

Inside this issue:

2016 Public Library Association Conference Reports	1-4
Introducing new YSRT Board members	5
RT Book Lovers Conference Report	6
YSRT Board contact info	6
Upcoming: 2016 ULA Conference	6
Farewell	6

2016 PLA Conference was held in Denver, CO April 6-9, 2016

If you would like to have your library spotlighted or have a program idea to share, please send the information Heidi. Thank you!

Big Ideas with Verna Myers

Thursday, April 7, 2016

It felt too early to be up, since it was my first session in the morning and I had to wake up at midnight the night before to pay the parking meter for my rental. But Verna's vivacity, enthusiasm, and topic woke up me and the enormous theater of librarians. She spoke about eliminating bias in ourselves. We all come with our own cultural lens—how we grew up with others' values and ways being driven into us, and what we were taught. All of that shapes how we see the world. It is important for us to accept that, and analyze it.

Once you have "named your lens," then you can go in to the world and be aware of how and why you are perceiving as you do, then know how to act because of that. As Verna said, "Seeing was never the problem. It was what we did with what we saw in who we saw." Our biases can affect what we do or how we react. We can weaken them by slowing down. Take time to think about why you feel or think as you do before acting. There were so many great takeaways for me from Verna's session. Here are just a few:



- *Remember to put yourself in someone else's shoes.
- *Try to expand your comfort zone. It takes work to do that expanding.
- *This is not about perfection, it's about connection.
- *Notice where people are heading in to a head wind and help them out!
- *Know that the Golden Rule is no more. Now it is the Platinum Rule: Treat people the way they want to be treated!

Big Ideas with Sherry Turkle – Friday, April 8, 2016

by Heidi Tice



This session was possibly the one I came away from feeling the most validated. I have been a bystander in the smartphone world since, well, since smartphones entered the scene. Over the years, I have watched communication increase, but connection decrease. Many have told me I didn't know what I was talking about, since I didn't have a smartphone. But I haven't been the one who has had my head down staring at a tiny screen. I have been the one trying to hold conversations with people who every few minutes (or even seconds) look away from me so they can check their phone. So

when Sherry spoke about this very topic—and how conversation is suffering because of electronic devices—I almost cried for joy. I certainly joined in the standing ovation at the end.

Sherry spoke about how a lull in conversation is a natural pause, a time for us to lay down in our minds connections in the conversation we are having. It is part of brain development. But people now are referring to lulls as “the boring bits,” and their excuse to pull out their phones. She pointed out that addiction to phones is not just what the phone offers, but also what it allows us to avoid. It is prohibiting connection because technological change is becoming an assault on conversation. For one, it is affecting conversation in general. But it also is keeping people from learning how to be alone, with no technological distractions. People need to have the capacity to be alone, because it helps us be more prepared to attend to others. In solitude we are able to prepare ourselves to come to conversations; self-reflection is the cornerstone of development.

She warned that we are trying to clean up human relationships with technology, but we are instead moving from conversation to connection—and forgetting there is a difference between the two. Everyone touts that we are more connected these days, yet we have lost how to truly be there be for others. Our empathy and our attention to human beings is declining as we focus more on the technology. “Technology can make us forget what we know about life.” Which is why it is important that children learn to read with readers who have lived a human life, and not solely from robot/electronic readers. “Just because it is easier doesn't mean it's a substitute.” In essence, Sherry was not saying that e-Devices and technology are bad. She just warned that we need to be aware how it is affecting us, our communication, and our human relationships.

So, of course, the day I got home, I went out and got a smartphone. ☺ (There's a long backstory to that....) It stays in my locker at work, and in my room when I'm home, and off when I am with friends and family. I will help prove Sherry's point that we can live without letting phones and electronics control our lives or destroy our conversations.

Children’s Author Breakfast – April 8, 2016 by Heidi Tice

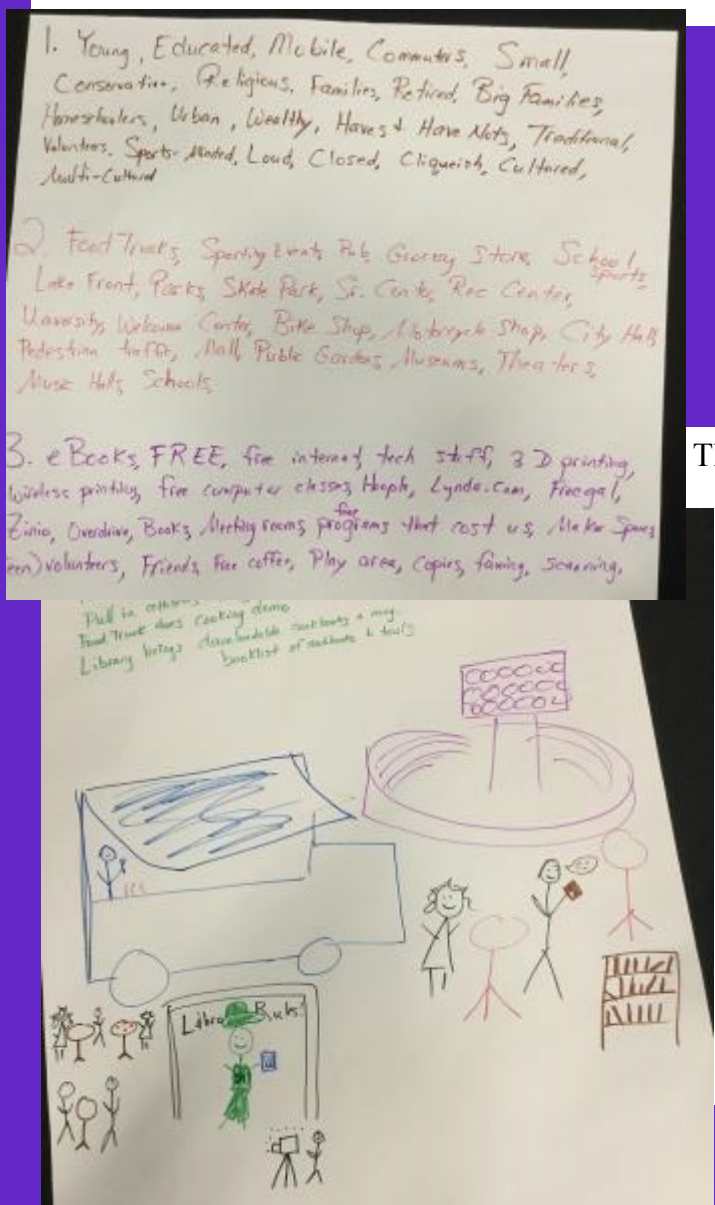


It was a very early morning, but very worth it—I got to hear Chris Grabenstein read from his 2nd Mr. Lemoncello book. What a memorable experience! It is too bad he doesn’t do the audio for his own books. I also got a preview of Steve Jenkins upcoming book using infographics (which I really like). When Jewell Parker Rhodes spoke about her new children’s book, *Towers Falling*, about the events of 9/11, she had many of us in tears before she even began reading an excerpt. Sara Pennypacker spoke of her new book *Pax* and what a personal, intense process it was for her. And our final guest, Sean Qualls, co-illustrated *Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglas* with his wife Selina Alko. It was fun to hear what it was like for the two of them to collaborate on a project. It was such a nice event—with a yummy breakfast and great authors. But the unexpected and awesome surprise—we were given copies of books by each guest author! Possibly my 2nd favorite physical takeaway from PLA.

Get Outside the Lines: Reintroducing Your Library to the Community – April 8, 2016 by Heidi Tice

This brainstorming session was a lot of fun for me, and got a lot of creative juices flowing. It also helped me to more readily catch the vision of outreach and community engagement, which I’ll admit I didn’t really have when our library system previously tried to do Outside the Lines programs.

In my group, I was elected scribe and then artist. (Not even sure how that happened.) Brainstorm 1 was words to describe our communities. #2 was places we could go to advertise the library. #3 was all the things our libraries have to offer. Then we were to come up with a scenario—sky’s the limit!—and draw what we came up with. Here are the pictures from my group. Can you figure it out? Yeah, I’m a singer. Not a drawing artist.



Other Sessions Heidi attended

- *Extraordinarily Engaged: How Three Libraries are Transforming Their Communities
- *Shhh! Don't Tell My Mom: Readers Advisory That Everyone Can Live With
- *Never Leave Internal Communications to Chance
- *Understanding Microaggressions: A Catalyst for Climate Change in the Workplace

Sessions Christina attended

- *Emerging Adults in our Libraries: Who are they and how do we find them?
- *The Power of Performance: The PLA Performance Measures Initiative
- *Sustainable Connected Learning for Youth
- *Making the Grade at Each Stage with School Outreach
- *Teen Asset Mapping: A community development approach to teen services expansion
- *How Two Libraries Quit Summer Reading and You Can, Too
- *Spark Talks
- *Stress Tests: Conducting strategic analysis of services and programs to guide libraries of the future
- *Strong Girls School: Create a program addressing gender bias, inequality, and self-esteem building for girls

Sessions Elizabeth attended

- *52 Weeks of STEM
- *Out @ The Library: Innovative LGBTQ Programming at the Library
- *Teen Asset Mapping
- *Safe in the Stacks: Serving Homeless LGBT Youth
- *Early Literacy Outreach for Teen Parents
- *Where the Black and Brown Boys Aren't (and Why).

Heidi's PLA Confessions

I ate 5 desserts in 3 nights. Two of them were at Zagat-rated restaurant D Bar. (The owner of said restaurant is "the guy on Cake Wars.") It was totally worth breaking my diet.



☺

I took a lunch break to get my hair cut. As a curly-haired girl who has suffered many Gilda Radner haircuts, I am very picky about who cuts my hair. Since there are no salons in Utah that have the certification I prefer and 5 salons in Denver have it, yeah, I took the opportunity.

I missed Anderson Cooper!! One of the main reasons I was excited for PLA, and our delayed flight, etc. left me missing the session. I am still devastated.

I missed Saturday because I had to fly back early. When I left for PLA, I thought "So I miss a 1/2 day. Meh." By the end of my 1st day, I was so upset! This was the best conference I had been to, and I was sad I wouldn't get to partake of it fully. I hope I can go again another year and be there for *all* of it.



Of course Heidi visited the library! What else does she do when she travels?



Heidi's Book Haul. I think I did well containing myself, considering I took home 200 from ALA in 2013.

Introducing the new YSRT Board Members



Heidi's favorite physical takeaway from PLA: a card catalog USB drive!! Thank you, *Unshelved!*

Libraries Visited

- Hyrum
- Cache County (Providence)
- Logan
- North Logan
- Lewiston
- Richmond
- Smithfield
- Newton
- Garland
- Tremonton

Lindsay Roylance Anderson—Chair

Lindsay works at the Murray Library, providing programming for children, teens, and adults. In her spare time she likes to read to her daughter, take care of her chickens, and try to keep her houseplants alive.



Stephanie Costa—Member-at-Large

Stephanie is a Teen Librarian at the Salt Lake City Public Library's Day-Riverside Branch. Originally from Monterey, California, she came to Utah for college. She studied Film at the University of Utah and fell in love with libraries while working her way through college. Stephanie has been at SLCPL for 11 years. She loves board gaming, baking and crafting. Her favorite thing about libraries is working together to make lives better. "I love how much play I get to do at work!"

Elizabeth Seawright—Member-at-Large

Once upon a time, Elizabeth Seawright was a flexible assistant at the Orem Public Library. She left Utah in 2006 for Massachusetts where she worked at a large, urban library before returning to Salt Lake City two years ago. Now, she puts her passion for pop divas and television to good use in her position as teen library at the Main branch of The City Library.



RT Book Lovers Conference Report by Sarah Hall

I had the most wonderful opportunity to meet some of my favorite YA and adult authors at the RT Booklovers Conference in Las Vegas, NV on April 16, 2016. It started with the “Giant Book Sale” – and they were not exaggerating. Over 500 adult authors and 100 YA authors all together in one place. (Fortunately for me, their tables were arranged alphabetically, or I would have been lost in an instant.) You could buy their books from them and have them signed, or bring your own from home. Some of the YA authors I was fortunate enough to meet were Brodi Ashton (*Everneath*), Kiera Cass (*The Selection*), Cynthia Hand (*Unearthly*), Jodi Meadows (*Orphan Queen*), Richelle Mead (*Vampire Academy*), and Tamora Pierce (*Song of the Lioness*). In fact, when they found out that I was a Teen Librarian, Kiera Cass and Jodi Meadows signed and donated books as prizes for our Summer Reading Program!

I attended panels on writing tips and tricks, up and coming YA titles, and a panel titled “Humble Beginnings” – where many of the YA authors read a selection of their writings from when they were teens. Most of the excerpts were so bad they were hilarious. The authors had a great time reading them as melodramatically as possible.

It was a wonderful experience, and I would attend the conference again if the opportunity arose. Sadly for me, it is being held in Atlanta, GA next year.



Sarah with author Cynthia Hand

2015-2016 Outgoing YSRT Board Contact Information

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Sarah: Sarah.Hall@washco.lib.ut.us
Ellen: egrove@murray.utah.gov
Sherrie: sherrie.mortensen@loganutah.org
Christina: cwash@slcpl.org

2016-2017 Incoming YSRT Board Contact Information

Chair—Lindsey: lroylance@murray.utah.gov
Vice-Chair—currently vacant
Secretary—Christina: cwash@slcpl.org
Member-at-Large—Sarah: Sarah.Hall@washco.lib.ut.us
Member-at-Large—Sherrie: sherrie.mortensen@loganutah.org
Member-at-Large—Stephanie: scosta@slcpl.org
Member-at-Large—Elizabeth: eseawright@slcpl.org

Coming Up: 2016 ULA Conference—Open the Doors by Heidi Tice

It's time for our annual Utah Library Association Conference. This year it will be held in Layton. And it is going to be awesome! Maybe I'm partial because Dustin Fife has been a great ULA President with innovative, fun ideas to help us Open the Doors. Maybe because Jami Carter, incoming ULA President, is an enthusiastic go-getter with such a love for life and libraries and it will be exciting to hear what her vision for 2016-2017 ULA will be. Maybe it's because I get to present 2 sessions and 1 poster session....or maybe not. But it will be a great place for networking, sharing and obtaining ideas, service (blood drive!), and more. Join us!!

Farewell

We would like to bid a farewell to Michelle who served as our 2015-2016 Vice-Chair. She added much fun, laughter, vivacity, and wonderful expertise to our board the last year. We hope her endeavors in the future will bring much happiness and fulfillment. So glad that I was able to serve with her and gain her as a fabulous friend!