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West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

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Issue 78

December 2017

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## From the Secretary

*December 2017*

### 2017 State of the State's Libraries

Congratulations to the WVLA for another productive annual conference. Under the leadership of Gretchen Beach, Brenna Call, and the rest of the WVLA Executive Board, the 100th annual meeting was a great success!



For 2018 the WVLA's focus is where do libraries go in the next 100 years? During the session, John Adkins, Director of the Schoenbaum Library at the University of Charleston, presented "To Boldly Go", a session on speculative fiction. Speculative fiction harnesses the strange, the eerie, and the fantastical to tell great stories.

"To Boldly Go" is also a great goal for libraries in West Virginia. Speculation is one way to determine direction. The definition of speculate that I'm using is "to think or talk about the possible causes or effects of something without knowing all the facts or details." Anything speculative is based on prediction: whatever it is hasn't happened --- yet. Libraries and librarians are obsessed with speculation. But speculation without action is useless.

Early this year, we speculated about a possible state government shutdown and about a threat to Federal library

funding. Many of you joined the Library Commission and library supporters around the nation in urging Senators and Congressmen to sign "Dear Appropriator" letters supporting the continuation - rather than the elimination - of Federal library funding. Thank you – it worked – so far. Federal money isn't the only funding that gives rise to speculation. It is a constant with local and state funding too.

I've heard from directors from across the state about struggles with local funding. Those libraries receiving funds from county hotel/motel tax revenue have been particularly concerned. These struggles remind me of a quote by Archibald MacLeish, American poet, writer, and Librarian of Congress. He said: "What is more important to a library than anything else - than everything else - is the fact that it exists."

Not too long ago, computer access in libraries was a trend, now it is reality; and we all want more and better computers.

Not too long ago access to the Internet was magic. Now it is essential. Broadband is widely considered as essential to education, health care, and economic activity as other utilities.

I ask you all – directors and staff of all types of libraries, trustees, friends, supporters, library vendors – to "go boldly", to speculate on the future; to speculate on library services.

We are the keepers, the creators, of the future of libraries.

**Karen Goff**

*WVLC Executive Secretary*

[Click here](#) for the full text of Secretary Goff's State of the State's Libraries presentation at the 2017 WVLA Annual Conference.



## To Boldly Advocate

The Legislature goes into session January 10, about 6 weeks from now. **WVLA Legislative Day** is a few weeks later, **February 5**. Mark your calendars. Make sure you know your Delegates and Senators. Make sure they know you.

Advocacy is an essential responsibility of library trustees. As appointed, unpaid library officials, your voice is unique and necessary. This responsibility should not be delegated to library directors and staff. Their advocacy is often perceived as self-serving; to protect their jobs. The West Virginia Public Library Trustee Manual (p.39) declares, "Library board members have a leadership role in library advocacy; promoting their library, generating public interest, and winning political support." The Manual goes on to discuss advocacy techniques.

At the recent WVLA Conference, **Judy Rule, Director of the Cabell County Public Library**, led a lively discussion CCPL's various advocacy efforts. **Patrick Sweeney, Political Director for EveryLibrary** spoke on the last day of the conference about going beyond advocacy to create activists for libraries to build the public and political support libraries need for continued funding. Another great source of ideas is the United for Libraries free publication [Power Guide for Successful Advocacy](#) (PDF, 660 kb).

The key message of every publication and presentation on advocacy is the need to act. Advocacy on the local, state, and national levels is not a spectator sport. Know what your library is doing. Know what your library wants to do. Know what your library needs to serve the community. Carefully craft your library message and then deliver it, face to face when possible, every chance you get.

Cabell hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast Nov. 28. Not every library can host a breakfast. Maybe cookies and coffee is more your style. The important thing is to boldly advocate. Talk to your elected officials often. Plan to attend WVLA Legislative Day.



## WVLC Welcomes New Team Members

The West Virginia Library Commission would like to welcome the newest members of the WVLC family.

- **Tandra English** joins the team as Administrative Assistant after working more than 20 years in the cable TV industry, most recently with Suddenlink Communications.
- **Steven Stover** is a Library Assistant in the Library & Development Services Department. He previously worked for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.
- **Len Sundahl** joins the Special Services Department as an office assistant. He previously worked in the telephone industry in Frostburg, MD. He is a Marshall University graduate.

Tandra, Steven, and Lenny...welcome aboard!

## Condolences to the Family of Kathy Ream

Acting Library Director **Kathy Ream** of the Boone-Madison Public Library passed away unexpectedly on November 8.

Kathy worked 18 years for the library, as a cataloguer, bookkeeper, and most recently as interim director. An avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, she loved books, libraries, her husband of 37 years, and her children. Kathy was 65 years old.

Thoughts and prayers to Kathy's family from all of us here at the West Virginia Library Commission.

## A 27 Million Dollar Makeover for the Kanawha County Public Library





The Kanawha County Public Library's Board of Trustees has voted to renovate the main library building in downtown Charleston and expand it by 20,000 square feet. The project is expected to cost approximately \$27 million, and will include a three-story addition. A second addition will be located next door to the current building.

The library is housed in Charleston's former federal building and was last renovated in the 1960s. The project is expected to start in the fall of 2018 and take 18 to 24 months to complete.



## Your Library is the at the Center of the Community - Keep It That Way!

**Winning  
Support and  
Influencing Communities  
for Library Funding**

ALA Editions / SJSU iSchool  
Advanced eCourse

Sign up today for a 12 week eCourse, beginning Monday, January 8, on winning support and influencing communities for library funding.

In this advanced eCourse, Patrick "P.C." Sweeney provides you and your staff with the necessary information to understand local power structures and get the tools you need to build support for your library. Through his experience at EveryLibrary, the nation's first and only library advocacy Political Action Committee (PAC), Sweeney shares the secrets of major national PACs, campaign consultants, community organizers, and local and presidential campaigns that can help you build relationships to sustain or increase funding for your library.

Whether you are a director in a major city or a librarian in a rural town, the theories and best practices taught in this course are scalable and can be implemented to enhance support and increase funding in your area.

After completing this course, you will:

- Identify and build large networks of library activists
- Help raise money for your institution
- Encourage community action to increase widespread support for your library

[Get more details and learn how to sign up.](#)



## Stories From The ALA

### Libraries Transform



On a hot, muggy Monday afternoon in late July, my husband and I found ourselves sitting in a rented Hyundai Sonata, alongside the newly rebuilt Long Island City, Queens, waterfront overlooking Manhattan's East River. Our 2-year-old son's gentle snores from the backseat punctuated the blasting AC. We had parked illegally, partly for the view, but mostly so we could extend the nap our boy desperately needed before our last stop on a whirlwind three-day New York City catch-up-with-friends-while-stuffing-our-faces-with-delicious-food tour.

This side trip was part of a larger two-week trip to Eastern Pennsylvania to introduce our son to family, friends, and green landscapes. It was also a covert litmus test for my husband and me to see if we wanted to move back (the answer: no!). So we were already in an emotional place when I looked up and noticed a bookmobile taking in our same view. Immediately my body flushed with warmth, and not because of the pressing heat and heavy humidity outside.

"Look!" I exclaimed, grinning, waves of nostalgia washing over me. "A bookmobile! I remember the bookmobile!"

[Read more.](#)

## Pearl S. Buck Writing Contest

All students attending a WV high school or college are invited to compete in the annual Pearl S. Buck writing contest.

Awards of \$1,000 each will be given to a college undergraduate and graduate student winner. One high school winner will receive \$250 and a scholarship to the WVU English Department's Summer Scholars program (\$600 value). The selection committee will base its decision on the extent to which the writing reflects one or all of the following:

1. Expression of appreciation for difference and different cultures, including but not limited to Appalachia and China
2. Social justice
3. Women's perspectives



Applicants must submit an original writing in any literary genre (e.g., fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, children's literature, playwriting, blog, etc.) no later than March 2, 2018. Word maximum is 10,000.

Contest details and submission portal can be found [here](#).

## Learn More



The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has released its brand new "Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff." This document outlines the skills all library staff need to effectively serve teens. The full document and supplementary materials can be downloaded online for free at the [YALSA website](#).

[Free Webinars](#) will be available beginning in March 2018. Each one will be facilitated by knowledgeable youth development experts and focus on a different competency. All free webinars will be held from 2:00 – 3:00pm, eastern, the second Thursday of the month. Webinar recordings will be available for those who can't participate in the live session. In addition, check out the [YALSAblog posts](#) for periodic posts that dig into the competencies.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [melissa.j.brown@wv.gov](mailto:melissa.j.brown@wv.gov) or 1-800-642-9021, ext. 2082.

### Melissa Brown

WVLC Continuing Education Consultant

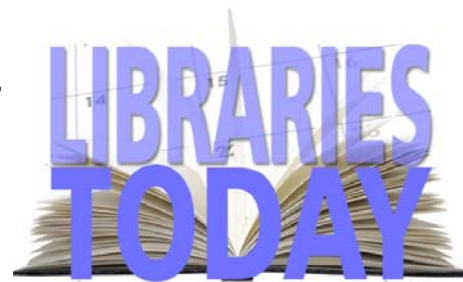


- **December 25 - Christmas Holiday:** WVLC is closed
- **Fayette County Public Library:** Job Opening for Library System Director
- **South Charleston Public Library:** Job Opening for Youth Services Assistant
- **Dora B. Woodyard Public Library:** Andrea Osborne is the new director
- **Paw Paw Public Library:** Virginia DiFrancesco is the new director

## A Day in the Life of a Library on *Libraries Today!*

The WVLC TV crew heads for West Virginia's eastern panhandle in the December edition of *Libraries Today*. The show visits the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library and its three branch libraries in Hedgesville, Inwood, and Falling Waters. Guests include library director Gretchen Fry, branch managers Dana Phelps and David Porterfield, and assistant manager Molly Brady.

Check out *Libraries Today* - now available on the [Library Television Network's YouTube Channel!](#)



# Happy Holidays




## WVLC Book Discussion GROUP

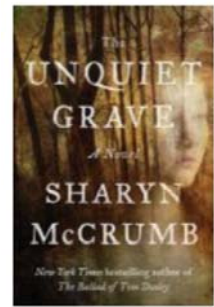
JOIN and ADD to the DISCUSSION!

### Featured Book of the Month!

#### The Unquiet Grave

by Sharon McCrumb

Following a suicide attempt and consigned to a segregated insane asylum, attorney James P. D. Gardner finds himself under the care of Dr. James Boozer. Eager to try the new talking cure for insanity, Dr. Boozer encourages his elderly patient to reminisce about his



experiences as the first black attorney to practice law in nineteenth-century West Virginia. Gardner's most memorable case was the one in 1897 which he helped to defend a white man on trial for the murder of his young bride--a case that the prosecution based on the testimony of a ghost.

Zona Heaster has always lived in the mountains of West Virginia. Despite her mother's misgivings, Zona marries Erasmus Trout Shue, the handsome blacksmith who has recently come to Greenbrier County. After weeks of silence from the newlyweds, riders come to the Heasters' place to tell them that Zona has died from a fall, attributed to a recent illness. Mary Jane is determined to get justice for her daughter. A month after the funeral, she informs the county prosecutor that Zona's ghost appeared to her, saying that she had been murdered. An autopsy, ordered by the reluctant prosecutor, confirms her claim.

Contact Library & Development Services to request this book for your book group! 304-558-2041 or [susan.p.bailey@wv.gov](mailto:susan.p.bailey@wv.gov).



Nothing is more frustrating than a computer that won't work. But libraries have a quick solution - the WVLC Network Services Department. Network outages are rare, but they do happen. More often, the PC itself can be on the fritz, but regardless of the issue - help is just a click or a phone call away.

If you lose bandwidth connectivity, experience slow internet speeds, or have other network issues, visit the help desk

on the [Statewide Library Network page](#) on the WVLC web site or call Network Services toll free at **1-800-642-9021, option 5**. Here is a handy [Help Desk User Guide](#) to walk you through the process.

Remember, WVLC Network Services is here to help.

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### New Director's Moment

by Melissa Brown



For Summer 2018 the Summer Learning Program motto is "Libraries Rock!" and the theme is music. By now, you should have received your program manual, and in the following weeks, I will send you a spreadsheet of suggestions/commentary of materials listed within the manual.

Until that time, I have a few webinar suggestions. Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and YA Library Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, has a recording of brief book talks on new titles, focusing on music. Sign up at [NCompass Live](#).

Kindermusik is presented by [Eric Rasmussen, Ph.D.](#), the early childhood music department at the Peabody Preparatory of Johns Hopkins University. It delivers an explanation of the stages of early childhood music development, as well as providing appropriate activities for children that best enhance their musicianship. The webinar is available at [Early Childhood Investigations Webinars](#).

Should you have any questions regarding these webinars or the Summer Learning Program, please contact me at [melissa.j.brown@wv.gov](mailto:melissa.j.brown@wv.gov) or call 1-800-642-9021 with questions or comments.

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[Click Here to Read More About the WVLC Continuing Education Requirements for Directors & Staff](#)

	View Upcoming & Archived Webinars <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> 
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	View Upcoming Webinars & Training <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> 
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### **Highlighted Content from WebJunction**

These resources can help you strengthen your library and services to the community, explore them today!

- [Lawyers in Libraries: Meeting Local Needs at the Jacksonville Public Library](#): The Jacksonville Public Library in northeast Florida consists of 21 locations and a library staff ready and willing to connect their community to the resources they need – including support with civil legal issues. In 2014, Lisa Buggs, Coordinator of Lifelong Learning and Community Outreach, saw an opportunity to develop a program to strengthen the library's ability to support the civil legal needs of their patrons.
- [WebJunction Launches Supercharged Storytimes for All](#): WebJunction is expanding its popular storytimes training and making it widely available in several ways, including an updated free, online self-paced course. This new program is called Supercharged Storytimes for All and is made possible with the financial support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and OCLC.
- [Columbus Metropolitan Responds to Hunger](#): Summer Meals and More: As a library looks ahead to its busiest programming schedule of the year, why would it consider becoming a summer meal site? At Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), staff realized kids were hungry from the time they arrived at 9am until they left at 5pm. During the summer vacation, these kids and their families didn't have access to the meals they depend on during the school year.

### **Upcoming Webinars**

If you can't attend a live session, all WebJunction webinars are recorded and available for free in the [course catalog](#).

#### **From Tots to Teens: STE(A)M-powered Ideas for Programming**

Thursday, December 14, 2017 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here](#).

Whether you're already full steam ahead with STE(A)M programming in your library or not sure how to get started or somewhere in between, there's something for you in this webinar. Our presenters—"The Heathers"—are passionate about creating engaging and skill-building STE(A)M programs for kids from preschool age to teenage. Find out what to look for in a good program and hear their top picks for programs for each age range. Learn some tips, tricks and useful resources. Get inspired—you don't need to be a scientist or engineer to have fun exploring and learning with the kids in your library.

Presented by: **Heather Love Beverley**, Cook Memorial Public Library District, Libertyville, IL; and **Heather Thompson**, Youth Services Programming Librarian, Kenosha Public Library, WI.

#### **Going Deeper with Social Media**

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 ♦ 2:00 pm ♦ 1.5 hours

[Register here](#).

Learn how to take the next steps toward amplifying your library's social media program. During this third webinar in our social media series, we'll discuss best practices in growing your library's social media program and managing user engagement. You'll learn tips on assessing your library's audience based on their preferred platforms and ideas for converting your in-person library community into an online community.

This webinar is part three in a series hosted in collaboration with [TechSoup](#).

Presented by: **Lisa Bunker**, Social Media Librarian, Pima County Public Library (AZ); and **Cesar Garza**, Reference Librarian, Chair Social Media Team, Austin Public Library (TX)

Events · WebJunction Events Calendar

## WebJunction Events Calendar

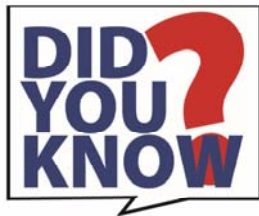
To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to: [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



WebJunction webinars are live audiovisual programs that are conducted online via WebEx web conferencing. Anyone who has an internet connection can participate, listening to the audio broadcast through speakers or headset, or via phone. These **free** events allow you to meet and learn from library leaders and fellow library practitioners.

WebJunction's catalog of courses and webinar archives on library topics is now open to all library workers and volunteers across the nation. A certificate of completion is provided after you have completed any course or webinar that you enroll in. [Catalog >](#)

**Click to View »**



The Princeton Public Library was established in 1914 by the city's Women's Club in a small three room house in the center of town. During the 1930's, the library was moved to the basement of the Memorial building. After a fire in that structure, the library moved to a new building in 1968. 42 years later, a major fund raising project resulted in the opening of the New Princeton Library in the Old Princeton Post Office in 2010. The Princeton Public Library now serves 12,600 residents in Mercer County.

## Mark Your Calendar!



- December 1:** Rosa Parks Day
- December 4-10:** Computer Science Education Week
- December 6:** National Miner's Day
- December 7:** Pearl Harbor Day
- December 10:** Dewey Decimal System Day
- December 13:** National Cocoa Day
- December 25:** Christmas
- December 31:** New Year's Eve

**ROSA PARKS DAY**



**DECEMBER 1**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK**



**DECEMBER 4-10**

**DEWEY® DECIMAL SYSTEM DAY**



**DECEMBER 10**

**NATIONAL COCOA DAY**



**DECEMBER 13**



**You're the Super Star!**

Have a story to tell or a photo to share?  
Click Here to Email Us!

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*Library Lookout is published monthly by WVLC Library Administration Services.  
WVLC is an agency of the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts.*

**Karen E. Goff**

*Executive Secretary*

*West Virginia Library Commission*

**West Virginia Library Commission**

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