

# VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY

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**2025 ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE COMMUNITY**



## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

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

The Trustees and Staff are committed to maintaining an expansive range of materials to accommodate the diverse interests, academic pursuits and learning styles of all patrons.

This dedication ensures the Library's primary role continues in serving the public furthering an informed, connected and resilient community.

As we look forward to another successful year, I would like to thank the entire Board of Trustees and Staff for their dedication to our community.

**Frank M. Dwyer**

President

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The patience and hard work of the last few years culminated in 2025 with the expansion of the Teen Room and the installation of three small individual study rooms. Staff showed once again their resilience in working in difficult and changing conditions during the construction. Our study rooms proved to be an instant success and the Teen Room opened with much excitement just in time for the busy summer reading season.

Staff also were busy seeking new ways to connect with our patrons, and within our community. Jennifer Gage shined with the newly debuted Sunhat Storytimes for children at the Valley Cottage Hamlet Green; That new offering joins our existing On the Trail walking book club for adults at Congers Lake. Carida Ridoré, Head of Children's Services, along with Nyack Library's Director Tracy Dunstan presented a poster session about the successful Nyack and Valley Cottage Libraries Community Spotlight: BIPOC Businesses event weekend at the American Library Association conference in Philadelphia, PA; This program was also honored by being selected for the RCLS Adult Program of the Year award. Katrina Hohlfeld, Head of Teen Services, led a session at the annual Fall into Books conference. Jennifer Kenny submitted a successful STEM grant to Orange & Rockland to begin a Tiny Engineers club at the library. These spotlights are but a few examples of how the entire staff shined throughout 2025 and gave their hearts to the community.

On a beautiful October Sunday, a newly installed bench was dedicated to Tom Protus Sr. who passed in 2023 after dedicating more than 50 years to watching over the Valley Cottage Library. This bench, and its twin, were the result of the efforts of the library's Sustainability Committee collection and recycling of more than 2,000 pounds of plastic.

The look back on the year is gratifying to remark on how much gets accomplished with the convergence of dedicated staff, a devoted board, and a supportive community. Thank you for the opportunity to stand at the center of these constituencies along with our dedicated Assistant Director, Ashley Maraffino. Together it is our privilege to serve the Valley Cottage Library.

**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, the Valley Cottage Library 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**

**Arlette Mooney, Treasurer**

**Mary Fiore, Secretary**

**Michael Mark, Trustee**

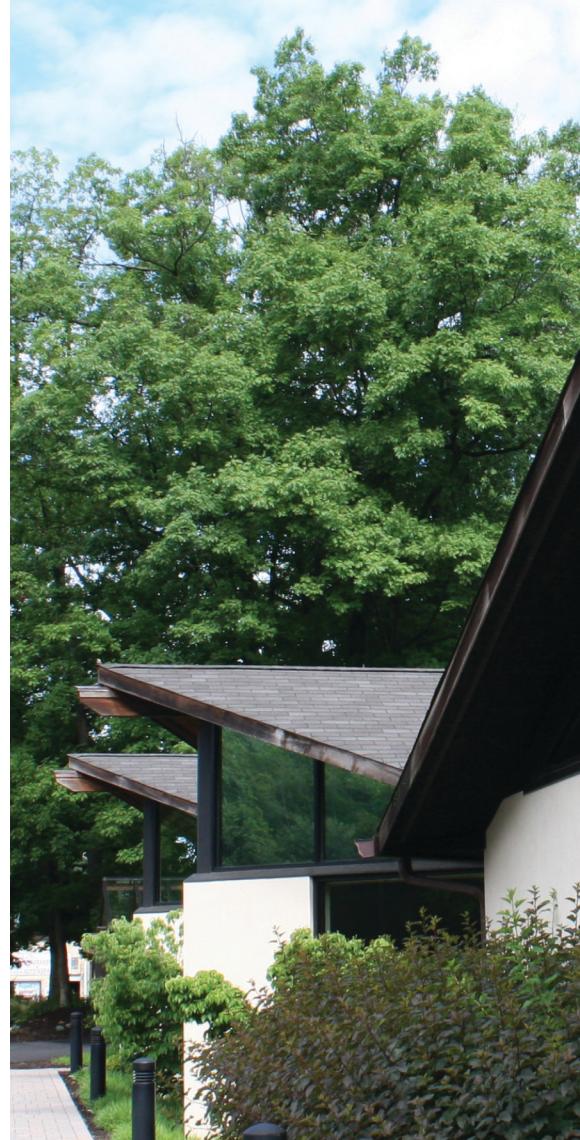
**Melissa L. Roy, Trustee**

**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: Katie Karkheck  
Adult Services Librarian: Megan Stover  
Adult Services Librarian: Analisa Caso  
Emily, Holly, Kat, Mary, Tara

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

## TEEN SERVICES

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

## CIRCULATION SERVICES

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

## TECHNICAL SERVICES

Head of Technical Services: Diana Mendoza  
Kathy

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Program and Exhibits Manager: Caroline Siecke-Pape

## FACILITIES

Facilities Manager: Tom Protus, Jr.  
Custodian: Carlos Garcia



# BY THE NUMBERS

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## LIBRARY DETAILS

**62**  
hours per week

**13,917**  
reference questions answered

**103,536**  
library visits

**4,680**  
active cardholders

**8,881**  
wireless internet sessions

**44,542**  
interlibrary loan transactions

**23,983**  
total electronic items circulated

**97,486**  
total physical items circulated

## MATERIALS OWNED

**86,175**  
adult, children, and teen books

**16,930**  
audio visual materials

**34,351**  
downloadable audio & video  
(adult, children's & teen)

**89**  
magazine &  
newspaper  
subscriptions  
(print)

**73,971**  
downloadable books  
(adult, children's & teen)

## PROGRAMS

**359/5,901**  
adult programs/attendance

**346/5,724**  
children & teen programs/attendance

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- ◆ For Future Reference internship third cohort graduates
- ◆ Sustainable Libraries Initiative progress
- ◆ Awarded a second Next-Trex bench after collecting more than 1,000 pounds of plastic
- ◆ New Expanded and enclosed Teen space
- ◆ Three new study rooms

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

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- ◆ Houseplant cutting swap
- ◆ Second annual Nyack & Valley Cottage Libraries Community Spotlight: BIPOC Businesses
- ◆ Valley Cottage Community Cleanup
- ◆ Summer Reading Programs for all ages
- ◆ Children's Clothing Swap
- ◆ Art and Craft Supply Swap
- ◆ Third annual Banned Books Trading Card Project and Art Reception
- ◆ Holiday Craft Fair

# GRANTS & AWARDS

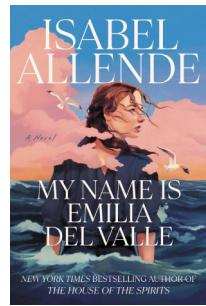
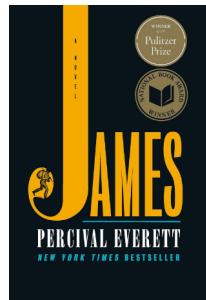
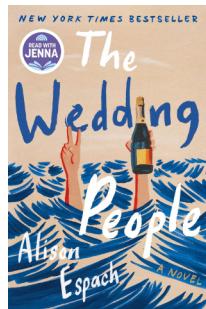
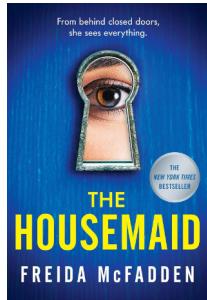
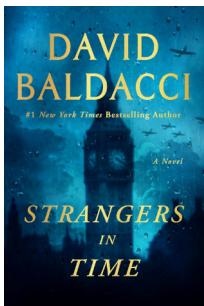
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- ◆ \$114,811 in NYS Construction Aid
- ◆ O&R S.T.E.M Grant
- ◆ Staff Poster Session at ALA Convention for Community Spotlight: BIPOC Businesses

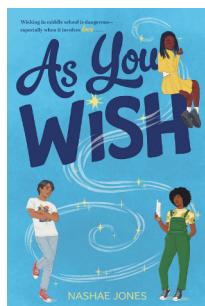
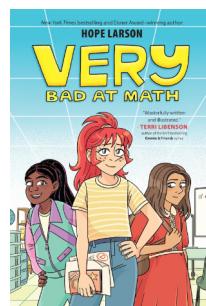
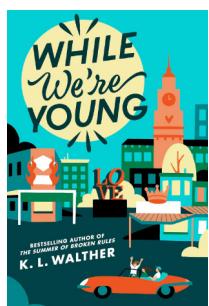


# MOST BORROWED BOOKS OF 2025

## ADULT BOOKS



## TEEN BOOKS



## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

