

Library Quarterly Staff Report — March 2026

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General Library Statistics	December	January	February
Library Visitors	357	664	674
Books Checked Out	260	354	585
Movies Checked Out	66	124	175
Interlibrary Loans Checked Out	19	28	23
Digital Materials Checked Out	224	231	191
Other Materials Checked Out	14	21	63
Events Hosted at/by Library	16	28	47

Programming List for Winter 2026

- Makers Meetings – Ongoing Wednesday Evenings
- The Library Band and Banjo Lessons – Ongoing Thursdays
- Story Walk Trail with New Books Monthly
- Books for Babes – Ongoing Thursdays
- Story hour for Preschool – Ongoing Wednesdays
- Kid’s Learn Music with Kate Boesser – Ongoing Tuesdays (Open to all but please check with Kate before attending)
- Silent Reading – Ongoing Tuesdays
- Plein Air Group is back at the Library! Ongoing Wednesdays
- Legos with Annie! – Ongoing Friday’s (December, January, February)
- Senior Tea Time – Monthly Tuesday Program
- Travel Series: Tom McLaughlin (January)
- Coffee Tasting with Laurie Linn (January)
- Take Your Child to the Library Day! (February)
- Girlscout STEM Kit Grand Opening (February)
- Pizza, Puzzles and Games (December, January, February)
- Get Out the Vote Postcard writing (January, February)
- Ken Burn’s American Revolution Viewing Party (January, February)
- Movie Nights once a month with popcorn and other treats for sale
- Town Hall meeting with Senator Jesse Kiehl and Representative Andi Story

- Bad Art workshop – Librarian Morgan Park helps to free yourself of the shackles of your own expectations
- Gustavus Adult Book Club (Open to all and new books chosen monthly)
- Gustavus School Class Visits
- Test proctoring (driver’s license, EMT, AK Star)
- Curbside Services are still available 7 days a week!

Do you have any programming ideas for the future? Please reach out!

Grant Status

The Library was awarded the previously mentioned **RurAL Cap Foundation Grant** of \$1750 for a 3-part series program this summer called *Cultivating Food Sovereignty in Gustavus* led by Geneva Mottet, a certified Master Gardener with over 20 years of experience in animal husbandry, who has held well attended programs at the library over the last 2 years. This project addresses the high cost and limited availability of fresh food by empowering residents with hands-on skills in small-scale, sustainable protein and vegetable production. The series includes three events that build upon one another, strategically scheduled around the community's existing calendar:

- Meat Rabbit Husbandry & Collaborative Cage Building (August 2026)
- Community Carrot Tasting & Seed Saving Workshop (September 2026)
- Rabbit and Poultry Show at the Gustavus Harvest Festival (September 2026)



This project directly benefits our rural community by:

- Expanding Capabilities through Deep, Practical Skills
- Protecting and Modernizing Subsistence Practices
- Sharing Knowledge & Building Community

More details are [available here](#) on Geneva’s website, and will soon be announced on the Library’s website.

The **Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant** that we receive yearly accounts for \$7000 of our library materials budget. This year’s funds are being expended monthly. If you have any book requests, please contact the library. If we decide not to purchase the title, we can try to get it free (for now) through Interlibrary Loan.

The **OWL (Online With Libraries) Grant** has also been renewed and continues to greatly reduce the cost of our internet services.

The **Alaska Community Foundation Grant** continues to support all sorts of educational programming.

Staff Training and Professional Development

Melisa and Morgan will both be attending the *2026 AkLA Conference: Mapping the Future: Libraries in Changing times* in Sitka this March. Melisa has been awarded the AkLA Attendance Award, which covers the \$250 registration fee and provides up to \$1,000 for travel expenses. With our training and travel budget stretched thin this year, this award is especially meaningful and greatly appreciated.

Librarian Morgan has been attending programming and design training for the new city website. She and Liesl have been working diligently on getting the new site up and running.

Finally, our newest addition to the library team is Izabella Andree! She is doing an unpaid internship volunteering at the library to receive high school credit. She is doing a fantastic job helping the librarians with projects, while also learning desk tasks to hopefully one day be a desk volunteer. A big thank you to her!

A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Our volunteers are essential to keeping the library running smoothly and helping our services grow. Many take on special projects during their shifts, and their dedication is truly appreciated. As we transition from our Autumn-Winter volunteer team to our Spring-Summer schedule, we're always happy to welcome new helpers. If you—or someone you know—would enjoy supporting the library, please consider becoming a volunteer!

Thank you to our City Council!

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Gustavus.