



July, 2009

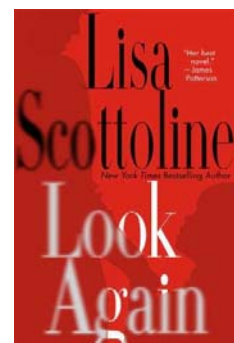
Greetings,

The programs are coming together for a wonderful conference to highlight how essential libraries are these times of economic woe and increasing technology disparity. Make sure you visit the conference blog [wvla2009.blogspot.com] for the most up to date listings, since many of the programs are still being confirmed and lined up. Additional information about activities and lodging will be coming to the blog also.

The Key Note speaker at the Banquet Thursday night will be Tim Spalding, founder of [LibraryThing](http://LibraryThing.com). I am truly excited about Tim speaking at the association, since he has been instrumental in pushing the envelope in regards to libraries, cataloging, and on line communities. I have been a huge fan of [LibraryThing](http://LibraryThing.com), and can't wait to hear Tim talk about what [LibraryThing](http://LibraryThing.com) is all about and where our future is taking us in the new world of Net 2.0 & 3.0.

On a personal note, I will say that I am quite glad the conference is at Snowshoe. It was on my honeymoon in October of 1993 that I first visited Snowshoe, and experienced the beauty of the fall leaves and hills of the Potomac Highlands. This area is one of my favorite spots to visit in WV, and I plan to spend the weekend after the conference with my family enjoying those great outdoors. How is this possible you ask? Well, Snowshoe is extending the conference rates for the condos before and after the conference (they count towards our room reservations also) if you wish to stay longer for a little vacation.

I advise everyone to start making their reservations for rooms at the Snowshoe Mountain Lodge. I'll be posting on the blog links to the website with information on the accommodations and more. The conference will be September 30th -October 2nd and as an incentive, the first 50 registrars receive a free copy of Lisa Scottoline's Look Again (signed). Thank you Pam Coyle!



Have a great summer!

Brian E. Raitz
President of WVLA