

# The Bookworm

Newsletter from Friends of the Ripley Library

Volume 10 Issue 1

January 2021

**Ripley Library Board:**  
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**Town Editor:** *Nancy*  
*McIntosh*

*Friends of the Ripley*  
*Library Welcome You*

**NOTE:**  
**New Temporary**  
**Hours of Opera-**  
**tion**

**Open Tues &**  
**Thurs 10am-3pm**  
**for pickup only**

Monday 10 - 5  
Tuesday 10 - 7:30  
Wednesday 10 - 5  
Thursday 10 - 5  
Friday 10 - 5  
Saturday 9 - 2



## Welcome 2021!

There's no doubt the year 2020 was a tough one.  
The staff and volunteers at the Ripley Library  
appreciate your support through this trying time.  
We wish you a healthy, healing, happy New Year!

## 10 Year Anniversary

The Bookworm and About Town are going on ten years of bringing you news about your library and your town. It's hard to believe we've been doing this for so long. Many changes have been made to these publications, as well as to our library. Thank you for your continued interest.

Tell us what you like, and don't like, about the newsletters.  
We'd love to hear from you!



**Friends of the Library Meeting:**  
**Zoom meeting January 7th at 11a.m.**

## **The Bookworm Celebrates Ten Years!**

The newsletter, The Bookworm, is entering its tenth year of publication. The creation of library enthusiast Robyn Albright, the newsletter has grown from a one page flyer to a publication of 10-20 pages, all distributed via email.

There have been growing pains along the way, as well as experiments regarding content, but The Bookworm has always tried to cover current information about our local library and the events held there. We take pride in making every issue colorful and appealing. Upcoming classes and services, such as Family Support Services and Office for the Aging presentations, as well as the Employment Workshop that was offered to help those new to the workforce write their resumes, fill out applications and interviewing, have been presented for patrons to sign up for these informative gatherings.

While attending various events wasn't possible for some, The Bookworm tried to cover these events with photos in the month that followed. The Month of the Arts in March has always been well attended but seeing the artistic talent of some of our residents in print is always a good thing. The same held true for the Quilt Show, Some truly fabulous quilts have been entered, and while photos cannot do them justice, its great for those who aren't local to see what is happening in our little library. The Murder Mystery dinners have been represented via photos as well—although nothing can take the place of attending a good mystery!

Looking back, different content has been included with varying degrees of success. Contests and recipes have given way to "Did You Know" snippets and a monthly calendar of events. For awhile reprints of articles from the old Ripley Reviews were featured. Standard features now include a monthly list of new books available here in Ripley, a Monthly Book Review, the Book Club selection, and monthly columns from the library director, Rhonda Thompson, and Friends of the Library facilitator Nancy McIntosh.

Along the way more and more news about the Town of Ripley was put in The Bookworm, necessitating a separate section labeled About Town. In this portion of the newsletter we informed the residents of Ripley about upcoming events, services available to the community, and retrospectives on places and people from the past. New businesses, and there have been a few, were introduced. Local churches list the times of their services and the VFW provides a monthly calendar of commemorative dates we should remember. Additionally, every issue of About Town lists all the town offices, their contacts and phone numbers. Hopefully this has been useful to many of our residents.

The Ripley Library "went District" in 2016. Basically this meant that the library functions under the school district calendar, with a separate budget, allowing for growth and improvement in the services offered. It was an exciting time and The Bookworm covered it all.

In the summer of 2017 three things happened here at the library. Thackeray the Cat, the library mascot for many years, passed away. A reader vote was sought and Hamilton, the owl, was selected as our new mascot; AND the newsletter had to be split into two entities, The Bookworm and About Town, due to the content being so large some email accounts could not accommodate the attachment.

The next ten years promise to be exciting and informative! Virtual tours can be found in the pages of The Bookworm and our website [ripleylibrary.org](http://ripleylibrary.org) as well as links to on-line magazines and classes. We're glad you've been along for the ride and we encourage you to participate in whatever way you can!

## Reprise of Kudos to Ripley Public Library by Robyn Albright

The Ripley Public Library newsletter, *About Town*, has received accolades from a major peer review publication, *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*.

*“Lead Pipe* is an open access, open peer-reviewed journal founded and run by a [team of librarians](#) working in various types of libraries. In addition to publishing articles and editorials by Editorial Board members, *Lead Pipe* publishes articles by authors representing diverse perspectives including educators, administrators, library support staff, technologists, and community members.

*“Lead Pipe* believes libraries and library workers can change the world for the better. We improve libraries, professional organizations, and their communities of practice by exploring new ideas, starting conversations, documenting our concerns, and arguing for solutions.”

**“Critical Optimism: Reimagining Rural Communities through Libraries**, by Margo Gustina, Deputy Director; Trustee Development Consultant, Southern Tier Library System

“In brief: In the absence of governmental agencies and philanthropic support, many rural communities see their local library as the last civic, cultural, or service organization in town. This reality presents obvious challenges to the librarian, and also incredible opportunity. As the primary convener, libraries have the ability to facilitate regeneration in the communities they serve.

“In Ripley, New York, there was no newspaper. No newspaper seems so commonplace that it hardly seems worth mentioning. But within the unique information landscape of geographically isolated communities, no local operated print news source is a big problem.

“Libraries are not newspaper publishers. But they are institutions whose purpose is to satisfy the information seeking behaviors of their public. So, in Ripley, the library publishes the news. In resource poor geographies, communities don’t have the luxury of redundancy. To this end, the Ripley (Public) Library uses the *About Town* newsletter to communicate community resources and facilitate sharing of those resources between disparate organizations.

*“About Town* also directly impacts civic engagement and decision making. In the October 2017 issue, the library reminds readers that lakefront revitalization is going to happen, that there have been community conversations held ... , and leaders want direct input from the community. The library is home for the planning, the conversations, and now for the direct feedback on direction using paper “worksheets” and a list of possibilities to be explored. The Ripley Public Library owns its role as a convener and includer, not as a lone hero. And so their community is experiencing increased individual empowerment and engagement.”

As a writer and designer for both *The Bookworm* and *About Town* it has been my privilege to participate in the burgeoning renaissance of Ripley, New York. Information is vital to the overall health of a community and we at Ripley Public Library hope to continue to disseminate news throughout our community for many years to come. RNA

To read the entire article, you can go to :

<http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2018/critical-optimism/>

## From the Director's Desk



By Rhonda Thompson

Happy New Year!!! Boy oh boy! Isn't it nice to say good-bye to 2020? I was remembering back to the beginning of last year. I was so excited about 2020. The sound of it was so cool and seemed so futuristic. I was sure it was going to be the most exciting year and many good things would happen.

Well.....many things did happen, but not always good things. We have Covid-19 of course and that has been a major adjustment for all of us. The masks, distancing, closings and cancelations and just anything related to Covid. YUK! We also had murder hornets (which I thankfully did not see any of), toilet paper hoarding, parents becoming teachers, remote learning, Zoom meetings, devastating fires in Australia and the USA, political weirdness to the point I saw a Ross Perot sign in a yard in Westfield. We have had stadiums without fans, protests around the world, the Browns doing good and the Bills doing great. The good news is though we are

all safe and hopefully the new vaccine will start to curb this nasty virus. Also, our Library is being renovated and it is going to look spectacular. One of the most incredible things is we all learned BigFoot's name is Darryl. I could go on, but you guys have lived this too.

We had our annual auction online this year and it was very good thanks to great supporters like yourself. It worked out so well that we may just have to continue this way.

This is also the tenth anniversary of the Bookworm Newsletter. Many Kudos to Robyn Albright who has kept this little newspaper going out there to all of you. Many people look forward to this newsletter just so they can catch up on what is going on. She has done a fabulous job on this. She puts a lot of herself and her time into getting this out on time for all of Ripley residents. Thank you Robyn, we all appreciate it.

I will end this with a wish for everyone to have a healthy happy new year!

See you at the Library,

## Among Friends

Nancy McIntosh

Even through difficult times, the Friends of the Ripley Library have managed to successfully hold a first-time online Holiday Auction plus a Chinese Auction at Coffee on Main. Many thanks to everyone involved for making this possible. The response from the Friends was incredible as well as the participation of the public.

May the new year bring peace and joy to all!



## I Solemnly Swear to be Resolute in My Resolutions

By Nancy McIntosh

It's that time of year; time to remember the year gone past; one filled with sickness, doubt, loneliness and insecurities but it was also a year filled with friendship, creativity, appreciation and love.

The New Year brings endless possibilities. I found an interesting site that listed a few resolutions that may help get you through. Click on the site at the bottom of this article for even more ideas.

Build a Better Budget

Cook One New Thing Each Week

Read More Books

Join a Club

Create a New Cleaning Schedule

Drink Less Alcohol

Quit Smoking

Eat More Veggies

Try a New Diet Plan

Book All Your Doctor's Visits for a Year

Take the Stairs

Become a Plant Owner

Plan a Vacation

Drink More Water

Consider Therapy

Volunteer

Listen to Audio Books When Working Out

Decorate with Family History

Sanitize Your Phone Weekly

Keep Clutter Out of the Kitchen

Donate Old Clothes

Explore New Hobbies

Do One Thing at a Time

Take More Walks

Make Your Bed Every Morning

Learn a New Skill

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/wellness/advice/g985/achievable-new-year-resolutions/>



## Story Time

January is typically a slow month for the library, and especially so this year with construction and the pandemic. So, the idea to share holiday or winter stories with you was suggested. We always welcome stories or contribution from you, our readers, as well!

### Depression Christmas by Robyn Albright

My mother was born in 1931 and grew up during the depression years. Looking back she saw the deprivation the family suffered, but going through it just seemed normal. She told a particular story about Christmas that never got old to me.

Fruit during the winter months was hard to come by in those years, but one Christmas my mother and her two brothers, one older, one younger, got apples in their stockings. What a treat! Sonny was four years older than Nonie, and Royal was only a year and a half younger. Sonny invented a new game to play with his younger, and gullible siblings. "Let's play 'feed the furnace!'" So Sonny showed my mother and her younger brother how to cut up their apples into sticks, and then to stack them like cordwood. With all the "cordwood" on the table, Sonny volunteered to be the furnace. "You gotta feed the fire," Sonny instructed.

"So, like dummies," my mother said, (my word, not my mother's – hers was a bit stronger), "we fed our sticks of apples into Sonny's mouth." It made the two younger children laugh when the furnace ate up the fuel, and they had a whale of a time; until they realized their apples had gone into the furnace and they were left with nothing.

### A Winter Hike

*Excerpt from my memoir, My Mountain Friend: Wandering & Pondering Mt. Major*

*By Mary Ellen Humphrey*

It's a little over a mile and a half from the parking lot to the summit of Mt. Major, via any of the three main trails. In the winter, I hike the Boulder Trail. True to its name, it is a rocky incline with large boulders strewn along the way, left by an ancient glacier from another time.

The first winter that I hiked was a new experience. The weather required more careful footing, and fewer hikers created a keen sense of safety. I might only encounter one or two people on a winter hike, unlike the populous summer when thousands traversed these favorite trails.

The main trail, called the Blue Trail, was treacherous in the winter. Being on the shaded side of the mountain, it became a mini-glacier, and even with ice clamps on my boots, it was impossible to scale the ice sheets that covered the rocks. The Boulder Trail got enough sun to melt a lot of the ice, and tended to be safer and easier to hike. So in the winter, I went up the Boulder Trail.

My encounter with "the Tree" happened on one of my early winter hikes. Because my glasses were bifocal, I had to look down to see where I was stepping, and it was a cold, icy day. About two thirds of the way up the Boulder Trail I came to some ledges and was so engaged in watching my step that I didn't notice a tree that was growing oddly out into the middle of the path. I ran right into the tree hitting the top of my head. I saw stars. It was startling!

Continued on next page

**A Winter Hike**, continued *By Mary Ellen Humphrey*

After a few minutes I examined myself to access the damage and glanced around to see if anyone else was near. I was alone with the winter sun and light breeze blowing in the woods around me. The tree was just there. I hadn't noticed it before, but of course there was no reason to. It was easy to go around it if I had been watching. The tree was bent, shaped like a large L, and protruded over the rocks where I had been walking. I imagined that it had been damaged when it was small, perhaps by a hiker decades ago, but it persevered and grew strong and tall, despite its deformity.

Although the top of my head hurt, I concluded I was fine and continued to the top. The tree intrigued me. The lesson I carried away was that I need to look up once in a while and make sure I'm going the right way. I wondered if obstacles in our life's path are there to teach us something. Even this deformed tree serves a purpose, a lesson for someone like myself to ponder life's mysteries, or perhaps simply to watch my step.

My neck and shoulders were sore the following week, but I was eager to go back. After that I always stopped to visit this special tree, and sometimes to give it a hug. It reminded me that even though damaged in our youth, we can still grow strong and beautiful. I would have more encounters with this special tree over the thousand times I would hike this trail. Every time I felt like I was visiting an old friend.

## Memories

By Rhonda Thompson

Thinking back to my childhood, I remember a day in the winter when my cousins came from their larger farm to our small farm and we were all playing outside. It was a cold day with light flurries in the air, a great day for outdoor play.

We lived in Edinboro, PA which is right in the heart of the Snowbelt so we always got a lot of snow. This one day was filled with fun as my cousins, sisters and me were playing on our flying saucer sleds. We climbed a snow bank up to the roof of the chicken coop and slid off the chicken coop on our saucers. Oh my gosh it was so much fun. We slid down the slanted roof and we were airborne from about 8 feet in the air and came down into the snow.

Later we decided we would hook the horses up to our flying saucers. We imagined the fun we would have as the horses pulled us around on our sleds. We did not know what to hook them up with, so being kids and resourceful, we used the ever present farm staple, binder twine. We were having a good time with this, I am not so sure about the horse though, until our little filly decided to run through our mass of binder twine harness and upset the process. We decided it was too much work so we put the horses away, gathered up our ice skates and headed off to the pond for an afternoon of ice skating.

This may seem like a rather uneventful time, but for some reason it sticks out in my mind as a very pleasant memory. We made our own fun on a winter day. This was a day filled with wholesome fun, family and memories.

## My Choice

By Sharon McIntosh

### Beyond all Frontiers

by Emma Drummond

In 1834 young Charlotte Scott arrived in India from England, where she had remained to attend school when her family had been moved by the military assignment of her father to a post there of Chief British Diplomat.

She looked forward to picking up in her relationship with her mother, Lady Scott and her two half brothers who were much younger than she. But, the decade of separation had changed and the country had changed how one must behave at a given age in a given position. All of this was a disappointment to Charlotte.

She longed to ride and travel by herself to discover the new country. This was forbidden as it was not safe for her to go out alone. She was expected to dress and attend many teas and meeting and greeting those that were important for one in her position to mingle with.

The dashing, heroic soldier of fortune, Colley Dupres and the staid, honest, hard working engineer, Richard Lingarde, vied in various ways to win the heart of the most eligible lass; one with riches beyond imagination and one with protection and companionship.

After many actual battles and mysterious escapades, Charlotte chose the "right" man for her, learned long hidden secrets about her mother and finally enjoyed a closer relationship with her family.

"Set against the true historical background of the British invasion of Afghanistan in 1839, this is a powerful story of men at war and of a love that reaches beyond all frontiers."

## Show Your Support

In the past The Bookworm and About Town have solicited donations from local businesses in exchange for an ad featuring that business. This year we are starting a new type of donation for businesses and individuals alike, and I am hoping you will participate.

For a monthly donation of \$5, you can have a personal message or card printed in The Bookworm as a supporter of the Ripley Public Library, letting people know you are helping to make our local library great!

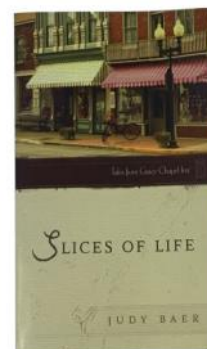
We would like to simplify things by asking you to donate either \$30 or \$60 for 6-months or 12-months, and a business card that you want printed in the newsletter. You can mail your check and business card to Ripley Library, P. O. Box 808, Ripley, NY 14775 or call the library at 716-736-3913 to arrange for pick up.

## Join a Board Meeting

If you are interested in virtually joining a Ripley Public Library Board meeting, please contact the director, Rhonda Thompson, 716-736-3913 with your email address and you can be sent a link to the meeting. Or you can email her at [director@ripleylibrary.org](mailto:director@ripleylibrary.org) Leave a message. We will return your call.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet virtually on Zoom on Friday, February 4th at 11 a.m. to discuss *Slices of Life* by Judy Baer. Contact the library on how to connect.





## Ripley Public Library Mission Statement

**The mission of the Ripley Public Library is to promote life-long learning for all community residents, providing unrestricted free access to all printed and recorded material from its own collection as well as that of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System. The Library will endeavor to create a community center that provides so much more than information for all of those who ask questions and seek answers.**

## Looking Good on <https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

The CCLS (Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System) has dozens of magazines available to be downloaded from their collection. Find what you are looking for by going to the library website listed above. Then click on downloads across the top bar. Scroll down until you find magazines and simply click on the one that interests you. It's that simple!



## Playaway Launchpad!

Exciting news from CCLS! The library system has obtained several Launchpads that can be checked out for use. From the Playaway Launchpad website: "Pre-loaded with content for kids, Launchpads are designed with a simple, easy-to-use interface, and 100% secure. Launchpads are made to be passed from one set of hands to the next. No download time. No need for Wi-Fi. Access to powerful content is as simple as turning on each device."

Go to our website [ripleylibrary.org](https://www.ripleylibrary.org) for more information on this wonderful learning tool for your little ones!

## <https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

Many families have been seeking out educational as well as interesting sites for their children. The library website, listed above, has added a new category under Resources. Click on Virtual Tours/Cams. Once there check out our new [Virtual Road Trips](#). One of them, A Virtual Car Trip through the USA, was recently submitted by one of our readers. Take it out for a spin!

The **Annual Holiday Auction** was a great success, both online and as a Chinese Auction. This would not have been made possible without the help of so many people. Many thanks to everyone listed below who contributed, whether it be through cash donations, gift certificates, items or time and effort. We could not have done it without you.

Barcelona Market Café  
Bob McIntosh  
Buffalo Bills  
Calarco's Italian Restaurant  
Charlie's Auto Center  
China King  
Community Bank  
Concord Plumbing and Heating  
Crab Apple Ridge Golf Course  
Dorothy Barnes  
Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse  
Dutch Village  
Evelyn Koegler  
Heather Walk  
Joan Fletcher  
Johnny B's  
Johnson Estates  
Kelly & Doreen Hammond  
Lucille Ball/Desi Arnaz Museum  
Main Street Pizza  
Main Street Salon  
Meeder's Restaurant  
Memorial Library of Little Valley

Mo Ferree  
National Comedy Center  
New Harvest Restaurant  
Nicole Dobek  
Orton's Fruit Market  
Pine Junction  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
Quagliano's Bark Grill  
Regal Services  
Rhonda Thompson  
Rob & Katherine Galbraith  
Robyn Albright  
Scott Enterprises  
Service Master by Higginbothams  
Sharon McIntosh  
Stephanie Feiss  
Stetson Brothers  
Sue Yokum  
Teresa Sculley  
The Alley Day Spa  
Thelma McDonald  
Vera Hustead  
VFW Post 6764

And a special thank you to the Ladies at Coffee on Main for all of your help and allowing us to hold our Chinese Auction in your shop. If anyone's name has been accidentally omitted, please forgive the error. Just drop us a line at [thebookworm14775@gmail.com](mailto:thebookworm14775@gmail.com) and we will be sure to publish it next month

## January Book List 2021

### Adult Fiction

- Bailey/The Dark Lake
- Baldacci/One Good Deed
- Betley/Overwatch
- Blackwell/The Vineyards of Champagne
- Brunstetter/The Crows Call
- Dempsey/White Rose, Black Forest
- Devine/Whispers of the Wind
- Dugoni/The Eighth Sister
- Galbraith/Troubled Blood
- Grisham/A Time for Mercy
- Gunnis/The Girl in the Letter
- Hunter/We Were the Lucky Ones
- Larson/The Girl Who Played with Fire
- McKinnon/Candles on Bay Street
- Patterson/Hush
- Peterson/Hearts Aglow
- Sager/Home Before Dark
- Steel/Child's Play

### Adult Nonfiction

- Elvgren/If Nothing Happens
- Galgani/How to Make Money in Stocks
- MacNutt/Encountering Angels
- Markham/West with the Night
- Rybczynski/My Two Polish Grandfathers
- Terkeurst/Forgiving What You Can't Forget

### Large Print

- Brown/Crazy Like a Fox
- Carlisle/Dark Road Home
- Clayton/The Race for Paris
- Oyeyemi/What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours
- Wiseman/Coal River

### Paperbacks

- Clark/To Have and to Kill
- Grisham/The Chamber
- L'Amour/The Collected Short Stories
- Orwell/1984
- Swanson/Dead Between the Lines
- Woodhaven/Credible Threat

### Young Adult

- Alloway/Dreamfever
- Dean/Girls on Film
- Fitzpatrick/Finale

Godbersen/Luxe

### Junior Books

- Christopher/Slam Dunk
- Depaola/26 Fairmount Avenue
- Greenburg/The Volcano Goddess Will See You
- McKissack/Miami Jackson Sees It Through
- Stine/Ghost Beach
- Warner/The Boxcar Children: The Great Shark Mystery

### Easy Readers

- Adler/Young Cam Jansen and the Lost Tooth
- Crews/Ten Black Dots
- Gardeski/All About Oceans
- McMillan/I Need a New Butt
- Muntean/Theodore Mouse Goes to Sea
- Piper/The Little Engine That Could
- I Spy Ultimate Challenger

### Audiobooks

- Clark/I Heard That Song Before
- Cook/Cure
- Deaver/The Steel Kiss

## Join Friends of the Library Now!

The Friends of the Ripley Library have made a huge difference in not only the library, but in the town as well. We need YOU to join us in doing something worthwhile that benefits our entire community. Membership is as simple as filling out your name, address and phone number and contributing a \$5 per year membership fee. No experience necessary, all ages are welcome. WE NEED YOU! Residency in Ripley is NOT required to be a member.



Thank you so much for your past support. We hope you will become a member and contribute to another great year.

### Friends of the Ripley Library Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$5 annually in January

Print this portion and return it to the library, or pick up a form at the library desk.

## FRIENDS OF THE RIPLEY LIBRARY

Friends of the Ripley Library  
P. O. Box 808  
Ripley, NY 14775

Phone: 716-736-3913  
Fax: 716-736-3923  
<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>  
Email: [thebookworm14775@gmail.com](mailto:thebookworm14775@gmail.com)

# Library Calendar of Events

- Curbside pickup will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10a.m. til 3p.m.

## Email Newsletter

We rely on email to get our newsletter out. We would like to increase our list of recipients but we need your help to do so. Please tell your friends, relatives and neighbors about The Bookworm and the fun things we're doing at the library. Each month you will also receive the email, About Town. For a monthly copy, send your email address to:

[thebookworm14775@gmail.com](mailto:thebookworm14775@gmail.com)

If you would like to opt out of our mailing, please let us know at [thebookworm14775@gmail.com](mailto:thebookworm14775@gmail.com)

**\*Also now available—The Bookworm and About Town on the library website <https://www.ripleylibrary.org>**

**All groups and activities have been suspended until further notice. COVID-19 guidelines are in effect. The library is open for curbside pickup only at this time. We hope to see you again soon!**



Please note: all letters and/or emails to the Library and staff MUST be signed. Those without a signature will not be recognized. Names will be omitted, to protect privacy, if published.

## Notes & Things

The list of book and movie titles available is now on the library website <https://www.ripleylibrary.org>. The library has over 1,000 titles to choose from, with more added each month. Books can be ordered by email ([clerk@ripleylibrary.org](mailto:clerk@ripleylibrary.org)) or a phone call (716-736-3913) and picked up during library hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We appreciate your continued patronage!

**A HUGE thank you to the businesses and individuals who contribute to the success of these newsletters and the Ripley Library!**

**See their cards on the next page.**

**If you would like to donate, let us know at:**  
[thebookworm14775@gmail.com](mailto:thebookworm14775@gmail.com)



**Best Wishes to the Ripley Library  
For a Great New Year in 2021!**



**Pat Burdick Locke & Bill Locke**



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