

Sharon Springs Free Library
Annual Meeting
October 23, 2025

Present: Bob Fucci, Margaret Kindling, Kate Walrath, Patsy Nicosia, Kerry Parsons, Helen Kommer, Jeanne Irwin, Cindy Dixon, Belinda Feris

Staff: JoAnn Fralick, Megan Keaney

Guest: none

Absent: none

Call to Order: The Annual meeting of the Sharon Springs Free Library for October 23, 2025 was called to order at 7:09pm by Jeanne.

Directors Report: (Attached) reviewed and approved

- **Treasurer's Report: (Attached) reviewed and accepted (Jeanne/Margaret).**
 - Presentation of 2026 Budget – Highlighted proposed changes are reflected in report.
- **President's Report: (Attached)**
 - Election of trustees- unchanged and accepted (Kerry/ Bob)
 - The election of Officers (unchanged) was renewed and accepted (Kerry/Bob).
 - Committee assignments- Will be reflected in December 2025 meeting. Assignment papers given out at annual meeting.
 - Welcoming Cindy Dixon to our board.

Annual meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

Annual Director's Report 2025

Submitted by Meghan Keaney

Regular Book Discussions

October – Wicked by Gregory Maguire, 4 attended
November – The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray, 8 attended
January – Winter Sisters by Robin Oliveira, 5 attended
February – Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt, 6 attended
March – Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus, 10 attended
April – Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult, 6 attended
May – Anxious People by Fredrik Backman, 6 attended
June- Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt, 7 attended
July – Theme Month: “Colorful Reads”, 8 attended
August – Theme Month: “the ART of Reading”, 6 attended
September – Theme Month: “Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month”, 8 attended
October – The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, 4 attended
November – The Great Bookish Wrap-up

Adult & Mixed Age Programming

Bouquet Building
Canvas Painting
Classes through S.C.H.O.O.L
Dot Day Rock Painting
Lest We Forget Presentation
Poetry Festival & Workshops
Sled Dog Day
SRP Kick-Off & Pavilion Party
The Great Book Giveaway

Children's Programming

Crafts with Schoharie County Youth Bureau
Friends & Family Fall Event w/ Youth Commission
Ice Cream Social
Magic Show with Kyle Grennen at Storytime
MineCraft Monday
Student Field Trips
Summer Reading Program
Weekly Storytime
Youngster Yoga

Outreach

After School Program
Harvest Festival
Head Start
Maple Festival
Story Squad with Ms. Meg with the Sharon Youth Commission during Summer Rec
Trunk or Treat

Month by Month

October 2024

Programming

- **10/18/24 Book Discussion:** Wicked: the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire (4 attended)
- 10/26 Family & Friends Fall Event sponsored by the Sharon Springs Youth Commission. Kids and families painted pumpkins, made crafts, and participated in games. Snacks were provided as well.
- Poetry Festival and Workshops (10/19).
- Trunk or Treat Community Event: Theme: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie – gave out almost 300 packages of cookies.

Miscellaneous

- Jeanne, Kerry, Margaret, and I attended the MVLS Annual Meeting on 10/2 at the Fort Hunter Free Library. We won a \$20 gift card to Amazon that was added to our account online for future purchases.
- Mrs. Korona's 12th Grade English class took a mini field trip to our library to check out our resources and talk about programs that might interest them in the future.
- Expanding the food pantry:
 - Added mini fridge to the lobby area to allow perishable items to be refrigerated.
- Added a new printer donated to us by a wonderful patron who wishes to remain anonymous.
- Youth Service Fall Meet-up is being held at our library 11/14 @ 2 p.m.

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,694.10
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,495.05
- Klemm Family Fund: \$2,000.00
- Walmart Grant: \$2,000 (allocated for new staff and public computers, and copier/printer supplies, if budget allows).

November/December 2024

Programming

- **11/15/24 Book Discussion:** The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (8 attended).

Miscellaneous

- RYCOR system installed.
- JA Order for Computer Upgrades submitted.
- Held Youth Service Meeting at our Library with JoAnn. Youth service coordinators from Gloversville, Amsterdam, Schenectady, Fort Plain, and Schoharie attended.

- Meg went to Head Start at Sharon Springs with Beth from MVLS to talk about the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten bags and read a story to the class.
- Organizing field trips: 5th grade plus kindergarten (12/3), Head Start Classroom (12/6), Head Start Family Engagement Event (12/13).
- 125 bookmarks were made for gift bags after the Holiday Parade, encouraging families to stop at the library for a free book from under the tree.
- Thank you to Gina and her husband Mike for setting up the Holiday Tree.

Grants/Funds

Parsons Grant: \$8,694.10

Stewart's Grant: \$1,269.58

- Scholastic Books for Holiday Tree- \$207.22
- Activity Books for Holiday Tree- Free w/ Gift Card from MVLS
- Storytime Supplies- \$18.25

Walmart Grant

- Computer Upgrades

January 2025

Programming

- **1/17/25 Book Discussion:** Winter Sisters by Robin Oliveira (5 attended)
- 1/21/25 Youngster Yoga taught by Jeanne for Head Start Family Involvement (3 adults, 5 children, 4 teachers in attendance).

Miscellaneous

- We received Joyce's resignation letter, effective January 1, 2025. We (I) are incredibly grateful for her time and dedication to the library.
- Meg will begin inventorying our collection with the support of Sharon from MVLS.
- Meg attended the Summer Reading Program Workshop at the Colonie Public Library (1/14/25).
- Meg met with Lisa & April from Literacy NY (1/22/25) about possibly joining their board (I'm currently on the Schoharie County Youth Services Board as well).
- Meg submitted the Stewart's Holiday Match Grant (1/13/25)- distributed in March 2025
- The Sharon Springs Teacher Association donated \$50.00 to the library in memory of Helen Lane.

Grants/Funds

Parsons Grant: \$8,654.35

- Ukrainian - English visual dictionary expanding our Foreign Language collection \$12.60
- Wings of Fire Graphic Novels # 6, 7, 8 (completing our collection) \$27.15

Stewart's Grant: \$1,269.58

February 2025

Programming

- **2/21/25 Book Discussion:** Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt (6 attended).
- 2/22/25 Lest We Forget Presentation with Sue deBruijn (30 attended, plus presenter)
- 2/28/25 Teen Book Club: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (2 attended)

Miscellaneous

- St. Pauly Shed: In 2024 we collected 16,829 pounds of clothing (enough to clothe approximately 3,100 people) and received \$673 for our library.
- Annual Website review from MVLS
 - Highlighted areas we need to update/improve: Board Minutes being posted and Annual Report to Community.
- Quote from plumbing company: \$1,200 total cost of labor and materials to replace cracked wall hung toilet.
- Regular hours resuming March 1st
 - All days remain the same except for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (switching from 1- 6 p.m. to 3- 8 p.m.). Total hours open remain the same.
- The Annual Report is 98% complete (as of 2/24/25).
- Switched to Amazon Business thanks to the program through MVLS.

Grants/Funds

Parsons Grant: \$8,654.35

Stewart's Grant: \$1,119.58

- \$150 used for Dog Sled Days

March 2025

Programming

- **3/21/25 Book Discussion:** Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus (10 attended).
- 2/22/25 Dog Sled Days: 10 children, 12 adults attended
- Accepting donations for the Great Book Giveaway (4/5/25- 9a.m. - 2p.m.)

Miscellaneous

- Awarded \$950 from Stewart's Holiday Match Program to go towards our Summer Reading Program.
- Annual Report successfully submitted.
- Completed Inventory for Children's Graphics, Board Books, Easy Readers, and started on the Children's Picture Books.
- Hosted a Summer Reading Program Planning Day (3/20).
- Participating in the MVLS Literature Challenge.
- Attended NYS Teen SRP planning workshop virtually with MVLS.

- I'm visiting the After School Program (4/10) for a story and activity.
- Youth Bureau would like to visit Monday (4/14) and do crafts for kids. Students will be on break during this time.
- Participation in Maple Festival, Saturday April 26 from 8:45 a.m. -5:00 p.m.
- Spring Symposium: Request to host at our library May 1st (pending confirmation).

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Collection development:
 - Completed popular graphic series (\$42.43)
 - Expanded Adult Non-Fiction (\$31.30)
 - Added New/Popular Movie (\$17.95)
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,119.58
- \$950 awarded this year for our Summer Reading Program (not included yet in total above)

April 2025

Programming

- **4/25/25 Book Discussion:** Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult (6 attended)
- Crafts with Schoharie County Youth Bureau (16 children, 8 adults attended)
- The Great Book Giveaway- Around 170 visitors and raised over \$750.
- Library Staff and Trustees attended the Schoharie County Maple Festival with the other 3 Schoharie County Libraries and hosted children's activities (4/26/25).

Miscellaneous

- Spring Symposium: Thursday, May 1st from 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Please register if you plan on attending.
- Staff vacations: JoAnn will be away for two weeks in May (8th-16th). Meg is away May 24th- 28th (Mary is covering).
- After School Program loved having Meg back at ASP. We read the Legend of Rock Paper Scissors, discussed what a "legend" is, and played a giant game of rock, paper, scissors. All students went home with a coloring sheet with our library hours on it.
- Meg is almost complete with inventorying the children's section. Adult non-fiction will be next so we can look to expand this collection.
- Grant planning meeting – Best time to meet?

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,119.58
- **Summer Reading Program '25:**
- \$950 - \$130.17 = \$819.83
- Purchased 6 Children's Books based on this year's theme
- Purchased washable paints and paper

May 2025

Programming

- **5/16/25 Book Discussion:** Anxious People by Fredrik Backman, 6 attended.
- Smart Phone Savvy with Mary from MVLS: 5/22/25, 13 attended.
- The Cause of Newspaper Decline that Nobody's Talking About Video Presentation: 5/27/25, 20 attended.

Miscellaneous

- The library is closed Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.
- Thank you to those who attended the Spring Symposium! Just over 45 people attended from various libraries including MVLS Staff.
- Meg is gone May 24th-28th and Mary is scheduled to cover the desk.
- Meg is meeting with SSCS Student council 5/21/25 to talk about future collaborations.
 - SSCS Student Council Hosting Community Car Wash on Saturday, June 7th from 11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Students would like ALL Proceeds to go to the library.
- Proposing to close the library on Friday, June 27th.
- Meraki Wireless Renewal coming up- Currently the estimated renewal cost is \$629.37 for the full 5 years. License expires 12/13/25.
- Our library will be receiving a \$350 technology incentive grant through the Foundation for Mohawk Valley Libraries to help offset the cost of Cyber Insurance.
- Succession Planning Presentation
 - Quick overview of Presentation from Symposium
 - Highlight goals based off presentation
- Update on Summer Reading Program Planning

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,097.83
 - Purchased Storytime Snacks – \$21.75
- **Summer Reading Program '25:**
\$819.83- \$40 - \$131.51 = \$648.32
 - \$40 towards prizes for SSCS Post Prom
 - \$131.51 towards SRP supplies

June 2025

Programming

- **6/20/25 Book Discussion:** Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt, 7 attended.
- Summer Reading Program Kick-Off & Pavilion Party: Monday, July 7th from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
 - Meg requested 10 packages of hot dogs and 10 packages of buns from Stewart's.
 - Submitted request for usage of the school's hot dog roller, approved.

- Food will be set up in the community room, and SRP registration will be inside with Meg at the desk.

Miscellaneous

- Pavilion arrived 6/9. Thank you, Bob, for overseeing the delivery!
- Received \$1,000 from community member Carol Vacca to help us complete the pavilion project.
- Mike McCallion came Mon, June 16th and cleared out the back lawn with his equipment. Meg encouraged him to attend our upcoming Pavilion Party if he's available.
- Meg visited Mrs. Korona's 7th Grade English Class (6/10/25) for their Independent Reading Project. Each student had to "pitch" to me why the book they read should be included in the town library collection.
- Received \$100 from S.C.H.O.O.L as a thank you for sharing our community room for classes.
- The SSCS Student Council raised \$561 for the library during their community car wash (rescheduled from the original day).

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,097.83
- **Summer Reading Program '25:**
\$648.32

July 2025

Programming

- **7/18/25 Book Discussion:** Theme: "Colorful Reads", 8 attended
- Summer Reading Program Kick-Off & Pavilion Party:
 - 52 visitors in the library day of event.
 - Registered Readers (as of 7/21/25): **69**
 - 21 ages 0-5
 - 32 ages 6-12
 - 5 ages 13-18
 - 11 ages 19+
- 7/14/25 Minecraft Monday, 19 kids & 8 adults in attendance.
- 7/22/25 Canvas Painting with Nancy, 15 adults in attendance.
- Outreach with Youth Commission Update
 - **Story Squad with Ms. Meg:** Overview: Meg joins the kids at the Rec Center on Wednesdays to host "Story Squad". Goals: Low-demand, story/interest exploration, discussions about the library & how to access books. In addition, some weeks we do a craft activity to break things up. Week 2 we made wooden bookmarks (see poster for photos).
 - Ice Cream Social: Friday, August 15th at 1 p.m.
 - Looking for library volunteers to join and help serve ice cream.
 - Meg requested ice cream kits 7/21/25.

Miscellaneous

- MVLS Free Direct Access Plan Review
 - “The specifics of the plan, including any changes, must be approved by the individual member library boards of trustees. The last time your boards looked at a MVLS Free Direct Access Plan was probably 2016.
 - See attached Fact Sheet & Free Direct Access Plan Revisions.
- Community member donated 1 year subscription to the Mountain Eagle Newspaper for the library.

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,097.83
- **Summer Reading Program '25:**
\$648.32- \$109.29 = \$539.03
 - \$109.29 used to purchase additional children's books for Summer Reading.
 - About \$100 is reserved for paying Nancy for Painting activity. Final invoice after the event.
 - Prizes were purchased with additional donations (not our SRP fund), or donated to us.

August 2025

Programming

- **8/22/25 Book Discussion:** Theme: “The ART of Reading”, 6 attended.
- 7/29/25 Drop-in Rock Painting, 15 children & 12 adults attended.
- 8/12/25 Build Your Own Bouquets, 17 adults attended.
- 8/15/25 End of Summer Ice Cream Social w/ Youth Commission @ Rec Center, 50 ice cream sundaes were handed out (thanks to Stewart's!).
- S.C.H.O.O.L Presentations in Community Room:
 - “The Complex Relationship of Europeans and Native Americans”:
Thursday, September 11th, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 - “Write Your Joys, Fears and Challenges for Healing and Mental Health”:
Monday, September 15th, 10:30-12:00 p.m.
 - “Digital Literacy- Word Basics”:
Monday, October 20th, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous

- Looking ahead:
 - Harvest Festival- *** Pop-up Tent from MVLS arriving Thursday afternoon.
 - Set up Friday, September 19th
 - Saturday, Sep. 20th
 - Sunday, Sep. 21st
- Meg is away October 6th-11th for a wedding. JoAnn has said she will be available to cover for the week.

- MVLS Annual Meeting- Wednesday, October 8th, 5:30 p.m. at Fort Hunter Free Library (Meg will be away).
- Proposal to close at 6 p.m. Wednesdays before a Holiday:
 - November 26th (Thanksgiving)
 - December 24th (Christmas)
 - December 31st (New Year's)
- Winter Hours begin December 1st
- Mon & Thurs: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tues, Wed, Fridays: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sat: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,097.83
- **Summer Reading Program '25:**
\$539.03 - \$60 (Nancy's Painting Event) = \$479.03
 - The remainder SRP money will be added to Stewart's Grant total and used for further children's programming (Fall/Winter programming).

September 2025

Programming

- **9/19/25 Book Discussion:** Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month- Choose Your Own, 8 attended.
- S.C.H.O.O.L Presentations in Community Room:
 - *****Postponed***:** "The Complex Relationship of Europeans and Native Americans"
 - **5 Participants:** "Write Your Joys, Fears and Challenges for Healing and Mental Health": Monday, September 15th, 10:30-12:00 p.m.
 - "Digital Literacy with Mary Carrier- Word Basics": Monday, October 20th, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- Collaboration with DAR for Constitution Week (9/17-9/23)
 - Submitted display to PBS for their Library Display Contest.
 - Display staying up through the month of October (based on contest rules).
 - Raffle drawing for prizes, free bracelets, min constitutions to take home, and a free digital download of a book with study unit activities available to patrons.

Miscellaneous

- The MVLs Awards Committee has voted to award us the Library Recognition Award at this year's annual meeting! I submitted the application for the outreach program with Youth Commission: Story Squad with Ms. Meg (See attached submission).
- MVLS Annual Meeting- Wednesday, October 8th, 5:30 p.m. at Fort Hunter Free Library (Meg will be away). Please register if you plan on attending using the link forwarded to Trustees via email.
- Meg is recruiting Kora Dunston to begin training as a substitute clerk.
- SHS Annual Meeting, October 23rd, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Grants/Funds

- Dream & Do Public Service Grant (\$500) & Fenimore Grant (Requested \$210, Awarded \$500): Expanding Technology: Portable Presentation Equipment for Library & Community Programs. Additional funding leftover will go towards printing/ink.
- NYCON Membership Incentive- Submitted to MVLS 9/19/25.
- American Revolution Library Engagement through PBS- Submitted 9/19/25 (Entered for a chance to win \$200 and be featured in a digital short on PBS social media pages.)
- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,576.86

October 2025

Programming

- **10/17/25 Book Discussion:** The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, 4 attended.
 - Next Month: "The Great Bookish Wrap-Up" (11/21/25) - Read something great in 2025? Bring your favorite book of the year—book club or not—and join us for tea, cookies, and a fun game of Book Bingo as we celebrate Meg's final book discussion.
 - No book discussion in December.
- Poetry Festival and Workshops (10/18/25).
- S.C.H.O.O.L Presentations in Community Room:
 - "Digital Literacy with Mary Carrier- Word Basics":
Monday, October 20th, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat
 - 10/31/25: Sponsored by PTO- from 5-7 p.m. in the school's front driveway
 - Theme- "The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt"
 - Donations of pre-packaged candy are greatly appreciated

Miscellaneous

- Thank you to Jeanne, Margaret, Kerry, and Patsy for representing SHS at the MVLS Annual Meeting and for accepting our award!
- Closures for November:
 - Tuesday, November 11th for Veteran's Day.
 - Closing @ 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26th for Thanksgiving.
 - Thursday, November 27th for Thanksgiving.
- Waiting to purchase a new screen and projector (Dream & Do + Fenimore Grant) until our credit card is updated.

Grants/Funds

- Parsons Grant: \$8,562.67
- Stewart's Grant: \$1,576.86