

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026
4:00 – 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

4:00pm

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DOC 26-01

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. ACTION ITEMS

4:10pm

1. Draft minutes of December 16, 2025

DOC 26-02

2. Audit of Bills

Operating Budget in the amount _____

3. Approval of Library Staff Hires

DOC 26-03

4. Nominating Committee Report

5. Board Committee Membership

D. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4:20pm

E. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4:30pm

F. LIAISON REPORTS

4:40pm

1. County –

2. Foundation – Kerry Barnes

3. Friends –

G. WRITTEN REPORTS

1. Monthly Statement (Not available)

DOC 26-04

2. January Staff Report

DOC 26-05

3. Finance & Personnel Committee

a. Minutes of January 20, 2026 (distributed at meeting)DOC 26-06

4. Library Service & Policy Committee

a. Next meeting February 10, 2026

5. Community Relations and Outreach Committee

a. Minutes of January 13, 2026

DOC 26-07

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss confidential personnel matters.

Sarah Glogowski will lead Trustee training beginning at 5pm

NOTE: In order to expedite the routine business of the board, please call Director Emerson DeMeester-Lane (edemeester-lane@tcpl.org) with any questions that you may have about the information items prior to the board meeting.

REMINDER:

DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2026

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 16, 2025

TCPL Board Members Present: Kathy Weinberg, President; Lis Chabot, Linda Bartnik, Laura Krauss, Nina Scholtz, Christina Brewington, Beth Osborne, Jason Kovari, Darrell Long, Sarah Clausen, Carrie Bauer, Shelley Wong

Trustees Excused: Reyna Florentino-Gambrell, Emily Hopkins

Also Present: Kat Savage, Interim Director; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Brian Sasser, Communications Manager; Dan Nickerson, Business Manager; Rich John, County Legislator

With a quorum, the meeting is convened at 4:02 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 25-93

A **MOTION** was made by J. Kovari and seconded by B. Osborne to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:
Ally True

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2025 MINUTES DOC 25-94

A **MOTION** was made by L. Bartnik and seconded by D. Long to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Lisabeth Chabot, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment December 2025 bills in the amount of \$543,478.89 as listed in Abstracts #35, # 36, and #37.

APPROVAL OF STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN HIRED DOC 25-95

Approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR REPORT

The Interim Director reflected on a few points that illustrate the hard work of the staff and the Board of Trustees: promoting and hiring new staff, the successful rollover to a secure Windows 11 environment with a full hardware refresh; the 25th Anniversary celebrations in November

which provided the public with opportunities to explore and learn about the TCPL and meet the Friends and Foundation representatives, and which also featured noted speakers and honors of the Library's time on Green Street; Youth Services working to support the Science of Reading in our collection development and staff trainings; the Strategic Plan community conversation at GIAC in November (and plans to do a second one in early 2026 at TCPL). Extended gratitude for the support of the Board, plus commendations for the hard-working and talented staff, and expressed excitement to return to Youth Services at the conclusion of the Interim Appointment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report this month.

LIAISON REPORTS

Foundation – Thank you to everyone who attended our triboards holiday party last week, and thank you especially to those of you who brought cookies. Year-end gifts have just started coming in but it's safe to assume the Foundation will reach and surpass our fundraising goal. Of even greater importance is maintaining a 60% donor retention rate, a metric that tells us that people did not stop giving to the Library in 2025, but continued to give, often at higher levels than ever before. Two Foundation board members have termed off- Laura Larson and Steve Headrick. And two members have been added: Tom Schloegel, Development Officer for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and Mary Holland-Bavis, Chief of Staff for Assemblyperson Anna Kelles.

County – No report. John will check on the status of the sales tax. He thanked everyone for letting him work as liaison.

Friends – The friends are now taking donations and are sorting.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting by D. Long and seconded by S. Clausen at 4:40 p.m. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by C. Brewington and seconded by S. Clausen to move into Executive Session at 4:43pm. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by J. Kovari and seconded by Krauss was made to come out of Executive Session at 5:31pm. Approved unanimously.

The board made an offer and the offer has been accepted therefore the board needs to approve the appointment.

A **MOTION** was made by D. Long and seconded by C. Brewington for approval of the 2025-2027 PSA Collective Bargaining Agreement. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by L. Chabot and seconded by S. Clausen to adjourn the meeting.
Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Darrell Long
Secretary

Approval of Library Staff Hires December 2025

12/22/2025 Vanessa Vacarro, Page

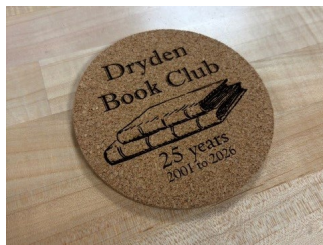
JANUARY MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

Adult Services

Judd Karlman

Adult Services Department

Board Report January 2026

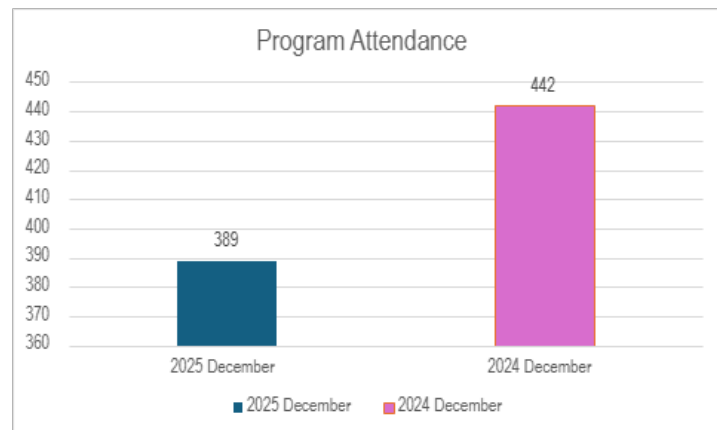


In the Makerspace we helped a book club make coasters to celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as printed a trumpet mouthpiece holder for a music teacher interested in instrument repair.

Collection and Reference

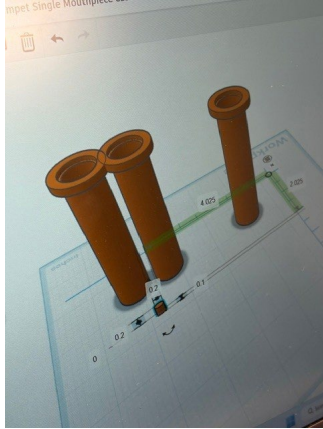
The Tech Services Team has added **770** physical items to the collection in December. Alex has joined the team as a clerk and has taken over the receiving duties from the team's new senior clerk, Shelby – allowing Shelby to shift their focus to invoices and cataloging.

At the Aneja Family Reference Desk, we helped patrons with **879** questions in December.



Makerspace

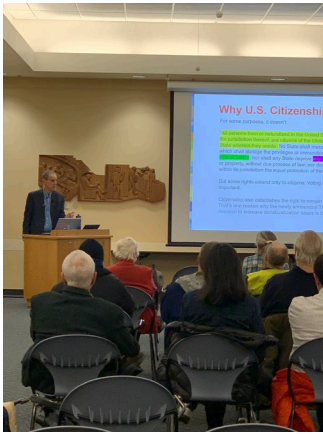
An article in 607NewsNow mentioned that TCPL is offering sewing lessons in the Makerspace, which has led to renewed interest in the program! All proffered sewing lessons have been filled, along with a waitlist, and Cady has offered additional sewing sessions to meet demand.



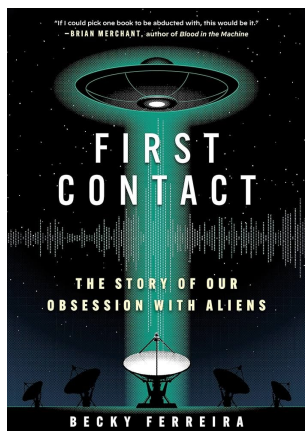
Makerspace popularity continues, with December's 4-hour sessions having an attendance average of 14 drop-in participants, working on a large variety of projects. From engraved shot glasses for a local business-woman's small business' marketing, to a laser cut topographic map for a homeschooling lesson about the history of Appalachia, patrons bring and seek help with exciting projects every day.

The Constitution Series

Local History Librarian, Meghan's collaboration with the Tompkins County Historian and local experts held its final program. Communications Manager, Brian, offered support in live-streaming and recording these offerings. These programs had an average of 50 people in attendance and over 40 watching the livestream at home.



We are continuing to seek out ways to bring together local historical expertise to inform the community about the ways history gives context to what we see around us today.



*Cady and Asia led a book club to
discuss the above title with local
author, Becky Ferreira*

Youth Services

Kat Savage

Youth Services Department

Board Report

January 2026

Prepared by Kat Savage, Youth Services Manager



Kids using SuperSpace tiles to design a tunnel in a challenge provided by Woody during a GIAC afterschool visit to the library.



Teen Maker Monday

December 2025 Statistics*	Programs	Attendance
Totals	40	821
First Five Years	16	383
Children (5-11)	13	255
Teen (12-18)	7	87
General Interest	4	96

**YS takes a program break the last 2 weeks of the year to allow our team to rest and plan.*

Welcome, Winter!

Winter Reading is in full swing for children and teens. Participants return book reviews and are entered into a raffle to win a prize.

Returned reviews also allow children and teens to pick a giveaway book to keep (while supplies last).

Celebrating Lunar New Year

On February 21, the Cornell Lion Dance Club and the Cornell Illumination Chinese Cultural Dance Troup return for their annual performance to help ring in the Year of the Horse. The week before, on February 14, families can visit to make crafts to celebrate the Lunar New Year as well.

Limited Series & Special Events for Children and Families

- Play Together, Learn Together with Cornell B.A.B.Y. Lab – An interactive workshop revealing the science behind how reading and playing with your baby can build learning and language development.
- SingSong Music Class Series – A four week series for children ages 1-5 and their caregivers
- Bilingual Storytimes resume – every Friday, we will present Chinese Bilingual Storytime and Spanish Storytime, alternating each week
- Study Buddies – Elementary students can be paired with a high school tutor to help with homework; presented in cooperation with ICSD
- Cayuga Chamber Orchestra Family Concert – A smorgasbord for the ears –a storybook and a concert!
- Preschool Art Studio – Bonus Winter Break Session – an extra offering of this 0-5 program will be presented during the ICSD Winter Break
- Mario Kart Tournament – Kids and tweens can race in this friendly competition offered during the ICSD Winter Break



The Johnson Museum of Art visited for a read aloud of “Yo en el Mapa,” the Spanish edition of “Me on the Map” by Joan Sweeney and artmaking workshop.



Making snowprint handprints at Crafternoon

Special Events for Teens

- A new series, Teen Film Fridays – Each month, a film will be screened in the Digital Lab – plus snacks!
- Mario Kart Tournament – A friendly competition, just for teens – offered during the ICSD Winter Break

Book Club Update

The **Early Reader Book Club** will read *The Bug Club* by Elise Gravel, and the **Tween Book Club** will meet to discuss the first book in the Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins, *Gregor the Overlander*.

Staff Highlights

Kai

“I attended the ICSD-KDT Teachers Planning Meeting. It’s always a pleasure to see all the kindergarten teachers together each year, especially in a relaxed setting where everyone can enjoy food and conversation. I’m delighted that all the teachers have already signed up for their field trips. Several teachers said that they thought our KDT program was a strong and valuable experience for their students, and the rest of the group expressed agreement and appreciation.

“I had a blast hosting Baby & Toddler Storytime on Friday, 1/16. My heart melted every time I thought about all the adorable babies and toddlers waving their hands and arms and stomping their feet along with me.

“I’m excited that the Museum of the Earth has gifted our department an entire box of millions of years old fossils for our 2026 Summer Reading Program. The scientists there will be meeting with us to discuss potential library programs as well. My connection with them began at various in-person educator events. I’m hoping to attend more of the events, as it truly helps build strong connections with other organizations.”

Cassie

While unavailable to report in her own words at “press time,” Cassie wrapped up the year having launched a new section in Youth Services – the Decodables section, featuring high-quality books that support current reading instruction. The Department has been talking about how to incorporate and support Science of Reading instruction in our collections, and Cassie knocked the design and selection of materials out of the park.

In addition, Cassie coordinated our annual Winter Crafternoon, which once again had a solid turn-out and brought much seasonal joy to children and families ahead of the busiest part of the end of the year.



Kai at Crafternoon



Cassie at Crafternoon



Milly, Kat, Kate, and Sasha at Crafternoon

Milly

"I'm happy with my programming partnerships this month. After a lot of work behind the scenes to get the program ready, Study Buddies has begun. Approximately 20 elementary students and 20 high school tutors show up at TCPL each Saturday morning for homework help and general tutoring. This program is the creation of IHS junior Rani Marie Sethupathy, and TCPL is proud to be able to host this opportunity for Ithaca students.

"After more than a year of preparation, CollectionHQ is live! We are offering trainings to selectors this week. Moving forward, collection analysis with CHQ will help guide our weeding, ordering, and display curation. I think this tool will be invaluable as we continue to add it to our selection routines.

"The last time I filled in for Baby and Toddler storytime, one of the parents told me that her twins like to play storytime at home. They take turns being the librarian while the other is the audience. Knowing that we are part of the play routine of local children brings me great joy."

Woody

"Totalling Teen display data: Between July of 2025 and the end of December 2025 we built 26 displays that contained 680 books. 356 of those books circulated at least once while on display.

"GIAC Bobcats have moved to Wednesday visits, and have had a lot of fun building with Legos & our magnetic space tiles.

"Leading storytime this past Saturday with 41 attendees! We did a lot of reading, singing, and laughing!"

Sasha

"I visited Global Roots Play School last week, our first storytime at GRPS since the new year! They were very excited for storytime, and especially loved the "rainbow stew" felt board that I brought along. I can't wait to go back again!

"Also last week - I visited New Roots Charter School to sit in on their senior capstone presentations and talk to a student about their capstone project. It was a surprise to me when I learned that this student wrote about me in their project! Their project is about Teen Loneliness, its negative impacts on teens, and what we can do to combat it. They wrote about TCPL's Teen Center as a third space where teens can find connection, how I am a friendly and welcoming presence there, and how they noticed that in the Craft Room, teens and tweens write messages to each other to connect, encourage, and support one another! It made me cry!!

"Maker Monday has always been a popular program, but now more of our young community members are learning about it by word of



Julia has refreshed our Baby's First Library card books. These giveaways are offered to families with a new baby who sign up for a library card.



"Show me your paws!" Art by teens from the Teen Center Craft room



Decorating a SuperSpace structure with felt during Preschool Art Studio

mouth! We've had lots of new faces this January, with many telling me they heard about it from friends and classmates. Earlier this month we had 26 teens and tweens come through! I also had a parent tell me while they were picking up their child and nibbling both LOVE Maker Monday, and that they talk about what they're going to make at the next Maker Monday pretty much all week long. Most recently, these two attendees made a really cool dog mask (complete with faux fur and a beautifully sculpted clay dog nose!) and paper mache cosplay sword. Other recent projects include: mock-ups for a dazzling prom jumpsuit, a Pusheen the Cat pillow, and a pair of fingerless gloves made from reused fabric."

Julia

"Revived our practice of giving babies a board book when they visit the library for the first time!

"Talked with multiple teachers/tutors about kids they were working with who were having difficulties reading. Hearing these individual stories pushed me to think more creatively about how we could better serve these students.

"Helped users find books about: trains, magic spells, knitting, anxiety, drawing mermaids, decodables that don't look like decodables, and Afrofuturism, among other things. I'm always so grateful that users feel like they can come to us with all kinds of questions, serious and not-so-serious, and that we can point them to resources that might be helpful 😊"

Kat

"I'm happy that we're in the process of hiring a Library Assistant for the department – an eighth team member will allow us to continue to sustainably offer exiting programs, select books and other materials, visit community centers like Racker and the Global Roots Play School, welcome classes from ICSD, GIAC, and more, collaborate with partners who also serve children, families and teens in the community, and continue to offer our expert reader's advisory and reference services tailored to children, families, and teens at our two youth service desks.

"It's great to collaborate with the Sciencenter and Finger Lakes Library System to work on shared programming materials, such as our SuperSpace tiles and other materials that support libraries and STEM programming.

"I am also thrilled to be back leading the Youth Services Department and I am incredibly grateful and in awe of the fantastic job Kai Zhang did in taking the helm for the past few months. Thank you!"

Your Moment of Joy



Patron placed holds for onomatopoeia-titled board books so we had a laugh at going through to figure out where each one was in the holds process ("Tip Tip Dig Dig", "Tap Tap Bang Bang", etc.)

Our new Decodable Book section, designed by Cassie. It features organization bins to help parents and caregivers select materials that focus on specific reading skills. We are grateful for the TCPL Foundation to provide monetary support for this section!



Central Library Support Aid means we can get more copies of popular titles and series, like the Warriors by Erin Hunter. Here's a recent infusion of new books!

Community Relations and Outreach Committee Meeting

January 13th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Trustees present: Sarah Clausen, Christina Brewington.

Others present: Emerson DeMeester-Lane, Brian Sasser

General Discussion

Members discussed the committee's history and goals as well as potential meeting times for the coming year. Discussion centered on best practices and ideas for recruiting new members, especially community partners. Members were asked to bring ideas for community engagement (organizations, events, etc.) to the next meeting for further discussion.

Briefly discussed ideas for the remaining funds from the 25th Anniversary. Discussion will continue at the next CRC meeting.

Strategic Plan Discussion

Members reviewed and discussed plans for the second public information/feedback session on Monday, February 16th (President's Day). Members decided to move forward with the plan for a "lunch and learn" session, which will include an opportunity for the public to meet new Library Director Emerson. The event will take place at the library at noon. Marketing for the event will be finalized at the next sub-committee meeting. Attendees will be encouraged to bring their lunch and take part in an informal discussion on the proposed Strategic Plan.

Members discussed hosting a third session, in the form of a focus group. This would include members of the public who signaled a willingness to join a discussion in poll responses. Date and time are TBD and will be discussed further at the next sub-committee meeting.

Briefly discussed feedback on initial draft of Strategic Plan. Members agreed a subcommittee planning session prior to the next scheduled CRC meeting would be beneficial. 10:30 a.m. on January 30th was selected. The meeting will be held in the Schwarz-Jacobson Room.

Action items:

- Brian will create a SharePoint folder that gives all committee members access to Strategic Plan and feedback received.
- Sarah will send a calendar invite for the next Strategic Plan sub-committee meeting on January 30th
- Sarah will send a poll to committee members to confirm dates/times for 2026 meetings, followed by calendar invites.
- Sarah will send the agenda for the next CRC meeting