

**AURORA FREE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026**  
Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

**HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS**

- US Congressman John Mannion's office called and he will visit on Wed. April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 am. I will cancel Storytime that day. It will be a Cayuga County Constituent Coffee. According to the staff person I spoke with, he has not had an event in this area. YAY for us!!
- Lots of grant writing going on 2 Rosen Grants (plus supported Cortland Library grant) and Arts Grant with Ellen.
- State Annual Report is currently due to FLLS on Friday, April 10 and to the State on Thursday, April 16. However, since it is not open yet, this is tentative and is subject to change.
- A high school student contacted us about doing an Eagle Scout project at the library. We have been discussing basement and landscaping ideas. We had hoped it would begin sooner, however, it looks like it might take several months to be approved. It needs to be of long-lasting impact. I have consulted with Liz (landscape designer) about projects. We will meet with him again soon. Stay tuned.
- Kathy has been working on cleaning up the basement (long overdue to make better use of space and clean up tripping and other hazards). LOOKS GREAT!!
- Worked on Community Survey for Long Range Plan with Dennis and Dave.
- Ginger Johnson brought seeds again to offer patrons at the library.
- 'Becorn' display by the Aurora Art Club in the front display.

**GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS**

**Rosen Take it on the Road and Storytime Train 2026-27 Grant Applications:**

- I worked on and submitted 3 Rosen Grants for 2026-27. Storytime Train 2026-27 asked for \$5,525 to continue funding staffing for storytimes and 2 book giveaways to that age group. Take it on the Road 2026-27 asked for \$10,405 for Take and Make kits, Tween Graphic Novel Book Club, Dragon Explorers Book Club, Art and Science Programming and funding for 4 Family Fun Events. I also helped to write one with Cortland Free Library to bring a Dinosaur Program to 8 FLLS libraries. I spoke to a Rosen Grant Reviewer about our projects.

**Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2025-26 and FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant (for Food Pantry):**

- Kathy continues to host Graphic Novel Book Club (age 10-13) and Dragon Explorers (for ages 6-9) meetings where she encourages reading the Wrenly series and does a craft. Both have been full.
- Kathy put together a Family Fun Event called Winter Games Night in mid-February over break. There were several games (mini-golf, Lego, fishing etc.) set up and we recruited volunteers to be at each station. Upon finishing all games participants earned a Lego-type prize.
- The February Take and Make was an art book with artists' works and seek and finds. Kids also received watercolor paper and watercolors with instructions for various watercolor art.

- The March Take and Make for both the library and the Food Pantry was a kids' cookbook and an activity to go with it. The library one was coupled with a Kids' International Cooking event. Patron and registered dietitian Erin Burroughs came and made 5 recipes from *the Global Feast Cookbook* that the families got and had taste tests of the recipes including Chicken Satay, Irish Soda Bread, Banana Punch, Brigadeiros, and Tabbouleh. She also had a slideshow showing participants where in the world the foods were from. The program was very well-received. In fact, one family sent photos of their recipes being made at home. The Food Pantry families received the *Chop Chop Family Cookbook* which went along with the Chop Chop magazine they have received in the past.
- We are setting up author visit by the husband and wife team of *Ladybug Girl* fame, Jacky Davis and David Soman. They will come to EH on May 14<sup>th</sup> funded by a Hazard Rosen Grant.

### **Rosen Grant Storytime Train 2025-26**

- Storytime continues weekly. Aurora Preschool has not come for a few weeks due to weather.
- Made our monthly visit to UPK classrooms with Hazard Library on 1/27/26 and 2/24/26.

### **Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2025 and 2026:**

- I submitted the Final Budget Report and photos from 4 funded events at the end of February 2026 and it was accepted.
- Ellen and I wrote a Family Arts Series Grant 2026 submitted on 3/8/2026. It was to fund No Promises a capella group and Perry Ground Storyteller for MOH and Tri-Cities Opera and Rev Summer Youth Tour and 2 ceramic workshops and 2 felting workshops. The total request was \$4,875. The Village of Aurora voted to fund ½ of the Rev Summer Youth Tour if awarded.

### **PROGRAMMING/PR**

- Spring Recess Happenings (late March-early April )will include a visit from the Johnson Museum, a younger kids' D & D gathering, in-house crafts and Lego activities.
- Met with Liz Snyder and planned a full year of programming. 4 programs and a community garden project. The October and December talks will also have workshops to complement her talks.
- Liz held a program entitled "Rain Gardens and Making the Most of Drainage" in March and will hold one on April 15<sup>th</sup> with the theme "Spring and Summer Stunners for the Landscape". Liz is also writing a monthly column for The Hub.
- Sent in order for Summer Reading Supplies for Hazard Rosen Grant for logs and some items for our Take and Makes.
- We are giving away excess books from the past Rosen Fund Grants this month to kids, since we have so many from past years and we hope to get more from this year's grant through Hazard.
- Joined Hazard Library for February "I Love to Read Month" book giveaway before winter break and the Annual Book and Breakfast for Emily Howland School at the end of February.

- The Classic Movie Team showed *Singin' in the Rain* the first weekend of March and then we held a Family Movie Night this past weekend showing *Zootopia 2* which we also had pies at for "Pi Day". There was a good turnout. Unfortunately we had to cancel *The Princess Bride* in February due to bad weather. We will reschedule at some point. Patrons have been asking about it.
- We met with patron Melissa Hulme at the end of February to look at our new Cricut machine and how to use it. There will be a learning curve. We are looking at how we can use it for upcoming crafts.
- A family asked about setting up a Chess Club at the library. We are in the process of seeing if there is a broader interest. It would be intergenerational.
- Cayuga County Foster Care called and asked if they could set up on Wed. March 11 from 12-2pm. They set up, however no one came. It was good to have her and she did all the promo. She may try again.
- The Southern Cayuga Book Club's February meeting discussed the Southern Cayuga Community Read of *James* by Percival Everett. In March they discussed the book *Homegoing*.
- Held a virtual talk from the Pollock-Krasner House on *Nature Impressionist Inspiration Painting* in January. We had 27 people attend.
- The Annual *Take Your Child to the Library Day* was on the first Saturday of February. We only had a few people due to bad weather.
- Kathy and I continue planning for the upcoming months' programming and the summer. We have the Johnson Museum at Cornell coming twice in April. Once on April 1<sup>st</sup> for an all ages Animal Collage Program and then on April 28<sup>th</sup> for an Adult Program on Linocuts.
- Peachtown has missed a few weeks due to weather.
- Teen D & D group continues to meet on most Monday evenings in jail room.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for February and March Hub Newsletter and wrote article for Southern Cayuga Tribune March edition.
- 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**

- Made slideshow and gathered data for Aurora Library February Annual Meeting.
- Dave has copied me on questions from the NYSED Construction Grant program that Sarah sent us. Steve Moolin returned information needed.
- Attended the FALCONS (Finger Lakes Automated Library Consortium) meeting and the FLLS member library support group in February.
- Attended March FLLS Directors' Meeting where we were given updates on NYS Budget proposals and FLLS Long Term Plan of Service, NYS Annual Report opening still unknown, etc.
- Sarah updated us on FLLS Plan of Service progress and said she will have 2 Virtual Evening Sessions for Directors and Trustees and a Cayuga County in-person date for feedback TBD in April.
- I will serve on the FLLS Free and Direct Access Plan subcommittee representing Cayuga County. It will be 3 Zoom meetings and is part of their updating their Plan of Service.
- I will also be serving on a new committee to discuss issues with the Polaris card and catalog to be brought up at FLLS Director or FALCONS meetings.
- Attended a Tech Talk (Catalyst Cayuga) on WCAG 2.1 AA Explained for Accessibility to better understand what we need for our website to be in accessibility compliance in 2027 by law.

- Sent Marie Dentes a list of programs we have at the library for BLB letter.
- New volunteer Kathy Thompson has been helping out regularly. Terry Martinez, Jennifer Connell, Student Victor Van de Water, and Carmen Boyce have also volunteered on various projects along with Linda Kabelac.
- NYS Tax Forms arrived and are available to patrons.
- The Village sent us Wells College Campus- Community Input surveys to have available at the library until they were due.

## **FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING**

- Esigned a contract from Cayuga County for our \$3500 in County funding on Feb. 5th.
- Filled out and submitted 2026 Tax Cap form and shared with Dave to be sent to SCCS.
- Supported the Fargo Fundraiser event in February with social media, website and email promotion and made cards for the tables for additional giving.
- In touch with Dave about Construction Projects and other Preservation/Building Maintenance issues.
- Our Annual Swank Movie License has been paid for and paperwork arrived as well as our web hosting fee from FLLS.
- Assembling programming stats for 2025 to input into the NYS Annual Report when it opens.

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

January 2026 Door Count 245 people (plus 180 at 14 programs)

February 2026 Door Count 326 people (plus 677 at 21 programs)

## **CIRCULATION:**

### January 2026

Checkouts: 774 (includes 227 Overdrive ematerials)

Checkouts with renewals: 1120 (includes 227 Overdrive ematerials)

### February 2026

Checkouts: 870 (includes 288 Overdrive ematerials)

Checkouts with renewals: 1285 (includes 288 Overdrive ematerials)

## **BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE**

- Dave and I had Holbrook try to get heat into the Basement Jail room through an addition to the existing pipe. Unfortunately it is not a big improvement since the thermostat is on the first floor.
- Dave has kept me posted about the front step side wall masonry project. He recently met with a contractor and will soon set up a time to begin.

2025 Maintenance/Checks have occurred: **OCURRED RECENTLY**

Stair Chair (8/27/2025), Fire Extinguisher Check (12/2025), Service Alert (4/24/2025) and Fall Visit (10/7/2025), Furnaces/Navien Boiler maintenance Holbrook Heating came 1/29/2025, Holbrook Heating AC maintenance (6/4/2025), Window Washing and Power washing (7/19/2025).

- **NEW:** consider ‘permanent’ sign for Lili’s puppets
- **NEW:** Consider options for lighting for step from platform in front of flowers to front walk way. **DAVE will look at electric light for those areas**
- Need New Grate made in Front Room (metal has split and Dave made temporary wooden one). Inns use Reggio Registers. **LORI and DAVE**
- Follow-up on water line issue with Village (Mike White). **DAVE**
- Basement- contact SureTemp about visit to look at dehumidifier and jail heat. **DAVE**
- 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- DAVE met 3/14/2026**
- Need to install street number – **OPEN ISSUE**
- First floor weatherizing south windows- **OPEN ISSUE- Since did not receive DRI funding, resubmitted in NYS Construction Grant.**
- Stains on interior north wall MOH – **OPEN ISSUE**
- Consider extending concrete walkway from back steps to curb. Also consider a concrete handicapped parking space near back door?

**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
Mondays	Teen D & D Group		5-6:45pm
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am
Wednesdays	Peachtown/Elementary		2 pm
3/20/2026	Dragon Explorers	Rosen	4:30pm
3/25/2026	Graphic Novel Book Club	Rosen	6 pm
3/26/2026	EH Book Giveaway	Rosen	Lunch
4/1/2026	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm
4/1/2026	Johnson Museum Animal Collage		3 pm
4/3/2026	D & D Kids’ Group		4:30 pm
4/11/2026	Grease Movie Night		7:30 pm
4/15/2026	Gardening Workshop	Helming	7 pm
4/28/2026	Johnson Museum Linocut Adult		3 pm
4/29/2026	John Mannion Visit		10-11:30am
5/13/2026	Author Visit Emily Howland	Rosen	TBD

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth