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## West Virginia Libraries 1999 Vol.52 No.2

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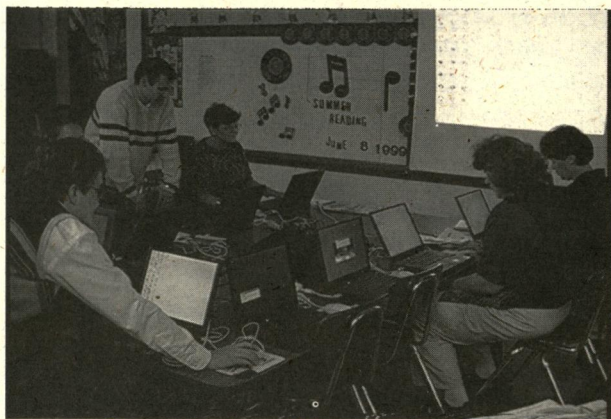
## LIBRARIES

Vol. 52 No.2

SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS

June, 1999

## Salt Rock Public Library in Cabell County Receives First Gates Computers For Public Libraries in West Virginia.



Salt Rock Public Library staff uses a portable laptop lab to receive training from Gates technicians. Gates computer installations will continue in West Virginia until the end of the summer.

The Salt Rock Public Library in Cabell County was the first library in West Virginia to receive the installation of computers and training that is a part of a \$5 million grant from the Gates Library Foundation. Technicians from the Gates Center For Technology Access arrived at the Salt Rock Public Library at 9:00 A.M. Thursday, April 15 for installation and training. Librarians were trained to teach the public basic functions and Internet access.

The Gates Library Foundation was formed in June 1997, with a commitment of \$200 million to purchase computers for public library patrons and provide technical training and support for library staffs in low-income communities.

The West Virginia Library Commission was one of six "Statewide Library Partnership" grant awards announced in February 1998. The Library Commission received the second largest amount granted in the U.S. Richard Akeroyd, Library Programs Director for the Foundation said, "West Virginia libraries are blessed with a lot of state support for technology in libraries."

The Statewide Library Partnership grant also includes technical support and networking support which brings the total grant award to over \$5 million

Judy Rule, Director of the Cabell County Public Libraries said, "We are pleased that Cabell County is receiving the first computers from the Gates Library Foundation grant. They will double the access to the Internet and we are looking forward to serving the people of Cabell County."

### Announcing Bridgeport Library's new Web site of West Virginia Writing [www.mountainlit.com](http://www.mountainlit.com)

National Library Week, with its theme "Connect @ at the Library" was an appropriate time for the Bridgeport Library to unveil its brand-new MountainLit Web site, a project under construction by library staff for almost a year. Designed to spread the good news about West Virginia writing, it can be accessed through its Internet address of [www.mountainlit.com](http://www.mountainlit.com). As its says in the opener, "its purpose is to serve as a vehicle for the collection and dissemination of information about past and present West Virginia authors and their writing." This is a project long overdue. Up until now there has been no easily accessible resource that lists writing by our state's authors. The Web site is a work-in-progress designed for teachers, scholars, librarians, students, and readers.

Phyllis Wilson Moore, a Clarksburg resident who is recognized state-wide as an expert on West Virginia literature, is serving as the project's consultant. According to Anna Smucker, the library's youth services librarian, Phyllis is much more than that, "The library has provided the scaffolding but Phyllis has provided the bricks and mortar." Moore's article, "Yes, We have Authors: Reclaiming our multi-cultural Literary History; A Brief Overview of Selected Genres and Authors" provides the reader with a wealth of information about West Virginia's literary history. The Web site sections titled "Honors and Awards," "References," and the links section are part of Moore's on-going project to record and publicize West Virginia writing.

The site's "Children's Literature" section should be an invaluable resource for teachers and students looking for West Virginia authors of children's literature, children's books set in West Virginia, and selected books of West Virginia folklore. Several of the sections include photos of selected authors. The library plans to expand the site as time and money permit.

### WVLC Collection Development Task Force Meets

The West Virginia Library Commission recently sent out a request for volunteers to participate in collection development. The following librarians will serve:

Linda Hedding, South Charleston Public Library  
Karen Hiser, Keyser-Mineral County Public Library  
Myra Lowe, WVU Libraries  
Suzette Lowe, Roane County Public Library  
Linda Miller, Kanawha County Public Library  
Jeanette Martin, Marion County Public Library  
Mary Lou Pratt, Cabell County Public Library  
Lindsay Roseberry, Parkersburg-Wood County Public Library  
Sharon Saye, Bridgeport Public Library  
Amy Kastigar, Ohio County Public Library

West Virginia Library Commission staff members serving:  
Karen Goff, Library Services  
Mary Hogue, Library Services  
Jennifer Soule, Library Development

The task force met on April 20 when discussion centered around issues of quality, difficulties with weeding, how to determine which libraries are the strongest in what areas, and what can be done to add value to collections all across West Virginia.. The possibility of having a Collection Development Conference in the spring or fall of 2000 is under consideration.



## President's Column

Betty Gunnoe

I think everyone who attended Spring Fling will agree that Suzette Lowe and the Children's Roundtable did an excellent job with the conference. A lot of work goes into those two days and everyone who participated should be very proud of what they accomplished.

The annual American Library Association Legislative Day will be held May 3-4 in Washington, D.C. I plan on attending and will report back in the next newsletter. This year, I am happy to say, we can let Senator Rockefeller know that the libraries in West Virginia are finally seeing refunds/discounts as a result of his amendment to the Telecommunications Act.

I know that Fall conference is still some months away but anyone who has any programs they would like to see included in the conference this year should let me know *as soon as possible*. I would like to put the program together in July so that we have ample time to advertise it and hopefully, include it in the conference registration packets. Please FAX (**do not email**) your ideas to me at 304-267-9720. You can reach me at the Martinsburg Public Library (304-267-8933) or e-mail ([gunnoeb@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:gunnoeb@martin.lib.wv.us)). I look forward to hearing from you all.

The Board was approached by the Virginia Library Association about advertising their Fall Conference on our Web site. The Board agreed that it would be good to invite members of the Maryland Library Association, Pennsylvania Library Association and the District of Columbia Library Association to attend since we are within an hour's drive for a lot of those libraries. Hopefully, this will be a chance to not only network with our fellow librarians from West Virginia, but also the neighboring states.

### Page After Page

WV Children's Stories and Authors  
from the Twin City/Valley Press Putnam Edition

The Museum in the Community invites you to experience the pride and cultural heritage of West Virginia told through stories to stimulate your readers and writers. Fascinating tales displayed through visual representation of scenes from West Virginia's most well known authors opening April 27 through July 4. The Museum will host a special exhibit opening for children and their families on Tuesday, April 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visitors will also enjoy children's readings by Ann Taylor Saville of Taylor Books in Charleston from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

This exhibit will expose children and adults to authors from the Mountain State such as Cynthia Rylant, Anna Egan Smucker, Marc Harshman, and Robyn Eversole. With a hands on approach, eleven components comprise Page After Page consisting of scenes from the books recreated inside the museum, instructions and items to write and illustrate a story of your own, and hundreds of words on magnetic strips to invite visitors to create their own poetry. Join the adventure of "The Magic House" by Robyn Eversole and see a staircase of "When I Was Young in the Mountains" by Cynthia Rylant. Open the doors that preview "Only One" by Marc Harshman. Come and see the mountain cabin and dress up in clothing from "Rocks in my Pocket" also by Marc Harshman.

Not only is this exhibit a learning experience for young and old alike, it would make a great field trip. Take a step into the world of W. Va. literature with us.

Museum in the Community is located in Valley Park, approximately 2.5 miles east of Hurricane, on State Route 34. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. The admission for the exhibit is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students. For more information, please call 562-0484.

### West Virginia Environmental Newsletters: A Must in Your Library

Every public and academic library should subscribe to at least one of these newsletters. They balance the full-page ads and newspaper inserts published by corporations to promote their products and practices. They provide in-depth coverage of issues that are complex, topical and significant to most state residents. And they are ongoing testaments to the power of ordinary citizens to join together to influence the powers that be for the benefit of future generations.

#### The Highlands Voice

Published by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. "Formed in 1967 to preserve the natural beauty of the West Virginia highlands, the Conservancy is the state's oldest environmental advocacy organization." Monthly subscription prices are: Individual \$15.00, Family \$25.00, Organization \$50.00. Mail subscription to: WVHC, P O Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321. Web address: [www.wvhighlands.org](http://www.wvhighlands.org)

#### "E"-Notes

The newsletter of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. "A group of people dedicated to preserving our natural heritage. All of us benefit from preserving majestic mountains, native forests, pure streams, and clean air...the members of OVEC are conservatives in the truest sense of the word." Bimonthly subscription prices are sliding scale \$10.00-\$30.00, pay what you can afford. Mail subscription to: OVEC, P O Box 6753, Huntington, WV 25773-6753. Web address: [www.ohvec.org](http://www.ohvec.org)

Information provided by Peggy Turnbull, Librarian, Archivist at Bluefield State College and the Social Responsibilities Roundtable of WVLA.



## WVLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Thirteen members of the executive board of the West Virginia Library Association met at Blackwater Falls State Park on Friday March 19, 1999 at 9:30 A.M.

### The following motions were passed:

- approval of the minutes of the last meeting
- approval of payment of checks #5739-5789
- referral to Constitution and By-Laws of the question of how the Association should handle chairs who cease to function before their terms end.
- The payment of \$100 to ALA to help sponsor Library Legislative Day
- a change in the dates of Fall Conference 2000 to November 1-4
- acceptance of the budget as proposed
- permission for the Virginia Library Association to advertise their Annual Conference on WVLA's Web site as long as the date does not conflict with WVLA's fall conference.

### In addition, members heard reports from:

- The Membership Chair
- Division Chairs
- The Roundtable representative
- ALA Councilor
- Federal Relations Coordinator
- SELA Representative
- WVLC Executive Secretary
- Committee Chairs

### Announcements included:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>April 12</b>    | Second public hearing on the Directions 2000 report (in Clarksburg) |
| <b>May 3 and 4</b> | ALA Library Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.                       |
| <b>May 7</b>       | Director's Roundtable meeting                                       |
| <b>June 4</b>      | WVLA Executive Board meeting at 10:00 A.M. at Pipestem State Park   |

A complete copy of the minutes can be found on the West Virginia Library Association's Web page. <http://wvnmvs.wvnet.edu/~wvla/>

### SELA calls for more members from West Virginia

Judy Rule, WVLA's representative to the Southeastern Library Association, has said that the organization needs a larger membership base from West Virginia. Judy encourages you to join the Southeastern Library Association. Visit their Web site at <http://www.seflin.org/sela/index.html>

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### West Virginia Libraries

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## 1999 - 2000 West Virginia Children's Book Award Selection

The books on this list are selected by the West Virginia Children's Book Award Committee for "literacy excellence and appropriateness of content." The latter factor has to do with whether or not readers of the age for which the book is recommended can be expected to have emotional maturity or experience to deal with the questions involved. The Master List is not intended to be an automatic recommendation because county selection policies vary greatly. Specific selection guidelines should be applied to each of the titles on the Master List.

RL means Reading Level

IL means Interest Level

Anderson, Margaret J, Children of Summer: Henri Fabre's Insects. Farrar/Foster, 1997. (IL 3-6, RL 4.8) Ten-year-old Paul assists his father, the famous entomologist, Jean Henri Fabre, as he uncovers secrets of insect behavior.

Bradley, Kimberly, Ruthie's Gift. Delacorte, 1998 (IL 3-6, RL 5.2) Eight-year-old Ruthie (an energetic tomboy) is surrounded by boys. She is the only person in the third grade at her small country school until a set of twin girls move to her town.

Bailey, Linda, What's a Daring Detective Like Me Doing in the Doghouse? Whitman, 1997 (IL 3-6, RL 3.5) Two young children become detectives and set out to capture a local prankster.

Borden, Louise, The Little Ships: The Heroic Rescue at Dunkirk in World War II. McElderry, 1997 (IL k-3, RL 3.5) What could a young British girl and her father do to help the Allied troops trapped by the Nazi's at Dunkirk, France during World War II? During the summer of 1940, they join a group of fishing boats and cross the English Channel to save the troops whose only hope for escape is the sea.

Cooper, Melrose, Life Magic. Holt, 1996. (IL 5-8, RL 3.5) Eleven-year-old Crystal discovers that it is difficult to be the middle of two gifted sisters, especially when you have just been recommended for Ms. Ross' remedial reading class.

Cooper, Susan, The Boggart and the Monster. McElderry, 1997. (IL 5-8 RL 6.6) Emily and her younger brother Jessup return to their ancestral castle to visit Mr. Maconchis, the owner of the castle. To their delight, they meet up with their friend, the boggart, a mischievous shape-shifting spirit.

Cowan, Catherine, My Life with the Wave. Lothrop, 1006 (IL 3-6, RL 3.8) After a trip to the seashore, a young boy brings home a stray ocean wave. He loves his wave, but its moods are quite unpredictable and cause an uproar in the family home.

DeFelice, Cynthia, Ghost of Fossil Glen. Farrar, 1998 (IL 3-6, RL 6.6) Allie Nicholas, a sixth grader with an active imagination, finds herself in trouble on the side of a steep cliff. The ghost of a murdered eleven-year-old girl talks her down the cliff side.

Duffey Betsy, Virtual Cody. Viking, 1007 (IL 3-6, RL 2.8) Cody Michael's hopes, dreams, and worries are all recorded in his computer "cyberjournal." When his third grade teacher assigns reports about the person for whom the students were named, Cody is sure he was named for the famous Buffalo Bill Cody.

Franklin, Kristine, Lone Wolf. Candlewick, 1997. (IL 5-8, RL 4.8) Perry has spent the past three years living in isolated woods with his father. They left their old lives behind and are getting used to a new life that includes just the two of them. Things begin to change when Willow and her large family move into a house nearby.

Horvath, Betty, Sir Galahad, Mr. Longfellow and Me. Antheneum, 1998. (IL 306, RL 6.7) Emily is a sixth grader who wants to leave her mark on Park School during her last year there. She starts the year without her best friend and a new teacher (a real hunk). Emily bragged that she wrote poetry and her teacher asked for a sample.

FKinsey-Warnock, Natalie, Sweet Memories Still. Cobblehill, 1997. (IL 3-6, RL 6.6) The illness of Shelby's grandmother causes her to miss her birthday party. Angry, she resents the time spent with her grandmother, especially when her grandmother gives Shelby an old-fashioned camera as a gift.

Mills, Claudia, Losers, Inc. Farrar, 1997. (IL 3-6, RL 4.2) Ethan has never been

an academic or athletic star like his brother. He feels like a loser, so he and his friend Juluis form a club called Losers, Inc. where they dwell on their bad luck.

Martin, Nora, The Eagle's Shadow. Scholastic, 1997. (IL 5-8, RL 4.2) Clarice, a twelve-year-old girl, is sent to live with her Indian grandmother in Alaska and learns about family, love, caring, and respect for many of the Indian ways.

Morpurgo, Michael, The Ghost of Grania O'Malley. Viking, 1996. (IL 3-6, RL 4.8) Jesse hopes the haunted Big Hill on Clare Island possesses magic, which will help her overcome her crippling disease. When she meets the ghost of pirate queen Grania O'Malley, she discovers a common goal - save Big Hill from a greedy prospector.

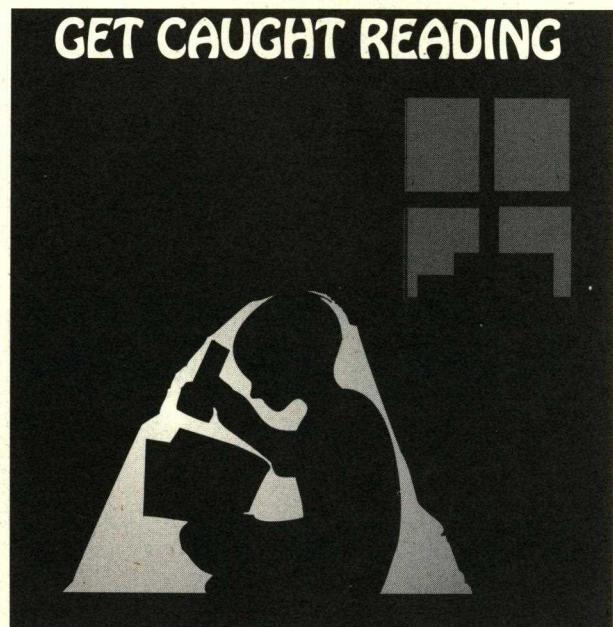
Pfitch, Patricia, Keeper of the Light. Simon, 1997 (IL 5-8, RL 4.8) Following the death of her light-keeper father in 1872, Faith takes over his job of operating the lighthouse that safeguards the perilous coast known as "The Graveyard." Faith is determined to become the next keeper of the light. But there is a new keeper hired for the job.

Pilkey, Dav, The Adventures of Captain Underpants: An Epic Novel. Blue Sky, 1997. (IL 3-6, RL 4.8) The only thing George and Harold enjoy more than playing practical jokes is creating their own comic book. When they cast Mr. Krupp, the school principal, as their latest comic book hero Captain Underpants, the laughs begin.

Schotter, Roni, Nothing Ever Happens on 90<sup>th</sup> Street. Orchard/Kroupa, 1997. (IL K-3, RL 3.9) Eva is an aspiring writer who lives on 90<sup>th</sup> Street, where nothing ever happens. When baby Joshua drops his ball, it triggers a chain of events, which eventually involves everyone in the neighborhood.

Winslow, Vicki, Follow the Leader. Delacorte, 1997. (IL 3-6, RL 4.2) Set in the early 1970s, Amanda envisions herself and her best friend Jackie as pioneers when their school district desegregates.

Woodruff, Elvira, The Orphan of Ellis Island: A Time-Travel Adventure. Scholastic, 1997. (IL 3-6, RL 5.5) Dominic Cantori is an orphan living with foster parents. When his fifth grade class visits Ellis Island, he doesn't want anyone to know that his family history is unknown to him.





## A Century of West Virginia Authors

Phyllis Wilson Moore, 1999©

This is the first of a two part listing of West Virginia Authors, the second will follow in the August issue of *Libraries*.

In 1998, seventy-one West Virginia authors' names were selected by the West Virginia Library Association for inclusion on a 1999 fund-raising afghan. The afghan features an outline of the state, the names of the authors and the title "A Century of West Virginia Authors."

At the request of the West Virginia Library Association consultant Phyllis Wilson Moore researched the authors on the afghan and presented spring programs at the Spring Conference. The Bridgeport Library sponsored the research. The afghan, suitable for a wall hanging, chair throw or blanket, may be purchased from the West Virginia Library Association.

Key: authors by name and/or pseudonym; location in West Virginia commonly associated with the author; title of at least one work, major genre's indicated; selected awards identified.

Adams, Gail Galloway, long-term resident of Morgantown. †988 Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction for her collection *The Purchase of Order*. Fiction and poetry.

Alderson, Althea Todd, born in Malden. *The Far Call*. Her best known poem, *The Spirit of Saint Louis*, was published in a Doubleday and Doran anthology (1930's). Short stories/poetry.

Ambler, Charles Henry, born in Ohio, spent much of his life in Morgantown as professor of history at WVU. Ambler has many history titles to his credit. West Virginia Stories and Biographies (1937) includes eleven pages devoted to the state's literature.

Anderson, Lorena, educator from Charleston. Co-editor of the *Handbook of Appalachian Materials*; author of *Listen My Children* and *You Shall Hear*. Fiction and nonfiction.

Anderson, Maggie, born in New York City, returned to West Virginia when she was a teen. A graduate of WVU, Anderson teaches creative writing at Kent State University. She edited *Hill Daughter* for (then) poet laureate Louise McNeill and is the author of four books of poetry; *A Space Filled with Moving* is most recent.

Allen Appel, Parkersburg. Writes time-travel novels as well as family oriented nonfiction: *Time after Time*; *From Father to Son: Wisdom for the Next Generation*.

Benedict, Pinckney, Lewisburg. Benedict taught in Virginia and is the author of *Town Smokes* (short story collection); *Dogs of God* (novel). In 1995 he won the newly established John Steinbeck Award. He also writes essays and book reviews.

Brand, Irene, Southside. Winner of numerous awards including West Virginia Writers, Inc.'s 1997 J.U.G. Award for just uncommonly good writing. Novels, biography, history, magazine articles, inspirational and religious materials.

Brooks, Maurice Graham, French Creek. Brooks wrote ecological articles for *The New York Times*, *The Journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science* and *Wild Wonderful West Virginia*. He was a graduate of WVU and taught there for many years. Brooks held honorary Doctor of Science degrees from five Appalachian universities. His most highly regarded text is *The Appalachians*. Nonfiction.

Brown, Drollene, St. Albans. *Belva Lockwood Wins Her Case*. Children's literature and scholarly articles.

Buck, Pearl, Hillsboro. Buck won the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize in Literature for her body of work; specifically cited were *The Good Earth*; *The Exile*; *Fighting Angel*. The later two show her family's West Virginia roots. Buck wrote in many genres and sometimes used the pseudonym John Sedges.

Byars, Betsy, ten year resident of Morgantown. Byars wrote here first Newbery winner *Summer of the Swan*, while living there and the Newbery Award video was filmed at her Morgantown home. *Goodbye, Chicken Little* and *After the Goat Man* also have West Virginia settings. Examples of awards: International Reading Association, Children's Choice, 1993; National Book Award, 1981; National Book Award Finalist, 1973; Newbery Medal, 1971.

Clarkson, Roy, Cass. *Tumult on the Mountain: Lumbering in West Virginia 1770-1920*. Clarkson earned a Ph.D. in Botany from WVU and was Assistant Professor of Biology there when this book was published. Historian.

Coberly, Lenore McComas, Hamlin. Coberly taught in Madison, Wisconsin. She was Senior Editor of Heartland Journal and the author of *Writers Have No Age: Creative Writing with Older Adults* and *Belonging* (poetry).

Cohen, Stan, Charleston. Cohen, a geologist and former historical museum director, lives in Montana. *The Civil War in West Virginia* is one of approximately 40 military books he authored or co-authored. Since 1976 his Pictorial Histories Publishing Company Inc. has published approximately 120 titles.

Coonts, Stephen, Buokhannon. Coonts lives in Maryland. His first novel *Flight of the Intruder*, a classic aviation story, quickly became a major motion picture. A WVU graduate, his first seven novels made the New York Times bestseller list. He also writes nonfiction; *The Cannibal Queen* recounts his flight across America in a vintage biplane.

Cometti, Elizabeth, Morgantown. *Swiss Immigration to West Virginia 1864-1884: A Case Study*. Co-editor of the *Thirty-Fifth State: A Documentary History of West Virginia*. Historian.

Comstock, Jim, Richwood. Comstock promoted the state and its authors through his newspaper West Virginia Hillbilly. He is perhaps best remembered for his 51 volume *West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia*. Fiction and nonfiction.

Corbin, David, southern West Virginia. *Life Work and Rebellion in the Coal Fields: The Southern West Virginia Miners, 1880-1922*. Historian.

Currey, Richard, Parkersburg. *Fatal Light* (novel); *Crossing Over* (poetry); *Wars of Heaven* (short story collection). The title story from *Wars of Heaven* is included in the 1998 O. Henry Award Prize Story Collection. *A Physician's Assistant*, Currey writes essays related to medical ethics and medical care.

Davis, Julia, Charles Town and Clarksburg. The state's first and second Newbery Honor winner for *Vanio: A Boy of New Finland* and *Mountains are Free*. Children's literature, essays, plays, biographies, novels, poetry and nonfiction. She also published using her married name., Julia Adams and for mysteries the pseudonym F. Draco.

Dayton, Ruth Wood, Philippi and Lewisburg. *Lewisburg Landmarks*. Dayton established the Lewisburg Daywood Art Gallery, part of the Huntington Galleries and is a noted historian.

Douglas, John, Martinsburg. Haunts. Writes mysteries and is the new editor of the Morgan Messenger.

Grubb, Davis, Moundsville and Clarksburg. His novels *Night of the Hunter* and *Fool's Parade* are major films. Many of his short stories are adapted for television. Grubb was a finalist for the 1955 National Book Award.

Giardina, Denise, Black Wolf. Giardina holds major Appalachian awards for two novels depicting life in the coal fields: *The Unquiet Earth*; *Storming Heaven*. She is the author of two novels set outside of West Virginia: *Good King Harry*; *Saints and Villains*.

Harmon, Roy Lee, Boone County. Roses in December. Harmon served as Poet Laureate for four Governors and was a long-term member of the state's legislature. He was an editor in Beckley, and a TV host in Oak Hill during the 50's.

Harvey, Vera Andrew, Huntington. *Touching the Stars* (poetry). Harvey, the state's first woman Poet Laureate, was also a playwright. Her play, *"Tourists---Rooms and Bath"* won the West Virginia Review prize and was published in the July 1930 Review. Harvey taught at Marshall from 1916-1922.

Harshman, Cheryl Ryan. Cheryl, born in Ohio, is a long-term resident of Moundsville. *Sally Arnold* is her first children's book and is published using the name Cheryl Ryan. She is a librarian and a noted West Virginia storyteller.



## Spring Fling at Flatwoods

The West Virginia Library Association's spring conference, commonly known as Spring Fling, was held at the Days Inn Conference Center in Flatwoods on March 11 and 12, 1999. This year's conference offered a wide variety of sessions on a wide range of topics.

One of the important issues always facing libraries is funding. To get a stable source of funding is something all libraries would like to do. Because monetary support comes from tax dollars, and there might be a change in the method of taxing in West Virginia, Robin Capehart, Chairman of The Governor's Commission on Fair Taxation, held a session to explain the proposed changes, their effect, and their possible impact on libraries. This was a well-attended session with a question and answer format.

Other sessions on Thursday included those sponsored by the academic division of the WVLA. Because the association needs to include and address issues that affect all libraries, not only public, these were a welcome addition to Spring Fling. Dr. John Cuthbert from WVU demonstrated and discussed the local history/genealogy collection at West Virginia University. Monica Brooks from Marshall University led a session on Internet searching strategies. The Intellectual Freedom Roundtable sponsored a session on environmental issues with an emphasis on the Blackwater Canyon and the need for collection development in the area of the environment. Colleen Anderson, author of *One-Day Trips in West Virginia*, described the wonderful scenic places WV has to offer within reasonable driving distance. Phyllis Moore talked about "Authors on the Wall" giving details about the authors included on the wall hanging sold through WVLA. There were also sessions on the newest positions at the West Virginia Library Commission and ways to save money when making purchases, along with Gordon Simmon's annual review of West Virginia books. The Trustee division held meetings all day that covered a variety of issues. David Price, Director of the West Virginia Library Commission talked about the future direction of libraries.

At the end of the day Thursday, there was a lively and entertaining performances by Mountain Women, national story-telling champions from West Virginia. To cap off the day, master storyteller, Ilene Evans gave a beautifully orchestrated performance of singing and storytelling.

On Friday, the Children's Roundtable took charge. Sessions included a workshop by Ilene Evans on "Storybones" how to enhance storytelling in the local library. Ammed Solomon, a drummer who performs on Mountain Stage, demonstrated the use of rhythm and homemade instruments. Both Colleen Anderson and Phyllis Moore participated again, with the emphasis on children.

Cabell County Library organized the afternoon activities which included sharing of ideas for Rock 'n' Read, this years summer reading theme. Several libraries were represented and brought patterns, ideas and story themes to share.

With over 200 participants, this year's Spring Fling was well attended and quite a success.

Next year's Spring Fling is scheduled for April 6 and 7 at Flatwoods.



WVLA Public Libraries Division President Suzette Lowe looks over the large group of attendees for Friday's Children's Roundtable day at Spring Fling.

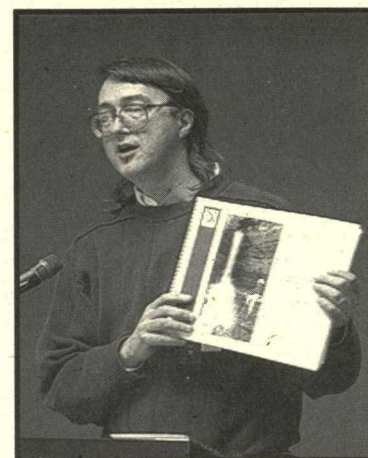




*Storyteller Ilene Evans lends passion and joy to her craft.*



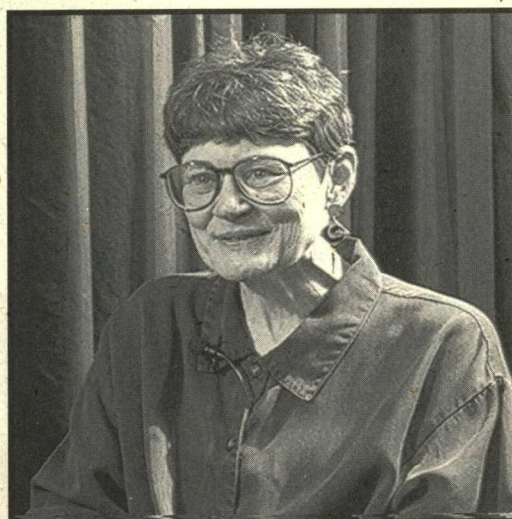
*Mountain women bring laughter to Spring Fling*



*Gordon Simmons enlightens us about the latest in West Virginia Literature*



*Hallie Lou Yuh the clown was a hit with everyone*



*Colleen Anderson discussed her book One Day Trips in West Virginia*



*Librarians line up to pick up Summer Reading Program materials*



*Ilene Evans turns a crowd of Spring Fling attendees into movers and shakers!*



## National Library Week and National Poetry Month Celebrated in the Mountain State



West Virginia Poet, Jordan reads in the Kanawha County Public Library during National Library Week.

Poetry collections in libraries across West Virginia got a workout in April as we celebrated National Poetry Month during April. Readings of poetry and performances by poets took place in libraries and Governor Cecil H. Underwood issued a proclamation declaring April as Poetry Month in the Mountain State. In addition, Governor Underwood was seen statewide as he issued the following statement in support of West Virginia libraries, "One of America's finest Poets, William Carlos Williams once remarked that poetry

may not proclaim the news of the day, but its message is

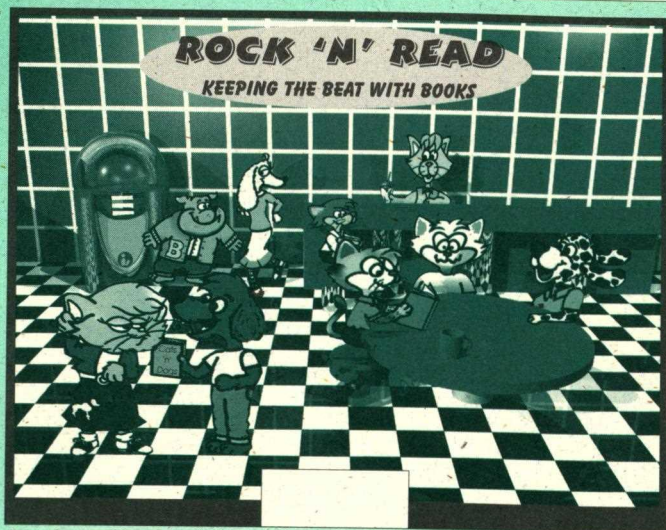
just as essential to our inner lives. The natural beauty and close knit culture of our state has inspired wonderful poetry. West Virginia's beauty is more than just natural. Our poets share the timeless beauty of words and ideas with the world."

WV Poet Laureate Irene McKinney's poem "Sunday Morning, 1950" was featured on a poster received in libraries statewide and she gave a reading in the reference room of the West Virginia Library Commission as National Poetry Month was celebrated in conjunction with National Library Week.



WV Poet Laureate Irene McKinney reads "Sunday Morning, 1950" during a reception at the WVLC

Governor Underwood, in support of National Library Week, said, "Libraries are an American value. Libraries give us access to a full spectrum of information and ideas that allows us to learn what we want, experience many points of view, and to make informed decisions.



Poster concept by Stacy Bond, 3-D enhancements by James R. White

### Recycle Your Summer Reading Program!

As you plan your Summer Reading Program, be sure you also plan ahead for Teen Read Week held October 17-23. The American Library Association has announced the theme for this year's program is "Reading Rocks!" Save any materials you don't use and recycle them for your fall teen program.

The ALA will be featuring a tipsheet at their Web site <http://www.ala.org/teenread/> for libraries with additional ideas and suggestions for promoting teen reading.



**Huntington's Adjoa J. Burrowes, illustrator and Sally Derby, author win *Childs magazine* Best Book of 1996.**

**The Power of Story**

A simple set of five front steps in the city is a child's whole universe, easily becoming playground, hideout, circus arena, school, and home. As the four seasons pass, the unnamed narrator sweeps away "all the dirt and bugs and the glass, if some got broken during the night," creating a clean slate, a canvas, a stage. She shovels snow, plants crumpled green paper bushes along cement-crack rivers in springtime, and splashes in the fire hydrant's summer spray. Her strong narration focuses on the tiny events that make up a day of make-believe. Derby keeps the text fairly general; *Burrowes*, using a cut-paper collage technique with watercolors, shows a brown-skinned girl in an inner-city environment, but this heroine could be any child and the steps, anywhere. Anyone who has played "pretend" with cracks in the sidewalk, held a tea party in the shade of a hanging blanket, or ridden a sawhorse to first place will understand the rules of Derby's steps, where each scene has the pleasing simplicity of Peter's world in Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day* (1962). (Picture book. 3-5) Review source: Kirkus Reviews.

Let's all congratulate Adjoa! It's great to have such talent in our state.

### New Dean of Libraries at West Virginia University

Frances O'Brien, from the University of Illinois began her duties as West Virginia University Dean of Libraries on June 16, 1999. Let's all welcome her to our great state and offer any assistance we can as she settles into her new position, and our library community.

Plan now to attend the 6th Annual Read Aloud West Virginia Conference on Saturday, September 25, 1999. The conference will be held at the Charleston Civic Center and will feature author Patricia Polacco.

#### Breakout sessions include:

Author Q&A with Patricia Polacco

West Virginia Children's Book Award Workshop with Susie McGinley and Lynn Pauley

History Alive! Literature Alive!

Young Adult Choices Award with Eva McGuire

The Illustrator's Role with West Virginia Illustrator Wendy Ackinson

Good Read Alouds: Fiction/Nonfiction - Old and New with Beth Musser and Cheryl Ryan Harshman

For more information contact Mary Kay Bond at (304) 342-7850

## Librarians Want A Hand in Their Fate, Group Says.

*From the April 17, 1999 Charleston Gazette*  
By Bob Schwartz, Staff Writer

Librarians want to be included in any discussion on what happens to the state's libraries, a leader of the state librarians' group told a recent library commission meeting.

"We think it should be the call of the local communities whether a library closes," said Suzette Lowe, who leads the public library arm of the West Virginia Library Association. "They have to make that decision, and they're the ones who have to decide whether they're willing to support a local library."

About 30 people, all librarians or people who sit on library boards, attended the meeting and a public hearing April 12 at the Clarksburg Public Library. The library commissioners have received a consultant's study "Directions 2000," which questions whether West Virginia has the money to keep all the libraries it has.

The consultant, Bill Wilson of Himmel & Wilson of Milton, Wis., suggests that the state might be better off with fewer but better libraries, and with as few as one governing board and one library director per county.

The public hearing was to hear comments on the report. It followed a previous hearing in Charleston.

Ready sources of money are critical not only for wages but for everything else a library does: from buying materials to hiring more librarians to staying open during the hours the public finds convenient, Lowe said.

Lowe is director of the Roane County Public Library, which gets about half its funding through an emergency services and library special levy. The levy permits the library, whose main building is in Spencer, to soon open a second branch in Left Hand. The county already has an eight-sided library in Walton.

People can review the consultant's study, "Directions 2000" at <http://www.wvlc.wvnet.edu>, and enter their comments on line. Comments go to Wilson, who will share them with the commissioners.

In other action at the Clarksburg meeting, librarians learned that lawmakers raised per capita library funding from \$3.81 to \$4.01 a year, a gain of \$360,000. Libraries also got \$1 million from the library for the second straight year, so that costs of linking into computer networks do not fall on local libraries.

*Editors note: The Directions 2000 Study was accepted by the West Virginia Library Commission at its May meeting and plans are underway for the policy making process which will involve librarians in implementation of certain recommendations from the study.*



*Library Advocacy Now!*

## Q & A: The Internet

American Library Association Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611  
 Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/4041 Fax: 312-944-8520  
 E-mail: pio@ala.org

Use these sample answers as a model for developing your own answers.

**Q: Why is it important to know how to use the Internet?**

More and more of the information we need for our daily lives is being made available online-information we need for our health, education, travel and other needs. Information that can help find a scholarship or a job. Most of us can't imagine how much information is available just by touching a keyboard. But only about 20 percent of American homes are connected to the Internet. Research shows that for people without computers at work, home or school, libraries are the number one point of access.

**Q. The American Library Association was the lead plaintiff in challenging the Communication Decency Act. Why do librarians protect pornography instead of children?**

Librarians protect children by protecting one of the most precious freedoms in a democratic society - the right to read, view and listen to materials that we choose for ourselves or our children. Librarians also guide and assist children in selecting the best materials for their needs, whether it's a good book or a good Web site.

**Q. What about filtering systems? I understand the American Library Association is opposed to them.**

Actually, the American Library Association believes they can be a useful tool for parents at home. It has not endorsed filtering in libraries because libraries are used by people of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs. We are concerned that Americans enjoy the same freedom of information online that they do in print. The Internet is a very new medium, and filtering software has not been perfected. *If this were an easy issue, it wouldn't have gone before the Supreme Court!*

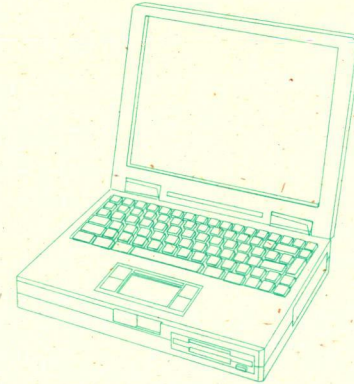
**Q. Some libraries have gone ahead and installed filters. Does your library use filtering to restrict children's access to the Internet?**

No. We have not had any problems at our library. The vast majority of children and adults use the library responsibly. Filtering systems are not a foolproof solution. Studies have shown that some material that is perfectly safe and useful may be blocked, such as information about sexual harassment, AIDS or even a Mars exploration site because it contains the letters SEX. On the other hand, it may not block all sites that someone might not want their child to see. There are just too many of them and they change too fast. The best way to protect children is for parents to supervise their children's Internet use and to teach them to make wise choices. Librarians are glad to help.

**Q. Won't computers and the Internet put libraries out of business?**

On the contrary, we'll need libraries more than ever. For many children and adults, libraries are the only place where they can go to use a

computer or surf the Internet. But libraries are much more than computers. They are centers for culture and literacy. They provide preschool storyhours and summer reading programs for children, talks by authors, films and other programs for teenagers, adults and seniors. And for many people, libraries are an oasis of calm in a stressful world - one where they can enjoy a good mystery or book of poetry. I can't imagine a world where we won't need that!



## Candidates for WVLA Offices

The following is a list of candidates for offices in the West Virginia Library Association. Other nominations may be submitted through July 5 by contacting Judy Duncan, Chair of the Nominating Committee at 304-722-4244

**1st Vice-President, President Elect**

Kathleen Bledsoe, Marshall University Special Collections Librarian  
 Huntington, WV

Dottie Thomas, Director of Ohio County Public Library,  
 Wheeling, WV

**2nd Vice-President**

Cheryl Harshman, Director, West Liberty College Library,  
 West Liberty, WV

Sharon Saye, Director, Bridgeport Public Library, Bridgeport, WV

**Secretary**

Linda Lindsey, Director, Richwood Public Library, Richwood, WV  
 Suzette Lowe, Director, Roane County Public Library, Spencer, WV

**Treasurer**

Denise Ash, Assistant Director, Alpha Regional Library,  
 Spencer, WV

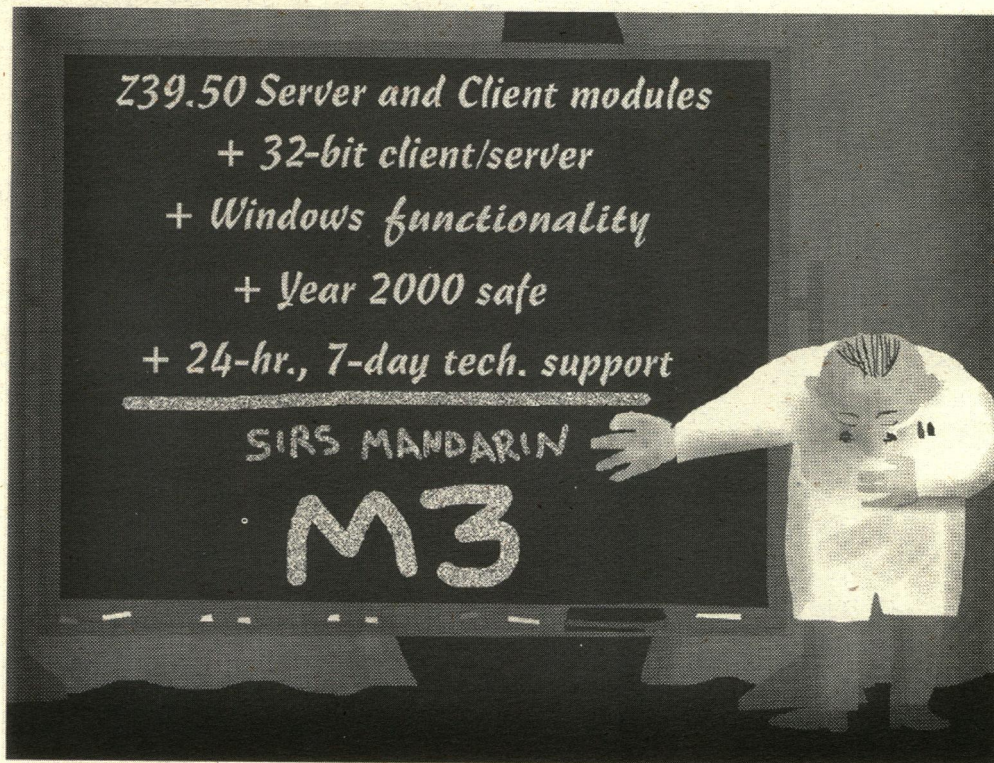
Robert Gay, Trustee, Elkin-Randolph Public Library, Elkins, WV

**ALA Councilor**

Joseph Barnes, Director, Shepherd College Library,  
 Shepherdstown, WV



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## Calendar

<b>May</b>	<b>Older Americans Month Get Caught Reading Month</b>
3 - 4	ALA Legislative Day - Washington, DC
7	Director's Table, Automation RT, ILL RT to meet at Bridgeport Library
10	Last day for reservations for Executive
17	Last day for Executive Board to receive nominations (20 weeks before conference)
<b>June</b>	<b>National Dairy Month (Got Books?) ☺</b>
4	WVLA Executive Board Meeting - Pipestem
26-29	ALA Annual Conference - New Orleans, LA
<b>July</b>	<b>Anti-Boredom Month (Bored? Read!)</b>
July 5	Last day to accept petition candidates (13 weeks before conference)

## Next Issue:

### Special Issue of WV Libraries will cover Himmel & Wilson Directions 2000 Study

The Executive Board of WVLA voted at its June meeting to devote an entire issue to the Himmel & Wilson Directions 2000 Study. This issue will be printed and delivered to all members in July.

## Membership Information

*To become a member of the West  
Virginia Library Association,  
contact:*

Dottie Thomas  
Ohio County Public Library  
52 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Wheeling, WV 26003-3696  
Phone 232-2044WVLA

## WV Libraries

### A Note from the Editors

*WV Libraries* welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees, and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail, or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3 1/2" disk and save your file to disk as an ASCII file and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

### Article Submission Schedule:

January 15 for February issue  
March 15 for April issue  
May 15 for June issue  
July 15 for August issue  
September 15 for October issue  
November 15 for December issue



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