

READ ALOUD

WEST VIRGINIA

Family honors patriarch's love of reading, golf

The Paul Fox Memorial Foundation has given Read Aloud West Virginia \$4,000, which the Fox family raised at its Memorial Golf Tournament in May. The family started the event in memory of Paul Fox, who was an avid golfer. He also was an avid reader, a trait that influenced future generations of the Fox family and ultimately resulted in their gift to Read Aloud.

The event attracted 112 players. BrickStreet was the lead sponsor.

Son-in-law David Walker explained, "Paul was an avid golfer. He got me

(continued on page 2)



Growing a love of reading in Putnam

Buffalo High School student and Read Aloud volunteer Ashley Arthur helps Putnam County complete their chapter's inaugural year with a flourish. Read more on page 6.

NGK supports Read Aloud, local communities

NGK Spark Plugs (U.S.A.), Inc. recently announced they will become a corporate sponsor of Read Aloud West Virginia. A \$3,000 contribution in 2015 is the first in what



is anticipated to be a multi-year partnership.

The company joins ECA and BrickStreet as ongoing sponsors.

"NGK is proud to partner with Read Aloud West Virginia in an effort to increase reading capability in our schools," said NGK Senior Vice President of Manufacturing Bob Pepper.

"High education standards are critical to the success of our state," Pepper continued, "and Read Aloud WV's program is vital to that effort."

Read Aloud Executive Director Mary Kay Bond noted the donation is both a show of support for Read Aloud and a clear indicator of the company's dedication to the well-being of West Virginia's communities.

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Fall 2015

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THANK YOU,
CPG!



Employees of Columbia Pipeline Group in Charleston recently held a book drive on behalf of Read Aloud at their Kanawha City facility, where Read Aloud staff occupy office space donated by the company. Nearly 500 books were collected!

Making a difference one classroom at a time

Thanks to all the great news we have to share in this Back to School issue my column is a bit shorter. That is fine by me because I think the work of our volunteers and donors speaks most eloquently for our organization.

We are buoyed by the continued growth of Read Aloud both in terms of county chapters and participating schools. While we value growth, our primary interest is to deliver a program which is effective in building interest in reading. Consistent financial support and the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers enable us to do just that.

Consider an evaluation we received from a teacher at the end of the last school year. She stated, "My kids love their reader. Since he has started reading in our classroom, my students all want to read aloud to the class now (even one that cried at the beginning of the year at the mention of "reading"). He has really connected with my class!"

That one volunteer changed a classroom of attitudes—and lives. What an accomplishment! We read and hear about many challenges in the world; often they seem too big to tackle individually. Read Aloud gives each of us the opportunity to make a difference... in our families, our schools and our communities. I hope you will find inspiration in this issue to join us, or, if you are already "on board," to continue inspiring children to WANT to read. ~ **Mary Kay Bond**

Golf Tournament

(from page 1)

into golf. He also was an avid reader. He was not a college person, but he was an unbelievable reader. It rubbed off on my girls. My oldest daughter Kinsey went into philosophy (an area of strong interest for Fox.)" She joined Teach for America and now is pursuing a degree in education policy at Vanderbilt University.

Walker, who has a degree in education, read aloud in his daughters' classrooms for 10 or 12 years at Richmond Elementary in Charleston, and he is occasionally asked back to read even now. The teachers need men to serve as reading role models, he said.

Walker's wife, Kathleen, and daughters Kinsey and Karley all have been volunteer readers and attended Seuss-A-Palooza events at Brick-Street, where Walker is employed as a safety and loss consultant, and then Read-A-Palooza at Paterno's at the Park in Charleston.

That exposure led Kinsey to ask her father, "Why don't we make a donation to Read Aloud West Virginia?" which they did.

The importance of a strong grandparent-parent-child connection exemplified by the Fox-Walker family is one that Read Aloud emphasizes through its parent education program, Director Mary Kay Bond said. Parents and grandparents remain the primary influence in creating lifelong readers.

"That is a crucial link," she said. She plans to expand Read Aloud's efforts in this area with physicians and the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program.

"The Fox contribution is an incredible gift," Bond said. "It gives us flexibility to more easily tailor programs to chapter needs."



**The West Virginia Book Festival returns to the Charleston Civic Center
October 23-24, 2015**

Featured authors:

Newbery Award winners,
Neil Gaiman (***The Graveyard Book***),
Friday at 7 p.m. and
Jacqueline Woodson (***Brown Girl Dreaming***), Saturday at 11 a.m.

WV's own, Homer Hickam (***Rocket Boys***), Saturday at 9 a.m.

Pulitzer Prize winner, Jeff Shaara (***Killer Angels***), Saturday at 1 p.m.

Bestselling author, Jodi Picoult (***My Sister's Keeper***),
Saturday at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit
wvbookfestival.org.

The Campaign for Grade Level Reading

- Is a collaborative, national effort
- Its goal is to ensure that children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship
- Counties across West Virginia are forming Early Literacy Teams that will work to close the reading achievement gap between low-income students and their peers
- Funding is available through the West Virginia Department of Education in support of local campaigns
- County Campaigns are partnering with local businesses, parents, community members and organizations like Read Aloud
- Learn more at: wvde.state.wv.us/leaders-of-literacy

Hollowell helps Read Aloud partner with Greenbrier Campaign for Grade Level Reading

By Lynn Lewis Kessler

The Hollowell Foundation, a Greenbrier County-based philanthropy, recently awarded a \$3,000 grant to Read Aloud West Virginia. The grant provides partial funding to initiate a program designed to reduce summer reading loss.

Read Aloud, a partner in Greenbrier County Schools' Campaign for Grade Level Reading, plans to offer a program that allows students at Crichton Elementary to self-select paperback books to read throughout the summer. The program is based on a study conducted by Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen. The three-year study provided self-selected, high-interest material for students to read during the summer months and found those students engaged more often in voluntary summer reading and had significantly higher reading achievement than a control group.

The Campaign for Grade Level Reading is a collaborative effort by foundations, non-profit partners, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship, according to Nancy Hanna, Director of Early Childhood Education for Greenbrier County Schools.

"Greenbrier County Schools is thrilled to have Read Aloud West Virginia as one of its partners," said Hanna. "Engaged communities mobilized to remove barriers, expand opportunities, and assist parents in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities to serve as full partners in the success of their children are needed to assure student success."

The Hollowell Foundation honors the philanthropic efforts of Otto and Margaret Ford Hollowell by supporting projects that sustain and advance educational, scientific, literary, recreational and cultural endeavors throughout the Greenbrier Valley.

"The Hollowell Foundation is very pleased to support Read Aloud West Virginia," said the Foundation's Executive Director Sherry Ferrell. "Their educational programming is very important to the students in our area and helps us achieve our mission of enhancing the quality of life in Greenbrier County."

Read Aloud will work throughout the school year to secure additional local funding, which will enable the program to be offered to all grades at Crichton beginning in May 2016.

NGK

(from page 1)

"NGK's corporate partnership enables us to continue our efforts to build program consistency around the state. It also underscores the company's commitment to the citizens of West Virginia," noted Bond.

Read Aloud WV is very grateful to NGK for their vote of confidence.



Tucker Valley Elementary/Middle School students display the books donated by Read Aloud and shelves made by students at the local WV Children's Home. Each kindergarten student at the school received a set.

Teamwork puts books in homes of Tucker County students

Kindergarten students at Tucker Valley Elementary/Middle School received book shelves and books for their homes at the school's year-end picnic.

Read Aloud chapter coordinator Tracy Harlan partnered with Janice Brady of West Virginia Children's Home to the benefit of both organizations.

"I donated 100 teen books to WVCH and in turn, Mr. Mike Mason, woodworking instructor, and a team of students worked on building the shelves," said Harlan.

"It was an amazing result," she continued. "We got the shelves we needed and [Brady] created a mobile lab for her students to use to check out books. It was a win-win for all!"

Book, reader inspire Greenbrier students to take action

By Nikki Moses

When Kim Curry read ***A Long Walk to Water*** to students at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School, she set off a chain of events that culminated in a highly successful drive for backpacks and school supplies for kids in Haiti.

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park is a true story about Salva, a Sudanese lost boy, and a fictional girl, Nya. Nya cannot attend school because she must spend her days carrying water from a far away pond for her family. Author Park brings their lives together when Salva helps build a well in Nya's village, thus enabling her to attend school.

Curry had witnessed the same water problems in Haiti, where she has traveled six times through Mountains to Mountains, a program of Trinity United Methodist Church in Roncove.

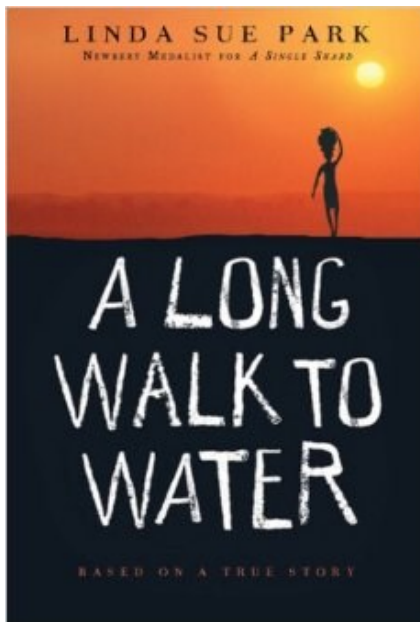
"That has been my experience in Haiti," she said. "Some children can't go to school because they have to carry water."

Curry said she "took photographs of community wells, water jugs, people carrying water, on my trip in March with the purpose of sharing them with the students because I had read ***A Long Walk to Water*** to them." Seeing this lack of access to clean water in Haiti (like in Sudan), along with class discussions, inspired Greenbrier students to help Haitian kids by conducting the backpack drive. Soon students at Greenbrier East High School became involved.

Curry said, "Brindi Anderson did the legwork for the drive. She provided all of the structure the kids needed. I just read the book. The kids jumped in and Brindi provided guidance." Anderson is a teacher at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School.

The students needed money for shipping costs, so they held three-point basketball competitions, bake sales and more. They raised more than \$130 and sent the supplies to Ecole-Shalome School in Croix des Bouquets outside of Port-au-Prince.

Curry, who is a retired teacher and school principal, and a Read Aloud coordinator and reader, hopes to further the relationship between students at the two schools through Skype, letter writing and emailing.



Park's ***A Long Walk to Water*** and photos of children in Haiti shown by volunteer Kim Curry led students and teachers at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School to act.

New Read Aloud chapters launch with start of 2015-2016 school year

Five additional chapters join Read Aloud West Virginia for the 2015-2016 school year, bringing the organization's reach to 30 of West Virginia's 55 counties.

Volunteers have been organizing chapter boards and recruiting new readers for classrooms in Hampshire, Hardy, Jackson, Logan and Mason counties in anticipation of the launches.

For information about volunteer reader orientation sessions in these or any of Read Aloud's participating counties, visit our website at www.readaloudwestvirginia.org.

Welcome and thank you, new volunteers!



The WV Reading Association will host their 60th conference November 19-20 at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs. For more information, visit wvreading.com.

Where in the world is Read Aloud West Virginia?

Active chapters with full boards

(green)

Berkeley | Cabell | Fayette
Greenbrier | Kanawha | Marion
Mercer | Monongalia | Morgan
Nicholas | Pocahontas | Putnam
Raleigh | Randolph | Roane
Summers | Tucker
Upshur | Wood

Active chapters with county coordinators serving as board

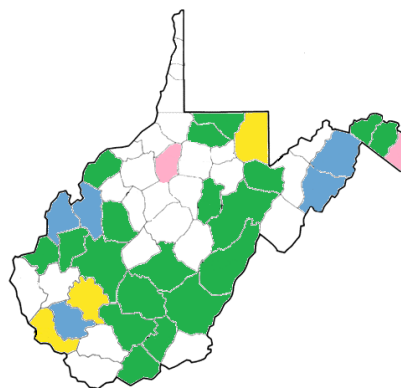
(yellow)

Boone | Mingo | Preston

Serving schools without local chapter structure

(pink)

Doddridge | Jefferson



Scheduled to launch in 2015-2016

(blue)

Hampshire | Hardy | Jackson
Logan | Mason

Please note: schools enroll individually; some schools might not participate.



Jackson County board members attended the "Ripley Believes" pep rally on August 27, 2015 to recruit volunteer readers and spread the word about their new chapter. Pictured on left are Volunteer Coordinator Linda Dickirson and board member Micki Clendenin. Right: Co-chairs Janet McCauley and Lisa Bailey.

You can help children grow to love reading...

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Putnam County starts a reading revolution

By Laura Boggess

Putnam County has finished its first year with Read Aloud West Virginia! Buffalo, Confidence and Rock Branch elementary schools participated.

The program got off to a great start, in part because of Shelley Whittington, a Putnam County RAWV board member and 4-H extension agent. She asked Future Farmers of America members at Buffalo High School to become volunteer readers. They responded enthusiastically, including junior Ashley Arthur.

“I started thinking about when I was in elementary school. There were tons of volunteers and older kids that would come to our class and read to us. I still remember those people. I really do believe that programs like this make kids lifelong readers, which is important,” she said.

Students teamed up to read. Ashley and her friend Rachel Martin read aloud to a kindergarten class every Thursday during their lunch break.

“We decided to go only to that one classroom so we could get to know the kids. We sort of formed a bond with them. They looked forward to us coming every week.”

Ashley and Rachel usually read for half an hour. “We read two books, and if we could we would take a puppet, and we would play a game ... It’s hard for kindergartners to sit there and listen for any amount of time,” she said, laughing as she recalled the experience.

“I really believe programs like this make kids life-long readers, which is important.”

~ RAWV Reader Ashley Arthur

For the final week Ashley wanted to do something special. She planned on reading Shel Silverstein’s *The Giving Tree* for that last reading, so she told the kids to be thinking about someone in their lives who “gives them happiness.”

“I found this big piece of plywood, and I decided to paint the cover [of *The Giving Tree*] ... So we read the book, and they were all on the edge of their seats ... I had little strips of paper and afterwards ... we helped all the kids write the name of someone that gave them happiness. Then they took a piece of tape and stuck it to the branches of the tree [on



The gift of happiness

Ashley Arthur and reading partner Rachel Martin created a mural featuring the cover art from Shel Silverstein’s *The Giving Tree*. Kindergarten students then adorned the tree with the names of people who give them happiness.

the plywood mural]. I think it was a rewarding thing that happened for them—to connect people in their life with a book.”

Ashley noticed a transformation in the listening skills of the children from the time she began volunteering to the end of the year. “In the beginning, they didn’t want to listen ... but by that last week, they were so excited, and no one made a noise. They listened to every word.”

Ashley, whose father writes fiction and often reads his stories to his children before publication, describes herself as an avid reader. She feels strongly that learning to love stories at an early age will foster an appreciation for reading that can change lives.

“I think it’s important for parents to read to their kids; and I think that Read Aloud really stresses that you read to your kids so they can grow up and read to their kids, and we can just sort of start a revolution.”



Second annual Coordinator Summit connects chapter leaders

State schools leader Martirano gives keynote address

Read Aloud West Virginia welcomed representatives from local chapters across the state to a conference at Stonewall Resort July 27 and 28. The Read Aloud Coordinator Summit was presented by the state organization to provide support to chapters and encourage collaboration.

The conference kicked off with an address from West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Martirano, who thanked Read Aloud West Virginia for its efforts. He noted that literacy is an issue that affects every aspect of our lives, from personal health to the economy.

“Reading is the business of every one of West Virginia’s 1.8 million citizens,” Martirano said.

The conference addressed best practices for administering the non-profit organization’s programs, which fall into four major categories: Volunteer Readers, Book Distribution, Classroom Enrichment and Parent Education. The needs and expectations of local chapters were addressed through presentations as well as group discussion.

The event concluded with speaker Nancy Hanna, Greenbrier County Schools’ Director of Early Childhood Education, who shared her county’s plan to work with Read Aloud and other community partners in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Learn more about the national Campaign and how Greenbrier County is partnering with Read Aloud on page 3.



Top left: Aletta Moffett of Marion County
Middle: State Superintendent of Schools Michael Martirano
Bottom: (Row 1) Laura Boggess, Putnam; Mary Boyd, M.D., Randolph; Elaine McClagherty, Putnam; Amanda Cole, Mercer; Carrie Smith-Bell and Jane Larke, Monongalia; Shannon Lewis, Upshur; Christie Tilley, Mingo; (Row 2) Aletta Moffett, Marion; Katy Montgomery, Greenbrier; Jayme Ferguson, Marion; Linda Cole and Marion Tanner, Fayette; Linda Dickirson, Jackson; Stacy Ford, Summers; Amy Merrill and Amanda Cayton, Marion; Penny Gladwell, Morgan; (Row 3) Anne-Marie Johnson, Raleigh; Leigh Anne Shelton, Nicholas; Stacy Bissell, Mason; Jan Michael, Tucker; Jennifer Griffith, Boone; Tracy Harlan, Tucker; Patty Farley, Raleigh; Kristen Green, Boone; Lisa Bailey, Jackson; Margaret Goffreda, Roane; Laura Bailey and Wendy Florence, Doddridge; Bob Fleenor, Berkeley; Christina Smith, Pocahontas; Linda Feola, Upshur; Janet McCauley, Jackson; Janet Foss, Cabell; David Gladwell, Morgan; Marsha Dodson, Berkeley; Marianna and Mia Leone, Hampshire



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Annual Fund goal set at \$45,000 for 2015-2016

Read Aloud West Virginia continues its growth and activity throughout WV and the organization's Board of Directors recognizes the need for unrestricted funds to support the Read Aloud mission. The executive committee has set a goal of \$45,000 for the 2015-2016 Annual Fund campaign, which launches this fall.

"It's important to note that Read Aloud's growth is a positive side effect of our main priority, which is to offer quality programming designed to motivate children to want to read," said Frank McCullough, Chairman of Development for the Read Aloud West Virginia Board of Directors.

Seventy-three percent of West Virginia's fourth graders were not proficient in reading in 2014, according to the Kids Count Data Center.

"We provide meaningful interventions to address

this well-documented problem," McCullough continued. "The persistent growth of the program is an encouraging affirmation of the Read Aloud effort."

The challenge of changing the literacy culture has received some beneficial attention recently as a result of the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, according to Read Aloud Executive Director Mary Kay Bond.

"The Campaign brings an exciting level of attention to the importance of reading," Bond said. "This emphasis provides an opportunity for us to partner even more fully with local initiatives and to share the message that reading aloud is one of the most effective ways to motivate children to want to read."

Read more about the campaign and Read Aloud's involvement in one county on page 3.

BB&T West Virginia Foundation sustains support of Book Distribution

A \$2,500 grant from BB&T West Virginia Foundation in July 2015 will help Read Aloud keep books in the hands of West Virginia's children throughout the 2015-2016 school year.

BB&T's support of the organization dates back to 1995 and has been critical in growing programs and offering children access to quality reading material.

"BB&T's consistent support has been a significant reason we have been able to sustain and grow our book distribution program," said Read Aloud Communications and Development Director Lynn Kessler. "We are very grateful for their partnership."
"We know access to print matters," Kessler noted. "Read Aloud is committed to providing that access and donors like BB&T allow us to do so."



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