Welcome to another exciting year, with so much more to come as we prepare for the new library currently under construction at 227 S. Seventh St.

Geneva Public Library is about our community. This Annual Report highlights the people and connections made through our programs, services, and resources. We are proud to represent our community and thank you for your support. We are grateful to be part of a community that places a high value on its library, as shown by:

- Investing in lifelong learning at every age and stage of life by visiting the Library more than 269,000 times;
- Encouraging year-round learning by participating in our reading programs;
- Empowering teens to use our Library as a safe place to volunteer, work on school projects, and foster independence;
- Relying on the Library for research, book club service, digital literacy, studying, working, and more.

It’s inspiring to look back at the successes of the past year as we make plans to move into a new library that will serve our community in the decades to come.

Thank you for your support.

CHRISTINE LAZARIS
Library Director
269,297 VISITORS ENJOYED THE LIBRARY

Photos are courtesy of our volunteer Mariam M.
Decades ago, when Geneva became home to me and my young family, the public library quickly became a regular destination for all of us. I appreciated the handsome structure of local limestone; its Arts-and-Crafts design set it apart from the Classical Revival architecture typical of the Carnegie libraries of the same era. We loved the warm interior with its welcoming hearth and equally welcoming staff. Geraldine Steininger, the children’s librarian, offered just the right help and became a family friend.

In those days when computers were still rarities as big as family cars, we discovered the Library’s resources in the boxy cabinets of the card catalog, flipping through the worn cards in their ranks of trays. Over the years, the materials and services available to us grew. So did the building that housed them, but never quite enough to keep pace. Still this public library, like a public square for all of its citizenry, continued to seem the heart of Geneva.

Some years after we arrived, we thought we might leave for a different community. We studied its library, seeing it as an indicator as of the community’s character. You’ll notice that we’re still here.

It’s a tribute to our Library’s past and a mark of confidence in its future that Genevans voted to build themselves a new structure to house a library for the 21st century. I’ll be proud to join you there.

Patricia MacLachlan
Library Patron
Libraries today are very different than they were in the past.

All of the familiar resources and programs are still there: books to check out, storytimes to attend, and librarians to help research and recommend items. But, there are many new services that libraries provide: they provide access to technology—and the education on how to use it. They provide flexible workspaces for students to work individually and in groups. They provide resources for entrepreneurs who are no longer using traditional offices. They provide a variety of cultural programs. When the citizens of Geneva voted for a new library building, they voted to enable our Library to continue growing in these new and exciting ways. For my children, and for myself, I am so grateful for the opportunities the new Library building will provide to current and future generations.

Chazmin Baechler
Library Patron
USING THE LIBRARY

- 41,597 Research Questions Answered
- 2,618 Residents Participating in Reading Clubs
- 16,076 Computer Sessions Logged
- 55,427 eLearning Sessions Logged
- 20,787 Community Members Who Have Library Cards

Photo courtesy of our volunteer Mariam M.
The Middle School...

Library Squad allows students to make a difference at the Library. The group meets monthly to share their ideas, and plan Library programs and decorations. Members earn volunteer hours for their participation.

Favorite events from the past year include the Gaming Tournament, Dungeons & Dragons, Laser Tag at the Library, Raspberry Pi, Halloween decorations at the Library, and more!

The students can also use their expertise to lead programs; for instance, Step Up to Sixth Grade had some new Library Squad members who attended as incoming sixth-graders, while older Library Squad members volunteered to be experts explaining how middle school works.

“it’s a fun place to chill and hang out - it makes you feel a part of the Library.”

LIBRARY SQUAD MEMBERS
Our Volunteer program is offered year-round, and duties vary depending on the Library’s needs. Some common tasks include: signing in patrons for the Summer Challenge; cleaning, sorting, and inventorying supplies; preparing materials for crafts; and locating books on the shelf for Library staff projects. All Volunteer activities are eligible to receive credit for community service from Geneva High School.

Some of the projects they have helped us with include:

- Relabeling the Large Print and Fresh Picks collection
- Pulling materials for weeding
- Preparing program supplies
- Organizing paperwork (collating, stapling, etc.)
- Putting Take & Make kits together
- Assisting with programs - ex. the ice cream social, Down to DIY, many middle grade programs
- Assisted with the Friends book sale book sort
- Pulling disc materials (CDs, DVDs, audiobooks) to be cleaned, returning cleaned discs to their cases
- Sorting and cleaning materials - LEGO, toys
- Maintaining the Make-It Markets - checking supplies, sharpening pencils and crayons, checking board games for missing pieces
Year in Review/Capital Campaign

“2018 started the “With You, We Will Build a Legacy” Capital Campaign to support additional programs and services at the new Library. Support for the Library and the capital campaign has been great - there are still opportunities to preserve your legacy in the new library with our named spaces program. We thank all of our generous donors in 2018!”

MICHAEL LONGO
Foundation President

As of September 2019, the Capital Campaign has raised over $300,000 in donations and pledges.

In addition, the Foundation sponsors the Library’s monthly Book and Bag It program.

The Geneva Library Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to providing a substantial, permanent, and stable source of funds to support Geneva Public Library.

Foundation Members: (Top to bottom) Michael Longo, Peter Evans, Martha Paschke, Andy Wilson, Taylor Egan, Alexa Schwab

2018 DONORS

$5,000 AND UP - MOVIE DEAL
John and Ellen Bassett
Friends of the Geneva Public Library
Patricia Hanson
Payson and Nancy Harrington
Jeanne Hintz
Alison King and Lesley King-Dimmick
Sherlyn and Kevin Nelson
Ron Prevost
Bob and Jane Shiffler
Andrew and Kim Wilson

$2,500-4,999 - SIGNED FIRST EDITION
Charles Carroll
Michael and Sally Longo
Esther Steel

$1,000-2,499 - BEST SELLERS LIST
Tom and Diane Cleary
Paul and Debbie Conterato
Dennis and Karen Goodenough
Dana and Tom Hintz
Christine Lazaris and Devin Moose
Pat and Steve Lord

$500-999—FIRST EDITION
Brian Bird
Peter and Maureen Evans
Thomas and Sheila Tustin

$100 to $249 – Novel
John Gerlaach
Silva and Dennis Gramlich
Glenore Jerrard
Martha and Jeremy Paschke

Up to $99 – Manuscript
Yu-hsun Hung
Joseph Kasper
Janet Waller
FRIENDS OF GENEVA LIBRARY Year in Review
FRIENDS FUNDING:

Youth Winter Reading Program
Adult Winter Reading Program
Book Club Bash
Home Delivery Supplies
Sibling Bags for Delnor Hospital
Trivia Bee Sponsorship
Disc Cleaning Services
Youth Summer Reading Program
Adult Summer Reading Program
Naming Gift for the New Library

FRIENDS INCOME:

2018 June Sale
$9,847.38
2018 November Children’s Sale
$985.61
2018 December Sale
$7,594.73
2019 June Children’s Sale
$1,525.00
Browse and Buy Sales
$4,027.32
Internet Sales
$4,224.33
Memorial Gifts
$75.00

The Friends work all year long

on book sales to provide support for
Library services and programs that
benefit residents of all ages. The book
sales include a Children’s/Young Adult
Sale, the Swedish Days and Christmas
Walk sales, and Internet sales.

“When we invest our time and
talents in our Library, we invest
in our future and possibilities.”

ELLEN BASSETT
Friends of Geneva Public Library President

Book Sale Photos
are courtesy of our
volunteer Mariam M.
Construction continues on the new Geneva Public Library at 227 S. Seventh St. Library officials hope construction will be completed after the beginning of the year. The prospective opening date is spring 2020.

The 57,000-square-foot building will feature enhanced collections and programs, 76 off-street parking areas, drive-up convenience to pick up and drop off books and materials, a variety of meeting areas, exhibit space, and ADA compliance, making it accessible to all.

Keep up with progress at gpldnewbuilding.org.