

William Jeanes



*William Jeanes
Memorial Library*

**The Library
of the Future**

A Community Center
for Lifelong Learning

**The Case for Support
for a
Community Campaign
2010 - 2011**



The William Jeanes Memorial Library

In 1926 Mary Jeanes Miller bequeathed \$75,000 – a magnanimous sum for the time – to the Plymouth Friends Meeting for the establishment of a small library in memory of her first husband, William Jeanes. Today this public-spirited woman would hardly recognize the library built on Joshua Road. Constructed in 1971, the architecturally unique facility has served Whitmarsh Township residents well for almost forty years. Its collection of 51,000 books, videos, tapes, compact discs, computer games, magazines and newspapers, as well as its lecture series, free classes, computer access to the Internet and popular children’s programs, attract over 20,000 users every year.

Since the day the Jeanes Library opened its doors, kids from Lafayette Hill, Fort Washington, and Plymouth Meeting scribbled Dewey decimal book codes on scraps of paper, then wandered through towering stacks of books until the desired book was located. At nearby tables, students, researchers, and business people pored over reference materials and scientific journals, spending hours in quiet searches, and then, inevitably, more hours at the always-crowded copying machine.

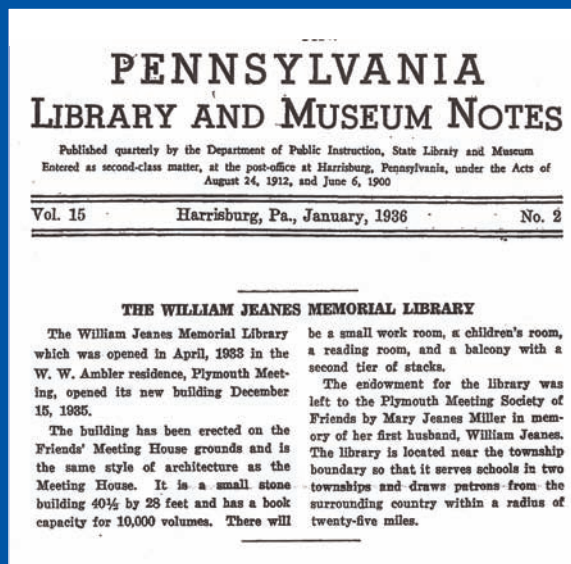
That has all changed.

The mission of the William Jeanes Memorial Library is to be a resource center which serves the diverse and changing needs of the community by providing materials, programs and services for education, enrichment and enjoyment.

Until recently, like libraries everywhere, the Jeanes Library served two primary purposes: a place from which to borrow books and a place for research. Today, libraries continue to offer these two important functions, but they are vastly different from the libraries that most adults remember from childhood. While maintaining valuable, traditional functions, public libraries today have evolved into community meeting locations where interesting, topical programs are offered and discussed, where lecturers stimulate debate, and where job seekers access opportunities through the Internet.

Planning for the Jeanes Library’s New Role in the Community

As far back as 1997, conversations regarding a possible expansion were held between the Jeanes Library Board and prominent local philanthropists Nicholas & Athena Karabots and Fitz Eugene & Edith Dixon. As their discussions continued, between 1998 and 2003 the Library’s Board renovated the facility with new carpeting, improved lighting and shelving, and replacement of the HVAC system and roof. But by mid-2004, with the collaboration of then-Library Board President Robert Langdale, the Karabots’ ideas and initial plans for a major building expansion were quietly being set into motion.



Article from PA Library & Museum Notes of January 1936





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In June 2007, the Karabots Foundation provided \$500,000 in seed money to underwrite a Library Expansion Feasibility Study, develop architectural plans for the project, and hire a construction budget coordinator to evaluate the project's proposed costs. With this important first commitment, the Karabots Foundation propelled the envisioned expansion project forward in earnest. Whitmarsh Township's Supervisors subsequently demonstrated their support by providing additional contributed funds for the project.


In 2007 the Library's Board of Directors embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of its spatial needs and the scope of services the Jeanes Library had traditionally extended to the Whitmarsh community. A planning group of interested residents, Board members, township officials, and key library staff members was formed. Consultants, engineers, and architects who specialized in developing "libraries of the future" were involved in every step of the multi-year study, providing expertise in space utilization, layout and design, as well as options and estimated costs for renovation, expansion, or both. Residents' input was sought through questionnaires and candid feedback from focus groups.


The planning group's conclusions evidenced the multiple challenges facing the Jeanes Library if it was to develop updated roles and an exciting, new image within the Whitmarsh community. **The group's report documented that Jeanes Library patrons and staff members were experiencing, on a daily basis, frustrating limitations and long-standing inefficiencies regarding:**

 **Programming for children** Expansion of the very popular children's programming was always going to be limited by lack of appropriate space. The sharing of contiguous space on one floor results in a distracting level of noise for adults and constant limitations on the kind of fun-filled, participatory learning so important to children.

 **Space for the community to meet-** For both current and anticipated use, the size of the building is inadequate by thousands of square feet. In addition, community meeting space is limited, as is the availability of smaller rooms in which to host lectures, educational programs or book discussions.

 **Book shelf and display space-** While the number of card holders and total book circulation has increased in the last ten years, space for displaying new acquisitions has remained constant, a frustrating limitation to an organization whose mission is to provide a changing, interesting array of books and periodicals to its patrons.

 **The ability to work and interact with other patrons-** The building's interior layout and space configuration should be significantly redesigned to make the facility more user-friendly for both patrons and staff members. The furniture and outdated work spaces no longer accommodate the collaborative way in which patrons now interact within a library.

 **Effective use of Library dollars to maintain an aging physical plant-** Key parts of the facility, such as doors and windows and critical components of the electrical, heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems are inefficient, costly to maintain, and in need of replacement. The number of parking spaces is also woefully insufficient.





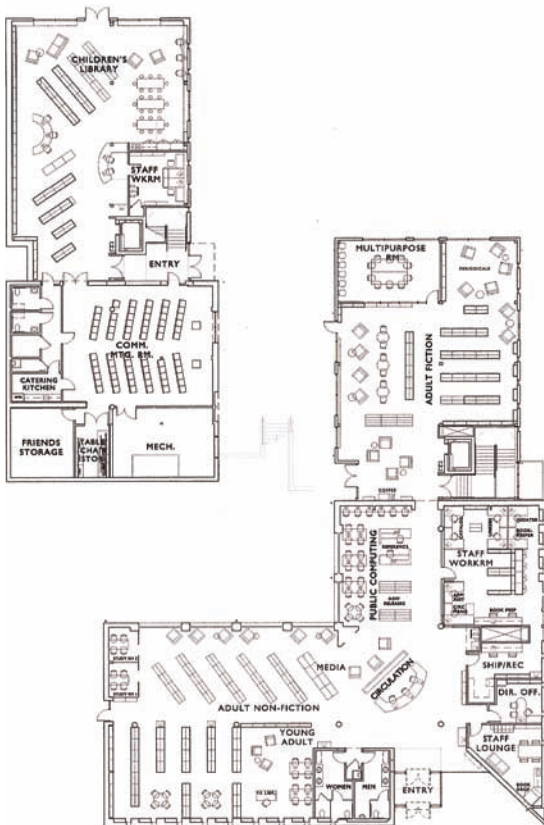
In evaluating these challenges, the Board of Directors realized that the Jeanes Library actually had an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reinvent itself not only as a “library of the future,” but also as a vital center of community life. This ambitious goal is consistent with the Whitmarsh Township Supervisors’ ongoing effort to create a more community-like feel within the township. For example, plans are progressing to make older and historic sections of Germantown Pike walkable and conducive to pedestrians. Miles Park has been redesigned to make it more visitor-friendly and functional, and the newly built Koontz Park is already a popular spot for resident activity.

As they studied these and other civic improvements, the Board of Directors envisioned a new, beautifully landscaped Jeanes Library, located midway between Miles Park and Whitmarsh Elementary School, as a unique and important component of the township’s overall development. As a result, in 2008 the Board of Directors committed itself to securing the public and private funding necessary to renovate, expand, and furnish the community’s library, and to partially endow the operations of the expanded building – in short, to develop a library of the future.

A Community Center for Lifelong Learning

Working with its architects and general contractor, the Board of Directors formulated a construction plan to increase the library’s space by almost two-thirds – from 10,500 to 17,000 square feet – by adding a new, two-story wing and renovating existing space. The total cost to accomplish both aspects of the project was \$4,400,000.


In anticipation of the construction, the library was temporarily relocated, in 2010 to a Township-owned building at Koontz Park.





The project’s most prominent feature – *and one that will rectify many of the current space-related problems* – is the addition of a two-story wing. Within the new wing’s lower level (with its own entrance) will be the enlarged children’s library. Areas within this bright, colorful new section will be reserved for arts and crafts activities and small group story hours. In the original building, adjacent to the children’s area, will be a large community meeting room with seating for eighty people and enhanced audiovisual capabilities, a service kitchen and a staff work room.


Upstairs, the new wing’s main floor will include a relocated adult fiction section and a small conference and meeting room. The original library space will house multiple computer stations, additional staff offices, a reconfigured circulation desk and lobby, and an enlarged young adult area with four computer stations. The facility will have handicapped accessible restrooms in addition to an elevator for elderly patrons and parents with strollers. The entire building will be furnished with groupings of easy chairs and small sofas. With wireless computer access and coffee available, the Jeanes Library will become a comfortable and welcoming destination for residents of all ages.


The increased benefits of the new library to Whitemarsh residents are innumerable.

 With a smartly designed, open layout and more meeting rooms, service clubs, scout groups, business and neighborhood associations, church, synagogue and school groups and others can take advantage of library facilities at little or no cost.

 With the community room's enhanced audiovisual capabilities, local authors and lecturers will utilize multi-media presentations to engage and inform community residents.

 Teenagers will enjoy programming tailored to their interests and access to computers for school as well as recreational purposes – all in an area designed to make them feel welcome.

 Researchers, job seekers, senior citizens, students and others will take advantage of greater numbers of computers and additional specialized software. Twenty new, powerful computers will provide access to more data bases.

 In addition to providing a beautiful exterior background to the library building, the library grounds will be transformed into a component of the library's educational activities and its function as a community center. Plans developed by the Landscape Committee project the landscape as a green, park-like setting with a nature path extending through interesting and unique trees and pocket gardens.



A Community Center for Lifelong Learning Campaign

As longtime township residents, Nick and Athena Karabots had a simple vision for the Jeanes Library: that the Library would evolve into an exciting part of community life. In spring 2010, Mr. and Mrs. Karabots advised the Jeanes Library's Board that the Karabots Foundation would make a grant to underwrite all \$4,400,000 of the capital-related aspects of the planned project.

The Library's leadership realized that expansion of the facility by 6,500 square feet would represent additional costs to the annual operating budget. Rather than burden the annual budget with thousands of dollars of new operational costs, the Board began making plans to increase the Library's \$300,000 endowment so that additional dividends and interest would help underwrite the increased expenses. The Board would also need to purchase landscaping materials and new furniture to equip the larger facility.

Athena and I would like to see the Jeanes Library become an even broader community center. We are hopeful that its expansion will encourage more children and adults to visit and learn and that local residents might come together to plan for the good of the whole community. This smartly designed building will facilitate both activities. We are honored to have helped.

– Nicholas Karabots

Groundbreaking Ceremonies, June 8, 2010



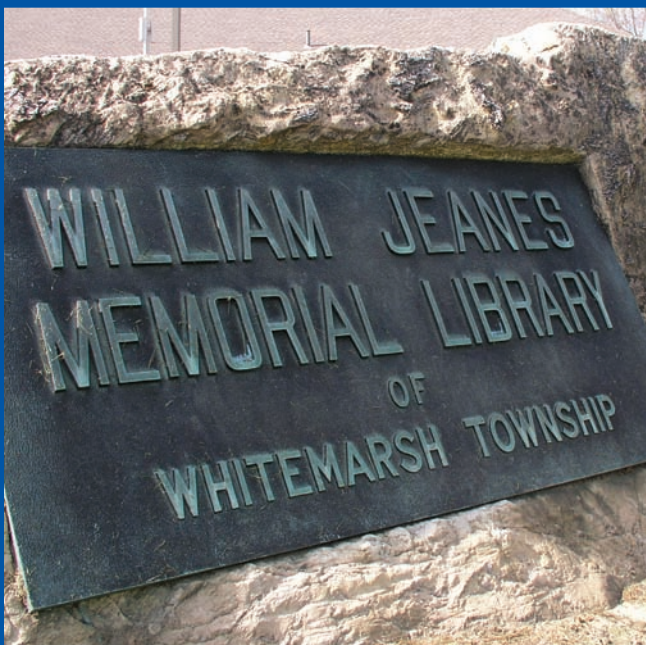
To secure the funds necessary to accomplish both goals, in 2010 the Jeane's Library's Board authorized an eighteen-month fund raising campaign with a *tentative* goal of \$1,200,000.

(As is standard practice in all campaigns, no *final* goal is established until the conclusion of the Major Gifts Phase.) Consistent with the Jeanes Library's traditional mission as well as its exciting role in the future of Whitmarsh Township, the theme *A Community Center for Lifelong Learning* was selected for the campaign.

Of the \$1,200,000 goal, \$525,000 will be allocated to purchase furnishings and equipment. In 2010, as an indication of their enthusiastic support of the project, the Whitmarsh Township Board of Supervisors extended a \$300,000 loan on very favorable terms so that the lengthy process of purchasing the new facility's specialized furnishings could begin.

Included in the balance of the campaign goal are \$100,000 in funds to help support upgrades to the landscape of gardens, trees, walkways, and shrubbery on the Library's grounds as well as their annual maintenance, and \$100,000 in campaign expenses.

Even with the significant savings of an energy-efficient building, once higher operating costs start to be incurred in 2011, the Library's annual budget has no additional or unallocated funds to pay for increased, day-to-day expenses. As a result, the remaining campaign goal balance of \$475,000 will be allocated to the Library's endowment. Invested to generate approximately \$15,000 a year, these dollars will support the increased operating expenses.



Campaign Summary

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| 1. Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment | \$525,000 |
| 2. Funds to Underwrite Landscaping Costs and Maintenance | \$100,000 |
| 3. Endowment to Underwrite Increased Operating Costs | \$475,000 |
| 4. Campaign and Donor Recognition Costs | \$100,000 |
| Subtotal Need and Tentative Campaign Goal | \$1,200,000 |

The *Lifelong Learning* campaign will have two distinct phases.

- 1] The objective of the **Major Gifts Phase**, the initial, nine-month period critical to the success of any campaign, is to raise approximately three-fourths of the \$1,200,000 goal.

The Major Gifts Phase will begin in November 2010 and conclude by summer 2011. During this time, members of the Campaign Committee will be meeting with the Library's most loyal supporters, as well as potential contributors who recognize that a new library is essential to the vitality of Whitmarsh Township. Committee members will also begin meeting with community and township business groups.

- 2] The **Public Phase** will commence in summer 2011 and will seek to successfully conclude the campaign through special events and mailings to every township resident, corporation, small business, family foundation, and individuals who have so generously supported the Library or the Friends of the Library in the past.

A Campaign Committee will be recruited to lead the drive. Comprised of Board members, township residents, business leaders, donors, key volunteers, and leaders of the Friends, this important committee will endeavor to conclude the drive by December 2011. Pledges to the campaign may be fulfilled over three years.

To recognize the campaign's most generous supporters, naming opportunities have been developed for contributors of \$10,000 or more. Donors of \$250 to \$9,999 will also be honored on a Donor Recognition Wall situated at a prominent location in the expanded facility.

The William Jeanes Memorial Library can be much more than a place to borrow a book. It can be a gathering place, a place to learn, a place for solitude, but most importantly, a place to bring our children and grandchildren to introduce them to the love of learning and open their minds to new ideas and adventures.

– Whitmarsh Township Supervisor Sara J. Erlbaum,
Groundbreaking Ceremonies, June 8, 2010

Eighty four years after making possible the establishment of a small community library, Mary Jeanes Miller would be honored to witness the evolution of this important institution from a one-room lending library to a thriving center of community life.

While investing in the Jeanes Library's original mission and role, Library leaders have also visualized "the library of the future" and have made prudent – yet exciting – plans to assure that township residents can take pride in the library they use and enjoy. The Board of Directors now turns with confidence to local families and businesses, asking them to consider a contribution that will help assure that the Jeanes Library does indeed become an exciting, relevant part of their and the community's life.



William Jeanes



William Jeanes Memorial Library

of Whitemarsh Township

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