



Timberland
Regional
Library

News Release

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February 11, 2011

Ruth Jacobson to discuss book on Peace Corps years in Liberia

Ruth Jacobson, author of “You Never Try, You Never Know: Six Years in Liberia” will speak and sign books at the [Yelm Timberland Library](#) on Wednesday, February 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Mrs. Jacobson, a registered nurse, and her husband, Harold, a maintenance mechanic, served in Liberia for three years as Peace Corp volunteers beginning in 1971 and for over three more years as staff at a mission hospital. Jacobson’s book, a collection of the weekly letters she sent to her mother and family, chronicles their life and work in Liberia—events of the times, everyday life and customs in the villages where they lived, and the people they grew to know. Jacobson remains in touch with many Liberians today, as well as with her Peace Corps and mission friends.



Jacobson’s letters offer insights to anyone considering working in a developing nation. The book offers a glimpse into a pre-civil war third-world African nation—she and her husband left the country just one year before civil war broke out.

Mrs. Jacobson was a member of the Friends of the Yelm Library beginning in 1986 during the time the group was raising funds for the current library. She helped write grants and promote projects such as commemorative ceramic book spines that were worked into friezes representing shelves of books. These works of art now grace the wall of the stairway from the ground floor lobby up to the library.

The Yelm Timberland Library is located at 210 Prairie Park Street. An elevator provides access to the library for those challenged by stairs. For more information, please contact the library at (360) 458-3374 or go to www.TRL.org.

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library’s program may contact the library one week in advance.