

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**January 2026**

The year is off to a positive and productive start, with strategic planning underway for spring programming, National Library Week, and America 250 initiatives.

I worked on getting Molly Camera and Briana Moore settled in at the library, working with Esther Schwartz on the audit, and streamlining some IT and HR processes with staff. The Broadway Week, I instigated, happened the week of January 26th. It was great to see local and NYC theater be celebrated.

The new seating area in the CRC has a name! We are now calling it the Community Nook, and it has been in frequent use by patrons.

### **Personnel**

Access Services hired Matthew O'Connor as our new clerk and Ben Barish as our new page. We welcome them!

Staff collaboration and professional engagement were highlighted this month.

Department heads and administrative staff worked together to complete the Annual Report in a focused, full-day working session, improving efficiency and cross-departmental alignment. Regular programming meetings have been implemented to strengthen communication, streamline workflows, and improve coordination among staff and community partners.

Professional development and regional engagement included:

- Participation in RCLS Mock Printz Award discussions.
- Attendance at the PIC audiovisual training.
- Participation in SENYLRC and LARC professional meetings.
- Initial participation in Rotary meetings to strengthen the library's community presence.
- Ongoing America 250 planning meetings across departments.

Technical Services experienced a significant increase in material intake, including a large 179-title order, requiring concentrated cataloging and processing time. Staff collaboration helped manage the volume efficiently.

Volunteer engagement continued in Local History, where volunteers are assisting with the review and curation of Garden Club of Nyack materials for potential acquisition.

### **Outreach & Programming**

January programming reflected strong engagement across Youth, Teen, and Adult Services, with a combined total of:

- 67 programs

- Over 1,000 total attendees
- 175 room reservations supporting community use

### *Youth Services*

Youth Services hosted 29 programs with total attendance of 548 children and caregivers, in addition to 50 scavenger hunt participants and 100 Take & Make kits distributed.

Highlights included:

- Toddler Time, Mother Goose Time, LEGO Club, READ Dogs
- Sewing Club and Dungeons & Dragons Jr.
- Musical guests (Music Together and Bach to Rock)
- A Broadway Week Theater Workshop
- K-Pop themed cultural craft program
- Head Start visits
- Second annual Pen Pal program
- Continued collaboration with Homebody Books to plan spring author visits

Youth staff also participated in early planning for America 250 programming and celebrated the ALA Youth Media Awards.

### *Teen Services*

The Teen Room hosted 8 programs serving 45 teens and 8 adults. Programs included movies, tabletop games, anime screenings, craft workshops, and Wingspan. Collection development focused on adding award-winning and high-interest titles, particularly those connected to the Printz Award. Strategic weeding of nonfiction, biography, manga, and fiction collections will begin to create space for new materials.

### *Adult Services*

Adult Services hosted 30 programs with 446 attendees. Offerings included arts programming, yoga, Broadway Week events, exhibit talks, and community discussions.

Spring planning is underway and includes:

- Expanded arts programming
- Pilates and wellness programs
- A library-wide passive engagement activity
- A proposed all-ages bookmark contest for National Library Week

Outreach efforts have generated strong responses and promising opportunities for deeper engagement in the months ahead.

### *Local History*

Local History responded to 27 research inquiries and added 28 new photographs to the digital collection. Staff are actively planning inclusive and locally relevant programming under the America 250 theme, “Our American Story.”

### **Collections**

- Adult 000–099 nonfiction was fully weeded to improve shelving capacity and relevance.
- Teen weeding projects are scheduled to begin.
- HomeBoost energy kits were fully cataloged and made available for checkout, with additional kits arriving in February.
- Planning continued with the Friends regarding the Book Nook layout.

### **Facilities**

We are having some temperature consistency and control issues in various parts of the building. We have bid out to various HVAC companies to assist with the issues and are working toward a continuous resolution.