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West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

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# LIBRARY

 West Virginia  
Library Commission

## Lookout

**Issue 96**

**June 2019**

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## From the Secretary

*June 2019*

### In Defense of Reading



On May 16, the Library Commission honored this year's Letters About Literature award winners. Featured guests were First Lady Cathy Justice and West Virginia author Meredith Sue Willis.

Each of the awardees, from grades 4-12 in public and private schools across the state, wrote letters to authors telling them how a book, poem, play, speech by that author affected them personally. This year, 629 West Virginia students, joined more than 25,000 students nationwide participating in Letters About Literature. National screeners selected 166 West Virginia entries for state level



judging. Those receiving “Top Honors” at the state level advanced to national level judging by a panel of judges selected by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

This project is a bear to manage. But by the time the last student leaves the Culture Center, the last parent or teacher thanks us, the last packet is in the mail to those who could not attend, everyone involved in making this happen agrees it is more than worthwhile.

Answering the question “What changed for you because you read this book?” requires much more courage, much more thought than writing a book report. The First Lady complimented the students for connecting with people and places through books and challenged them to never stop reading and writing. Meredith Sue Willis congratulated the students for writing “out of themselves”. She also spoke about the importance of stories in making sense of the world and making the world a better place. She described the danger of thinking there is only one version of a story and encouraged the students to be comfortable with the stories of others; to be comfortable with complexity.

Ken Pugh, a researcher who examines the importance of spoken and written language, would be a fan of Letters About Literature and summer reading programs. He says the process of reading books, especially books that tell stories, involves a set of deep and complex skills that activate all the brain’s major domains. No other forms of reading train a reader’s imagination and cognition as well. \*

That is a great thought as we enter the 2019 Summer Reading Program season with its wonderful “Universe of Stories” theme. When you are knee deep in glitter, or slime, or robots, or aliens, remember you are doing a wonderful thing. You are activating the major domains of the brains of children. You are training their imagination and cognition. You are encouraging comfort with complexity.

Keep up the good work.

*\*Why Reading Books is Important for the Brain”, Markham Heid, The Nuance, Retrieved 5/3/2019 <https://elemental.medium.com/why-reading-books-is-important-for-the-brain>.*



## TRUSTEE TIPS

**Jeanette M. Rowsey, WVLA Trustees Division Chair**

From *American Libraries* May issue: “On March 11 the White House released its fiscal year 2020 federal budget proposal, and for the third year in a row, the president has recommended eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which provides the main source of federal support for US libraries and museums through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The proposal also cuts the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program administered by the Department of Education.”

LSTA is the only federal program that helps public libraries meet community needs, provide enhanced services through technology, reach under-served populations, and retain librarians.

Advocacy by constituents is crucial. In 2018, IMLS funding was increased and the Museum and Library Services Act was reauthorized through 2025 because people sent emails, made phone calls, posted on social media platforms, and visited congressional offices.

Each year ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office works closely with congressional staff to produce and circulate "Dear Appropriator letters." The FY2020 letters call on Congress to provide at least \$206 million for LSTA and at least \$27 million for IAL. I looked up the "Dear Appropriator" letter signing histories of West Virginia's representative and senators at [ala.org/fundlibraries](http://ala.org/fundlibraries). To date, Senator Manchin and Rep. McKinley have signed on in support of library funds for FY 2020; Sen. Capito, Rep. Mooney and Rep. Miller to date have not signed the letters.

I call upon my fellow public library trustees in West Virginia to build on past advocacy efforts to preserve our vital federal library funding! ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office website [www.ala.org/advocacy/fundlibraries](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/fundlibraries) contains a direct action link that generates email letters and tweets to your member of Congress, as well as a number of resources, from tips and a sample for writing a letter to the editor of your local news outlet, to guidance for arranging a congressional tour of your library.



## James Patterson to Headline 2019 WV Book Festival

James Patterson, the worldwide bestselling author of more than 140 books ranging from children's literature to mystery and nonfiction, will headline this year's **West Virginia Book Festival**, which will be held at the **Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center October 4th and 5th**. Patterson has written and co-written dozens of books, including the Alex Cross and Michael Bennett mystery series and the "Maximum Ride" and "Middle School" young adult fantasy series.



He will be joined at the Book Festival by science fiction author Orson Scott Card, whose bestselling "Ender's Game" series was adapted into a blockbuster movie starring Harrison Ford in 2013, and by children's author and illustrator Salina Yoon, who has sold more than 4.5 million books worldwide. Various other Appalachian authors will also present at the festival, including Anthony Harkins, Meredith McCarroll, Susanna "Granny Sue" Holstein, who will share her insights into Appalachian folklore, and Kelli Shapiro, whose book, "Historic Movie Theatres of West Virginia," explores the role theaters played in the Mountain State up until the modern day.

## WVLA Asks for Session Ideas for its Fall Conference



The WVLA Conference Committee is now accepting proposals for conference sessions for the 2019 Fall Conference. If you have a program idea you would like to share with other libraries



in the state, you can submit a description of your proposed session to Megan Tarbett, [megan.tarbett@putnam.lib.wv.us](mailto:megan.tarbett@putnam.lib.wv.us), by

June 30, 2019.

The WVLA Fall Conference is scheduled for October 16-18 at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Visit the [WVLA website](#) for more details.

## A New Name for the Hardway Library at Bluefield State College

Bluefield State College has renamed its school library the William Robertson Library. Robertson received a bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1954 and a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1956, both from Bluefield State. After college, he served in an executive capacity in the administrations of five U.S. Presidents in a career that spanned more than six decades.

Robertson served as the keynote speaker at Bluefield State's commencement ceremonies last month. The library was originally named to recognize the late former president Wendell Hardway.

## Library Commission Survey

The Library Commission is conducting a survey to learn which libraries use the WVLC Interlibrary Loan portal (<http://ill.lib.wv.us>), and, if not, how libraries communicate its ILL needs. Please take a moment to answer the 5-question survey before **June 18, 2019**.

Survey URL: <https://forms.gle/bnJyLUEs6bEMXbEU6>

## Happy Retirement!



Senior Reference Librarian Janice Bickham retired from the agency on April 30, 2019. Janice joined the Library Commission team in 2000. Prior to joining the WVLC, she was the Instructional/Reference Librarian at the Drain-Jordan Library at West Virginia State College.

***Janice, thank you for 19 years of service to libraries across the state and to the West Virginia Library Commission! You will be missed!***

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## 26th *Letters About Literature* Contest Announces Winners

# Letters About Literature:

Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.

A Library of Congress National Reading-Writing Promotion Program

The West Virginia Center for the Book at the West Virginia Library Commission held the **2019 *Letters About Literature* Awards Ceremony** at the state Culture Center on Thursday, May 16, 2019. 166 West Virginia students were honored with Top Honors, Honors, Honorable Mention, and Notable Mention recognition.

*Letters About Literature* is a national reading and writing program, supported locally by the State Library Commission and the West Virginia Center for the Book. Students in grades 4-12 (divided by Levels 1-3) wrote letters to authors (living or dead) telling them how a book, poem, or play by that author affected them personally.



**Top Honors** were awarded to **Tessa Moore**, a 6th grader at the Linsly School in Wheeling in level 1, **Clare Seibert**, an 8th grade student at the Linsly School in Level 2, and **Bethany Nutter**, a senior at Nicholas County High School in Summersville in Level 3. Top Honor winners move on to national competition.

“It is exciting to see these gifted young students display their talents for writing and their enthusiasm for books,” Karen Goff, WVLC Executive Secretary, said. “The Library Commission is proud to support the *Letters About Literature* program.”

You can read these award winning letters and learn more about the *Letters About Literature* program by visiting the [WVLC website](#).

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## Summer Reading 2019



Here's a roundup of interesting Summer Reading related items. If you're looking for some quick programs or ideas for an extra fun for summer days at the library, check out this list.

- The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) has partnered with CSLP this year for Summer Reading. NNLM's website has a host of interesting topics related to health and space exploration. NNLM also has a section in the 2019 CSLP manual. This section has guides for interesting programs such as "Bubbles in Space," "Food in Space," and "We are all Made of Stardust." Visit their website, <https://nnlm.gov/initiatives/summer-reading>, to learn more.
- If you're incorporating any Curious George stories into Summer Reading, here is a coloring page of George in his astronaut suit: <https://mamalikesthis.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/astronaut.pdf>
- The YouTube Channel SciShow Space explores the wonders of the universe through easy to understand and enjoyable videos. A new episode is available every Tuesday and Friday at <https://www.youtube.com/user/scishowspace>. Sci Show Kids lets young science minds ask all of those "why" questions. New topics are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at <https://www.youtube.com/user/scishowkids>.
- The Association for Library Services to Children have their annual Summer Reading Lists now available for downloading. The colorful pages are available in four age groups: birth-preschool, kindergarten-2nd grade, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. Visit ALSC to download: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists/2019-summer-reading-list>
- The Child and Community Well-being committee Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) has completed a quick fact sheet on Summer Meals. The downloadable pdf is on the CSLP website at [www.csllpreads.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/csllp\\_summer\\_meals\\_factsheet\\_rev0519.pdf](http://www.csllpreads.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/csllp_summer_meals_factsheet_rev0519.pdf).

Don't forget to send photos of your summer reading events and programs to Lisa Hechesky, Youth Services Consultant, [lisa.hechesky@wv.gov](mailto:lisa.hechesky@wv.gov).

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## CSLP's 2019 Teen Video Challenge



Do the teens in your library like to make videos? Encourage them to participate in the **Collaborative Summer Library Program 2019 Teen Video Challenge** this summer!

This year's Teen Video Challenge will be a NATIONAL contest and five winners will be chosen to receive a \$200 cash prize plus \$50 worth of summer reading materials for their library. \*New\* this year, the challenge will run through the summer, so you can hold video making programs in June and July. Videos can be submitted June 1-August 2, 2019.

These 60 second-or-less videos should be their interpretation of the 2019 slogan "A Universe of Stories." For more information, including complete contest rules, visit the [CSLP website](#).



- **June 20 - West Virginia Day:** WVLC is closed
- **Dora B. Woodyard Memorial Library:** Breanna King is the new Library Director
- **McDowell County Public Library:** Barbara Fields has been named Acting Library Director
- **South Parkersburg Public Library:** Job opening for a Branch Manager
- **Clarion Free Library - Clarion, PA:** Job opening for Library Director/System Administrator
- **Connecticut State Library- Hartford, CT:** Job opening for Librarian 2, Electronic Records Analyst
- **Connecticut State Library- Hartford, CT:** Job opening for Librarian 2, Electronic Resources Librarian

## 2019 Bibliostat Survey Opens July 1st

The **2019 Bibliostat reporting window** will open on **Monday, July 1st** and close on **Thursday, August 15th**. Bibliostat is the annual survey all libraries are required to complete, and has three primary purposes:

1. To determine whether or not the library meets requirements for receiving Grans-In-Aid (see Title 173-1-3).
2. To collect information for the Institute of Museum and Library Services national annual survey
3. To provide statistical information that helps West Virginia legislators understand the importance of libraries, enable the WVLC to track data, provide library directors with information they need to better administer their libraries, and provide the general public with library statistics.



To complete the 2019 survey, you must use the new Bibliostat link - <https://collectconnect.baker-taylor.com/login.aspx>. Links from previous years can no longer be used.

To qualify for the Shirley Smith Award, surveys must be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday, August 2nd.

For more information during the survey period, contact **Susan Bailey** at **(304) 558-2045** or email her at [susan.p.bailey@wv.gov](mailto:susan.p.bailey@wv.gov).

## Fall 2019 Library Reimbursement Program

SMART  
ABOUT  
MONEY

Smart About Money and the National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE®) has announced that applications are now open for the **Fall 2019 Library Reimbursement Program**. Twice a year, Smart About Money and NEFE® provide funds for incentives to qualifying projects that promote financial education awareness. The program targets three primary goals:

- To engage and inform patrons through effective programming.
- To make more staff aware of the importance of financial literacy and comfortable with sharing resources with patrons
- To promote financial awareness with engaging and helpful programs during certain times of the year, such as **Financial Literacy Month** (April) and **National Retirement Security Week** (in October).

Applications for the Fall 2019 Library Reimbursement Program are due on **Friday, June 7, 2019**. More information and the program application is [available here](#). Please direct any questions about the program to [sam@nefe.org](mailto:sam@nefe.org) or **303-224-3527**.



JOIN  
and  
ADD  
to the DISCUSSION!

**WVLC Book  
Discussion  
GROUP**

small town and the relationship between the white sheriff and the black man who “whipped children” to keep order.

After Brady Sims pulls out a gun in a courtroom and shoots his own son, who has just been convicted of robbery and murder, he asks only to be allowed two hours before he'll give himself up to the sheriff. When the editor of the local newspaper asks his cub reporter to dig up a “human interest” story about Brady, he heads for the town's barbershop. It is the barbers and the regulars who hang out there who narrate with empathy, sadness, humor, and a profound understanding the life story of Brady Sims—an honorable, just, and unsparing man who with his tough love had been handed the task of keeping the black children of Bayonne, Louisiana in line to protect them from the unjust world in which they lived. And when his own son makes a fateful mistake, it is up to Brady to carry out the necessary reckoning. In the telling, we learn the story of a small southern town, divided by race, and the black community struggling to survive even as many of its inhabitants head off northwards during the Great Migration.

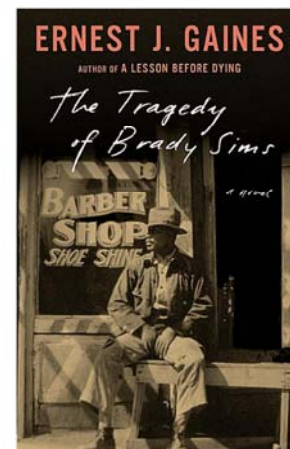
Contact Library & Development Services to request this book for your book group at 304-558-2041 or at [steven.m.stover@wv.gov](mailto:steven.m.stover@wv.gov).

## Featured Book of the Month!

### The Tragedy of Brady Sims

by Ernest Gaines

Ernest J. Gaines's new novella revolves around a courthouse shooting that leads a young reporter to uncover the long story of race and power in his





## Student Writers Featured on *Libraries Today!*

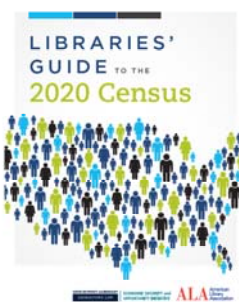
It has been said that the best way to improve a young person's reading is to have them write. Writing focuses students on phonics, comprehension, mechanics, developing their voice or perspective, and communicating this perspective to others. And good writers make good students. In the June episode of *Libraries Today*, the show visits some very good young writers, including National Teen Poet Daniel Blokh and some of West Virginia's brightest young writers from the national writing and reading program - Letters About Literature.



Tune in to the June edition of *Libraries Today* - now available on the [Library Television Network's YouTube Channel!](#)



## ALA Releases Guide to the 2020 Census



The American Library Association has released its [Libraries' Guide to the 2020 Census](#), a new resource to prepare libraries for the decennial count of every person living in the United States.

ALA teamed with the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality to develop the Guide, with support from ALA's 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force. ALA plans to provide additional resources for library practitioners in the months leading up to Census Day on April 1, 2020.

The Guide contains practical information to assist library staff in addressing potential patron and community requests regarding the upcoming 2020 Census. The Guide includes:

- Basic information about the Census process;

- Highlights of new components in the 2020 Census, such as the online response option;
- Frequently asked questions;
- A timeline of key Census dates;
- Contact information and links to additional resources.

The [Libraries' Guide to the 2020 Census](#) is available for free download on the [ALA website](#).

## AARP Rural Livability Workshop



The AARP invites libraries to take part in a livestream presentation by national and local experts about rural livability, with a focus on creating intergenerational communities, strengthening transportation options, improving housing affordability and choice, enhancing community infrastructure (with a focus on broadband and economic development), and preparing for extreme weather and disasters. The livestream workshop is scheduled for **June 19 (11 am-3 pm ET)** and **June 20 (11 am-2 pm ET)**.

**Day 1** of the livestream event will feature presentations related to intergenerational communities, housing, broadband – and much more. Featured speakers include: Mark Fenton, national expert in public health, planning and transportation; David Lipsetz, Housing Assistance Council; Anthony Walters, National American Indian Housing Council; Brian Whitacre, Oklahoma State University; Brian Christenberry, Indiana Electric Cooperatives; Andrew Howard, Team Better Block; and Nancy LeaMond, AARP.

**Day 2** of the livestream event will feature presentations related to transportation, disasters and weather, how to engage federal and philanthropic partners – and much more. Featured speakers include: Cathy Glover, USDA; Jeremiah Christopher, FEMA; Laura Lee, Maine Community Foundation; Lamonte Guillory, LOR Foundation; Lynn Haglin, Northland Foundation; and former Meridian, MS Mayor John Robert Smith, Transportation for America.

Active participation by online attendees is encouraged. [REGISTER TODAY!](#) Please download PollEverywhere in advance, and engage in the conversation on Twitter using @AARPLivable and #AARPRural before and during the event.



The workshop is part of a collaboration between the AARP and **WV Forward**. WV Forward is a statewide collaboration led by West Virginia University, the West Virginia Department of Commerce and Marshall University to help grow the economy by adding jobs, investing in education and improving health and wellness to create the most prosperous West Virginia possible.

## SCIENCE-U @home Offers Summer Activities for Kids and Libraries

**SCIENCE-U @home** offers hands-on experiences for the backyard and beyond which inspire kids with easy-to-follow, fun experiments.

**SCIENCE-U @home** is designed for students in K and up, guiding the young scientists each step of the way. It can be used at home, in school, or in libraries.

- **Video:** Watch the video to learn more about the experiment. (Most videos reveal the experiment results, so you may want to watch it first without your child. Watch it together after performing the experiment.)
- **You Will Need:** A complete list of items you will need to accomplish this experiment is provided. A few experiments may require shopping or ordering items online, so you may need to plan ahead.
- **Directions:** Step-by-step directions for you to guide your child through each step of the experiment. Let them lead the way!
- **Discovery Questions:** Ask your child the discovery questions as you work through the experiment. The answers are provided, but encourage your child to think it through before giving them the explanation.
- **How it Works:** The science behind each experiment is fully explained.
- **Kid-friendly:** definitions for terms used in the experiment that might be unfamiliar.

**SCIENCE-U @home** is a promotion from West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Visit the the [Science U @home](#) website to learn more.



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

	View Upcoming & Archived Webinars <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> 
	View Upcoming Webinars & Training <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> 

## SELA Presents Webinars for Public Libraries

### Summer Reading Program Ideas

Webinar – Tuesday June 11, 2019

2:00-3:00 pm EST

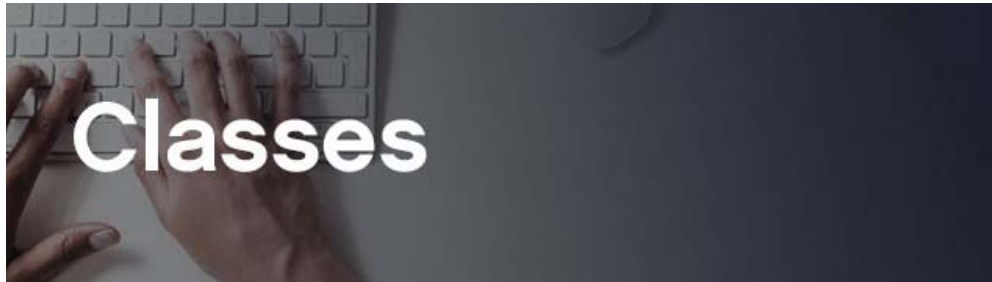


Do you want to tweak or redesign your summer reading program for 2020? It's never too early to start planning. Summer reading programs can be so much more than getting a small plastic prize for fudging a reading record. Explore developmental and learning goals by age group. Learn about options



to expand your summer reading program with program series, community partnerships, experience-based prizes and more. Hear about successes and challenges at two libraries, one large and one small.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2VEOAr6>



## June Classes Spotlight:

### [Collecting Social Media](#)

Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET

In this webinar participants will learn about various aspects of starting a social media archiving project or program. We will explore community resources and discuss a variety of topics like technology and types of social media archiving, collection development and policy considerations, and description. The instructor will cover specific tools such as Archive-It, twarc, and webrecorder. Some prior knowledge of web archiving may be helpful, but is not required.

## Online Classes:

[Community-Supported Software Today](#) - 6/5

[Digitization for Small Institutions](#) (Multi-Session Event) - 6/12 and 6/13

[Collecting Social Media](#) - 6/18

[Crowdsourcing for Digital Collections](#) - 6/25

[Digital Curation Workflow and Tools](#) - 6/27

[Negotiation for Librarians](#) - 6/27

[Introduction to Copyright for Digitization](#) - 7/10

## Free Demos and Info Sessions:

[CollectionSpace Webinar](#) - 6/7

[Community Recovery Through Arts and Culture](#) - 6/10

[LYRASIS Trending Topics - New Tools for Digital Preservation Assessment and Training](#) - 6/19

[CollectionSpace Webinar](#) - 6/28



### Highlighted Content from WebJunction

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

- [New Tools for Getting Beyond the Survey to Discover Your Community Needs](#): The most common approach to assessing community needs is to conduct a survey. Surveys have their strengths; they cast a wide net, get distributed electronically or on paper, and collect quantitative data that can be filtered and parsed. However, surveys are not necessarily the best tool to reveal the heart and aspirations of the community. The biggest drawback is that they are impersonal. Community discovery is not intended to arrive at a statistically significant, quantifiable representation of your community. It is a process to build connection and conversation between the library and community members. Explore this article about tools for getting beyond the survey.
- [Crowdsourcing Alternatives to "There Are No Stupid Questions"](#): Libraries are a place for finding answers, but first come the questions. Whether working at the reference desk or teaching a class, you've likely had more than a handful of patrons approach you to say, "I have a stupid question." One librarian took to Twitter to find out how people respond to this statement and gathered some great suggestions.

### Upcoming Webinars

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

#### **Getting to the Heart of the Community Through Discovery**

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here](#).

Community discovery is a process of forging vital and ongoing connection between the library and its community members. The more people are involved in planning and programming, the more they are invested in the success of the library. While many libraries collect community input primarily through surveys, there are other, more interactive and interpersonal tools that can uncover the heart and aspirations of the community. Explore tools and strategies that start meaningful conversations and foster collaborative engagement on everything from strategic and space planning to programming. Learn how you can join your library and your community at the heart.

Presented by: **Betha Gutsche**, WebJunction Programs Manager, OCLC

Events · WebJunction Events Calendar

## WebJunction Events Calendar

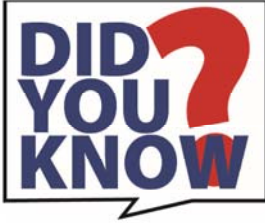
To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to: [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



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 >>](#)

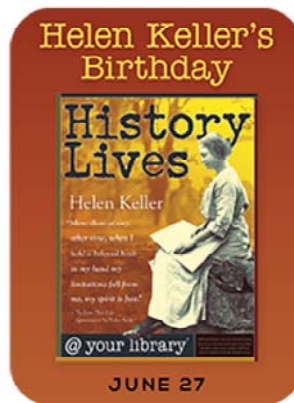
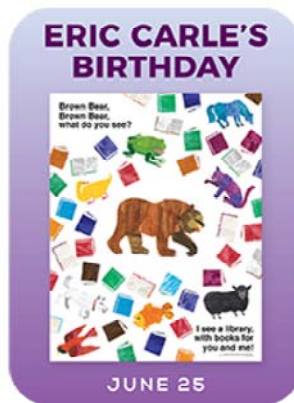
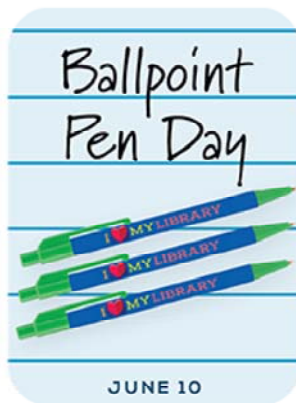


The Helvetia Public Library opened as an "outpost" library in 1984 for the residents of the Middle Fork District in Randolph County. Built to blend in with the rustic aesthetics of the little Swiss village, the library is located in Helvetia's "Historic Square" which also houses a museum, a log school, and a gazebo. The Helvetia Public Library serves 3,600 residents in Randolph County.

## Mark Your Calendar!



<b>June:</b>	GLBT Book Month
<b>June 5:</b>	World Environment Day
<b>June 8:</b>	Ball Point Pen Day
<b>June 20:</b>	West Virginia Day
<b>June 21:</b>	Summer Solstice
<b>June 25:</b>	Eric Carle's Birthday
<b>June 27:</b>	Helen Keller's Birthday
<b>June 30:</b>	Social Media 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**

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