
Director's Report

July, 2017

Meetings and Programs. I attended the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago from June 22-June 26. On Friday, I attended the Opening General Session, which featured Reshma Saujani, who has started an organization called "Girls Who Code." Its mission is to introduce coding to girls ages 13-17 to not only introduce them to technology and coding and all that it can do but to empower them to explore technology as a course of study and a career. Girls Who Code has teamed up with Penguin to release 13 books for girls about computer science and coding. The first books come out August 22, 2017 and include a non-fiction book, *Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World*, and a fiction book, *The Friendship Code*. I think this would be a great program for the Nyack Library. Rahm Emanuel, as the host Mayor, also made an appearance at the Opening General Session.

On Saturday, I attended ALSC Leadership meetings in my role as Priority Group Consultant. At that meeting, Kevin Maher, of ALA's Washington Office, came to talk about ALA's Advocacy initiative, "Fight for Libraries" which was created to inform members of Congress how important it is that they support of the Library Services and Technology Act and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. This spring, a record number of Members of Congress in both chambers indicated their support. Phase II has as its focus the Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The Subcommittees who are working now on the legislation that will eliminate, slash or save IMLS, LSTA and IAL funding in the coming fiscal year.

He was followed by a talk by Nicole A. Cooke, PhD, an Assistant Professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her talk was entitled "Strengthening the Virtuous Circle: Why Diversity in the Profession Matters."

On Saturday afternoon, I joined the Women Administrators Discussion Group, sponsored by LLAMA, the Library Leadership and Management Association, a Division of ALA. Of the 10 women who were there only 2 were from public libraries. The rest were from Academic Libraries. But we all share the same administrative issues and I found the discussion to be informative, helpful and uplifting. They were all intelligent and very professional. That was followed by the ALA President's Program, featuring Sarah Jessica Parker, the actress, who is the honorary chair of a new initiative from ALA called Book Club Central. The first book selected for this venture is No One is Coming to Save Us, by Stephanie Powell Watts. Ms. Watts appeared onstage with Ms. Parker and a representative from Booklist magazine to discuss the book.

There were quite a few other technology based programs, including a program on a "One Button Studio" which is a video studio for library users, utilized mainly in academic settings and the ALSC President's program was about Digital Literacy for children which I thought was really enlightening and well done called "Plugging into the Digital Age: Libraries Engaging and Supporting Families with Today's Literacy."

Personnel. The union vote is scheduled for July 24th in the Community Room and I along with my Department Heads have been working to inform our staff about the realities of a union and how it will, we believe, negatively impact our Library.

Building and Grounds. We have yet to have our Cherry Tree removed. I have reminded the vendor again to put us on his calendar. The HVAC repairs have been made and all areas of the library are now working well, just in time for the real heat of the Summer.

I have included a proposal from Office Dynamics to replace the copier that is currently in the Reference Room. As you can see, it would be no cost to the library and enable us to provide our patrons with print services from the computers in the Reference Room to a newer color printer and copier.