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:
 - <u>Storytime Train 2025-26</u> request was \$5,750 for staffing weekly storytime and 2 book giveaways during the year to UPK and Storytime. **Received 60% which was <u>\$3,450</u>**.
 - <u>Take it on the Road and Beyond 2025-26</u> 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 <u>\$6,126</u>.
- Worked with Ellen to partner on the Auburn Public Theater Regrants (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 Regrant 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 16th 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 7th and again for their March meeting on March 12th 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 7th on Plants for Tricky Spots, Repousse Art Workshop by the Johnson Art Museum on April 16th 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.

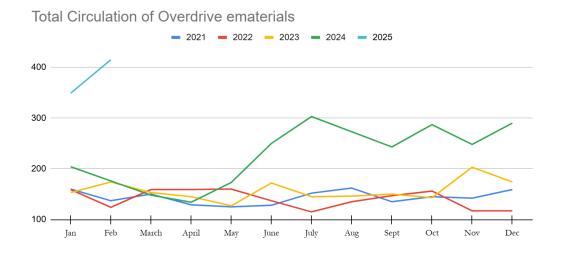
FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- In touch with Sue about Fargo Fundraiser on Fri. April 25th and Robin wrote about plant sale the day before Mother's Day on May 10th and BLB date of Friday, October 3rd.
- 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).

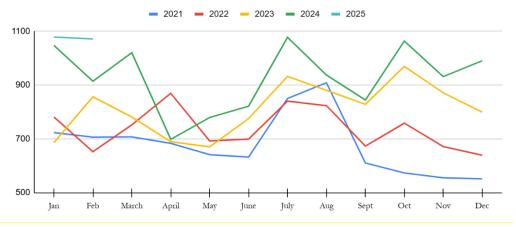
DOOR COUNT: *Daily door count (not including those who attended programs).

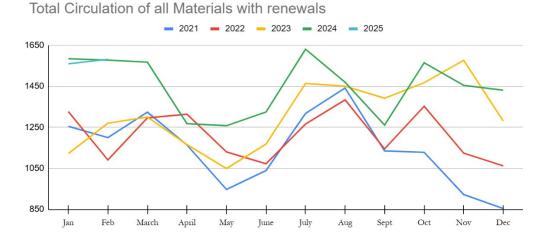
Month	2023	2024	2025
December	314* + 345 at Programs	368* + 395 at 23 Programs	
November	326* + 347 at Programs	334* + 376 at 21 Programs	
October	327* + 622 at Programs	448* + 937 at 28 Programs	
September	352* + 336 at Programs	352* + 500 at 18 Programs	
August	420* + 162 at Programs	622* + 170 at 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	363 + 710 at 23 Programs
January	225*+ 107 at Programs	399* + 100 at Programs	357 + 155 at 17 Programs

CIRCULATION COMPARISON 2021-2025: Overdrive ematerials use and circulation is up from last year.



Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals





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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.
- <u>2023/24 Maintenance/Checks</u> 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 <u>Holbrook Heating</u> (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	Arts Grant	1 pm Workshop
	Dragon		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