

Bi-Sesqui-Centennial Commemorative Tree Planting

Welcome by Megan Clement, Youth Coordinator

Good afternoon! I am Megan Clement, the Library's Youth Coordinator. I joined this intrepid team this past November. My association with the Dansville Library, however, goes much farther back to when I was a child. This library provided the pages of my youth, as it did for so many others. It's a story you will hear again and again-- Dansvillians remembering the heavy front door, the display case filled with collections, the circulation desk in the middle of the room, and the children's room with its reading table and tiny chairs. From the majestic columns on the front, to the nooks and crannies of the reading rooms, this building and our library hold many warm memories for our town.

Why do we value it so much, and why do we find it important to cherish its history? Former Trustee, historian, and writer William Conklin answered that with the opening to his library history, *Acorn to Oak*: "Because the Shepard Memorial at Main and Perine Streets, and all it represents, is the only local Library that today's young people, and middle-aged persons, know about. For them it always has been there, its services expanding with the times but essentially the same useful and attractive institution--accepted as a matter of course by boys and girls, men and women."

I think I speak for the board and the staff when I say that we are committed to continuing to be here. Today we will recount our history with our Board of Trustees President Rhea Walker, whose expertise in history is evidenced in her role as Ossian Town Historian. We will also look to the future with our current Library Director, Margo Prak, who joined Dansville Public Library at a time of great transition in 2021 and who is overseeing the foundations of a strong future for the library. So to begin that journey, I give you Rhea Walker.