

Director Report
March 2026

On Leadership: "I define a leader as anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes, and who has the courage to develop that potential."

Brene Brown

The Library was selected as one of 14 public libraries across the country to participate in the 2026 Building Community-Based Summers (BCBS) Spring cohort, sponsored by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). This is a huge honor that Liz and I will participate in. We will keep you up-to-date on our progress. We (Liz and I) will be participating in learning sessions in March and April. Side note: TCPL and FLLS each applied last fall but were not selected.

Below are the libraries selected:

Arlington Public Library - Arlington, VA
The Brown Public Library - Northfield, VT
Chesapeake Public Library, Central Branch - Chesapeake, VA
Cholla Library - Phoenix, AZ
Eagle Valley Library District - Gypsum, Eagle County, CO
El Paso Public Libraries - El Paso, TX
Flagstaff City-Coconino County Library - Flagstaff, AZ
Groton Public Library - Groton, NY
Kalamazoo Public Library - Kalamazoo, MI
Leavenworth Public Library - Leavenworth, KS
Shuter Library - Angel Fire, NM
Smyrna Public Library - Smyrna, TN
Warren-Trumbull County Public Library - Warren, OH
Washington County Public Library - Jonesborough, TN

Lovely Donation of The Nut House - an award winning and unique piece of art from Pam Kavalesky
Liz and I are already planning fun games utilizing this lovely piece. It currently is in front of the east fireplace.

Time Off Requests:

Vacation:

April 24, Friday

May 14, 15, 18 - Thursday, Friday, Monday

June 26, Friday

July 10, 13, 14 - Friday, Monday, Tuesday

August 28, Friday

Sick - March 19, Thursday 3:15 - I won't be back

Grant Applications Update

Both Rosen applications were reviewed by our committee and approved without changes, just a few questions about the budgets (gave myself a pat on the back). CAP grant application was submitted. I received the call from the review committee and they are recommending full funding for both grants.

Other Information

-I had a phone conversation with the Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition about our digital accessibility.
-FLLS Overdrive meeting via zoom on 2/23/2026 - this is a meeting for Overdrive selectors
-Tompkins County Library Directors meeting in Trumansburg on 2/27/26 - main discussion was common circulation policy and united front when we attend FLLS's long range plan meeting in March.

Community Building

CFTC Community Engagement Committee meeting on 2/11/2026
Interview with Cortland Standard on 2/18/2026 that appeared on the front page.
I met with Emerson DeMeester-Lane, the new director of TCPL on 2/24/26 at our library.. Super nice person.
Liz went to Cabin Fever - I believe this is her third time. Well received and great success.

LRP* Update

Documentation is ready for review.. 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.
*Ryan and Liz are creating a record set to enter each item in the LoTs then we will update the series field to have the designation of Library of Things. That way patrons can easily search for our LoTs items.

Staff

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

B & G

I spoke with Jesse Norton a couple of weeks ago and he will get back to me about a quick fix for the end of the entrance railing along with cost.

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:

Sara
2/10/2026 - E-Accessibility, WCAG 2.1, Title II, and Your Library (in NY)
3/2/2026 - ICE Operations and Public Libraries
3/5/26 - Meetings with Finance committee and Personnel committee
3/5/2026 - Working Group of Law Enforcement met via zoom

Programming:

-AI Classes on the fourth Saturday of each month
-Blind Date with a Book during the month of February and half of March along with a Tea Party on 2/28/2026
-Read2Grow
-T(w)een Thing
-DnD
-Book Club

-Knitting & Crochet Casual with Megan - starting on January 28.
-Friday Night Matinee for Families
-Story Time
-Legos Night

Ideas:

- a. Dinosaur Festival in Groton - Rosen and CAP grant funded
- b. Giveaway books at the bank's hotdog roast
- c. Summer Story Time at the Park

Community Use of Facility:

Keith Davenport with Youth Commission
Scouts
Alumni Class of 1976
Home Schooling Classes
Holiday Festival Planning with Karen Lane

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
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

Waiting for approval:

Upcoming:

FLLS OMG Mini Grant - usually due in March - \$3,000
FLLS Literacy Grant - usually due early April - \$1,000

Possible:

NY Forward Small Grant through the Village

Missed out on:

Women Building Community Grant - \$5,000
Amplify Grant - \$5,000

Board Action Item:

Finance Committee - 990 Due in May 2026

In 2025, we hosted 503 events with 8,634 attendees/participants - WOW

Circulation Statistics: Number of Transactions Comparison:

July 1 2025 to February 28 2026 = 15,128 (Libby - 3,029 - Hoopla - 1,632) Total = 19,789
July 1 2024 to February 28 2025 = 17,103 (Libby - 2,416 - Hoopla - 1,314) Total = 20,833
July 1 2023 to February 29 2024 = 16,929 (Libby - 2,319 - Hoopla - 656) Total = 19,904

Door Count Comparison:

2026	2025	2024
Total =	Total = 22,840	Total = 22,248
December =	December = 1,633	December = 1,711
November =	November = 1,451	November = 2,023
October =	October = 2,097	October = 1,884
September =	September = 1,579	September = 1,610
August =	August = 1,896	August = 2,118
July =	July = 1,817	July = 1,927
June =	June = 2,017	June = 2,023
May =	May = 2,015	May = 1,691
April =	April = 2,250	April = 1,834
March =	March = 2,296	March = 1,814
February = 1,562	February = 1,901	February = 1,735
January = 1,564	January = 1,888	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

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.

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