



THE AVID READER

THE FRIENDS OF THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY | FALL 2022

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Meet Diane Demko

INTERVIEW BY MARIA AUGELI-GRUDESKI



Diane Demko, senior manager at both Library Express Bookstore and Nancy Kay Holmes branches for sixteen years, started her career with the Scranton Public Library at the Silkman branch in reader services and progressed to manager. She came late to library life initially owning a flower shop in Scranton and then managed the Paperback Booksmith before joining the Library. A graduate of Bishop Hannan High School Diane earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Scranton and pursued a master's degree in library science from Drexel University.

A typical day includes Diane stopping for a cappuccino at Starbucks and primarily overseeing the daily operations at Library Express Bookstore. Over the years she has expanded her duties including being responsible for purchasing the new collections and special merchandise offered at Library Express. A lifelong learner and lover of "books, books, books," Diane and her staff have provided substantial help to the Friends with their book sales over the years.

Originally from Kansas, Diane moved to Scranton at an early age and with her significant other now enjoys being the mother of three children and an adorable dog, Sugar. A certified yoga teacher for the past eight years she teaches these classes at the Nancy Kay Holmes branch. Diane enjoys travel and goes to England annually for poetry conferences focused on Sylvia Plath. In the near future she is going to Greece for a Plath conference. Diane's reading list includes her favorites *Anna Karenina*, *The Great Gatsby* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Interviewer note: Maria indicated her conversation with Diane was "uniquely interesting" and she especially enjoyed Diane's "elaborate" office.

Thereby Hangs A Tale (stories of curious word origins)

BY DAN GINSBERG



English is the most widely spoken language in the history of our planet, used in some way by at least one out of every seven human beings around the globe. Half of the world's books are written in English which seems to be a crazy language: For example, there is no butter in buttermilk, no egg in eggplant neither pine nor apple in pineapple, and no ham in a hamburger. To make matters worse, English muffins weren't invited in England, nor French Fries in France, nor Danish pastries in Denmark. A guinea pig is neither a pig nor from Guinea. and boxing rings are square.

Words are slippery things. Words are also difficult to define.



2022 Book Sale Schedule

The Friends of the Scranton Public Library will hold quarterly book sales at The Marketplace at Steamtown on:

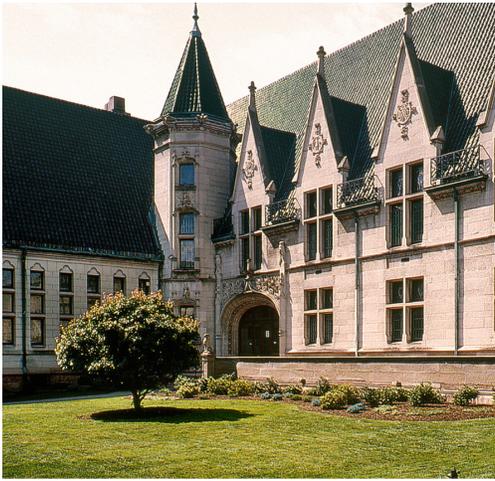
Tuesday, November 29 - Sunday, December 4
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Mini Golf at the Library 2021 & 2022





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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Name: _____

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I am interested in volunteering to help at book sales.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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Check One: New Membership Membership Renewal

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Checks payable to The Friends of the Scranton Public Library

Please return this form with payment to
Friends of the Scranton Public Library
500 Vine Street, Scranton, PA 18509

Thank you for supporting The Friends of the Scranton Public Library. Through your membership, we help the library in many ways. Examples include an annual donation and sponsorship of events and programs. In addition to helping the Library, you receive these benefits from being a member; yearly newsletter, 10% discount at book sales, and discounts on all Friends' trips and activities.

Annual Membership year runs from January through December. Contributions deductible as allowable by law.

Calling All Job-Seekers and Would-Be College Students

BY JOAN HODOWANITZ



The Scranton Public Library has a free online service for patrons who are looking for a job, applying for U.S. citizenship, or just trying to get into college. Brainfuse JobNow provides live job interview coaching, resumé building tools, self-assessment aids and a variety of free Internet resources for job-seekers of all ages. There is also an adult learning center to help patrons prepare for the GED (high school equivalency test) and the U.S. citizenship test (for immigrants).

But wait – there’s more! There are online tutors with bachelor's degrees who can provide one-on-one assistance in a variety of subjects including math, science, reading, writing, and social studies. These tutors can also help students prepare for Pennsylvania standardized tests as well as advanced placement (AP) tests and college boards including the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test), the NMSQT/SAT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test/Scholarship Aptitude Test), and ACT (American College Testing).

So, if you’re interested in any of these services, you can access the JobNow website (lclshome.org/find) from your home computer, the Scranton Public Library’s computers, or any mobile device (smartphone) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Live coaches are available daily from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. The only thing you need is a library card. If you don’t have a card, run – don’t walk – to your nearest public library and get one. A library card, like JobNow, is completely free.

2022 Book Sale



Taking Care of the Palace

BY PETER TAFURI



One of the most magnificent jewels in the architectural crown of our region is the Albright Memorial Library, which is fittingly on the National Register of Historical Places. The design of this Belle Epoque masterpiece was inspired by the beautiful chateaux of the Loire Valley, but unlike them was intended to be a palace that everyone could enjoy unlike those belonging to the royalty and nobles whose names appear on the beautiful stained-glass windows that are among its adornments. It is a fitting home for its treasures, the wonderful book and other media collections, treasures that belong to everyone, like the building itself. As with any home, maintenance is important, and thus it is that serious problems with the roof must be addressed now. Broken tiles have to be replaced, loose ones reattached, and the copper gutters and flashing repaired. The steep angle requires special scaffolding, which has been erected before the main project begins to do some emergency repairs before winter sets in.

Slate is one of the most, if not the most durable of roofing materials, as the over 125-year-old current one makes evident; it is also one of the most difficult to work with. The undertaking requires highly skilled workers who know how to deal with slate, most of which is now imported from Italy. Although it is a rock, it is also delicate and must be handled with great care to avoid cracking, and unlike conventional roofing materials such as asphalt shingles, it cannot be walked on, adding to the complexity of installation.

An extensive search is being conducted to find the most competent and cost-effective roofing company to do the project right. Added to the cost are such factors as the strength and condition of the rafters and other structural elements which have to support the great weight of the roof, any problems of which must be addressed. Thus, the estimate is over \$200,000, but as the old saying goes, you get what you pay for, provided that careful vetting is conducted.

Under the able leadership of the library's CEO, Scott Thomas, the quest is underway. Hopefully work will start in mid 2022; it will take approximately two years to complete, at the end of which all of us common homeowners will be able to take great pride in our palace, a monument for the ages!

Tales from the Albright: Bite-Sized History

BY LAUREL RADZIESKI

TALES FROM
THE ALBRIGHT



a podcast by the **Scranton**
Public Library
of Lackawanna County
Library System

Have you ever wondered who designed the Albright Memorial Library's stained-glass windows or how the Nancy Kay Holmes Branch Library got its name? Then you'll want to listen to *Tales from the Albright*, the library's podcast! A podcast is an audio series with episodes that listeners can access online and through a variety of player and streaming services. Started in summer 2021, *Tales from the Albright* explores the Scranton Public Library's beginnings, local history, book reviews, library happenings, and more. The podcast's host, Alyssa Loney, works in the library's reference department. Alyssa's engaging conversations with guests are sprinkled with interesting stories and about the library's day-to-day operations and history. To start listening today, visit www.albright.org.

Why is the English language quite strange?

BY DAN GINSBERG



Answer: If you choose to wear only your left shoe, then your left one is right and your right one is left? Right?

If you decide to be bad forever, you choose to be bad for good.

Why is it that a man with hair on his head has more hair than a man with hairs on his head?

When I wind up my watch, I start it but when I wind up this comment I shall end it?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables what does a humanitarian eat?

If pro and con are opposites, is congress the opposite of progress?

Your alarm clock goes off, by going on.

You fill in a form by filling out a form.

Where are the people, pray tell, who would actually hurt a fly?

There are people who are not spring chickens, but where are the people who are spring chickens?

Meet the Newest Member of The Friends of the Scranton Public Library Board: Carolyn Mangan



Carolyn Mangan is a native of Dunmore. She has been married to Tim Mangan for the past 12 years. They have a daughter, Caitlyn, who lives with her husband in Carbondale. Carolyn was educated in the Dunmore schools, Mansfield College, and attended Marywood University for her master's degree. Upon retirement from teaching, Carolyn continued with her love of education by working for a tutoring service. She is also an active member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel choir and volunteers at Saint Francis Common Center. Besides reading a good library book, Carolyn enjoys swimming, biking, and traveling. She is looking forward to meeting new people and being a part of the Friends of the Library Board.

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We couldn't have book sales without our volunteers!

To learn how you can volunteer, visit <https://lclshome.org/friends-of-spl/>



Available at the Scranton Public Library:



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Do you need the tools to create something exciting?

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Some supplies are provided, but you may need to bring your own substrates. You will be notified of this at the time of registration. For more information, email splmaker@albright.org.

Create printed mugs, embroidered handtowels, and much more with our selection of crafting machines.

Cricut: Explore; Maker; and Mug Press, Silhouette Cameo, sublimation printer & heat press, embroidery machine, podcasting & filming equipment, 3-D printing

This space was made available by a grant from the

SCRANTON AREA
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LACKAWANNA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM **HOME DELIVERY SERVICE**



Request materials to be mailed to your home, free of charge!

Ask library staff for more information.



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