

Final Words from the Director's Desk.....

I am retiring from my position as Director of Library Services at Hershey Public Library on May 18, 2017.

With just a few weeks left here, some days I wonder whether this next chapter in my life will be relaxing or fuller than it is now. None-the-less, it is imminent and I am grateful to have been the director in this excellent facility and community.

My first library job was in 1971 in the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System in my hometown of Jamestown, NY, as a Library Assistant for Summer Children's Programming. Over the past 46 years, I have worked in four academic libraries and three public libraries, performing almost every task needed to meet the demands of students, researchers, businesses, educators, and life-long learners including adults and children. There aren't many jobs that offer that kind of variety and contact. It has been a wonderful journey.

There are a number of people in Hershey who have been my mentors, friends, and colleagues. To all, I say a heartfelt, "Thank you" for helping me learn through our successes as well as our challenges and trials. While I love to read a good book, working in a library is not about sitting back and reading. Those who work here and volunteer here know that full well. It is about people. No matter what the job description in the library, it is about serving the community to the best of our abilities.

My hope for all who continue to be part of the Hershey Public Library in years to come is that they will strive to find what is best in each other, pool their extraordinary talents, be creative and "cutting-edge," while putting the community needs first.

My predecessor coordinated, campaigned and collected funding to build "the New Hershey Public Library." My legacy has been to follow the library world's trends in technology, collection building, educational classes, and personnel development. I leave you with a wide range of improvements; new furniture, computers and equipment, a full-time staff member just for Adult Education, a new PR/Marketing specialist, as well as a wider variety of formats that can be borrowed or accessed daily.

My best wishes and warm regards to all.

Barbara S. Ellis