

Membership Meeting

YouTube Video: ALA: <https://goo.gl/1DZqzZ>

Sari Feldman, the president of the ALA and executive director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, was our guest speaker. Volunteering at a rape crisis center is what led her to becoming a librarian. When she expressed to a friend that she didn't like counseling people but loved the clerical work she did at the center her friend suggested she obtain her MLS. She took her friend's advice and obtained her MLS from the University of Wisconsin. She loves public libraries and has held every position including youth and adult services, collection development, technology, and special projects. She, with the help of the ALA, kept the book *Chocolate War* from being removed from a New York library and she kept the Pratt Free Library in Baltimore open during the riots.

She first spoke about libraries in general. She stated how libraries not only play a huge role in education and the future of literacy but are where people go to learn about their local police and fire departments and register to vote. She listed non-traditional library jobs which include application development, social media, digitization, data visualization, marketing, and communications.

She then went on to speak specifically about the Cuyahoga County Public Library which has 27 branches that serve 47 communities. They are the busiest and highest ranked in the U.S. due to their extensive reach into the community.

She then spoke in depth about the ALA. With almost 60,000 members the ALA is literally the backbone of intellectual freedom. Its Center for the Future of Libraries, Change Management, and Libraries Transform projects are extremely important to libraries being able to successfully serve their communities. The Center for the Future of Libraries deals with global trends impacting libraries. The Change Management project is a series of library workshops and training sessions at the Kotter Institute. Finally, she launched the ALA's new 3-5 year Libraries Transform Campaign in Washington D.C. in October of 2015. It's a public awareness campaign and its mission is to show the public that libraries are not just obsolete or nice to have but are essential. Furthermore, it aims to show that it's not about what libraries have for you but what they can do for and with you.

In addition to all of the above information she mentioned the Digital Library of America and International Federation of Libraries which one can join in addition to, or instead of, the ALA.

Additional Information:

Spring Trip:

Will be meeting at 9:15AM in front of the Ben Franklin Statue and will be getting a tour of the Van Pelt Library at 9:30. The library does not have its own parking lot but there are parking lots near the library.