



Library Association of Brevard

LAB spring meeting, April, 2016

The meeting was held at Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave., Melb. FL, on Wed. April 20, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. About 43 people attended, both LAB members and guests.

The topic was Presidential Libraries. Speakers were guest, Mervin Hall, staff member at Melbourne Public Lib. and LAB secretary and staff member at Melb. Lib., Lynn Bennett. Merv spoke on working at Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio, and Lynn spoke on visiting the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas, Texas.

Lynn first welcomed everyone to Melbourne Library, then introduced LAB President Ashley Huser. Ashley welcomed members and guests to our Lab mtg, and spoke about the advantages of being a member of LAB, and then introduced Merv and Lynn.

Merv began his talk about President Rutherford Hayes. Not many people know him, yet some things in American history happened on his watch. The compromise of 1877, for example was instrumental in deciding the election of who would be president. It was a contested election, similar to the one in 2000. Hayes won the dispute. Also he was involved with solving the country of Paraguay's civil war.

Merv spoke about what it was like to work there, with researchers asking for information, and detailed requests about the President, his work, his papers, etc. He showed pictures of the building, of the grounds, of the sleigh rides and parties done to raise money for it. He also showed pictures of the White House gates on the property, from when the Hayes family left the White House. Very interesting talk.

Lynn then spoke about visiting the GWBush Presidential Library Center in Dallas, built in 2013, and the second largest pres. Lib. after Ronald Reagan's in Calif. The building is on the South.Meth.Univ. campus and features several themes. They include a reproduction of the Oval Office, the No child left behind education setting, the Laura Bush exhibit on children's books, and the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and Iraq war. The setting of the building within, has several impressive soaring skylights, and decorative murals.

Two areas that were most impressive for Lynn were the 9/11 exhibit/Iraq war, and the children's books exhibit by Laura Bush. The 9/11 exhibit showed a twisted steel beam from NYC and other artifacts, and then gulf war pictures. (On a personal note, Lynn's husband had served in Iraq war with US Army, so this part resonated with her).

Continuing on, the children's book corner was set up for toddlers and preschoolers, with a connection to First Lady Laura Bush. She was a school teacher and a librarian, a school media specialist. She rec'd her Masters in Library Science from Univ of Texas. Some of the books shown were the exact ones Lynn used as storyhour librarian here at Melb. Lib. earlier that week, like "Polar Polar bear what do you hear?" by Eric Carle. Also impressive were the words "Once a child learns how to use a library, the doors to learning are always open" engraved there, a quote from Mrs. Laura Bush.

After question and answers, refreshments were served. Then a short exec. brd. mtg. was held about LAB. The meeting broke up around 4:30 p.m. Emails will be sent out about future of LAB and scheduled meetings.

Respectfully submitted, from Secretary Lynn

