This is a place of many things. But before all else it is a place where we connect—through stories & to one another.

A place for lifelong wonder, quiet escape, & spirited collaboration. Forget “for the people.”

Our library was founded and thrives because it is “of the people,” of a trailblazing past & present, of daring innovation & “can-do” creativity, of diversity, inclusion, & understanding, of literacy, art, & knowledge in each of their ever-changing forms.

Our mission is to bring information, ideas, & individuals together to enhance the cultural life of the community, near & far.

Bring means bring. Not sit back. Or wait. It is within all of us to inspire, motivate, facilitate, & challenge one another to new thinking.

Because history & culture & ideas are not only held here. They are born here.
LETTER FROM JENNY

At the edge of my library desk, holding their own in a tidy stack, are four old books: a copy of Huckleberry Finn and a high school anthology, both of which belonged to my dad; a copy of Little Women that was a gift from my sisters; and a special edition of Emerson’s essays from my mom. I often glance at these books as I work on my computer. They serve as a kind of cairn amid the chaos of my desk and the recent flurry of Library construction, somehow helping me navigate my day.

Those books hold stories that I love, only some of which are written on their pages. They carry memories of people and places that have shaped me. And they provide a little balance to the technology I depend on for work. Among the many aspects of the Library’s renovation, like modern HVAC units and LED lights, one that I love most is a cache of wood planks: redwood reclaimed from a water tank that sat above Sun Valley when it was a brand-new resort. The tank was dismantled because it was no longer used, and the wood has been in storage. It is beautiful, strong redwood with faded brand-new resort. The tank was dismantled because it was no longer used, and the wood has been in storage. It is beautiful, strong redwood with faded

Facebook: @thecommunitylibrary Twitter & Instagram: @ketchumlibrary

The Community Library
415 Spruce Avenue N
PO Box 2168
Ketchum, ID 83340
208.726.3493
208.726.8118
www.cumbil.org

M, F: 10 am - 6 pm
T-Th: 10 am - 8 pm
Sun: Closed

The Gold Mine
331 Walnut Avenue
PO Box 2168
Ketchum, ID 83340
208.726.3465
208.726.5544

M-F: 10 am - 6 pm
Sat: 10 am - 5 pm
Sun: 12 - 5 pm (summer)

Gold Mine Consignment
591 Fourth Street
PO Box 2168
Ketchum, ID 83340
208.726.5544

M-F: 10 am - 6 pm
Sat: 10 am - 5 pm
Sun: 12 - 5 pm (summer)

Every subject and corner of the Gem State was in evidence. What exactly was going on? A boy named Caleo looked to his teacher and then volunteered, softly: “We’re, like, getting artifacts, and sending them to another school.” He had a quiet voice and wore a green-and-yellow Marmot hoodie. “And then they’ll send us clues back, and we have to figure out where they’re from.”

His teacher, Pam Duquette, further explained: With the help of the Regional History librarians, the class was researching their home in order to make and gather representative objects, and finally ship them, as a mystery, to another fourth-grade class somewhere unnamed in the country. Fittingly, this swap is called The Artifact Box Exchange. In past years, her classes had received Hershey’s Kisses from a school in the eponymous Pennsylvania town, and salt shakers from—did you guess it?—Salt Lake City. Inside each box is a series of envelopes on various themes, labeled “hard” to “easy.” The kids start with the tough (or downright impossible) clues and move to the easier.

Caleo’s research list was eclectic, somehow poetic: “Recipes, rivers, and immigration patterns.” On a scrap he had scrawled a makeshift map of the Snake running through an imagined Hells Canyon, with a wavering note: “We live in the state that has the deepest gorge in North America.” It was a sly, admirable clue, one sure to throw off his counterparts. Those poor kids—they would think immediately of the Grand Canyon and lose themselves in Arizona. And what kind of recipes was Caleo discovering? Roberts Mc Kercher’s From Roberts’s Kitchen sat beside Basque Cooking and Lore, but he opened yet another cookbook to page 72, “Sheep Wagon Omelet”:

1 cup prepared lamb fries
2 Tbsp. chopped green pepper
2 Tbsp. chopped onion
1 clove minced garlic
2 ½ Tbsp. Spanish olive oil
1 Tbsp. minced Italian parsley
4 eggs, beaten
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

What exactly was going on here?
An artifact is something you can touch,” said Mrs. Duquette. “It’s something you can smell, something you can taste. We want to send three-dimensional things.”

For some time, the nature of “lamb fries,” and whether it was an appetizing ingredient, was debated. There was no consensus. In any case, Caleo planned to copy out and staple his own little recipe book for inclusion in this year’s artifact box.

It was beautiful to imagine fourth-grade classes corresponding anonymously across the country, cross-pollinating like the local flowers that another student was leafing through in a book. Mrs. Duquette said, “They’re learning things that they don’t know, and then sharing them. And the goal is to find things that aren’t easily looked up on the internet.” The only way to do that is to hit the books. The Artifact Box Exchange also was teaching these kids about the history inherent in objects.

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As lunch neared, the boys found a magnifying lens for enlarging print and started turning it on each other. One after the next, they peered into each other’s eyes, amazed by the distortion. “Your eyes were this big,” said one boy. “You look like a baby!” cried another. They clustered by the Center for Regional History’s door, looking closely at each other. But clearly they were also magnifying their region and state, and so their own identities.

“Gentlemen, I don’t think we’re quite finished yet,” said Mrs. Duquette, and they went back to work.

LEcTURe HALL
The Hidden Life of Rivers

“Chances are your thought about what represents a gravel-bed river is quite a bit different from what it really is,” began Richard Hauer, a University of Montana professor of limnology, during a talk this February co-sponsored by the Wood River Land Trust. The Lecture Hall was packed with hikers, fishers, and other lovers of the Big Wood, a classic mountain stream, just the kind Hauer studies. “A river is not simply the water flowing down the channel,” Hauer explained. It runs in four dimensions. It flows forward in time and space, and wends from side to side, sometimes in a great flood. But it also flows up and down through the “interstitial” spaces within the layers of cobble that make up a valley floor. That stony, porous foundation often extends from “valley wall to valley wall” and can be over three hundred feet deep. It’s the hyporheic zone. Hauer explained: hyporheic meaning “under;” and rheeos, “flow.” It’s “the under river,” the hidden river, the submerged portion of the iceberg, as it were—though this iceberg has melted out of mountains like the Pioneers and the Boulders.

Hauer showed the crowd an aerial photo of a stretch of the Flathead River in Montana, one of his study sites. The channel was colored like a child’s woven summer-camp lanyard: red stretches to show upwelling; purple for downwelling; and green for neutral flow. That subterranean stream was “pouring back into the river all over the place,” Hauer narrated, almost gleefully, and it was delivering cold water—forty degrees, in the heat of August—creating a refuge for not just fish, but all the life that relies on the floodplain.

In those downwelling zones, organic matter gets trapped in “that big gravel filter,” where microbes and leaf-devouring aquatic insects (“shredders”) break it down so that it releases phosphorous and nitrogen. In the upwelling zones, algae thrive on these key nutrients. “If you’re a fisherman, you’ll recognize these places as you’re walking along and you’re fly casting, and all of sudden you walk into a place

“I love the open space in the library; its smells, the windows and the kind people… This is my second home. … The Library is significant for all who come here. People’s faces have a focus in learning and exploring. The Library gives meaning and one can read the world, see a film or play a guitar. I am learning English and meeting friends. Here I enter and leave, it is free and I feel safe and happy.”

— Edna Grisante, Ketchum

The Big Wood from Bow Bridge in the Draper Preserve in Hailey.
and you can hardly stand up. It is so slick.” This algae in turn attracts other aquatic insects (“grazers”) that grow larger in these stretches than the same species does a stone’s throw away. All of these insects attract fish, which also nest in upwelling zones because the influx flushes waste, provides oxygen, and maintains a consistent temperature. And in pursuit of fish, wade otters, anglers, and, in theory, grizzly bears.

Between all its dimensions and pulses, a river creates an ever-shifting “habitat mosaic,” a kaleidoscopic puzzle. You find bare cobble bars, swaths of seedlings, pole stands of twenty-year-old cottonwoods, and old-growth forest galleries. You find ponds and artesian springs. “These landscapes are disproportionately important,” said Hauer, “because they concentrate diverse habitats.” Floodplains account for just 3 percent of our landscapes, but they hold 70 percent of its vegetation. Eighty percent of our birds also depend on them. “Turns out, this is exactly where the magic is happening in your valley, biologically,” Hauer said.

“If you care about the river, if you care about the long-term ecological health of your valley, you’ll try to have the river do as much as it possibly can in terms of maintaining its movement.”

Watch Professor Hauer’s full lecture and many others in our archive: www.livestream.com/comlib

CHILDREN’S LIBRARY

Becoming a Beaver

“Let me take you to the mountains, to a very special place, where for one whole day a beaver pond became a moose pond, too.” So began Beaver Pond, Moose Pond as read by Alisa McGowan, the program director of Ketchum’s Enviromental Resource Center, during a special-guest Science Time this May at the Children’s Library. Preschoolers sat in a circle around a faded blue tarp thrown down in the center of the room: If the tarp was a pond, then the Children’s Library. Preschoolers sat in a circle around a faded blue tarp thrown down in the center of the room: If the tarp was a pond, then

“Kelby Beaver” in full regalia (left). The kiddos also built miniature dams in chutes and tested them for leaks (many).

“When I think of The Community Library, I think of a place where each day at 10 a.m. the friendly and knowledgeable staff open the doors to a wonderful resource. Whether you are a young person who drops by to enjoy the game room, a student who needs a quiet place to study, someone who wishes to enjoy the vast reading and study materials, or the computers, or someone who wishes to take advantage of the programs, the Library is at the core of the community and worthy of community support.”

~ Doug Burdick, Boise and Sun Valley

These kids were learning an essential tenet of ecology: how a creature like a beaver can create landscape-wide changes that others rely on.

“Now, we don’t normally see beavers around this time of day,” Alisa acknowledged. “If you care about the river, if you care about the long-term ecological health of your valley, you’ll try to have the river do as much as it possibly can in terms of maintaining its movement.”

A plastic beaver skull worn during Science Time.
A conceptual rendering of the renovated Lecture Hall with increased capacity and technology.

A conceptual rendering of the enhanced Children's Library entrance, place, and “Treehouse” program room.

Our current Reference Room will be transformed into a lively Learning Commons with more study rooms and better technology. The Children’s Library will be enhanced with both a makerspace that can get messy and a beautiful new reading and programs space, the “Treehouse,” looking out toward Baldy. The Regional History Betty Olsen Carr Reading Room will have a distinctive sense of place and a handsome conference room. But all in all, the Library will grow by a modest 2,000 square feet, or 8 percent of its current footprint, just where it is needed most: the Children’s and Young Adult Libraries, the Lecture Hall, and the main entrance.

The new Lecture Hall will open in mid-July with 50 percent more seating, just in time to host award-winning author Adam Johnson (see our events calendar on pages 14 and 15). A “Mountain of Books” will rise up on the back wall in homage to our alpine spirit. New technology will ensure that everyone can hear and see our great programming, and it will allow us to Livestream these events more readily. The Lecture Hall also will have access to a new courtyard so that receptions and conversations can spill outside.

Next year, the focus will turn to the outside: At long last, the Library will have entrances and landscaping worthy of its interior vitality. These designs will enhance downtown Ketchum, providing gathering spaces and contemplative nooks, and make a striking statement about this community’s belief in itself and its future.

These improvements will transform the Library and carry us forward, boldly. They will be host to your children and grandchildren, your neighbors, and wonderful people you might otherwise never meet. We want The Community Library to be a gorgeous, gravitational center in Ketchum and the greater region, and we invite you to stop by. Stay for a while, for a lifetime. This is your Library.

Learn More & Help Renew the Library: www.comlib.org/campaign
Community Input

Hundreds of community members participated in “mind-breaking” sessions to imagine possibilities for the Library, providing 2,000 comments to launch a strategic planning process.

Phase 1: Lower-level Programs Studio, Archive, & Restrooms

The Library’s unfinished basement was transformed into a professional, climate-controlled archive to store artifacts from the Ski and Heritage Museum, the Hemingway House, and other regional history collections. The lower level now also includes new staff workspaces and a programs studio for midsize classes. In the Main Library, new restrooms were constructed to be fully ADA-accessible, gender-inclusive, and energy efficient.

Phase 2: West Stacks, Lecture Hall, Children’s Library, & Link

The west end of the Main Collection Hall is being reinforced with concrete footings and upgraded with new lights and carpet. The Link between the Children’s and Main Libraries will be expanded for a stronger connection between the Library’s two wings. It will include a Young Adult Library with window seats and bean bags for kids to cozy up with a book or chat with friends, as well as tables and technology for doing homework and projects. The Link will feature floor-to-ceiling windows that look out on a contemplative garden.

As part of the Hemingway Legacy Initiative, historic preservation work is underway at the Hemingway House, and its garage is being transformed into a studio for a world-class Residency Program that will bring artists, especially writers, to the Wood River Valley for dedicated creative time and community outreach.

Phase 3: Learning Commons, Foyer

The existing Reference Room will be transformed into a Learning Commons that is better-suited to helping patrons navigate today’s information resources. There will be a new bank of public computers and small study rooms with enhanced technology. The Foyer will be redesigned to have a more open, accessible, and welcoming entrance with a modernized circulation desk.

Phase 4: Entrances, Regional History Reading Room, & Landscaping

The main Spruce Street entrance will become more fully the community’s front porch, with improved accessibility and heated sidewalks for safe passage in all seasons. The Regional History Reading Room will be finished to highlight our local history. The Children’s Library entrance will be improved with a larger covered entry, and above it will be a fresh programs space, the “Treehouse,” with big windows and views of Baldy, where our youngest Library-users can dream and fall in love with stories. The asphalt parking lot outside of the Children’s Library will be replaced with a plaza, integrating the Library with the downtown.

Hemingway House Acquired & Infrastructure Improvements Completed

After two years of planning, The Nature Conservancy gifted the Hemingway House and Preserve to the Library. The house remains a private space, but is the centerpiece of the Hemingway Legacy Initiative, which honors the iconic writer and strives to elevate literature in the Wood River Valley and beyond through preservation and education. Artifacts from the house have been integrated into the Library’s collection. The Hemingway House constitutes a separate, additional $2 million of fundraising in concert with the Library renovation campaign.
In the Gold Mine’s 3,000-square-foot annex basement—the mine that yields the gold—the wall nearest the conveyor belt (which descends from street level) is lined with Graco cribs of every pattern and size. They look like a retrospective exhibit fit for a Sun Valley Museum of Toddler History. Some time ago, longtime employee Zelda Schwartz realized that rather than spending hundreds of dollars on industrial carts, they could just save donated PackN Plays. They’re light-weight; they have wheels on one end. Perfect. “When it’s empty, it looks like a daycare center,” says Zelda.

But these “triage” cribs are seldom empty. In May, they were overflowing with plastic bags of duds and dresses, shoes and silk pajamas. Or who knows. “It’s like Sisyphus,” says Linda McMahon, the Gold Mine’s longtime processing manager. “You roll it up, and it rolls back down again.” Zelda and the other clothing aficionados grab one of these bags (these soft boulders) at a time and see what’s inside. “It is kind of like Christmas every day,” says Linda. “But an overwhelming Christmas.” Each garment is scrutinized for lost buttons and pit stains, moth holes and unraveling, or that slight yellowing on a white collar that might suggest a few trends in the Gold Mine, but to the lay eye, an anthropologist might see competing trends in clothes are priced, packed, and put into storage for special store openings: Fall, Ski, Christmas. In-season inventory is added to the racks just as fast as can be. Around 11,000 items are sold each month from January through May; it is piled up already. “In the summertime, we’re closing up,” says Linda. “You can’t even get out. ”

The “triage” cribs at the bottom of the mine shaft.

The Library was a major consideration in my deciding to move to Ketchum. I was first a volunteer there and enjoyed working with the staff. Since then I have become confined to my home. The staff at The Community Library has played a major factor in my life. I phone, get a cheerful response, and they set aside books to be picked up later—several times a staff person has delivered a book to me on their own time. I miss not going to the timely evening programs but The Community Library still plays a very important role in my life, and I am very thankful—especially for the wonderful staff!”

~ Ann Taugher, who will be a centenarian this year

“The Community Library is an incredible asset for the staff of Galena Lodge. We call it our second home. It is where we all go to get books, movies, high-speed internet; to hang out, get work done, attend talks, and meet up with each other. It is our number-one favorite place to go in the valley. Being up north in a semi-remote setting (no cell service, no high-speed internet, and no television), we utilize it as much as possible. It’s even in our staff training at the beginning of each season! Keep rocking it! We love you guys.”

~ Erin Zell, Galena Lodge proprietor

lot of one-dollar T-shirts,” Linda observes. But some of the donations are incredible. “A lot of the ski gear is only one season old,” says Linda. “People love donating really good stuff.” Zelda claims once a man drove by and threw his diamond ring at the door (as we listened to her, we could almost hear its ping). “He got divorced,” she says. All of this is transmuted into books and programs, while also providing affordable goods and genuine steals to the Wood River Valley. Nearly 200,000 people visit the Gold Mine each year, and it contributes a third of the Library’s annual budget.

When these hardworking miners need a break, they drop down in the “Longhorn Café” in the basement’s corner. “We serve a mean Espresso Campano,” says Linda. One of the café’s walls is two rows of plants hanging from a coat rack, a vertical garden, a fount of oxygen deep in the mine. On another wall is a panorama of Portofino in the Italian Riviera. “This is where we’re all going to retire,” Linda says, gesturing toward it. After twenty years with the Gold Mine, she is, in fact, retiring this year, to Bellevue where she lives. Zelda is retiring, too, after twenty-five years.

“It will always come to the Gold Mine,” Linda says. “If you’re looking for something, you just have to wait long enough—it will come through.” That’s the “Gold Mine magic.” She described buying ski boots for her son once, but someone accidentally put them out on the store’s floor and they were sold, gone. “Oh no,” she says she remembers thinking, “he’s coming home today. Where are we going to find a pair of size-twelve boots? On the back dock … it just happens. I think Clara Spiegel and Jeanne Lane”—two of the Library’s founders, who conceived of the Gold Mine to fund a fiercely independent library—“they’re still moving things around. I believe in the Gold Mine angels, I do. I do. I believe they’re still up there doing stuff.”

Keep your eye out for the Bloom Bookmobile, which, in partnership with The Hunger Coalition, visits Blaine County neighborhoods all summer long to provide books to read, activities, and free healthy lunches to kids. You can sign up for a Library card and check out books there and then! The Bookmobile’s schedule: M: Balmoral Playfield, 12 – 1 pm; Tu: North Fork Trailer Park, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; The Meadows Trailer Park, 1 – 2 pm, W: Carey Fairgrounds, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Bellevue City Park, 1 – 2 pm.
Don’t be put off by this book’s somewhat hokey title: *The Songs of Trees* is a rare combination of in-depth science, lyricism, and unexpected association. Haskell travels the world, and extensively in North America, to spend prolonged time with a ceibo, an olive, a hazel, a ponderosa, and even a Callery pear embedded in New York City. He shows us that a tree is intricately interconnected with its surroundings, and with us. It’s a slow, dense read, like a thick and congealing amber sap, but if you’re willing to listen, it will change the way you see and hear the world, including in the Wood River Valley. One chapter dwells on a cottonwood and Haskell tells us that something like the movie *The Songs of Trees* will speak about her childhood in Idaho to a survivalist, which details her leap into U.S. history when hope overcame division. Meacham provides an insider’s perspective on America’s Cold War at sea. This lecture is sponsored by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. Free, but preregistration recommended via the Center. 6:30 PM. Lecture Hall.

Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham will present a lecture based on his new book, *The Soul of America*, which examines the present through critical moments in U.S. history when hope overcame division and fear. A contributor to *TIME* and *The New York Times Book Review*, Meacham is one of America’s most prominent public intellectuals. Presented in partnership with the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. 6:30 PM. Church of the Big Wood. Registration required via the Center.

August 25

We’re shaking things up this year: LitWalk is LitHop, Libraries Rock! Celebrate the library renovation in one of its unfinished spaces, with music, dancing, good food, refreshments, and general revelry. Practice your dance moves (and your reading), and stay tuned for more details.

September 6-8

Amid the centennial commemoration of WWII, *A Farewell to Arms* will be the centerpiece of The 2018 Ernest Hemingway Seminar. The novel drew upon Hemingway’s experiences in the war and became his first bestseller, confirming the tone of his career. Registration required via the Library.
“On the map of my life, with its dark spots and blank spots and smudged spots, few spots glow more brightly than the libraries, those luminous repositories of stories and lives, little holy lands that have taught me, all my life, about the mysterious, dangerous, profound, and addictive magic of our shared language.”

~ Anthony Doerr, 2018 Hemingway Distinguished Lecturer