



Ripley Public Library
Bookworm Newsletter
May 2025

Volume 14, Issue 5

Hours of Operation

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

Contact Information:
64 W. Main St.
Ripley, NY 14775
716-736-3913
ripleylibrary.org

Ripley Library Board:
Linda Probst acting Pres.
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Rhonda Thompson
Clerks: Stephanie Feiss
& Annie Donofrio
Program Director:
Nancy McIntosh
Bookworm/About Town
Editor: Nancy McIntosh
Publisher: Robyn Albright
Media Guru: Linda Probst

Best Friends Welcome You

**PLANT &
BAKE SALE
FUNDRAISER**

**SATURDAY, MAY 17
9AM TO 2PM**

If you would like to help the Ripley Library with their spring fundraiser by donating house plants or garden plants, please drop them off May 12-16 during library hours. We also need donations of baked goods and, of course, shoppers!
THANK YOU AND HAPPY SPRING!

RIPLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY - 64 West Main St - Ripley, NY



Library Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 21st @ 6pm
Best Friends Fund Meeting: Working the Plant Sale 9am-2pm

Coming up in May

Book Club

Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30pm

May Book:

The Kitchen House

By Kathleen Grissom

Plant & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 17th

9am—2pm

Wine Tasting

Thursday, May 22nd

6-8 pm

Nutrition with Molly

Thursday, May 1st at 11am

Tuesday, May 27th at 6pm

Sewing Group

Every Thursday at noon.

Quilters and sewers of all levels are welcome.

Knitting & Crochet Group

Every Tuesdays at noon.

All levels welcome.

Stay & Play

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am

Diamond Art (Dot Doers)

Tuesdays at 4:30pm



- COME JOIN US FOR A -

WINE

Tasting

Fundraiser Event

Held at the Ripley Public Library.

Sparkling Ponds Winery is inviting you to an evening of wine tasting while supporting a great cause. Savor a variety of fine wines paired with delicious appetizers and great conversation.

Local Authors will be present and have their books available.

MAY 22, 2025 6 - 8pm

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

RSVP APPRECIATED
(716) 736-3913



Exercise! Exercise! Exercise! Exercise! Exercise! Exercise!



Let's work off those extra winter pounds by joining an exercise group at the library. Everything from chair exercises to dance aerobics will be offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6pm, **UNLESS** there is an event scheduled those evenings.

If you're interested, please stop by the library to sign up. There is **NO** cost to this program, just an hour of fun with people you know!



Book Review by Diane O'Brien

"MARY'S WORLD" Written by Richard Cote

Love, War, and Family Ties in Nineteenth-century Charleston

Mary's World is an historical memoir taking place in nineteenth century Charleston, South Carolina. Mary Motte Alston Pringle was educated and wealthy. Her husband, William, was a wealthy rice planter who owned four plantations and 337 slaves. Mary and William had 13 children, all reaching adulthood.

During the Civil War, two sons were killed and one driven insane. The family slaves were freed. Mary tells in her own words taken from 2,500 pages of her handwritten letters, journals and diaries of the joys, sorrows, and terrors her family faced.

Readers also learn the different lifestyles, food, clothing, and experiences of the slaves and tells of Cretia, her favorite servant and her husband Scipio.

Mary was a woman of great intelligence and learning. She was forced to live out her dreams vicariously through her sons while she watched her daughters become imprisoned by the same rules that prevented her from achieving her own potential.

Book Review by Michelle Henry
“Legends of the Chautauqua-Erie Grape Belt”
 by John Thomas Slater, 2023

The author, John T. Slater, credits Ripley's own Marie McCutcheon for encouraging him to write this book. Slater memorializes Marie, who, as Ripley Historian, made her own archives available to him and connected him with other local resources. Slater's previous research and writing about the Nickel Plate Railroad naturally segued into the history of the grape belt. Without the railroads, our grape industry would not have flourished. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the key factors that made our region the oldest and largest Concord grape-growing region in the world.

This is not just a history of grape growing. Slater explains how the climate and topography of Lake Erie's southern shore was created by receding glaciers during the Pleistocene epoch, creating an environment well-suited for the grapes that would be introduced by our early settlers. From the early cultivation of grapes, to the creation of a fresh grape market (made possible by the railroad), to the arrival of Dr. Welch and his unfermented grape juice, and culminating in today's thriving wine industry, Slater introduces the reader to the people and events that have driven our viticultural economy for almost 200 years. Ripley readers also may be interested in the chapter on mechanized grape harvesting since one of the first three successful harvesters was due to the vision of Ripley native Roy Orton.

This book was produced by Western New York Heritage, Inc. (publishers of the award-winning Western New York Heritage magazine), who have created a visually beautiful volume filled with lush colorful images from the many local archival collections that the author accessed. This book is lovely to look at.

John Slater spent ten years researching the grape belt, collaborating with many local historians and historical societies from Erie County, PA and Chautauqua County. His substantial collection of research material has been donated to the Barker Museum in Fredonia and is available to researchers as the Lake Erie Grape Belt History Project Archive.

The book is available from Western New York Heritage Inc., 495 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. It can be ordered online at www.wnyheritage.org.

Meeder's Restaurant

Where Home Cooking is Our Family Tradition
 19 West Main Street, Ripley, NY
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www.meedersrestaurant.com



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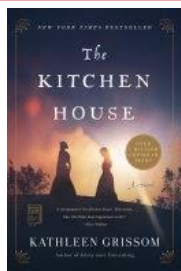
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 Owner

Marcus E. Promber-owner
Can Kings
 REDEMPTION CENTER
 112 East Main Street
 Fredonia, NY 14063
marcuspromber@yahoo.com
 (716) 818-8322
Hours
 Monday - Friday, 9AM - 6PM
 Saturdays 9AM - 4PM & Sundays 9AM - 2PM



Book Club
1st Monday of every month
May 5th at 5:30pm
The Kitchen House
By Kathleen Grissom



VFW Post 2769

Dave Bower, Commander

Ripley Town Building

Meetings 4th
 Thursday
 10:30a.m.

14 N State Street
 Ripley, NY 14775

Minutes of BFF Meeting—April 12, 2025

- We discussed the business cards that are donated by the businesses to put into the Bookworm. These donations help offset the cost of printing and ink, as well as other supply purchases. We discussed the different placement of the cards by Robyn. Everyone likes the change, feeling it made the cards more noticeable to the public.
- This year's plant and bake sale will be held on May 17th. We discussed where we could potentially get more plants for the sale. Lori will ask her friend if she could possibly donate some to the cause. A Bake Sale will take place at the same time, and placement of the bake sale table was agreed upon.
- No vendor sale this year due a poor turnout last year.
- A new fundraiser was planned by Rhonda and Robyn, to be held May 22nd, from 6 until 8 p.m. The fundraiser involves the inclusion of Sparkling Ponds Winery, who will come and set up a wine tasting. A donation will be asked of the people who attend. This will help promote the winery and raise money for the library. Appetizers will be served with a donation jar next to them. Local authors will also be invited to talk about their books with those who attend.



Director's Report

Happy May!!!!!!

This is one of the nicest months of the year. We all feel a sense of waking up and ready to take part in the renewal of life. Flowers are blooming and we are getting our gardens ready to plant. The summer months ahead will be busy with tending these gardens, mowing our lawns and trying to fit a whole year of activities into the three months of summer. Right now, however, we are content to feel the anticipation of warm weather and the end of a cold spring.

Here at the library, we are always busy bringing you a variety of programs and fun things to do. Again this month will bring boxes of produce and fresh product on each Saturday. We have 100 boxes to give away beginning at 10:30 am and continues until they are gone. This is on a first come first served basis. This is a program brought to us through Cornell Cooperative Extension and it is done to bring fresh product into our food desert area.

This month we also have Molly on two separate occasions. Molly Harvey is a nutritionist who shares her wealth of knowledge and prepares wholesome and nutritious recipes for you to try. Instead of dinner and a movie, she is like a snack and a show. Be sure to come to one of her visits, you won't be disappointed.

Our big event this month is the Plant and Bake sale. This will be held on May 17th from 9-2pm. This is a big

fundraiser for us. Linda Probst (The Flower Lady) takes the lead on this and provides us with a variety of flowers for you to choose from.

Please mark your calendar for this date and come out to support the library and get yourself some gorgeous plants and delicious baked goods. We could also use a little help from you for this. If you have any plants you can share, indoor or outdoor, please bring them to the library for our sale. We could also use your help for the Bake Sale as well. Please consider baking one of your favorite goodies and dropping it off for our bake sale. We will greatly appreciate it and so will the person who buys it from the sale.

We are also holding another fundraiser on May 22nd. This is going to be so much fun. Sparkling Ponds will be here with samples for tasting and the library will offer punch and appetizers. For those of you who have attended our events before, know that our appetizers are the best around. You will leave here feeling like you had a meal. There will also be local writers in attendance for great conversation. They will have their books available. This is not an "Author's Night." This is just a meet and greet. Come out for a fun evening of great wine, great food and even better people.

Remember, the library is here for you. Visit us, get to know us and allow us to become a part of your life.



The Planting Month

Rhonda Thompson

May is the month to plant so I thought it might be nice to put some information out there for folks who might be new to planting.

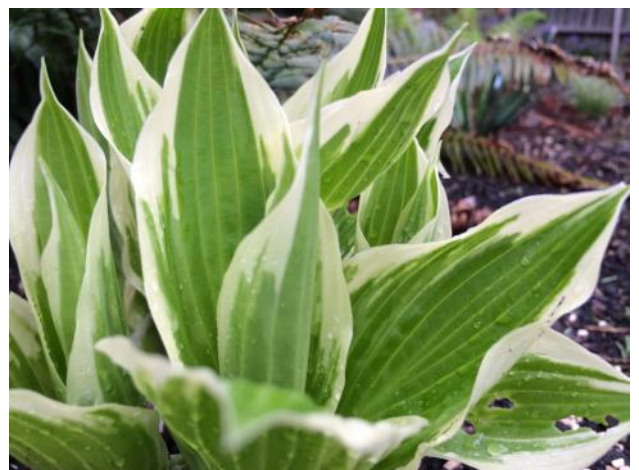
First of all, what is the difference between a perennial and an annual? Perennials are the plants that keep coming back year after year. They usually seed themselves and propagate easily. Annuals are the plants we sow every year. These must be replaced every year. I like to plant both around my house. The perennials come back and I do not have to do too much with them, however, many of them do not bloom for long and when they are gone, they are gone until next year. The annuals are the colorful flowers we fill in around the perennials. Once planted they will continue to bloom until the frost hits. As you can see, both types of flowers can be conducive to your landscape.

Let's talk about some common perennials.

Peonies are a popular flower and they live for generations. Their leaves are a dark glossy green with deep cuts. This foliage reddens in the fall, giving off the beautiful Autumn colors we all love. The main attraction is the large showy blooms in pink, white and red. Sometimes the plants produce double blooms and need to be staked up due to the weight of the blossoms. These flowers bloom mid-to-late spring and are popular in Spring wedding bouquets.



Hostas are another perennial many people love. They fill in space and produce a white-to-purple flower. The foliage can be a variety of colors from dark green to light yellow and even a tinge of blue. They are hardy and tough as nails. If you are one of those who kill every plant you touch, this is the one for you as it will defy any attempt on its life.



Continued on next page 9

Continued from page 8

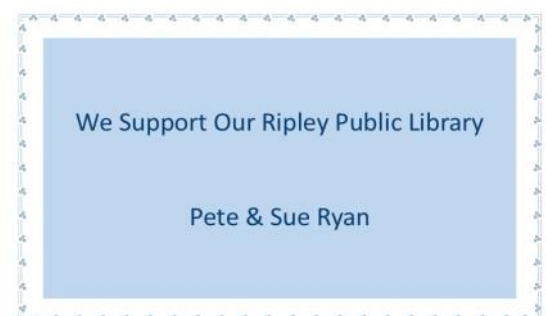
Black-eyed Susans are a popular native flower. Sturdy stems bear cheerful golden daisy-like blooms with a black cone-like center. These are late starters though and do not begin blooming until late summer. However, there is a variety you can buy called the “Early Bird Gold”, very similar to the common “Goldstrum”. It will begin blooming early and won’t stop until frost. Around here, you can plan on blooms from late June to October.



The last plant I am writing about is the **Foxglove**. (*Digitalis purpurea*) It is a tall plant with tubular flowers. They look a little like trumpets and are often placed in the back of a garden due to their height. These flowers are deer and rabbit resistant. Common foxglove is biennial, meaning they only bloom every two years, but they are excellent at re-seeding themselves. There is a note I want to make about the foxglove: they are highly poisonous. As you will notice, I put the scientific name in parenthesis. Take notice of the first word *digitalis*. This plant is used to make heart medicine. Use caution when decorating with this plant. Additionally, foxglove is not native to North America and may be considered an invasive species in your area.



I hope you enjoyed this little bit of information on plants.



MAY NEW BOOK LIST**ADULT FICTION**

Burns/Mercury
 Caron/The Last Secret
 Chamberlain/The Good Father
 Confino/For the Love of Friends
 Davis/The Stolen Queen
 Feeney/Beautiful Ugly
 Graves/The Arizona Triangle
 Hurst/The Husband
 Jackson/You Don't Want to Know
 Jimenez/Say You'll Remember Me
 Lutes/Raevin's Hope
 Morris/Sisters Under the Rising Sun
 Peters/The Berry Pickers
 Reay/The London House
 Snelling/The Florence Legacy
 Thomas/For Those Who Are Lost
 Weiner/That Summer Place
 Yarros/Iron Flame

ADULT NONFICTION

Busby/The Year We Disappeared
 Jabr/Becoming Earth

Lauren/Behold the Monster
 O'Neil/Postmortem

YOUNG ADULT

Alexander/Under the Sky
 Collins/Sunrise on the Reaping
 Myers/Fallen Angels
 Schrag/Stuck in the Middle

JUNIOR BOOKS

Mackesy/The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse
 Myers/Checkmate
 Paulsen/Mudshark
 Spinelli/Crash
 Zuravicky/School Spirit

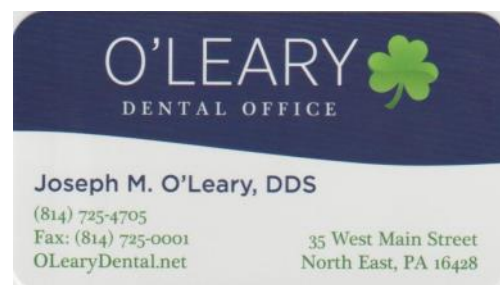
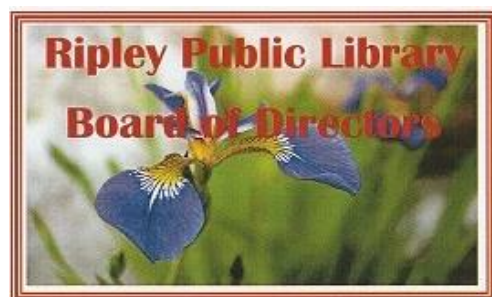
EASY READERS

Brydon/Go Wild: Lemurs
 Noll/Hey, That's My Monster
 Rocco/Blackout
 Schotter/Dragon Dreams
 Swanson/Charlotte and the Mischievous Cat
 Tighe/The Way to Go

**Fabulous 50 Readers!**

We have two readers in the Fabulous 50 Challenge who have completed FIFTY books! Annie Donofrio and Cindy Pierce will receive a \$20 prize!

Register for the Fabulous 50 and make sure you fill in the books read on the chart. Complete 25 books and receive a prize as well.





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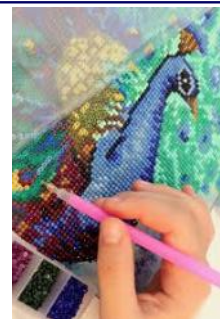
Molly Harvey, a SNAP-ED Nutritionist from the Cornell Co-op Extension, visits the Ripley library twice a month to share recipes that are not only yummy, but healthy and inexpensive. Taste testing is always a component of her visits. If you've never been, give it a try. Each session is different and always a rollicking good time!

Thursday, May 1st at 11am

Tuesday, May 27th at 6pm

Diamond Art meets Tuesdays at 4:30 (Dot Doers)

Trial size available for free, then purchase the kits you like.



Sewing Group meets Thursdays at noon.

Quilters and sewers of all levels are welcome.



Knitting & Crochet Group meets Tuesdays at noon. All levels welcome.



Ripley Library is looking for Local Authors

We invite published (including self-published) writers to come and speak to our audience, telling us a little bit about yourself and your book. This is generally followed by a Q&A period and a book signing. Call the library now and we'll set up a date. 716-736-3913

Library Cards Your Passport to Adventure

If you need a library card, come see us and we will help get you into the IN crowd. If you haven't renewed your card, we can take care of that too!



Welcome to a world of adventure!

Fabulous 50

We invite booklovers everywhere to join. The goal is to read 50 books in a two-year period. For every 25 books you read you will receive a prize.

To enter, register at the library or by phone or email. The list can be picked up at the library or sent to your email. Check off each box as you complete a book and write the name of the book and author. **Contact the library every month to let us know what you've achieved.**

Book Chat

A new Facebook page, sponsored by Ripley Library, will host adult readers who will discuss their favorite books, and check out new authors.

Ripley Readers Retreat will meet, live, online, every Monday, between 3pm til 7pm.

Check the Ripley Public Library Facebook page for information about the new page.



Stay and Play At Ripley Public Library

**Moms! Every Tuesday at 10:30
For Babies and Toddlers age 0-4
years.**

**Join us for lots of socializing, fun,
toys, books, and refreshments.**

**For more details call
716-736-3913**



Need an easy way to donate to the Ripley Library? Bottle and Can Collection

The Library has a collection bin in the lobby for returnable cans and bottles. Don't throw out those water bottles and pop cans! Donate them to the library.

Please be sure all bottles and cans are empty before you place them in the bin.

Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle



Ripley
Public
Library



DIY Storytime

Each month we will have a new craft and stories available. Families are welcome to do the craft, read a story, or do both!

Available as a Take & Make

Knight Vineyards

Ripley, NY



Peaches available late July



Knight Vineyards, LLC

MAIN STREET LLC

PIZZA
736-2222

Subs Wings Salads
We Deliver

Wanted:

Lego pieces and Lego sets

**We will gladly accept any
used or new Lego items to
add to our collection.
Please drop them off at
the library. Thank you.**



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John & Rhonda Thompson

Earl C. Freling, D.C.
Chiropractor

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716-736-6868

I Love my library

Diane Bentley O'Brien

Community Table

The Ripley Public Library welcomes community groups who would like to set up a table in our lobby to promote their business or group. Examples: VFW Poppy sales, Girl Scout cookie sales, as well as distribution of pamphlets or information about your group or activity. A representative for the table must be present for items to be displayed.



Reservations must be made. There is no cost, it's just our way of giving back to the community. 716-736-3913

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Ripley Public Library Has Become a Safe Place Location

What is a Safe Place Location, you might ask? A Safe Place works with the Safe House out of Jamestown and is part of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. This is a program for runaway or homeless youth under the age of 18. If this young person needs help, all they do is enter the facility displaying the yellow sign that reads **SAFE PLACE**. They let someone in charge know they need help.



Best Friends of the Ripley Public Library

We Need Your Help!

Ripley Library's BFF group (Best Friends Fund) is looking for more members to join us to help with fundraising and program support for our library.

Dues are just \$5 per year. All we ask is that you attend monthly meetings as often as you can, and occasionally help with fundraising events. Funds raised by BFF are used for library equipment and supplies, upgrades, Summer Reading Program, etc.

There are many things to be proud of in Ripley. Our beautiful library is one of those things. Please call 716-736-3913 for more information.

Best Friends of the Ripley Public Library

Ripley Library Best Friends Fund 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.

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.

BEST FRIENDS

Best Friends Fund of 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

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

Notes & Things

Email Newsletter

We rely on email to get our newsletter out. Each month you will receive 2 emails, The Bookworm and About Town. For a monthly copy, send your email address to:
thebookworm14775@gmail.com

If you would like to opt out of our mailing, please let us know at
thebookworm14775@gmail.com

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

Libraries:
Turning Tiny Readers
into Big Thinkers

New Activities & Classes

Is there an activity or class you'd like to see offered at the library? Can you teach a class or give a talk about a topic? Let the library know if there is something new you'd like to add to the many programs and classes already offered. 716-736-3913

Attend a Board Meeting

Ripley Public Library Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public. Check the schedule in The Bookworm for times and dates.

Ripley Public Library Board of Directors Meetings for 2025



May 28	Aug 27
Jun 25	Sep 24
Jul 23	Oct 22
	Nov 26
	Dec TBA

Meetings are open to the public, in person or via Zoom, and will be held at 6p.m. Dates and times subject to change.

Ripley Public Library is Open for Business

Mon. Wed. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tue. Thu. 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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.

May 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<i>1 Nutrition w/Molly 11; Sewing 12</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5 Book Club 5:30</i>	<i>6 Knitting 12; Dot Do- ers 4:30</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8 Sewing 12</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 Knitting 12; Dot Do- ers 4:30</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15 Sewing 12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17 Plant & Bake Sale 9- 2</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20 Knitting 12; Dot Do- ers 4:30</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22 Sewing; 12; Wine Tasting 6-8</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27 Knitting 12; Dot Do- ers 4:30; Nu- trition w/ Molly 6</i>	<i>28 Library Board Mtg 6</i>	<i>29 Sewing 12</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>