

VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board, I would like extend our gratitude to the Community for their continued interest and support, thereby, making the Valley Cottage Library the premier establishment it has become.

The Library, with its dedicated Staff, is committed to assist patrons with their ordinary daily routines and problem solving.

As Trustees, we are provided the opportunity to help ensure that the primary role of the Library continues to serve the public as a portal to all of the world's knowledge and records.

As we look forward to another successful year, I would like to thank the entire Board of Trustees and Staff for their dedication to enhance the continued success of the Library as a truly indispensable institution of knowledge.

Frank M. Dwyer

President

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Valley Cottage Library – your library - is thriving!

In 2024, the library completed the final steps of the 2023 flood recovery and in achieving goals outlined in our strategic plan. By year's end the most visible change was the installation of our new Reference Desk. This important service point, which was damaged during the flood, was redesigned with staff input and enhances our ability to meet the current needs of users. The new location is also a preview of more exciting things to come in 2025 including the construction of an expanded Teen Space and three individual quiet study rooms designed for online meetings. Towards this project, \$109,061 was secured through the NYS Construction Aid application process.

Adding to our already impressive slate of community programming and events, in 2024 the library debuted a Repair Café and partnered with the Nyack Library to present a BIPOC community business spotlight weekend. The For Future Reference internship program graduated its second cohort of students who spent 10 weeks learning about libraries and library service careers. And in further collaboration, for the first time ever, we marched alongside our Nyack Library colleagues in the Pride parade.

The library was a hot spot in April for the near total solar eclipse. Through a federal program the library was able to receive and distribute 1,000 pairs of solar eclipse glasses. Our phones never stopped ringing that week! And speaking of hotspots, significant improvements were made to the wifi infrastructure in the library through increasing the number of access points in the building and introducing a fiber optic connection.

These changes and more are all part of the library's responsive adaptations to the changing needs of our community.

Thank you for your support. We hope to see you in the library soon!

Christy Blanchette

Director

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

From our modest beginning in 1959 in a one room storefront on Old Lake Road to our present home nestled among a few acres of wood and lovely gardens on Route 303, Valley Cottage Library has continued to grow as a vital and important community resource. As an Association library, we are a not-for-profit educational corporation supported by the public and administered by a seven-member executive board of trustees. Any Valley Cottage resident, 18 years or older and a registered voter is a member of the Association.

Association membership gives you the ability to play an active role in the continuing development of this important neighborhood institution. Members attend the annual meeting each January and are eligible to run for any open trustee positions on the board and to vote on the operating budget prepared by the board.

The Annual Meeting of the Association meets on the third Wednesday of January at 7:30pm. **Board meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. The interest and attendance of our community is welcome.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Frank Dwyer, President

Marjorie McLoughlin, Vice-President

Michael Mark, Treasurer

Melissa L. Roy, Secretary

Mary Fiore, Trustee

Arlette Mooney, Trustee

Jemar Ward, Trustee



VISION STATEMENT

Valley Cottage Library inspires learning, creates possibilities, and grows our community.



MISSION STATEMENT

Valley Cottage Library provides a welcoming, inclusive and sustainable environment in which materials and services support and enhance the diverse needs and interests of the community.



OUR STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Library Director: Christy Blanchette
Assistant Director: Ashley Maraffino
Bookkeeper: Tara Soprano

ADULT SERVICES

Head of Adult Services: Sean Antonucci
Adult Services Librarian: Megan Stover
Adult Services Librarian: Analisa Caso
Adrienne, Emily, Holly, Kat, Mary

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Head of Children's Services: Carida Ridoré
Children's Services Librarian: Jennifer Gage
Elizabeth, Jennifer, Meredith, Morgan

TEEN SERVICES

Head of Teen Services: Katrina Hohlfeld
Pages: Blake, Emily, Isabel, Veronica

CIRCULATION SERVICES

Head of Circulation Services: Mia Clowes
Tamera, Diana, Georgette, Louise, Rick Ryan, Sandy, Shelley, Yvette

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Head of Technical Services: Katie Karkheck
Diana, Kathy, Regina

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Program and Exhibits Manager: Caroline Siecke-Pape

FACILITIES

Facilities Manager: Tom Protus, Jr.



BY THE NUMBERS

LIBRARY DETAILS	
62	Hours per week
4,680	Active Cardholders
103,016	Library Visits
14,696	Reference Questions Answered
8,018	Public Internet Use (not including wireless)
35,614	Wireless Sessions
44,218	Interlibrary Loan Transactions
100,470	Total Physical Items Circulated
24,106	Total Electronic Items Circulated
MATERIALS OWNED	
89,615	Adult, Children & Teen Books
17,432	Audio Visual Materials
86	Magazine & Newspaper Subscriptions (print)
72,926	Downloadable Books (Adult, Children & Teen)
32,089	Downloadable Audio & Video (Adult, Children & Teen)
PROGRAMS	
373/5,977	Adult Programs/Attendance
334/5,623	Children and Teen Programs/Attendance
9,132	Children's Passive Programming Scavenger Hunt and Take & Make
HOMEBOUND SERVICE	
13	Deliveries of Materials to Residents
EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS	
143/2,160	Sessions/Attendance
ADULT DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS	
68	One-on-one Sessions

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- For Future Reference internship second cohort graduates
- Sustainable Libraries Initiative progress
- Awarded a Next-Trex bench after collecting more than 1,000 pounds of plastic
- New Reference Desk
- Improved Wi-Fi Access
- Migration to a new Integrated Library System (ILS)
- Parking lot repairs and preservation work, bioswale revitalization, and building waterproofing work

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Nyack & Valley Cottage Libraries Community Spotlight: BIPOC Businesses
- Valley Cottage Community Cleanup
- Repair Café
- Summer Reading Programs for all ages
- Children's Clothing Swap
- Art and Craft Supply Swap
- Banned Books Trading Card Project and Art Reception
- Holiday Craft Fair



Children's Clothing Swap



For Future Reference
2024 Graduation



Nyack & Valley Cottage Libraries
Community Spotlight: BIPOC Businesses



Banned Books Trading Cards Project Art Exhibit

2024'S MOST BORROWED BOOKS

ADULT BOOKS



TEEN BOOKS



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

