

Annual Report 1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

The Library

Spring Bays

Dear Friends,

I am drawn to the spines of books on a shelf like I am drawn to a stack of rocks on a trail.... They prompt adventure and also assurance: There is new terrain to explore. There are markers to help me find my way.

The Community Library is a trailhead to a multitude of landscapes.



For world-class mountain-biker Rebecca Rusch, her bike exploration of the Ho Chi Minh trail began with research in the Library's stacks. The documentary on her epic journey, <u>Blood Road</u>, was released just this year.

For more than a hundred local schoolchildren, their exploration of the cosmos, in preparation for the total eclipse, began with a special educational program in the Children's Library. Jenny interviewed the writer **Imbolo Mbue** during a **free public program** in the Lecture Hall in June.

For hundreds of people each month, the Library's digital

resources allow them to explore new skills. The Library's computers are used at least 1,300 times monthly; the wi-fi is accessed by an average of 1,800 devices.

And day after day, a child opens a book and boldly learns to read.

These explorations start here, for free, for anyone.

The Community Library can help all of us to get to places that we might not otherwise conceive. I am exhilarated by the journeys that begin here, and by the generosity that paves the way. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(enny

Jenny Emery Davidson, Ph.D. Executive Director

The Community Library brings information, ideas, and individuals together to enhance the cultural life of the community. We work to:

- promote literacy
- encourage community conversations
- foster creativity
- · provide contemplative space
- · deepen a sense of place in central Idaho



Writer Firoozeh Dumas gave a free public lecture at the Library in conjunction with the Sun Valley Writers' Conference. Last year, 4,538 people attended lectures at the Library!



Piper was among the people who collectively **checked out 117,353**

items from the Library last year!

EL Mis Pea

... experience wonder.





Ann Christensen introduces preschoolers to the natural world each Tuesday morning at Science Time. Last year, 4,266 children attended programs in the Children's Library! The Library helps **Bjorn Ranheim**, a cellist with the **Sun Valley Summer Symphony**, and his young family feel at home while they are here each summer from Missouri. They are among the **120,000 visitors to the Library annually**.

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212 children from Carey to North Fork - got library cards through the Bloom summer bookmobile, a collaborative effort with The Hunger Coalition. They read over 2,000 books!



In partnership with **Artisans for Hope**, the Library presented an exhibit describing the experience of refugees in Idaho. **More than 2,000 people visited the Library's free museum** in Forest Service Park.

.. get off the beaten path

HEMINGWAY

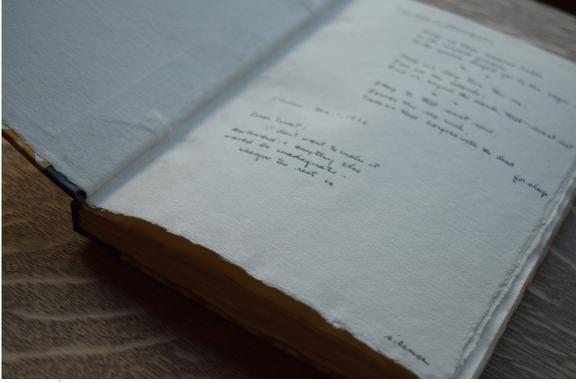
In May of 2017, The Community Library accepted from The Nature Conservancy the gift of the **Hemingway House and Preserve** and embarked on a major initiative to preserve Ernest Hemingway's Idaho home and stories in the heart of the American West.

As part of this endeavor, the Library -

- Initiated a Hemingway Research Fellowship for a current graduate student.
- Presented the award-winning writer **Sherman Alexie** for the first annual **Hemingway Distinguished Lecture** to a sold-out audience of 420 people. Twelve local high school students had lunch with Alexie at the House.
- Began **historic preservation work** at the House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Moved **sensitive historic items** from the House to the Library's archive for better preservation, interpretation, and public display.

Salmon

• Prepared to initiate a new writer-in-residence program at the House in 2018.



This year's Hemingway Research Fellow, Emma Sarconi, discovered this precious book in the Hemingway collection: a 1926 limited edition of Archibald MacLeish's <u>Streets in</u> <u>the Moon</u>, inscribed with a personal poem to Ernest Hemingway.



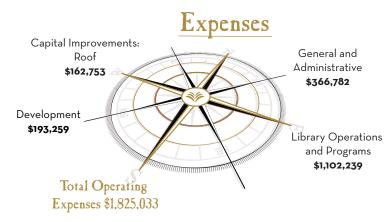
The Library also now holds several of **Hemingway's traveling trunks**, providing an intimate glimpse into how the Idaho landscape fits within his world travels.

.. discover hidden treasures

Financial Summary



The Community Library is a privately-funded, privately-governed, publiclyminded cultural institution. Unlike most public libraries, it **receives no dedicated tax dollars.** It depends on revenue from the Gold Mine Thrift and Consign Stores and on individual donations.



Library Program Expenditures by Department

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Reference\$69,282	Information Technology \$180,458
Programs\$151,516	Regional History and Museum \$181,695
Children's Library \$159,382	Main Library\$355,569

Salmon



Jeff Martin, a doctoral candidate in geography at the University of California, Berkeley, gave a presentation on the research he conducted in the Library's Regional History Department for his dissertation on land use politics in central Idaho.



Emily Ruskovich discussed her new novel, *Idαho*, with programs director **Scott Burton** in a free public event. (*Idαho* has been **checked out more than 71 times** at the Library since it was released in January!)

... be curious

RENEW YOUR LIBRARY!

THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

In November of 2016, after two years of research and strategic planning, The Community Library launched its first campaign in more than twenty years to **renovate the Library**.

The goal is to raise at least \$9 million in two years in order to energize the Library, modernize its facilities with improved energy efficiencies and technology, make the Library spaces more flexible for a growing variety of resources, and elevate the caliber of our services for the whole community. The community phase of the campaign will begin in the summer of 2018.

We are grateful to these early leadership donors! (as of June 30)

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^{...} explore the world

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"This is my favorite library in the universe!"

- Barbara Morgan, astronaut from Idaho who spoke at the Library in September

THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

415 Spruce Ave. North PO Box 2168 Ketchum, ID 83340 (208) 726-3493 www.comlib.org

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The Community Library

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