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Parkersburg & Wood County Library celebrates 100 years

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future

Library service in Parkersburg was started in 1891 through the efforts of Ms. C. M. Shrewsbury “considered an intellectual by her peers,” and a board of directors (Mrs. R. H. Thomas, Mrs. T. B. Camden, Miss Kate Harris, Miss Bessie Murdoch and W. W. VanWinkle). By visiting 1,500 households door to door, they signed up between 75 and 100 members at $5 each. This beginning fund allowed the Board to purchase a collection of 1,000 books and house the Library in a room over the Moss Bookstore (where Huntington Bank now stands on Market Street). Members of the Board served as librarian, and a borrowing ticket was $1 for members and $2 for non-members.

When the bookstore moved, the Library relocated to the City Building. The city provided maintenance and janitorial services as well as $500 a year for operating expenses. Ms. Shrewsbury became the first paid Librarian, receiving $2 a week for working a few hours every other day and Saturday evenings.

In 1899, the Parkersburg High School and Public Library was established by the Board of Education of Parkersburg and the Library collection was moved again to Parkersburg High School (located where the Uptowner Inn is at 7th and Green Streets).

In 1904, both the City of Parkersburg and the Board of Education began negotiations with Andrew Carnegie for funds for a library building. The Board of Education was the recipient of $34,000 because it had an available site and could guarantee the required ten percent minimum for annual operation. Completed in 1905, the Carnegie Public Library housed the combined collections of the Public and School Libraries. At this time, George D. Heaton, Secretary of the Board of Education, acted as the Librarian, with Miss Anna Taylor and Miss Ida M. Peters as assistants. The two ladies were later named joint Librarians when Heaton resigned.

In 1917, Parkersburg High School moved (along with the School Library collection) to Dudley Avenue and Miss Peters became Librarian there. Miss Taylor remained as Librarian at Carnegie Public Library until her retirement in 1951. Lois Hiebel had been appointed assistant Librarian in 1928 and became head Librarian in 1951.

On July 27th 1943, the Library had its first disaster when lightning struck the dome and fire spread through the Library. As Miss Taylor reported, “It was a very disastrous fire so far as damage to the building was concerned but through the efforts of the firemen [lead by Chief Archie Cook] not a book was damaged by fire or water.” The Library was closed for extensive repairs from July 27th through October 4th.

The Board of Education continued to be the sole support of the Carnegie Library and retained offices in the Library until its move to 13th and Plum Streets in 1958. The annual budget was prepared by the Board of Education and bills were submitted by the Librarian to the Board for payment.

During the decade of the 1950’s, the Junior League of Parkersburg began to
— continued on page 6

Don't miss more about the 100 year celebration!
Pages 6 and 7

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Hello All,

With my involvement in this association, especially over the past few years, I have come to really appreciate this state, its people, and its libraries. West Virginians are friendly, generous, knowledgeable and caring. West Virginia is beautiful—rolling hills, seasonal changes, valleys, lakes, and breathtaking views. When I have traveled the state, I have had opportunities to visit libraries and meet the librarians that work in them. The one constant that I see wherever I go, is how helpful and interested we are in our library constituents and how important the library and our presence is to the communities we serve daily. Libraries in our communities are portals for culture, education, information, and information technology. Our services and programming influence the daily lives of individuals throughout the state.

Advocacy is a frequent topic in today’s libraries. Some of us may find it overwhelming to think about, but advocacy really means to support, encourage and promote. We do this everyday in our interactions with our constituents and our discussions and work with library board members and/or trustees. Our strong professional relationships and trained staff members contribute to this process as well.

Additionally, advocacy for your library means working within our state organization and supporting its effort. It can be as simple as renewing your membership, volunteering for library association committees, or working for libraries through political effort such as Legislative Day in Charleston. Your participation makes WVLA an effective voice for our profession and the individual communities we serve.

Our libraries are strong and viable entities. Strong libraries — create strong communities. Strong communities — advocate for strong libraries.

Best and warm regards,
Martha Yancey

WVLA Legislative Goals 2006

The West Virginia Library Association supports the funding of libraries. Because funds for academic libraries are provided through college and university budgets and school libraries receive funding through local boards of education, it is difficult for the Association to effectively lobby to increase funds for either of these types of libraries. Nevertheless we are concerned that cuts in funds to these libraries are seriously limiting their ability to meet the needs of the citizens of West Virginia. Since all types of libraries work together, what affects one type of library really affects all types of libraries.

★ Funding for public libraries is provided through the West Virginia Library Commission’s budget. We are supporting the following improvement packages that were presented to the Governor:

★ Increase grants to public libraries by $1,000,000 that would bring the total to $8,348,884. Our goal is $6.50 per capita and this request would take the grants from $4.06 to $4.62 per capita. This line item has not been increased with new funding since 1998 when the increase was only $100,000. Grants to libraries increased in 2003 when $150,000 was moved from Services to Institutions to the grants-in-aid line item but this was not new money for the Library Commission.

★ Support the West Virginia Library Commission’s request for funds to operate Newline, which is a newspaper reading service for the blind. This request of $128,000.00 would also fund an additional staff person in the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Commission to oversee the operation of this service.

★ Increase the Digital Resources line item in WVL’s budget from $219,992 to $500,000. Currently this line item furnishes to all libraries—public, academic and school—a general periodical database, an encyclopedia, and a database of practice tests. With additional funding, libraries would add databases on some or all of the following: science and technology, vehicle repair, legal forms, literature resources, health information, and professional development for educators.

The West Virginia Library Association thanks the Legislature for its on-going support of libraries and we invite you to the Rotunda on Legislative Day, Thursday, February 2 between 9:00 and 2:00 to see the displays from libraries across the state as they showcase their accomplishments that the state funding has made possible. Also, there will be a reception in the Grand Hall of the Cultural Center between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on that same day. Following the reception, the WVU
WVU Libraries Launch Digital Photograph Database

by Monte Maxwell

From union miners lining up in Matewan to a World War I pilot showing off his plane to crews constructing the State Capitol to Eleanor Roosevelt touring Arthurdale, a glimpse into the past of West Virginia is now only a few clicks of the keyboard away.

West Virginia History OnView, a new digital photograph database, provides online access to more than 5,000 historical photographs housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The database is expected to eventually swell to more than 25,000 images.

“The West Virginia Collection has the finest collection of historical photographs relating to West Virginia in existence,” WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert said. “We are now making the best of them available for viewing by anyone with Internet access.”

To explore the database, go to the Libraries’ website, www.libraries.wvu.edu, and click on the West Virginia History OnView icon on the right of the page.

The popular collection, containing more than 150,000 images, is used regularly by students and faculty at WVU and other institutions, researchers, historians, and members of the media. Pictures found often end up in term papers, classroom presentations, newspaper and magazine articles, and documentaries. However, finding that one sought-after photograph has traditionally required a hefty investment of time, thought, and patience. The creation of the databases should alleviate many of the common frustrations.

First, Internet access brings convenience. Rather than making a trip to Morgantown, a researcher can simply search through the user-friendly database from the comfort of home or office. Gone also are the time limitations that stumped people pressed to complete their work within the limited operational hours of the WVRHC.

The greatest advance, however, is surely the enhanced search capabilities. Broad subject headings and the absence of a cross-indexing system for the physical photograph collection confounded many users in the past. A researcher looking for a photo of a specific Morgantown business or school, for example, might have to had to wade through the entire Morgantown group of several hundred photos. If the desired photograph was a shot of a steamboat on the Monongahela River passing under the Westover Bridge, the photo might not even be housed in the Morgantown section but filed instead under steamboats, rivers, or bridges.

The new database, which incorporates detailed cataloging and descriptive information for each image, will enable users to perform instantaneous searches on any word or combination of words. The person hunting for that steamboat photo could find it through at least three paths: steamboats, rivers, or bridges. Or, if the photo has a description, a search would lock onto a word in that paragraph, such as the name of the boat, its owner, or any other identifying feature included.

Dr. Ken Fones-Wolf, an associate professor of history at WVU, has high expectations for the image database. His teaching and research work requires regular trips to the WVRHC to search through the historical photographs for images capturing industry and other aspects of life in West Virginia.

“Looking at the visual images of Wheeling over time, you really get a sense of underlying changes that are going on – the way in which the town is growing, the way in which the town is changing. You can see evidence of the arrival of industry and immigrants,” Fones-Wolf said. “You can read about it, but photographs really drive home those changes.”

He anticipates the improved access to greatly enhance his and other researchers’ work because they will be able to find things they may not know to look for.

“I was aware of the salt industry, but now I can go to images in places that I wasn’t aware had been in the center of the salt industry, like Malden,” Fones-Wolf said. “It will be a goldmine.”

Only partially complete, the project has already required nearly a year’s dedication from multiple departments within the WVU Libraries. In building the databases, — continued on page 5
The American Library Association (ALA) today welcomed the first report on U.S. adult literacy in 10 years. "A First Look at the Literacy of America's Adults in the 21st Century," from the National Center for Education Statistics, found that 30 million adults in America have below basic literacy skills, including 7 million who are considered to be nonliterate in English.

While literacy scores for most Americans have increased or stayed the same since the last study in 1992, scores for "prose" and "document" literacy for Hispanics has declined. Prose literacy includes the skills needed to understand continuous text, such as newspaper articles. Document literacy is the ability to understand the content and structure of documents such as prescription drug labels. Quantitative literacy involves using numbers in text, such as computing and comparing the cost per ounce of food items.

"These numbers remain too high," said ALA President-Elect Leslie Burger. "They represent just one of many reasons every community in America needs a public library. Libraries are the one institution that provides support for literacy before children enter kindergarten, throughout the school-age years and beyond retirement. Investing in literacy is an investment in our nation's future, and investing in libraries supports lifelong learning for all."

With more than 16,500 public libraries around the country, libraries are well positioned to reach people of all ages and education levels. Ninety-four percent of public libraries serving more than 5,000 people provide some kind of literacy services. Seventy-five percent of public libraries partner with other agencies and organizations in their community to provide effective adult literacy services.

"They offered me a job in management. I was scared. There was no way to tell them that I couldn’t read and write – I knew I'd get fired," said Enrique Ramirez, a new reader thanks to California Library Literacy Services (CLLS). "I found out about a nearby literacy program at the library. They hooked me up with a tutor. Learning to read gave me a second chance at life!"

The full NCES report can be found online at http://nces.ed.gov/naal.

Twenty-first century literacy is one of ALA’s five key action areas. To learn more or schedule an interview with a national spokesperson, please contact Larra Clark at 312-280-5043 or lclark@ala.org.

**Legislative Goals — continued from page 2**

**Talking Points**

- There is a need to emphasize that the WVLA supports funding for all types of libraries. If college and university budgets are cut then their library funding will also be cut. We encourage support of academic and school libraries.

- Our goal has been $6.50 per capita for several years but public library grants-in-aid has not had any new money for over five years. In 2003 money was moved from “institutional services” to “grants to public libraries” and increased the amount to libraries from $4.01 to $4.06 per capita. But this was not new money, just a reallocation of funding and a very small one at that. The last time new money was allocated to this line was 1998 and the line item was increased by only $100,000.

- West Virginia ranks sixth in state support of libraries which is very good but we used to be third and West Virginia is fifteenth in local support. This year instead of requesting the entire $4,405,352 that would take grants-in-aid to $6.50 from $4.05, the Commission requested a part ($1,000,000) increase that would take the per capita to $4.62 per capita. This funding is what keeps libraries open, pays salaries, utilities, etc. This funding is especially needed this year because of sharply rising fuel costs are meaning that libraries are reducing hours open.

- *Newsline* is a telephone service that reads newspapers to persons who are blind. At the present time, this service is offered by the National Federation for the Blind but the grant under which it operates is expiring. The Federation has asked WVLC to assume responsibility for Newsline because it exists from grant to grant. It has the ability to read 140 newspapers to the readers. The Charleston Gazette and the Herald Dispatch are the two West Virginia newspapers that are included. The $128,000 requests includes a person to manage the service and fill a position as Readers Advisor in Blind and Physically Handicapped, which has long been a recommendation of the Nation Library Service.

- The line item that provides funding for digital resources already funds a general periodical database, a general encyclopedia on-line, and practice tests for GED, Armed Forces, etc. With additional funding the following areas would be targeted for additional databases: science and technology, vehicle repair, legal forms, literature resources, health information and professional development for educators. Since it would be at least six months before purchases would be made and the money would be available, we did not suggest specific databases to purchase. The on-line world changes very rapidly and we felt it would not be wise to lock ourselves into a specific database.

- We are giving attention to a couple of other areas but would not be sponsoring legislation but would be supporting other groups who have legislation that impacts libraries. One is legislation that would offer some relief to counties in funding the regional jails and the other would be looking for an opportunity to specify that libraries are eligible to receive income derived from hotel/motel taxes.
“Let’s Talk About It”
Reading and discussion series at Cabell County Public Library

Cabell County Public Library has received a second grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association to host a free five-part discussion series called “Let’s Talk About It.” The series explores Jewish literature and culture through scholar-led discussions of contemporary classic books on the theme of “Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming.” The books, representing writers from Egypt, Brazil, Europe, Canada, and the U.S., will explore what it means to belong – a theme that transcends many cultures and experiences.

The series is open to all adults in the community and is led by Matthew C. Wolfe, Ph.D., an English professor at Marshall University and Ohio University and Dr. David E. Wucher, Rabbi of B’nai Sholom Congregation in Huntington.

All of the programs will be held on Sundays at 2 pm at the Main Library. The dates and books in the series are:

- Feb. 19: “Mr. Sammler’s Planet” by Saul Bellow
- Mar. 19: “Out of Egypt” by Andre Aciman
- April 23: “The Centaur in the Garden” by Moacyr Scliar
- May 21: “Kaaterskill Falls” by Allegra Goodman

In addition to the discussions, related programming including documentary and feature films and author visits will be presented.

For additional information, please email: nuslan@cabell.lib.wv.us or visit our website at http://cabell.lib.wv.us.

Come to Washington DC

by Betty Gunnoe, Federal Relations Coordinator

On May 2, 2006 members of the West Virginia Library Association will be participating in the ALA Legislative Day on Capitol Hill. This is a chance for us to visit Senators Rockefeller and Byrd, Congresswoman Capito and Congressmen Rahall and Mollohan (or one of their legislative aides) to discuss library issues. The items for discussion will be outlined by ALA at a later date but they usually include LSTA, Patriot Act issues, copyright issues, etc. We also discuss issues that pertain just to West Virginia. It’s a great day to visit our nation’s capital and have our say. Anyone interested in detail can contact me at gunnoeb@martin.lib.wv.us. The deadline for registration is April 3 and the registrations need to go through me. You can also reach me at (304) 267-8933.

Library Day at the Legislature

February 2, 2006

Just a reminder to come to the Library Day at the Legislature. It is important that libraries make their presence known to the entity that supplies much of our funding. If you cannot make it, please call or send a letter to your Delegates, Senators, and, yes, even the Governor to support library funding and the legislative goals of the library community.

The House Finance Committee hearing will be on February 2 at 1:00 p.m. and the Senate Finance Committee hearing is scheduled for January 23 at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to attend either of these sessions, please call J. D. Waggoner at 1 800 642-9021 or Judy Rule at 304 528 5700 for more information.

The WVU African Ensemble will entertain in the Cultural Center Theater from approximately 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. following the reception in the Great Hall. There is no additional charge for this; the cost is included in the reception ticket price. Please try to use this to encourage attendance of library staff, trustees, and patrons to the reception.

The tickets are $25.00 each, the same as last years. Once again, Wellington’s will cater the event.

Database — continued from page 3

WVRHC staff members have scanned the photographs, and Gordon Ernst, Libraries Cataloger, has edited the description of each image and created multiple subject headings to ensure accurate and comprehensive searches.

“The Library Systems Department and the Cataloging Department have worked very hard with the West Virginia Collection to bring this project to reality,” said Frances O’Brien, Dean of Libraries. “It is an excellent example of how library technology can enhance historical research. We are all very pleased with how this project turned out, and we know people in West Virginia will appreciate this glimpse of past life and culture.”

While the WVRHC in Wise Library has traditionally served mostly academics, historians, and writers, Cuthbert anticipates a rush of citizens simply interested in their own heritage taking advantage of the new database. And he expects them to be pleased with what they find.

“It won’t matter where you are in West Virginia, there is going to be something on our site that’s going to resonate with everybody personally,” Cuthbert said.
Parkersburg—continued from page 1

scrutinize the public library, collected a wealth of data, and asked Helen Miller, a professional Librarian with the West Virginia Library Commission, to evaluate the data and suggest improvements. This report documented the inadequacies of the Carnegie Library and provided the impetus for action.

A Friends of the Library group was formed in 1957, in an endeavor to obtain tax support from the city and county but this attempt was unsuccessful. After the publication of Miller’s report, the Friends reorganized in 1961 to aid in the planning, promotion, support and development of library service. At this point, another organization, the League of Women Voters, became involved in the library movement, sponsoring a public workshop for discussion of plans to establish a regional library. The Friends of the Library then presented the proposal of a regional library for Wood County to the Wood County Court. Although the proposal was turned down, efforts to improve library service continued.

In 1967, the Board of Education, the Wood County Court and the City of Parkersburg entered into an agreement to establish, equip, maintain and support a public library. In accordance with Chapter 10, Article 1 of the West Virginia Code, a Board of Directors was created to conduct the affairs of the Library. The first Board members appointed were Mr. Joel Stern, Mr. Don Northrup, Mrs. Jeanne Murrill, Mr. Joseph M. Handlan and Mr. Jack Poe.

In 1968, the Library Board of Directors appointed Mrs. Dorothy S. Muse as Director, the first professional Librarian in the history of the Library. At this time there was also a massive weeding and discard project of the book stock along with expansion of services.

By 1972, it became obvious that structural improvements and building expansion would be necessary to provide adequate library service for Wood County. The Board (aided by the Junior League of Parkersburg) undertook the planning and construction of a new facility. Local funding from personal and corporate contributions was matched with federal and state dollars and on February 15, 1976, the new $2.5 million dollar Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library opened at 3100 Emerson Avenue.

Many “big” events came over the next three decades; the biggest was the passage of a state law in 1987 providing a fixed levy rate on funds from the Board of Education, the County Commission, and the Parkersburg City Council. After several years of heavy reductions, the people of Wood County and Parkersburg received the permanent funding needed for the Library.

Today, the Library has grown from a single building on 8th and Green Streets to a Main Library (4th largest Public Library in the state), a bookmobile (3rd one for the Library), and three branches in South Parkersburg, Waverly and Williamstown. The original collection of 1,000 books has grown to 135,000 books, 6,359 music and audio books in CD or cassette, 6,442 videos and DVD’s, high speed internet access at all locations, and even free Wi-Fi access at the main Library on Emerson Ave.

The Library has come a long way, and continues to look to embracing the future for Parkersburg and Wood County.
**Brief Time Line of Parkersburg Library:**

- **1905** - The Carnegie Public Library was completed with a $34,000 grant award from Andrew Carnegie to the Wood County Board of Education. The original Library was funded by the Board of Education, which also had its offices in the Library until they moved to the current building at 13th and Plum Streets.
- **1943** - Dome of Library struck by lightning. Fire was contained, but severe damage to the building.
- **1951** - Director Anna Taylor retires.
- **1967** - The Library became a separate nonprofit agency with a Board of five representatives appointed by the Board of Education, Parkersburg City Council and the County Commission. The Board now had full authority over the Library, and funds would be provided by the three appointing entities.
- **1968** - Director Mrs. Lois Heibel retires.
- **1970** - 1st Bookmobile donated by the WV Library Commission.
- **1973** - New South Branch Library Dedicated.
- **1974** - New Bookmobile purchased, and the old one goes to Williamstown to be a branch Library.
- **1976** - Main Library moved to 3100 Emerson Ave. The new Library was funded through local giving (spearheaded by the Junior League of Parkersburg), Federal and State funds.
- **1977** - Williamstown Library dedicated.
- **1979** - State law passes making funding of Library by Board of Ed, County Commission and City Council mandatory.
- **1984** - Library automation begins - say goodbye to card catalog.
- **1988** - Director Dorothy Chittum retires.
- **1993** - Waverly branch dedicated.
- **1997** - Genealogy room expanded.
- **2001** - Director Ann Lorentz retires.

**Board Members**

- Joel Stern - 1967-1972
- Jeanne Murrill - 1967-1969
- Joseph Handlan - 1967-1987
- Don Northrup - 1967-1976
- Jack Poe - 1967-1979
- Barbara Johnson - 1970-1975
- Ned Walters – 1971-1972
- Marcia Ogilvie - 1972-1983
- Sue Tewksbury - 1975-1990
- Donald Heyel - 1976-1983
- Douglas Cochran - 1979-1986
- David Schucths - 1984-1991
- Timothy Northrup - 1987-1997
- Rena Ellison - 1987-1988
- Penelope Bailey - 1990-2005
- Charlotte Corbitt - 1991-2006
- Michael Matheny - 1997-2004
- Ronald Leach - 1998-2008
- Ann Fowler - 2004-2009
- Marc DeCicco - 2005-2010

**List of Library Directors**

- Miss Carrie Shrewsbury
- Miss Kate Harris
- Mrs. Sara Wilcox
- Miss Winifred Cox
- George Heaton, 1905
- Miss Ida Peters, 1906-1917

— continued on page 11
The Public Library Division discussed the following topics:

- **Administrative Regulations** — The discussion at the Fall Conference made it clear that we need to keep a dialogue going with WVLC in regards to the AR's.
- **Library Salaries** — Judy Rule volunteered to coordinate a committee.
- **Shipment method amongst libraries** — Discussed desire amongst libraries to have some sort of statewide shipping method to help with ILL and hold requests amongst libraries. This has become more evident with many of the libraries in the state being members of an automation consortium.

Most of the Fall Conference '05 meeting dealt with Spring Fling. It was agreed that Spring Fling has traditionally been used as a training ground for all staff in the library, with practical programs. The following is a list of “good” topics for Spring Fling 2006 (April 6th and 7th). If you are interested in coordinating a program on any of the following or other subject, please fill out the proposal form and send to Brian E. Raitz.

- **Homelessness** — This was done at Fall Conference, but many libraries would like more information, strategizing and discussion on how best to address.
- **Collection Development** — A general program to cover ethics, methodology and various tools available for purchasing materials.
- **Weeding** — Get Mary H. or someone else to go over weeding practices and the benefits of doing it on a regular schedule.
- **Performance Evaluations**
- **Marketing** — Basics on how and what to do displays around, and how best to set up and market your collection to increase circulation.
- **Teen Reading Group** — Raleigh CPL interested in sharing their success with a YA reading group and how to do it in your library.
- **Graphic Novels** — What are they? Should I buy? How should I start a collection? Where to put it in collection.
- **Customer Service** — Basics on good customer service.
- **Angry / Disruptive patrons** — How to diffuse and handle.
- **Trustee orientation & Trustee fundraising**
- **Reference Interview** — How to do a reference interview. Method of finding out what exactly the patron needs. There are some models out there like Maryland’s.
- **Reader’s Advisory** — Techniques and training.
- **Discussion Round Tables** — These would be circle discussions with a single subject in mind to discuss. Examples would be: Reference sources, website design, fundraising, building legislative relationships, story time ideas.

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**PALINET celebrates 70 years of Library Cooperation**

PALINET marked its 70th birthday on January 11, 2006.

In 1936, PALINET was originally established out of a need for local and later statewide union cataloging. Today PALINET represents hundreds of libraries, information centers, museums and archives throughout Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and beyond, and continues to promote library cooperation and resource sharing, a role growing more important as global technology escalates the pace of information transfer.

Coinciding with this important milestone is the culmination of an ongoing branding project to update PALINET’s appearance — while not forgetting the past! Watch www.palinet.org in the next few weeks for an unveiling of the new, contemporary PALINET logo.

Join us in celebrating 70 years of innovation, collaboration, service, and technology as we look forward to the next bright and creative chapter in our history!

PALINET, a member-owned and governed regional Library Network, was founded in 1936 and is one of the largest U.S. networks, serving 600+ members throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. PALINET trains over 1,400 people annually through its classroom and online distance education events, provides discounts on hundreds of library services from 75+ vendors through its Cooperative Purchasing Program, and is the region’s provider of OCLC services. For the latest information on PALINET, visit www.palinet.org.
WVL Acference Call for Proposal
Spring Fling • April 6 & 7, 2006

Contact information

Presenter Name:__________________________________________________________________________
Presenter Email:__________________________________________________________________________
Presenter Phone #: _________________________________________________________________________
Sponsor Division/Roundtable: __________________________________________________________________
Sponsor Name: _____________________________________________________________________________
Sponsor Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
Sponsor Phone #: _________________________ Sponsor Email: __________________________________

Program Information

Title of Program: ___________________________________________________________________________
Program Description & Length: ___________________________________________________________________________

Presenter Qualifications: _______________________________________________________________________

Audience (public, academic, special, etc.): __________________________________________________________________
Audience Size Anticipated: _______________________________________________________________________
Equipment Needed: _____________________________________________________________________________
Equipment Bringing: ___________________________________________________________________________
Cost of Program: _____________________________________________________________________________
Funding: ___________________________________________________________________________________
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* Non-voting members
Not Your Grandma’s Library

by Pam Mann

Some folks call it the “Social Center of Berkeley Springs.” On any given day, you’ll find people discussing politics, or maybe the latest book by a popular author. Groups of tiny children listen to stories, sing or work on crafts. One of the local bridge clubs plays its weekly game here. Community groups have meetings in the board room. The local Genealogical Society has its offices here. You may also find homeschoolers participating in a class on the Mysteries of Earth and Mars, or Shakespeare, or maybe even chemistry.

Where is this place that children, teens and adults alike come to just “hang out”, relax, chat, play on the computer, or even read? It’s the Morgan County Public Library in Berkeley Springs! Not your grandparents library, you’ll rarely hear anyone “shushing” here!

Since its move to its new location just off Route 522 a little over 5 years ago, the library has become the “in” place to be. The small staff and many volunteers make everyone feel welcome. Right smack in the middle of this resort town, named one of the “100 Best Small Art Towns in America” (Jon Villani, June 1996), this library serves a growing population of visitors, “weekenders” and new residents. Most people are immediately struck by how friendly and helpful the staff and volunteers are. After five minutes in the presence of Larry Springer, the library’s director, and his staff, you’re either laughing hysterically at their off-the-wall humor, or amazed at the knowledge and courtesy of the people behind the counter. Whether paid staff or dedicated volunteer, they’re never too busy to take a minute to answer a question, locate a book, show you how to look something up on the internet, hold a baby so Mom can find reading material, or share a joke.

With a staff of four, all part-time employees, everyone is a “Jack-of-all-Trades”. Every staff member does cataloging, reference, customer service, and anything else that needs to be done, but each staff member seems to have an area of expertise. Linda Cole, the assistant director, is particularly good at creating eye-catching displays and recommending good adult fiction. Abbie Brown is the person to go to for reference help (in books or on the computer), Larry has an uncanny knack of recommending excellent books of any genre, but especially adult non-fiction, and Pam Mann is the person to see for children’s and young adult books, as well as help with the computers.

Volunteers are the very lifeblood of the Library, providing the much needed support necessary to run this small but thriving operation. They help man the desk, run an ongoing book sale, shelves books, make repairs, build bookshelves, and do Story Time... and that’s not all. The Friends of the Library supports the Summer Reading Program, other children’s programs, helps with replacing equipment, providing emergency funds when needed, as well as doing whatever it can to support the Library.

Though there are places in the building that you can find quiet if you need it, the front desk is bustling and sometimes a little boisterous, but one local couple, soon to be leaving the area, said that they will miss this most congenial place. They stated that they’ve never known a friendlier library.

If you ever have a chance to get to Berkeley Springs, stop in and visit. Relax in one of the comfy chairs in the Garden Room and read the paper, or hang out at the main desk and hear the latest local news. Whatever you choose to do, you’ll find some great folks waiting for you at the Morgan County Public Library!
Welcome and Welcome Back to new and returning WVLA members!

Start the New Year off right by becoming a member or by renewing your membership in the West Virginia Library Association! You may obtain a form for either online registration or renewal by credit/debit card at http://www.wvla.org/membership/membership.htm or print out a form and mail it to me:

Olivia Bravo, WVLA Second Vice-President • Kanawha Public Library • 123 Capitol Street • Charleston, WV 25301.

Membership renewal forms were mailed out in early January 2006. Any questions or for more information, call me at 304-343-4646 or email me at olivia.bravo@kanawha.lib.wv.us.

Be sure to indicate which roundtables and divisions you wish to join as well as which committees on which you would like to serve.

WVLA supports libraries, librarians and support staff across West Virginia in many ways. The organization provides a support network for members so that the members have easy access to resources, information, peers, and experts in the field of library and information science. Much of this information is now disseminated through the List-Serv.

WVLA hold two professional conferences each year: the Spring Fling and the Annual Conference. The association or a division may hold workshops or other library-related events throughout the year. You can benefit from the expertise of hundreds of individuals working in the library field through these conferences, workshops, and informal interaction with other members. Since WVLA is a member of ALA and its various national divisions, you have access to the worldwide expertise that organization brings to the community.

West Virginia Libraries is the official publication of the association and is published six times a year. The subscription is free with a membership.

WVLA offers both scholarships to obtain a Masters Degree in Library Science and continuing education grants to those pursuing approved courses of study. Applications for these are published in WV Libraries.

WVLA is active in all areas of state legislation regarding libraries. A lobbyist is employed to ensure that library-related issues are competently addressed statewide.

Encourage all library personnel to join! Together, we can make West Virginia's libraries strong and a vital part of all communities.

An explanation of Roundtables

- **Academic Directors Roundtable** — A forum for Directors of Academic libraries.
- **Automation Roundtable** — A forum to discuss automation issues and to share new ideas and new technology.
- **Children’s Services Roundtable** — Provides a forum for the exchange of ideas about children’s services in all types of libraries and informs on issues such as reference tools, family literacy and instills a joy of reading to the children served by West Virginia libraries.
- **Directors Roundtable** — A forum for Library Directors to meet and discuss concerns.
- **Preservation Roundtable** — Concerned affiliated people promoting the conservation, preservation and restoration of library materials. Creates a network for the exchange of information, ideas, methods and support in everyday activities and emergency situations.
- **Literacy Roundtable** — A forum for literacy education, information and activism.
- **Reference/ILL Roundtable** — The Interlibrary Loan and Reference Roundtable meets to discuss issues related to interlibrary loan as well as fostering cooperation between libraries. We also work to enable every library to share information and to provide a standard of reference service. This includes, but is not limited to, school projects, income tax information, genealogical research and interlibrary loan.
- **Social Responsibility Roundtable** — To help members keep informed of social issues which impact all areas of librarianship.
- **Technical Services Roundtable** — Provides a forum for Technical Services staff of West Virginia libraries to meet and discuss issues that are of concern to all of Technical Services and to share ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, cataloging, acquisition and processing of library materials in all formats.
- **WV Government Documents Roundtable** — Provides a forum for librarians to communicate and share ideas related to government publications, resources and services, both state and federal. Maintains a Government Documents web resource list.
- **WV Literature Roundtable** — Formed to heighten awareness of and appreciation for West Virginia writing and to preserve and encourage our cultural and literary heritage.
Membership Registration
West Virginia Library Association

Check One:  o New Member  o Renewal
Membership dues for Dec. 1, 05 through Nov. 30, 2006.

Dues Schedule:
Full-Time Students, Retirees, Friends ....................... $15
Trustees ..................................................................... $20
Corporate (companies, institutions & organizations) ...... $100
Life-Time Member ..................................................... $400
Library Personnel with Annual Salary of:
$0 to 9,999 .................................................................. $15
$10,000 to 14,999 ........................................................ $20
$15,000 to 19,999 ......................................................... $25
$20,000 to 24,999 .......................................................... $30
$25,000 to 29,999 ............................................................ $35
$30,000 to 34,999 ............................................................. $40
$35,000 to 39,999 ............................................................. $45
$40,000 to 44,999 ............................................................. $50
$45,000 to 49,999 ............................................................. $55
$50,000 and above ....................................................... $60

Personal Information:
Title:  o Mr.  o Mrs.  o Ms.  o Miss  o Dr.
First Name: __________________________________________
Last Name: __________________________________________
Mailing Address: ______________________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip: _____________
Home Phone: _________________________________________
Work Phone: __________________ Fax: _________________

Work Information:
Position: _____________________________________________
Organization: _________________________________________
Work Address: _________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip: _____________
Email: ______________________________________________

Membership Divisions:
Must mark at least one. One is free with membership. There will be a $5 fee for each additional division joined. Choose from:

o Academic Libraries  o Public Libraries
o School Libraries  o Special Libraries
o Friends  o Trustees

Roundtables:
You may join two roundtables at no charge (see descriptions on the back). There will be a $2 fee for each additional roundtable joined. Choose from:

o Academic Directors  o Automation
o Children’s Services  o Directors
o Government Documents  o Literacy
o Preservation  o Social Responsibilities
o West Virginia Literature  o Interlibrary Loan & Reference

WVLA Committees:
Indicate any committee service interests below. Appointments are for next member year and are subject to Association policies.

o Auditing  o Conference
o Continuing Education/Scholarship  o Marketing
o Intellectual Freedom  o Election
o Legislative  o Public Relations
o Nomination  o Site Selection

Total Contributions: ..........................................................

Total Amount Enclosed: ..................................................

Method of Payment:
Make checks or money orders payable to West Virginia Library Association.
o Check  o Money Order
o Mastercard  o Visa

Credit Card Number ___________________________________
Exp. Date __________ Signature: _________________________

o I do not want my name shared with vendors.
o I do not want my name added to the WVLA LISTSERV (Email group for WVLA-related news and announcements)
o I do want to receive a membership card.

Mail form and dues to:
Olivia Bravo, WVLA 2nd Vice President
c/o Kanawha County Public Library
123 Capitol Street, Charleston WV 25301

Membership includes a subscription to “West Virginia Libraries,” all general mailings of the Association, and the right to vote. In order to retain voting privileges, return membership forms and dues by May 15, 2006.
‘Sunday Jams’ scheduled at Main Library

The Main Library in Charleston will host the seventh annual Sunday Jams series starting February 5. Sunday Jams is a series of five live music programs featuring regional musicians. All sessions are free.

“The programs are designed to allow people of all ages to experience different types of music in a relaxed and open setting,” said Terri McDougal, program coordinator.

A musician or group of musicians will be featured each Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Some of the artists will have CDs available for sale following their program. Funding for this series is provided by the Kanawha County Public Library Annual Book Sale. For more information, contact McDougal at 343-4646.

February 5
Members of the West Virginia Youth Symphony will perform “musical illustrations” of beloved children’s books.

February 12
Marshall Petty and the Groove Band will perform big band, rhythm and blues, and blues favorites. This band has entertained audiences at the Greenbrier, the Capitol, Charleston Festiv-ALL and many other venues.

February 19
Zounds, It’s Zinging Zithers! performs traditional Appalachian and Celtic music on hammered dulcimers.

February 26
Colleen Anderson and George Castelle team up for musical fun and surprises. Colleen writes songs about all sorts of things - from the hills and rivers of our state to Mr. Wizard, papaws and the first person who successfully rode over Niagara Falls in a barrel. George contributes his gentle folk guitar style for a feel-good afternoon.

March 5
The Production Company will guide listeners on a musical odyssey from the era of the Big Bands, through the Platters and the Drifters, through Motown, to the music of the 1990s.
In his highly-readable memoir, longtime investigative journalist Thomas Stafford has given us — as historian Ron Lewis tells us in his foreword to the book — a political history of West Virginia between the years of 1945 and 1993.

Afflicting the Comfortable chronicles Stafford's coverage of the state house beat from his early apprenticeship at the Raleigh Register to his years at The Charleston Gazette and beyond.

His unraveling of the “Invest Right scandal” during the Barron administration is a centerpiece, but by no means the only significant story, in a career that exemplifies the fourth estate in its highest calling.

Stafford's account also makes plain — without complaint — the costs, and stress, that journalistic integrity can inflict upon its practitioners. It is a testimony to Stafford that he accepted as a matter of fact the lot of the newspaper reporter in maintaining a standard of continual vigilance. Through it all, he was apparently undeterred, content to tirelessly uncover the parade of official malfeasance that was, for his time in the newsroom, the rule rather than the exception.

As informative and fascinating as this book is, its difficult to resist the suspicion that Stafford did not tell all that he knew — or thought — about the persons and events he covered. At one point, he explicitly invokes a scruple of the journalistic profession that has, sadly, become less common today: that the personal lives of public figures were not presumed to be matters for publication.

And Stafford was doubtlessly an old-school traditionalist of the craft, and would have treated anything as unproven without more than one reliable source.

But, beyond that, he was a journalist by profession, not a social critic or historian. So we should not fault him, for example, if he doesn’t dissect the structural flaws of the legislative process. His job was to expose the corruption and influence-peddling that were the effects of political power, not to diagnose their causes.

He does, however, so thoroughly document the state’s political history during his tenure that even the most casual reader can easily draw a few inferences.

It is perhaps a paradox that a state whose people are so decent and hardworking would be continually ruled by scoundrels so greedy and crooked, yet it is that very decency that comes through so clearly in Stafford himself.

And no one but an unrepentant idealist would worry to himself, as he neared retirement, that he was becoming too cynical. The truly cynical among us tend to take satisfaction in it.

**Book Review**

**Afflicting the Comfortable**

by Thomas Stafford

reviewed by Gordon Simmons

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~In Memoriam~

Frederick Emory Spring Jr.

March 5, 1971 - January 2, 2006

Full obituary will be in the March 2006 newsletter.
A note from the editor

West Virginia Libraries welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3-1/2 disk and save your file to disk as an ASCII file and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:
December 15 for January issue
February 15 for March issue
April 15 for May issue
June 15 for July issue
August 15 for September issue
October 15 for November issue

WVLA Membership Information
To become a member of the West Virginia Library Association, contact:

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Phone: 304-343-4646

Events

JANUARY
10 Seminars on Booktalking, Readers Advisory and Story time in a box
Charleston, W V
13 W V Library Commission Meeting
Charleston, W V
20-25 ALA Midwinter
San Antonio, TX

FEBRUARY
Love Your Library month
2 Library Day at the Legislature
Charleston, W V
6- April 6 PUSA online course: “The Reference Interview”; contact Eileen Hardy (312-280-4398 or ehardy@ala.org); www.ala.org/rlsa/

MARCH
20-25 PLA National Conference
Boston, MA

30–Apr. 1 Patchwork Tales Storytelling Festival
Rock Hill, SC

APRIL
2-8 National Library Week
Change Your World @ Your Library
4 National Library Workers Day
5-7 Tennessee Library Association and Southeastern Library Association (SELA) Joint Conference
Memphis, TN
6-7 Spring Fling
Days Inn, Flatwoods, W V

MAY
2 National Library Legislative Day
Washington, D C (See story inside)

NOTE:
The dates for the West Virginia Library Commission are tentative. Please check with the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes at www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us.

W V LA Membership Information
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