

VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY



2023 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



FROM THE DIRECTOR

There is so much to be proud of at the Valley Cottage Library. While the preceding year was not easy for anyone working at the Valley Cottage Library, the challenges were met with dedication, kindness, and determination to continue our mission to deliver high-quality library services but to also push ourselves and each other to excel and elevate our services.

In February 2023 a flood caused by a broken sprinkler pipe damaged nearly 5,000 sf of usable adult collection and seating space. Within days of the event, over 30,000 library materials had to be moved and stored to access and remove the wet carpet. For months various contractors from many trades were in the library addressing the damage to the sprinkler system, electrical system, carpet, walls, lighting and shelving. For over five months there was never a day without a decision, disruption or distraction. This catastrophic event coincided with a complete roof replacement and the accompanying noise and disruption to building access, programs, and quiet.

Fall of 2023 saw the implementation of the *For Future Reference* internship program which was an initiative under development for nearly two years. This program sought to introduce a career in libraries to upper-level high school students who may be traditionally underrepresented in libraries. Working under the guidance of the Diversity committee, our staff developed a 10-week program whereby students learned foundations of library careers, shadowed each of the library departments and produced a capstone project. Everyone who had contact with the students, or the program agreed that the program was not only successful but had meaning and value for both the students and the mentors. The Valley Cottage Library is proud to be the first library in our region to offer this type of opportunity for students.

The Valley Cottage Library staff are proof that with the right people with the right mindset, wonderful things are possible (even during a flood recovery!). While closing the doors or maintaining the status quo could have been a reasonable choice during this time, the Valley Cottage staff aspired to greater service and imaginative thinking to overcome and elevate in a year that impacted us all.

The Valley Cottage Library Association is served by a seven-member Board of Trustees who have shown through my two years of tenure to not only be dedicated with their time but are invested in tackling the challenges head on to protect and strengthen our library today and for all the days ahead. The success of our library lies in the oversight and counsel given by board members in 2023.

2023 changed us, and we are all the stronger for having risen to every challenge.

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 for 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.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Frank Dwyer, President

Marjorie McLoughlin, Vice-President

Michael Mark, Treasurer

Melissa L. Roy, Secretary

Mary Fiore, Trustee

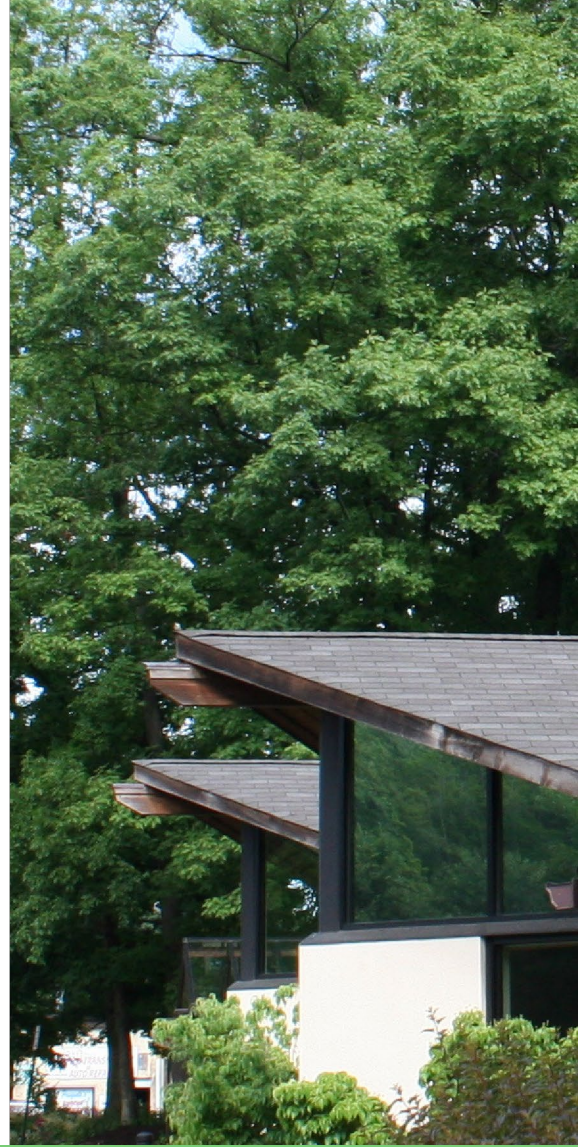
Herbert Lerner, Trustee

Arlette Mooney, 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.



BY THE NUMBERS

LIBRARY DETAILS	
62	Hours per week
4,820	Active Cardholders
100,728	Library visits
15,549	Reference questions answered
7,492	Public internet users (not including wireless)
45,958	Interlibrary loan transactions
97,026	Total physical items circulated
19,843	Total electronic items circulated
MATERIALS OWNED	
87,810	Adult, Children, & Teen books
19,890	Audio Visual materials
87	Magazine subscriptions (print)
71,644	Downloadable books (Adult, Children, & Teen)
34,825	Downloadable audio & video (Adult, Children, & Teen)
PROGRAMS	
324/4,978	Adult programs/Attendance
372/13,744	Children & Teen programs/Attendance
9,560	Children's passive programming Scavenger Hunt & Take and Make
HOMEBOUND SERVICE	
59	Deliveries of materials to residents
EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS	
132/2,103	Sessions and attendance
ADULT DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS	
77	One-on-one sessions

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *For Future Reference* internship
- Strategic Plan 2024-2027
- Complete roof replacement
- Sustainable Libraries Initiative progress
- Flood recovery included improved lighting, end panels, and signage

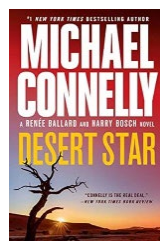
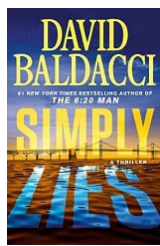
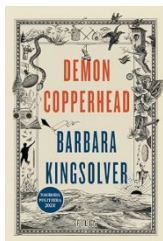
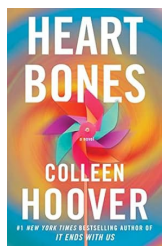
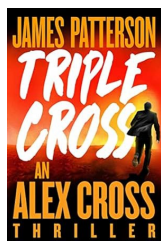
COMMUNITY EVENTS

- I Have a Dream Day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Valley Cottage Community Cleanup
- Summer Reading Programs for all ages
- Children's Clothing Swap
- Inaugural Banned Books Read-a-Thon and Trading Card Reception
- Holiday Craft Fair

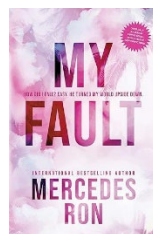
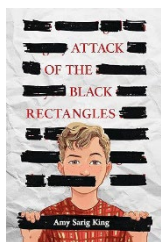


2023'S MOST BORROWED BOOKS

ADULT BOOKS



TEEN BOOKS



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

