



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

120 Main Street
Setauket, NY 11733
631.941.4080

askus@emmaclark.org
emmaclark.org
  @emmaclarklibrary

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library 2025 Annual Report

Message for the Library Director

The Emma S. Clark Memorial Library is a free association library proudly known as “the heart of the Three Village Community.” We provide our patrons with access to robust collections, enriching programs, and innovative services that support lifelong learning and meaningful community engagement.

In 2025, the Library continued to serve the community through a wide range of materials, classes, events, and services designed to educate, inspire, and enrich. We offered programming both in person and virtually, ensuring greater accessibility and convenience for members of our community. This past year:

- 173,439 in-person visits to the library
- 128,927 questions answered by librarians
- 787,735 physical and digital materials borrowed or accessed
- 229,283 e-Books, e-Magazines, and e-Audiobooks downloaded
- 14,158 movies downloaded or streamed through Kanopy and Hoopla services
- 31,874 attendees in-person and virtually for library programming
- 1,595 library classes and events
- 23,002 books read during Summer Reading Challenges
- 224,712 visits to our website
- 10,395 social media followers
- 567 people learned about our local history through spring.emmaclark.org

In addition to these offerings, the Library continued to serve homebound residents, expand community outreach efforts, and highlight authors through our Local Focus Collection. We also partnered with a variety of museums to provide patrons with free museum passes, as well as access to discounted tickets for area attractions.

At the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library, 2025 was a year marked by both change and challenge; however, our commitment to serving the community remained unwavering.

- May - The Library experienced a temporary closure starting May 1st, due to environmental issues. During this period, staff continued to offer programs and services virtually. Our recycling and seed library initiatives were moved outside, we hosted a mobile health bus in our

parking lot, and installed the Little Free Library at the West Meadow Beach. Our chamber music concert was moved to the Setauket Neighborhood House and several Teen programs were moved to the Long Island Museum. Both community organizations graciously allowed us to use their spaces free of charge. Through the dedication and hard work of many, the building partially reopened on May 19th, with a full reopening on June 9th.

- July - Library Director Ted Gutmann officially retired on July 1st from the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library after years of dedicated service.
- Summer/Fall - The Library Board of Trustees conducted a national search for a new Library Director and, on December 5th, announced the appointment of Theresa Liguori.
- October - The Board of Trustees for the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library experienced a mid-year leadership change, when President David Douglas stepped down and Anthony Parlatore was appointed President.
- December 2025, the Board of Trustees welcomed Timothy Austin as its newest board member.

This report highlights the programs, services, data, and accomplishments that reflect the many opportunities provided this year by the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library. As always, we remain committed to serving you and the broader community, and we encourage you to visit the Library – both in person and virtually – to take full advantage of the resources and services available.

Thank you for your continued support. The staff and Board of Trustees of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library, along with myself, wish you and your families health, happiness, and continued connection in 2026.

Theresa Liguori

Theresa Liguori

Director, Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library 2025 Library Board of Trustees

Anthony Parlatore - President

Carol Leister - Vice President

Suzanne Shane - Treasurer

Angeline Yeo-Judex - Secretary

Deborah Blair

Christopher Cash

Stephen Ingulli

Linda Josephs

David Douglas - President - January - October 2025

Timothy Austin - December 2025

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library 2025 Year in Review Highlights

January

- The LT Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum became the latest addition to the library's widely-used Museum Pass collection.

February

- Comics Plus, a new digital collection with over 28,000 comics, graphic novels, and manga, was added to the library's online offerings.
- WinterFest had 453 children and their grown-ups in the library for frosty crafts, games, and activities!
- The annual Little Valentines: Baby Supplies Drive brought in 547 items, which were presented to 2 local organizations that help babies & their families.

March

- The library started participating in the NexTrex® Recycling Challenge – making a positive environmental impact and hoping to earn a free bench for the public!
- Winners were announced for the 11th annual Helen Stein Shack Picture Book Contest.
- 14 new items were added to the Library of Things collection, including useful technology and outdoor games (just in time for Spring & Summer parties!).
- The Seed Library was fully restocked on the first day of spring with approximately 12,000 packets of over 60 varieties of flower, fruit, vegetable, & herb seeds. 248 teen volunteers helped fill the packets over 3 months.

April

- Emma Clark officially became a part of The Family Place Libraries™ national network, which emphasizes play-based learning as an essential tool to early childhood development.
- Winners of the Helen Stein Shack Picture Book Contest were honored at a ceremony by staff & board members, family of the late Mrs. Shack, elected officials, and representatives from the school district.
- The library received approval to share a recording of the 2022 program with local Holocaust survivor and writer Ruth Minsky Sender (1926 - 2024). Two new writing projects for Grades 6 -12 were created – one based on Ruth's first memoir, *The Cage*, and the other based on the program, "Spiritual Resistance During the Holocaust."
- For the first time, the NY State Safe Boating Course was offered at Emma Clark (a class now mandatory for anyone who operates a boat, watercraft or Jet Ski in the state).
- 502 children, their caregivers, and teen volunteers hopped on over for the Spring Spectacular during the school break.

May

- The Little Free Library at West Meadow was reinstalled for the season, marking its 10-year anniversary of bringing books to the beach.
- 700 cars full of eager individuals brought in their unnecessary papers and unwanted electronics for proper recycling at Community Shred Day and E-Waste Recycling.
- The annual Ellen Bogolub Concert was held at the Setauket Neighborhood House.
- The Three Village community recycled over 1,000 pounds of plastic bags & films at the library, earning a free bench, made out of these materials, from NexTrex® Recycling.

June

- Following the restructuring of the school district, the Teen Department was renamed “Teens & Tweens” and now includes 6th graders as well.
- Summer Reading for adults was brought back after a 10-year hiatus. Registration opened for Adult, Teens & Tweens, and Children’s Summer Reading with the vibrant theme of “Color Our World.”
- *Immigration in New York State: 1650 - 1950*, a Long Island Library Resources Council traveling exhibit, was on display in the lobby.
- Over 800 items were donated to the School Supplies Drive.

July

- The library began conveniently accepting all major credit cards for payment.
- Over 300 children & their caregivers met farm animals on the library lawn, about 150 giggled as they watched Petra Puppets, and more than 100 stared in amazement at the Magic, Laughs, & More show. These are three of the over 80 programs hosted by the Children’s Department this month!

August

- 100 concertgoers enjoyed hits on the front lawn with The Band Easy Street.
- From tie dye shirts to beachy crafts, Color Splash Endless Summer Bash with 421 children, parents, and teen/tween volunteers was a colorful success to wrap up the summer!
- Thanks for coloring our world! 1,306 Three Village residents read 23,002 books for Summer Reading. Nassakeag Elementary won the coveted Emma Cup.

September

- The school year started with a new Social Work Intern at the Library through a partnership with Stony Brook University’s School of Social Welfare. This free service is offered 3 days a week through May 2026.
- 260 community members made the library one of their stops for the Culper Spy Day festivities. 61 of these individuals participated in the History of Emma S. Clark Library Walking Tour.
- 50 library visitors of all ages had the opportunity to speak with officers from the 6th Precinct and enjoy a treat at the “Cookie with a Cop” event in the library lobby.
- Emma Clark had tables at both the Long Island Maker Faire and CommUniversity Day at Stony Brook University, where Library staff interacted with close to 1,200 people.

October

- *The Halloween Tree* by Ray Bradbury was the inspiration for Emma Clark's scarecrow entry, haunting in Stony Brook Village's annual contest.
- The Three Village Historical Society became the 40th museum or cultural center added to the very popular Museum Pass collection.
- Teens & tweens "fell into another dimension" while they searched for clues in the Twilight Zone-inspired, first ever Escape Room at the Library.
- As part of Suffolk County's Great Give Back initiative, 180 kids, tweens, & teens participated in community service activities through Emma Clark, and 313 items were donated to the Pet Supplies Drive.
- The Annual Life-Sized Candy Land was a sweet success with 177 children, parents, and teen/tween volunteers who created the evening.

November

- A musical month! Over 180 concertgoers listened to live music by The Jazz Loft Trio and the Como Brothers and watched a concert & historical narrative on Mary, Queen of Scots with The Van Swietens.
- The annual Fall Fun Day in the Children's Library brought in over 200 children and their caregivers, along with teen/tween volunteers.
- Over 50 individuals enjoyed *Scholars and Spies*, a conversation between award-winning journalist, professor, & Ward Melville High School alumna Michelle Young and historian & Stony Brook University professor Elyse Graham.
- E.L. Doctorow's daughter, Caroline Doctorow, led a multimedia event in celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Ragtime* with 50 attendees.
- The community generously gave 343 items to the Pajama Drive, which were transported to 5 locations by 5 teen/tween volunteers.

December

- The Board of Trustees announced a new Library Director, Theresa Liguori, starting in January 2026.
- The Pop-Up Food & Toiletries and Give Warmth Drives brought in 2,182 and 868 items for local charities, respectively.
- From March - December, our community recycled 2,092 lb. of plastic film for the NexTrex Recycling Challenge, earning the library a free bench!