



NJLA Reference & Adult Services Section

November 30 2023

Zoom

In Attendance: Deborah Blackwell, Kate Russo, Karen Vias, Muriel Odrick

Meeting Title: Topics of discussion for the Reference & Adult Services Section

- **Called to Order 10:08 a.m. Seconded by Karen Vaias**

- **Adult Forum held at Monmouth County Library – October 20, 2023**
 - a. Title: A Caring Community: Mental and Emotional Wellness & Enhanced Meaningful Communications.
 - b. Speakers: Maria Robinson, author and business consultant advisor, and Amber Railey, Licensed Professional Counselor at Empower U
 - c. In attendance: Deborah Blackwell, Lindita Cani, Robin Megow, Kate Rusoso, Briana Weatherholtz, Joy Robinson, Claire Thomas, Erika Dragonetti, Natalie Niziolek, Margaret Trupio, Laura Migliore, Ruby Armour, and Muriel Odrick
 - d. Points of interest from attendees of the Adult Forum:
 - i. Kate Russo – always stay open to new ideas and perspectives shown by one of the attendees voluntarily making Barbie sticker that says My Job is Library for those in attendance. It was creative and valuable. Kate appreciated the librarian making them and bringing them to the session.
 - ii. Deborah Blackwell – The power of the collected voices in the room that assisted a librarian that had a workplace challenge. The participants present assisted her was a transformation in that moment how everyone was freely sharing and offering insights. Kate’s reference to perspective brought this recollection of the Adult Forum to mind. The librarian was looking at it as a problem with no answer and in the round robin came many solutions to her situation.
 - iii. Muriel Odrick – (from notes taken at the Adult Forum) retention is where your communication comes in using the five senses [see, hear, touch, smell, taste) that brings us into the moment out of chaos; what is your attention for today all starts with the intention to make sure you do it - your brain depends on it; three words to stop a bully *Are You OK*; behavior is a form of communication; healing is not a destination it’s a journey; know when to ask for help; gratitude be thankful for everything.

- **Sharing of wellness for the holidays**

Kate Russo – for stress relief during the last holiday weight lifting no more than five pounds.

- **Protocol of proposal member's library to present at the NJLA Conference –** Requirements were met.
- **Member status update of the 2024 Call for Conference Proposal due Friday, December 8, 2023**
 - a. Kate Russo – Proposing effective communication strategies for neurodivergent peers or may state autism, how to do this, possibly highlight the benefits of working with this population because some people do not know about this population can approach them from a place of fear. Partnering is Susan Fox, Claire Thomas, and Kate Russo.
 - b. Muriel Odrick – Panel discussion with Ocean County Library Staff with a moderator. Discussion includes the different backgrounds, environments, and situations that led the panelist to become librarians and their risks, difficulties, drawback, advantages, opportunities, and barriers in their journey to librarianship. The panel consists of three librarians in different generational groups, backgrounds and ethnicities.
 - c. Muriel Odrick – Workshop session with one presenter teaching how to present a True Crime program with authors, activities, and more for patrons to enjoy while respecting and honoring the victims of True Crime
 - d. Deborah Blackwell – Deborah Blackwell and Laura Giacobbe will submit a proposal with a different lens regarding diversity – from an individual position is the goal – opening up the eye of diversity around equity and power. It is going to be hands on with a lot of activities so people can come away from the session with current does and strategies that they can immediately implement. The session is for 50 minutes.
 - e. World Language Collection and Development – Proposal by Linda Tripp and Nathalie Levine. A panel discussion about world language collection development for a county system and working with multiple world language vendors. The panel discussion will have in attendance someone who will talk about buying children's collections in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, and Russian, buying adult collections in Spanish, and using subscription services through a consortium for purchasing adult world language books. Natalie Levine will speak from the perspective of a small library that does all its own ordering and ways to identify language needs in your community.
- **Next meeting** – Thursday, January 25, 2024, 10:00 am on Zoom, which is posted on the Reference & Adult Services Section page.
- **Meeting adjourned** – 10:37 a.m. Seconded by Karen Vaias