RETIREMENT EDITION

The Rosa Bennett Edition

WITH THANKS

THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF MAKING ROOM

A STEADY WELCOME

A Welcome That Lasts

Rain began just as volunteer Leah finished setting out picture books for Saturday reading hour. Families were arriving at Cedar Lane Library, the signs were getting wet, and cancellation seemed possible.

Rosa Bennett asked Sam to bring the books inside and Dev to move the chairs into the children's room. She welcomed families at the entrance while giving Leah one clear task at a time. The reading hour went ahead indoors, with Leah reading the opening story.

That morning captures the practical kindness of Rosa's thirty-one years at Cedar Lane. As community-programs coordinator, she helped make space for readers and for the people working beside her. Her retirement on June 18, 2027, celebrates work whose effects can be traced through a reading hour, a book cart and a carefully prepared handover.



Rosa at Cedar Lane Library, before her retirement gathering.

Stories4Ever fictional sample

LESSONS THAT LAST

A Checklist Worth Keeping

After the wet reading hour, Rosa and Leah wrote down the details they had nearly missed: where the books should go, who would greet late arrivals and how to keep the new volunteer informed.

The checklist preserved more than a plan for moving furniture. It included the welcome at the door and the information a volunteer needed to take part.

Leah later used it at another event. That reuse gives a concrete measure of Rosa's guidance: a difficult morning became something the next event could benefit from, with Leah helping to write the lesson rather than simply receiving instructions.

THE TUESDAY CART

Choice Began With a Question

Tessa's question about the reading group exposed a simple problem: one stack of recommended books did not suit everyone. Rosa asked readers what they 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 a cart with several kinds of reading, leaving space for requests and changing the selection as conversations developed. The cart became part of the Tuesday gathering. Instead of asking readers to fit a single recommendation, Rosa helped shape a selection around their different interests.

READERS SET DIRECTION

A Different Book Was Welcome

Ken remembered being offered another mystery without having to explain why the first one was not for him. Lena found a nature collection she later recommended to a neighbor.

Those small exchanges show what choice meant in practice. Rosa treated a declined recommendation as useful information, not a rejection to overcome.

Readers began recommending books to one another, while Tessa kept requests for the next visit. The cart made room for readers to contribute their own discoveries as well as take something home. Listening was not separate from the program; it helped determine what would be on the cart.

The Rosa Bennett Edition

A RETIREMENT EDITION

INSIDE / PAGE 2

THE CARE THAT CARRIES FORWARD

Practical notes, shared choices and a chapter of her own

A 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, 2027, gathering, Leah is bringing the damp-weather checklist. Tessa is collecting recommendations from the Tuesday group, and Miles is adding a note to the handover notebook.

Rosa has asked for a relaxed afternoon with time to talk. These modest items give those conversations a starting point: not an abstract tribute, but reminders of particular work and the people who helped carry it out.

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.