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West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

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Library Lookout is in transition. The first change is from a monthly to a bi-monthly publication schedule. Another change is a new focus on West Virginia books and authors. Thanks to Phyllis Moore, an expert in the field, this issue includes the first of a continuing series of interesting facts about Mountain State authors. It also includes a review of **Don't Tell 'em You're Cold: A Memoir of Poverty and Resilience** (Mountain State Press, 2019) by West Virginia author Katherine P. Manley. Other regular features are being planned.

The 2020 Legislative Session begins January 8. **Library Appreciation Day** is February 10. Plan on coming and showing Legislators all about the services and needs of the libraries in their districts. And don't forget to tell them how many people in the district have library cards.

Librarian of the Year and **Library Champion Awards** will also be presented on February 10. If you haven't already submitted a nomination, look for the award information and application link in this issue. The deadline for submission is **January 15**. You still have plenty of time.

The **Library Commission** submitted two FY 2021 budget improvement requests for the legislators' consideration.

The first one is a repeat from last year; a \$10 million non-recurring appropriation to the **Library Facilities Improvement Fund**. The \$10 million would be used to provide matching grants for the design, improvement, expansion, or replacement of facilities. The matching requirement emphasizes that this investment in library buildings is not a handout but, like all library funding, a partnership.

The second Improvement request is to increase funding for libraries by enabling the Library Commission to establish **Library Incentive Grants**. These grants would help libraries at-risk, strengthen partnerships among libraries, and support libraries providing or developing innovative programs.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

ALA Graphics for the 2020 Census



The American Library Association (ALA) created several graphics that libraries may use to promote the Census on its websites, social media, or print displays. The organization also has a newsletter to help keep libraries up-to-date on emerging information.

[Subscribe here.](#)

Downloadable Graphics:

- #CountOnLibraries Version [1 \(jpg\)](#)
 - #CountOnLibraries Version [2 \(jpg\)](#)
 - Because Librarians Believe Everyone Counts [\(jpg\)](#)
 - Because Good Decisions Depend on Good Data [\(jpg\)](#)
 - Census Map [\(jpg\)](#)
-

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WVInfoDepot.org Password Change

In an effort to make passwords more security and less likely to be hacked, EBSCO changed its security protocols. The new password for those resources is virginia20! The 0 is a zero. The password will be changed again on or before December 1, 2020.

Train the Trainer Program

YALSA's Transforming Teen Services: Training the Trainer program (Memphis cohort) met on October 30. Lisa Hechesky (Youth Services Consultant, Library Commission) and Denise Norris (Youth Services Librarian, So. Charleston Public Library) attended the 2 1/2 day learning about community building, identity and equity, connected learning, and computational thinking for teens. Lisa and Denise brought back what was learned and are eager to share with library staff. Training sessions will be announced as it is finalized.

Test Libraries Needed for Updated Salary Survey

Thanks to all the feedback on the set-up of the past salary survey, it was redesigned. Now, the agency is looking for 5 public libraries that are willing to test the beta version. Interested libraries should contact [Heather Campbell-Shock](#) for details.

Welcome to the Library Commission!

Two new staff members have joined the Library Commission Team. Diana Neal is the newest staff member of the Special Services Division. Diana has spent most of her life involved with books. She comes to the agency after ten years at Fayette County Public Libraries.

Gena Chattin is the newest member of the Library & Development Services Division. Originally from Kentucky, Gena received her Master in Library Science from the Catholic University of America. Gena was previously a Photo Archivist for the Office of Creative Services at Tulane University.

Nominations for 2020 WVLC Awards Are Now Open

Nominations are open for the Library Commission's **Librarian of the Year** and **Librarian Champions** awards.



Librarian of the Year will honor a single employee of a Public Library for his or her contributions to the library community in 2019. To be considered for this award, the nominee must be a current employee of a West Virginia Public Library. Nominations are not limited to library directors!

The **Library Champions** award is designed to recognize individuals, such as Trustees, local officials, volunteers, and patrons, who have made exceptional contributions to Public Libraries in West Virginia in the past year. Up to 5 nominees will be selected to receive the award. Employees of libraries and current state and federal



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Nomination forms for both Librarian of the Year and Library Champions are available [here](#). Please be complete and thorough when completing the nomination narrative.

Winners will be determined solely on the narrative you provide.

Consider your nominations carefully and help us recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to public libraries in the past year.

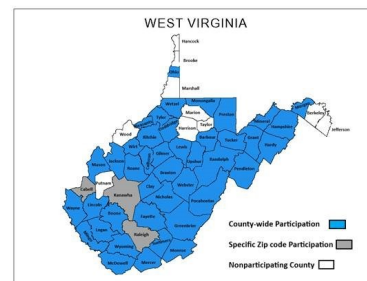
Imagination Library is in 45 WV Counties

Forty-five counties in West Virginia are participating in some capacity with Imagination Library. Here are some latest statistics:

- About 27,350 children are being served across the state.
- 35/45 counties have enrollment over 50% of their eligible population.

To help spread the work, two new PSAs have been created and are available for use in your library:

- [PSA - Informational](#)
- [PSA - Sponsorship](#)



- **Mountaintop Public Library:** Debbie Williams is the Interim Director
- **Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library:** Job opening for a Youth Service Manager
- **Summersville Public Library:** Marjorie Ferguson is the new Director
- **West Virginia Library Association:**
 - Library Appreciation Day is February 10 at the Capitol Complex.
 - The Association is accepting [proposals](#) for its Spring Fling Conference on April 2-3.

News From Around the State

Potomac State College Library Relaunches Online Newspaper Site

The Potomac State College Library digitized and made available several local newspapers. Access is through WVInfoDepot.org West Virginia Resources or the Library's homepage at <http://psc.lib.wvu.edu>. Click the button for *West Virginia Newspapers*. The website is free to use and features fully searchable copies of the *Mineral Daily News-Tribune* all the way back to 1911. You will also find Potomac State's own newspaper, *The Pasquino*, from 1921 to 2014. And thanks to generous donors like PSC Alumnus Carl Dennison "Denny" Avers, this online collection has been expanded to include every preserved issue of *The Elk Garden News*, *The Frankfort Beacon*, and *The Piedmont Herald*, dating all the way back to the 1880s.

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region. With the cooperation of public libraries in Grant, Hampshire, and Hardy counties, we are hoping to digitize all the newspapers of record this side of the Eastern Panhandle which are currently in the public domain (1923 or older).

Create and Donate Program at Sutton Public Library



The *Create and Donate* program at the Sutton Public Library allows community quilters to make small quilts for preschoolers to use during nap time. With the help of 25 individuals who donated fabric and other supplies, sewed, and quilted, 30 quilts were crafted. Ten quilts for each pre-K class went to Sutton and Little Birch Elementary Schools. Additional quilts for the other elementary schools are in the creation process and will be distributed once finished. The quilts are for students who may not have one available.

Members of the *Create and Donate* program had a great time creating these quilts. A wide range of quilters participated, from those who have never sewn a quilt before to experienced quilters. Some take fabric home to work on while others enjoy time quilting together at the library. All learned new quilting patterns as well as how to make other useful items like bowl cozies, zipper bags, and small snap bags.

The Group is very grateful to all those who have helped, donated, and provided support. Anyone is welcome to stop by the library on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and help with this project. *Create and Donate* meets year-round and will continue making quilts and other small projects. All sewing machines, cutting, and quilting supplies are provided. Just stop by the library and join the fun of creating and sharing.

Submitted by Connie Skidmore, Director, Sutton Public Library



JOIN
and
ADD
to the DISCUSSION!

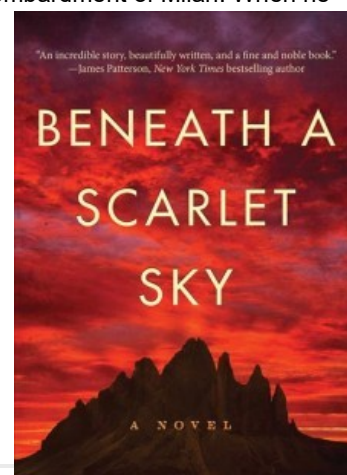
**WVLC Book
Discussion
GROUP**

draft and thus be spared a one-way ticket to the Russian front. As the months go by, Pino turns up, Zelig-like, to witness every significant element of wartime life. He leads Jewish refugees across the dangerously snowy alps to the Swiss border, confronts local bandits masquerading as members of the anti-Fascist resistance, watches as people are loaded into boxcars destined for Auschwitz, overhears what could be talk of the German generals' plot to overthrow Hitler, finds girls and wine for American army officers, and so on. Facing few obstacles he can't overcome, the heroic Pino

Featured Book of the Month!

Beneath the Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

In 1943, 17-year-old Pino Lella's parents send him to the mountains to escape the bombardment of Milan. When he returns home on the eve of his 18th birthday, his parents urge him to join the German army to avoid the



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Contact Library & Development Services to request this book for your book group at 304-558-2041 or at Susan.P.Bailey@wv.gov.



Author Trivia

Which prolific West Virginia author is noted for winning a Newbery Honor and for dancing with an English prince?

Scroll to the bottom of the newsletter for the answer.

Book Review

***Don't Tell 'em You're Cold: A Memoir of Poverty and Resilience* by Katherine P. Manley**

Many times while growing up, Kathy Manley experienced the shame of poverty. Shame that kept her from inviting friends to the family's shabby house filled with dumpster-salvaged furniture. Shame when a teacher took up a collection from classmates so Kathy could attend a football game. The real shame is that our country's social safety net is so inadequate her family often lacked sufficient food. *Don't Tell 'em You're Cold* (Mountain State Press, 2019) is a powerful memoir of growing up in southern West Virginia, one that is painful to read, and at the same time, illustrates the determination of its author to transcend poverty. Manley has an irrepressible belief that one day life would get better and the will to make it happen. This memoir was a semi-finalist in the William Faulkner Writing Competition, an honor well-deserved.

Manley's story reads much like Jeannette Walls' *Glass Castle*, yet her family differs from Walls's in important ways. Manley's father lost one of his legs when he was sixteen. One of Kathy's earliest memories is helping him scavenge through a garbage dump for a piece of wood suitable for a new peg leg. That is not his only injury. When he worked for a coal operation loading dynamite, an explosion destroyed part of his left hand. Despite these injuries, her father works whatever odd jobs he can find to take care of his family.

Anecdotes about Kathy's superstitious mother introduce humor early in the memoir. During a lightning storm, her mother frantically begs Kathy to help remove the bobby pins from her hair before lightning strikes her. Afterward, the naive child marvels that she has never considered how bobby pins could transform a human into a lightning rod. When Kathy is a young teen, her mother abandons the family, unable to endure the poverty any longer. While Kathy refrains from condemning her mother, it is difficult for a reader not to.

Despite her impoverished background, Kathy succeeds in school. She develops strength in ways her mother could not: "Running from poverty had driven me to work hard, to seek a higher education, and to take all the extra jobs I could to make sure that my family and I would never experience that painful life again." She also finds comfort from God and the belief that "things would get better."

Obviously things did get better. The author earned degrees from Marshall University and West Virginia University. A National Board Certified Teacher, she has been an educator in Logan County Schools for over thirty-five years. Her writing has been featured in *Hamilton Stone Review*, *Traditions: A Journal of West Virginia Folk Culture and Education Awareness*, and the *Guyandot Observer*.

Long after reading this memoir, a question Kathy Manley raises will echo in my mind: "How could all men be created equal, when some people had food and some people didn't?" If only no family, no child, ever had to ask this question.

Reviewed by Donna Meredith

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

[Click to View](#) the Continuing Education Calendar



WebJunction Webinars for You

The following upcoming webinars are open for registration. If you can't attend a live session, all WebJunction webinars are recorded and available for free in the [Course Catalog](#).

Responding to All: Managing Relationships with Key Constituencies

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 ♦ 3:00 pm Eastern / 12:00 pm Pacific ♦ 60 minutes

Registration: <https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/responding-to-all-managing-relationships.html>

Do you know an amazing library director who stumbled into trouble unexpectedly? Are you one? Every library director seeks to be responsible and successful, but sometimes things go wrong. Understanding concepts for responsible leadership and strategies for fostering key relationships will boost your effectiveness and impact as a director, whether you are new to the position or have been around the block a few times. You will identify key relationships that need to be managed well—your governing authority, your staff, your community, your profession, and last but not least, yourself. Embracing these relationships and working out a checklist of behaviors and communications for each audience will lead to more balance in your work. You'll leave this webinar inspired by big ideas and motivated by practical steps that will refine your practice as a successful library leader.

Events · WebJunction Events Calendar

WebJunction Events Calendar

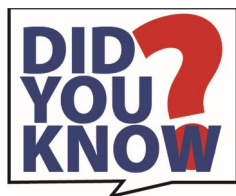
To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to: [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



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 »](#)

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Work began in late 1972 to establish a library in Monroe County. After 4 years of negotiations between the city, the county, and the West Virginia Library Commission, the Peterstown Public Library opened its doors in January 1977. The new Instant Library was built adjacent to Peterstown Elementary and High School, and a library addition was opened 8 years later. A

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6,000 residents in Monroe County.

Mark Your Calendar!



December:

- December 21 - Winter Solstice
- December 24 & 25 - Library Commission Offices Closed

January:

- National Mentoring Month
- January 1 - Library Commission Offices Closed
- January 2 - National Sci-Fi Day
- January 15 - Wikipedia Day
- January 16 - Appreciate a Dragon Day
- January 19 - National Popcorn Day
- January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 28 - [Data Privacy Day](#)

Author Trivia Answer: Julia Davis of Clarksburg

[Click here](#) to learn more about Julia Davis and other West Virginia Women Authors.



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Karen E. Goff
Executive Secretary

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