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Honoring Judy Rule
Jean Tarbett
Reprinted with permission from The Herald-Dispatch
HUNTINGTON - Growing up in Fayette County in the 1950s, Judy Rule thought she wanted to be a nurse.

Her father advised against it. "He said, 'You're too rough,' " she recalled with a smile. But that was no problem because then she started attending Gauley Bridge High School, which had its own library.

"The librarian let me help her, and I fell in love with the library," said the 71-year-old, who has been director of the Cabell County Public library since 1983. Her path was set. She attended Concord University for her undergraduate degree, where she participated in the work study program and worked in the library. "My first check was for one hour of work, and it was 55 cents," she recalled.

And then she went off to Indiana University for her master's degree, loading her class schedule so heavily that she earned her master's in one year.

That brought her to Huntington to begin her first full-time job as a librarian on Sept. 5, 1967. And she's been there ever since.

As Cabell County libraries and institutions throughout the nation celebrate National Library Week from April 10-16, patrons will be taking advantage of Free Fine Week and maybe taking a moment to thank the employees who help them find books and information they need throughout the year. For Rule, it's a week celebrating the institutions that have given her a rich, challenging, ever-changing career.

"I'm 71 and still working. I must like what I do," she said. "To give someone a book and have them thoroughly enjoy it and come back and tell me that, and to help someone find information they haven't been able to find - that's rewarding to me. I do enjoy working with people."

As a director, her responsibilities have gone far beyond books themselves to the things people don't think about - like organizing landscaping services and making sure the heating and cooling system is working in all the branches.

She's also been heavily involved with the fundraising, construction and renovations of different branches throughout the county. When work was being done at the Gallaher Village branch library, she remembers standing in a dump truck at one point thinking, "I went to librarian school for this?"

The Cabell County Public Library also is a service center for libraries in Wayne, Lincoln, Putnam, Mason, Mingo and Logan counties. It helps with services such as payroll and other bill payments, providing insurance, cataloging books and making weekly deliveries of books throughout the region.

Things have changed a lot for Rule since she started back in 1967. At that time, Bobby Nelson had just helped get House Bill 801 approved by the West Virginia Legislature, she said, which mandated that public libraries would get a percentage of property taxes through the county commission and through the school system's excess levy.

That was the official birth of the Cabell County Public Library as it operates today, and with the extra money coming in, Rule was hired by then Director James B. Nelson to be the coordinator of adult services, which meant she was in charge of
fiction and nonfiction books for adults. She was supposed to weed the outdated and ratty books and keep the collection updated with the most relevant and well-kept books and periodicals. This was when the library was still located in the building now occupied by Huntington Junior College. In the early 1970s, she became the assistant director. In 1980, she helped the library move from the old location across 9th Street to its current location.

The new building was made possible through an additional excess levy that voters approved to fund a new downtown building and some branch improvements.

"I was in charge of moving the books. That was a fun time," she joked, though she did add that some 600 volunteers came in to help her on that Saturday, and despite the brand-new elevator being on the fritz and having to move all the books up the stairs, the books all managed to find their proper places.

In her time, she's helped with either brand-new buildings or additions at the branches, which include Barboursville, Milton, Guyandotte, Cox Landing, Salt Rock, Gallaher Village and West Huntington. She also watched libraries change internally, switching from using card catalogs to catalogs on microfilm to a computerized catalog process. That occurred in the early 1980s, she said.

The Cabell County Public Library also was the first in the state to offer an online catalog, allowing patrons to check out books digitally through its website, http://cabell.lib.wv.us. Through the site, patrons can download eBooks through the WVReads Consortium and keep the downloads for three weeks.

Rule said when she first started, she handled mostly books, periodicals, long-play records and some 16-millimeter films. Before long, the library was lending out audiobooks and music on cassette tapes, which over time switched to CDs, and then DVDs and digital downloads were thrown into the mix.

"The use of the library has changed. People used to come into the library and go home with stacks of books," she said. "Our busiest days were Saturdays and Mondays."

Now, it's hard to determine any "busiest day," but she observes that the library is still well-used and by a wide variety of people. They also come into the Cabell County Public Library building because it's home to Information and Referral, which has been a valuable agency connecting people to social services in the community, she said.

And she knows a lot of people are benefiting from the library's services remotely, by taking advantage of the digital services.

It's changed, and yet it's the same. Rule said she's just glad to still be doing it and thankful for her roughly 85 staff members who keep the facilities running smoothly. Today, the library has four assistant directors, who are over youth services, adult services (nonfiction), popular services (fiction, DVDs and audiobooks) and technical services (which is cataloging).

"I have a wonderful staff," she said. She just encourages as many citizens as possible to take advantage of their hard work.

"The library's services aren't free," she said. "You've already paid for them with your tax dollars."

Originally published April 10, 2016 in The Herald-Dispatch, Huntington, West Virginia.
Experiences at the Public Library Association Conference in Denver
Ivonne Martinez, Mountaintop Public Library Director

On April 5-9, 2016 I attended the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference in Denver, Colorado. Every session seemed like it was personalized for everything that I do or wish to accomplish at Mountaintop Library.

I attended a preconference class “Every Child Ready to Read.” This session was about collaborations with early childhood allies: parents; caregivers; private and public agencies; and schools to promote talking, singing, reading, and playing. Although I work with some of the older age group at Davis Thomas School, I wish to offer programming for ages 1-4 years old.

Morning sessions, “Big Ideas” were very interesting and offered ideas and messages that can impact and empower the way we think, act and work within our communities.

The conference’s opening session speaker was Anderson Cooper. He talked about his latest book which he co-author with his mother Gloria Vanderbilt, The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son on Life, Love, and Loss. The book consists of a series of letters written to one another in which they discuss their lives, the things that matter to them and what they still want to learn about each other.

Other speakers; Arianna Huffington’s new book on the science, history and mystery of sleep which she wrote after her breakdown due to lack of sleep. Vernā Myers spoke about race, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Her Ted Talk, “How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Towards Them,” offers how we can counter bias in ourselves and in others to create a just world. Sherry Turkle, professor at MIT, talked about the psychology of people’s relationships with technology. Anand Giridharadas, New York Times columnist talked about islamophobia and his latest book, The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas about a Muslim immigrant’s campaign to spare from death row a white supremacist who tried to kill him.

Other sessions I attended; STEM activities at the library, Getting Outside the Lines and Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries – action guides to initiate conversations with the community and stakeholders.

The full conference program can be found here and includes many helpful links, handouts, and summaries.

All the books mentioned in this article are available for interlibrary loan from Mountaintop Public Library.
West Virginia Flooding Impacts Libraries

To donate to the Clendenin Public Library, go to: http://kanawhalibrary.org/get-involved/support-us/

To donate to the Rainelle Public Library, mail a check to Rainelle Public Library - 378 7th Street Rainelle, WV 25962 (preferred) or go to https://www.youcaring.com/rainelle-public-library-594323#.V3UvSrDYGPU.facebook.

Rainelle Public Library
As many are aware Rainelle Public Library sustained considerable damage in the recent flooding. The library had 5 feet of water in it, the print collection was destroyed along with at least 90% of the furnishings and 100% of the computers. A church group was in the last two days and did miraculous work in removing wet materials and furnishings that cannot be saved. Everything is on the curb waiting for the National Guard. The floors will be power washed today and the drying process will begin. Next, a contractor has been secured to remove the interior sheathing and insulation and check the electrical wiring. They really are further down the road than anyone would have expected them to be at this point.

Now, for the question on everyone’s lips, what about books?! They are interested in book donations, but are weeks, possibly months away from ready for print materials. Please if anyone has materials they need to be stored with the donor and Rainelle will put out the word when the library is ready.

Efforts are being made to establish a command center or my favorite description after seeing the library yesterday, a “dry place” for the staff and trustees to operate the recovery efforts. A trailer style field office would enable the staff and trustees access to an onsite telephone and fax and allow the WVLC techs to put in temporary data lines and computers. Electrical power may be available as soon as tomorrow.

Rainelle Public Library could also use monetary donations. Sarah Palfrey, Summersville Public Library is establishing an online donation account, please be aware online services retain from 3-8% of the donation. Checks may be made to and mailed directly to: Rainelle Public Library - 378 7th Street Rainelle, WV 25962.

For more information, contact Ann Farr, Greenbrier County Public Library Director.

Clendenin Branch of the Kanawha County Public Library
The Clendenin Branch of Kanawha County Public Library appears to be a total loss. A lot of people are already talking about donating books and we really appreciate the offers of assistance that are coming in. However, we are a long way from being in a position where we can consider replacing the collection and we could not deal effectively with donations if they are received.

The best thing people can do right now is contribute money, cleaning supplies, water, etc. to help people in need. The homes of several of our staff members are completely gone and others are currently uninhabitable, a situation that is widespread across this County and in other counties across the state. Once we get past the immediate crisis, we will be glad to let people know how they best can help.

For more information, contact Alan Engelbert, Kanawha County Public Library Director.
Spring Fling 2016

Spring Fling is always a great way to interact with colleagues and keep abreast of the latest innovations in library services. This year was no exception as many of you were able to discover. Held April 7-8, 2016 at the Flatwoods Days Hotel in Sutton, WV. Please enjoy some pictures taken during the program.
West Virginia Libraries come together at Canaan Valley for Fall Conference October 5-7, 2015

Julia Todd, Grant Recipient
“The conference is our opportunity to learn and grow as professionals. It is also an excellent chance to share your excellence and ideas with your colleagues” said Amy Lilly, 2015 President.

Registration on Monday was a time of meeting old friends, making new ones and a start to what would be a great learning experience for all West Virginia Librarians. The conference was called to order by President Amy Lilly. The business details were reported and noted. Resolutions and scholarship reports were presented and applauded. The opening session speaker was John Michael Cummings. Cummings forum on “West Virginia Libraries: Strongholds of Knowledge, Workplaces for Authors” was a deep moving story of how he utilized library resources to become a successful writer. His past was dark and broken. Cummings spoke about his relationship with his father, and how it led him to leave home and find peace, organization and solitude in the book shelves of libraries. His talk was both moving and inspirational to any library employee. Cummings relocated several times in his life. “The safety of the aisles, organization and quiet, a place of great concentration” said Cummings awaited him at each library. His experience with libraries made each of us vision about what a patron sees and feels when they come into our libraries. He encouraged us to make our libraries a better place.

After the morning session people divided into different workshops. The afternoon sessions included a variation of workshops. Programs that taught us resources to purchase graphic novels, how to juggle our many hats, learning how not to be confused with our e books and additionally how to plan for our retirement. The Monday sessions also taught us how to be confident, capable and classy. Also how to be efficient in our daily work and with our library trustees. Monday concluded with Mountain Library Network and Northern Library Network meeting to discuss circulation, cataloging and other consortium issues. The evening activity was organized by Ivonne Martinez of Mountain Top Library. A pub crawl gave conference attendees a chance to sample some of the local mountain state ale.

Tuesday was a full day of workshops for everyone. Morning registration for those who only attended on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday’s line up included help with Robert’s Rule of Order, Ebsco, Bookmobiles, Grant Writing, Funding, Marketing and Outreach with Little Cost, WV Reads and Library Volunteers. There was also three special length sessions on Archive and Connecting Collections, Explora: EBSCO’s New Interface and Digitization 101: Digitize or Not to Digitize? Tuesday was truly a day with something for everyone.
WVLA 2015 Fall Conference, Reflections
Catherine Staley, Grant recipient

One of the first lessons I learned in my MLS classes is that librarians should promote lifelong learning and embrace that goal for themselves. When I attended the 2015 WVLA Fall Conference on a WVLA Continuing Education grant, I was thrilled to be learning alongside and from fellow professionals about how we can better serve our patrons.

The variety of sessions that I attended illuminates how diverse the needs and interests of West Virginian librarians and our patrons are. In a session about micro-aggressions, the presenters emphasized the importance of appreciating and respecting differences between yourself, your colleagues, and your patrons – which is especially important for librarians who want their spaces to be comfortable and welcoming. While working for the Marshall University Special Collections department, I encounter a diverse group of people, and this session helped me think about how I can better serve them. Librarians should also be knowledgeable about the populations they serve, and the “Community Development and Grant Writing” session with John Deskins from WVU’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research gave me a much better picture of who our patrons are. Plus, I learned about valuable resources for state statistics and figures that a student or faculty member might need for research. Furthermore, the “Make the Case for Your Library with a Data-based Elevator Speech” by Heather Campbell-Shock from WVLC showed me that I needed to learn more about my own library in order to concisely and effectively “sell it” to patrons, administrators, and legislators. That session tied into my Academic Libraries course well because we were discussing marketing that week, and I eagerly shared with my classmates what I learned about telling your library’s story.

While the sessions I attended were informative and eye-opening, I also enjoyed listening to other librarians, over meals and between sessions, talk about the issues they face at their libraries. I’ve had a wonderful experience earning my MLS online, but this conference was an invaluable opportunity for me to really talk with other professionals about their experiences. I’m very grateful to the WVLA Continuing Education committee for supporting my attendance, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Spring Fling [2016]!

Free Webinars on Library Advocacy from ALA

CHICAGO – The American Library Association’s Office for Library Advocacy is offering a free webinar series designed to teach attendees how to create, market and implement effective advocacy campaigns for libraries. Each session is 90 minutes.

- **Part 1: Building your Base** – Making the connection between program and services outreach and building a library’s base of support for advocacy. (July 14)
- **Part 2: The Best Defense is a Good Offense** – Provides participants with the knowledge needed to create a campaign plan, recruit volunteer leadership and detail responsibilities. (July 21)
- **Part 3: Message, Marketing, & Media** – Workshop walks participants through developing a campaign message using values and emotional branding, as well as using media to advance the message. (July 28)
- **Part 4 +5: Connecting with YES Voters + Get out the Vote** – Details the nuts and bolts of a library field operation including targeting through enhanced voter files, phone banking, social media, and voter tracking. The final portion brings the previous four sessions together with the ultimate goal of reaching “yes” voters and getting them to the polls. (Aug. 4)

These webinars are presented by Libby Post of Communication Services, and all begin at 1 p.m., ET. Registration is mandatory, and attendance is limited to the first 100 participants who arrive in the virtual room(s). Visit the event page to sign up for the individual sessions today: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/library-campaign-training-institute](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/library-campaign-training-institute)

This webinar series is presented by the ALA Office for Library Advocacy and co-sponsored by United for Libraries and the ALA Chapter Relations Office. For more information about this series or for questions about registration, please contact the ALA Office for Library Advocacy at jfalcon@ala.org. These webinars will be archived and accessible to ALA members.

**For more information, contact:**
Joaquin Falcon
Communications Specialist
Office for Library Advocacy
jfalcon@ala.org
Attending: Emilee Seese, Gretchen Beach, Beth Royall, Jamie Bayne, Majed Khader, Melissa Brooks, Jessica Tapia, Charles Bagley, Karen Goff, Megan Tarbett, Brenna Call, Judy Rule, Eva McGuire, Amy Stover, Brian Raitz

Emilee called the meeting to order at 10:35am. Jamie’s name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes stood as corrected.

President’s Report, Emilee Seese: Emilee distributed the final committee list, see attached. Megan moved we approve the committee appointments. Brenna seconded. Motion carried. Jessica will update them on the website. The request for proposal form for the annual conference is ready, see attached. The next meeting will be Friday June 3 at Glade Springs at 10:30.

David Trowbridge, history prof at Marshall presented information to the Executive Board about Clio: http://www.theclio.com/web/

1st Vice President Report, Gretchen Beach (see attached): The conference committee is ready, but she needs at least one more person for local arrangements. Mary Strife was suggested as a possibility. The food committee will meet at Spring Fling.

Treasurer’s Report, Brian Raitz (see attached): Brian reported that more people seem to be renewing online. However the funds for additional roundtables and divisions as well as donations have continued to remain almost non-existent. Beth moved to approve checks 1103-1114. Majed seconded and motion carried. The budget didn’t change since the December meeting. Brian moved to approve the budget. Motion passed.

2nd Vice President Report, Megan Tarbett (see attached): The renewal process has not been going smoothly. Jessica suggested that Olivia attend the next board meeting, so Olivia, Megan, and Brian can work out the procedures. People have been dropped off of the WVLA listserv, and it isn’t clear how people are being added. Megan suggested making the 2nd vice president position a two year position, but this would require a bylaws and handbook change. The consensus is that this recommendation should wait until after the Executive Assistant Task Force presents their recommendations at the next Board meeting. The board would like for the executive board listserv to begin defaulting to “reply” rather than “reply all.”

Trustee Division, Charlie Bagley: The Trustees division has secured a speaker, Dennis Taylor, for Spring Fling.

Public Library Division, Amy Stover (see attached): Adult coloring book bags will be given to all Spring Fling attendees. Several people have asked if vegetarian and gluten free snacks will be available, but the cost is prohibitive. Amy will let them know that the snacks will not be gluten free. The next public division chair may want to look at holding Spring Fling somewhere other than Flatwoods. The Summersville Convention Center would like to bid.

Academic Library Division, Melissa Brooks (see attached): The Academic division summer meeting will be held on July 22 at WVU Tech at Beckley.

Roundtable Reports, Brenna Call (see attached): The technical services roundtable is working with the Academic division on the summer meeting. The preservation roundtable is meeting at Spring Fling to discuss programming for the fall conference. The directors roundtable will also meet at Spring Fling to discuss ideas for a workshop at the fall conference.

ALA Councilor, Majed Khader (see attached):
• ALA would like to hear about advocacy initiatives in state chapters. Emilee will create an ad-hoc committee for advocacy, including someone from the public relations committee, social responsibilities roundtable, legislative committee, Friends division and/or the Trustee division to explore options including whether or not WVLA should create an advocacy committee.

• Another initiative that ALA is trying to promote is a student membership rate for joint membership in both ALA and WVLA.

• ALA is seeking nominations for an award available for friends and trustees who attend National Library Legislative Day. Congress will be in recess during NLLD this year. If you are a member of ALA, be sure to vote.

• The election ends mid-April.

WVLC Secretary, Karen Goff (see attached): There is no news on the 2016 or 2017 budget, but additional cuts are possible. The legislature will need to go into special session. The cuts are more like to come from general funds from taxes (people, utilities), rather than lottery funds (programming). The WVLC is still hiring several positions. Despite everyone’s best efforts, the two library-related bills that passed will not benefit libraries, and the ones that would have benefited libraries either saw no action or died in committee. The directors’ academy will be held the day before Spring Fling. There are 14 new directors since this time last year. Fiber transfers are moving along. Six commissioners were reappointed. Three new appointments were made to Chuck Julian, Dave Nalker, and Debra Sullivan. Phil Turner from the University of North Texas will be promoting the MLS program here in June.

Site Selection Committee, Eva McGuire (see attached): The committee recommends that the 2017 conference be held at the Greenbrier on November 8-10. SELA will help provide programming. Megan moves we accept Eva’s recommendation pending further negotiations by Eva about meeting rooms and authorize Emilee to sign a contract and issue an invitation to SELA to have a joint conference. Beth seconded. Motion passed.

Awards Committee, Jessica Tapia: The nomination form will go out next week and nominations will be due May 31st.

Old Business: The executive assistant task force will report back at the June meeting.

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Melissa moved that Megan pursue a joint student membership with ALA. Brenna seconded. Motion carried.

Federal Relations, Jane Levitan (see attached): National Library Legislative Day will be held May 2nd and 3rd.

SELA Representative, Breanna Bowen: No report.

Newsletter editor, Jamie Bayne (see attached): The first electronic only newsletter is ready to go. It took a lot of time to set up templates. The biggest challenge is lack of content. The newsletter will be published every other month. Marshall Digital Scholar will be hosting the newsletter.

Legislative Committee, Judy Rule: There was no luncheon or reception this year for legislative day. The legislative committee may meet at Spring Fling.