

Director's Report

News/Updates & Issues

- **SALS INFO:**
 - SALS continues to update their website. If you haven't taken a look at it in a while, please do!
- **Summer Reading Challenge:** This past summer, Bancroft offered two kinds of summer reading challenges. One was "Read Across America" where participants had to read books featuring, or set in, different states. The point was to read books that moved you "across the states" from either north to south or east to west (or vice versa). The other challenge was specifically for 5th – 8th graders to read at least five books. This challenge came at the request of Salem Central School. We had 12 participants and six kids completed the challenge, earning themselves a \$10 Stewart's Gift Card, courtesy of the Friends.
- **Tabling at the Back to School Bash:** Melissa tabled at the Back to School Bash at the Historic Salem Courthouse Community Center on September 2nd. It was a busy event, and a good way to get out in the community.
- **Block Print Class:** Heather Bellanca led a great block print class, which was open to 10 participants. We plan to hold another one possibly in November.
- **Bears of NY Program:** The Town of Salem asked us earlier this summer to provide information on bears to community members. Papers have been available at the library, and there was a screening of the DEC Black Bears video. It was well attended!
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - **Melissa to meet with Jim Letts and Nicco Eneidi of SAW:** Melissa has been talking to Cornell Cooperative Ext. (Wash Co.) about holding several programs at the library. Two of those programs are best-suited for an outdoor space, and SAW would be ideal.
- **Book Donation Bin Being Used** – The book bin has been filled approximately 39 times and emptied. We are currently on our 40th bin.

Follow Up from Previous Meetings

- **Question on VT patrons paying to use Libby:** SALS's answer to the question was that VT patrons paying for a "subscription" to Libby was a "no". Jill Ryder brought up the query at the last Directors' Council meeting, and most libraries were opposed to this because of the already long wait time for many of the e-books. Jill did provide a good list of libraries in other states that do allow people to pay for access to Libby, which library staff can share with those interested.

Circulation Statistics

- See website for the August Circulation report.

Program Stats

- **Living with Bears of NY Movie:** 12 people
- **Tabling at Salem Art Works:** Melissa did not attend because of a family issue.
- **Block Print Class:** 11 people
- **Weekly/Monthly programs** – Book Groups, Scrabble, Tech Help, Book Club, Herbal Study Group, Homesteading Group, Mahjong, and Chess all have a consistent number of people who attend.

Upcoming Programs and Ideas

Upcoming Programs	Date	Details
Seed Library	All Spring - Summer	Courtesy of Cornell Cooperative Extension, we will have a variety of seed packets for this spring and summer.
I Bird NY Challenge	May through November 2026	Bancroft Library will support patrons interested in completing the 2026 I BIRD NY Challenge by helping patrons get the correct forms and loaning out the Birding Backpack from SAAS.
Saving Seeds – Make Your Own Seed Packet	Wednesday, September 9	Beth Dellarocco will help teach people how to make a seed packet out of a variety of papers.
LARAC Grant Workshop	Tuesday, September 15	LARAC Grants director will come to the library to hold a class on applying for arts grants.
Living with Bears of NY	Wednesday, September 23 (second showing)	Screening a documentary about bears in NY; showing again in September for the senior potluck.
Wellness Series – Washington County Department of Public Health	Three part series, October 8, 15 & 22	Public Health comes to lead this program on Setting a Wellness Vision, Creating Goals, and Positively adapting behaviors
Read with Bianca	Saturday, October 17	Miss Bianca the Theray Dog returns to support kids and adults alike at the library
Fact-Checking Sources from NY Newspapers Association	Sunday, October 18	Tentatively scheduled for this day. NY Newspapers Association will come to the library to present this program on

		how to fact-check news sources, spot false information, and more!
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Outreach in the Local Community (and Beyond!)

- **Tabling at the Back to School Bash:** Melissa tabled at the Back to School Bash at the Historic Salem Courthouse Community Center on September 2nd. It was a busy event, and a good way to get out in the community.
- **Speaking at Rotary Dinner –** Melissa and Ed will be going to the next Rotary meeting on September 28 to talk about the library.

Professional Development

- n/a

Financials and Donations

- **Glens Falls Account for Donations:** \$989.85 (Last month was \$989.95 - no change over the last month.)

Staff & Volunteers

- Melissa has put out the call several times for a Afternoon Activities Program Coordinator. We have had one person reach out.
- **Volunteers:** Here is a headcount of the number of volunteers we have currently.

Circulation Assistance	Stanley McGaughey
Circulation Assistance	Maggie Leary
Circulation Assistance	Beth Dellarocco
Circulation Assistance	Susan Getty
Book Repair	Peg Underwood
Facilities	Mark Cooney
CFC Driver	Barry and Jan Richman
CFC Driver	Brenda Levey
CFC Driver	Laura Harrison
CFC Driver	Ed George
CFC Driver	Glen Hayden
Book Donations	Mike Mugits
Garden	open

Facility Update

- **Shelving –** We still plan to move forward on redoing the shelves in the children's area, as discussed last month.

- **Basement Shelving:** Linda Jean Ledek in Cambridge offered one set of metal shelves for the basement. Melissa picked those up on Friday. Teri Kelley has offered another set, which Melissa will look at on Tuesday morning. After we get those shelves installed downstairs, Melissa will see how many other shelves are needed for storage. None of the money allotted for shelving has been spent yet.

Technology

- No updates currently.

Submitted by: Melissa Carll, Library Director, September 2026