

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2026

Despite several weather-related closures in February, the library continued to strengthen collections, expand community engagement, and prepare for upcoming seasonal initiatives, including National Library Week and early planning for America 250 programming.

I worked with Tom Koziak from the Rockland County Police & Public Safety Academy to set up requested staff trainings on active-shooter preparedness. His training was well-received, and he will be back in the spring to do more in-depth training.

I also worked with the administrative staff on various health care and personnel issues, renewals, and plans for National Library Week in April.

Carlos Rosario and Kristine Kumpf attended Advocacy Day in Albany on behalf of the Library, for which we thank them for their efforts and time!

Collections

During February, the library continued to receive significant shipments of new materials for both the adult and youth collections. Improvements in vendor processing have helped streamline cataloging and preparation, allowing staff to move new materials into circulation more efficiently.

Staff also continued ongoing weeding and collection management efforts to ensure the collection remains current and responsive to community interests. Clearing withdrawn materials through Better World Books has allowed us to reclaim space and continue this work.

In digital and technology-related resources, the library launched the HomeBoost Kits, which provide patrons with tools to monitor and improve home energy use. Early feedback from the community has been positive, and a press release and promotional video in partnership with Orange & Rockland is expected in March.

Local History services also remain active, with continued additions to the digital photo collection and regular research assistance for patrons. A themed display highlighting the upcoming America 250 commemoration was installed in the Carnegie-Farian Room.

Technology improvements this month included resolving issues with the teen self-check station and upgrading staff equipment with new laptops to support daily operations and service delivery.

Outreach and Programming

Adult programming remained strong, with a range of cultural, educational, and wellness programs offered throughout the month. The Carnegie Concert Series, open mic events, wellness classes, and community partnerships such as AARP TaxAide continue to attract steady participation and support the library's role as a community gathering space.

Preparations are underway for National Library Week, which will include interactive community activities such as a bookmark design contest and a collaborative book cover tournament with a neighboring library. Planning for summer programming and initiatives connected to the national America 250 commemoration is also underway.

Youth Services maintained a full schedule of early literacy, educational, and recreational programming for children and families. Programs such as Toddler Time, LEGO Builders, STEAM Saturdays, and Sewing Club continue to provide opportunities for learning and creativity. Special winter break programs, including science presentations and an author visit, were well-received by families.

Staff also continued outreach efforts beyond the building, including participation in the Nyack High School Multicultural Festival. These opportunities help strengthen connections with local schools, families, and community organizations.

Displays throughout the building reflected seasonal themes and cultural observances, including Black History Month, highlighting relevant materials within the collection.

Personnel

The Access Services department welcomed a new page, and the Library is happy to have them.

Staff across departments participated in Active Shooter Training tailored to library environments, supporting our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and prepared workplace.

Recruitment efforts continued with interviews conducted for a Part-Time Adult Services Librarian position. Administrative staff also addressed a range of personnel matters and operational needs throughout the month.

Professional development remained an important focus, with staff participating in webinars and training sessions covering leadership development, inclusive programming, digital resource management, and catalog tools.

Finally, staff have begun exploring options to improve internal communication and workflow coordination across departments. Strengthening these systems will help ensure efficient operations and support collaboration as we move into a busy spring programming season.