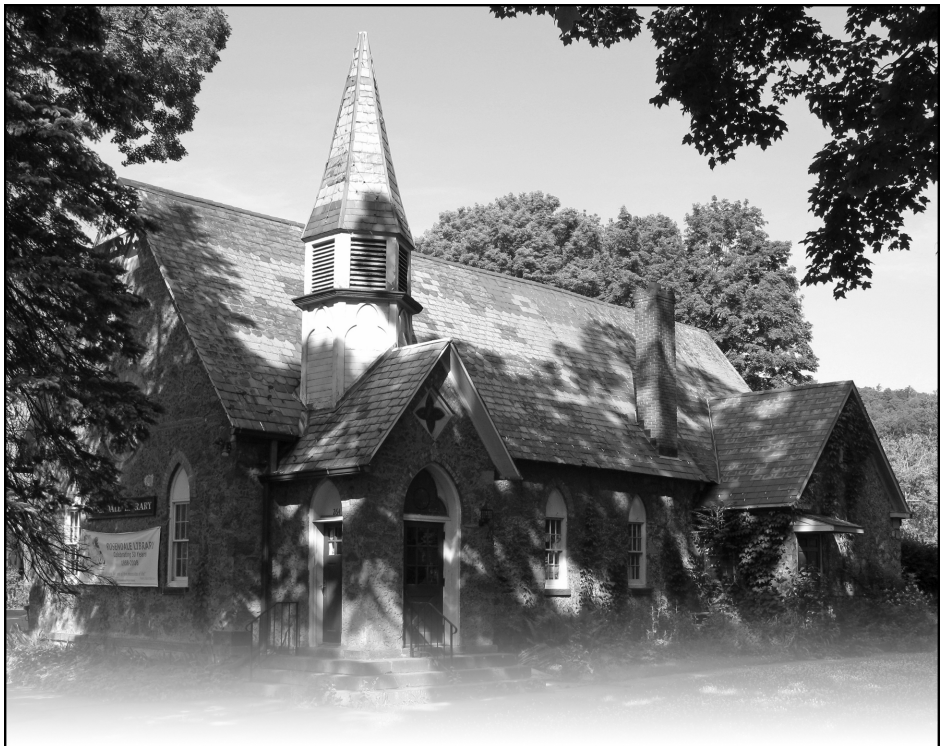

"What is more important in a library than anything else - than everything else - is the fact that it exists."

Archibald MacLeish, "The Premise of Meaning," American Scholar, June 5, 1972

Congratulations

to the Rosendale Library on their 50th Anniversary!

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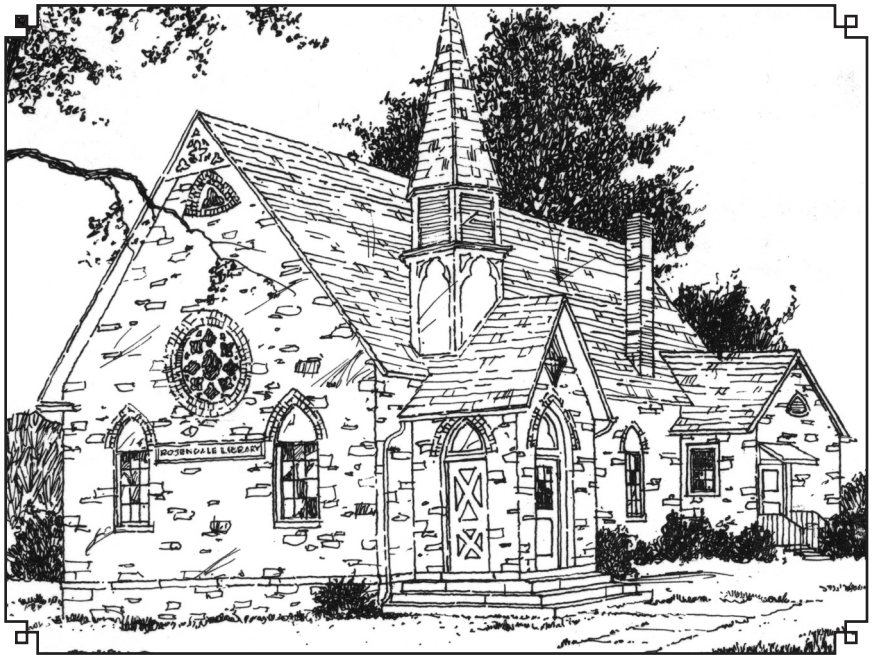
50th Anniversary Rosendale Library



1958 - 2008

Many thanks to

The founding Rosendale Library board:

George Mollenhauer
President

Joseph O'Connor
Edward Demarest
Andrew J. Snyder
Mrs. Edward (Isabel) Huben
Mrs. Arthur (Beverlee) Mulligan
Mrs. Loretta Newman
Ernest Hopper

The current Rosendale Library board:

Robert Sena
President

Michael Hines
Toby Eisman
Carl Welden
William Pape
Vera Parisi
Natalie Wargin
John Schwartz
Solomon Kershaw

And all who served on the Library Board throughout the years !

ONE LINE BOOSTERS:

"Congratulations to the Rosendale Library" from the High Falls Food Co-op.

"Happy 50th Anniversary" - Pat Merck

"Libraries help keep the dream of democracy alive." - A Friend

"Congratulations from a BOOKLOVER!" - Anonymous

"Congratulations and Thank You to our wonderful library" - Anita Wetzel

Layout and Design by Brian Tuthill, brian@briantuthill.com, 845.891.1631

We look forward to continuing the tradition of providing dedicated service to the beloved community of Rosendale.

Best wishes from the staff of the Rosendale Library

Wendy Alexander, Carol Evans, Sue Horowitz, Linda Tantillo, Amy Cote, Ann VanDamm, Nell Boucher, Ann Sarrantonio

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The History of Rosendale Library

by Linda Tantillo

Anna Mae Auchmoedy accepts the deed from A. J. Snyder in 1959 with Frederick Snyder (left) and Edward Huben (right).

Rosendale already had libraries in the nineteenth century when libraries were rather rare, restricted, and children were not allowed entrance. Various local cement concerns had private company libraries. A "Library and Gymnasium" appear on an 1898 map of Main Street, Rosendale, although its exact use is unknown. The building is still there today.

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ROSENDALE NEWS - JUNE 21st, 1940

Rosendale Free Library Opens Today June 21

One of the biggest steps.. of a small town becoming a big town is in the making today.

Members of the Comus Club who have been working toward this goal for some time, announce that the Library will open today,.. Friday, June 21, 1940, at 10 a.m. in quarters in the Town Clerks office on Main Street, donated for this purpose by Mrs. Auchmoedy.

The Club would like to thank all public spirited citizens who ..so whole-heartedly gave donations of books and money to help give Rosendale this Library.

The Library will open with books secured from Albany, and as soon as cataloging is completed, there will be about 600 books to select from.

REMEMBER! ..This is ..YOUR LIBRARY.

Come in and enjoy it!

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

DEC., 1957

FATE OF CHURCH UNCERTAIN

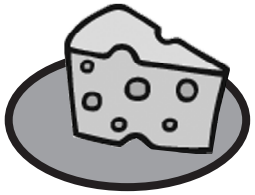
The familiar landmark at the end of Main street, the All Saints Episcopal Church, is lonlely indeed these days. Several months after the second flood of 1955, services were discontinued and

DEC., 1957

Woman's Club will continue library at church site

One of the main topics of the November meeting of the Woman's Club of Rosendale was the continuance of the Town Library. Members were interested in the fate of the present Town Library operated by Mrs. Anna Mae Auchmoedy, retiring Town Clerk. Mrs. Auchmoedy, a guest of the club, turned the books, now in the Town Clerk's office, over to the group after telling about the establishment of a library by members of the Como's Club, an organization no longer in existance.

The problem of where this library would be located so that it may grow to serve a community the size of ours was resolved with the advent of a letter from Mr. A. J. Snyder, owner of the Rosendale Century Cement Mines, who offered the use of the Episcopal Church as a Town Library. The Women's Club is now making plans for the establishment of a Library Association composed of people from all over the town who are interested and representative.



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"Best to the Rosendale Library"

Pat Merck

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A public lending library was started by the Comus Club in 1940. This club was formed in Rosendale in 1929 by Anna Mae Auchmoedy and a group of high school girls. Though the girls had fun, they also did community service projects. One of these projects was to create a lending library in Mrs. Auchmoedy's Town Clerk office. It opened on June 21, 1940, with 600 books on loan from the State Department of Education. Community members donated additional books.

In 1953, the Woman's Club of Rosendale hit upon the idea of turning the little lending library in Anna Mae Auchmoedy's Town Clerk's office into an official town library. Women's Clubs had long been leaders in organizing and supporting public libraries. In fact, by the 1930s three-quarters of all public libraries in the U.S. had been established by Women's Clubs.

When Anna Mae retired from her town position in 1954 –- by then she had accumulated 1500 books — the Woman's Club made serious plans for a public library. They consulted with the New York State Library Commission to prepare plans for funding, housing and official status. The Rosendale Library Association was established in 1958 and the Charter was granted on October 24 of that same year.

Finding a home for the new library was a huge consideration. The little All Saints Episcopal Chapel had been abandoned after two devastating hurricanes flooded it out in 1955. It would make a lovely library! But the church was scheduled to be sold and possibly destroyed, and the Woman's Club did not have the money to buy and refurbish it. Rumors spread that it was going to be sold and torn down to build a gas station.

Andrew J. Snyder, president of the Century Cement Company, came to the rescue. His family had built the All Saints Chapel in 1876 hoping to inspire the cement workers to do something more wholesome on Sundays than go to the taverns. His love of the structure and of the town, combined with his philanthropic nature, moved him to buy the church, refurbish it, and give it to the Rosendale Woman's Club for use as a public library.

Twenty–one local organizations met to create the Rosendale Library Association. Anna Mae Auchmoedy became its first librarian. The Woman's Club donated books and furniture. Library members donated various items ranging from a Bible to a doormat. The Town Board made donations as well.

Library Fair Make-up Booth August 1958: Mildred Moylan, Emma Pezzello, Marion Sickles, Mrs. Benjamin Barbuto, Mary Shillenberger. Over 150 people volunteered for the 1958 Rosendale Library Fair.

Jeanne Batterson Koskie

1952 - 2008

We are sad to hear of the recent passing of Jeanne Batterson Koskie. She was a great friend of the Rosendale Library. When the Board of Trustees began to consider an addition to the Library and how to fund it, Jeanne, a professional fundraiser and grant writer, said that she would like to help. One of the first steps was to do a study of fundraising possibilities within the town. This was a large project which involved interviewing many people, compiling information, and producing a report. Jeanne agreed to do this for half the price she would normally receive. Before the Board could vote on the proposal, we had to check with other organizations for which she worked. The reports were all enthusiastically positive and the Board promptly hired Jeanne. She conducted many interviews and produced a detailed, informative report.

Her involvement did not end there. She advised the Board about conducting a capital campaign. She was always available to answer our questions. She attended several board meetings and met separately with the Board President and others. She did all of this without charging a fee. She was happy to provide a service to the Library and to the community.

Jeanne was also the person who was instrumental in working through Mid-Hudson Library System in getting the State Education Dept. grant that partially funded the replacement of our slate roof.

Jeanne was a true professional and a generous human being. She was always pleasant to work with and a wonderful person to know. She will be missed by all of us at the Rosendale Library.

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Andrew J. Snyder deeded the property to the Library Association on January 2, 1959 and the Rosendale Library was dedicated on April 12 of the same year.

Woman's Club members Martha Wesp, Dorothy Mastro, Elsie Ingram preparing for Rosendale Library Strawberry Festival, June 1960.

On January 15, 1975, a fire destroyed the interior of the Rosendale Library and most of its collection. A small temporary library was set up on the second floor of the Fireman's Hall on Main Street. Enough money was raised not only to repair the building, but also to add a new wing on the north side that is now the children's room and office. Local mason Bruce Pederson, only 23 years old, did the beautiful, but difficult, job of matching the old stone and masonry work. A slate roof was put on the addition in keeping with the original structure. During the three years of construction disaster struck the building again when the rear wall of the building collapsed, destroying a large stained glass rose window that was to be featured in the remodeled building.

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The Friends of the Rosendale Library congratulate the Rosendale Library on 50 years of great service!

As we celebrate we remember and honor the founders, the original "Friends of the Rosendale Library," who with foresight and community spirit took an idea and created the soul of the Rosendale Library.

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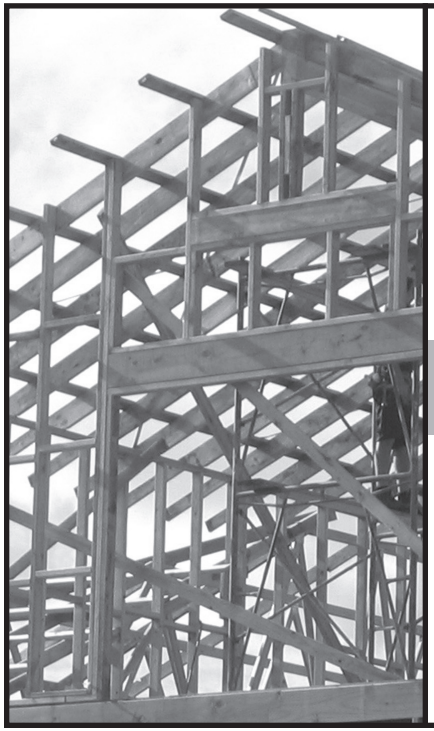

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Happy 50th Anniversary

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In April of 1977 Wendy Alexander joined the staff at Rosendale Library as its first certified librarian. This made it possible for the library to receive its Absolute Charter granted by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. In July of that same year the repaired library building was rededicated and the new children's wing named in honor of Anna Mae Auchmoedy.

Ribbon cutting ceremony, Library Fair, 1978: Lalie Priest, Rose LeFever, Pat Merck, Anna Mae Auchmoedy, Helen Mathews, Carl Mihm, Lou Muenkel.

All Saints Chapel/Rosendale Library was placed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1986. The building won its designation for its architectural significance, citing its "unusual and interesting materials." Its masonry combines local limestone cement rock (originally a shade of blue), local rubble stone, and Rosendale cement, making it a uniquely Rosendale construction.

Marion Sickles, Ruth Ghear, Dick Glazer, Pat Merck and Anne Furey planning Historic Landmark Designation ceremony, 1986.

After much work by many people, Rosendale Library succeeded in having the State of New York establish a Special District Public Library for the Town of Rosendale in 1987. It was probably the first such district of its kind in the Hudson Valley. It was voted on in the community in 1988 and received widespread support. This special district gave the public a larger voice in the running of the library and made it truly a public library.

New technology was introduced in 1988 with computers for public and office use. Free public Internet service was initiated in 1997. In 2001 barcoded books and patron Fastcards greatly expanded public access to library materials in the entire Mid-Hudson Library System through online catalogs, interlibrary loans and reciprocal borrowing privileges. That same year the Rosendale Library received four public use computers through the Gates Foundation. Rosendale Library has also been successful in obtaining grants from IBM, Mid-Hudson Library System, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Documentary Heritage Program, New York Council for the Arts, Stewarts, Dutchess County Arts Council, and state and federal government grants to support our technological and cultural endeavors. Support from our patrons has been wonderful and greatly appreciated.

This year we are celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary with several special activities. We are also preserving our past by having our beautiful but worn out slate roof replaced to its original glory. And we are looking to the future with the arrival of new public access computers and printers over the next two years through Gates Foundation Online Opportunity Grant and a hardware/software package from an Advanced Networks and Services grant. Stop in and see what's new!

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