



GET TO KNOW MARY MORRISSEY KERWICK

BY ERIN MCCORMACK, SKANEATELES LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEE

As the Skaneateles Library board moved to a new stage in securing funding for the new library building, they decided it was time to bring on a capital campaign director. Mary Morrissey Kerwick was hired to lead a group of dedicated fundraising committee members in raising the estimated \$12 million needed to build and open the new library at 75 Fennell Street by the end of 2025.

When you meet Mary, the first thing you notice is her smile. A Mary Lou Retton, one million-watt smile that lights up the room. You have to smile back, there is no other option. And then she hits you with it: “Erin, let’s go!” She has that up-for-anything, but we-are-going-to-get-things done energy that can’t be denied. You realize, this woman is all business.

This is no surprise when you look at her background. Mary’s dedication to her community, to giving back, to making a difference, and to promoting and enabling developments that ensure resources for future generations is as serious as it is contagious. And her commitment to these values is unwavering in the midst of significant family and career responsibilities.

I ask Mary, fresh from a drive back to Skaneateles from Geneva when we meet, how she does it all. “I believe in what I do, and I’m grateful to have these opportunities,” she says. “We have to have this new library for this community! It will benefit us now, but future generations will greatly benefit from it as well.”

This is only the latest in a series of ambitious and successful projects Mary has been a part of. She brings to this role more than 20 years of experience in higher-education and nonprofit fundraising. She has worked to secure major gifts at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and at Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families. Mary has also served as national director of volunteers at Wounded Warrior Project. Locally, she spent nearly five years as executive director of Todd’s Fund, a children’s nonprofit created in memory of Todd Pitman, who lost his life in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack.

In the coming weeks and months, Mary will be in a lot of meetings. Her role means forging relationships and partnerships with those looking to make impactful investments in the new library. But I can see these are conversations she looks forward to. “I want to leave a legacy,” Kerwick said of why she took on a role where she will be asking others to consider their legacy. “Skaneateles is my hometown. I am proud to play a role in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and sustainable learning environment for everyone in our community. I can’t think of a better legacy to leave.”

Presidents and Their Connections to New York State



Dr. Larry Cook

Tuesday,
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7:00 PM
@ Skaneateles
Library

Presented By: **the Skaneateles Library**

