

ALFRED BOX OF BOOKS

AGENDA BOARD MEETING Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 4:00 PM (Box of Books Library)

- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes: March 10th, 2026
- Treasurer's Report: March 2026
- Director's Report: March 2026
- New Business:
 - Direct Access Plan
 - Annual Report
 - Hot Dog Day Sign-ups
- Old Business:
 - Director Goals
 - Offer for AU
- Next meeting (Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 4 pm – Parish House)
- Adjournment

Library Director's Report
March 2026

Meetings Attended:

- March 3- Allegany County Library Association ByLaws Ad-Hoc Committee
- March 4- DEI Programming Committee
- March 9- Ralph Wilson Arts and Culture Initiative Year 2 Meeting
- March 10- Allegany County Library Association Meeting
- March 17- Director's Advisory Council (DAC) Information Literacy Committee Meeting
- March 25- DAC Meeting
- March 25- DEI Programming- Summer Learning Workshop Prep

Activities:

- Allegany County Area Foundation – Memorial Donation for Gene Staiger \$5,000
- Annual report portal still not open. STLS is hopeful it will open in early April. The deadline will likely be mid-April, a much shorter turn around time. Melanie has prepared by printing questions and filling in data on paper as much as possible, so that when the portal opens, the report can hopefully be submitted quickly.
- **Allegany County Library Association**
 - Bylaws hadn't been reviewed or updated since 2011. An ad-hoc committee was formed to review and present changes to the full group at our March meeting.
 - Ralph Wilson Funding- Western New York Library Council
 - Brian Hildreth shared information with Allegany County libraries that there is a funding opportunity specifically for libraries in Allegany County through the Ralph Wilson Foundation. The application deadline is 3/31.
 - It was decided at the Allegany County Library Association meeting that 15 of 17 Allegany County libraries would apply together for Library of Things items focusing on outdoor recreation. STLS would take the lead in writing and submitting the application on our behalf.
 - Funding available is up to \$150,000 this year, and for the next 2 years, with the possibility of extending an additional 3 years. Libraries may decide to apply separately in the future.

- Each library selected about \$4,000 of equipment to be circulated in their communities or used in-library. Spreadsheet of items and letter of support were sent to Brian for inclusion in the application.
- The DEI Programming subcommittee will be presenting at the Summer Learning Open House on April 15 at STLS, sharing our program resource kits we created. This presentation will focus on incorporating neurodiversity and empathy building into summer reading programs.
- **Grant Awards and submissions**
 - The Library was awarded a \$3,000 grant from Arts Council of Wyoming County to host a performance of the touring Shakespeare Company, Shake on the Lake, on Thursday, August 6.
 - Melanie worked with Eliza Ordway (AU) to reserve bandstand and in the event of rain, Nevins Theatre.
 - The full cost of the performance is \$5,000. Melanie created a donation letter and hand delivered them to local businesses. We also included a donation request in the Alfred Sun for anyone who wishes to donate to this project.
 - The library was awarded \$600 from the Arts Council of Wyoming County to host an adult summer art series with Jennifer Thomas from Elmira. Jennifer will host three workshops including punch needle, needle felting and paper quilling this summer.
 - Melanie submitted applications to the Allegany County Area Foundation for summer reading program funds to host Chris Johnson (foam party) and George Sweatt (Fun that Pops- magic show).
 - Melanie Submitted application to the Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries to support our annual Community Read.
 - Melanie submitted application to Children's Book Council to be a part of their "Favorites" project. We were selected in 2023 and received about 300 juvenile fiction books. This year we applied for k-2 grade.
- **Community Read**
 - This year the suggestion was made to ask for input from the community/students to select the next community read. We received 65 votes and *1984* by George Orwell won.
 - Melanie has created flyer and delivered books to AU and Alfred State.
 - Discussion will take place on Wednesday, April 15 at 5pm at Terra Cotta.
- Melanie presented to the Hornell library staff and volunteers some storytime troubleshooting. This was overwhelmingly positive.

- Quarter 2 program planning is complete. Melanie will be taking June easy and will be taking some time off as her daughter graduates high school! 😊
- Amber Digerlando shared information with Melanie regarding braille books for libraries. Melanie was able to submit an order through Seedlings for 15 Braille books to add to our collection!
- Melanie has completed updating the Juvenile Non-Fiction 200s. Melanie has worked closely with Larissa Wagner at STLS to complete the process. All call numbers and spine labels have been updated. Melanie is also working on a book order specifically to add to the 200s collections. The goal is to finish with Adult 200s in April. Melanie will work with Larissa on presenting this information to the wider STLS membership first through the DEI Committee and then through the larger DAC

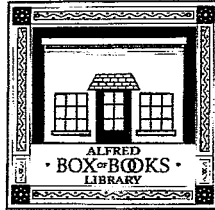
Program Statistics:

- True Crime Book Club: 7A
- Dungeons and Dragons: 2 sessions (10a)
- Storytime: 3 sessions (22C; 16A)
- Making Light Bloom: 1A; 4C
- Diamond Art: 3A
- I Spy Bottle: 6C; 3A
- Tanglewood Animals That Hatch: 7A 18 C
- Jane Austen Book Club: 1A

Statistics

	2026	2025
Circulation	848	831
Holds Received	191	162
Holds Filled	343	297
Users Added	26	13
Items Added	140	113
EBook Check Outs	121	97
Audiobook Check outs	222	149
Digital Magazines	186	0
ILL	3	0
Kanopy	51	
Mango	10	

Overdrive checkouts: +12 OWWL; +7 FLLS; +3 AACCS



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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

4:00 PM (Box of Books Library)

Present: Allison Snyder, President; Sam Frechette, Treasurer; Megan Parry, Secretary, Pat Crandall, Isaac Matson, Amy Powers, Mechelle Romanchock, and Carlyn Yanda.

Also Present: Melanie Miller, Library Director.

Absent (excused): Deb Stephens, Vice President.

Public Comment: none.

Approval of Minutes, March 10th, 2026. Allison Snyder moved to approve, Sam Frechette seconded, and the Minutes were approved.

Director's Report: March 2026. Melanie Miller highlighted the \$3,000 grant awarded by the Arts Council of Wyoming County. This grant will help to pay for a Shakespeare performance by the Shake on the Lake touring company. The performance will be Thursday August 6th, at 6:30, at the bandstand. More funds are needed to help this materialize; Melanie will solicit further assistance.

Rima O'Connor is retiring after many years of service to the Library and to the community. Since Caleb Fesmire will take on most or all of Rima's duties, Melanie and the Board feel that a raise and extra PTO (paid time off) is in order. His hourly wage will increase to \$21 per hour, and he will now have 2 weeks of PTO.

Treasurer's Report: March 2026. Treasurer Sam Frechette reported a balance of \$127,555. at the beginning of March, and an end-of-the-month balance of

\$116,770. Expenditures were normal. Pat Crandall moved to approve the report, Carlyn Yanda seconded, and the report was approved.

New Business:

Direct Access Plan. The Board reviewed the plan, which gets tweaked every five years by STLS. Isaac Matson moved to approve the 2026 version, Allison seconded, and the Plan was approved.

Annual Report. The Board reviewed the Annual Report. Isaac Matson moved to approve, Megan Parry seconded, and the Report was approved.

Old Business:

Director's Goals. Melanie presented four goals, the first being to create a long range plan. She is also trying to implement her vision for a Community Calendar, in spite of complications rising from Village and State campus input. Melanie is working on the 200's in the Dewey decimal system, which are massively skewed to the advantage of one religion. She is trying to make that collection more equitable. Her fourth goal is to come up with a fundraising plan to benefit our construction plans for the Library.

Offer for AU. Melanie and Allison plan to approach AU again with an eye towards buying our building. They now have documentation to show that we can't borrow money from a lending agency to pay for our construction project, since we don't own our building. They will submit this, along with the construction plans from Hunt Architects, other supporting materials, and a clear, concise letter of explanation.

Melanie and Allison will compose the above letter, and email it to Board members for comments/approval.

If/when the BoB owns the building, it will qualify for a NY State Construction Grant. The deadline for application comes up in July, so there is some time pressure to get an agreement soon from AU about purchasing our building.

Next meeting: (Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 4 pm – Parish House)

Adjournment: Allison adjourned the meeting at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted, Megan Parry, Secretary.