Today at the east end of the Library is a cacophony of big noises. Drills whine shrilly as wiring is routed for new energy-efficient lights. Hammering bangs and pounds around the portion of the new, more accessible front entrance. A backhoe roars as it plows the way for a wider, smoother, safer heated sidewalk.

Meanwhile, at the west end of the Library is a circle of earnest attention. Three little chicks perch quietly as they make an appearance before 11 wide-eyed preschoolers at Science Time. Little voices turn to whispers as feathers are passed from one soft hand to another.

A strength of The Community Library is its ability to embrace juxtapositions, and the acoustic terrain here has never been more extreme than over the last year-and-a-half as we have renovated the 40+ year-old building while staying open for operation continuously.

But even without the heavy equipment, the Library buzzes. It is a daily symphony of murmurs and chuckles and a-ba’s and sighs and sometimes even shouts with the many voices and footsteps that animate it (though there is always a quiet nook where you might even drift to sleep). When the Library is buzzing, it means the community is blossoming. I hope this newsletter gets some fresh ideas budding for you — to read, to question, to connect, to dream. And to be what you want to be, here.

Jenny

The Paint Club was the brainchild of Children’s Library Director DeAnn Campbell. “I wanted to offer a free art opportunity for kids and teens,” she said. I was excited because our new learning lab space in the Children’s Library has opened up new possibilities for creative activities that can get messy. We could never have offered this in our old carpeted space.”

Discovering a new talent or interest can be a little messy. Paint splatters. Glue globs. Lines go astray. But the result can be not only a pretty picture, but also a new sense of look what I can do!“

Painting New Possibilities

By Molly! Goodyear, Communications Associate

On a chilly March day, the kids who signed up for Paint Club, ranging in age from 7 to 14, gathered excitedly in the new space that we designed to be a learning lab and that we have come to call the “lunch room” because it can get a little messy. They each donned a smock then sat in front of an easel, a 12” x 12” canvas, a mason jar of water, and an assortment of acrylic paints and brushes. Teacher Judy Zimmer showed them an example, then she had them start painting the background first. “It calms their nerves and gives them confidence. They’re so zen when they’re doing it,” she said.

Judy, a children’s librarian and amateur painter, said she watched a lot of painting videos to prepare, and discovered one on the Library’s new Kanopy streaming service that she really liked “because the painter has a motto: Have Some More Fun.” It’s an acronym for a painting method: paint the Horizon first, then the Sky, then the Middle of the scene, and finally the Foreground.

Judy always loved painting, but had’t put brush to canvas in many years until she started working at The Community Library and her fellow librarian Diane Dick, a professional artist, inspired her to get painting again. Now Judy delights in inspiring others. “What I love the most is that kids think they’re not going to be able to paint what we’re painting. When they actually accomplish it, they’re like, ‘Wow, I can paint!’ I love seeing their faces.”

Judy continued, “I had a mother who came to the class with her 7-year-old son. The next day, she told me that her son had taken his finished painting for Show & Tell at school to show them how well he did on the shadowing of the tree. He was really proud of it.”

The Community Library
415 Spruce Avenue N
Ketchum, ID 83340
208.726.3493
208.726.3493
www.comlib.org

M, F, Sat: 10 am–6 pm
T-Th: 10 am–8 pm
Sun: NEW! Open 12-5 pm

Store: 1-5 pm

W-Sat: 1-5 pm

Paint Club is every first Saturday of the month.

The next PAINT CLUB is June 20.

Sign up in advance through the Children’s Library: 208.726.3493 x2.

Watch instructional art videos through Kanopy online, free with your library membership: https://www.comlib.org/digital-services/
Each summer we look forward to sending the Bloom Bookmobile far and wide in Blaine County through our collaboration with The Hunger Coalition. It visits four locations from Carey to Ketchum every week, and more than 200 kids connect with it to get free, healthy lunches and a smorgasbord of books and games. It provides great summer fun and prevents the “summer slide” - a loss of skills from one school year to the next.

The Social Fabric of a Thrift Store

By Molly! Goodyear, Communications Associate

Author Marie Kondo advocated for getting organized by keeping only those things which spark joy in your life. Get rid of everything else. Her 2014 bestselling book, The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up, followed by a Netflix series, created a global phenomenon of decluttering.

The trickle-down effect – indeed, one might call it a tsunami – has been a boon for thrift and consignment stores like the Library’s own Gold Mine and Gold Mine Consign.

Find the Bloom Bookmobile from June 10 - August 15

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“Whether we’re talking about our favorite stories over a shared lunch or getting paint and glitter stuck to our hands during an activity, good food and good books are what bring us together.”
– Jeanne Liston, The Hunger Coalition Executive Director

GOLD MINE STAFF ARE READY TO HELP

BRIAN AND SHILO

might call it a tsunami – has been a boon for thrift and consignment stores like the Library’s own Gold Mine and Gold Mine Consign.

This joy of tidying up is a two-way street with thrift store shoppers happily finding second-hand treasures among cast-offs. The merchandise at the Gold Mine always promises gems, such as French designer jeans or an Italian racing bike.

People of all ages are among the 200,000 annual visitors to the Gold Mine – but interestingly, millennials are leading the way in the thriving movement. They grew up with the mantra “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” and now that they are wage-earners themselves, they are taking it to heart.

On a lovely April day, the Gold Mine’s annual Spring Opening attracted a line of people 40 minutes before the store opened. When the doors finally opened at 10 am, it was dawn the block to Maude’s coffee shop. As the crowd filed into the store, the chatter that had marked the queue became a steady buzz of business as people began their searches in earnest.

Karl Wilander said he has been coming here since he was 6 years-old and that it is part of his routine. At this Spring Opening, he found lawn furniture and seat cushions.

Local author and artist Kerrin McCall comes to all of the Gold Mine openings. She values the Gold Mine because it is the ultimate in recycling, and because, “It supports that amazing building over there,” she said, pointing toward The Community Library.

Hailey resident Gretchen Basen’s most awe-inspiring find was a restaurant quality Sous Vide machine (a precision cooker). “It is quite the coup,” she said with a smile on her face. “Something only geeks would want.”

Friends Tom and Connor came together for their semi-annual clothing spree. Connor, who is a frequent library patron, said he and his friends come to the Gold Mine opening because of the great “finds,” the fun energy, and the camaraderie.

A few years ago, Tom found a couch for his cabin that was, he said, “the most perfect thing I’ve ever had.” Admittedly, there can be some smugness as people divulge the steal-of-a-deal they found at the Gold Mine, or as they describe their favorite quirky treasure. But the overarching feeling at the Spring Opening, and on any shopping day at the Gold Mine, is one of delight. The re-circulation of golf clubs, crockpots, and ski jackets, it turns out, is also weaving community.

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How Writing Can Remake the World

By Nick Neely, author of Coast Range

“I’ve become more and more convinced that... making art is the most urgent work we can be doing,” said Sarah Sentilles, a Wood River Valley resident and author of the award-winning Draw Your Weapons, as she opened a conversation sponsored by the National Book Foundation in the Library’s Lecture Hall in February.

“Every creative act, whether it’s writing a new sentence, or making a sculpture or a painting, reminds me that it’s possible to remake the world. If you can make one new thing, you can make something enormously new.”

Sentilles asked both authors, “Why write now?”

Sitting on either side of her were two women who had been recognized by the National Book Foundation for doing just that, Nafissa Thompson-Spires, author of The Heads of Colored People, longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award; and Rebecca Makkai, author of The Great Believers, a finalist for the award.

“I think it’s very obviously a critical moment,” Makkai replied. “But I think it’s always a critical moment.” The issues facing Black Americans are the same issues it faced a century ago, or extensions of them. Makkai replied, “I think it’s very obviously a critical moment,”

As always, on this evening the Library’s Lecture Hall became a warm and safe space for a critical conversation about ethics and empathy. Everything about the newly renovated John A. and Carole O. Moran Lecture Hall is quietly in the service of fostering such a thoughtful environment: its increased seating capacity allows up to 200 people to listen and ask questions. Its large, rear-projection screen holds bright visuals for everyone to see, and stage illumination highlights the speakers and the scene as they move. Its audio is fine-tuned by an excellent sound system and discreet acoustic panels, and for the hearing-impaired—or for a parent who has to rush out of the Lecture Hall with a vocal baby—wireless headsets are available. You can wander the stacks while listening to an ongoing presentation. Or you can enjoy these programs at home, in real time or later, via the Library’s Livestream service.

The Lecture Hall ensures that we can see and hear people... They’re threatened by art, and that tells us what’s making a difference, look at what angers people... They’re threatened by art, and that tells you everything you need to know.”

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The Lecture Hall ensures that we can see and hear these discussions perfectly, turning our attention to what matters most: our minds and the possibility of change. This is the story the Library wants to write for the world.

WATCH THIS PROGRAM AND OTHERS from the Lecture Hall through the Library’s Livestream program archive: https://livestream.com/comlib

What Happened When We All Read the Same Book?

This past winter, The Community Library led an ambitious project to get everyone reading and talking about a book whose themes are relevant to us here, now. We received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to do a Big Read around the novel Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea, and we forged collaborations with Blaine County School District, Hailey Public Library, and Bellevue Public Library to develop programming around the book from January 28 through March 6.

The novel tells the story of teenaged Nayeli who travels north to the United States from her small hometown in Mexico in order to recruit her father and a group of men to help protect her town from banditos. It’s a contemporary, rollicking, poignant reinvention of the western film The Magnificent Seven, and Nayeli is a fierce and engaging protagonist.

So, what happened? We READ!

• More than 400 people got free copies of the book, in English and Spanish.
• More than 300 people checked out the book from the local libraries.
• Nearly 600 people attended book discussions, lectures, films, and social events around the novel at locations throughout the valley.
• 200 people came to hear the author, Luis Alberto Urrea, speak in the Library’s Lecture Hall, and 20 high school students had a discussion with him.
• 5 students from the Wood River High School Nosotros United Club gave a combined 100 hours of service to help with programming in English and Spanish.

If you missed these events, it’s not too late to read Into the Beautiful North and to strike a conversation about it with your neighbor.
Imagination and Grit: The Library Gets Renewed!

By Carter Hedberg, Director of Philanthropy

Nearly 65 years ago The Community Library took root. The seed was planted by 17 innovative women who wanted to bring books and literature to this rural area of central Idaho, believing there should be vibrant cultural community to match the magnificent mountain setting they called home. They chose to found a library that was unconventionally funded, by their own donations of $1 each and through a thrift store, but no dedicated tax dollars from local, county, state, or federal sources would be tapped. It was powered by the generosity of the community.

Fast forward 60 years — The Community Library has become a cultural hub in the Wood River Valley with tens of thousands of visitors a year, about 15,000 cardholders, and scores of free programs for kids, teens, and adults; and in a 40 year-old building that struggled to meet the needs and demands of a changing community. More than 2,000 comments were gathered and new seeds were planted during the “Re-Imagine the Library” listening sessions when our community was asked what they liked about the Library and what should change. These seeds, along with those from staff and trustees, grew into a plan to RENEW The Community Library — to make it safer and more accessible, with beautiful, flexible spaces to learn, relax, and engage, with a look to the future with new technology. Today, as we are about to enter the final phase of the two-year, multi-phase project to RENEW the Library, my heart is filled with gratitude. This project was truly powered by the generosity of the community — not only financially, but also by spirit, resiliency, and a certain amount of grit — both literally and figuratively — as patrons continued to use the Library through the noise, collection moves, and other disruptions a major construction project inevitably brings.

Our new spaces have been embraced by the public. Who knew that restrooms could represent “benevolent activism?” That was the phrase used by Ryan Redman, founder and executive director of the Flourish Foundation, after observing a new gender-inclusive restroom. A regular 13-year old patron declared enthusiastically, “This is the first new thing I’ve seen at the Library my whole life,” after viewing the Center for Regional History archive. And the John A. and Carole O. Moran Lecture Hall, with its mountain of books, new technology, and intimate setting, has become the community’s living room, inviting return visits from members who are hungry for lifelong learning.

Soon most of the outdoor spaces will be complete. These spaces will connect to the interior, creating areas for programs and contemplation, to drink your cup of coffee and read a book or connect to the wi-fi – creating a library for all seasons.

Beautiful new spaces are nothing without people, and it is the people of our community that make The Library what it is. Generosity in all its forms provides the heart and soul of The Community Library. As our manifesto states: “It is within all of us to inspire, motivate, facilitate, and challenge one another to new thinking; passionately.” Thank you, my friends, this is why I love this community. PASSIONATELY!

I began coming to The Community Library in the 1980’s; since then it’s grown and changed and soon will be the jewel of our little community. What hasn’t changed is the quality and dedication of the library staff and volunteers. Always kind and qualified, they are the reason the library is so popular and successful. Thank you! ~ Gene Lanctot

When I first moved to Ketchum four years ago, I almost immediately signed up to volunteer. Since then, it has become a second home. It is the first place I bring friends who are visiting. My husband and I attend many of the lectures or book talks. Being in the library feels like being connected to the pulse of the community.

– Zanna Cochrane

I usually visit The Community Library four or more times a week, and I am always appreciative of not only their really terrific internet system, but also the uniformly wonderful customer service that I get there. I feel very lucky to have access to such a genuinely great community resource. ~ John Pluntze

Nearly 65 years ago The Community Library took root. The seed was planted by 17 innovative women who wanted to bring books and literature to this rural area of central Idaho, believing there should be vibrant cultural community to match the magnificent mountain setting they called home. They chose to found a library that was unconventionally funded, by their own donations of $1 each and through a thrift store, but no dedicated tax dollars from local, county, state, or federal sources would be tapped. It was powered by the generosity of the community.

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regional history

Who Writes History in Central Idaho?
By Mary Tyson, Director of the Center for Regional History

The Jeanne Rodger Lane Center for Regional History at The Community Library holds tens of thousands of historical objects that tell stories of central Idaho. However, stories of the First Nations, including the Shoshone and Bannock tribes, are startlingly under-represented. This is a void we are committed to addressing.

Our new exhibit takes up this challenge by encouraging a hard look at the Native American historical materials we do have: a handful of photographs, newspaper articles, maps, and legal documents. All are from the Anglo point of view. We wanted to draw attention to this from the Anglo point of view. We wanted to draw attention to this perspective and its limitations, so we titled the exhibit Who Writes History?. Frontier Voices, Native Realities. Curating our collection to illuminate Native American stories was to reckon with our collection’s gaps. Still, fascinating, important stories emerged.

The legal documents in the exhibit are from the Arthur Ensign Collection, and they describe a rape case in which the plaintiff was a woman referred to only as Indian Mary. The accused men were brought to trial and convicted in the Blaine County District Court in 1906. After the case was appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court, the defendants walked free. We don’t know what happened to Indian Mary.

The maps in the exhibit show how the Wood River Valley was rendered geographically more than a century ago, and they provide some insights on the prevailing attitudes toward Native Americans at that time. One map of the Idaho Territory is from an 1863 atlas, and it lays the groundwork for the exhibit in several ways: It’s published smack in the middle of the Civil War; it’s the first time the Idaho Territory was named in an atlas; it illustrates how the transcontinental railroad is unfinished; and it shows only the military landmarks of Fort Hall and Fort Boise in the Southern Idaho Territory. Next to no acknowledgement is given to tribal lands.

Another map shows mining districts around the Wood River Valley in 1881. It was drawn by William G. Seamands, a prospector and mountaineer, and published by Rand McNally. Seamands drew it because hundreds of prospectors were arriving each day as the silver discoveries were in full boom. Significantly, Seamands does depict multiple “Indian trails,” acknowledging well-worn routes of existing Native inhabitants. In a text accompanying the map, Seamands writes this commentary, revealing the prevailing attitudes toward Native Americans in 1881:

Who Writes History?

Regional history

The project was advanced by the Library’s 2018 Hemingway Preservation Interns, Hannah Conn and Tess Burchmore, and it will be available in mid-July.

The artifacts in this new exhibit, then, are as significant for what they do not tell as for what they do. To tell a fuller history of central Idaho, including the histories of the peoples who preceded Euro-American settlement, we have to ask questions about what has been pushed to the margins of the maps, legal records, and news articles. We have to ask who writes history?

Who Writes History?

Regional history

The region of country embraced in these maps has, ever since the first settlement of Idaho, until within the last two years, been the favorite hunting ground of the Bannock and Sheep-eater Indians. Therefore it was dangerous for small parties of prospectors to explore this section of the country. But, after the Bannock war in 1878 (in which the writer was employed by the government as a scout), the Indians were forced to remove to a reservation, and resign their favorite haunts to the adventurous prospectors, who rushed into the unexplored mountains to uncover mines of untold wealth.

Seamands describes the Bannock and Sheep-eater tribes as a threat to the young nation’s manifest destiny.

Who Writes History?

Regional history

Following Hemingway’s Footsteps
By Mary Tyson, Director of the Center for Regional History

Ernest Hemingway came to the Sun Valley area for 22 years, beginning in 1939 and until his death here in 1961. When he came, he stayed for months at a time; and when he came, he walked: up Trail Creek, along Ketchum’s streets, in the Picabo Hills, and through the high desert and scrappy farms around Shoshone and Gooding.

In the late-1950s, many of Hemingway’s walks led to the market run by his good friend Chuck Atkinson. Atkinson’s Market was then on Walnut Avenue, near where the Bellissimo boutique is now. Before Bellissimo and before the market, the Christiania gambling house stood in that spot. When it became vacant in the mid-1950s, Atkinson renovated it and moved his Picabo market to Ketchum for business. Behind the market, he ran the Christiania Motor Lodge. Hemingway, an avid letter-writer, sent “Christiania Motor Lodge” postcards to friends elsewhere, and the old Ketchum post office (where Rocky Mountain Hardware stands today) was a regular stop for him.

Following Hemingway’s footsteps through Ketchum and Sun Valley can give glimpses into Hemingway’s life as well as our local history. A new walking tour app, created by the Library on the TravelStorys platform, will provide a multimedia experience to shed light on Hemingway’s life in Idaho. The app tour is titled “Hemingway in Idaho’s High Desert,” and it includes 12 GPS-marked stops (nine in Ketchum and three in Sun Valley). Narrated by Marcel Hemingway, the tour includes photographs and oral histories from the Library’s Jeanne Rodger Lane Center for Regional History. The project was advanced by the Library’s 2018 Hemingway Preservation Interns, Hannah Conn and Tess Burchmore, and it will be available in mid-July.

Hemingway in Sun Valley

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The region of country embraced in these maps has, ever since the first settlement of Idaho, until within the last two years, been the favorite hunting ground of the Bannock and Sheep-eater Indians. Therefore it was dangerous for small parties of prospectors to explore this section of the country. But, after the Bannock war in 1878 (in which the writer was employed by the government as a scout), the Indians were forced to remove to a reservation, and resign their favorite haunts to the adventurous prospectors, who rushed into the unexplored mountains to uncover mines of untold wealth.

Seamands describes the Bannock and Sheep-eater tribes as a threat to the young nation’s manifest destiny.

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This is really a book about a fire — a devastating event at the Los Angeles Central Library. The 1987 blaze destroyed nearly 300,000 volumes and was the single highest library fire in the history of the United States. In 2011, author Susan Orlean relocated to Los Angeles from Cleveland with her family. There, the already established author of a blockbuster book-turned-film, The Orchid Thief (1998), rediscovers with her young son one of her childhood habitats, the library. By happenstance, she also uncovers a story she is compelled to retell about the search for answers to why and what the Central Library fire happened.

The resulting book is a mesmerizing tale of how in the midst of declining readership and blossoming homelessness, a failed actor turned erratic boy apparently torched the Central Library over a slight involving the need for a public phone. But did he apparently torched the Central Library over a slight? Handing away, he’s a magician, enabled with la magie — turning old nails into passable coins to scrape up enough to buy meager amounts of food. But when her brother’s behavior becomes life-threatening, Camille decides to delve deeper into her magic, heading straight to the Palace of Versailles to use her skills at the cards table. But she must be careful not to lose herself to the whole vice that swallowed her brother. And of course, there’s also another problem brewing, being that it’s 1789 in France, the eve of the French Revolution.

The fusion of a desperate situation with such shameless extravagance as the Court of Versailles is sheer literary fabulosity because this story is nothing short of marvellousness!
Summer/Fall Highlights

June 18
The Judith and Marshall Meyer Lecture on China with Dr. Gordon H. Chang, historian
6:00 PM
LECTURE HALL
FREE

June 20
40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS
with Tony Foster, artist
6:00 PM
LECTURE HALL
FREE

July 2
LATE NIGHT SCREENING OF THE SUBVERSIVE ROMANTIC COMEDY, BITE ME. Brought to the Library by the Joyful Vampire Tour of America.
8:30 PM
LECTURE HALL
TICKETS $10 at comlib.org/event/16026/

July 6
10:00 – 10:45 AM
CHILDREN’S LIBRARY
FREE

July 9
PHOTOGRAPHING THE GREAT BASIN: A CONVERSATION with Emmet Gowin, Laura Mcphee and Fazal Sheikh, artists PANEL DISCUSSION in collaboration with The Sun Valley Center for the Arts
5:00 PM
LECTURE HALL
FREE

July 11
HEMINGWAY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE, with Terry Tempest Williams
6:00 PM
ARGYROS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
TICKETS $10
SOLD OUT
Presented by The Community Library

July 18
A CONVERSATION with Barry Lopez, author in collaboration with the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference
5:00 PM
LECTURE HALL
FREE

July 25
AMERICAN CIPHER: BOWE BERGDAHL AND THE U.S. TRAGEDY IN AFGHANISTAN with Michael Ames, author and journalist
6:00 PM
LECTURE HALL
FREE

August 6
LITWALK Celebrate a Community that reads, writes, creates and connects.
4:30 – 7:00 PM
THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY, GOLD MINE STORES AND THE REGIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM FREE

August 20
HOW THE WEST WAS WON AND WHAT IT HAS TO LOSE with Dr. David Kennedy, historian
6:00 PM
LECTURE HALL
FREE

September 5-7
2019 HEMINGWAY SEMINAR: FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
For three days we will explore Ernest Hemingway’s book, For Whom the Bell Tolls, the history surrounding it, and Hemingway’s local and regional connection to it. In addition to a dynamic array of talks/lectures and opportunities for discussion, we will enjoy some film, good food, fellowship and local history, all of which make this Hemingway seminar unique.

KIDS SUMMER READING PROGRAM: A UNIVERSE OF STORIES! Children and teens set a reading goal, log the minutes they read during the summer, and turn in their logs for a chance to win great prizes.
BEGIN SAT., JUNE 8 AND CONCLUDES, FRI., AUGUST 2

SUDDENLY SUNDAY! A special once-a-month library opening on the last Sunday of each month during the summer.
JUNE 30, JULY 28 & AUGUST 25

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING FEATURING LOCAL AUTHORS, TECH HELP, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES, CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS AND MUCH MORE CAN BE FOUND IN OUR FULL ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.COMLIB.ORG/EVENTS
“Creativity is another form of open space...”

- Terry Tempest Williams in *When Women Were Birds: Fifty-Four Variations on Voice*. Williams will deliver the Library’s 3rd annual Hemingway Distinguished Lecture on July 11.