

# The Bookworm

Newsletter from Friends of the Ripley Library

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2021

**Ripley Library Board:**  
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*Bob McIntosh, VP*  
*Karen Gunther, VP Finance*  
*Robyn Albright, Sec.*  
*John Hamels*  
*Linda Lowes*

**Library Director:**  
*Rhonda Thompson*  
**Clerk:** *Stephanie Feiss*

**Bookworm/About Town**  
**Editor:** *Nancy McIntosh*

**Friends of the Ripley**  
**Library Welcome You**

## **NOTE:** **New Temporary** **Hours of Operation**

Monday Closed  
Tuesday 10am-3pm  
Wednesday 10am-3pm  
Thursday 10am-3pm  
Friday Closed

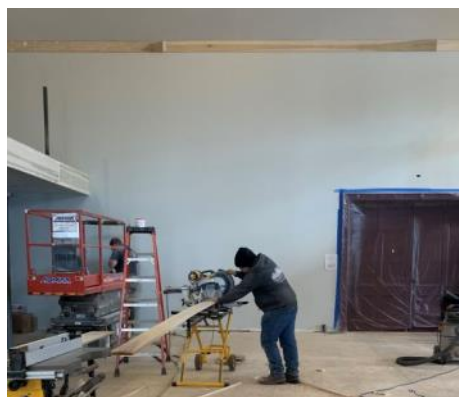
Saturday Closed  
Sunday Closed

## **Construction, Back on Track**

After an extended Covid-19 and holiday break, construction has finally resumed at the library. The trim package has arrived and is being installed. Carpeting measurements have been done and will be ordered soon.

Three new doors are needed, one for the librarian's bell tower office, and two for closets under the new stairways.

Discussion is being held as to the original double doors leading into both sides of the library. Keep them? Or start from scratch and replace all of them? No decision has yet been made.



Ceiling fans with remote controls to turn lights and/or fans on and off are also to be determined.

So much has been done. So much more to do! An entirely NEW library is being created for our Ripley and surrounding area residents!



Continued on Page 2



**Friends of the Library Meeting:**  
**No February meeting scheduled**

## Construction, Back on Track, continued

Library Board President, Earl Freling, has been lending a helping hand with a project of his own: sanding and finishing the original support beams for the front corner of the library. Earl estimates that the hemlock beams were from a local tree that was over 500 years old. "I pulled hundred of nails out of the beams before I could even start sanding," Earl said.



This northwest corner of the reconstructed library will feature one of the round stained glass windows that adorned the Baptist church. Stripping, sanding, replacing glass and staining this window was another project Earl undertook.

The window will be back-lit and hung from the refurbished beams.

Balcony railings posts have gone up, as well as molding around the ceiling. Floor

beams for the balconies have been boxed in and will be

painted.

The original stained glass windows on the east side of the building will be opened up to the light and will extend to their original height, through the floor of the balcony.

Can lights are up and light fixtures are soon to follow. Things are moving along!

The library will now be open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 10a.m. until 3p.m. Sneak peaks at the progress will be given to patrons who stop in!



**While the Ripley Library cannot restore the building to its original state, it's nice to see a photo of the Baptist Church as it looked in a by-gone era. The lower stained glass windows remain, one of the round windows in the peaks will be displayed in the library, and the steeple, without the spire, will be used as office space.**





## Future Changes

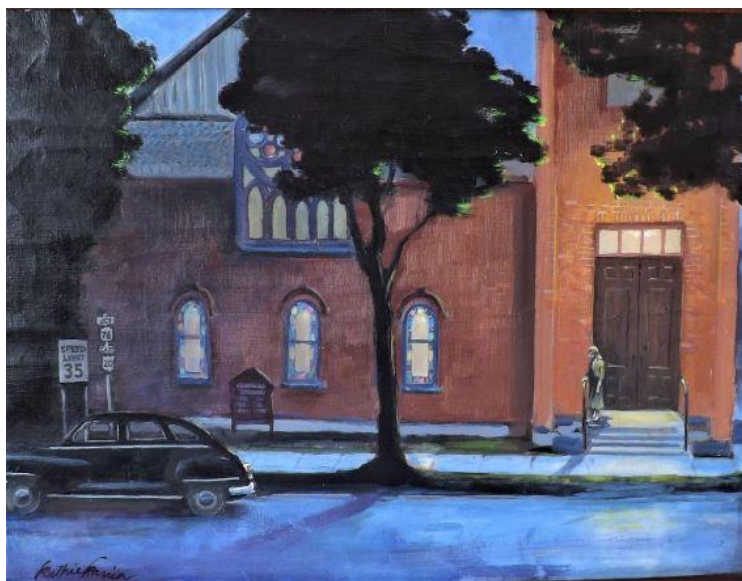
By Rhonda Thompson

I would like to brief everyone on some upcoming changes for future finances of the Ripley Public Library. The board and I have been in contact with our library attorney and we need raise our tax base. We became a school district library in 2016. We have not raised our income from taxes for the those past five years. During this time we have seen three minimum wage increases, increased utilities and the increases in the costs of circulation materials for the library. At this point, we need to increase our income.

The estimated budget increase should be roughly two cent per thousand assessed value. I am very frugal with how money gets spent at the library but like anything else, costs go up. We will publish our new budget in the March newsletter along with a presentation date for anyone with questions.

I also want to impress to you that this increase is **not** because of the renovations. The badly needed renovations to the library have been paid for through grants, fundraising from our wonderful "Friends of the Library" and generous donations from our supporters.

When the open house takes place, we invite you to come see your NEW library!



## 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!



## From the Director's Desk

By Rhonda Thompson

February is here!!! Ahhh the month of love, something wonderful for all of us. This is a special month in many ways. First of all we have Ground Hog's Day. Last year we had a contest to see how many people could guess right if Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow or not. I can't wait until we can do these things again. Soon the library will be where we can use it like normal. Well, as normal as Covid will allow us that is. At least when Ground Hog's Day gets here that means winter is half over. This year we have been lucky that the winter has been so mild. We are half way through and no blizzards. We can be very thankful for that.



Next we have Valentine's Day. No matter what your age everyone can have a good time on that day. We used to decorate the library in pink red and white with a lot of hearts and flowers. Hopefully we will do that next year.

We also have Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday this month and then Ash Wednesday and Lent begins.



We can start to look forward to an open house at the library. We want to do this when the main room is complete but before we move the books back in. We may have to do this in small groups due to Covid. All depends on how many people will be allowed to gather at one time. We will work out the particulars when we get to that point.

Be aware though we are not just sitting here behind the scenes. The board has been busy working on a budget, making decisions to benefit the library, and interviewing on TV shows. Watch for Earl Freling and me on "New Perspectives" with Gail Erb. I have been preparing for our Annual Report and I have been known to be a bit crabby and rather bear-like during this time. There is just a lot to do all at once and I get a little overwhelmed working on that huge report. Rest assured I will not be crabby with patrons.

As I wrap up this report, I want to remind everyone to stay healthy, have fun (be like my husband and build a snowman standing on his head. LOL), and most of all be safe.

See you at the library soon.



## Among Friends

Nancy McIntosh

The Friends will not be holding a meeting this February. While we all take a well-deserved break, I want you to think of some innovative ideas that we could try during the coming year. It won't be too much longer before the library will reopen. As the Covid virus continues, let's figure out ways to help the library and renew our friendships.

## Finding Something to Do...

Suggestions from Nancy McIntosh

Stepping into February, you may find that your life is becoming pretty routine. Yes, I made some New Year's resolutions and sadly, many have dropped by the wayside. Instead I am turning to new hobbies, something to inspire my interests and imagination. (Check out the website listed below for more ideas).

Hobbies come under a wide variety of topics that can lower your stress levels. If you can't think of anything to get you started, think about what you liked to do as a child.

Some topics that were suggested included music, art, dance or ice skating. Others might be yard work, roller blading, badminton, tennis or volleyball and that's just the

tip of the iceberg.

Take it indoors and you'll find coloring, sewing, knitting/crocheting, cooking, reading, painting, and indoor planting or redecorating. Straighten out your photos and take a try at scrapbooking. Museums are always wonderful places to explore, (but call ahead for any restrictions). Collections of any kind or card playing might be right up your alley. Create your own blog. The list is endless. Find something that interests you and give it a whirl. No matter how busy our lives become, there is always time to set aside just for you – even if it's only for a few hours a week.

<https://www.nytimes.com/guides/smarterliving/how-to-find-a-hobby>

## Cooney's Island

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## Tax Forms

It's that time of year! If you are figuring your own taxes, the library has tax forms available, free of charge! Not all forms are available, but many of the basic schedules and forms have been printed and are ready for you to pick up. Library hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10a.m. until 3p.m.





# Valentines Day Weekend



February 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>

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## My Choice

By Sharon McIntosh

## The Sunflower

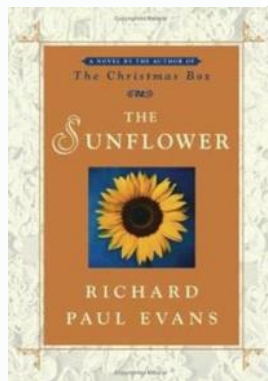
by Richard Paul Evans

Christine Hollister was jilted by her intended groom just days before their carefully thought out and precisely planned wedding. Heartbroken and confused, she let her maid of honor, Jessica, talk her into a trip to the jungles of Peru for a humanitarian trek into the way back of the Amazon. They both became enamored because of the plight of the orphans at The Sunflower, an old mansion redone for the children and their caretakers.

Paul Cook, a doctor from the States, who had become disillusioned after losing a patient in the ER where he was short staffed and unable to give the care necessary to save lives, had gone to Peru for "a short stay" 12 years before and remained there. He was totally dedicated to helping as many children as possible.

Christine and Jessica were both willing and eager to help in any way possible. On a backpack and boat trip into the dense jungle, Christine became ill, was tended by Paul and recovered. She had to make a decision whether to return to the States with her groom, who showed up in Peru or to stay and become part of the staff at the Sunflower.

She was certain she had made the right choice.



## 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 business 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 a time to drop off the information and donation.

## 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 at the library on Friday, February 4th at 11 a.m. to discuss *Slices of Life* by Judy Baer.**

**February's book is *The Morning and the Evening* by Ken Follett.**



## Ripley Library Writers Group

Writers need other writers. For most of us a supportive and nurturing community enhances our success when engaging in a writing project. Such a group has formed at our local library.

In 2020, we set an ambitious goal for ourselves: to write, edit, design, and produce our individual books by the end of the year. Unfortunately, we were derailed by the pandemic and haven't been able to meet in person for almost a year. Postponed, but not cancelled, we are continuing to work on our individual projects and have set up a Facebook page to interact and get feedback.

Who knew 2020 would be the lost year? In so many ways, we lost interpersonal activities, some lost loved ones to the disease, many lost incomes. Who knew life would have these unfamiliar challenges? For me, I had a well-thought-out plan to sell my house and build my retirement home. Little did I know when I began this project in January the unforeseen challenges ahead. Somehow, I got it all done. And now I'm back on track to complete the memoir I started for this project last year.

We have rebooted our plans for 2021, working remotely until we can once again safely meet in person at the library. Our objective is to complete our projects, to edit, design, and produce our books and host an Announcement Party by the end of 2021. Books will be produced as paperbacks. E-books will also be available if wanted. The costs are minimal for the project and should not deter anyone who wants to give it a try. Our members have different goals for their work. Some of us are working on memoirs, others fiction. Some just want to share family stories as a legacy for generations to come. (You don't have to be writing a book to be a member. All are welcome.)

If you would like to participate in the Ripley Writers Group, there are a couple ways you can do that. The Facebook page is a good start, but I am also available for one-on-one feedback via email and phone. We try to check in once a week and update each other. Our plan is subject to change, don't we know that now! But even with all the challenges, we are hopeful that by the end of this year we will hold in our hands the books in our hearts.

Mary Ellen Humphrey

716 338-7169

[Mary.ellen.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.ellen.humphrey@gmail.com)



## February Book List 2021

### Adult Fiction

Alexander/Death on Tap  
Baldacci/Daylight  
Benn/A Blind Goddess  
Cahn/The Harbinger 2  
Dunnett/The Game of Kings  
Follet/The Evening and the Morning  
French/The Searcher  
Gregory/The Executioner of St Paul's  
Hilderbrand/28 Summers  
Iles/Cemetery Road  
Lowder/Beyond the Wall  
MacInerney/Deadly Brew  
Mitchell/Utopia Avenue  
Parry/The Ways of all Flesh  
Penny/All the Devils Are Here  
Price/Second Chances 1-6  
Ruskovich/Idaho  
Sebastian/Fatal Ally  
Silva/The Order  
Straub/All Adults Here  
Sullivan/Beneath A Scarlet Sky  
Van Laerhoven/Baudelaire's Revenge

### Adult Nonfiction

Carson/America the Beautiful  
Lende/If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name  
Niebauer-Smith/The Heart Remembers Home  
Trebek/The Answer Is...  
America A-Z: People, Places, Customs and Culture

### Adult Paperbacks

Connolly/Buried in a Bog  
Griggs/Her Amish Wedding Quilt  
McCoy/Night Stalker  
Nelson/Duty to Defend  
Patterson/Maximum Ride

### Large Print

Gabhart/River to Redemption  
Gray/Her Fear  
Kirkpatrick/Everything She Didn't Say  
Richmond/Through Rushing Water  
Thomas/The Future She Left Behind  
Wood/Magruder's Curiosity Cabinet

### Young Adult Books

Alley/The Ballad of Ami Miles  
Elliott/The Pale Assassin  
Harrison/Sealed with a Diss

### Junior Books

Edwards/Who Was King Tut?  
Marrin/Flesh & Blood so Cheap  
Osborne/Magic Tree House World at War, 1944  
Pilkey/Cat Kid Comic Club  
Teitelbaum/Transformers: The Battle Begins  
Guinness World Records 2021

### Easy Readers

Allard/The Stupid's Die  
Berrios/Heavy Metal Mater & Other Tall Tales  
Clark/Plenty of Love to Go Around  
Dunrea/Old Bear and His Cub  
Hill/Where's Spot?  
Petrie/Joshua James Likes Trucks

### Audiobooks

Clark/I Heard That Song Before  
Deaver/The Steel Kiss

**"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one."**

Neil Gaiman

## 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  
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Ripley, NY 14775

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

# Library Calendar of Events

## 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 now open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10a.m. until 3p.m.** We hope to see you soon!



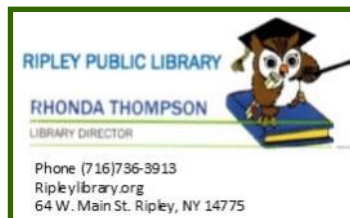
Please note: all letters and/or emails to the Library and staff **MUST** be signed. Those without a signature will not be recognized. Names will be omitted, to protect privacy, if published.

## 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) OR you can come browse in person, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 10a.m. til 3p.m. We appreciate your continued patronage!

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



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