Front sign near sidewalk will be refurbished by Yesteryears next year. DAVE
- Main Street entry steps are spalling and gaps where mortar is on sides seems to have increased. Met with DAVE and mason 7/12/22 to solicit estimate. **PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**
- Need to install street number – **OPEN ISSUE**
- First floor weatherizing south windows- **OPEN ISSUE- Submitted with DRI Grant.**
- Stains on interior north wall MOH – **OPEN ISSUE**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS: PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK for more**

DATE	EVENT	FUNDED BY	TIME & LOCATION (AFL unless noted)
Any time	Overdrive/Libby Eresources help		
Mondays	Fiber Arts Group		4 pm
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am
Mondays	Teen D & D		5:30 pm
March 22	Bells and Motley Bawshou and the Dragon	Arts Grant	1 pm Workshop 3 pm Performance
March 24	Baliva Travel Talk		6:30 pm
March 28	Lego Club		6 pm
April 2	Book Club		7 pm
April 7	Gardening Talk		7 pm
April 9	Tween Graphic Novel Book Club	Rosen	6:30pm
April 12	Dog Man Movie		7:30pm
April 14	Challenge island	Rosen	6:30pm
April 16	Johnson Art Museum Repousse		3-4 pm
April 23	Painted Paper Art Club	Rosen	6:30 pm
May 10	Plant Sale		

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth