



"Our library is here for the community"

**DIRECTOR**  
Christine  
Lazaris

As the director of Geneva Public Library, Christine Lazaris has one major goal in mind: how to ensure the library meets the needs of a 21st century community. In her first year, the library is surveying the community, and Lazaris is focusing her efforts on reaching out to individuals, organizations and groups, to discuss what the library could and should be.

"Our library is here for the community," she said. "A library, as Andrew Carnegie said, is a people's university, open to all with no barriers to entry. This is the place where people can transform their lives because there's no limit on learning."

Lazaris became the library director in June 2014, joining Geneva from the Skokie Public Library, where she had been manager of access services. Lazaris has over 20 years of experience in both public and academic libraries. Lazaris has advanced degrees in art history from Northern Illinois University and in library science from Dominican University.

Lazaris is a Fox Valley resident who lives in St. Charles with her husband and children. In her role as director of Geneva's library, she enjoys the opportunity to serve her community. "I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the intellectual, social, cultural, and recreational growth of residents in our district," she said.

To achieve those goals, Lazaris will work closely with the Geneva Library Board to draft a three-year strategic plan that will address how to position the library to meet the needs of society in an ever increasing digital and mobile world. Topping the priority list is the library's undersized aging facilities, lack of parking, accessibility challenges and ongoing technology needs. Meanwhile, the board has hired an architectural firm that specializes in library planning to conduct an objective, demographic-based Library Needs Assessment. The analysis will help the board identify long-term space requirements for services, programs, and technology to serve Library District residents in the years ahead.

"This is important work for us to do to provide for our future, the future of our children, and the future of our grandchildren," she said. "Our forefathers provided the community with a library that lasted over a century. It's our turn to pay it forward and do the same for future generations."



Geneva Public Library District | 127 James St., Geneva, IL  
(630) 232-0780 | [www.gpld.org](http://www.gpld.org)