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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Presentation on Yakima's Nationally Known Carnegie Libraries

Yakima, WA – Archive Librarian, Carlos Pelley, is scheduled to provide a fascinating presentation entitled “The Legacy of Yakima Valley’s Carnegie Libraries: A History of Continued Public Service” at Yakima Valley Museum on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 12:00pm.

Pelley collaborated with Yakima Valley Historical Society to uncover little-known facts about the nationally renowned Carnegie grants bestowed upon two local libraries. The imagery-rich PowerPoint discussion will focus on the transformative philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie and his impact on libraries across the country. It will also reflect upon the early role of women in bringing library services to Yakima Valley.

“Carnegie saw libraries as community centers and a way to instill civic engagement and leadership...he saw access to literacy and education as key to opening doors for citizens,” explained Pelley.

The presentation will delve into the structural changes of the historic library buildings during the last 67 years, and it will highlight the Library’s foundational and continued tradition of providing free access to learning resources.

“I’m answering the call of the public [in this presentation],” Pelley said. “They want to know about this history.”

The event is free and open to all ages. Light refreshments will be provided; attendees may also bring their own lunch.

Carlos Pelley is an Archive Librarian for Yakima Valley Libraries’ Northwest Reading Room. He stewards their collection of preserved local history for community access. The collection includes photographs, yearbooks, newspapers, city directories, maps & atlases, transportation history, books, and more.

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