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West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)**Issue 84****June 2018**

## In This Issue

- [From the Secretary](#)
- [Trustee Tips](#)
- [The Great American Read](#)
- [Commission News](#)
- [2018 Letters About Literature](#)
- [Summer Reading Programs](#)
- [ALSC Summer Reading Lists](#)
- [Celebrate Summer Reading](#)
- [WVLC Notices](#)
- [Book of the Month](#)
- [Libraries Today](#)
- [Library Grant Opportunities](#)
- [New From YALSA](#)
- [Continuing Education](#)
- [Did You Know?](#)
- [Mark Your Calendars](#)

## From the Secretary

*June 2018*

On May 8, I joined WVLA President Brenna Call, WVLA Federal Relations Coordinator Bonnie Dwire, Library Directors Megan Shanholtz (Hampshire Co.), Gretchen Fry (Martinsburg), Hali Taylor (Shepherdstown), Marcella Genz (Charles Town) and library advocates from 49 other states and the District of Columbia at the American Library Association's (ALA) National Library Legislative Day.

We visited the offices of both Senators and all three Congressmen where we discussed the importance of federal funding to West Virginia's libraries and West Virginia's visually impaired.

We explained why libraries need more broadband. We described physical facilities challenges and how lack of funding to correct these issues affects services.

It was a good day. Even the weather was perfect. Since it was primary election day in the state, only Senator Capito was available to meet with us personally, but the staff we met with in each office asked good questions and shared

some interesting and useful information.

Speaking of the primary, excess levies affecting libraries were on the ballot in at least 10 counties and municipalities. All but one (Hinton) passed. The Marion County library levy passed by a whopping 81%. Some of the levies were specifically for libraries while others included libraries or significantly affected library funding. This success is important to both individual libraries and to the library community as a whole. It demonstrates that libraries are valued. It demonstrates that individuals are willing to tax themselves to provide funds for libraries. It is an encouraging thought when you are wondering if you will ever get all the glitter out of the carpet, or explaining how to sign on to the computers, or discussing e-book pricing, or declaring that libraries create lifelong learners and learning is good.

Keep up the good work.



## A Simple "Recipe" for Timely Library Advocacy

Jeanette M. Rowsey, WVLA Trustees Division Chair

As explained in the [West Virginia Public Library Trustees Manual, 2016 Edition](#):

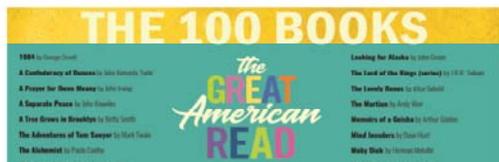
*Board members should regard lobbying activities as being of prime importance, a skill to be practiced and perfected, and an essential element of the public relations and awareness program. Library board members have a leadership role in library advocacy, promoting their library, generating public interest, and winning political support. You are a bridge between the library and the community. You are the advocate for the library, and you can help the community understand its importance in all aspects of life.*

For example, two important "ingredients" provide a timely opportunity for WV public library trustees to embrace their advocacy role through a simple thank you letter to their legislators. This could be a simple handwritten note, a public letter to the local newspaper, or a combination:

1. The recent passage of [HB 2890 - Establishing a Library Facilities Improvement Fund that will serve to support library facilities construction, maintenance and improvement projects](#). After several years of effort, this bill was introduced in 2018 under bipartisan sponsorship and passed unanimously by both chambers of the Legislature! Although no funds have yet been deposited into the fund, every step in the right direction can be recognized and celebrated.
2. The [2017 Public Libraries Facility Assessment Survey](#) - pages 13-15 present, in colorful detail, the status of our individual public libraries. If any of your libraries show "poor" or "critical" facility conditions, this may be a key ingredient to include in your recipe. Perhaps you are (or could be) working with your library director to extend a personal invitation to "tour" that facility, to follow up on the thank you letter.

When cultivating relationships with legislators, a simple "thank you" always adds great flavor!

## The Great American Read is Here!



PBS has announced the 100 books to be voted on by the public as part of *The Great American Read*, an 8-episode PBS documentary series focused on the role of reading in American Culture. The vote will determine America's favorite book. Last month, the series



revealed a list of 100 best-loved books chosen by the American public and a panel of literary and publishing professionals. The diverse list includes such books as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *War and Peace*, and the *Harry Potter* series.

Over the course of the next few months, *The Great American Read* will encourage readers across the country to vote on the 100 books, selecting a top ten list of the most-beloved books and one book at number one. Check at all of the details at the [WV Public Broadcasting Great American Read website](http://WV Public Broadcasting Great American Read website), as well as the national [PBS website](http://PBS website).

The West Virginia Library Commission is partnering with West Virginia Public Broadcasting to promote this exciting literary event.

Posters and bookmarks have been sent to all public libraries in the state, and the WVLC encourages libraries to take part in the program throughout the summer and fall.

In addition to selecting America's favorite book, WVLC and WVPB will also track West Virginia readers' votes and determine the Mountain State's favorite book.

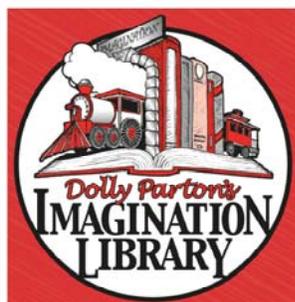
Be sure to cast your vote for America's favorite book and encourage your patrons to do the same!



### Library Commission Re-Elects Chairman

During it's April meeting, the West Virginia Library Commission re-elected Betty Gunnoe as Commission Chairman by unanimous vote. A resident of Martinsburg, she was a long-time employee of the Martinsburg Public Library and since her retirement has remained active in the Berkeley County library system. Commissioner Gunnoe has served on the WVLC since 2009.

### Imagination Library Transitions to WV Department of Education



West Virginia's Imagination Library program is now part of the state Department of education. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a non-profit organization that provides books to registered children in participating communities throughout West Virginia. The program is designed to promote the early love of reading and had been part of the Department of Education and the Arts.

More than 1.9 million books have been distributed to West Virginia Children since the program began in 2007. 41 of the state's 55 counties participate in the Imagination Library program.

## Cabell County Schools to Eliminate Elementary School Librarians



As part of a growing national trend, the Cabell County Board of Education has eliminated all six of the county's school librarians at the elementary school level, a cost saving measure aimed at tightening the school system budget. The six former librarians have been moved to other positions.

Library duties in the county's elementary libraries will be shifted to classroom teachers and community volunteers. An online petition asking the Cabell Board of Education to reinstate the positions was started last month.

## Another Grant for the Burnsville Public Library

The Burnsville Public Library has received a \$1,000 Revisiting Founding Era grant through the American Library Association and the Gilder Lehrman Institute. The grant is designed to encourage an appreciation of the United States Founding Era through community conversation based on historical documents and themes. Over the past year, Library Director Beth Anderson says her library has received more than \$15,000 in grant dollars from various organizations.



The Burnsville PL has also applied for the Library Journal's Best Small Library award, which honors small libraries across the country who demonstrate outstanding service to communities with a population of less than 25,000.

## Ohio County Public Library Completes Renovations



45 years after first opening its doors on 16th Street in Wheeling, the Ohio County Public Library celebrated the completion of a major renovation to the building with a Grand Re-Opening celebration on May 19th. Library Commissioner Dr. Charles Julian, Associate University Librarian at Potomac State College of West Virginia University, delivered a brief history of the library during last month's event.

The OCPL used the ceremonies to roll out OCPL Week, an event designed to increase awareness of the library's many resources available to the public. The library also offered a "fine free week" in which overdue items could be returned free of charge, and also provided visitors with daily prize giveaways.

## In Case You Missed It



Last month, the Morgantown Public Library was featured in a story in the city's newspaper, the Dominion Post. The article highlighted the library's year-round book sale, which has been sponsored by the Friends of the Morgantown Public Library for over 30 years. Library volunteer Nancy Ruhe said the book sale is a way for people in the community to recycle used books, to get people reading, and to benefit the library itself. Proceeds from the sale are used for library expenses and upgrades.



## 25th *Letters About Literature* Contest Announces Winners



The WVLC and the West Virginia Center for the Book held the 2018 Letters About Literature awards ceremony at the state Culture Center on May 17th. *Letters About Literature* is a national reading and writing program, in which students in grades 4-12 write letters to authors (living or dead) telling them how a book, poem, or play by that author affected them personally.

678 West Virginia students participated in this year's program, and 62 were honored at the event. Entries for state level judging were selected on how well the students met the required criteria of: audience, purpose, grammatical conventions, and originality.

Top Honors were awarded to Paisley Tabor of Hurricane Middle School in Level 1, Marlee Johns of the Linsly School in Wheeling in Level 2, and Kayla Strickland, a student at Roane County High School in Spencer in Level 3. Top Honor winners move on to national competition.

WVLC Executive Secretary Karen Goff said, "The Library Commission is proud to support the Letters About Literature program. We feel it's very important to provide a stage for these gifted young students to display their talents and their love for reading and writing."



## West Virginia Libraries Rock Out with Summer Reading Programs



School's out and **Summer Reading** is here! This year's **Summer Reading** theme from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) centers on music with "Libraries Rock". Besides being a fun way to spend the school break, **Summer Reading** programs help prevent the "summer slide" in a student's education. Access to books and learning opportunities during summer is critical for all children and teens, but especially for those from low-income households.

"A simple activity such as reading 30 minutes a day can help prevent the slide," says Lisa Hechesky, WVLC Summer Reading Coordinator. "Library Summer Reading programs give children and their caregivers excellent free resources to stay engaged in learning, while being in a safe, supervised, and inviting setting. Libraries are also less like school, this helps foster positive experiences around books and learning for reluctant readers."

CSLP has Library Rocks resources available for you at the [CSLP website](#). You must be a registered user to access the CSLP materials. Not a member? You can sign up on their website. If you have any questions or need any help with your Summer Reading program, contact Lisa at [lisa.a.hechesky@wv.gov](mailto:lisa.a.hechesky@wv.gov).

***Be sure to make summer reading an important part of your library's activities in 2018!***

## ALSC Summer Reading Lists

Looking for interesting and exciting titles to add to your children's collection or to recommend to young readers? The Association for Library Service to Children has released its summer reading list.

There are four categories: Birth to pre-school; K-2nd grade; 3rd to 5th grades; and 6th to 8th grades



Each category has a colorful, downloadable quick list for printing on the [ALA Summer Reading list web page](#).

## Celebrate Summer Reading

Summer Reading Programs (SRPs) are gearing up across West Virginia and the nation. While this summertime staple of library programming is fun for participants, it is also an important piece of a student's overall education because learning doesn't stop when school is out. To bring awareness to the importance of SRPs, the National Summer Learning Association has designated July 12, 2018 as National Summer Learning Day.

This is to day spotlight and advocate for the importance of programs that assist students in learning and staying safe during the school break. Libraries are encouraged to submit events and projects they are hosting in their communities on the NSLA website.

If you are interested in adding an event to the National Summer Learning Day calendar visit: <https://www.summerlearning.org/post-an-event/>



## WVLC Notices

- **June 20 - West Virginia Day:** WVLC is closed
- **Louis Bennett Public Library:** Job opening for Library Director
- **West Virginia University Libraries:** Job opening for Electronic Resource Specialist
- **Marshall University Drinko Library:** Job openings for Librarian III and Librarian II
- **Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives:** Job opening for a Regional Consultant
- **Tennessee State Library and Archives:** Job openings for an Assistant Regional Library Director at the Obion River Regional Library in Martin, TN and for the Ocoee River Regional Library in Athens, TN



## WVLC Book Discussion Group

JOIN and ADD to the DISCUSSION!

she suffers through a series of setbacks from childhood on: the gruesome early death of her mother; her father's rejection; the birth, illness, and resulting deafness of her infant son, Rain; and the disappearance of her husband during the war. *Mother of Rain* is an exploration of the nature of community in a rural setting and is the 2013 Weatherford Award winner for best novel in southern Appalachian fiction.

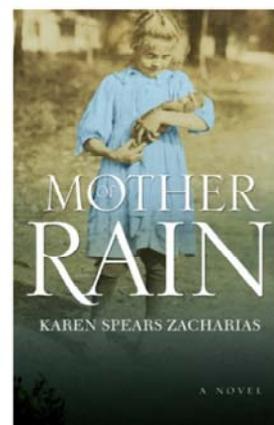
*Mother of Rain* is the 2018 selection for One Book One West Virginia, the state's most important statewide book discussion group. One Book One West Virginia is sponsored by the West Virginia Library Commission and the West Virginia Center for the Book.

## Featured Book of the Month!

### Mother of Rain

by Karen Spears Zacharias

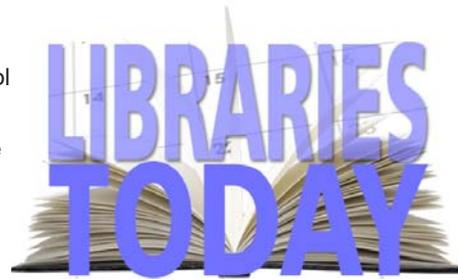
In *Mother of Rain*, Zacharias writes about a small, close-knit, East Tennessee community as the Depression yields to World War II. The story follows the struggles of Maizee Hurd as



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

## Check out the Latest Edition of *Libraries Today!*

One of the most important functions of a public library is to provide a safe, learning environment for school children during the summer months. Summer reading programs are at the forefront of this, and encourage school children to read, improve academic achievement, and generate interest in the library and in books. In this month's episode of *Libraries Today*, we take a look at the summer reading program at the South Charleston Public Library and discuss the importance of summer reading for kids.



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

# Library Grant Opportunities

## LEGO Children's Fund Youth Creativity Grants



The LEGO Children's Fund will provide quarterly grants for programs, either in part or in total, with a special interest paid to collaborative efforts. The foundation awards grants to qualified tax-exempt organizations, including libraries, with specific, identifiable needs primarily in these areas of support:

1. Early childhood education and development that is directly related to creativity
2. Technology and communication projects that advance learning opportunities

Application deadlines are January 14, April 15, July 15, October 15.

For more information, visit [this website](#), or contact the grant administrator at [legochilrensfung@lego.com](mailto:legochilrensfung@lego.com).

## New from YALSA



YALSA has a new teen focused learning outcome resource called Teen First: Basic Learning Outcomes. This guide helps library staff plan their teen programs to ensure quality learning opportunities for participants. The guide can be downloaded from the [YALSA website](#).

There is also a one-page pdf quick guide available [here](#).



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

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### **Highlighted Content from WebJunction**

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

- [Healthy Libraries and Healthy Communities](#): In response to local community health needs, public libraries are also evolving by partnering with local parks to create StoryWalks™, offering Zumba classes, and establishing seed libraries so that patrons can grow their own food. Here is a collection of videos and examples from libraries around the United States that can help inspire new health programming ideas in your library!
- [Online Course: Shelving with the Library of Congress Classification](#): WebJunction has recently updated this course to deliver an improved learner experience. It's a great resource to help new staff members and volunteers become productive as quickly as possible with a minimum of time investment by the supervising staff. All content in the WebJunction Course Catalog is freely available and ready when you are.

## Upcoming Webinars

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

### **Making Space for Active Learning in Your Library**

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here.](#)

Transformation happens when a library re-imagines and reconfigures its physical space so that community engagement shifts from passive to active. The fifteen libraries that participated in the [Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces](#) project are dynamic proof of that. They learned and applied principles of active learning, place-making and design thinking to create “smart spaces” where the community learns and creates together and strengthens social bonds. In this webinar, we'll describe an innovative process that any size of library can follow to uncover community needs and translate those needs into flexible lively learning space. Hear about the real experiences of two project participants who transformed drab, underused spaces into hubs of activity and energy. It can happen at your library.

Presented by: **Betha Gutsche**, WebJunction Programs Manager, **Brianna Hoffman**, WebJunction Project Coordinator, **Jennifer Trail**, Director, Glens Ferry (ID) Public Library, **Melanie Morgan**, Director, Madison County (NC) Public Libraries

### **Learning and Growing Together: WebJunction, the Learning Place for Libraries**

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 ♦ 2:00 pm ♦ 30 minutes

[Register here.](#)

Since 2003, WebJunction has helped thousands of library staff members build job skills to deliver transformational services to their communities. Our resources are always free, all are welcome, and we're always open.

Join this 30-minute webinar to

- learn about WebJunction, who we are, what we do, and how you can leverage our resources;
- explore the variety of self-paced, web-based training resources available for free; and
- hear about our projects and programs that connect public library service to community needs

[Events](#) - WebJunction Events Calendar

## WebJunction Events Calendar

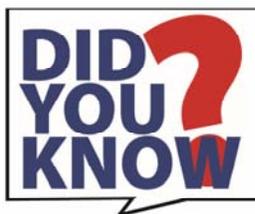
To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to: [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



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 Monroe County Public Library was first organized in 1947 by the Farm Women's Club with support by the Monroe County Commission, the Monroe County Board of Education, and the West Virginia Library Commission. This library was one of the first demonstrations of bookmobile library service in the state. The current facility was constructed and dedicated in 1980, and now serves more than 17,600 residents in Monroe County.

## Mark Your Calendar!



|                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>June:</b>    | GLBT Book Month           |
| <b>June 3:</b>  | Wonder Woman Day          |
| <b>June 5:</b>  | World Environment Day     |
| <b>June 8:</b>  | Best Friends Day          |
| <b>June 20:</b> | West Virginia Day         |
| <b>June 21:</b> | Summer Solstice           |
| <b>June 22:</b> | Take Your Dog to Work Day |

**You're the Super Star!** Have a story to tell or a photo to share?  
Click Here to Email Us!

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**Karen E. Goff**

*Executive Secretary*

*West Virginia Library Commission*

**West Virginia Library Commission**

Culture Center, Bldg. 9 | 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E. | Charleston, WV 25305 | (304) 558-2041

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