

**AURORA FREE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**APRIL 2026**

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

**HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS**

- **US Congressman John Mannion's** office called and he changed visit to Wed. May 6<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!!
- Wrote **FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant** for \$1,905 to fund 10 sessions of Children's D&D Program and for supplies for King Ferry Food Pantry Take and Makes 4 times a year for 65 families. Was fully-funded.
- Received word that our request for the **Arts Grant** was partially funded. We received \$3,275 (ask was \$4,875). Will need to look at what might be cut or look for other funding.
- State Annual Report is currently due to FLLS on Saturday, April 25 and due from FLLS to the State on Friday, May 1.
- New Chess Club Forming. Dates are Wed. April 29 and May 27 from 5-7 pm.
- **FLLS Focus Groups** for input on FLLS Plan of Service (Does NOT count for Trustee Training):  
**Cayuga County In Person Focus Group:**  
Monday, May 11 Time: Noon-1 pm at Weedsport Library  
**Zoom Focus Groups:**  
Tuesday, May 12 Time: Noon – 1 PM [Register for this online focus group](#)  
Tuesday, May 19 Time: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM [Register for this online focus group](#)

**GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS**

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

- Asked Rosen for \$5,525 for Storytime Train and \$10,405 for Take it on the Road. Received partial funding as follows:  
**Storytime Train 2026-27** (Other Community Foundation Funds Helped Fund our Project)
  - \$2855 from Maralyn W. Fleming Fund
  - \$500 from Noah, Zach and Hannah Feldshuh Fund
  - \$145 from Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund**Take it on the Road and Beyond 2026-27**
  - \$6500 from Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund
- Cortland Free Library received funding for its Dinosaurs Rock Program for 8 FLLS libraries including Aurora. We received \$250 to purchase Dinosaur Books for that event.

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

- Volunteers assembled a Spring Easter Bag for the King Ferry Food Pantry families which included an activity book, racing cars, an erasable writing tablet, a kinetic sand egg and sticker puzzle sheets.
- Kathy continues to host Tween 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.

**Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2025 and 2026:** Up Top in Highlights.

## Rosen Grant Storytime Train 2025-26

- Storytime continues weekly.
- Made our monthly visit to UPK classrooms with Hazard Library on 3/24/2026.

### **PROGRAMMING/PR**

- Carol Hockett from The Johnson Museum came at the end of March and offered an Animal Collage Workshop. She will return next week 4/28/26 for a Linocut Adult Art Workshop.
- We had wooden egg decorating, paper diffusion eggs and Legos out for the Spring Break.
- Elizabeth Snyder came and gave a Spring and Summer Garden Stunners Talk last week with 16 in attendance. I have spoken to her about the library gardens and hope to have her help with the front garden bed especially. We hope to donate some plants to the Plant Sale.
- Working on Summer Reading Program Planning with Kathy. Will share more next month.
- The Great Gatsby Teens (Bard Society group) have been rehearsing a bit and have given us a schedule of their practices. Planning June 22 and 23 shows.
- Spoke with a parent about setting up a Cayuga County Homeschool Meet-Up which will take place 4/22/26. We will see if this might be a regular meet-up or if there are other things we could do to support homeschool families that attend.
- I attended the Summer Reading Meeting at FLLS on April 9<sup>th</sup>. There were several area group presenters including the Sciencenter, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, The Museum of the Earth and Powerhouse. It was a nice time to catch up with other library staff from FLLS libraries. We all received a backpack with binoculars and birds, butterflies and animal track ID trifolds to lend out at our libraries from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- A young patron (age 10) asked if she could host a book club at the library in May. Her mother who has overseen Art programs here will work with her. The meeting is on May 20. We were happy to support and sponsor her effort.
- I am planning to write a FLLS Family Literacy Grant due May 8th for a few museum passes (Museum of the Earth and MOST).
- The Classic Movie Team showed *Grease* this month and will show *The Princess Bride* on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (rescheduled from February).
- The Southern Cayuga Book Club's April meeting discussed *Remarkably Bright Creatures* and will read *Violetta* in May.
- Peachtown and Aurora Preschool continue to visit regularly.
- While Kathy worked on organizing the basement, the Teen D & D group took a break, but has resumed this week.
- UPDATE: A high school student contacted us about doing an Eagle Scout project at the library. After discussing our needs and his for his project, he is exploring other ideas and locations.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for the April Hub Newsletter.
- 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**

- Kathy has organized and rearranged much of the main basement and sorted through the cabinets in the jail. Dave, Ellen, Julie Kabelac, Kathy and I walked through to look at next steps for continuing to straighten up the space last weekend. This will also make room for better book sale sorting. Kathy's husband David also made a wheeled storage cart for many of the items that

have been created for programming. **Thank you David and Kathy for your work and Dave E.** for taking much of the stuff away to be recycled or reused!

- Staying in the loop with Dave and Steve on questions from the NYSED Construction Grant Program that Sarah at FLLS sent us. Steve Moolin returned information needed.
- I attended first meeting of a new committee made up of FLLS Directors to discuss issues with the Polaris card and catalog. The committee will bring suggestions to FALCONS meetings.

### FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Entered our Library and won a \$250 mini-grant from the FLLS Love Your Library Fund. This will be used for a summer performer at the T-Rex Tea Party (Teddy Bears' Picnic) this summer.
- Worked on inputting data and was in touch with Lori about NYS Annual Report for 2025. Completed Report and sent for AFL Board approval.
- Continued to work on Community Survey for Long Range Plan with Dennis and Dave.
- In touch with Dave about Construction Projects and other Preservation/Building Maintenance issues.
- Jennifer Connell has been working on organizing books in basement. We took down most of the books in the hallway, but will have a small sale there since people (especially visitors) appreciate it and we make money through those donations.
- Promoting May Plant Sale on May 9 at 8 am on website and posters from Robin.

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

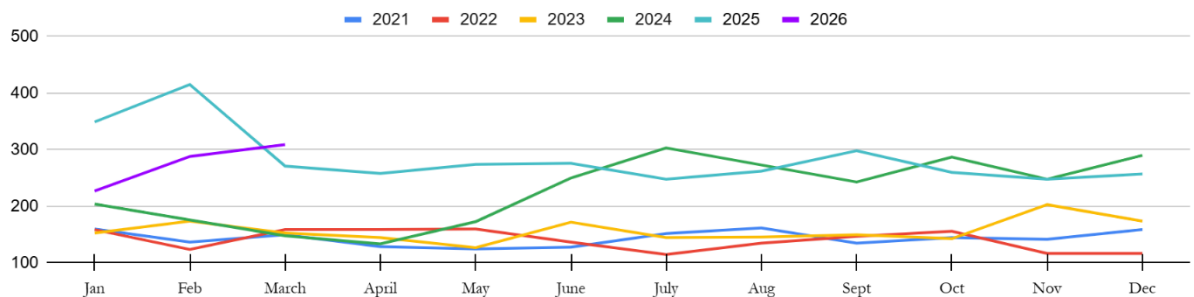
**January 2026** Door Count 245 people (plus 180 at 14 programs)

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

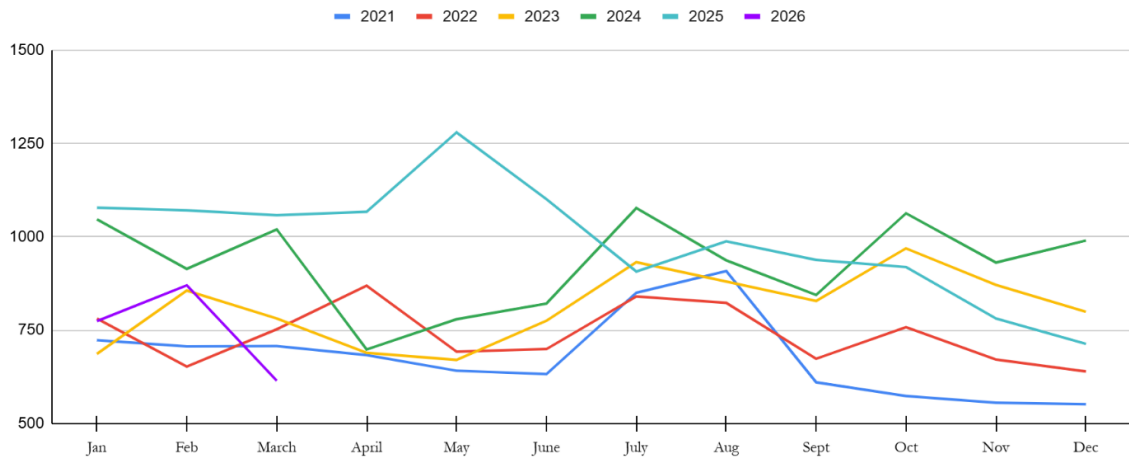
**March 2026** Door Count 446 people (plus 715 at 27 programs)

### CIRCULATION:

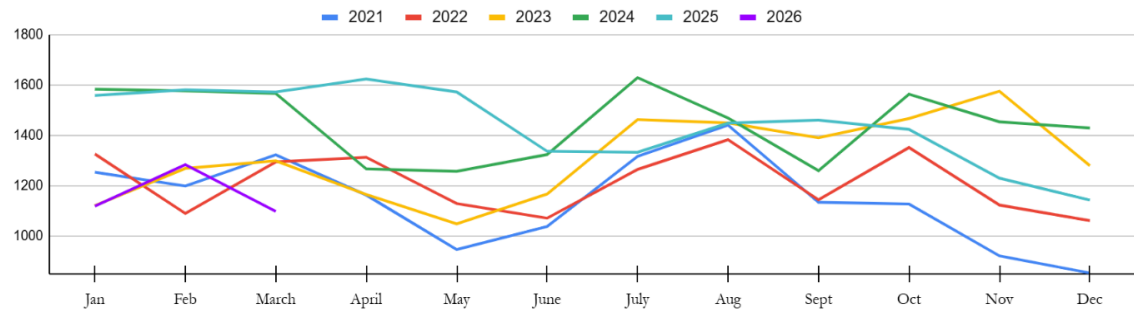
Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



## BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

- Contacted Holbrook Heating to get a price for Furnace/AC Maintenance Contract. This will be split into separate invoices for AFL and MOH. Sent to Ellen and Dave to consider.
- Dave has kept me posted about the front step side wall masonry project.

### 2025 Maintenance/Checks have occurred:

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).

- Consider 'permanent' sign for Lili's puppets
- 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
4/24/2026	Dragon Explorers Book Club	Rosen	4:30 pm
4/28/2026	Linocut Workshop Johnson Museum		3 pm
5/2/2026	The Princess Bride Movie		7:30 pm
5/6/2026	John Mannion Visit		10-11:30am
5/6/2026	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm
5/8/2026	Plant Sale		8 am
5/13/2026	Tween Graphic Novel Book Club	Rosen	6-7 pm
5/14/2026	Author Visit Emily Howland	Rosen	TBD
5/20/2026	Meredith's Book Club		4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth