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Letter to the Editor:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for attending the 2006 West Virginia Library Conference in Huntington. I was able to speak with a number of you, and a number of you visited the Baker & Taylor booth as well.

If you ever have any questions about the various Baker & Taylor products and services please let me know. I will be happy to help you.

Baker & Taylor has a number of new and improved services for public libraries for FY’07. Some of these Baker & Taylor services include Popular Adult Book Lease, Computer Book Lease, Children’s & Teens (CATS) Book Lease, DVD Lease, Content Café (enriched data for OPAC), Continuations, First Look selection lists, fully cataloged and processed shelf ready material through Customized Library Services, and the Title Source 3 collection development tool. Title Source 3 includes full text reviews for Library Journal, School Library Journal, BookList, and Publisher’s Weekly among others as well as annotations, duplicate checking, jacket images, excerpts, tables of contents, discounts, demand, real time inventory, enhanced filtering system, ISBN link to the OPAC, and the ability to view and download Marc Records.

If you would like to set up a free trial of Title Source 3 or if you need any additional information about any Baker & Taylor services please let me know. Pricing information is available upon request.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I hope you enjoyed the conference.

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Scott High School is grant recipient

by Debbie Mullins, librarian

On June 5, 2006, the Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries awarded over $1 million in grants to school libraries. Of the 206 awards, only 46 were high schools. Scott High School was the only recipient in West Virginia to receive the $5,000 grant to purchase library books.

The goal of the Laura Bush Foundation is to provide books to the school libraries and students that most need them. The Laura Bush Foundation makes grants of amounts up to $5,000 to school libraries; funds are to be used to update, extend and diversify the book collections of those libraries.

Because research demonstrates a clear relationship between family income and a student’s access to books, the LBF gives selection preference to schools in which 90% or more of the students receive free or reduced lunches (FRL) and are likely to have few books at home.

On the application it asked to relate one thing that was not answered in any of the other questions that I wanted them to know about our school. I asked them to not look at our FRL percentages because they didn’t meet the preferred criteria, but to look at our books’ copyright dates instead.

Given that $5,000 cannot deliver universal library improvement, the priority need of our school library book collection in relation to the curriculum is science and technology. The average copyright of our books in those classifications is 1977.

I applied for this grant because it is also my goal to provide the books most needed to support learning and to help the students in our school develop a love of reading.
About 25 people attended the 2006 Film Night in Huntington including local film promoter Bob Myers. Myers is a co-founder of the WV International Film Festival in Charleston in 1984 and presently is a member of a Huntington-based film club. Members include Richard Blenko from Blenko Glass and Judge Tom O’Hanlon and many other film fans. They show a film of their choice in their homes once a month. Bob briefly talked about this way of bringing interesting films to his local community.

Steve handed out copies of his expanded 2006 list of “New and Once Lost Films on West Virginia and Appalachia, 18 pages long and copies of the fall 2006 Goldenseal with his shortened list. He also made more than 50 DVDs, VHSs, and books available for one-month loan to attendees. Many of the items were borrowed.

Dottie Thomas sent her antique-looking (but brand new) popcorn machine down to Huntington in two pieces. Thanks to Lou Horachek and hotel staff, great-tasting popcorn was provided for the first time to film watchers.

Thanks to Julie Spiegler from KCPL who brought a DVD player, projector, and speakers. Just minutes before the program was to begin her and Steve solved the technical glitches that always develop.

After a brief intro, Steve screened the 14 minute short by three Pennsylvania high school girls, “Bringing Down the Mountains” and the newly restored “Harlan County, USA.”

Katja Moos from Innovative Interfaces told Steve that she had always wanted to see “Harlan County” but never had. She is a native of Germany who has lived in the US for a decade. She also borrowed the DVD and “Bubble” to show her husband in Chapel Hill, NC.

Connie Sutton and her board member Charles Bonar attended the event and borrowed many DVDs and VHS. She recently purchased several WV films and has been promoting them for home use in Keyser.

Several people had to leave early but most watchers stayed until the end at 11 PM. Several librarians planned on purchasing the DVD for their collection.

Steve talked with WVLC chairperson Kathryn McAteer about inviting her husband, Gov. Manchin’s coal safety expert, to present his landmark film, ”Monongah 1907” at the 2007 conference. Mr. McAteer made his film in 1986, documenting American coal mine disasters and American coal safety legislation. The West Virginia Labor History Association presented the film in May 2005 as part of their “WV Labor History Film Festival” in South Charleston and again at the 2006 History Day at The Legislature.

Dave Lavender, Huntington Herald Dispatch, mentioned the film night in his entertainment column, writing, “Just a reminder that one of West Virginia's beautiful minds when it comes to film, Steve Fesenmaier, is coming to Huntington next week as part of The West Virginia Library Association. The group will meet at the Huntington Radisson Hotel and Conference Center on Oct. 2-4 for its annual conference. Fesenmaier, who aside from his job with the state’s library commission, also books the films at the South Charleston Museum and at other festivals, will show the Oscar-Award winning documentary film, “Harlan County, USA,” as well as “Bringing Down the Mountains,” and clips from “Black Diamonds.” The show begins at 9 p.m. Oct. 2.” Thanks Dave.
I really enjoyed the opportunity again to present our 2006 recipients to the Conference attendees. I am so pleased with the membership’s response to the need to keep this fund at a level so we can continue the good work we have been doing to encourage and assist our members in furthering their education. All of that education will eventually be coming back to our West Virginia Libraries and contribute to making them the best they can be. All of the recipients have worked in West Virginia libraries for an impressive total number of years.

We must remember to mentor our staff and new librarians and anyone in the profession when the opportunity arises. Your interest and encouragement could make all the difference.

The 50/50 raffle was very successful this year. Chuck Julian was the winner of the raffle and was extremely generous by returning his total winnings to the Scholarship Fund. I thanked him at the Banquet but that was such a wonderful and generous gesture that I wanted to THANK him in another public forum for his steadfast support of WVLA and its endeavors. With a few smaller contributions that were given outside the raffle, I was able to deposit at total of $704.00 into the Scholarship Fund. That is wonderful! Thanks so much to everyone who participated in this fund-raising in any way. It is for such a worthwhile cause.

Martin Dunlap
Martin Dunlap is pursuing a Master’s degree from Drexel University. He is currently a Library Associate at the WVU Libraries. Martin’s area of interest is digital information management as he currently runs the electronic reserve site at WVU. He hopes one day to expand the distance education program at WVU and eventually would like to supervise a Media Services Department.

Lucinda Valero
Lucinda Valero is pursuing a Master’s degree from Florida State University and is currently the Manager of Acquisitions at the WVU College of Law Library. Her first library experience was at age 17 when she was a part time worker at the Boston Public Library. Twenty years later she returned to West Virginia with extensive technical services experience in public, federal court and private libraries. Her goal is to obtain a professional position at the College of Law Library. She states “The MLIS is only the beginning of what I hope to be a long career as a West Virginia librarian”.

David Shumate
David Shumate is a Public Services Assistant/ILL coordinator/Archivist at the J.F. Marsh Library at Concord University. He is currently working on his Master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. David is interested in expanding the Archival Collection at Concord and this fall will be taking his first two courses in archival management. “I feel a great need for education and insight in this particular area of expertise”.

Pamela Thompson
Pamela Thompson is currently enrolled in the Marshall Public Library Technology Certification program. She is currently the Bend Area Branch Manager of the Mason & New Haven Public Library. “My goal is to get this certification and then an Associates Degree and possibly advance to a Regents Degree. I just want to be able to serve the public more efficiently and have learned a lot about how the total library system works from management to the patrons themselves”.

Cherie Davis
Cherie Davis is the Library Director at the Ronceverte Public Library and is currently enrolled in the Marshall Public Library Technology Certification program. Cherie has taken advantage of WVLA and other professional development opportunities and would like to go on to get an Associate’s Degree after completing the certification program. “My final goal is to take all that I have learned and put it to use in my library and with my interactions with others in the library systems around the state”.

Kelli Johnson
Kelli Johnson is a Library Technical Assistant II at the Marshall University Drinko Library and is enrolled in the Master’s program at Texas Women’s University. She is planning to become more involved with WVLA in the future. “I plan to work in a West Virginia Library as a professional librarian. I have an additional degree in Adult Education which is complementary to my forthcoming MLS and will help me to assist West Virginians with their information needs ...”

Linda LaRue
Linda LaRue is the Branch Manager of the Barboursville Branch of the Cabell County Public Library and is working toward her MLS at Kent State University. She is most interested in library management and public librarianship. “I have spent my entire career in a public library environment and I can’t imagine working anywhere else, because I love what I do and where I work”.

Susan Hoskins
Susan Hoskins is the Head of Circulation at the Mountain State University Library and is attending the University of Alabama studying for an MLS. As a student volunteer at the College of West Virginia to the Head of Circulation, Susan has set and accomplished goals to improve. Each goal she reached led her to pursue an MLS. “Continuing my education is not only a matter of pride for me, I feel it is a matter of pride for the profession. Becoming a professional librarian is an important step in gaining respect for this field”.

Kimberly Wolfe
Kimberly Wolfe is a Public Service Assistant II at the Barboursville Public Library and pursuing an MLS from Texas Woman’s University.

After volunteering in different libraries for years, she went back to school for a Regents Degree from Marshall University and began working on her MLS. Patron service is the most important of her professional goals. “Providing patrons with the — continued on page 13
Jeannette Walls

Cassie Caplan, Martin Dunlap, Monte Maxwell, Barbara Winters

Chuck Julian, Karen Goff and Denise Ash

All Conference Breakfast

Breakfast
Many libraries may have a dedicated employee or an honest and dependable employee. Many libraries may have an employee who works many years for a modest salary and is considered the backbone of the staff. Our system is fortunate to have one person who exemplifies all of those qualities.

Betty Hamilton was hired in 1984 as a part-time employee. She quickly moved to the full-time manager of a branch library within the system. In a few short years, Betty moved back to the main library and became the head of circulation. She remained in that position for twenty plus years.

Betty is very capable, out-going, and certainly a magician of the schedule. She deals with all employees in a fair and honest manner. Betty is thoughtful and caring, keeping up with everyone on the staff. She knows when someone has a birthday or when someone's child has an appendectomy.

In addition to Betty's loyalty to Putnam County, she is a 20-year member of WVLA and has attended conference nearly every year. She avidly attended sessions on children's programs and authors and was instrumental in bringing new ideas and authors back to the Putnam County Library.

Betty is a strong voice for libraries and is always willing to speak with our delegates at the Legislative Receptions. She has been and will continue to be an advocate for libraries everywhere. When she travels, it is not unusual for her to stop in at the local library to see what things they may be doing that she could bring back to Putnam County. Betty was instrumental in creating the strong bond that the Putnam County Library enjoys with the Putnam County School System. She travels to the schools for programming and works directly with the students when they make field trips to the library.

Betty is not shy about speaking out regarding the importance of libraries and levies. She is currently taking an active role in the Putnam County excess levy for the November Ballot.

Betty says she knows she is ready for retirement because it is tougher and tougher to work a five-day week. We hope she will continue to work her magic on the schedule at least two days a week.

Her departure will certainly create a void in our small staff, and we all agree it is only fitting to pay respect to Betty Hamilton who has given so much to libraries in Putnam County. We hope she will continue to work her magic on the schedule at least two days a week.

Dora Ruth Parks Award
Myra Ziegler, Summers County Library

When Myra Ziegler and her husband, David, moved to Hinton a quarter century or more ago, there was no library in Hinton. The two soon joined the community in their efforts to secure a library in Summers County. David believes that the establishment of the Summers County Library and maintaining it – though oftentimes on a shoestring budget – Myra's proudest achievement in the library world.

What many in her community may not know is how hard Myra works behind the scenes to make sure that her library remains open and has shelves filled with the latest best sellers and the most up-to-date reference books. She works tirelessly meeting with funding agencies at all levels of government, whether it is the mayor of the town, the Summers County Commission, or members of the state legislature. Myra is the penultimate politically literate library director. She is equally at home at the Bobcat Den haranguing the Mayor of Hinton or walking the halls of the state Capitol informing everyone she meets how important it is that the legislature support libraries in West Virginia.

Myra never thinks of just the Summers County Library, but works tirelessly to see that all libraries in West Virginia are funded by the state legislature. She has served as the Legislative Committee Chair for WVLA for several years. Previously, she was secretary for the WVLA Executive Board.

Myra Ziegler exemplifies all that libraries can mean to a community, a county, the state. She is the quintessential librarian. She is the one who checks books in and out at her library in Hinton. She is the person to whom everyone in the community turns when they need to know how
James E Casto retired in 2004 from The Herald-Dispatch, where he was a reporter and editor for more than 40 years. A native of Huntington, he attended Bethany College and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master’s degree in English from Marshall University.

Active in community affairs, he’s a board member with the United Way of the River Cities, Goodwill Industries, the Huntington Area Food Bank, the Tri-State Area Boy Scout Council, Friends of the Cabell County Public Library, the Marshall University Library Associates, and the West Virginia Faculty Merit Foundation. Jim was instrumental in establishing the Friends Division of the West Virginia Library Association. Recently, the Cabell County Public Library’s genealogy research center was renamed the “James E. Casto Local History Room” to honor Jim for his many years of service to the library, his years of serving as president of the Friends of the Library, and in recognition of his many books and publications about the local area.

His books include two histories of local hospitals—50 Years of Caring, which is a coffee table book about Cabell-Huntington Hospital’s first fifty years, and The St. Mary’s Story: Celebrating 80 years, which is his most recent book. He has written Marshall University published in 2005 as part of Arcadia’s Campus History Series. It captures the triumph of that 1961 day when Marshall at last became a university, the despair of the 1970 plane crash that plunged the campus and community into mourning, and the inspiring story of Marshall’s comeback from that tragedy.

Southern West Virginia: Coal Country is a collection of 200 post cards showing life in the coal camps of southern West Virginia. Jim has written three books about Huntington, Cabell County, and West Virginia. Huntington: An Illustrated History – The Marshall University Edition is the second edition of an earlier volume published in 1985. The Cabell County book is a photo history starting with the arrival of the area’s first settlers and continues to the 21st century. West Virginia: Mountain Majesty published by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History in 1996 is a coffee table book that celebrates the people, places, things, and events that have made West Virginia a special place that it is. The University of Kentucky published his book Towboat on the Ohio in 1995 which introduced readers to the Paul G. Blazer towboat as it traveled the Ohio from Huntington to Pittsburgh up the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers and back to Huntington.

Jim has written many articles for the Huntington Quarterly and Wonderful West Virginia and is a contributor to the West Virginia Encyclopedia. He has done much to record the history of West Virginia both in his books and in person; costumed as Collis P. Huntington, he has appeared at civic clubs, schools, and other groups in a first-person program that offers a glimpse of the famed rail tycoon’s life and times. We honor Jim not only for his contributions to the written history of West Virginia but for his being a true friend of libraries.

Nancy Pearl: The Second Best Known Librarian in the Country by Jane Levitan

As most West Virginia librarians know by now, Nancy Pearl was the banquet speaker at the Huntington Convention. She presented an extraordinarily entertaining talk about the convoluted road she traveled to her present day notoriety and the authorship of Book Lust, More Book Lust and her NPR radio spot, to say nothing of the “Shushing Librarian Action Figure”, regular and deluxe models. But for me, she showed her true brilliance at the Tues. morning breakout session entitled “Nancy Pearl Says”. The understated caption revealed little. It stated “Join Nancy Pearl… as she discusses techniques for reader’s advisory…”

As we all know, one of the tricks to making a conference worth while for the participant and the home library is choosing session wisely. Nancy Pearl, known for readers advisory seemed like a good bet, and she was! Nancy offered an engaging discussion centered on interpreting a patron’s statement, “I want to read a book like….”. What are they actually requesting? According to Nancy, who does know her stuff, patrons want the same experience. Nancy suggests that books are divided into four major appeal groups: Story, Character, Setting and Language. Most people read for story. Books in this category would be plot driven books: most mysteries, best sellers and Harry Potter, for children’s librarians. Second most popular is character driven books. An example, books by Anne Tyler, John Irving and Lee Smith books. Third is setting. Consider how Botswana is a character in the Alexander McCall Smith’s Lady’s No. 1 Detective Agency Series or how Labrador stars in The Shipping News. Language, in forth, has the fewest, but perhaps the most loyal following. Think of the patrons who actually read you passages from books, like The Great Fire or The Hours. Some books have elements of some or all of the appeal features. Lonesome Dove is an example of a book with all four.

OK, now that we as librarians know what the patron is saying, how can we help? Nancy suggests we remember the following rules:

1. It’s not about you and what you like to read.
2. Believe that all reading is valid.

— continued on page 9
Crystal Hamrick at ALA booth

Metadata Design program audience

Jeanette Walls and Steve Fesenmeier

Martha Yancey passes the gavel to Ann Farr

First general session

Legal Services panel
3. Suggest reading outside the patrons comfort level.
4. Suggesting books does not mean that you have read them or necessarily recommend them.

To combat your mind going blank at a patron’s request for book just like (fill in the blank), you must keep a list of five books exemplifying each appeal factor in your pocket. Obviously, you must wear clothes with pockets to work. Now, suggest something different! Bold, I know. For readers who enjoy books with story appeal, suggest some popular nonfiction. Books by Eric Hansen might suit. Readers interested in character books could appreciate biography or memoir. Setting readers are good candidates for science fiction or science fantasy. Poetry is perfect for language enthusiasts.

What do you look for in a book? Nancy had us list five of our favorite books and help us interpret their appeal. I learned that I am a character reader primarily touched by setting. I never knew.

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Nancy Pearl — continued from page 7
Wise Library Named Literary Landmark
by Monte Maxwell

A national library organization has designated the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library as a Literary Landmark.

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. added the Wise Library to its Literary Landmark Registry because of the library’s connection to Dr. Louise McNeill Pease, Poet Laureate of West Virginia from 1977 to 1993. The presentation was held Oct. 2 during the West Virginia Library Association’s Annual Conference held in Huntington.

“People everywhere delight in the beautiful writings of Louise McNeill Pease. I applaud the West Virginia University Libraries for their commitment to preserving a piece of our nation’s rich literary history,” said Sally Reed, Executive Director of Friends of Libraries U.S.A.

Wise Library joins about 100 institutions, buildings, and communities from across the nation on the Literary Landmark Registry. It is the first academic library in West Virginia to receive the distinction.

“It’s an honor for the Wise Library to be designated as a Literary Landmark because of its connection to Louise McNeill Pease,” Provost Gerald E. Lang said. “I’m proud that Dr. Pease once served on the WVU faculty and that I took part in her induction into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni.”

Pease’s writings and papers are housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, which is located in the Wise Library. They were donated to WVU by her son, Douglas Pease of Connecticut.

Pease, who typically wrote under her maiden name, remains beloved for her depiction of West Virginia during a simpler time. Her works include Gauley Mountain, Elderberry Flood, Milkweed Ladies, and Paradox Hill, which won the West Virginia Library Association Annual Book Award. Pease also earned the prestigious Bread Loaf Publication Award for Time is Our House.

Her works appeared in periodicals from Harpers and Atlantic Monthly to Good Housekeeping and Saturday Review.

Pease was a product of the rural Mountain State that she lovingly described in her poetry and prose. In 1930, the 19-year-old the Pocahontas County native began teaching in one-room schools. She went on to teach English at WVU from 1948 to 1953 and then to earn a Ph.D. in history from WVU in 1959.

The University recognized her life and accomplishments by inducting her into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni in February 1989 and by awarding her an Honorary Doctorate in the Humanities in May 1989.

Pease was a prolific poet whose works were published from 1931 to 1994.

In 1985, the she was named West Virginian of the Year. In 1977, Governor John D. Rockefeller appointed Pease Poet Laureate, a post that she held until her death in 1993. The State of West Virginia has named only six individuals as Poet Laureate.

“Louise McNeill Pease’s poetry is meaningful to so many West Virginians. We are honored to receive the Literary Landmark designation and to share her literary heritage,” Libraries Dean Frances O’Brien said.

O’Brien worked with Penny Pugh, Head of Reference for the Downtown Campus Library, and Harold Forbes, Curator of Rare Books, to compile information from the West Virginia and Regional History Collection about Pease and her works for the designation application process.

“The WVU Libraries preserve the documentation of West Virginia history and culture, and we promote its use,” O’Brien said. “Our collections contain books, manuscripts, music, and photographs that are important for students and scholars. We are proud to make Louise McNeill Pease’s poetry available as a glimpse into the life and lore of our state.”
WVLA’s Representation at ALA
by Linda Blake

Thank you for electing me to a three-year term as WVLA’s ALA Councilor. I feel like I am walking in Counselor Deanna Troi’s shoes. Star Trek fans will know that she is an extrasensory empath who can do space-age therapy. I, on the other hand, will merely represent West Virginia’s interest to the governing body of the American Library Association, the ALA Council.

Exactly what is the role of an ALA Councilor and the ALA Council? According to the Council’s web page (http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/council/council.htm),

It delegates to the divisions of the Association authority to plan and carry out programs and activities with policy established by Council. Only personal members of the Association may serve on Council. Two meetings are required each year, one at the annual conference of the Association and one not less than three months prior to annual conference. Council determines all policies of the Association and its decisions are binding unless set aside by a three-fourths vote at any meeting of the Association membership or a majority vote by mail held upon petition of one percent of members and requiring a minimum of one-fourth of the membership voting.

In addition to representation from state chapters, the Council is also made up of 100 elected members at large. In 2001, the Council formed an advocacy organization, the Allied Professional Association (http://www.ala-apa.org/about/about.html), to try improve the salaries and working conditions of library workers.

The Council deals with such issues as a dues increase and other policy decisions; support or opposition to legislation impacting libraries and library workers; and honoring or memorializing those whose work has impacted libraries. Some examples of resolutions passed by Council at the first meeting I attended in New Orleans include:

- fully funding federal libraries including EPA libraries
- support of online social networks and network neutrality
- support of the Health Partnership Act, a single-payer health care plan
- an outline of best practices for library usage records retention

Over the years, the Council has dealt with some thorny issues including Cubans and libraries, sexual orientation concerns, waging war, and the USA PATRIOT Act. My predecessors brought their best judgment to these issues. I follow in the footsteps of Yvonne Farley, Monica Brooks, and Judy Rule. As I learn my role, I hope I am able to represent West Virginia libraries well as they have.

The Librarian: Return to King Solomon’s Mines

Original movie premiering on December 3, 2006.

TNT is heading back to the library for more rip-roaring, pulse-pounding adventures with the protector of humanity’s greatest secrets in this sequel to the enormously successful TNT Original movie The Librarian: Quest for the Spear. Noah Wyle (ER) is back in the title role, co-starring this time with Gabrielle Anwar, Bob Newhart, Olympia Dukakis and Jane Curtin are also reprising their roles from the original. The Librarian: Return to King Solomon’s Mines is directed by Jonathan Frakes (Star Trek: The Next Generation), with Dean Devlin (Independence Day, The Patriot) serving as executive producer under his Electric Entertainment banner. The script is by Marco Schnabel, based on characters created by David Titcher.

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The Annual Library Appreciation Day at the Legislature is set for Thursday, February 1, 2007. The day will follow the pattern of past Library Days with exhibits in the Rotunda of the Capitol during the day with visits to Legislators and a reception in the late afternoon in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center. Tickets and talking points will be sent out sometime in December but everyone should mark their calendars now.

The following items were selected for WVLA Legislative Goals for 2007:

- Support for WVLC’s improvement package that adds $1,000,000 to grants-in-aid for the coming fiscal year.
- Support for WVLC’s improvement package that adds $50,000 to the “Services to Libraries” line item in the Commission’s budget. This is necessary because two libraries have been assigned to Service Center Libraries in accordance with the Administrative Regulations.
- Support for a new line item in the Commission’s budget of $500,000 that would be given to public libraries as supplemental grants for maintenance of library buildings, construction, major repairs, and bringing library buildings into compliance with ADA.
- Support for the new Administrative Regulations as now proposed by the Library Commission.
- Support for legislation that would require counties to support libraries with not less than 1 per cent of the local tax revenue.
- Encourage State Board of Education to mandate a school library media specialist based on enrollment.

Legislative Day set for February 1

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- Encourage State Board of Education to mandate a school library media specialist based on enrollment.

Martinsburg—Betty Gunnoe has always had her nose in a good book. “I’ve always loved to read,” Gunnoe said. “I’ve always been a reader since I was in second grade.”

As a child, Gunnoe said she would sit on her living room floor reading aloud to her mother while she prepared dinner in the next room. And although Gunnoe no longer sits on her living room floor reading, she has found a new spot to enjoy a good page turner. “I like to, in the summer, be able to sit out on my front porch and read a book,” Gunnoe said. “That’s my idea of a good evening.”

Since she began reading, Gunnoe has surrounded herself with books. Gunnoe worked as a student assistant while attending Martinsburg High School and later worked in the library at Shepherd University while she completed her degree. “Library science was my minor because they didn’t offer enough hours for a major,” Gunnoe said.

Gunnoe majored in political science before starting to work at the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library in 1966. It’s a job she’s been at ever since. Just last month, Gunnoe completed her 40th year working at the library.

“She’s served in almost any capacity the library has ever asked her to serve,” said library director, Pamela Coyle.

Gunnoe worked part-time cataloging and bookkeeping before becoming a full-time employee in charge of the library’s accounting. “When I first started, we were such a small organization that you did a little bit of everything” Gunnoe said.

Throughout her tenure, Gunnoe worked to transform the library’s card catalog system into a computerized system in 1980. “When computers work, it’s wonderful,” Gunnoe said. “When they don’t, it’s a real pain, but it has made things easier.”

In January 2001, Gunnoe worked as the library’s acting director until Coyle was hired in May 2002. She now works as the head of acquisition and cataloging and is working to “clean up” the library’s card catalog.

Gunnoe is also serving on the board of directors for the Scarborough Society, the fundraising arm for Shepherd University’s library, and is working to keep other West Virginia libraries informed on legislative issues as the federal library relations coordinator for the West Virginia Library Association, which awarded Gunnoe the Dora Ruth Parks Award for library leadership last year. “I was privileged enough to receive it,” Gunnoe said.

Come December 2007, Gunnoe will have more time to read her favorite authors—Nelson DeMille, David Baldacci and John Grisham—when she steps down from her post at the library. “I’m ready, I’m ready to retire,” Gunnoe said.

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National Book Festival
by Jane Levitan

Who are your favorite authors? Chances are they were among the 70 plus at the National Book Festival on the National Mall in Washington D.C. on Sept. 30. The event was jointly sponsored by The Library of Congress and First Lady Laura Bush, currently the most famous librarian in the U.S. Whether your literary tastes run to fiction, mystery, poetry, nonfiction, or if like me you are always looking for the perfect picture book or young adult read, your favorite authors read, signed books and offered encouragement to readers and writers as well. Lately our children’s library has been enamored with Mo Willems. He was there and apparently a national favorite as his book signing line was extremely long.

In the Pavilion of the States, The West Virginia Library Commission’s Representatives Karen Goff and Suzy Mc Ginley were helped by Martinsburg’s Jane Levitan and members of the Junior League of Washington, D.C. to greet the public and promote the literary endeavors of our home State. In addition to distributing information, answering questions and meeting fellow West Virginians, they stamped the all-important U.S. maps on the appropriate WV location. West Virginia’s Janet Bailey McQuaid, author of Security Breach: the Murder of Tod McQuaid also greeted the public. (F.Y.I. Her “true crime” book should be available from the Commission for reading groups.)

Distinguished Sponsor Target brought the “Target Dog” compete with circled eye for a photo-op for every child willing to wait and supplied many thousands of bottles of water and sturdy book bags for the thousands or festival goers. Only slightly less popular were the oversized “Clifford the Big Red Dog”, “Miguel and Maya”, the Penguin publishing’s “Penguin”, and “Barney” to name just a few of the book characters and logos. Teachers and librarians staggered under the literally (no pun intended) pounds of educational materials, book promotion and information they were encouraged to take.

Google as I may, I cannot find the date for the 2007 National Book Festival, so check out the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov periodically for information. You can also find video clips of the past festival activities and the complete list of authors in attendance. See you there in late September, 2007.

Scholarship — continued from page 4

empowerment of intellectual freedom, user education and collections that represent the opportunity to explore other thoughts, ideologies and world views will help to create exemplary public libraries and communities”.

We congratulate these colleagues on the progress they have already made and wish them well in their educational endeavors this next year.

Dora Ruth Parks — continued from page 6

many sandwiches can be made from a 12 oz jar of peanut butter. She is the person that every student knows holds the secret to an “A” in the science project. Everyone in her community knows that Myra can be counted to serve on whatever committee organized to bring improvements in Summers County.

Not only do I think that Myra deserves the Dora Ruth Parks Award, but I’m honored to call her friend.
One Book One Villanova crowd

Nancy Pearl

Ralph Oppenheim from Cabell County Library
Sally Reed, executive director of Friends of the Library USA

Robert Tinnel and Steve Fesenmeier

Susanna Holstein tells stories with Katie Ross

WVLA marketeer Patty Stephenson

Trustee Duke Horstemeyer and Director Rik Rikowski
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

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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.

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

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