

Urban Libraries Section Minutes
Plainfield Public Library
Thursday, October 20, 10 AM

In attendance: MaryFaith Chmiel (Elizabeth), Tina Marie Doody (Plainfield), Mary Kearns-Kaplan (TBBC), Cathy Folk-Pushee (Hackensack), Paula Baratta (Newark), Mary Ellen Rogan (Plainfield)

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:15.
2. Approval of August minutes was tabled until next meeting.
3. September minutes were approved after some corrections were made. Cathy made a motion to accept, MaryFaith seconded.
4. The section is co-sponsoring the Adult Services Forum on October 24 and has decided to informally hand out or otherwise make available the Social Workers in Libraries brochure created in August.
5. New Conference Ideas
 - A. MaryFaith met William Lavin, author of *Where Angels Live, Work, and Play*, a book about building playgrounds for the communities whose children were victims of Superstorm Sandy and the Sandy Hook shootings.
 - B. We could have someone associated with the Mental Health First Aid program or possibly the Black Belt Librarian, Warren Graham, conduct a training session as a follow-up to the social workers in libraries session from the 2015 conference. Tina mentioned that someone from their county mental health association conducted a training at Plainfield on coping with patrons with mental health issues. Training on making initial contact and conversation seems like the most useful aspect for librarians. Also how to de-escalate a situation and pass it off to a trained mental health worker. *Interesting tip picked up from Warren Graham's training: Every 30 minutes for 30 seconds for 30 days you should scan your environment to make a habit of observing your surroundings, people, and activities.
6. Ongoing Conference Ideas
 - A. MaryFaith will contact Karen to see if she knows someone who could speak about bringing HerStory to NJ.
 - B. Pat will contact someone about a presentation on People and Stories.
 - C. The section will co-sponsor a session on building management.
 - D. MaryFaith contacted an acquaintance of Adele Puccio (Rich in Montclair) about leading a drum circle. He would charge \$400, would bring 60 instruments and would need overnight accommodations for an evening event. Mary Kearns-Kaplan also has someone that she will contact.

7. Statewide commemoration of participation in WWI- Members will do some digging to find out more information on this topic. Deb Schiff from the History & Preservation Section would be a good contact. Laura Paul in Trenton is another one.

8. Other

- A. Cathy will send out last year's infographic from Snapshot Day as an example of how to use statistics to inform stakeholders.
- B. No one participated in this year's Spotlight on Cities though it would be great outreach to participate next year.
- C. City ID cards are moving ahead in Elizabeth. The library will make the cards and process the paperwork. IDs will double as library cards. It will take about 20 minutes per person to make the card and will cost \$15. The city will reimburse the library for the cost.
- D. Mimi Lee is going to the Statewide Conference on Poverty held by the Anti-Poverty Network of NJ. It will be on October 28th at Middlesex County College from 8:30-4:30. Cost is \$30 per person.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.