RETIREMENT EDITION

The Rosa Bennett Edition

WITH THANKS

THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF MAKING ROOM

A STEADY WELCOME

When Rain Changed the Plan

Rain was soaking the signs as families arrived for Cedar Lane Library's Saturday reading hour. Leah, a new volunteer, wondered whether to cancel. Rosa Bennett asked Sam to bring in the books and Dev to move chairs into the children's room.

Rosa welcomed families at the entrance and gave Leah one clear task at a time. A parent dried the signs; children settled in, and Leah read the opening story. The morning went ahead with the new volunteer still leading.

Afterward, Rosa and Leah wrote a wet-weather checklist covering books, late arrivals and communication. Leah later reused it. The incident reflects Rosa's practical guidance during thirty-one years at Cedar Lane Library, where her community-programs work included reading hours, the Tuesday book cart and volunteer support.

READERS CHOOSE

A Cart With Real Choice

The Tuesday book cart began when Tessa raised a problem: one stack of recommendations did not suit the reading group. Rosa asked what people actually enjoyed.

Ken wanted mysteries with a strong sense of place; Lena preferred gardening and nature writing. Others wanted short stories or travel essays. Rosa and Tessa arranged several kinds of reading, left space for requests and changed the selection as conversations continued.

Ken remembered being offered another mystery without having to defend declining the first. Lena found a nature collection she later recommended to a neighbor. Readers began suggesting books to one another, while Tessa kept requests for the next visit. Choice was not an extra feature of the cart; it shaped how the cart worked.

IN ROSA'S WORDS

Start with the person in front of you.

Rosa Bennett's exact words place the person before the program. Her supplied lessons connect that starting point to three responsibilities: welcoming people, listening to what readers enjoy and leaving guidance someone else can follow.

The principle is practical rather than a demand that everyone work alike. Clear direction can help a new volunteer participate; useful information can also leave a successor free to improve the work.

SERVICE CELEBRATED

Thirty-One Years at Cedar Lane

Rosa joined Cedar Lane Library in 1996. Her thirty-one years there included community-programs work connecting readers, volunteers and recurring gatherings.

June 18, 2027, is her last working day and the date of her retirement gathering. She has asked for a relaxed afternoon with time to talk.

The occasion recognizes work often found in ordinary details: asking a useful question, explaining the next task and making sure someone arriving knows where to go. Those details give this celebration its particular story—not a list of awards, but the everyday work of welcome.

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A RETIREMENT EDITION

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GOOD GUIDANCE, ROOM TO GROW

A thoughtful handover and a next chapter of her own

THOUGHTFUL HANDOVER

A Useful Handover

Before retiring, Rosa brought a notebook to her handover meetings with Miles. It covered recurring work: preparing the Tuesday cart, confirming reading-hour plans and making room for requests between activities.

They worked through an ordinary week together. Miles asked questions, and Rosa marked places where examples would help more than general instructions. She also introduced volunteers, explained their contributions and identified decisions he would make himself.

At their last meeting, Miles used the notes to prepare the following week. Rosa answered his remaining questions while he led the planning. Beside several routines was an invitation to change what no longer helped. The handover supplied useful information and room for his own approach.

MILES REFLECTS

Room To Lead

Miles, who is taking over the recurring program work, says, “She left the information, and room to make the job my own.”

His distinction gives the handover its purpose: practical knowledge without a requirement to copy every routine. The notes provide continuity; permission to change what no longer helps leaves decisions with the person now responsible.

HER NEXT CHAPTER

Her Next Chapter

Rosa looks forward to weekday morning walks, a beginner’s watercolor class and the travel essays waiting at home. These are the next-chapter plans she has chosen to share with colleagues.

At Cedar Lane, the handover has particular people behind it. Miles will use the notebook for recurring programs. Tessa and the reading group will continue the Tuesday cart, and Leah has already reused the wet-weather checklist.

Each carries forward a different part of the practical guidance Rosa shared. The notebook leaves room for Miles’s decisions; the cart makes room for readers’ choices; the checklist helps Leah prepare for another rainy morning. Those useful details belong to the work Rosa has handed on, while the walks, class and books remain her own choices.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Memories To Share

For the June 18 gathering, Leah is bringing the damp-weather checklist she and Rosa made together. Tessa is collecting book recommendations from the Tuesday group, and Miles is adding a note to the handover notebook.

Each contribution recalls a different part of their shared work. Together, they give colleagues and friends something concrete to talk about during the relaxed afternoon Rosa has requested.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE

Rosa, thank you for making problems manageable, helping people grow confident and giving credit generously. Your influence will remain in the way this library works long after your final working day.

With thanks, your Cedar Lane colleagues.