FIVE FRIENDS IN FEBRUARY. Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 11, 11:00 am–7:00 pm, to visit Jack’s Shop Kitchen in Ruckersville for “Art and Artifacts by Five Local Artists”: Leslie Barham – off-loom beadwork jewelry; Cheryl Ragland – hammered silver and copper jewelry; Chee Kludt Ricketts – small-format paintings; Pat Temples – local photography in cards and prints; and Vickie Watts – eco-printed silk and hand spun yarns. Cheryl and Chee also happen to be great supporters of our library Friends. Stop in to see (and buy) beautiful art.

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION. Black History Month (February) is an annual celebration of black achievements as well as a reminder of the ongoing struggle against adversity. Three new books offer perspectives on slavery and freedom: Never Caught (Erica Armstrong Dunbar) - George Washington’s runaway slave achieves freedom; The Original Black Elite (Elizabeth Dowling Taylor) - members of the black elite in post-Reconstruction Washington, D.C. wrestle with Jim Crow; The Blood of Emmett Till (Timothy B. Tyson) - a Mississippi murder reinvigorates the civil rights movement.

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Harriet Tubman

“The life of a nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous.” Frederick Douglass

“The way I was taught, being black was a plus, always. Being a human being, being in America, and being black, all three were the greatest things that could happen to you. The combination was unbeatable.” Leontyne Price

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela