

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #38
“The world's top librarian at the greatest library”
Sno-Isle Libraries, Sept. 6, 2019



Ken Harvey:	00:00	On September 14, 2016 Dr. Carla Hayden was sworn in as the 14th Librarian of Congress. She was sworn in after being nominated by the President of The United States and approved by congress. In just a minute we'll spend some time with our Librarian of Congress when we chat with Dr. Hayden.
Ken Harvey:	00:30	Welcome to Season 2 and episode 38 of Check It Out!, the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.
Speaker 2:	00:37	The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.
Ken Harvey:	00:45	We want to welcome our audience to this episode of Check It Out!, the podcast for Sno-Isle Libraries and I am fortunate to have sitting next to me, Jim Hills.
Jim Hills:	00:55	I'm very excited for this one. A chance to talk to Dr. Carla Hayden is rare, I think for most folks and we had her visit Marysville Library ...
Ken Harvey:	01:06	We did.
Jim Hills:	01:07	... and I got to see her, now we get to talk with her. I'm so excited about that.
Ken Harvey:	01:12	Well, you know I agree. We had an opportunity to be in the presence of the Librarian of Congress, which is not something that happens to me every day.
Jim Hills:	01:21	No, and never to me ever before.
Ken Harvey:	01:23	And she was close enough to reach out and touch, and I actually did reach out and touch her a couple of times.
Jim Hills:	01:28	I'm going to touch you now.

(Continued)

- Ken Harvey: 01:29 I think it was always appropriate though, appropriate touching. But I want to just introduce Dr. Hayden by going through just a little bit of her background. Dr. Carla Hayden became the 14th Librarian of Congress after serving as Chief Executive Officer of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland where she had served for 13 years. Before that post she served the Chicago Public Library in various posts including being the Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Librarian, but along the way before all of that she was a children's librarian, which that is a real important thing I've discovered with librarians, they like knowing that the head librarian has been a children's librarian.
- Jim Hills: 02:10 Has done a story time.
- Ken Harvey: 02:11 Yes, and Dr. Hayden also was President of the American Library Association for a year back in 2003 and in 1995 she was the first African American to receive the Library Journal's, Librarian of The Year Award in recognition of her outreach services at the Pratt Library. Those services included things such as an after-school center for Baltimore teens where they offered homework assistance and college and career counseling. She is well learned, she received a Bachelor's Degree from Roosevelt University and her Master's and PhD from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. With that said, and I have to admit it's just a brief skim over her resume, I'd like to welcome to the program, Dr. Carla Hayden.
- Carla Hayden: 03:01 Well, thank you. I've so enjoyed my visit at the Marysville Library and getting to do story time with Representative Larsen. It was really something.
- Ken Harvey: 03:14 We felt very, very fortunate, there was great deal of excitement here having you in the region, and we really want to thank Congressman Rick Larsen for getting you out here visiting the area. As I understand you had an opportunity to actually visit a number of cities and libraries. I know Sno-Isle Libraries was fortunate to have you here at the Marysville Library, but you also visited Everett Public Library and I think you stopped by Seattle Public Library, is that correct?
- Carla Hayden: 03:51 Yes, and the Everett Public Library was very fortunate to reunite with a former Pratt Colleague whose one of the main managers there, Abby Cooley.
- Ken Harvey: 04:02 Yes.

Carla Hayden: 04:03 And that was just remarkable because we knew when she was at the Pratt Library in Baltimore City that she was going to do so many great things and then to see her at the Everett Library doing those things was really something.

Ken Harvey: 04:17 Well it's always very rewarding when you have a protégé who really kind of shows her stuff on into her career, so you must be very proud of her.

Carla Hayden: 04:30 We all are.

Ken Harvey: 04:32 Well in that rundown of some of your background, I know that I was leaving a lot off when we were doing our research on you it seemed like there was page after page after page of things that you've accomplished, and I'm wondering if there is anything that you felt like that we left off that you'd really like the audience to be aware of?

Carla Hayden: 04:53 Well just a few years, in terms of my tenure at the Pratt Library, was actually 23 years.

Ken Harvey: 05:00 Wow, okay.

Carla Hayden: 05:01 I still live in Baltimore City and commute to Washington D.C. and so that city has become my home and also a place that I credit with giving me the opportunity to be in the position that I'm in now.

Ken Harvey: 05:19 Also, I think that's really something that you're working in Washington D.C. and commuting from Baltimore and you've made that decision to continue to have Baltimore as home.

Carla Hayden: 05:31 Yes, because the city of Baltimore, one of the reasons why I actually went to Baltimore from Chicago was that the public library there plays such a big role in the life of the city, the advancement of the city. And it was also, your listeners might know, the first library system in the United States, and Andrew Carnegie actually visited Mr. Enoch Pratt in Baltimore and in his Carnegie's Gospel of Wealth, he mentions his visit to Baltimore and Enoch Pratt and said that the establishment of the Pratt Library was one of the best examples of private, patriotic, philanthropy that he had seen so far.

Ken Harvey: 06:22 Well Carnegie Libraries are really profound. I think they were profound in terms of, in some ways, kind of an institutional presence of a library established across the United States, but they are also really noteworthy because they brought such

traditional, maybe some ways kind of classical architecture to the communities.

- Carla Hayden: 06:50 Yes and there was a model for that.
- Ken Harvey: 06:53 Yes.
- Carla Hayden: 06:54 And you can just about tell a Carnegie Library by that architecture. And there was a real effort to make sure that the community that a library was established in took responsibility. That's what's Mr. Carnegie learned from Mr. Pratt actually, that you didn't just put a library into a community and say it's a Carnegie Library, but that you had that commitment from the community to operate it and to take responsibility.
- Jim Hills: 07:27 I love that idea, I want to pick up on that commitment to the community. So the Pratt Library does have tremendous history and stature in the nation and in its community, but the Pratt Library, currently, is known for some really innovative adjustments, maybe what would be a traditional library service point and doing some really interesting things to support the library in maybe non-traditional ways, and I'm wondering if maybe you could touch on some of those that you're still living in Baltimore, you're close to the Pratt and you know what's going on there.
- Carla Hayden: 08:04 And I was actually involved in some of the services and the development of the services. For instance, a social worker in the library. Other library systems have established paid positions to help people with challenges in their communities. There is also a very strong connection to the city's health department and also wonderful things that take the library to where people are, like the recent pop-up in laundromats.
- Ken Harvey: 08:39 In laundromats, no kidding?
- Carla Hayden: 08:41 In laundromats yes, because quite a few people use laundromats and so what the Pratt library has done is not only been an innovator, it was where young adult services were established years ago. The first young adult services were part of the Pratt Library.
- Ken Harvey: 08:58 I did not know that.
- Carla Hayden: 09:00 Yes, Margaret Alexander Edwards and The American Library Association actually gives out awards in her honor, because she had The Fair Garden, and The Swarm of Beasts. The Fair Garden

of course is the library and the Swarm of Beasts were the teenagers, so that was established there. The Pratt Library also has developed kind of research and development arm, the best practices group of staff members who look at those best practices for serving communities throughout the country and the world, and then look at how those practices and services could be implemented in the city. And that's where you see the traveling for instance job, van that goes and bus that goes, it goes into communities with the computers and the people that can help people fill out job applications.

- Jim Hills: 10:04 I have seen that.
- Carla Hayden: 10:05 The National Public started that.
- Jim Hills: 10:05 So I'm interested in ...
- Carla Hayden: 10:08 Looking outward and then also really being innovative internally has been a Pratt hallmark.
- Jim Hills: 10:16 I was smiling when you mentioned the Swarm of Beasts as teens, because here at Sno-Isle Libraries, starting in September, we have two separate series of partnership programs around parenting of teens. In my role I'm responsible for helping put together the messaging for those things. I don't think Swarm of Beasts would have been on my list of things that I would have put on a poster or a radio ad, but maybe I'll consider that now. As long as I can put it ...
- Carla Hayden: 10:50 Be a beast at the library.
- Ken Harvey: 10:52 There you go.
- Carla Hayden: 10:54 Or let your beast ... And when you look at other urban library experiences, for instance, the Philadelphia Free Library has a Culinary Literacy Kitchen. And there in San Francisco in terms of teen services, the teen space there are called The Mix. It is teen run, they have their own T.V. station, they have a recording studio. It is really something, but right at the Central Library in San Francisco a teen space that is comparable to anything you would see anywhere.
- Jim Hills: 11:30 Can I ask you a question about how, I really want to get to the core of how you go from perhaps a traditional look, or a sense of a library as a place of books, what you've been talking about is a library is that, but it is also a center for the community. Then branching out into these other kinds, offering these other kinds

of services and access to those services, how do you message that into the community for those who have this traditional perspective on a library that is it's a warehouse, it's a shelves of books?

- Carla Hayden: 12:07 I mentioned the library in Ohio that has a slogan basically if you think about it beyond books, and that's where you look at the book traditionally being a container of information and when you go beyond that container to other ways to get information to also realize that people learn in different ways, they're reading ... Jacqueline Woodson, our youth ambassador talks very eloquently about reading differences. Some people have different learning styles, visual learners, all types experiential learners. And so what libraries are doing is becoming even more opportunity centers for people to find solutions and delight in libraries.
- Jim Hills: 12:57 That's wonderful.
- Carla Hayden: 12:58 For their life.
- Jim Hills: 12:58 Yeah, that's just wonderful way to see how the library stays relevant to the community by being in touch with it and then bringing those services that the community is looking for and being a place for that to convene those services for the community.
- Carla Hayden: 13:16 And convening is a good word to think about the role of libraries in communities, that you can have, when you have author programs, when you bring in people to actually talk about issues in a community, you are convening just like we would say years ago, the books battle it out on the shelves, you have different points of view. You're also a convenor for people in a community to hear and experience things in ways that allow them to look at issues in a way that is beyond the book.
- Ken Harvey: 13:59 As the nation's chief librarian, I'd love to just kind of hear from you in terms of a little bit more about The Library of Congress. What would be some of the things that would surprise people to know about The Library of Congress?
- Carla Hayden: 14:14 What people might not realize is the Library of Congress is congress' library, but it's also America's library and there are a number of ways that everyone can use the library's collections. Number one of course is through technology and our website is very, very robust and there are so many things that you can

download, you can participate in online, loc.gov, small commercial, and you can access ...

Jim Hills: 14:46 It's allowed.

Carla Hayden: 14:47 ... the collections and it's the largest collection in the world and over 150 languages as well as covering the world.

Ken Harvey: 14:58 So can I just jump in for a second, you said it's the largest library collection in the world?

Carla Hayden: 15:05 Yes. It has 171 million items and the only libraries that are approaching those numbers are of course other national libraries and British Library being number one in terms of number of items, but when you think about that there are 14 million photographs that The Library of Congress has and quite a few of them are digitized and you can download them. Dorothea Lange's iconic photograph of migrant mother, you can download that and print it out. You can also help us transcribe letters and manuscripts, it's a new program we have crowd sourcing by the people and the first group of manuscripts we put out in fact were letters to Abraham Lincoln. Those could be used by teachers and students. We also have the Rosa Parks collection online now. There are quite a few things that we are making available in the digital environment and people can connect to in fun ways and also educational ways.

Ken Harvey: 16:24 Well you're coming up on, you've been in this position now for about three years and going strong. As I understand, you came on with a specific vision for Library of Congress, would you like to share that with our listeners?

Carla Hayden: 16:43 The vision was actually to let everyone know that the Library of Congress is for them. That would include a student in a remote area as well as a teacher who needs a lesson plan on Thomas Jefferson and taking advantage of the popularity of the play Hamilton and also people who are interested in subjects like baseball, we have the world's largest collection of baseball cards.

Ken Harvey: 17:16 Wow.

Carla Hayden: 17:18 As well as the world's largest collection of Bibles. We want people to know that this is a resource for them, and so that was my vision and we are working very hard to get people to realize that here is an institution with collections that can inspire future creators and students. When you have the collections of George

and Ira Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, people can access those as well as Rogers and Hammerstein. So things that are happening in the world but also showing them about the creative process.

- Jim Hills: 18:06 That mission sounds like an extension of the work that you were doing at the Pratt, and now you have this chance to do it on not only a national level, but a world-wide level.
- Carla Hayden: 18:17 There you go, and that was what was so wonderful about the opportunity. The Library of Congress has the world's largest collection of comic books. So the fact that when a movie comes out, The Avengers or Black Panther, we're able to show the original copies or the variations of those comics. And also interact with young, and the young in heart coming for a local Comic-Con conference and putting things out that would attract them while they're attending the conference. It is an extension of outreach and also highlighting the services and what the Library of Congress has. Concerts for instance, we have indoor concerts, also outdoor film showings on the lawn, and the largest flute collection in the world. So these types of things are the heritage really of the people in this country and we want to make sure that they know about it and that we share it.
- Ken Harvey: 19:33 Well we are delighted to help get the word out about what's available through the nation's libraries, through the nation's singular library.
- Carla Hayden: 19:44 Thank you, and our connection and that's why I wanted to make sure that I visited the Marysville Library and Everett and Congressman Larsen was so wonderful about hearing and knowing about the Library of Congress here and saying, "Yes, please come."
- Ken Harvey: 20:05 Well how did you ...
- Carla Hayden: 20:06 And being a good sport and quite a good story teller with the STEM story time about space.
- Ken Harvey: 20:13 Yes.
- Carla Hayden: 20:13 He was quite something.
- Ken Harvey: 20:13 he was, he was very animated as he was doing his own story telling to the children who had gathered in the room. How did you and the congressman meet?

- Carla Hayden: 20:27 We meet, and I meet with, and I say we, but library staff members interact with congress and congressional staff members regularly through our congressional research service. That's the research arm that The Library of Congress that just served, that's where our Library of Congress comes in. We have regular, daily interactions members of congress and their staff. We also have a number of programming opportunities that the library provides just for congressional members, workshops, author's talks, those types of things. That's where I interacted directly with Congressman Larsen as well as our oversight interactions, committees, congressional committees that work with the library on its budget and things like that. But it was mainly through the programming. He was very interested in the veteran's history project that the library has, oral history of veterans and their families as well as the Surplus Books Program. The Library of Congress, and while I was there in fact at Marysville we made that donation to the library.
- Ken Harvey: 21:38 Which we ...
- Carla Hayden: 21:38 So he's been very active.
- Ken Harvey: 21:41 We really appreciate the donation of library materials that you made to us and I'm sure that Everett Public Library appreciates the Library of Congress donation to them as well.
- Carla Hayden: 21:56 I hope ... I have to jump in for a minute because I know our time is running short, I just want to let everyone know that the members of congress are helping and being very, I think, proactive in helping connect the Library of Congress to their communities and that's part of the visiting and asking me to come.
- Ken Harvey: 22:21 While you are here with the congressman, he regaled the audience by talking about his own library connections growing up in Arlington and being part of the library scene in the community and even as an adult with a family here, still being connected with the library. So we really appreciate both making his own connection with the library so clear, but also his work with you to connect our local libraries with the Library of Congress.
- Carla Hayden: 22:56 He's also still checking out books too there. He's a mystery lover, and he was able to actually look in the stacks and say, "Oh, I've got that one, oh I got that."

- Ken Harvey: 23:09 Well as I'm just thinking and just looking at the time, I wanted just to make sure I asked you two or three more questions, or make sure that two or three more questions were asked of you. One of them being about the significance of your being the first professional librarian in the post since the 1970s and also being African American. In your mind, are those things significant?
- Carla Hayden: 23:37 Very significant. The fact that the Library of Congress since ... I'm the 14th Librarian of Congress and the first Librarian of Congress was appointed in 1802, two years after the establishment of the library in the capitol in the 1800s, there have been, I'm only the third Librarian of Congress that has had library background, professional library background. The other two, interestingly enough were the heads of the Cleveland Public Library and the Boston Public Library, so they were both public librarians.
- Carla Hayden: 24:18 In a time that libraries are changing pretty rapidly and there are a lot of discussions like we had a little earlier about the role of libraries, it probably is helpful to have a librarian in the role at this time. And then personally being a person of color in the role when you realize that people who look like me were denied by law the right to read or learn to read, Frederick Douglass' autobiography talks about it very eloquently. Even people who were trying to teach slaves how to read were punished severely. That resonates with me very much that I am in the position with the world's largest library and a symbol of knowledge and learning in this country.
- Ken Harvey: 25:18 Yeah, thank you very much for saying that. We've come a long way and still a ways to go, but we've come a long way. I really believe strongly that we should be not only just celebrating kind of what you said, but we should also be practicing those freedoms and taking full advantage of every opportunity to be inspired and to go forth and do great things because of what's available to us.
- Carla Hayden: 25:53 I think your library system is a ... I'll be talking, and I've already started talking about Sno-Isle's library system and what the libraries do in the communities. A perfect example of reaching out, letting people know that here is a resource to help you in your life.
- Ken Harvey: 26:15 Well saying that, Dr. Hayden, do you see challenges with public libraries across the United States in terms of those who are providing services within urban areas versus those who are providing services in more rural areas?

- Carla Hayden: 26:35 We don't talk enough I think about the challenges in rural areas that are sometimes as serious and severe in terms of providing technology that you have in urban areas. One of the main issues is connectivity and being able to have those broadband services in rural areas where there's often a challenge in getting those services to those areas. Of course what all public libraries share is the challenge of being able to do things with limited resources. When you have areas urban and rural that have so many challenges, when you think about the education systems and all of the things that need to be provided in communities, libraries are essential and they have to sometimes compete with other essential services.
- Jim Hills: 27:39 It's interesting that you were earlier talking about the book as the container of knowledge and as you bring up the access to technology, access to Wi-Fi, to connectivity, technological connectivity, that's something that Sno-Isle has recently addressed to make sure that that connectivity level is equal and robust enough to accommodate the needs of the community. But just that connectivity becomes its own container, right? The access can be a book and it can be an online connectivity piece that has also, that container that has presented and made accessible too by the library. Whether that's in a rural area or whether that's in an inner city area, they're both important.
- Carla Hayden: 28:36 That's what people, I think, appreciate about libraries that they can ... When I was visiting with you, the people that walked through the door that went straight to the computer areas for signing up to get online to apply for jobs, searching for information about things in their lives that they needed, young people trying to find out what financial aid might be available if they were going to go on for higher ed. All of these types of things were happening in that library, and all on computers.
- Ken Harvey: 29:22 Well Dr. Hayden in our last couple of minutes for the podcast, we just wanted to give you a chance to maybe share a story or two maybe of someone or something that was really instrumental, noteworthy in your life that's kind of influenced the arch of your career and maybe a library story from either your earliest memories or as part of your career that you'd love to share with the audience?
- Carla Hayden: 29:51 Well you got a chance to meet the main person who has influenced the arch of my career ...
- Ken Harvey: 29:57 Yes I did.

- Carla Hayden: 29:57 And that's my mother who visited and was able to see her God daughter who lives in Seattle, but had worked in Everett and knew that part of the country very well and so that was wonderful. She had a background in classical music and also became a social worker. I spent the formative years of my life at community meetings being in the back of the room when people were talking about issues, doing my homework, but absorbing things in a way that it's only later that I could realize what an influence that social service background had on me.
- Carla Hayden: 30:40 My first library experience was in Jamaica Queens and someone, I was about seven or eight, someone gave me in a store front library a book that showed me that books could be mirrors and windows to the world. It was called Bright April and it was a first time I saw a little girl who looked like me in a book and I was already a reader, but that just sealed it. That's also when I learned about library fines. My mom likes to talk about that too. I checked it out and I checked it out and I checked it out and didn't know the meter was running. At that time it was.
- Carla Hayden: 31:20 My mom also influenced me in terms of a love of reading and I was very fortunate to have that with other family members and then had a number of mentors in my library career that I could just a roll call of people who helped.
- Ken Harvey: 31:37 Well it is, I think, wonderful to be able to look back and pinpoint individuals who have been what you needed at the time and also to be able to look back and to see the influence of a library book where it just spoke to you and made you realize, "Hmm, I'm someone. I am someone."
- Carla Hayden: 32:12 That's right. And that's what's so important for the children's publishing, and they're doing a wonderful job and we need more of it to realize that children need to see themselves validated and this thing, this book, this container, or whatever that we deem important and it conveys that. I see myself in this thing that you tell me is important. It reinforces that message. Also, when you talk about being able to identify people who've been there for you at different times in your life. I mentioned that roll call, sorry we don't have that much time. I could name Annie Carroll to Nettie Taylor who lived to be 103, the Marilyn State Librarian who took me under her wing when I moved out here. Full range.
- Ken Harvey: 33:12 Well I'll tell you, you have in some ways, I think passed that one with the library director, for Everett Public Library who you can count as one of your protégés and so hopefully she'll do the same thing for others. I think we should all ascribe to be being a

person in someone's life who helps them find or identify who they are or what they can be. That they can be more than they can even dream of.

- Carla Hayden: 33:46 That's right.
- Ken Harvey: 33:48 I just want to recognize that we have more than exhausted ...
- Jim Hills: 33:54 Yeah we have gone over the time. We're just so enthralled ...
- Ken Harvey: 33:57 ... the time that we had hoped to have with you. So many more questions we wanted to ask, but I think we will need to work with your folks to see if maybe we can bring you back sometime in the future and spend a little bit more time with you.
- Carla Hayden: 34:11 That would be wonderful. I also want to visit physically again too, so I'm looking forward to that.
- Jim Hills: 34:17 Oh, we'd love to have you.
- Ken Harvey: 34:19 And so would we. We have been talking with Dr. Carla Hayden. Dr. Hayden is the 14th Librarian of Congress who has been so, so generous with her time in sharing herself with our listeners. Thank you Dr. Hayden.
- Carla Hayden: 34:33 Thank you.
- Speaker 6: 34:35 Want to get the latest business news and solid financial advice from the experts for free? You can with your Sno-Isle Libraries account. Library customers can download the latest news and advice from publications like Entrepreneur, Kiplinger's, Fast Company, and Inc., you'll find feature stories around the business of technology, leadership, innovation, the stock market, retirement planning and achieving financial success. All of that with a library card just waiting for you online at Sno-Isle Libraries.
- Ken Harvey: 35:06 If you have a great library experience you would like to share with us, we would love to know about it. Drop us a line at checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org. Again that's checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org, who knows, we might even invite you to share your story on a future podcast.
- Ken Harvey: 35:35 I was really struck by kind of how genuine and touchable Dr. Hayden is.

Jim Hills: 35:46 It was interesting to be able to talk to her more, so I know that there were others when she visited had an opportunity to chat with her. I was watching people chat with her during her visit at the Marysville Library, and to have this chance to again hear her, listen to her passion. She is very much, as you say ... She's a human, she's real, and she's built it all on experiences and passions for service. It is very interesting.

Ken Harvey: 36:27 It's very clear to me in talking with her just now as well as looking at what's been written about her, that she's very, very concerned about all of our communities and she really believes in the power of public libraries to be kind of a beacon of hope and inspiration and information. More than just information, but inspiration and connectivity to communities, whether they're urban communities or rural.

Jim Hills: 37:07 Transformational to individuals, transformational to communities. A center, I want to say anchor, but oftentimes that's not exactly the right image, because she sees, and has done at the Pratt Library in Baltimore, she has instigated the change that responds to communities to serve community members where they are with what they need. It's not about tradition. The tradition for her is about service.

Ken Harvey: 37:41 Well and I ... It was interesting hearing her talk about in Baltimore there was the first public library within the United States.

Jim Hills: 37:51 I actually didn't know that, but I didn't want to admit it to her.

Ken Harvey: 37:54 Yeah, so really interesting, and yet then going from the first public library to then talking about pop-up libraries and ...

Jim Hills: 38:03 Popup libraries in laundromats.

Ken Harvey: 38:05 In laundromats.

Jim Hills: 38:05 Right, so from the first Carnegie Library, the first library in the U.S. is doing pop-up libraries in laundromats. So there's the arc, right?

Ken Harvey: 38:14 Yeah so if you don't know what a pop-up library is, you should go online and look that up. Pop-up library.

Jim Hills: 38:23 You know Sno-Isle Libraries is experimenting with that this summer?

Ken Harvey: 38:26 Really?

Jim Hills: 38:26 Yeah, the bookmobile has been out and about. We've done pop-up locations at McCollum Park on 128th, kind of near north Mill Creek and the freeway there. It's a big transit center there, so there's a lot of people coming there for the park itself.

Ken Harvey: 38:43 It's a transit center and a park?

Jim Hills: 38:45 Transit center and a park, yep.

Ken Harvey: 38:46 Recreation park?

Jim Hills: 38:46 Yep, there are a lot of activities that happen at McCollum and they've done a lot of pop-up sessions there and a couple of other locations around Snohomish County. So yeah, we're experimenting with the same kind of thing. It's exciting stuff.

Ken Harvey: 38:57 Well it was also interesting talking to someone who was first African American in the role of Librarian of Congress, first woman in the post, and ...

Jim Hills: 39:15 Like the ... Did she say ...

Ken Harvey: 39:15 The third ...

Jim Hills: 39:17 She said the third, right?

Ken Harvey: 39:18 The third public librarian.

Jim Hills: 39:19 Yeah, which to me sounds like it should be a prerequisite to be Librarian of Congress ...

Ken Harvey: 39:25 You would think so.

Jim Hills: 39:26 ... that you'd be a librarian of some kind. You know what was really interesting to me, so when she visited, everybody was swirling around inside the Marysville Library and all the VIPs from us and the cameras and we had T.V. there and all kinds of stuff, so she gets dropped off, I don't know how far away from the front door. So the Book Mobile was between her and the front door, so she stopped and chatted there and then she came in to the meeting room where we were going to do story time. And there was nobody around and she interacted with Abby Reveles, the story time leader and one of the other librarians, and she asked what we were going to read. And so Abby says, "Oh, we got a number of options. What would you

like to do?" "Oh, no, no. Just tell me what you want to do and I'd like to see the book." So she takes the book and she and Abby go through the book and she goes page by page by page, reading the book. She asks Abby about pacing in terms of how to tell the story time, and she goes, "Oh, thank you very much," and walks out.

- Jim Hills: 40:27 After the visit I'm telling that story to some of the librarians who weren't able to be there and the smile across their faces like, "Oh, she's one of us." She is a working librarian and she knows how to do it. She prepped for the story time. That just made all the difference.
- Ken Harvey: 40:46 Well, she had been a children's librarian. So she knew exactly what she was doing.
- Jim Hills: 40:50 Yeah, exactly.
- Ken Harvey: 40:51 But what's interesting to me as well is that Congressman Rick Larsen was not a children's librarian earlier in his career, but he was a library user and now he's a dad and he also read a story time next to her, read a book to the seven, I think five to seven year olds who had gathered and he did a great job as well.
- Jim Hills: 41:17 And Dr. Hayden noticed that, right?
- Ken Harvey: 41:19 Yes. She said, "Oh my, you're a born storyteller." Yeah, he was quite animated as he was doing his imitations of different characters in the storybook that he was reading. Great shout out to our congressman.
- Jim Hills: 41:35 Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 41:38 I also just wanted to mention that it's not every day that you get to spend some time chatting with the top librarian ...
- Jim Hills: 41:46 In the world.
- Ken Harvey: 41:46 Maybe in the world?
- Jim Hills: 41:47 Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 41:47 And there were a number of things that she mentioned in terms of what was available through the Library of Congress, with a reminder that it's a library that belongs to all of us, that we can all use it. But I kept thinking as she was listing off thing after

thing after thing that was available that I kept thinking, "Hmm, I didn't know that. Hmm, I didn't know that."

- Jim Hills: 42:13 Yeah, exactly.
- Ken Harvey: 42:14 So many things that are available that I did not know, but I'm going to try and check them out.
- Jim Hills: 42:22 Perfect.
- Ken Harvey: 42:23 So for our listeners, I would also tell you that there are a lot of things in Sno-Isle Libraries collection too that are worth checking out.
- Ken Harvey: 42:34 This podcast has been brought to you by our legacy sponsor, Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. Your private tax deductible gift to the library foundation provides seed money to expand and foster extra early learning and lifetime learning opportunities through foundation grants for innovative library classes, activities, and civic engagement events. Type Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation into your web browser. To find out more about how your donation can change the lives of preschoolers, third graders, teenagers, and lifelong learners like you or someone you care about.