

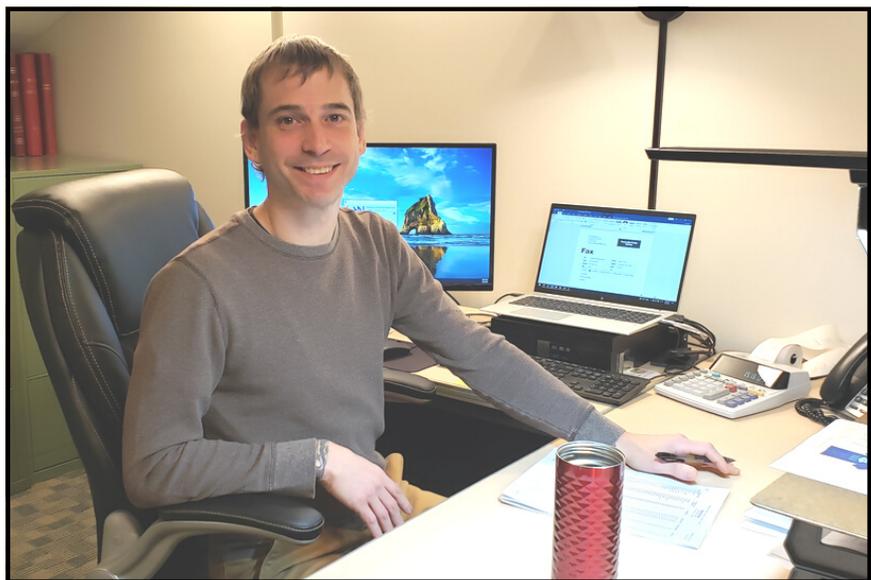


From Kung Fu teacher to fiscal officer

The library is known for our friendly staff, but one vital member of our team who is rarely seen is chief fiscal officer, Jesse J. Berry. His job includes making sure the bills get paid among numerous other tasks, all crucial in keeping us operating smoothly.

Jesse's journey to becoming GPL's fiscal officer began nearly 20 years ago when he enrolled his oldest daughter in Kung Fu classes. As he began learning about the history and philosophy of Kung Fu, his passion for the martial arts, and later the Kung Fu tea ceremony, grew.

"I was very fortunate to find the school that I did because it is based off of a martial arts system that has the philosophy and the history," Jesse explained. "Kung Fu is more about character development and finding your true identity.



They use kicking and punching as the vehicle for that. There are a lot of life lessons there, and that's another thing that attracted me to it."

In 2013, Jesse and his wife, Kim, opened Young Forest Martial Arts on Third Street. Around the same time, they began operating Blue Lantern Tea as an e-commerce store and kiosk at their Kung Fu school. Both businesses flourished so much that after a few years, the need for a larger space became apparent.

After purchasing their current location at 106 North Broadway, Jesse saw the need to begin supplementing the Kung Fu school's income to help cover the cost of renovations on their new building. In order to make this happen, he began thinking about taking on a part-time job.

And luckily, one fell into his lap. While using his expertise for web design to help build a business website for a relative, who happened to be the Mayor **(story continued on back)**

Gardening Basics & Seed Swap coming soon

Greenville Public Library will welcome back adult programming on February 17 with a gardening basics presentation and seed swap. The event will begin at 10 a.m.

Taylor Dill, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator from OSU Darke County Extension Office will lead the presentation on the ins and outs of gardening.

A seed swap will follow the program. Patrons are encouraged to bring seeds to share, however, it is not necessary to participate. Seeds from our Growing Harvest Seed Library will be available during this event. The program and seeds are free, and no registration is required.

For those unable to attend, the Seed Library can be accessed at any time during our regular business hours. Our seed library contains a wide variety of seeds, including vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs.

Kelly Minnich, Seed Library Coordinator, has been working hard all winter gathering new, quality seeds to add to our collection. She has accumulated hundreds of seeds via donation from companies such as Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Compa-



nion Plants, High Mowing Organic Seeds, Hudson Valley Seed Co., Nature and Nurture Seeds, OPN Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Sow True Seed, Territorial Seeds, and True Leaf Market.

For those not familiar with our seed library, GPL not only gets seeds through donations, but from our plot at the Greenville community garden located on Ohio Street, and from patron contributions.

To borrow from the seed library, we ask that all patrons fill out a form with their basic information along with a list of the seeds they are "checking out."

For more information on the Growing

Harvest Seed Library or the Gardening Basics program, feel free to contact the library at (937) 548-3915.



Cherry Pie Giveaway

In honor of National Cherry Pie Day on February 20, GPL will be giving away a cherry pie donated by Mama's Midnight Bakery. To enter, stop in and fill out a slip at the Circulation Desk! The drawing will be held February 22.



GPL hosts Memorial Open House to honor Fred Fine

On Friday, January 28, the library hosted a Memorial Open House for Fred Fine, GPL shelver who passed away in December of 2021.

The event was well attended by those close to Fred, and ended up being a loving tribute to a wonderful man, taken far too soon.



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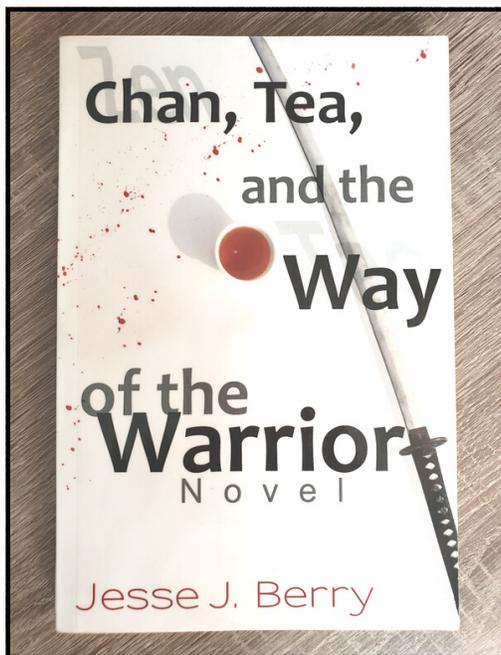
The library will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents' Day

Continued from front

of Gettysburg, the topic of the village's fiscal officer vacancy came up. Once Jesse mentioned he had experience in handling business finances and was looking for part-time work, the position became his.

From there, other opportunities arose, including helping with end-of-year fiscal duties at our library. A friend of former director John Vehre, Jesse was able to step in and assist in these tasks with ease. This led to new director Susi Halley asking him to become the library's fiscal officer when Vehre retired at the end of 2018.

Despite his busy lifestyle, Jesse clearly wouldn't have it any other way. Between the Kung Fu school, the tea house, and the library, his plate is full every day.



"I go to the library early in the morning," he began, "then I come and open the tea house, and run it all morning and afternoon. I have classes in the evening, and that's my day."

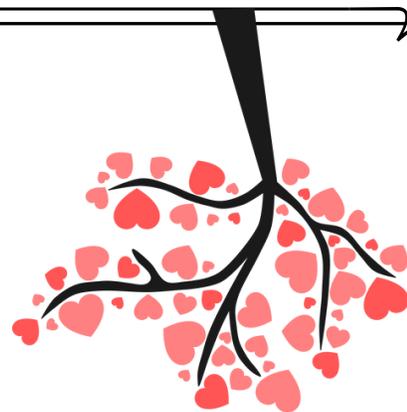
But he emphasized he could not do it alone, and that he is where he is because of his family.

"You go out here and you look at our school, and the tea house and how beautiful it is, and even some of our popular teas. A lot of that stuff is from my wife," he added. "Kim is always in the background."

Another fun fact about Jesse is that he is a published author. His first book, **Chan, Tea, and the Way of the Warrior** was published in 2015 and is available for checkout at GPL.

"Even though I've only published one book, I still do a lot of writing," he added. "I write a lot of essays. I currently have two projects. One is about 95% done. The other is less than 50%."

At GPL, we can't wait to see what Jesse does next!



Greenville Public Library
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Greenville, Ohio 45331