



Ripley Public Library Bookworm Newsletter September 2025

Volume 14, Issue 9

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

here at the library.
you know that were
work that you did at
the work is never done.
Ripley Public Library
come.

Thank you is just
for all of your hard
dedication to our
Nonetheless, from the
heart, I know I speak
and the town of Ripley,
Thompson, thank you.

John & Barb Hamels

A Tribute to Rhonda Thompson from John "Doc" Hamels

At this time, I would like to acknowledge Rhonda Thompson.

I have known Rhonda for close to 30 years. She has worked with our children of Ripley both as a Teacher and our Librarian. I was your Board President, Superintendent and now again as your Board President.

Rhonda has created this beautiful facility into something I couldn't accomplish. Truly, this is a community center. Not only as a library but a meeting place for all generations. Rhonda and her staff have brought in countless programs and opportunities for learning and sharing.

We are grateful for your years
There were many hours spent that only
spent when the library was closed or
home. Whether a teacher or librarian,
You have created a legacy here at the
that will endure for many years to

not enough
work and
community.
bottom of my
for the board
Rhonda



Ripley Library Board:
John Hamels, Pres
Linda Probst, VP Finance
Karen Gunther, VP
Lori Fisher, Secr
Pat Washburn
Tracy Reslink
Mike Johnston

Library Director:

Clerks: Stephanie Feiss
& Annie Donofrio
Bookworm/About Town
Editor: Bill Near
Publisher: Robyn Albright
Media Guru: Linda Probst

Best Friends Welcome You

In the words of David Lankes, "Bad libraries build collections. Good Libraries build services. Great Libraries build communities." "And we have a GREAT library! My many thanks to the Ripley community for making my time here worth every moment. Rhonda"

Book Club

Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30pm
Labor Day falls on the 1st Monday, so Book Club will meet
Monday, September 8th

All Adults Here

By Emma Straub

Author's Night

Tuesday, September 9 @ 6pm

Mary Ellen Humphrey

Plant People &

Keepers

Nutrition with Molly

Monday (yes, Monday) September 15th @ 6pm

Wednesday, September 17th @ 11am

These are the last of the nutrition classes. The grant has been
cancelled.

Knitting & Crochet Group

Every Tuesday at noon

All levels welcome

Sewing Group

Every Thursday at noon

Quilters and sewers of all levels are welcome

Coming in in September

Stay & Play
Tuesday mornings at 10:30am

**Coming in October Create
your own porch sign**
Saturday, October 18th @ 10am

The story of the Hamilton Estate

The following is a multi-part series of an article written by Michael Vogel in 1998 about Ripley's Hamilton Mansion. Interest in this building has never waned in over one hundred years.

The story of *The House That Bertha Built* is a fascinating trip down memory lane. Here is Part 1.

Photo Credit:
The Buffalo
News



Left: Three-term Western New York congressman Charles Mann Hamilton built Hamilton House 20 years after marrying Pennsylvania banking and manufacturing heiress Bertha Lambertson in 1904. The couple, pictured here in 1930, traveled the world and filled their grand house with souvenirs of their journeys.

Nobody had expected to get into the Great Hall itself, that cold November Saturday. All the preceding afternoon, they had shivered in the garage of the storied estate in Ripley, as its treasures were brought, one by one, to them; on this day, though, munificence had been tempered with mercy and they were invited to come to the treasure.

Not all of them went. Some chose not to pay the two dollar cost of admission, and wandered

By Michael Vogel

THE HOUSE THAT BERTHA BUILT

through the grounds in the rain, occasionally pressing their faces against the glass of the windows to peer inside and ease at least their curiosity, if not their discomfort. For those who did choose the manor house, seats were at a premium and the thick blankets they had brought to ward off the cold became just another impediment.

There were hundreds of them. They found seats inside, crowding the hall and the adjoining library and lining the marble steps of the great staircase. Rather than chance losing a seat at lunchtime, many unfolded the wrappers from sandwiches and held their ground rather than joining the lines for dinners at the booths set up by the American Legion ladies' auxiliary or the women of the Methodist Church.

And, through the course of that day, the world unfolded before them.

There were carpets from Persia, vases from China, mantel clocks from



Architects expanded Ripley's Mann House from the original portion, at left, into a symmetrical mansion with near-identical wings flanking a center core of Great Hall, library and dining room. The Great Hall's large fireplace dominates the center of the rear exterior of the house, with an upper bedroom window piercing the masonry to take full advantage of the view across lawns and gardens toward Lake Erie.

WNY HERITAGE SPRING 1998 57

Continued from page 3 higher one for drinking or the thousands of couples who crossed the border for a quick visit to Ripley's two France. Four of the five large carved Indian elephants "Wedding Houses" and its "Marrying Justices" in the from the mezzanine "Elephant Room" somehow van- days before New York's 72-hour marriage residency ished before the auctioneer got to them, but the movable law was enacted.

furnishings of the Egyptian Power Room, the dinner settings from England and Germany and the sterling Just how hectic that could be is revealed in a May 25, that had been kept under lock and key in the immaculate 1886 issue of the *Ripley Local Review*, in which it was pantry all went on the block. noted that "Mr. John Elliott and Miss Rose Dyer of Erie stepped off of train 14 at half past 7 o'clock last Satur It should have been the final chapter in the story of the day evening, and at 7:58 boarded the accommodation mansion built in a tiny country village by the wife of a train for home having been made man and wife in the man of national power, the final disbursement of an es- interim by W.B. Perry, Esq. They had but left Mr. Pertate that blossomed in a gilded eera and ended with the ry's residence when the up train whistled for this stadawning of post-war egalitarianism. But it wasn't. tion. If none of the old poets ever remarked that love

Today, just over half a century from the auction that flew we will deferentially assert the fact now, and they scattered its furnishings, the Hamilton House in the got there on time even as Hank Monk got the lamented heart of Ripley is set for rebirth as a bed and breakfast Greeley to Placerville in time to meet his lecture en- lodge. gagement."

Joseph Affronte of West Seneca and his son Michael Affronte is hoping for a more leisurely and genteel are finishing major restoration of the manor, in hopes of approach to stays in Ripley, after his lodgings open as opening this autumn. Their dream would open one of the renewed Hamilton House, a mansion with a history the great houses of southern Chautauqua County to the of its own. public once again, in a semblance of its past glory.

The story of the Hamilton House is one of an estate that entertained business leaders and a presidential candidate, before almost literally going to the dogs under a will that relative of Charles and Bertha Hamilton unsus- cessfully contested. After years that saw if function as a **Next Month: Charles Mann Hamilton, 3-time** veterinary diagnostic laboratory and a village library, **Congressman** the estate slowly aged until Affronte – whose twin trades are construction and antiques – saw a "For Sale" sign on the property in 1994.

**There were carpets from Persia,
vases from China, mantle clocks
from France. Four of the five large
carved Indian elephants from the
mezzanine "Elephant Room"
somehow vanished...**

Affronte's reversal of the building's decline and resto- ration of major interior elements also has renewed interest in the history of the structure, at a time when the heritage of Ripley may prove a tourist-attracting adjunct to its location on the route from Cleveland to the nearby Chautauqua Institution, a favorite destination of many Cleveland-area residents.

In the past, Ripley attracted even more visitors. More than 10,000 turned out to hear a presidential campaign stump speech by William Jennings Bryan in 1896, but even that pales in comparison to the steady influx of

Pennsylvania youth in the days when that state had lower age limit than New York for driving licenses and a

Author's Night

With Mary Ellen Humphrey

Tuesday, September 9th at 6 pm

International Writers Inspiring Change feature book:

Plant People by Mary Ellen Humphrey



Rita has a secret. It excites her. It puzzles her. It even scares her a little. And she knows she can never share it with anyone.


When UFOs visit our planet, an unassuming, recently retired woman discovers who they are and what they want.

Keepers: A novel that explores the future of human evolution for individuals and society. Humans have evolved to the point where we can consciously decide how we grow and evolve.

Melody, encouraged by her mysterious elderly friend and neighbor, begins to understand that we each must choose our own individual evolutionary path. And she discovers she is not alone in this awakening.



We love our library



Bob & Nancy McIntosh

Bella
Salon & Day Spa



41 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428
(814) 725-6767


www.bellasalonanddayspa.net

plus enjoy 20% off all services



Support our Ripley community. Together we can do so much.

Ripley Community and Heritage Fund



VFW Post 2769
Dave Bower, Commander
Ripley Town Building
14 N State Street
Ripley, NY 14775
Meetings 4th Thursday
10:30a.m.

We Support Our Ripley Public Library

Pete & Sue Ryan

Marcus E. Promber - owner

Can Kings marcuspromber@yahoo.com
REDEMPTION CENTER (716) 818-8322
112 East Main Street
Fredonia, NY 14063

Hours
Monday - Friday, 9AM - 6PM
Saturdays 9AM - 4PM & Sundays 9AM - 2PM

One Card
Library Card No. 0123456789

**ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES**

**September is
Library
Card Sign-up
Month**

ALA American Library Association
Library Champions American Library Association
Investing in America's Libraries
OverDrive

First Annual Western New York Writers Conference



A day full of workshops, topical presentations, networking with the opportunity to display and sell your own books, meet other writers, consult with industry experts, talk to successful fiction and nonfiction authors and most of all, become a part of the Western New York Writing Community.

Date: October 11th, 8:30am - 6:00pm
Includes lunch

\$79 General Admission

\$59 LSCFTA Members

Limited to 100 attendees



Sponsors:



NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



www.lakeshorecenterforthearts.com

49 S Portage St, Westfield, NY (716)224-2135

Create Your Own Porch Sign

Saturday, October 18th at 10 a.m.

Come create your own holiday porch sign with designs from Cricut. All materials will be supplied. Limited to 10 participants.

\$5 fee



Community Bank

Shara Post
 ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
 BRANCH MANAGER
 NMLS ID: 1544629

P: 716.326.3145
 F: 716.326.4065
 shara.post@cbna.com

155 YEARS

cbna.com

Meeder's
 Restaurant

Where Home Cooking is Our Family Tradition

19 West Main Street, Ripley, NY
 Phone: 716-736-7381
 www.meedersrestaurant.com

Kathy Holland
 Owner/ Stylist

Main Studio
 10660 West Main Road
 North East, PA 16428

Like us on FACEBOOK
 814-725-4321

Contact information for our representatives

Senator Chuck Schumer

322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6542

or

130 South Elmwood Avenue, #660
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 846-4111

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4451

or

Larkin At Exchange
726 Exchange St
Ste 511
Buffalo, NY 14210
Phone: (716) 854-9725

Congressman Nick Langworthy

422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3161

or

The Fenton Building
2-6 East Second Street
Room 208
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone: (716) 488-8111



The Ripley Public Library is looking for donations for our basket raffle that will run from November 15th – December 6th.

Baskets/Donations can be dropped off at the Library or contact the Library to arrange for us to pick up.

**We appreciate your support
(716) 736-3913**



CRAFTERS AND
VENDORS WANTED
FOR CHRISTMAS IN
RIPLEY CRAFT SHOW
AT THE RIPLEY
LIBRARY ON
DECEMBER 6TH

APPLICATIONS CAN BE PICKED UP
AT THE RIPLEY LIBRARY OR EMAIL
CLERK@RIPLEYLIBRARY.ORG

FOR MORE INFO (716) 736-3913

FROM the DESK of the RIPLEY TOWN HISTORIAN

Captain Milton P. Goodrich

We are in receipt of the original “muster” roll in which regional soldiers joined the 9th NY Cavalry, Company G in 1862 at Westfield. The roll was donated by Dr. David Brown of Westfield who also donated Goodrich’s dress saber to the town historian’s office. The roll has the name and many of the original signatures of those joining the Cavalry. The roll which is framed and protected by glass is on display in the historian’s office. Both the roll and saber are available for viewing by appointment.

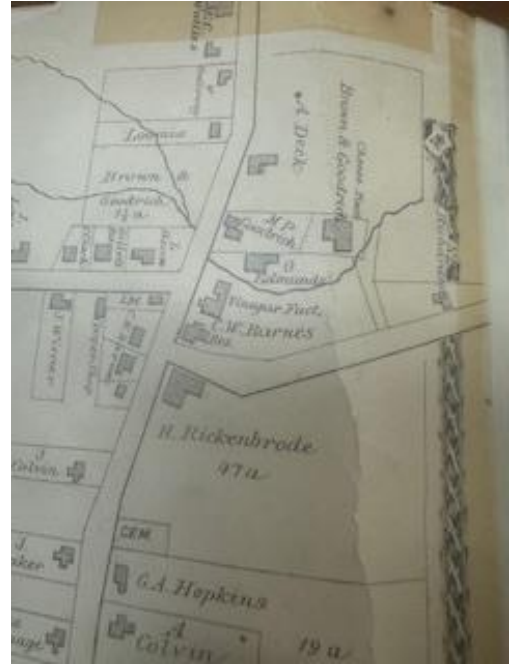
Goodrich, from Ripley, was the captain who was in charge. He honorably served the Union at Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, the 2nd Bull Run and many others over the course of 3 years and 2 months. He was wounded at the battle at Meadow Bridge in May of 1864 and given a disability discharge in August 1864 and returned to Ripley. Goodrich is just one of many who served during the Civil War from Ripley. After his military service he worked as a layer, photographer, farmer and owned a creamery, cheese and butter factory +(1879). His property was on West Main Street across from what is now the Laundromat.

Goodrich was born in Ripley 1826 and died from tuberculosis in Ripley 1881. He was buried in Quincy Cemetery.

Goodrich saber



Goodrich resident map



9th
Cavalry
Muster
Roll

Local History Book Review

by Michelle Henry, Research Historian

Collecting Chautauqua County, NY Postcards

By Robert M. Johnston. 2025, Self-published, with proceeds going to the Jamestown Trolley Car #93 Restoration Fund.

When Bob Johnston told me that he was publishing a postcard book, I assumed it would be another one of “those” books - the ones that many local communities now sell with selections of historical postcards and a sentence or two of information to describe them. Not that there is anything wrong with those books! They make great gifts for anyone with a modicum of interest in old images of a given community.

However, I was pleasantly surprised to find a completely different publication than what I expected! The author presents to us a history of the postcard, from its first appearance as a Private Mailing Card, through acts of Congress to standardize card size and format, and through the changes in technology that lead to colored photographic postcards. Everything you ever wanted to know about postcards, and more than you ever thought you would want to know, is included. The book is full of illustrations and examples to help postcard novices, like me, visualize the different types of postcard backs (address side) and fronts (image side) as they changed over time.

And, even more informative and useful for local postcard collectors and enthusiasts is the most complete history of the county’s postcard photographers and printers that I have seen. For each local postcard photographer there is a personal and professional biography, examples of his/her work and an image of the photographer. This book is a must-have for anyone who has a collection of postcards, or has found themselves captivated by boxes of postcards at local flea markets and antique shops.

The author interjects personal anecdotes and tales of his own collecting challenges and successes, which adds humor and interest throughout the book. This is a publication that I expected to find useful, but perhaps not entertaining to read. I am happy to admit that I was mistaken.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this book or learn more about the Jamestown Trolley Restoration Project can contact Mr. Johnston at: Bob Johnston, 448 Baker Street Jamestown, NY 14701. 716-338-5051.

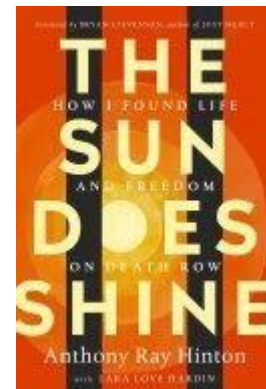
Book Review by Diane O’Brien

The Sun Does Shine (How I found Life and Freedom on Death Row) by Anthony Ray Hinton with Lara Love Hardin, is a true story of hope, love and justice by a man who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he didn’t commit.

In 1985 in Alabama, at twenty-nine years old, Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder. He knew it was a case of mistaken identity and believed the truth would set him free. But with no money and a different system of justice for a poor black man in the South, he was sentenced to death by electrocution. For the first three years on death row, he never spoke as he was so full of anger and hatred. But as he accepted his fate, he resolved to find a way to live on death row. For the next twenty-seven years he was a beacon, transforming not only his own spirit, but those of his fellow inmates. Over the years, fifty-four of those inmates were executed, just feet from his cell.

Through three decades of loss and suffering, Hinton believed he would one day walk again in freedom and his voice would be heard. He refused to be a prisoner of hatred, but instead chose to be truly free. With the help of Bryan Stevenson, civil rights leader, he won his release in 2015.

His story tells of how you can take away a man’s freedom but you can’t take away his imagination, humor, or joy. After being freed, he now speaks widely on prison reform and the power of faith and forgiveness.



September Book List

SEPTEMBER BOOK LIST

ADULT FICTION

Baart/The Long Way Back
 Bardugo/The Familiar
 Benedict/The Queens of Crime
 Bostwick/Just in Time Byler/Who is Mary?
 Confino/She's Up to No Good
 Davis/The Spectacular
 Flagg/Something to Look Forward To
 Fuller/The Marriage Pact
 Gullo/Once Upon a Bookstore
 Kelley/The Fifth Avenue Apartment
 Kingsolver/Unsheltered
 McFadden/The Surrogate Mother
 Patterson/The Hamptons Lawyer
 Pekkanen/The Locked Ward
 Reay/Lizzy & Jane
 Russo/Until Alison
 Shipman/The Page Turner

NONFICTION

Carosa/History Unleashed: Lafayette's Remarkable Tour of the Greater Western New York Region
 Poston/Zenith Man
 Schultz/Why Everyone Hates White Liberals (Including White Liberals)

LARGE PRINT

Griffin/Hidden
 Kitt/Winner Takes All
 Lynch/The Blood of Innocents
 Rogers/Honey Girl

YOUNG ADULT

Le Guin/A Wizard of EARTHSEA
 Miller/Dark Parts of the Universe
 Valentine/Two Sides to Every Murder

JUNIOR BOOKS

Alexander/J vs. K
 Finnegan/Sunny Parker is Here to Stay
 Libenson/Always Anthony
 Stecher/The Things We Miss
 Varon/The Case of the Golden Bone

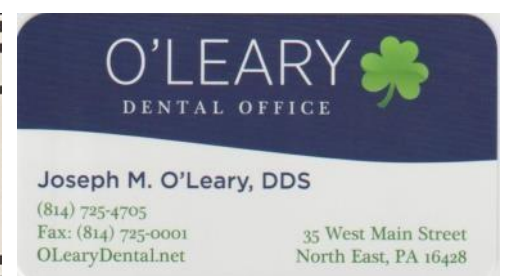
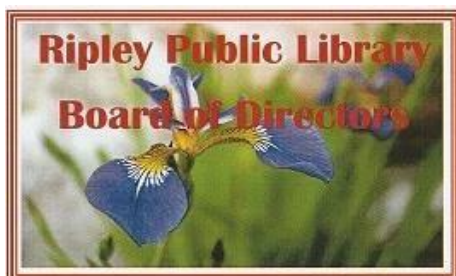
EASY READER

Border/Peanut Butter & Cupcake
 Jukes/Like Jake And Me
 McPhail/Farm Morning
 Miles/Annie and the Old One Murray/The Gingerbread Man
 Loose on the Fire Truck
 Santiago/Home to Medicine Mountain



Fabulous 50 Readers!

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






10429 W Lake Road • Ripley, NY 14775
(814) 282-5327
 lyndon@lakeshorehydroponic.com

• Family Owned & Operated •



All the Best - Bill & Pat Locke

ROBYN NEAR
 AUTHOR, FREE LANCE WRITER



cell 716-581-0309
 robynnearaibright@gmail.com
 Ripley, NY 14775

The Best Friends Fund is Proud to be a part of the Ripley Public Library!




Your best choice in auto body work

6345 Hamilton Rd
 Ripley, NY 14775

ph. (716) 736-2277 fax (716) 736-2278

Free Estimates	Frame Machine
Paint Booth	40+ years experience
Computer Aided	Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
Color Matching	Saturday 9am-noon

Johnson ESTATE Wines



Grown, Vinified & Bottled in the Chateau Tradition
 JOHNSON ESTATE WINERY L.L.C., BOX 52, W. MAIN RD., WESTFIELD, NY 14787

FRED JOHNSON
 Owner

Phone 716/326-2191
 Fax 716/326-2131
 www.johnsonwinery.com

Is there an activity or class you'd like to see at our library? Community members come here to sew, knit, play cards, Stay 'n Play for the little ones, and meet. The library would like to offer more for our residents to do.


There are hundreds of classes online that we could present here on our large screen television.

Do the times of offered activities not fit your schedule? Let us know! We're here to enrich your lives.

Come visit the library!

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 selfpublished) 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 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!



Book Chat

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

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

Check the Ripley Public Library Facebook page for information.

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.**



**NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA
CANINE RESCUE**
7540 North Gale Street
Westfield NY 14787
(716) 326-7297
www.caninerescue.org



Cooney's Island
25 WEST MAIN, RIPLEY NY 14775
Cooneysisland@gmail.com
814.824.9542
Like us on Facebook, or even better... in person!
Food Safety Certified
Serving the best ice cream to the best customers



COOLEY TIRE
(814) 347-0850 office
12214 East Main Rd • North East, PA 16428
Hours 8:00 - 5:00 Monday - Friday
24 Hour Road & Farm Service



our local tire shop for all vehicles, farm tractors, & semi trucks.

Stay and Play At Ripley Public Library

Moms and Dads! Every Tuesday at 10:30am

Bring your Babies and Toddlers age 0-4 years and 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.



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



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

MAIN STREET LLC
PIZZA
736-2222
Subs Wings Salads
We Deliver

PARKVIEW CAFÉ
Parkview Cafe
3 E Main St
Westfield, NY 14787
Phone: 716-326-3600
<https://parkviewcafeandcatering.com>
Courtney Thompson
Owner

CHAUTAUQUA SUNRISE
Live cable TV on Access #, Mayville, NY
Saturday morning from 9-10 a.m. Call in
716-753-5225
Doc Hamels
Producer/Host
On Spectrum Ch 1301, 2 & 8 pm Daily
hamels@fairpoint.net
Facebook.com/Chautauquasunrise
716-223-0112

KR
KNOT RIGHT
FISHING CHARTER
Capt. Jeff Phillips
100 ton Masters USCG certified
Barcelona Harbor
Westfield, NY
(716) 753-0499
knotrightfishingcharter@gmail.com
www.knotrightfishingcharters.com


Knight Vineyards
Ripley, NY
Peaches available late July
Knight Vineyards, LLC

**Timmerman's Fruit Farm
& Market**
8352 Rt. 20 West
Westfield, NY 14787


Noble Winery
Come See Our View!

8630 Hardscrabble Road
Westfield, NY 14787
(716) 326-9463
sales@noblewinery.com

**Proud to Support
the
Ripley Public
Library.**




John & Rhonda Thompson



Earl C. Freling, D.C.
Chiropractor

73 West Main Street
Ripley, NY 14775
716-736-6868

I Love my library



Diane Bentley O'Brien

**CHECK OUT OUR
LAUNCHPADS**

**PRE-LOADED WITH EDUCATIONAL
APPS & GAMES**



AGES 3 - 8+

NEW ONES EVERY MONTH

**RIPLEY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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.

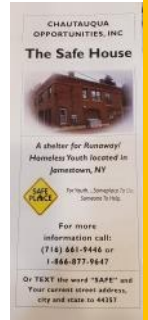
Reservations must be made.

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



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 have to 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.

Volume 14, September, 2025

The Bookworm  m

BEST FRIENDS

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

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

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

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>

I spent three days a week for 10 years educating myself in the public library, and it's better than college. People should educate themselves. You can get a complete education for no money. At the end of 10 years, I had read every book in the library and I'd written a thousand stories.

Ray Bradbury

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



Meetings are open

to the public, in per-

Sept 24 Nov 26 son or via Zoom, and Oct 22

Dec TBA 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.

September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 closed	2 Stay & Play 10:30am; Knitting noon	3	4 Sewing noon	5	6
7	8 Book Club 5:30pm	9 Stay & Play 10:30am; Knitting noon; Author Night 6pm	10	11 Sewing noon	12	13
14	15 Nutri- tion w/ Molly 6pm	16 Stay & Play 10:30; Knitting noon	17 Nutri- tion w/ Molly 11am	18 Sewing noon	19	20
21	22	23 Stay & Play 10:30am; Knitting noon	24	25 Sewing noon	26	27
28	29	30 Stay & Play 10:30am; Knitting noon				