

West Virginia Honors Children Who Celebrate Their Favorite Authors with “Letters About Literature”

In a ceremony in the State Culture Center on Wednesday, May 29, West Virginia showed its appreciation to a group of young West Virginia readers who wrote letters to their favorite authors in a program called Letters About Literature, a national writing challenge for students in grades 4 through 10.



LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

“The young writers we honor today have demonstrated, through their writing skills, how much literature impacts the lives of everyone, said John Paul Myrick, Library Development Director of the West Virginia Library Commission and Coordinator of the West Virginia Center for the Book. “We may not immediately recognize it, but literature impacts many of the things we do, say, think and feel daily. Literature reflects our culture, our thought, and our destiny as a state and nation.”

Young readers participate in Letters About Literature by writing letters to the authors of their favorite books, fiction or non-fiction, explaining how the author’s work has been important to them personally. Entrants, who must be at least nine years old, are grouped for evaluation: Level 1, grades 4-6; Level 2, grades 7-8, and Level 3, grades 9-10.

More than 49,000 students across the nation competed in 2013. This year in West Virginia, 553 students submitted letters to the competition. Six judges from across the state evaluated the letters and awarded top honors, honors, honorable mention and notable mention awards to 168 entrants.

Top honors winners received \$100 each. Honors winners received \$50 each. Prize money was provided by the West Virginia Humanities Council. State winners go on to the national competition, where the top prize is \$1,000.

One student won top honors for each of the three levels: Level 1 winner Kennah Salmons of Crum Middle School wrote to Lois Lowry about her novel *Number the Stars*; level 2 winner Mckenzi Olonko of Princeton Middle School wrote to James Patterson about his novel *Witch and Wizard: The Gift*; level 3 winner Althea Wheaton of The Linsly School wrote to John Green about his novel *Looking for Alaska*.

West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman was the featured speaker at this year’s Letters About Litera-

ture ceremony. Karen Goff, Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, presented awards to the winners.

The West Virginia Center for the Book, in partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council, sponsors Letters About Literature annually in West Virginia. The awards ceremony is held each spring in Charleston.

Geek the Library in West Virginia

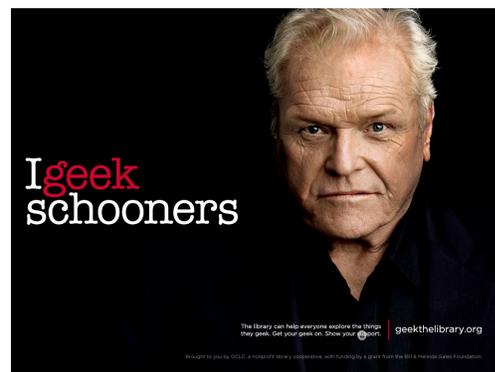
Geek the Library, a community public awareness campaign, is coming to West Virginia libraries. The campaign (1) spreads the word about the vital and growing role of public libraries, and (2) raises awareness about the critical funding issues many public libraries face. The Library Commission will roll out the West Virginia Geek the Library campaign during Library Card Sign-up Month in September.

Geek the Library is already underway at the Southern Area Public Library in Harrison County, which the *Library Journal* named “Best Small Library in America” for 2013. In making its selection, the *Library Journal* considered whether Southern Area had features that other libraries can replicate. “We are the first library in the state to be part of the Geek the Library program,” said Director Mary Beth Stenger. “We’re hoping to get other libraries in West Virginia excited about that.”

Beginning in September, the Library Commission will promote the campaign and the involvement of West Virginia libraries in it, represent the campaign at conferences and other events, and provide other support as the campaign unfolds.

To get a jump on Geek the Library now, West Virginia libraries can:

- Learn more about the campaign and ask to have someone contact them: <http://get.geekthelibrary.org>
- Understand the campaign commitment: <http://get.geekthelibrary.org/what-you-need-to-know>
- Take a quiz and sign up for updates via email: <http://geekthelibrary.org/about/librarians.html>



WVLC Ranked 20th Among “Most Social Media Friendly State Libraries for 2013”

LibraryScientistList.com reports that the West Virginia Library Commission is ranked 20th among the “Most Social Media Friendly State Libraries for 2013.” The list was compiled in the American Library Association’s 2013 State of America’s Libraries Report. According to the site, “Libraries have made many changes over the years as technology has evolved, and they continue to embrace new technologies that improve their ability to provide resources to the community, including social media.”

According to LibraryScientistList.com, the writers of the report gathered usage stats for each of the 50 libraries on the top social media platforms to “determine which state libraries did the best job of managing their social media presence. Points were assigned based on the



amount of activity and number of followers and weighted to put more emphasis on the platforms that were used by the most libraries. The maximum possible score was 100, with 28 points possible for Facebook, 22 for Twitter, 21 for Flickr, 20 for YouTube, 5 for LinkedIn, 3 for Pinterest, and 1 for Google Plus.” The report gave the Library Commission an overall score of 52.1, with these social media rankings:

Rank	Platform	Points	Stats
28	Facebook	15.8	191 likes, 11 talking about, 38 were here
25	Twitter	12.1	127 followers, 601 tweets
13	YouTube	12.2	470 views, 4 subscribers, 41 videos

WVLC Special Services Receives Award



The West Virginia Library Commission Special Services Division received an award on May 15th from the Kanawha County Work Exploration Program in recognition of the division’s more than 20 years of hosting student volunteers, who come to Special Services three times a week to shred materials, inspect and shelve books. “The student volunteers brighten the work day,” said Donna Calvert, Special Services Director. “It was an honor to receive an award from them.”

New Guidance Statements Available

The Library Commission has developed five new guidance statements, including one on sex offenders utilizing public library services, to aid libraries in setting policies. The statements are:

- Guidance Statement 2012-1 - Responsibilities Of West Virginia Public Library Workers with Regards To Reporting Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse
- Guidance Statement 2012-2 - Financial Assistance for Library Science Education
- Guidance Statement 2012-3 - Continuing Education Policy and Procedures
- Guidance Statement 2012-4 - Public Library Construction in West Virginia
- Guidance Statement 2013-1 - Known Sex Offenders Accessing Library Services

The statements are available under “Laws and Regulations” on the WVLC website: <http://tinyurl.com/orrzfhx>. In the future, the Library Commission will post a guidance statement on the retention and disposition of official library records.

Social Explorer Database Trial

The Library Commission is testing Social Explorer, an online research tool designed to provide quick and easy access to historical census data and demographic information. The Commission’s 30-day trial runs May 15 to June 14. Social Explorer creates fast, intuitive, and appealing maps and reports to help users visually analyze and understand demography and social change throughout history.

An invaluable repository of information, Social Explorer currently includes the entire US Census history from 1790 to 2000, all annual updates from the American Community Survey, and the Religious Congregations and Membership Study from 1980 to 2000. More than just data source, Social Explorer offers a high level of functionality and control. Users can customize, save, print, and email maps and reports and export them to a variety of programs and statistical packages for further analysis and use in reports and presentations. The site is updated three times annually with new data – the 2010 US Census will be available shortly after its release – and new features will be continually added.

Visit <http://www.sociaexplorer.com> to begin using Social Explorer. Non-WVLC employees can access they system with the username westvlc and password westvlc. If you have feedback to share, please contact Heather Campbell Shock, WVLC State Library Services Manager, Heather.S.Campbell@wv.gov, (304) 558-2045.

Technology Petting Zoo: Training Available

The West Virginia Library Commission provides hands-on training on some of today's most popular tablets and e-reading devices.

E-Readers	Tablets
Kindle, Kindle Paperwhite	Kindle Fire, Kindle Fire HD
Nook Touch	Nook Color, Nook Tablet HD
Sony	iPad, iPad Mini, iPod Touch
Kobo	Samsung Galaxy

To schedule a training session, for staff and/or patrons, please contact Megan Tarbett, WVLC Librarian, at megan.h.tarbett@wv.gov.

Best Buy Children's Foundation Invites Applications for Teen Technology Programs

As technology becomes more ingrained in our society, we know it is increasingly necessary for youth to develop the 21st-century skills that will set them up for future career success. With this in mind, the Best Buy Children's Foundation will award grants to local and regional nonprofit organizations that provide teens with places and opportunities to develop 21st century technology skills that will inspire future education and career choices. The foundation will award grants up to \$10,000. The average grant amount is \$5000.

- Examples of program activities include:
- Computer Programming
- Digital imaging (photography, graphic design, videography)
- Music production
- Robotics
- Gaming and Mobile App Development

Grant applications will be accepted June 1-July 1, 2013. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/pvtd8xm>.

King to Discuss New Hatfield-McCoy Book

Author and historian Dean King takes a new look at the Hatfield and McCoy feud in his latest book, *The Feud: The Hatfields and McCoys*. King will speak and sign books at Elk Valley Branch Library on Monday, June 3, at 6:30 PM.

King's book breaks new ground with quotes from contemporary newspaper accounts and other information that was not available when Otis K. Rice wrote *The Hatfields and the McCoys* in 1982. King's account traces the conflict back to the 1850s when the families intermarried and lived peacefully and shows multiple causes for the vendetta.

King is an award-winning author of 10 books, including *Unbound: A True Story of War, Love and Survival*, about 30 women who walked 4,000 miles across China with Mao Zedong in 1934.

King will sign books after the presentation. Copies of the book will be available for purchase from West Virginia Book Company. Refreshments will be served.



Libraries in the News

- **Cabell Library, Branches Hosting Summer Programs.** “The Cabell County Public Library will host several summer reading programs at the main library in downtown Huntington and at the branch locations through the county. This summer's theme, Dig into Reading, is about the wonders under our feet -- root vegetables, buried treasure, dinosaur bones, animals, caves, rocks and more. It is also about digging into our West Virginia heritage with programs celebrating 150 years of statehood.” Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/np3q7pj>, *The Herald-Dispatch*.
- **Philippi Public Library Receives 3 New Computers.** “The Philippi Public Library has received three new computers from Workforce West Virginia. The computers include programs designed to help patrons design a resume and find employment. Director Judy Buckner Larry said they want to be sure to get help to those most in need.” Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/ortluwt>, WBOY TV.
- **Library to Get Loan to Finish Work.** “While the journey to see the construction of the Hedgesville Public Library has been longer than anticipated, the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library will soon see the beginning of the end. Last week, members of the Berkeley County Building Association approved the first step toward securing a loan up to \$700,000 in funding to complete the Hedgesville Public Library.” Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/nqzyzdt>, the *Martinsburg Journal*.
- **Mary Rayme of the Pioneer Memorial Library in Harman, WV** has received a Rural Librarian Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. “Thanks to UTK and the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences, I am the only person in West Virginia to receive this scholarship in 2013,” Mary writes in her blog. “I am majoring in Information Sciences, and if all goes well, I will receive my MS degree in two years.” Mary learned about the scholarship, which is accredited by the American Library Association, from the Laura Bush Foundation. She received word of the scholarship just before being seriously injured in an auto accident; she is now coping with recovery. “The goal of my degree,” Mary writes, “is not only to educate myself and advance professionally, it is to custom tailor my studies to improve the Pioneer Memorial Library, which is near and dear to my heart. I could not have received this scholarship if it were not my position at PMPL.” Read more at Mary's “Rural Librarian” blog, <http://tinyurl.com/qzedpyv>.

Free Cataloging Classes in Pocahontas County

The Pocahontas County Free Libraries are offering free cataloging classes to new MLN catalogers in June. The Library Commission has approved the courses for CE credit (3 hrs. for staff, 4 hrs. for directors).

- Level 1 catalogers would attend June 5, 10-3 PM
- Level 2 catalogers would attend June 5 and June 6th, 10-3 PM both days
- Level 3 catalogers would attend June 27 and June 28, 10-3 PM both days

The workshops are filling up fast. For more information, please contact Vicky Terry at the Pocahontas County Free Libraries, (304) 799-6000, terryv@mail.mln.lib.wv.us. Vicky may offer cataloging workshops for non-MLN staff in the future; if you are interested in such a workshop, contact Vicky.

Apple Books Announces Books for Summer Reading

The Apple Books website (www.applebks.com) offers a summer reading section that supports the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading themes of *Dig Into Reading* and *Beneath the Surface*. For more information, visit the website, <http://tinyurl.com/crallu6>.

Library Lookout

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