

Director's Report – February 2013

1. Eli Nieburger is currently touring Germany as a guest of the Zukunftswerkstatt, (zoo-koonfts-verk-shtaat) or "Future Workshop", and the US State Department. He's visiting libraries in Berlin, Wolfsburg, Karlsruhe, Tuebingen, Munich, and Cologne, talking about Gaming, Learning, and Libraries.

AADL and the Zukunftswerkstatt are collaborating on a joint US - German Library video game tournament series, with online matches and a German championship that will offer winners a chance to come to Ann Arbor and participate in an international tournament final here at the downtown library.

German libraries are already using GTSystem, AADL's tournament management website with over 500 partner libraries around the world. Many thanks to our friends at the State Department, the Zukunftswerkstatt, and the Deutsche-American Institute in Tübingen for creating this opportunity for our patrons!

2. The 11th annual **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads Event** was held on Thursday, February 7th in the Towsley Auditorium of the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College. The event focused on the 2013 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads book selection **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness** by Michelle Alexander and the theme 'Understanding Race.' Approximately 250 people attended the event to hear keynote speaker **Connie Rice** of Los Angeles, one of America's most influential civil rights attorneys, who is known for her unconventional approaches to tackling problems of inequity and exclusion. Connie discussed how, through impact litigation, campaigns and inside bureaucratic maneuvering, she led clients in need to win more than \$30 billion in damages, bonds and policy changes. Several community agencies and representatives (including the Friends of the Library) also staffed information tables at the event.
3. The fourth annual Preschool Expo was held on January 27th at the Palmer Commons on the UM campus. This expo is an event that brings representatives from many area preschools to one location, on one date. Parents are able to gather information on preschools and talk with schools in order to find a good fit for their child. This free event is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library, Washtenaw Success by Six Great Start Collaborative, Child Care Network, and U-M Work/Life Resource Center. 330 persons attended and 38 preschools participated.

Director's Report – February 2013

4. We are very pleased that our partnership with PALMA: Proyecto Avance: Latino Mentoring Association which began in October 2007 has grown into one of our most popular and successful programs. PALMA holds English language tutoring sessions at the Downtown Library.

PALMA is the brainchild of Cristhian Espinoza, a Spanish professor at the University of Michigan's Residential College. The organization pairs UM students with native Spanish speakers in the community who are interested in learning English. Participants range in age from infants and preschoolers to adults, and many attend as families.

This YouTube video about PALMA @ AADL created by UM PALMA tutor Katherine Cook is a lovely portrayal of all that PALMA is:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVMc9KTSC80&feature=youtu.be>