

*Remembering*

# *Katherine Meade*



In early 2021 we lost a very dear, very important and instrumental member of our Community. She was kind, witty, loving, and above all else—generous. Generous with her time, her talents, her love, and her work. The Fred & Harriett Taylor Memorial Library is just one of the many institutions that has benefited from that generosity—in fact, we would not even be here without her. Katherine alone had the vision and the drive to dream what our building could be, what possibilities we offer the community, and what our institution could do for our patrons. She secured all the funds for the building and filled it with love. Every day we are grateful for what she did, and her legacy will certainly not be forgotten.



# *Reflections on Katherine* by Rachel Brown

## (Library Director 1996-2007)



I cried when I learned of Katherine's passing. A vibrant, gentle soul left us and that is sad. However, after a few minutes of reflection, I started smiling.

Katherine was a quietly fierce woman. She was fierce in her love of her family, her dedication to the community and fortunately for all of us, the library. I had the honor of working with Katherine. What started as a business relationship very rapidly turned into a friendship and I am forever grateful.

When construction of the new library started, there was no stopping her. She used every connection, worked every angle, was willing to do whatever needed to be done to get the project completed.

Every morning she would walk into the old library and before she even made it around the counter to the office the ideas were spilling out of her. The fundraising ideas were endless. Hot dog sales, garage sales, book sales, Krispy Kreme donut sales, Christmas wreath and centerpiece sales. The garage sales were the worst! After long days of sorting and tagging donations we would be so filthy and tired all we could do was stand there and laugh.

My favorite of Katherine's fundraising ideas was when the old Post Office closed. I have no idea how she did it, but she convinced the Postmaster to donate all of the wooden PO boxes to the library. Then she had a carpenter incorporate the glass doors of the PO boxes into a wooden bank. It was perfect, and one of the library's best fundraisers. I still have our PO box bank.

Once we were well on our way to getting the new library built, it then became very apparent that Katherine was not going to settle for anything but the best. We would have wood shelves, not metal. We would have local art incorporated in the building. We would have a fireplace. We would have beautiful gardens and outdoor seating. We would have a gazebo. We would have gorgeous ironwork on the reading patio. We would have laptops available for use by our patrons. Katherine made it all happen.

I could go on and on with my memories of my friend. I will leave you with this thought. The next time you enjoy a quiet moment browsing the stacks, participate in an adult education class, watch your children and grandchildren discover the joy of reading at the library, remember Katherine. Remember the woman with the great laugh and mischievous twinkle in her eye who gave our community one of it's greatest gifts.

Best,

- Rachel

# Katherine Meade: Honorary Lifetime Board Member

Katherine served on the Library board for more than a decade. It seemed only fitting that, given her constant and unmatched dedication, she be honored as a lifetime member of the board. The board presented her with a plaque, a duplicate of which now hangs in the library by our fireplace.





# ***Photos of the Fred & Harriett Taylor Memorial Library Groundbreaking***



Rachel Brown (Library Director), Phil Palmesana, Katherine Meade, Carl Lundy



Bonnie Colado, Diana D'Ingiani, Rachel Brown, Pat Etter, Lyn Chadwick, Carl Lundy, Katherine Meade, Elena Smith, Deb Drain



# ***Photos of the Fred & Harriett Taylor Memorial Library Ribbon Cutting & First Longest Table Event***



**Pastor Paul Rowley, Katherine Meade**



**Marsha Watson (Library Director), Pat Etter, Katherine Meade at the first Longest Table Event**



**left to right: Congressman Randy Kuhl; Katherine Meade, President of the Library Board of Trustees; Rachel Brown, Library Manager; Senator George Winner; Ristiina Wigg, Director Southern Tier Library System; Nancy Drumm, Past Library President/ Trustee/ Volunteer; Marcia Coon, Architect; Carl Lundy, Library Trustee Treasurer**

# *Still to Come...*

Continuing in the generous spirit of Katherine and her loved ones, the Meade family asked that donations in her honor be directed to the Library. The overwhelming love that the community showed as a result made it clear that something special should be made in her honor here at the library. While we are still several months out from any sort of official dedication, we hope that when the time comes the whole community will come out to remember her with us. Stay tuned for further details and further announcements.

*Thank you, Katherine, for all that you did for us and our community. Thank you for giving of yourself and your family. Thank you for making us who we are now.*



2021

Fred & Harriett Taylor Memorial Library

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