

Rio Reader



Rio Area Library Friends (RALF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - donations are tax deductible.

Contact us: riolibraryfriends@yahoo.com or call the library at 920-992-3206



RALF Member Newsletter, February 2026

January Meeting Highlights

At the annual RALF board meeting on January 13, 2026, attendees summarized RALF's biggest moments of 2025 and discussed opportunities for 2026. The meeting was attended by all board members except one of our trustees plus Library Director Roxanne Staveness. We also welcomed a group of special guests.

Chris Ditscheit reviewed RALF's 2025 financial reports, showing that RALF raised \$1,823 from the Artisan Fair, Santa Visit and bake sale, and book sales. In the beginning of 2025, Chris recommended that RALF take advantage of earning interest through CDs, which have been working to grow RALF funds. The board approved funding for library programs, staff education, and materials.

RALF is grateful to all who made donations, including one particularly generous gift from an anonymous donor.

Kimberly and Chris presented our Volunteers of the Year for



Hilary Husom, Heidi Husom, their children, and Beverly Jacobson accepting awards for Library Volunteers of the Year, and RALF President Kimberly Scott

2026 with their awards – the Brewers Sisters' Bakery and Joanne Dilley. They were selected for their kind contributions to the Summer Lunch program. Beverly Jacobson accepted the award for her and her sister, Beth Plast, as the Brewers Sisters. Joanne's daughters, Hilary and Heidi, accepted the award for her as she was unable to attend.

There were no elections held at this year's annual meeting. The next RALF Board election will take place at the annual meeting in January 2027.

We look forward to what 2026 has to offer. Members are always welcome to these meetings to share your ideas and abilities.

2026 RALF Events

March 9 – Stamp & Snack,
6:00 - 8:00 pm, Rio Library

April 14 – RALF Meeting, 6:30 pm,
Rio Library

May 9 – Artisan Fair & Bake Sale,
9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Rio Elementary
School gymnasium

July 14 – RALF Meeting, 6:30 pm,
Rio Library

October 13 – RALF Meeting, 6:30 pm,
Rio Library

December 5 – Santa Visit & Bake Sale,
10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Rio Library

RALF Board Members

Elected to the RALF Board for the 2025-2026 term:

- President, Kimberly Scott
- Vice President, Sara Mills
- Treasurer, Chris Ditscheit
- Secretary, Amber Heiden
- Trustees are Beth Scott (liaison to RALF from the Library Board), Samantha Marquardt, and Caroline Holiday

2026 Artisan Fair

RALF's annual Artisan Fair at the Rio Elementary School gymnasium will be May 9, 2026, from 9 am to 2 pm. Many of the artisans will be demonstrating their crafts. Baked goods and a food truck will be available. All proceeds go to support RALF and the Rio Community Library.

Join the fun as a baker, artisan, or shopper! Please reach out to Kimberly Scott, samuel11602@yahoo.com, 608-617-9495, or Amber Heiden, adstaudef@gmail.com if you are interested in a vendor application. Artisans who demonstrate their craft do not need to pay for a vendor spot. All baked good donations are appreciated. Please drop off any treats you choose to donate at the library on Friday, May 8.



Pat Hilts and others demonstrating the spinning wheel, lacing, and weaving.

Last year local artisans sold wooden toys, hand-woven rugs, candles, soaps, clothing, accessories, home decorations, and more. In the center of it all, Pat Hilts and her friends demonstrated spinning wheels, lacing, and weaving. People of all ages could try needle felting and weaving.

2025 Accomplishments

With a heartfelt thank you, we deliver this overview of our 2025 accomplishments.

Because of you, RALF can provide financial and community support for our Rio Community Library.

In 2025, RALF approved to give the Rio Community Library \$8,750. This money funds library materials, staff continuing education, collection maintenance, technology, the summer library programs, early literature, and after school programs.

We hosted an Artisan Fair & Bake Sale and and Santa Visit & Bake Sale. Additionally, RALF provided three meals for the Summer Lunches and support for the library's winter Paint Night.

Library News

Roxanne and the library staff already have many fun programs for all ages planned.

Weekly programs like Friday Films, LEGO club, Story Time, and Elementary School class visits are all in full swing.

The year is filling up with discussions on Wisconsin nature and Big Foot, a Whale Forest kicking off the Summer Reading Program, and more being planned. Watch our announcements!

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www.facebook.com/RioAreaLibraryFriends

2026 Library Events

February 27 – Friday Film, *The Lion King*, 6:00 pm

March 6 – Friday Film, *Song Sung Blue*, 1:00 pm

March 11 – Book Study, *Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, 5:00 pm

March 20 – Friday Film, Title TBA, 1:00 pm

March 25 – Aldo Leopold Program, Buddy Huffaker on the Sand County Almanac, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

May 9 – Artisan Fair sponsored by RALF, 9:00 am, Rio Elementary School gymnasium

June 15 – Summer Reading Program begins; Whale Forest Program, Rio Elementary School

July 13 – Wonders of Science, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

October 28 – Badger Talks, Big Foot in Wisconsin, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

December 6 – Santa Visit & Bake Sale sponsored by RALF, 10:00 am

Ongoing Library Events

Story Time – Wednesdays, 9:30 am

LEGO Club – Thursdays, 3:30 pm

Book Club – Every 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 pm

Lunch on the Lawn – Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays over the summer, Beginning June 15

Some library programs change, take a break, or are only held for the summer.