

American Library Association Annual Conference
Chicago
July 11-12, 2009
Deborah Sarna

Saturday, July 11, 2009

Welcome Breakfast and Conference Kickoff

Keynote: Al Gini, Professor of Business Ethics, Graduate School of Business, Loyola University Chicago.

I attended the 2009 Empowerment Conference breakfast, followed by the keynote address, "Lincoln's Ten Critical Tasks of Leadership," delivered by Professor Al Gini. Professor Gini gave an interesting talk about the leadership of President Lincoln based on the President's Ten Critical Tasks of Leadership. He gave insight into the beliefs and values that influenced his presidency.

Leadership = Vision + Communication + Empowerment an Overview

Speaker: Alexis H. Sarkisian, Library Marketing Consultant/Adjunct Instructor, Dominican University

This session was a lively discussion of the meaning of leadership and the importance of the way we communicate. Everyone has a unique style of communication, but what you are saying may not be what they are hearing. The ability to communicate so everyone understands what you are saying eliminates assumptions and misunderstandings. The differences between managers and leaders were also discussed. The audience was varied with a lot of different ideas and opinions.

Leadership for Library Support Staff

Speaker: Kevin Dudeney

Mr. Dudeney was a delight to listen to with his Aussie accent. While waiting for others to arrive he told interesting tales about his country and talked about the library profession in Australia. His talk centered on the importance of staff to the library team and the potential for everyone to be a leader. Mr. Dudeney considers leadership a skill that can be learned, and talked about five points of importance to learn. He also discussed the myths surrounding what makes a leader. It was a very entertaining and informative session.

Leading from Any Position: Opportunities to Contribute to Your Library's Success

Speaker: Maureen Sullivan, Organization Development Consultant, Maureen Sullivan Associates

Ms. Sullivan led a very thorough discussion about "What is Leadership?" The very definition of the word was analyzed and discussed, with the distinction of indirect and direct leadership. Resonant leadership was also defined and discussed. Resonant leaders build positive relationships based on trust; they bring out everyone's best. She helps you realize your current capacity for leadership and what steps you can take for your personal development. Leadership by opportunity taken, this simple statement I found to be very inspiring.

Love is in the Air – Romance Writers Discuss their Work

I had looked forward to this session as I had read some of the authors' works and wanted to hear more about them. By the time I got to the room, it was so packed, that I only stayed for a short time. I used this time to return to the exhibits and browse through a few more aisles.

Sunday, July 12, 2009

Reforma - Online Tools Build Communities

I went to this session as it sounded interesting with a program about emerging online technologies such as twitter, facebook, myspace, rss feeds, blogs and wikis in relation to the library field. The speaker began this session and said the topic was 'bringing Latinos into your library', so a few members of the audience went out to see if we were in the right place, and the original topic was still on the board. The new topic was not relevant to my workplace, so I went onto a different session.

Continuing Resources Standards Update Forum

This session was a short presentation followed by a discussion about serials management. The discussion involved the new ISSN L, which I am not that familiar with.

Lunch with the Famous First Ladies: Mary Todd Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, and Hilary Clinton INCHARACTER – Jenny Riddle's One-Woman Show

Ms. Riddle did a fantastic job of bringing the personal side of famous first ladies to life. She told of personal events and tragedies of these families along with humorous stories. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance and spending a relaxing afternoon with colleagues. The groups at our table were from all over the states and made for interesting conversation.

I thank LIBRAS for funding my participation in this conference.