



narrative, slide presentation, tours, and a display of Library memorabilia. Mrs. Dumond announced her retirement, scheduled for the end of December, and her successor, Mary Ann Van Benschoten, was introduced.

At the closing centennial program, an article from one of the local papers in 1897 was quoted: "The success of this library is largely due to the interested and judicious management, and is also a tribute to the enlightened public sentiment which gave it inception, and which thus encouraged may safely be relied on to foster and push it forward to broader usefulness. It is something upon which the people of the entire town may well congratulate themselves; for this is not a mere local institution; its advantages are freely and appreciatively enjoyed in every portion of the township. And its influence must surely be felt for good. The popular library ... is one of the most potent modern agencies for promoting knowledge." The speaker concluded, "With those eloquent words to inspire us, let the second century begin!"

The first ten years of the **Ellenville Public Library & Museum**'s second century are complete and its progress continues. Pam Stocking became Director of the **Library** in 1997, immediately immersed in a construction project, the **Community Room**. Ground was broken on April 13, 1999, (see photo below of then-Board members at the ceremony) and the addition was dedicated May 7, 2000, a wonderful celebration of the beginning of the 21st century. Privately funded (no money raised by taxes) by bequests and contributions of community members, both individual and corporate, the **Community Room** has opened yet another level of public service. Divisible into two smaller



meeting rooms, the **Community Room** is heavily used by the Library and also by community groups (as in the photo, at right, of the recent public meeting of the **Bicentennial Committee**; all the photos in this article, except this one and the one of **Terwilliger House**, were courtesy of the **Ellenville Public Library & Museum**, from whose collection they were copied. A current display case in the **Gallery Link** displays various artifacts from

the **Library's** entire history, including library cards, stamps, catalogs, etc. Also exhibited in a separate case are pictures and material about the **Terwilliger House**). A wide variety of programs are offered as part of the **Library's** mission to offer "public programming of the high possible quality."

The **Library** continues to cooperate with other members of the Ramapo Catskill Library System as well as other Ulster County libraries. Statistics of loans both to and from other libraries move upward annually. Increased Internet terminals are heavily used. Programs are well attended. The **Library's** book collection is consistently maintained with outdated material sifted out and new books, tapes, and periodicals regularly added to the **Library** holdings. A quarterly newsletter keeps the community informed.

The **Library** grows and grows...

The **Ellenville Public Library & Museum's** mission statement is the life force which drives its operation: "The mission of the **Ellenville Public Library and Museum** is to provide resources, services, and public programming of



the highest possible quality to meet the ongoing informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of its broadly diverse community. The **Ellenville Public Library and Museum** is committed to upholding the motto adopted at its 1993 centennial, 'Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Ever Forward,' by preserving the past while pursuing technological innovations with which to best serve the current and future needs of its patrons and visitors." (Adopted by the Board of Trustees, November 10, 1997)

Residents of the **Ellenville Central School District** who are registered voters will have the opportunity to celebrate National Library Week (April 18-24, 2004) by exercising their right to vote in the **Library's** annual trustee election and budget vote from **10 AM to 8 PM on Tuesday, April 20th**.

Let the second century continue!



*This column is a very personal one, since it is based on the historic overview I researched and presented as the soon-to-retire Director in 1993. The **Ellenville Public Library & Museum** is a great tribute to the residents of the **Ellenville Central School District** who have financially supported its growth through the years and a wonderful asset to the area. It was my privilege to be Director from 1965 through 1993 and the **Library**, its patrons, its trustees, and its staff became an integral part of my life. Thank you for the opportunity and the memories.*

– **Marion M. Dumond**