

URBAN LIBRARIES SECTION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Prepared by Janet Birckhead

In Attendance: Janet Birckhead, Cathy Folk-Pushee, Christy Sayre, Peggy Cadigan, Mary Faith Chmiel, and Pat Tumulty

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. the Johnson Public Library, Hackensack

1. Discussion of Access to Online Edition of Local Newspapers

Peggy asked about obtaining an online subscription to the *New York Times*. Mary Faith said that the Elizabeth Public Library has a group pass. Janet stated that the Long Branch Free Public Library has an online subscription to the *Asbury Park Press*. It includes remote access. There are no archives. Janet thinks that it doesn't include obituaries.

2. Minutes from August 18 Meeting

Tabled until next meeting

3. Co-Sponsoring Adult Services Forum?

Members discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring the Adult Services Forum, which will be held at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan on Oct. 24. Mary Faith will send an email to members telling them to contact Cassidy Charles or Louisa Bann if they are interested in volunteering.

4. New Ideas: Coffee with a Cop. Other Ideas?

a. Coffee with a Cop

A bank sponsored this in Parsippany Troy Hills on Sept. 14. For more information, see http://s3.amazonaws.com/nixle/uploads/pub_media/user39311-1473691968-media1. Something similar took place in Jersey City last Tuesday. This is a program that could be held in public libraries.

b. National Night Out

Mary Faith said that the Elizabeth Public Library usually has a table at the place where National Night Out is held. Last year the library table had a button maker. It was the longest line at the event. Janet stated that National Night Out in Long Branch is held right next to the library. The police always bring the police dogs for a demonstration. The library usually gives out free books. This year, we had a lot of free craft books that were donated.

c. Spotlight on Cities

Christy reported that Spotlight on Cities is a multi-speaker forum in Newark. Christy thought that Tonya Garcia was speaking at this conference, but Tonya said that she isn't. This is the second year it is being held. So another year has gone by without libraries having a seat at the table. Christy thinks we should work towards getting involved for next year. Janet asked whether Spotlight on Cities is focused just on New Jersey cities. Christy said it is. Peggy brought a flyer about this forum. The cost is \$75 per person. Since the flyer asks for suggestions, Pat and Peggy will send a letter suggesting that libraries be included in the future. They will check with Tonya first to see what, if anything, she has done about getting libraries represented. Mary Faith will send information about signing up as a nonprofit. The deadline to register is Oct. 14.

d. The One Stop Career Center will help ex-offenders get their records expunged. The center will bond them, up to \$25,000.

5. Conference Programming Possibilities

a. Sister Souljah

Cathy informed the section that Sister Souljah's agent had gotten in touch with her and offered a discount on her normal booking fee. The fee would be \$5000, down from her normal \$10,000. Cathy couldn't find another agency to sponsor Sister Souljah for her library but suggested her as a speaker for NJLA. Sister Souljah will speak on whatever topic she is asked to speak on. She could talk about the writing process. Cathy thinks she might reduce her fee if she could have a book signing. She might also make a good choice for the keynote. Pat suggested that maybe another agency (possibly Stockton College) could book Sister Souljah for the same week as NJLA to help us cut costs.

b. Other Notables

Pat had tweeted something about scheduling Bruce Springsteen, but she got little response. Members were urged to make sure that their libraries' social media person follows Pat.

Peggy stated that the Plainfield Public Library had Ice-T speak at their library a few years ago.

Janet suggested Robert Pinsky for the keynote. She noted that, about eight years ago, Monmouth University had him speak as part of their Authors series. Janet went with members of her book club, since the club was reading Pinsky's work.

c. Speaker with a Disability

Janet asked whether we have ever had a speaker with a disability speak at NJLA. Peggy replied that a deaf person was one of the speakers a long time ago. Pat added that there was a program on service dogs in libraries two or three years ago. There was a discussion about whether staff members have to check the certificate when a person claims that an animal is a service animal. Someone stated that we are not supposed to ask for proof. As a follow-up question, someone asked whether establishments require seniors to show proof of age. The consensus is that some may, when the senior is requesting a discount.

d. Painting Pictures/Her Story/People and Stories/Great Stories Club

Peggy reported that we should cross off Painting Pictures for now, as she has been having trouble contacting the woman in charge.

HerStory is based on Long Island. Christy stated that Karen is no longer involved but that she can contact the people who are.

Christy noted that, in People and Stories, they take a short story and read it aloud. Members of the group then talk about their own stories. It is offered in English and Spanish.

Mary Faith added that, when her Teen librarian hosted the Great Stories Club, the kids cried when it was over. Janet commented that these programs are almost bibliotherapy. Someone added that they all target non-readers.

Pat reported that she had suggested People and Stories for the Adult Services Forum, but she doesn't know whether they chose to do it or not. Someone else commented that a panel representing all of these programs would be a good program for NJLA. Janet added that we should look for three to four speakers out of these three programs.

- e. Cathy reported that Tyndale House sometimes donates free books to libraries. There was a discussion of the religious aspects of Tyndale's books and of whether that would be a problem.
- f. Organizational Health
A program on organizational health was proposed. However, we aren't sure whether the people who proposed this program are still active in NJLA.
- g. Building Management
Mary Faith stated that we will offer to co-sponsor a program on building management with the Administration section. Evalina is the contact for that section.
- h. Suits for Success
This is another organization that provides ties for men who need one for job hunting. Some libraries, such as the Paskell Library of Philadelphia, have a circulating tie collection. Peggy suggested that we collect ties at NJLA. We need to find a charity to accept them. We could collect women's accessories as well.
- i. Recycling Ideas from the 70s
Peggy suggested we co-sponsor this with I & R.
- j. Social Workers in Libraries
Pat asked where we stand with the program on social workers in libraries. Mary Faith contacted Mark Lamar, who is in charge of all of the social work students at Rutgers. A total of 1500 students will need placement in January of 2017. There are two tracks for second-year students: in the field or in administration. Christy asked whether someone was scheduled to speak about this program at the Adult Services Forum. Mary Faith responded, "We decided that those who responded to the email would be the pilot program and that we could speak at the NJLA Conference or another program next year. The library supervisor will verify the student's hours and answer questions. This means the library supervisor functions as a field liaison. The supervisor meets with his/her student once a year.

Camden County Library and the Butler Township Library have this in place. Newark Public Library is also pursuing this. The unpaid social work interns are expected to work 15 hours a week for two semesters. Mark Lamar from Rutgers recommends holding an open house to introduce the interns to library staff and the community.

Janet confirmed that Long Branch's social work intern from last year is a master's degree candidate. The library will have him for a second year. He will be working on reinvigorating the Fresh Start Re-Entry Program. This year the library also has a new social work intern, who will be working on the Community Connects Program.

Christy commented that there should be a handout about the social work internship program at the Adult Services Forum. We should get them to put the handout in the packets for attendees. Mary Faith promised to talk to Louisa about this.

k. Diversity in Children's Books

Mary Faith asked whether we want to co-sponsor Diversity in Children's Books with the Children's Services section. The opinion was that this topic would best be handled by another section.

l. Drum Circle

Mary Faith felt that it would be good to have a drum circle, but we would need someone to lead it. Cathy reported that Adele Pucchio has a friend who does programs involving drumming. She doesn't know if he leads a drumming circles. Mary Faith said she would contact Adele. Mary Faith has a staff members who may have a contact. Montclair Public Library has a drum circle. If you google "drum circle," you will find a list of towns that have done it, including Highland Park, Toms River, and Brigantine. We could host this as an alternative to the pool party. Mary Faith will contact Brigantine for more information.

The NJLA Conference is April 24 to 26 this year.

6. Potential Meeting Schedule 2016/17 and locations

We had hoped to have a joint meeting with Diversity & Outreach at the Lakewood Public Library but parking appears to be an issue. We will meet with them in November at Toms River. Peggy suggested Point Pleasant Public Library, as an alternative to Toms River. Mary Faith will reach out to the Plainfield Public Library regarding hosting the October 20 meeting.

Other possibilities include Newark, Neptune, Asbury Park, Perth Amboy, and the Oranges. Christy reported that East Orange Public Library wants to host. She will forward the email from the contact to Mary Faith. Janet requested that, if we schedule a meeting in Newark, we pick a venue near the train station.

7. Spring CE Workshop – Creating Diversity Book Lists (Janet)

Janet referenced the recent emails on diversity (or lack thereof) in children's literature and suggested that the Urban Libraries section offer a program as a continuing education program. She recommended that the libraries with staff who are members of the Urban Libraries section create book lists. She added that we would also need a speaker and suggested that someone listed on one of the links in the recent emails would be a good choice. It was suggested that we partner with the Diversity & Outreach section and the Intellectual Freedom section. Pat will send a link to the program that Heidi is doing at the Newark Public Library.

8. Funding in Urban Libraries

Pat announced that the staff at the Atlantic City Public Library has been decimated. The library lost 45% of their dedicated funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.