

“From the Stacks”

By Alison E. Williams, Program Coordinator at the Copper Queen Library

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Mr. Macoviak Goes to Washington, and Captain Kelly Comes to Bisbee

Our Library Director, Jason Macoviak, joined the throngs of more than 25,000 librarians who descended upon our Nation’s capitol to attend the 2019 ALA (American Library Association) Annual Conference and Exhibition. He was there to attend the Awards Ceremony to accept the Ebsco Award For Excellence in Rural Library Service, for the Copper Queen Library, one of only six awards granted this year. He was with our invited guests, Arizona State Librarian, Holly Henley, and Cochise County Library Director, Amadee Ricketts. At the next table sat author and keynote speaker, Ann Patchett, who said, when she met Jason, “aren’t you one of the heroes?” Yes, Ann, yes he is. Ann gave out Advanced Reading Editions of her upcoming book, *The Dutch House*, which was autographed and recently placed in the hot little hands of her most avid fan, me, which I am now coveting as if it were the last chocolate in a delightful box, that you must wait to eat—but not for too long. Ann thanked everyone for choosing to miss Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who was unfortunately scheduled at the same time next door, claiming she was the consolation prize, which she most definitely was not.

At ALA there were so many workshops, presentations, special exhibitions, and field trips, it must have been difficult to choose from. One such program that Jason did attend, was “Discord in the Community,” with Sukrit Goswami, director of the Haverford Township Free Library, discussing their Drag Queen Story Hour program. Last summer, when they first held the program, there were all of two complaints, and so many people came that the drag queen held a second story hour directly after so everyone could participate. This year was different, as it got national attention, with hundreds of complaints following. This ALA program focused on how a Library can be prepared for controversy, and address the core tenet of library programs and services, that everyone needs to be seen and represented in the library, and that we can’t let disagreement between groups prevent us from doing our duties as librarians.

Last Thursday, June 27, Captain Mark Kelly joined the CQL community in our Living Room to read from his book “Moustronaut,” and discuss the amazing experiences he has had as an astronaut. Although Moustronaut is a “partially true” story, we were told about that real mouse behind the character, Meteor. Of the 18 mice brought aboard, 17 clung to the bars of the cages throughout the duration of the Endeavor’s mission. Only one mouse took to free fall, cavorting and exploring zero gravity, a space pioneer, worthy of starring in two books. Mark Kelly has travelled over 22 million miles, and orbited the earth 853 times. He brought his experience and wonderful sense of humour to the audience, answering every single question asked by the kids, including, “what’s your favorite planet?” Our former Congresswoman, Gabby Giffords was by his side, and she answered first—Pluto. Then

Mark described rising up above our planet to look out into space and see a “round...yes, I said round” blue globe, Planet Earth. “Believe me, there is nowhere else to go, this is all we have,” he said of his favorite planet, and ours too. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all of the people who helped make my dream of bringing an astronaut to the Library come true, and to our amazing community who welcomed Mark and Gabby with such warmth and with our signature open arms. They promised they will be back, and we will be here.