

# STROLL

Skaneateles



PRESERVING THE PAST, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Photos by Alaina Davis Photography

DELIVERING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

# PRESERVING THE PAST, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

## Looking to another 145 years . . .

By Susanne Guske, President, and David Hempson, Vice-President, Skaneateles Library Board of Trustees

October is an exciting month for the Skaneateles Library, as the past and the future converge in truly wonderful ways.

As we celebrate the 145th anniversary of the founding of the Skaneateles Library Association, we take a significant step into the future by formally purchasing land to build a new library on Fennell Street.

### We are looking forward and looking back.

We are honoring those who came before us, as we think about those who will come after us. The Skaneateles Library Association was founded 145 years ago in 1877.

That was 13 years BEFORE there was an actual library building at the corner of State and Genesee Streets. In fact, the beginnings of a Skaneateles “library” can be traced to the early 1800s, when a group of settlers collected books for patrons to borrow from various businesses or offices in

town. Eventually, residents raised funds for a building to better meet growing needs.

Nickie Marquis, our award-winning library director, carries that history with her as she expands the services of today’s library and works with our committed board and committee members to do the hard work necessary to plan for a new building.

Marquis believes that a library is more than a building. The library is a spirit, a vision, a goal, that can and should evolve with time.

Over the past several decades, the community library has become so much more than a building that holds books. The world, and libraries, have changed profoundly. A library is now an important “third space” separate from home and work where we can work, seek knowledge, neutral ground, and conversation, and take comfort in feeling connected. In our increasingly

polarized world, libraries are more important than ever.

You don’t need a membership to enter, and you don’t need to buy anything to stay.

### Our plan is two-fold:

— **Build a right-sized, flexible library for this community**

— **Bring new life to our current building while preserving its character and ambiance and supporting our downtown.**

Moving into a new space will in no way mean abandoning the old. Quite the contrary. Our plans take better advantage of 49 E. Genesee Street’s unique location and architecture and allow for much-needed expansion opportunities for the John D. Barrow Art Gallery. These exciting and fiscally sound plans include year-round used book sales to help support the library and potential office space for community organizations like the Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to grants and donations, Library Hall (the large, multi-use space on the second floor) became accessible to everyone for the first time in our building’s history when an elevator was installed early this summer. The elevator makes story time, concerts, book groups, and other events accessible before the new library is built. This, and other recent renovations, will allow the building to better serve the community in the decades to come.

As the comprehensive work is done to prepare for and build a state-of-the-art, adaptable facility within three to five years (the timeframe is dependent on fundraising speed), we will continue to do our best with the facilities we have. We encourage everyone to check out all that the library has to offer — in person and digitally.

With a talented and creative staff, the library is a living, thriving, and evolving place. During the last few challenging years, our library staff found new and innovative ways to reach and help community members. We have resumed favorite programs and have prudently expanded resources to meet your needs.

Please join us as we celebrate the library’s rich history this anniversary month and follow our updates as we plan for the next 145 years. Visit our website ([www.skanelibrary.org](http://www.skanelibrary.org)) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

## WALKING RADIUS



We look forward to building our new home at 75 Fennell Street! The location is walkable to schools, downtown, and commercial activity as well as Austin Park. The property allows for easy access and plenty of parking. Our new library will provide the social, physical, and technological infrastructure essential for healthy communities in the 21st century.



The unique site is just over 2 acres and borders Skaneateles Creek. Picture a boardwalk with a bridge. It can be easily connected by a pathway (with plenty of benches) to the Gateway senior apartments and to the Parkside development. This long-overdue transformation will also be a human-centered showcase for environmental and economic sustainability.

*“There are few other spaces in society where people of all walks of life rub shoulders together.”*  
David Leonard, Boston Public Library



Everyone has a story to tell, What’s yours? Email [aline.moses@n2co.com](mailto:aline.moses@n2co.com)



Photo by Alaina Davis Photography



**the Skaneateles Library**

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**BOOK CLUBS**

*adults* → **AFTERNOON**  
3rd Mondays @ 1:00 PM  
*In person only*

→ **EVENING**  
Last Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM  
*In person and virtual*

**ELEMENTARY** *Grades 3-5*  
2nd Sundays @ 2:30 PM  
*In person with activities related to the book*

49 E Genesee St | [skanelibrary.org](http://skanelibrary.org) | 315.685.5135



**living** spaces

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“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people”  
Andrew Carnegie



Would you like to share a story or images? Email [aline.moses@n2co.com](mailto:aline.moses@n2co.com)

**meet** your neighbors

Have a Great School Year Lakers!!



The Guadagnolo's - 3rd, 1st and pre-K



James Brooks (4th)



Archie Brooks (1st)



Nicolas Bringas (4th)



First Day of High School for Frankie!



Emma (1st) & Taylor (K)



First day of 2nd grade for Savannah O'Donnell



Blake & Duncan Javidi (7th)



Livi & Ellie Springer (10th and 12th)!



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