



THE AVID READER

THE FRIENDS OF THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY | FALL 2023 ISSUE

www.albright.org

Meet Jenny Yurchak Shoener

INTERVIEW BY DR. MARIA AUGELI-GRUDESKI



Jenny Shoener, assistant to Scranton Public Library CEO Scott Thomas, has held this position since 2022. Previously, she had worked at the Lackawanna County Children's Library for twenty-three years. She came to library life initially at the early age of thirteen as a volunteer then she was officially hired as a student assistant at fourteen.

She moved on to various positions at the Children's Library, eventually becoming principal clerk and Outreach Coordinator, where she worked with area teachers to help supplement their curriculums with library resources until her most recent promotion, a challenge she eagerly welcomed.

Her current responsibilities include serving on several planning committees such as fundraising and adult programming, and she is also a part of the library's leadership team. In the last two years, she has assisted in grant research to benefit the Nancy Kay Holmes Branch Renovation Project and also serves as a liaison to the Friends of the Scranton Public Library.

Jenny indicated that she enjoys the "inner workings" of the Library. Her typical day includes correspondence with library donors, committee meetings, and record keeping.

Born and raised in Scranton, she is a product of Scranton public schools including Prescott Elementary and Northeast Intermediate. Jenny was also a member of the first graduating class of the new Scranton High School.

Her hobbies include antiquing with her husband, browsing for bargains at thrift stores, renovating her home, interior decorating, and arts and crafts. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and relaxing with her two dogs and cat.

Jenny volunteered that "keeping her passion alive" is helping others with their needs at the Library!

Goodbye Dear Friend

A Tribute to Barbara D. Noto

I must admit, when I was asked to write something in honor of my Aunt, I was flooded with thoughts! How can I put to paper what this extraordinary woman meant to me in that write up. For me, this could have easily turned into a novel.

I was absolutely blessed to have been a part of Barbara D. Noto's life for 58 years. She was more than an Aunt to me, she was my bonus mother. After all, she was the sister of my own mother Anna Mae Blasi.

I honestly cannot recall a family function or holiday dinner that Aunt Sis (as she was affectionately known to her family) was not present for. She attended EVERYTHING we did until her legs no longer allowed her to walk freely. I will even go so far as saying that when my eldest daughter Katie was born, Sissy was the first to hold her. She was a constant in our lives. Since her passing on July 25th, a massive void has been left. We can cry because it is over, or smile because it happened. In this case, I will smile through the tears and forever be thankful and grateful for the truly God given gift of our Sissy!

From a very early age, I can recall sleepovers at her home in Moscow. I spent many, many weekends and weeks during the summer with her in my childhood. She introduced me to theatre as I grew older. We attended countless shows on Broadway. Those bus trips were amazing memories that will last for a lifetime. One of my favorites was seeing the Phantom of the Opera many, many years ago. I could not understand why Sissy wanted us to sit in the mezzanine section. Orchestra section was her favorite vantage point. When the production began, I was totally captivated when the Phantom appeared on the chandelier that was directly in front of us! She picked those seats for that reason. It was a show she had seen previously and knew that these were the "good seats". I remember her smile seeing her reaction to my amazement. Her smile was always amazing. In the years to come she would also introduce both of my daughters Katie and Victoria to the theatre as well. They loved the experiences just as I did. They especially enjoyed seeing Beauty and the Beast on Broadway, so much so that after leaving the theatre, Victoria asked Sissy if they could come back later that night. She promised there would be more trips, and there indeed were. She passed on her love for New York City to both of my daughters. Cherished memories indeed!!

Sissy was known for her work ethic and her endless devotion to her community. Superhero's are NOT fictional characters. Sissy was indeed a Superhero. A superhero with Energizer Bunny traits! Anyone who knew her would absolutely say the same. The woman NEVER stopped running. Volunteering for numerous charitable organizations, the church, working a full time job all while keeping the balance with her family. She never missed an opportunity to gather with family. She was the true definition of Family, Faith and Community. I will forever remember a few phrases used often by her. They were:

To those whom much is given, much is expected..... John F. Kennedy and

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you....Matthew 7:12

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A Tribute to Barbara D. Noto, Cont'd.

I am truly honored to have served with her in some of our community organizations. I hope to continue to help where needed, knowing she is still by my side.

Sissy helped to instill that unbelievable work ethic in my daughters (her great-nieces) when they started working at the library when they were in high school. They now have successful careers and also help in the community when needed.

The Friends of the Scranton Public Library along with The Albright Memorial Library and the North Pocono Library were among her strongest passions (there is truly not enough room to list each and every organization touched by her in her lifetime. They fill an ENTIRE sheet of paper). She was very proud to be a Board Member of the Library. Even when she was unable to attend in person she looked forward to receiving the minutes which I read to her. She would always remark on the great job that was being done to assist with the ongoing projects. She especially loved her little notes from Barb McGee.

Just know, that if your organization, was touched by this extraordinary woman, she did the best she possibly could to help achieve the goals which you were seeking. No one, and I mean NO ONE, could ever say no to Barbara D. Noto. She was one in a million, she was *my* one in a million and I will hold her in my heart for always and be forever grateful for the countless times we had together and thankful for her love and guidance throughout my life.

Grateful for the opportunity to share,
Barb Partyka, Barbara's Niece



The Board of the Friends of the Scranton Public Library express their heartfelt thanks to Barbara for her dedication and service to the Friends and the Library.

The English Plural

BY DAN GINSBERG



We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes;
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese;
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

2024 Book Sale Schedule



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

Feb. 27 - March 2
June 4 - 8

Sept. 10 - 14
Dec. 3 - 7

Additional Sidewalk Sale:
Albright - Sept. 28



Follow us at [facebook.com/FriendsoftheScrantonPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheScrantonPublicLibrary) for time details.

Mini Golf at the Library 2023





Join The Friends of the Scranton Public Library

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in volunteering to help at book sales.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

Senior Citizen \$5.00

Business \$30.00

Student \$5.00

Lifetime \$75.00

Check One: New Membership Membership Renewal

Cash Check

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

To access a digital membership form and
card payments visit:
<https://lclshome.org/friends-of-spl/>

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.

Meet the Newest Members of The Friends of the Scranton Public Library Board Mary Ann Maro & Domenica Hassenplug



Hi, I'm Mary Ann. I worked in investments for 45 yrs from the time I was 18 until my retirement. I achieved the level of Regional Territory Manager where I covered the northeast offices in the country. I am also a Eucharisti Minister at St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel in Dunmore.

I wanted to volunteer for the library because of my love of books. I love to read! Working the Book Sales gives me an opportunity to keep busy and at the same time meet new people.

My passions include exercising and visiting New York City. I belong to Crunch Fitness where I take various classes, such as kickboxing, high intensity workouts, boxing and weight. I enjoy hiking and running. I am hopelessly in love with NYC and I try to get there at least once a month. I explore various museums, theaters, and eateries while there. I guess you can say, "I LOVE New York!" I think kids and young adults need to learn more about reading books. I believe we lost some of that with phones and tablets and electronics. We need to get kids back to reading books, especially the classics and series. They can do that, just by visiting the library. Libraries are not just books anymore, there are a ton of things to pique one's interests. So, find some time to visit your local library. You will be surprised to see what you find there.

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Hi I'm Domenica. I am from York, PA and attended college in Lock Haven, PA. Currently, I am a Wilkes student. I moved to the area with my husband, Lane, in 2020. I have enjoyed spending time in Scranton exploring new restaurants and coffee shops. I am always interested in trying new things, meeting new people and working as a team. I enjoy reading (of course) and hiking with Lane and our dogs, Ace and Luna. We also have a cat named Boadie. We enjoy kayaking when the weather's warm enough! I love to listen to music and play the acoustic guitar, as well as paint and draw in my free time.

I have been involved in volunteering since high school and college, and love giving back to the community in whatever way I can. I work in healthcare and find my work to be so fulfilling. I wanted something fun to do outside of this while still making a difference in the community. The mission of the Friends resonates with me and I really believe books should be as accessible as possible to everyone (and the group is really fun!).

I have been enthralled with the library and collecting books from a young age, where I watched my mother read what seemed to be a book a day! I remember attending the midnight releases of several books and seeing the great community of book lovers. My mother's love of books inspired me as well as seeing the library and the Friends' involvement at various events.

I love reading almost anything but, my all-time favorite genre is historical fiction, with a close second of fantasy and thrillers.

To someone wanting to join the Friends group, I would say get ready to have fun and be a part of something truly exceptional!



# Have You Met Cal?

By: Jill Cadden  
Photos by: Jenny Shoener



This author feels she would be remiss if she did not explain where the name, Cal, originated. So, here goes. According to Wikipedia, The **Randolph Caldecott Medal**, frequently shortened the **Caldecott**, annually recognizes the preceding year's "most distinguished American picture book for children". It is awarded to the illustrator by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The Caldecott and Newbery Medals are considered the most prestigious American children's book awards. Beside the Caldecott Medal, the committee awards a variable number of citations to runners-up they deem worthy, called the **Caldecott Honor** or **Caldecott Honor Books**.

Cal is a shortened version of Caldecott and his best friend is Newbery. Now that you've learned where Cal got his name. Let's learn a bit more. Cal is known far and wide by children visiting storytime at the Lackawanna County Children's Library. Cal, a hand puppet, recently celebrated his 36th birthday. His only birthday wish was to become... "BIG!" As you can see from our photos, Cal got his birthday wish.





Cal loves when the children come to visit because that's when the fun begins! They not only read stories together, they get to dance.

Cal has many obligations being the Children's Library mascot. His duties include dancing and reading with the children. However, his most important responsibility is feeding the fish!

Pictured below is Cal performing with his friends, Crocodile and the Three-Horned, Googly-eyed Monster. Whether they're performing, reading, singing or dancing. They always have the best times together!



To learn even more about Cal, click the link below or capture the QR Code on your smartphone.

<https://youtu.be/OGXL2e-Sn68?si=rd02xiYIKVwQDAPb>



## Book Sale Activity





# The First Printer In The New World

BY PETER TAFURI



Sadly, book banning has become more prevalent of late, with some politicians deciding what should be available in libraries, despite the fact that the founders of our country placed so much importance the power of the printing press that they enshrined its free use in the first amendment to the Constitution. The honor of bringing this keystone of freedom to the Americas belongs to Giovanni Paoli. A native of Brescia, he learned the art of printing in the tradition of perhaps the greatest printer of all ages, Aldo Manuzio (Aldus Manutius), and was eager for an opportunity to make his mark in the world.

At the time Seville had become one of the world's major seaports, the center for trade with the New World. The ambitious from all over Europe flocked there to find their fortunes, and so young Giovanni arrived around 1538. He was soon called by the Spanish version of his name, Juan Pablos, married a local woman, Jeronima Gutierrez, and shortly after made a business deal with a German printer there, Juan Cromberger, to establish the first print shop in the Americas. He was essentially to be his agent for ten years, responsible for literally every aspect of the venture, with his payment being just his expenses, and the voyage. Nevertheless, he realized it was a golden opportunity.

It is difficult for us to imagine the sheer audacity of his undertaking. Literally everything needed, the press, paper, ink, tools and so forth had to be carefully packed and cared for to survive the voyage, as well as sufficient provisions for himself, wife and two assistants. Upon arrival in Mexico City, it was up to him to set up the press and begin production. Spare parts were nonexistent, meaning that if anything was needed he had to either make it himself, or instruct a blacksmith or carpenter how to do it. All supplies had to come from Spain, so he needed to order everything at least a year in advance, and hope it arrived. Besides the shop, he and his wife had to establish a household for themselves and the workers, no easy undertaking, especially since everything cost three times as much as in Europe. Despite all these difficulties, he set to work almost immediately, and in 1539 published the first book in the New World, "Breve y Mas Compendiosa Doctrina Cristiana" (The Short and Most Compendious Christian Doctrine). He soon became a respected and prominent citizen, and in 1542 was granted a plot of land in the best part of the city to build a new house; his son, Alfonso, was born there in 1544.

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# The First Printer In The New World, Cont'd.

Cromberger died in 1542, and his heirs failed to live up to their part of the contract. Despite this, Giovanni continued to operate the business, and finally in 1548, was granted a royal charter to assume full ownership. He took out a loan to buy more equipment and hired several printers from Spain. He published a steady stream of religious, philosophical, educational and other works, including catechisms and grammars in the Native American Indian languages, the first ever. By 1558 some of his workers had left to set up their own shops, and following his death in 1560, his son-in-law, Pedro de Ocharte, took over the business which continued to flourish.

And so it was that over 200 years before the Constitution was written, decades before Jamestown was founded, the printing industry was firmly established in the New World thanks to the perseverance of Giovanni Paoli. What he would make of the current situation would be interesting to know!

## Contributions Wanted

- Have an article to submit?
- An inspiring anecdote? Expert advice?
- An educational experience? An entertaining happening?
- A humorous event? An extraordinary library encounter?
- A myth to debunk? A surprise incident?

### How to Improve the Newsletter

We will include your name on a byline in the next edition if used.

Email to: [Friendsofscrantonpubliclibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:Friendsofscrantonpubliclibrary@yahoo.com)

Mail to: Feature Editor, *The Avid Reader*, Scranton Public Library  
500 Vine Street, Scranton, PA 18509

Provide your Name, Address, Phone # or Email Address





# An AI Conundrum

By Dan Ginsberg



***"Here we have a book, nine eggs, a laptop, a bottle, and a nail," researchers told the chatbot. "Please tell me how to stack them onto each other in a stable manner."***

(Answer below)

## **What is a chatbot?**

A chatbot can be defined as an AI-based computer program that simulates human conversations. They are also known as digital assistants that understand human capabilities. Bots interpret the user intent, process their requests, and give prompt relevant answers.

Bots can communicate through voice as well as text and can be deployed across websites, applications, and messaging channels such as Facebook Messenger, Twitter, or WhatsApp.

## **How do they work?**

Chatbots work by analyzing and identifying the intent of the user's request to extract relevant entities, which is the most important task of a chatbot. Once the analysis is done appropriate response is delivered to the user.

## **What is a bot?**

A bot -- short for *robot* and also called an *internet bot* -- is a computer program that operates as an agent for a user or other program or to simulate human activity. Bots are normally used to automate certain tasks, meaning they can run without specific instructions from humans.

Bots are also much faster at these tasks than humans. Although bots can carry useful functions, they can also be malicious and come in the form of malware.

## **How do bots work?**

Normally, bots operate over a network. They communicate with one another using internet-based services, such as instant messaging (IM), interfaces like Twitterbots.

## **What does a Chatbox cost?**

Chatbot cost is anywhere from zero to a few thousand dollars per month. Set-up fees can range from your own time to tens of thousands of dollars.

## **How can I try it out?**

If you are looking to try this out for your own business or needs, feel free to sign-up for an account with [alphachat.ai](http://alphachat.ai). In just 5 minutes you can get your own natural language understanding Intelligent Virtual Assistant that you can connect with your website. If you have any questions scan the WhatsApp QR code.

## **Answer to the Conundrum**

It suggested they could arrange the eggs in a three-by-three grid on the top of the book, so the laptop and the rest of the objects could balance on it.

"The laptop will fit snugly within the boundaries of the book and the eggs, and its flat and rigid surface will provide a stable platform for the next layer," the bot said.



# Bus Trip Visit Roosevelt Mansion, Library & Museum & Vanderbilt Mansion

BY GAIL E. REES



This past April the Friends of the Scranton Public Library hosted a well-received bus trip to the Roosevelt Mansion, Roosevelt Library and Museum, and the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, New York.

Attendees enjoyed docent chaperoned and self-guided tours of the magnificent structures and grounds. The day-long event culminated in a stop at the retro-decorated Eveready Diner.

All of the venues featured unique historical collections along with imposing architectural features.

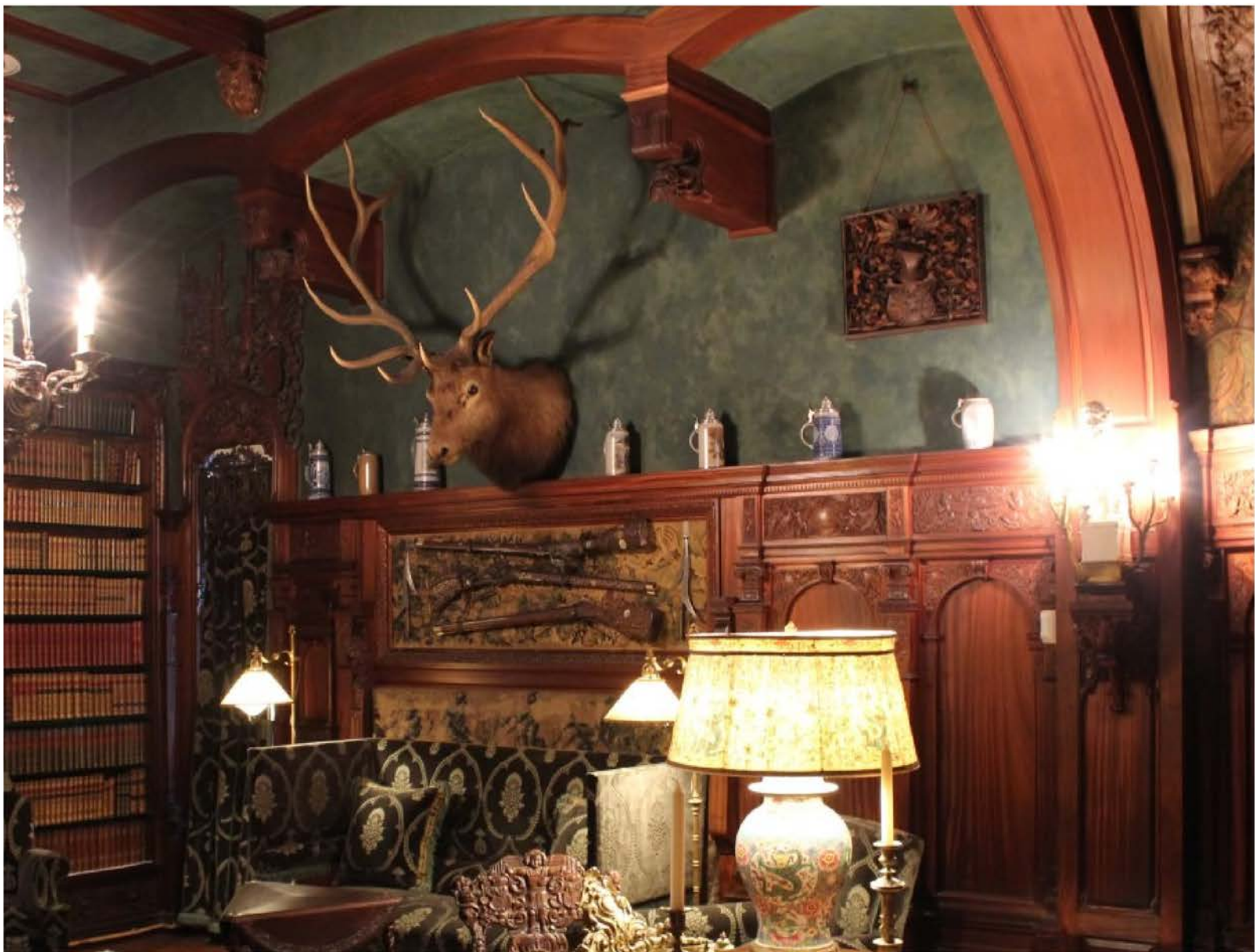
**Photos taken and shared by Luciano Calderone**



















# Book Review

By Dr. Daniel Ginsberg



**Susan Orlean, author of "The Library Book"**

Photo Credit: Noah Fecks

Everybody who loves books and libraries should check out: 'THE LIBRARY BOOK' by Susan Orlean, author of "The Orchid Thief". (Simon & Schuster 336 pp. \$28.00).

"The Library Book" which by the way is indeed an entire book about library, concerns a sprawling account of the seven-hour fire that raged through the Los Angeles Central Library on April 29, 1986. The fire was disastrous: it reached 2,000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. "At first, the smoke in the Fiction stacks was as pale as onionskin," Orlean writes, "Then it deepened to dove gray. Then it turned black. It wound around Fiction A through I, curling in lazy ringlets. It gathered into soft puffs that bobbed and banked against the shelves like bumper cars. Suddenly, sharp fingers of flame shot through the smoke and jabbed upward. More flames erupted. The heat built. The temperature reached 451 degrees and the books began smoldering. Their covers burst like popcorn."

By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. "The books that survived the fire were in piles where they had fallen or jammed with their sticky backs together on the shelves. As soon as the Fire Department permitted almost all 200 librarians to enter the building, it was filthy, smoky and slick from water mixed with debris". They had to move quickly and freeze the books because mold spores began to form after 48 hours being activated by water. In chapter 27, the author superbly describes what had to be done after two years of being frozen. The books were ready to be thawed, dried, fumigated, sorted, cleaned, repaired and rebound.

Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Was it Harry Omer Peak, who became the prime suspect - the possible arsonist? He was a liar of the "pants-on-fire" variety. He fibbed reflexively about everything. He told others he started the fire then denied it and gave a head spinning number of revisions to his alibi. He was well known as a culprit who reshuffles his alibis like a deck of cards. It was the largest library disaster in American history. Ironically, it all started at the time a library official was meeting with the fire department people that very morning to consider finally adding sprinklers to the building. When the fire alarm sounded, patrons and staff alike were surprised and shocked to discover that it was not a false alarm.

The book opens with description of a multitude of people hovering near the entrance of the Central Library in the middle of downtown Los Angeles on April 29, 1986 waiting anxiously for the library to open at 10:00 A.M. At precisely on the hour the guard pushed the doors open as the people rushed in. "The hovers who bolted from their posts in the garden, and the wall-sitters, and the morning tumbler, and the school groups, and the business people, and the parents with strollers heading to story time and the homeless, who rushed straight to the bathroom and then made a beeline to the computer center, and the scholars, and the curious and the bored, all clamoring for any one of the millions of books, pamphlets, maps, musical scores, newspapers and pictures the library holds in store".

Award-winning New Yorker reporter and New York Times best selling author Susan Orlean takes on the role of an institutional historian engaging in a wide ranging and deeply personal investigation. Delightfully concluding how even in the age of the internet, the public library remains the place people come to for answers to their most pressing questions. The search has not been entirely



# Book Review by

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg  
Continued

replaced by the search engine. Ms. Orlean finds old records, kept by librarians, of the hundreds of questions put to them every day by people from all over the country.

This superb literary work was selected by the Washington Post as one of the top 10 books of the year, dives deeply into the work and devotion of heroic librarians, knowledgeable and ever-patient, whether going through map collections or fielding questions such as, 'How long do parrots live?' 'What did Romeo look like?' 'Which is more evil, grasshoppers or crickets?' Orlean explores the ongoing challenge that homelessness poses for all libraries, and she profiles inspiring librarians determined to help the most desperate and disenfranchised people in America. Incidentally, one would think that a library is simply a storehouse of books, but the author acknowledges that the library is much more complex, "an intricate machine, a contraption of whirring gears". We all thought libraries were quiet, but they really aren't. Ms. Orlean senses libraries much more colorfully; "rumble with voices and footsteps and a whole orchestral range of book-related noises---the snap of covers clapping shut; the breathy whisk of pages fanning open; the distinctive *thunk* of one book being stacked on another; the grumble of book carts in the corridors".

The book is a mesmerizing and uniquely compelling account that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians. The author showcases the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives, delves into the evolution of libraries from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity. Along the way, we learn that there are "320,000 public libraries in every country on the planet" (17,078 - including bookmobiles - in the USA) and how libraries have evolved, responded to depressions and wars, and generally thrived despite a constant struggle for funds. A large number of these libraries are in conventional buildings. Others are mobile and, depending on the location's terrain and weather, operate by "bicycle, backpack, helicopter, boat, train, motorcycle, ox, donkey, elephant, camel, truck, bus, or horse". The book is also a master journalist's persuasive reminder that, perhaps especially in the digital era, libraries are more necessary than ever and its shared spaces house historical treasures built with the common good in mind.

USA Today says (the book) "is a sheer delight...as rich in insight and valued as the treasures contained on the shelves of any local library". The Washington Post commented: "A dazzling letter to a beloved institution and an investigation into one of the greatest mysteries". Critic Jeffrey Goudie writes: "Orlean occasionally waxes romantic, but over all, this is an ambitious, history, elegantly written book that serves as a portal into a place of history, drama, culture and stories". The author maintains that every problem that society has, the library has, too, because the boundary between society and the library is porous: nothing good is kept out of the library and nothing bad. Often at the library, society's problems are magnified. Homelessness and drug use and mental illness are problems you see in every public place. One difference is that if you see a mentally ill person on the street, you can cross to the other side. In the library you share a smaller and more intimate space "The communal nature of a library is the very essence of the library, in the shared desks and shared books and shared rest rooms". The library plays a significant role in our shared lives, an entity that supplies data, information, and access to the world's knowledge as well as a comfortable, safe place for all - infants and beyond.

P.S. Our library has the book in several formats - hardcover book, a talking book, e-book and e-audio. Her other titles are in the library as well.



# You're Invited:



COME ONE,  
COME ALL

**Who: You**

**What: Sunday with Friends**

**Where: Children's Library**

**When: Every Month at 2 P.M.**

**Why: It's fun and educational**

Invitation created by: Jill Cadden

"The Lackawanna County Children's Library will be presenting Sundays with Friends for 2024, thanks to the sponsorship of our Scranton Public Friends of the Library! We will have one Sunday each month dedicated to a Sunday with Friends program. We will get to share new experiences with our young patrons that include puppets, music, magic, adventure, and even some live animals to meet!". View our 2024 schedule below.

Angela Warner  
Children's Services Manager  
Lackawanna County Children's Library

***January 14th -- Ha-Ha Magic***

***February 11th -- Robert Rogers Puppet Company***

***March 10th -- Dinosaur Adventure Show***

***April 14th -- Music Play Patrol***

***May 12th -- The Butterfly Lady***

***June 9th -- Rob Smith, Juggler***

***July 14th -- The Magic Adventure Show***

***August 11th -- The Electric City Steel Drum Band***

***September 8th -- Meet Rennie, the Bald Eagle***

***October 13th -- Bat Chat***

***November 10th -- Wendy, the Singing Scientist***

***December 8th -- Cody the Conductor***



# A recent Sunday With Friends program announcement



The Lackawanna County Children's Library  
and the Friends of the Scranton Public Library  
Proudly Present



Ryan  
The BugMan

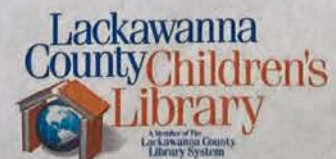
## "I've Got Bugs"



**Saturday, February 11th, 2023 at 2 PM**

Join us as Ryan the BugMan shows us all of the bugs and insects he has collected over the years. This exciting program will have you "crawling" out of your seat!

For Families  
Lackawanna County Children's Library  
520 Vine St, Scranton, PA 18509  
[lclshome.org/childrenslibrary](http://lclshome.org/childrenslibrary)  
Registration is required.  
Call 570-348-3000, ext. 3015, to RSVP.



A PA Forward® Initiative Promoting Basic Literacy.



# SHELVED



This illustration from the October 18 copy of the New Yorker “speaks volumes.” Incidentally, “speaks volumes” means “to tell or show much in a way other than speaking.” Not to be confused with its cousin “reading between the lines.” which means “to understand all of the writer’s meaning by guessing what is not said.” This brings me to the following breaking news, headlined An Oxymoron – The Library-less Books, or the Book-less Library.

**Cushing Academy**, about 90 minutes west of Boston has all the hallmarks of a New England prep school, **with one exception.**

**After having amassed** a collection of more than 20,000 books, officials at this pristine campus have concluded that the 144-year-old school no longer needs a **traditional library.**

The multitude of volumes stocked on their sprawling stacks – classics, novels, poetry, biographies, tomes on every subject from the humanities to the sciences have been discarded. The future, they believe, is digital.

**Instead of a library,** the academy is spending nearly \$500,000 to create a “learning center,”

**In place of the stacks,** the academy is spending \$42,000 on three large flat-screen TVs that will project data from the Internet and \$20,000 on special laptop-friendly study stalls.

**In lieu of the reference desk,** the academy is building a \$50,000 coffee shop that will include a \$12,000 cappuccino machine.

**A substitute for** those old pulpy publications that have transmitted information since Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1440 will be 18 electronic readers made by Amazon and Sony, costing \$10,000.

Clearly, some educators, librarians, and parents see books – expensive, cumbersome, distressingly low-tech – as dispensable.

Maybe the administrators see such a concept as a great marketing tool for their recruits.” look we don’t even have books here.”

Consequently, Some worry about an environment where students can no longer browse rows of voluptuous books, replete with glossy photographs, intricate maps, and pages dog-eared by generations of students.

Some worry about the loss of that solitary act of reading a printed book or periodical as a visual, tactile, or sometimes even an olfactory experience.



# SHELVED

Continued



You can lay a book on the table and cup your head in your hands. You can put a book on your lap. You can read a book in bed with a pillow under your chest, You can lie on your back and hold a book over your head. You can even take a book to the bathroom and hold it open with one hand.

Can you curl up with a good Kindle in bed?

Can you buy a Kindle "paperback version" because it is smaller, lighter, and cheaper?

Librarians have always been the kindest professional who happily helps patrons navigate the infinite resources of information which nowadays comes in so many forms and librarians know how to do what Google can't. Who's the librarian for the Kindle?

Now that the books are gone, why not eliminate teachers as well?

Put a computer on a desk at the front of the classroom and you have a virtual/digital teacher.

Do you remember when schools were once measured by the number of volumes in their libraries?

What happened to that library of the olden days - a place of beautiful quietude, a serene sanctum where the only sounds were shuffles, whispers, and the occasional shush -- delivered with an index finger crossing the lips of a bespectacled, cardigan-wearing librarian?

Libraries were designed to be palaces to society's highest intellectual traditions. When did libraries become a cacophony consisting of a combination cafe, video theatre, music store, computer, lab and playground?

The pages of a book shield us from the distractions that bombard us during most of our waking hours. As an informational medium, the book focuses our attention, encouraging the kind of immersion in an illuminating story, a thrilling adventure, or a provocative argument that promotes serious thought and intense learning or provides a kind of deep, meditative read that is almost impossible to do on a screen.

"Information" is something you can download. "Inspiration" is more likely found in a library.



# The Albright Memorial Library

## LIBRARY OF THINGS



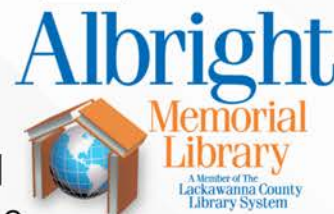
**DISCOVER THE "LIBRARY OF THINGS"  
YOUR SOLUTION TO BORROWING  
GADGETS, TOOLS, AND GAMES!**

Are you in search of cake molds, a digital luggage scale, oven thermometer, and mini wireless photo printer, but don't want to spend money on buying them? Don't worry, you can borrow them for free with your library card. Come and explore the entire collection of "things" available at the Albright Memorial Library!



Can be borrowed for 1 week  
& may be eligible for renewal.

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to view the complete collection of "things".



**For more information visit [lclshome.org/faq](http://lclshome.org/faq)**

Scranton Public Library | 500 Vine Street, Scranton, PA 18509 | 570-348-3000



# Library Services



**We will feature a variety of services offered by the library in each of our subsequent newsletters.**

## Ask a Librarian

<https://lclshome.org/contact-us/>

Have a question, and we aren't open, use the chat box to talk to a librarian online.

## Things you can do at the library:

### Scan / Fax

Fax at the Albright Memorial Local, Long Distance, and Toll-Free \$1 per page.

International \$2 per page.

### Copy / Print / Wi-Fi / Assistive Technology

Free Wi-Fi at all locations

*Computers at Albright*

--6 hours of computer time per day

*Printing at the Albright*

--15 cents per black & white page

--35 cents per color page

*Assistive Technology at the Albright*

--Dedicated workstation with Large Screen Monitor, Trackball Mouse, Zoom Text Software, available Dragon Speech Software

### Forms, Jobs & Career Assistance

*Get Tax Forms* - paper forms or forms online at the Reference Department or your local library when available.

*Job & Career Assistance* - <https://lclshome.org/find/>

Explore a vast collection of books, resources and tools available for downloading to your computer, tablet or mobile device. Search here to download an eBook, improve your financial literacy, search your family tree, get homework help, read an eZine - and so much more.

*Sites listed are for the exclusive use of library patrons. Enter your Library ID number when prompted. (Located on the back of your Library card.)*

### Local History Collection

This collection is made up of books and also vertical files about local history. The books and vertical files are catalogued on our website. They contain information about people, places, businesses, etc. The Vertical File collection is quite extensive. We have an index available that shows what we have in the vertical files, and new files are added regularly. These files contain clippings, copies, and pamphlets from different businesses, peoples, etc. We also have a biography and photo index that is quite useful. The Biographical Index includes names and page numbers of all the people mentioned in the books listed below. It is a useful tool when searching for genealogy or for projects about important people who lived in the Lackawanna County area in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

### Online Genealogy Resources

**(Contact Info: Reference Dept. / 570-348-3000, extension 3008)**

*Ancestry Library Edition (In Library Use Only)*

*Heritage Quest Online*

*Family Search.org*

*Record of Deaths, 1878 - 1905, in the City of Scranton, Pennsylvania*

*Delayed Births 1780 - 1905, for Scranton, Pennsylvania*

*Birth Records, 1878 - 1905, of the City of Scranton*

*Historical-Data.com*

*Duryea: <http://www.duryeapa.com>*



**Albright Memorial Library - Top 15 Books Circulated Through Sept. 2023**

| Rank | Total Circs | Title                                          | Author           |
|------|-------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1    | 98          | The Boys from Biloxi                           | John Grisham     |
| 2    | 97          | Verity                                         | Colleen Hoover   |
| 3    | 92          | Mad Honey                                      | Jodi Picoult     |
| 4    | 86          | It Starts with Us                              | Colleen Hoover   |
| 5    | 83          | It Ends with Us                                | Colleen Hoover   |
| 6    | 79          | Triple Cross                                   | James Patterson  |
| 7    | 75          | I Will Find You                                | Harlan Coben     |
| 8    | 73          | The House of Wolves                            | James Patterson  |
| 9    | 72          | The Whittiers                                  | Danielle Steel   |
| 10   | 66          | 3 Days to Live                                 | James Patterson  |
| 11   | 64          | Loyalty                                        | Lisa Scottoline  |
| 12   | 64          | Going Rogue: Rise and Shine<br>Twenty-Nine     | Janet Evanovich  |
| 13   | 62          | The Perfect Assassin: A Doc<br>Savage Thriller | James Patterson  |
| 14   | 59          | I'm Glad My Mom Died                           | Jennette McCurdy |
| 15   | 58          | Encore in Death                                | J.D. Robb        |



The Friends donated \$5000 to the Nancy Kay Holmes Renovation project



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