

Welcome To Your New Library

A fond farewell to the double wide trailer and "Hello," to West Seneca's new library. For one year the little library, reduced to miniature size, maintained all services that every library offers. The shelves were filled with only the best of the best, the newest books published in 2017 and 2018. Along the way to our new building we have met the dreamers and builders who are now part of the legacy of our library.

Begin with David Schoell, Project Architect of Clark Patterson Lee, and the master dream weaver. It may be the beginning of the architectural firm's name or the way he wears his glasses, but whispers of "Clark Kent" have been heard. Eyes with powerful x-ray vision were needed to provide more than a dreamer's vision.

Now, the Builders: Greg West and Bill Albers of Resetarits Construction. They are The Men of Steel, The Super Heroes who supervised the digging of mud pits that soon were transformed into a permanent invincible foundation as concrete poured over steel. The blustery cold winds of autumn, the snows of winter and freezing winds of spring could delay but not stop Bill and his crew. As for Greg, there is just a hint of the extent of his knowledge in his very name- West. As the Supervisor, he can say exactly where, in any direction, North, South, East or West in that entire building you will be able to find whatever you are looking for including every nail and brick. The blueprint of the project is not only in his brain, but in his heart. The pride of a job well done is evident and much deserved. For Greg and Bill, the new library will be a lasting tribute to their skilled craftsmanship and daily dedication.

So that another builder and dreamer is not forgotten, we remember Matilda Uebelhoer who, on a summer day in 1935, offered her home and services as a librarian for the founding of the Ebenezer Free Library. Her home located at the top of the NW corner of Main and Union Streets was originally built by the Community of True Inspiration around 1850. The Ebenzers used it to store wool. In one of the two basements, the North end, was a brewery. It is rumored that during the Civil War the other half, a secret cellar, was part of the Underground Railroad.

On November 14, 1935, The Ebenezer Free Library was granted a provisional five-year charter with an annual grant from the State of New York of \$100.00. In 1948, after thirteen years of volunteer service and offering the space in her own building, Mrs. Uebelhoer was finally acknowledged. The Ebenezer Free Library joined the Erie County System, with Mrs. Uebelhoer as librarian. All financial obligations were at that time assumed by the County. Library quarters were expanded to increased space in Mrs. Uebelhoer's building. Today, on the front pillars of our new building are two cornerstone dates: 1958 and 2012. What transpired in ten years from 1948 to 1958 is another story for another day.

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