

WEST VIRGINIA'S *First Ladies*



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In 1976, the Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex opened as the state's premier welcome center. The Culture Center features the West Virginia State Museum, the West Virginia Archives, and various art and special collections exhibitions. Since that opening, one of the most popular collections has been the First Ladies Doll Collection.

Commissioned initially by the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, the collection is exhibited on the balcony. The collection features 35 exquisite ceramic dolls and some of the elegant clothing worn by West Virginia's First Ladies.

Front cover of First Ladies dolls: Shelley Riley Moore, Cathy Justice and Alma Bennett Morgan.

Photograph by Stephen Brightwell

First Lady Cathy Justice

When I learned that I would have a First Lady Doll, I was beyond flattered. Seeing artist Ping Lau's design for my doll impressed me even more! Along with being flattered, I'll be honest, I was a little (or a lot) embarrassed at the thought of a Cathy Justice Doll!

Ms. Lau used an incredible amount of creativity on the hand-sculpted doll that I am proud to add to the collection of First Lady Dolls.

I am so thankful that Ms. Lau chose to share her talent with the people of West Virginia and that she worked so closely with me, my staff, and the Department of Arts, Culture and History to complete the project. The time that she devoted to getting each detail just right...from my smile to my inaugural gown...demonstrates the dedication of a true artist.

West Virginia is a state that is rich in art and culture. I feel very lucky to be part of her history and represented in such a special way as the First Lady of West Virginia.

It is truly my honor to serve this great state along with my husband, Governor Jim Justice.

Cathy Justice



Photograph by Steven Rotsch

W E S T V I R G I N I A ' S



1. Laurane Tanner Bullock Boreman

Laurane Tanner Bullock Boreman was born in Wheeling on November 24, 1830. Her first husband, Union soldier John Oldham Bullock, was killed early in the Civil War. On November 30, 1864, she married Arthur I. Boreman (1st governor, 1863-69). She helped define the role of first lady, hosting formal gatherings at the Boremans' home in Wheeling. After leaving office, Arthur Boreman served one term in the U.S. Senate before returning to his hometown of Parkersburg to practice law. Laurane Boreman died in Parkersburg on April 14, 1908.

2. Mary Ireland Farnsworth

Mary Ireland Farnsworth was born in Upshur County on May 1, 1830, a niece of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. She holds the distinction of serving the least time as first lady. Her husband D. D. T. Farnsworth (2nd governor, 1869) was governor for only five days, completing the unexpired term of Arthur I. Boreman, who had resigned to enter the U.S. Senate. After leaving office, the Farnsworths moved to Buckhannon. She died February 22, 1923, at age 92.



First Ladies

3. Sarah Clotworthy Stevenson



Sarah Clotworthy Stevenson was born in Philadelphia in 1824 and married William Erskine Stevenson (3rd governor, 1869-71) in 1842. In the late 1850s, the Stevensons moved from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Parkersburg, where he became a staunch pro-Union and West Virginia statehood activist. In the middle of Stevenson's term as governor, the state capital was relocated from Wheeling to Charleston. As a result, Sarah Stevenson focused much of her time as first lady on reestablishing her family's residence. After leaving office, they moved back to Parkersburg, where Sarah Stevenson died in 1885.

4. Jane Baird Jacob

Jane Baird Jacob was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, on March 10, 1832. She married John J. Jacob (4th governor, 1871-77) in 1858. Jane Jacob faced the same challenge as Sarah Stevenson relocating her place of residence in the middle of her husband's term. The capital was moved back to Wheeling in 1875, despite her husband's legal efforts to keep the seat of government in Charleston. After leaving office, John and Jane Jacob continued to reside in Wheeling, where she died on February 22, 1903.



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5. *Lucy Fry Mathews*

Lucy Fry Mathews was born in Frankford in 1830. She married her childhood sweetheart Henry M. Mathews (5th governor, 1877-81) in 1857. After leaving office, Henry and Lucy Mathews moved to Lewisburg. She died in 1904.

6. *Maria Willard Jackson*

Maria Willard Jackson was born in Pleasants County in 1830. In 1855, she married Jacob B. Jackson (6th governor, 1881-85), who served as mayor of Parkersburg prior to his election as governor. At the end of Jackson's term as governor, the capital again was moved back to Charleston, making Maria Jackson the last first lady to serve in Wheeling. After leaving office, the Jacksons returned to Parkersburg. Maria Jackson's death date is unknown.



First Ladies



7. Henrietta Cotton Wilson

Henrietta Cotton Wilson was born in Charleston in 1847, the daughter of prominent doctor John T. Cotton and Sara Ashton Fitzhugh Cotton. She married state legislator E. Willis Wilson (7th governor, 1885-90) in 1874 and became the first of the governor's wives to serve an entire term in Charleston. After leaving office, the Wilsons remained in Charleston. Henrietta Wilson died in 1915.

8. Carrie Watson Fleming

Carrie Watson Fleming was born in Fairmont on April 29, 1844, the daughter of wealthy coal pioneer James Otis Watson. She attended Mount de Chantal Academy in Wheeling and, in 1865, married Marion County prosecuting attorney A. B. Fleming (8th governor, 1890-93). After a shortened three-year term as first lady, due to the controversial 1888 election, the Flemings returned to Fairmont, where she played a prominent role in Fairmont's cultural, civic, and religious activities. She died on July 19, 1931.



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9. *Belle Goshorn MacCorkle*

Belle Goshorn MacCorkle was born in Charleston in 1841 and married Kanawha County prosecuting attorney William A. MacCorkle (9th governor, 1893-97) in 1884. The state did not provide an official residence for the governor and his family until 1893, when the legislature purchased a house in downtown Charleston. The MacCorkles were the first to occupy the original Governor's Mansion. After leaving office, Belle MacCorkle regularly hosted gatherings at Sunrise, the MacCorkles' home in the South Hills section of Charleston. She died at Sunrise on September 12, 1923.



10. *Myra Horner Camden Atkinson*

Myra Horner Camden Atkinson was born in Lumberport on July 21, 1844. Twice widowed, she married George W. Atkinson (10th governor, 1897-1901) in June 1897, shortly after he became governor. After leaving office, she took an active interest in family history and was a member of social groups in Charleston, Parkersburg, and Clarksburg. Myra Atkinson died in Clarksburg on April 13, 1925, nine days after the death of Governor Atkinson.

First Ladies

11. Agnes Ward White

Agnes Ward White was born in Marietta, Ohio, in 1857, and married Albert B. White (11th governor, 1901-05) in 1879. Prior to becoming governor and first lady, the Whites lived in Parkersburg, where Albert published the *State Journal*. Agnes White was one of the more private first ladies and shunned the role of hostess. After leaving office, the Whites returned to Parkersburg, where she died in 1943.



12. Maude Brown Dawson

Maude Brown Dawson was born in Kingwood in April 1874, the first of the governors' wives born in West Virginia after statehood. She married West Virginia Secretary of State William M. O. Dawson (12th governor, 1905-09) in 1899. She was the governor's second wife. After leaving office, the Dawsons continued to reside in Charleston. Her death date is unknown.

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13. Mary Miller Glasscock

Mary Miller Glasscock was born in Arnettsville on September 8, 1872. She married William E. Glasscock (13th governor, 1909-13) in 1888, just before her 16th birthday. As first lady, she hosted social gatherings and was a member of civic groups. After leaving office, the Glasscocks moved to Morgantown, where she died of breast cancer on April 12, 1925, less than three months after her husband's death.

14. South Carolina

"Carrie" Bronson Hatfield

South Carolina "Carrie" Bronson Hatfield was born in Warfield, Kentucky, on September 9, 1876. In 1895, she married Henry D. Hatfield (14th governor, 1913-17), who also served a term in the U.S. Senate. The Hatfields later lived in Huntington, where Carrie Hatfield died on May 8, 1962.



First Ladies

15. *Edna Brady Cornwell*

Edna Brady Cornwell was born in Romney on May 26, 1868. She married *Hampshire Review* publisher John J. Cornwell (15th governor, 1917-21) in 1891. Like many of her predecessors, Edna Cornwell hosted social gatherings and participated in Charleston civic activities. After leaving office, the Cornwells moved back to Romney. Governor Cornwell continued to publish the *Hampshire Review* until his death in 1953, after which his widow assumed full control of the newspaper. Edna Cornwell died on December 1, 1958, at age 90.



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16. Alma Bennett Morgan

Alma Bennett Morgan was born in Monongalia County on June 24, 1877. She taught school in Marion County, where she met Fairmont city attorney Ephraim F. Morgan (16th governor, 1921-25). They were married in 1902. Alma Morgan was more involved in politics than any previous first lady. She ardently opposed the consumption of alcohol and actively campaigned for a woman's right to vote. She left an indelible mark on history by providing design ideas to architect Walter Martens for the current Governor's Mansion. The Morgans moved into the newly completed mansion in February 1925, six days before the governor's term ended. After leaving office, the Morgans lived in Washington, D.C., and Fairmont. After Governor Morgan's death in 1950, Alma Morgan moved to Morgantown, where she died on April 5, 1960.

First Ladies

17. Roxie Bailey Gore

Roxie Bailey Gore was born in Taylor County on May 23, 1884, and married Howard M. Gore (17th governor, 1925-29) in 1906. Five months later, on March 5, 1907, Roxie Gore died at age 22. Howard Gore never remarried, making him the only governor to remain unmarried throughout his term.



18. Bertie Ison Martin Conley

Bertie Ison Martin Conley was born in Preston County on June 20, 1873, 10 years to the day after West Virginia became a state. In 1892, she married one of her former teachers William G. Conley (18th governor, 1929-33). As first lady, she redecorated the Governor's Mansion, adding outdoor gardens and artistic furnishings. On Bertie Conley's 59th birthday, June 20, 1932, she and her husband dedicated the new state capitol building. After leaving office, the Conleys remained in Charleston and moved to a nearby house on Virginia Street, where she died on October 29, 1939.

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19. Edna Hall Scott Kump

Edna Hall Scott Kump was born in Elkins on April 18, 1887, the daughter of former state senator C. H. Scott. She attended Mount de Chantal Academy in Wheeling and, in 1907, married Elkins lawyer H. Guy Kump (19th governor, 1933-37). As first lady, she continued to develop the outdoor gardens started by her predecessor. For entertainment, she enjoyed riding horses at the family farm outside of Charleston. After leaving office, the Kumps returned to Elkins, where Edna Kump died on January 19, 1957.



20. Isabel Wood Holt

Isabel Wood Holt was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, on January 23, 1899, and married Fayetteville lawyer Homer A. Holt (20th governor, 1937-41) in 1924. As first lady, she dedicated most of her time to raising their three young children. After leaving office, the Holts remained in Charleston, where the former governor practiced law. Following his death in 1975, Isabel Holt moved to Lewisburg and enjoyed gardening and civic activities. She died on September 5, 1996, at age 97.

First Ladies

21. Alberta Ramage Neely

Alberta Ramage Neely was born in West Milford, Pennsylvania, on August 22, 1880. She graduated from Fairmont Normal School (now Fairmont State College) and attended Randolph Macon College and the Emerson College of Elocution in Boston. She married attorney Matthew M. Neely (21st governor, 1941-45) in 1903. Serving during the United States' involvement in World War II, Alberta Neely sold war bonds and raised money for servicemen's clubs. After leaving office, the Neelys moved to Washington, D.C., where Matthew served in the U.S. Senate until his death in 1958. Alberta Neely died in Fairmont on June 30, 1976, at age 95.



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22. *Nancy Massie Meadows*

Nancy Massie Meadows was born in Clifton Forge, Virginia, in 1912. A graduate of Stuart Hall College, she married Raleigh County prosecuting attorney Clarence W. Meadows (22nd governor, 1945-49) in 1934. As first lady, she spent most of her time raising their four young daughters. After leaving office, she served as social director of The Greenbrier Resort. She and her husband lived in Charleston and later moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. After Governor Meadows's death in 1961, she moved to Lewisburg. She died on March 27, 1986.



23. *Lee Hawse Patteson*

Lee Hawse Patteson was born in Romney on May 28, 1902, and married Okey L. Patteson (23rd governor, 1949-53) of Fayette County in 1923. As first lady, she entertained guests and began the tradition of decorating the trees around the Governor's Mansion for the holidays. She also obtained a pilot's license while serving as first lady. Lee Patteson died in Mt. Hope on August 2, 1955, at age 53.

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24. Valerie Allen Marland

Valerie Allen Marland was born in Lacon, Illinois, on June 16, 1917, and married William C. Marland (24th governor, 1953-57) of Wyoming County in 1942. During Governor Patteson's administration, William Marland served as attorney general. The Marlands owned a home on Charleston's west side and a farm near the city. As first lady, she dedicated most of her time to raising their four children. After former governor Marland lost a U.S. Senate election in 1958, the family moved to Barrington, Illinois, where Valerie Marland became a high school English teacher. The Marlands moved back to West Virginia in 1965, but William Marland died of cancer later that year. Valerie Marland returned to Barrington, where she was killed in an apartment building fire in 1977.



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25. and 33. Hovah Hall Underwood

Hovah Hall Underwood was born in Grantsville on April 12, 1919. She earned a teaching degree from Salem College and studied social work at West Virginia University. She married legislator and college professor Cecil H. Underwood (25th and 33rd governor, 1957-61 and 1997-2001) in 1948. Since the Underwoods served two terms 40 years apart, they were

among the youngest and oldest couples to occupy the Governor's Mansion. She devoted much of the first term to raising their three young children. As first lady 40 years later, she was much more active in promoting social causes, including early childhood development, breast cancer awareness, and the arts. Hovah Underwood died on September 24, 2004.



First Ladies

26. Opal Wilcox Barron

Opal Wilcox Barron was born in Boyer on September 19, 1914. She married William W. "Wally" Barron (26th governor, 1961-65) in 1936. As first lady, she promoted the state's centennial celebration and helped persuade her husband to initiate a campaign to conserve the forests and beautify the state. In 1962, in the heat of the Cold War, she appeared on television to inform West Virginians how to equip and supply a fallout shelter. The entire family also participated in the Sabin Vaccine program to prevent polio. After leaving office, the former governor and first lady lived in Pompano Beach, Florida, and Charlotte, North Carolina. He died in 2002. Opal Barron died on September 11, 2010, at age 95.



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27. Mary Alice Tieche Smith

Mary Alice Tieche Smith was born in Beckley on June 25, 1918. She attended Arlington Hall School in Washington, D.C., and Ward Belmont Junior College in Nashville, Tennessee. She and Hulett C. Smith (27th governor, 1965-69) were married in 1942. As first lady, she supervised a major renovation of the Governor's Mansion and helped develop a brochure depicting the changes. She also promoted civic causes such as public health issues and the Head Start early learning program. After leaving office, the Smiths returned to Beckley. She died on April 13, 1987.

First Ladies

28. and 30. Shelley Riley Moore

Shelley Riley Moore was born in Miami, Florida, on July 15, 1926. While earning a degree in education at West Virginia University, she met Arch A. Moore (28th and 30th governor, 1969-77 and 1985-89), whom she married in 1949. She taught school in Pennsylvania for several years before her husband entered politics. After serving 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives (1957-69), Arch Moore was elected governor. As first lady, Shelley Moore gave speeches throughout the state, appearing on college campuses, at vocational facilities, at library dedications, and before civic and religious groups. Like her predecessor, she took an interest in promoting the Governor's Mansion. She began the tradition of having public tours of the mansion. She also conducted televised tours and started the West Virginia Mansion Preservation Foundation to help restore and maintain the mansion. She died on September 13, 2014.



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29. Sharon Percy Rockefeller



Sharon Percy Rockefeller was born in Chicago in 1944. She earned a bachelor's degree at Stanford University and later studied at Morris Harvey College and West Virginia Wesleyan College. She and state legislator John Davison Jay Rockefeller IV (29th governor, 1977-85) were married in 1967. As first lady, she promoted the Public Broadcasting System, helped establish a centralized system to assist mentally handicapped children, and founded Mountain Artisans, a quilting business for low-income artisans. She also campaigned to lower utility costs and improve care for the elderly. After leaving office, Jay Rockefeller was elected to the U.S. Senate from West Virginia. Since 1985, the Rockefellers' permanent residence has been in Charleston.

First Ladies

31. Ella Dee Kessel Caperton



Ella Dee Kessel Caperton was born in Jackson County on February 26, 1943. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from West Virginia University, a master's degree in education from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, and a doctorate degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She married W. Gaston Caperton III (31st governor, 1989-97) in 1965. She was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1986 but declined to run for a second term, campaigning instead for her husband's gubernatorial bid. Dee Caperton is the only first lady to have held public office. The Capertons divorced in October 1989. Following the divorce, she ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer and moved to St. Remy, France, where she opened a hotel. She died in France on September 1, 2000.



32. Rachael Worby

Rachael Worby was born in Nyack, New York, in 1950. She earned a music degree from the State University of New York, completed doctoral courses in musicology at Brandeis University, and took graduate courses at Indiana University. She became music director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra in 1985, a significant achievement in the traditionally male-dominated field of orchestra conducting. She married W. Gaston Caperton III (31st governor, 1989-97) on May 25, 1990.

As first lady, she continued to serve as music director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra while promoting a variety of issues. She established the Arts and Letters Series at the Governor's Mansion, featuring nationally known authors and artists, and her "Thanks a Million" campaign raised funding to combat adult illiteracy. She traveled throughout the state to raise awareness about breast cancer, AIDS, and the needs of the deaf and hearing impaired. In 1998, after leaving office, Gaston Caperton and Rachael Worby were divorced.

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34. Sandy Casber Wise

Sandy Casber Wise was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on July 3, 1946. She earned a degree in political science from Macalister College and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. Working as a subcommittee lawyer with the House Ways and Means Committee in the early 1980s, she met her future husband Bob Wise (33rd governor, 2001-05), who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from West Virginia from 1983 to 2001. They were married in 1984. As first lady, she traveled around the state to promote child literacy and to combat underage drinking.



35. Gayle Conelly Manchin

Gayle Conelly Manchin received her BA in Language Arts and Education and MA in Reading from West Virginia University. She has a master's specialization in Educational Technology Leadership from Salem International University. While at WVU, Gayle met and married Joe Manchin, III, (34th governor, 2005 – 2010.)

Gayle worked in Marion County Schools, served on the faculty of Fairmont State University in Developmental Education and was Director of the university's first Community Service Learning Program. From 2000-2004, she directed the states AmeriCorps Promise Fellows and implemented a statewide initiative, WVPASS (WV Partnerships to Assure Student Success).

An active first lady, she advocated for West Virginia children, families and healthy lifestyles. She served on the State Board of Education, where she now serves as President. She is Chair of the Board for Reconnecting McDowell, an AFT initiative serving rural WV, is a past president of the Vandalia Rotary Club of Charleston, and serves on the Clay Center Advisory Board, Vision Shared and as an Emeritus Member of The Education Alliance. She is on the Board of Directors for MVB Bank.

Gayle is a Past-President of the National State Boards of Education. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan appointed her to the Federal Improvement for Post-Secondary Education Board in 2010. She is Corresponding Secretary for the US Senate Spouses, the First Lady Luncheon Committee, and a member of the International III Club. Gayle is on the Board of Director's for Horton's Kids, a non-profit organization serving at-risk youth in Washington, DC.

In 2010, Governor Manchin was elected US Senator to fill the unexpired term of Senator Robert C Byrd and re-elected in 2012 for a full term. Joe and Gayle have three children and eight grandchildren.

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36. Joanne Jaeger Tomblin

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin was born in New York City, New York, and educated in the Long Island public school system. She holds a B.A and an M.A. from Marshall University in Journalism and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. In 2010, she received the Marshall University Outstanding Alumnus Award. While working on her Master's degree, she was on assignment in the Office of Public Information for the West Virginia Legislature where she was introduced to freshman delegate Earl Ray Tomblin. They were married on September 8, 1979.

Joanne Tomblin enjoyed a career in broadcasting before becoming director of the Logan County Chamber of Commerce. From there, she worked for Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College where she was named president in 1999. At Southern, she fostered relationships and partnerships between business and industry groups, government and education. In 2011, Southern was ranked as the 14th best community college in the nation by Washington Monthly.

During her husband's tenure as governor, Joanne managed full time roles as college president and first lady. As first lady, she remained passionate about education and was an advocate for the military, arts, tourism, healthy eating and gardening, and the Babies Safe and Sound program. She and Governor Earl Ray Tomblin have one son, Brent, who received a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Marshall University.

WEST VIRGINIA'S *First Lady*



37. Cathy Justice

First Lady Cathy Justice was born in Beckley and grew up in Prosperity, West Virginia. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School where she met her future husband, Jim Justice. She was active in 4-H and rode horses competitively. Cathy graduated from Marshall University with a degree in Secondary Education. After college, she returned to Raleigh County and married Jim.

Whether attending events as First Lady, participating in a local church affiliated reading program or cheering on the Greenbrier East High School basketball teams, she enjoys sharing her time with others and supporting her community. Family is important to the First Lady and she enjoys fishing with them and being outdoors.

As First Lady, her primary initiative is to support and expand local affiliates of the nonprofit Communities In Schools (CIS) program. The dropout prevention program links educators with the community to bring local talents and resources into the schools. This helps create a network of support that keeps students in school and engaged in learning. CIS began in Greenbrier County, and First Lady Justice's initiative is currently expanding the program to McDowell, Wyoming and Berkeley counties, with plans to grow the program throughout the state.

First Ladies Doll Makers



Edna Henderson

Charleston, West Virginia, ceramic artist Edna Henderson was the first of the West Virginia First Lady doll makers. She fashioned 28 dolls for the inauguration of the Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex. The dolls were commissioned by the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs.

Working within a tight timeframe of eight weeks, Henderson sculpted each of the dolls after painstaking research. She spent hours researching and experimenting to duplicate their facial features. She did more research to make certain that the fabrics, trims and decorations on each of the inaugural gowns came as close as possible to the gowns of the period ranging from 1863 to 1976. It took fifteen people to help Henderson dress the dolls for the collection's introduction at the federation's March 1976 conference at The Greenbrier.

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Joanne Gelin

In 2006, West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith commissioned Huntington, West Virginia, elementary school art teacher and doll maker Joanne Gelin to create the Gayle Manchin doll. Gelin grew up drawing with her father, a pastel portrait artist and design engineer. She has an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts and a master's degree in Art Education.

Her introduction to doll making began when she acquired a tattered composition doll at an antique doll shop. After returning the repaired doll to the shop owner, Gelin was gifted with additional dolls in need of repair and was encouraged by the shop owner to consider designing her own dolls. By attending conferences and workshops, she developed her own style. Working with First Lady Gayle Manchin was a project that Gelin enjoyed. She said working with a person affords a doll maker the opportunity to incorporate life into the doll because the artist can visualize the person's pose and expressions.



First Ladies Doll Makers



Ping Lau

Ping Lau of Washington, D.C., was commissioned in 2013 to fashion the Joanne Jaeger Tomblin doll. Working meticulously with drawings and photographs, Lau paid close attention to details as she completed the doll and gown. Lau was raised and educated in Singapore. She has had no formal art training but graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the National University of Singapore. Her meticulously detailed, expressive and one-of-a-kind dolls have received and continue to receive tremendous response and recognition whenever they are shown. Lau's dolls, paintings and other creations have been displayed at local and national art galleries and art shows, and have also been featured on the Home Shopping Network.

The Culture Center, located on the West Virginia State Capitol Complex in Charleston, is operated by the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History. Opened in 1976, it showcases West Virginia's artistic, cultural and historical heritage.

The building houses the West Virginia State Museum, the West Virginia State Archives and History Library and the West Virginia Library Commission. The offices of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and the Department's Arts Section are also housed in the building.

Throughout the year, the Culture Center highlights the state's historic and contemporary story with special exhibitions featuring items from the state's artifacts and art collections, archival collections and juried arts and quilt programs. The annual Vandalia Gathering celebrates the state's traditional music and dance while youth oriented programs such as West Virginia State History Bowl, West Virginia Marching Band Invitational, West Virginia Dance Festival, Poetry Out Loud and the First Lady's Festival of Songs, bring attention to the exciting talent of young generations of West Virginians.

The Department also operates West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville and Camp Washington-Carver at Clifftop.

Each site offers ongoing educational and lifelong learning opportunities.

For information about the programs and events at each site, visit www.wvculture.org.



From left to right: Dr. Florie Hirsch, dressmaker, Ping Lau, doll maker and First Lady Cathy Justice

Photograph by Steven Rotsch



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AND HISTORY**

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