

Director Report
August 2026

"Grace is the voice that calls us to change and gives us the power to pull it off."
Max Lucado

Time Off Requests:

Approved:

August 27, Thursday & August 28, Friday - plans changed, I will work

Needs Approval:

I will need to work extra hours during the book sale. So far, it is: both Saturdays I will need to open and close. Sunday I will need to open and close and also work the shift. Also I will need to work at the Finale on Saturday, August 22. Will swap Saturday for Monday. I am sure there will be other times that I will be needed - I will fill in where needed **if okay with the board?**

New Program Alert - We will be starting Tech Tuesdays shortly. Tech Tuesday - Aidan and Ryan will be on-board for this new program. Aidan from 3 to 5 and Ryan from 5 to 7. We will welcome walk-ins or phone calls about tech assistance. If the person needs more time, they can schedule an appointment.

Summer Update - Dino Days was a great success. Better than anticipated with close to 180 people attending. The staff did an outstanding job. Dan the Snake Man was once again the favorite.

ALA LTC - we will host one community cafe on Thursday, August 20. We will ask people for their input on how the library can help when you cannot physically come to the library. We will provide pizza and salads along with raffle prizes. There will be an option to join via zoom or a personal conversation with Sara or Liz. Then in September we will start more planning for implementation of the program.

I am working on the Fall Civic Sessions with the following presenters: Lee Price for the Federal government, Anna Kelles for the State government, and Lee Shurtleff for County government. Hoping to get these all scheduled before the midterms.

Basement Update - Liz is tackling this project. She is developing a plan with me and should be starting this fall.

Website Update - I have asked Drew and Ryan to have the new website live by mid or end of September.

The other day, a staff member said they thought we did a lot of adult programming as compared to youth programming. This gave me thought. The majority of our adult programming is one time with a few repeating like the book club or knitting/crochet. All are low cost and low maintenance to the library. The adult programming is often just a matter of

scheduling the space and the instructor/author/presenter does the rest. Youth programming takes much more time in planning and running and is labor intensive and costly (paid by grants). Both are very successful but totally different.

Day to Day Highlights for the Month:

- We will be receiving \$1,320.55 from KDT (Kids Discover the Trail) for running the program and having the kindergarten classes visit the Library. We had 49 kindergarteners come.
- We are now on the Tompkins Pollinator Pathway, Planting Natives and Connecting Habitats - look for upcoming programming
- The past week, July 13-17, I was due to be off on Monday and Tuesday but ended up working half days so Liz and Anita could enjoy their vacations. It was a busy week and the remaining staff stepped up and filled in.
- Monday (7/13) was an all day upgrade of Polaris so Justin had to do all the front desk jobs by hand.
- Tuesday (7/14) and Wednesday (7/15), we hosted our second week of Free Tai Chi classes with Vince. We had a good turnout even with the bad air quality.
- Wednesday (7/15), I had an in-person interview with Bridget from Sustainable Finger Lakes (formerly Tompkins). In the past, we have received several mini grants from them.
- Wednesday (7/15), we had our second week of summer camp visits. Going really well and next week, we will register all of them for summer reading.
- Thursday (7/16), we had the ever popular Tom Knight, puppeteer with over 35 attendees.
- Friday (7/17), we hosted our Family Movie Night with Onward, PG. These are starting to take off and get a regular following.
- Saturday (7/18), the Groton Class of 1976 with Kelly Smith used out great room after hours.
- Healthy Tuesdays Food Giveaway was a bit chaotic. We have a double delivery and a second delivery in the afternoon plus the remainder of the Kids Farmers Market. We had 55 families during the regular food giveaway and an additional 62 families for the remainder. We have 346 people come into the library during the whole day. This is a record for us. Ryan and I handled the afternoon portion as Liz was with the Ukulele Camp. Ryan and I did an outstanding job - Kudos to us!
- Spent much of Thursday and Friday working on PTO for staff. Met with Nancy and Sophia for the Finance Committee followed by an online meet with Follett (with Pat). Then worked on the book sale schedule and marketing.
- Working on the Fall Civics Classes with Lee Shurtlett for County, Anna Kelles for State, and Lee Price for Federal.
- Reading the ALA books and planning our upcoming Homebound program (needs a new name).
- Healthy Tuesday (7/28/26) went much more smoothly. I posted photos of the extra food after the giveaway was done with clear instructions to check in at the desk and that there would be food limits. Went quite well. We had 34 families for the regular giveaway, compared to 50 families last week and 27 families afterwards, compared to 62 families last week afterwards.

- The week of 8/3 to 8/8 - Justin is on vacation. So staffing is a bit light - Monday is just Liz and I till 5 when Nikki comes in to cover for Justin.
- Worked with Liz on the ALA LTC Homebound program
- Ryan did an outstanding job on all the posters for the summer and beyond.

Circulation Statistics: Number of Transactions:

July 2026 = 2419 (Libby - 395 Hoopla - 202) Total = 3,016

July 2025 = 2,245 (Libby - 341 Hoopla - 197) Total = 2,783

Door Count for July 2026 = 2,165 (July 2025 = 1,817)

“The principles of kindness, integrity, fairness, and perseverance consistently guide 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

Grants:

Awarded in 2026:

1. FLLS Collection - \$2,000
2. Libraries Transforming Communities Grant - long shot - \$10,000
3. Rosen Tween Thing - \$12,984
4. Rosen SR Dino - \$2,744
5. CAP Grants for Arts Program (GAP) - \$4,000
6. CFTC ERCT for \$4,250 unrestricted
7. FLLS Literacy for \$499
8. NYS Bullet Aid, Anna Kelles - \$22,000

Total = \$58,477 (15.5% of budget)

Applied: None

Waiting for approval: None

Upcoming: ~~NY Forward Small Grant through the Village~~

Missed out on in 2025 & 2026:

Women Building Community Grant - \$5,000

Amplify Grant - \$5,000

ALA LTC - \$20,000

FoL TCPL - \$1,200

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

Library Director's weekly work hours approved by the Library's Board of Trustees:

Monday - 10 to 6:30

Tuesday to Friday - 9 to 5:30

Saturday - no hours

Sunday - no hours

All changes to this schedule must be priorly approved in-person by a Board Quorum. As well, incidental and/or one-time changes to working hours on a specific date must be pre-approved via email by the Board President and Vice President. 5/14/26