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For Immediate Release

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Yakima Valley Libraries Staff Enrichment Day

Yakima, WA- Yakima Valley Libraries will be closed to the public on October 13th to participate in our annual Staff Enrichment Day. During this day staff will be trained in a variety of ways to better serve the public. Yakima Valley Libraries looks forward to serving our patrons again on October 14th during branch hours.

Staff will have the opportunity to learn about different things going on within the District as well as hear local author, Susan La Riviere and local STEM expert Jeff Charbonneau speak.

Susan La Riviere graduated from Arizona State University with a major in Mass Communications specializing in print journalism. Rather than getting employed by a newspaper, Susan moved to San Francisco and enjoyed a career in the fashion industry. After moving to a farm near Snohomish, Washington, the final transfer was made to Yakima where she and her former husband raised their daughters.

She completed her M.Ed. and taught speech at Yakima Valley Community College for over twenty years. While she was teaching speech and writing at Heritage College, which is located on the Yakama Indian Nation Reservation, she heard stories about the Native American and Hispanic cultures. She also learned about the farming communities in Yakima County.

Because of her knowledge about the cultures of the Lower Valley, she was a correspondent and photographer for VOICES, a supplement for the *Yakima Herald Republic*. Her interview skills were honed along with her investigative techniques and combined in her cultural feature stories. These same skills enabled her to be an investigative reporter for a local personal injury attorney.

It took very little effort to use all these interests in beginning her career as a biographer. Yakima historical points of interest became the locales for her stories. She casts the stories with real and fictitious characters as if she were directing a play. Her latest novels have involved murder mysteries and spirits who are connected to the main characters. Readers will find cliff-hanging adventures in all the novels.

Jeff Charbonneau is the 2013 National Teacher of the Year and is currently employed as the Chemistry, Physics and Engineering teacher at Zillah High School. He is also the STEM Coordinator for ESD 105. He is a local resident, attending Zillah High School and graduating from Central Washington University.

“Yakima Valley Libraries believes it is important to train our staff to the best of our abilities to provide the best possible service to our patrons.” Kim Hixson, Director.

Yakima Valley Libraries strives to support lifelong learning and an informed citizenry by providing free, open and full access to a vast array of ideas and information. We look forward to serving you.

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