

Director Report
January 2026

My book of the 2025 year is Strong Ground by Brene Brown - transformative and inspiring
"Individually and collectively, we are all looking for strong ground right now. We need to push into the source of our strength and sturdiness so we can navigate the world. We need the ground to steady us and at the same time to propel us into purposeful action." Brene Brown

Community Building

Justin had a family come in on Saturday, December 13, asking if we had a Christmas tree. The family of four had gone to pick up their tree with a photo shoot included and the tree had already been sold. They were so sad and the father said, let's go to the library! Justin offered to take the photos and they were overjoyed. The photos turned out to be wonderful and in time for the holidays.

Patrons love the Toniebox - one mother said her daughter loved it so much that she will be buying her one for Christmas. I asked if we offered just the tonies to borrow. Would she be interested and she was thrilled. I had another parent ask to borrow just the tonie.

I recently had a staff member come to me and tell me how grateful they are for working at the library and having me for a boss. They wished the job paid more and they had more hours but they love the library and the job.

The Library will be hosting Senator Lea Webb's Community Office Hours event, scheduled for October 13, 2026 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Average Day at the Library -- Friday, December 19 2025

Started out with homeschoolers from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Then at noon, I had a visit from the Tompkins Chamber of Commerce who wanted to look at our great room as they are having an event on Friday, January 30 at 9 a.m. They loved the space and Rob, the vice president, loves our library and all that we do for youth in particular. Submitted an article to the Cortland Standard. Finished putting together paperwork for a Monday meeting. Proofed the minutes and snuck in a small book order. Tonight we have Friday Movie Matinee then the Girl Scouts sleepover. The Girls Scouts arrived in a shower of laughter and joy - what a delight and the adults are thrilled to be able to use GPL. The Library is well loved indeed.

Rules for ED from BoT (to hold me accountable)

1. Time Management
 - a. No overtime or working outside scheduled hours or flex time without approval
 - b. No more being late (only once or twice in a year)
2. Prioritization - be mindful of mission creep, make deadlines and do not become defensive. Give all programming equal attention. Note that I submitted a grant for \$20,000 for the homebound program before year end.
3. Communication - provide timely information to BoT
4. Support the BoT's goals
5. Community Building - I have good connections with many if not most of the churches, many of the businesses including the Groton Community Business Association, and

other nonprofit organizations like the Historical Association. Liz is working on connecting with Center Court but we are limited by how much Center Court wants.

LRP

Library of Things - Sara and Liz have been working on the library's LoTs - we have documentation well on the way. We will not be able to store everything in one place in the library. We have come up with a way to identify LoT items in Polaris. The next step is to add this identifier into the system so people can search for the item.

Staff

Living Wage Commitment - more exciting news to come....

Time Off Requests:

January 15, Thursday - 9:45 to 11 - Sick

January 16, Friday- 3 to 5 - Vacation

Overtime or schedule shift - AI Class on January 24, Saturday - 11 to 1

Schedule shift - January 30, Friday - come in at 8 or 8:30 for Chamber event starting at 9

February 3, Tuesday - 1:30 to 3:30 - Sick

Waiting on

--Sign inside Foyer - Joan Donovan and her husband are repairing (Sue Haynes asked her) - while Joan and Jeremiah were taking down the glass, they noticed how loose the screws so will replace those too.

--Website - Board approved on 10/9/2025 and we are in-process of migrating our website to InMotion. Drew is working on the new website. Will have a draft for you all to review shortly.

Webinars & Sessions & Activities:

Liz - Self-care for burnout, vicarious trauma and moral injury: a conversation with therapist Gabrielle Juliano-Villani on November 20 2025.

Sara - Promoting Youth Social-Emotional Wellbeing via Zoom on Wednesday, December 17 2025.

Programming:

-Read2Grow

-T(w)een Thing

-DnD

-Book Club

-Knitting & Crochet Casual with Megan - starting on January 28.

-Friday Night Matinee for Families

Ideas:

a. Dinosaur Festival in Groton - Rosen and CAP grant funded

Community Use of Facility:

Scouts

Alumni Class of 1976

Home Schooling Classes

Grants

Awarded:

Friends of the TCPL - \$1,200

FLLS Collection - \$2,000

NYS Bullet Aid, Lea Webb - \$3,000

Applied:

Libraries Transforming Communities Grant - long shot - \$20,000

Waiting for approval:

Rosen Grant - Grant cycle will open December 17 and portal will close on January 28 - \$15,000

CAP Grants for Arts Program (GAP) - due February 4 by 9 p.m. - \$5,000

Upcoming:

FLLS OMG Mini Grant - usually due in March - \$3,000

FLLS Literacy Grant - usually due early April - \$1,000

Missed out on:

Women Building Community Grant - \$5,000

Amplify Grant - \$5,000

Board Action Item:

Finance Committee - 990 Due in May 2026

Circulation Statistics: Number of Transactions Comparison:

July 1 2025 to November 30 2025 = 11,449 (Libby - 2,147 Hoopla - 1,169) Total = 14,756

July 1 2024 to November 30 = 13,235 (Libby - 1,806 Hoopla - 936) Total = 15,977

July 1 2023 to November 30 = 12,463 (Libby - 1,682 Hoopla - 464) Total = 14,609

Door Count Comparison:

2025

Total = 22,840

December = 1,633

November = 1,451

October = 2,097

September = 1,579

August = 1,896

July = 1,817

June = 2,017

May = 2,015

April = 2,250

March = 2,296

February = 1,901

January = 1,888

2024

Total = 22,248

December = 1,711

November = 2,023

October = 1,884

September = 1,610

August = 2,118

July = 1,927

June = 2,023

May = 1,691

April = 1,834

March = 1,814

February = 1,735

January = 1,878

“The principles of kindness, integrity, fairness, and perseverance consistently guided my work.

These values ground my commitment to myself, my staff, the library, and our community. My continual aim is to serve with excellence and to the fullest of my ability.” SLK

KEY

FLLS = Finger Lakes Library System
CFTC = Community Foundation of Tompkins County
CAP = Community Arts Partnership
LEAP = Library Elementary Assistance Program
BuLit = Building Literacy
TCPL = Tompkins County Public Library
DnD or D&D = Dungeons and Dragons
KFM = Kids Farmers Market (Food Bank of the
Southern Tier)
TC = Tompkins County
FBST = Food Bank of Southern Tier
BRB = Bright Red Bookshelf
SCRLC = South Central Regional Library Council
SR = Summer Reading
FDN = Friendship Donation Network
LoTs = Library of Things
HSC = Human Service Coalition
LLSA = Local Library Services Aid
FALCON=Finger Lakes Automated Library Consortium