

WALT @ OLA/WLA Annual Conference in Vancouver, WA April 17-20, 2019

Some of my notes from conference, including our WALT Business meeting. Apologies for lack of detail. Submitted in lieu of meeting minutes. Place for your conference notes at end. Dutifully submitted, Anne Bingham, WALT chair.

Wed, April 17, 2:30-4:30 I attended the **WLA Board Meeting**. [Minutes are here](#). One of many exciting things is that [College Librarians and Media Specialists \(CLAMS\) of Washington State](#) had voted to merge with WLA, and WLA reciprocally voted to accept the merge. Welcome CLAMS!

Thursday AM - opening Keynote by Deborah Jacobs. Really interesting to hear about her international library projects.

Thursday, April 18, 10:00–11:15 am, **Learning circles**: Community-led education at the library with P2PU, PRESENTERS: Nico Koenig, Community Lead, P2PU Elizabeth Iaukea, Workforce Development Librarian, Washington State Library.

Nico started us off an icebreaker--we introduced ourselves and shared something that we recently learned. Some people shared a bit of information they learned, others a how-to process, eg how to change the battery on a key fob. I liked that and will use it again. Nico recommended starting with a check-in to recognize everyone in the room--that we are humans and have a heart, brain, and context of family and life. Learning should be meaningful, inclusive, and effective. The Learning Circles program helps people stay motivated as independent learners. A typical session would go: check-in, goal setting, coursework, working thru a problem or guest speaker or field trip, etc., and checking in after each session--what worked for you? How should we change it for next time? I thought it was like Crossfit for Learning.

Thursday, April 18, 1:45-3 pm, **Making Space for Active Learning in Your Library**, Betha Gutsche, WebJunction Programs Manager, OCLC; Brianna Hoffman, Librarian, Project Coordinator, Consultant, Independent Contractor. I lost my notes for this one, but I know the before and after photos were inspiring. They emphasized the importance of taking time and using the design thinking process to really get to know your community and what they need *before* planning solutions. That is valuable advice for undertaking any library program.

Thursday 4:45-6pm **Happy Hour**. I shared Makerspace Book Folding and Paper Weaving activities. I met several interested participants who were eager to take these activities back to their school and public libraries.

Friday morning 7-8am. **Fund Run**. About 25-30 fresh air enthusiasts met at the Clocktower, and took off on an easy out and back trail along the waterfront. I think Josephine Camarillo led the pack by a long stretch--go Josephine! I walked the course with a group of school and public librarians, while we talked about our libraries and lives--a good use of time.

Friday **WLA Business** breakfast. I thought the food was good throughout the conference. We were inspired by a Library futurist, Megan Murray Cusick. Some profound impacts of technology lead to the need to unplug, nap spaces, board games, no device spaces.

Friday AM, Real Talk about Fake News- -great resources that I can use at my school

Friday PM - WA do I read next? OR should I read that? Best conference pun, and lots of books recommended.

Saturday 8-9:30am **WALT Section Meeting**. We were in the Spruce Room, and had a nice view of Esther Short Park. Members present: Anne Bingham, Brian Haight, Jeanne Fondrie, Tami Masenhimer, Betha Gutsche; Guests: Blake Kincaid & Laural Winter from OLA's Staff Training Round Table. We discussed section/round table focus on frontline training for public v. staff training--both groups primarily focus on staff training; loss of WALE conference and subsequent need for staff training events; Library Associations need to amend language to be more inclusive of many professionals and staff who are not librarians; possibility of reading Deep Work as a joint Learning Circle; how to keep a section/round table active. Blake won the drawing for our next Learning Circle book, Deep Work by Cal Newport. Thanks for the coffee, Tami!

Saturday, April 20, 1:45-3 pm, **Training Staff to Solve Tech Problems: A Hands-on Approach** Sponsors: OLA Staff Training Round Table (STRT) and WLA Washington Library Trainers (WALT) Section. Blake Kincaid, Staff Development Coordinator, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries, Lee-Anne Flandreau, Reference Services Coordinator, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries

New colleague Blake was leading this one. It seemed really well organized and hands-on, but not applicable to my school library position, so I ducked out when they broke into groups. It looked like it was going well.

Other Conference thoughts:

- The hands on Virtual Reference booth run by the state library was very popular. Perhaps Joe Olayvar could bring that to a WALT meeting for us to play with?
- Tami and I set up a WALT informational table. Thanks Tami, for decorating in the conference theme of Exploration.
- WALT donated an attractive basket for the silent auction, raising money for scholarships.
- I had signed up to be a conference buddy for a new attendee, but we never met up. I hope she came with a bunch of colleagues from Portland public schools and had a good time.
- Heathman Lodge was a really nice place--huge rooms, good food, free lattes at the front desk, and the pool opened at 5am. The conference shuttle was not as convenient as we had hoped, but no other drawbacks. Highly recommend.
- I regret missing the opening Drag Queen Bingo, Thursday evening social events, and Friday's Banquet extravaganza. Everyone raved about these events. I hope we get another chance to see Lilac City Live! When we go to Spokane in 2020.
- Sometime during the conference I made note of these book titles that I should purchase or read:
 - The Bird Kind by G. Willow Wilson
 - All You Can Ever Know by Nicole Chung
 - Horizon by Barry Lopez
 - Orange World by Karen Russell
 - Don't Skip Out on Me by Willy Vlautin
 - Shame of Losing
 - White Fragility
 - Our Native Bees
 - Eager
 - She has her Mother's Laugh

- Uplake by Ana Maria Spagna
- Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White
- To Night Owl From Dogfish
- Internment Hardcover by Samira Ahmed

Did you attend OLA/WLA Conference 2019? Care to share any observations, summaries, or sessions? Put them here: