

BY: Senator OBERACKER

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of The
Community Library of Cobleskill, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of The Community Library of Cobleskill; after being postponed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, April 2, 2022, with a Roaring 20's themed Tea Party and will display special exhibits and photos all year in honor of the achievement; and

WHEREAS, Initially named The Cobleskill Free Library, now The Community Library, was founded on February 12, 1921, in Cobleskill, New York; despite the changing of names, the goal of building strong communities by preserving the past, enriching the present, and inspiring the future by providing free access of knowledge, information, enriching events, and lifelong learning opportunities to all residents remains the same; and

WHEREAS, Inspiring the theme for the 100th Anniversary Party, upon its opening day of February 12, 1921, the Cobleskill Free Library served tea to 100 guests, inspiring the theme for the 100th Anniversary celebration; and

WHEREAS, The Community Library has been an invaluable resource for residents of Cobleskill for 100 years; people come to the Library to connect, discover, study, participate in story times, book groups, and various programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the able leadership of Director Kimberly Zenner, the people who make The Community Library successful with their unwavering commitment are Librarian for Adult Services, Don LaPlant; Clerks, Amy Mele, Jackie Barbato and Catherine Sharkey, and the Board of Trustees, consisting of President, Ken Hotopp; Vice President, Julia Walter; Financial Officer, Linda Carpenter; Assistant Financial Officer and Secretary, Virginia Downs; Historian, Harriet Berard, and Trustees, Fred Barnes, Janice Clark, James Collins, Melodie Neary, Janet Sand and Julie Santoro; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by The Community Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the Library over the years; and

WHEREAS, John Van Schaik is considered the father of the Cobleskill

library; it was in his parent's house that a meeting of 20 men was held on September 28, 1920, resulting in the birth of the idea for the Cobleskill Free Library; and

WHEREAS, On December 2, 1920, a mass meeting was held in the local high school building with 49 citizens in attendance, where a motion was made by W.H. Golding that the people of Cobleskill establish a free library known as The Cobleskill Free Library; the motion was carried unanimously, and the first nine library trustees, Mrs. Ada Y. Franklin, Mr. Frank Ryder, Miss Dora Cohn, Mrs. Ida Weiting, Mr. W.B. Golding, Mr. A.L. Norton, Mr. W.J. Fullerton, Mr. Jared Van Wagenen Jr. and Mr. Morgan Myers, were established; and

WHEREAS, To fund the library, a campaign was launched on January 10, 1921, with the goal of recruiting 1,000 members to enroll at one dollar each; the trustees engaged Miss Janet Cornish, graduate of the State Library School at Albany, as librarian to organize the library; and

WHEREAS, In a true community effort, Dr. Carolyn Olendorf donated equipment for the children's section, Jesse Norton gave her genealogical records, Daisy Brown her books of clippings, the Methodist Church donated the contents of their Sunday School library, and the Cobleskill Index gave bound newspaper volumes; and

WHEREAS, A special election to finance the library by public taxation was held on April 29, 1926, and passed in a vote of 148 to 61, changing the name from Cobleskill Free Library to the Cobleskill Public Library; and

WHEREAS, After another relocation and renovation supported by a fundraising campaign, the school district voters of the area passed a measure on October 6, 1999, to make the library a school district library, changing its name a final time to The Community Library, the name it holds to this day; and

WHEREAS, The Library received a helpful grant which allowed for a revolutionizing renovation in 2007, which added two floors, remodeled meeting rooms, doubled the number of computers, overhauled plumbing, heating and electrical systems, and created a railed opening, creating a great sensation of space; and

WHEREAS, Working diligently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to provide services to the residents of Cobleskill, The Community Library adapted measures that included social distancing, the wearing of masks, and even curbside book delivery, proving the dedication of this institution; and

WHEREAS, The Community Library team, in conjunction with the community, will discuss plans for the next 100 years, including the expansion into the building's annex, and the hopes for a community room with afterhours access, teen and youth dedicated rooms for programs, a Friends cafe and book store, more meeting spaces, and more; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, The Community

Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of The Community Library of Cobleskill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kimberly Zimmer, Director, The Community Library of Cobleskill.