Leaders Who Library Book Discussion: Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World by Pénélope Bagieu

- We discussed women included in this book that surprised us, or ones we wanted to learn more about. It was hard to pick our favorites! Honorable mentions include, but are not limited to: Josephine Baker, Nellie Bly, Mae Jemison, Tove Jansson (we love the Moomins!), Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba and more.
- We discussed that graphic novels (or other formats like YA) can make learning about history more fun for those that may not be captivated by the usual print adult nonfiction.
- One theme that we picked up from this book that continues for today’s women leaders was that women from all time periods face the pressure to make themselves smaller to not appear intimidating (especially Black women like Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba).
- Bagieu states in this interview that when writing the stories of the women in her book, she tried to focus on “that decisive moment, that twist in their path, when they were presented with a fork on the road: the expected (by their parents, husbands, society in general), or the tough, weird, tricky side track. There is a specific moment in each of their stories, all of them, when they had to decide to go down that alternative route, knowing it would be ten times harder but also that it was the only way.” We discussed how that would be important for teens to read – realizing that they don’t have to choose one specific route early on in their lives. If you follow your passion and are open to new experiences, you will forge your own path, and that is leadership.
- We discussed how women are not raised to highlight their own accomplishments. But with Shine Theory, we can focus on uplifting other women and celebrating each other’s accomplishments. Shine Theory was covered in the LDD Sponsored MLA/DLA Conference Program Colleagues, Collaborators, & Friends presented by Chelsea Shockley and Paula Mitchell. Here are some resources from that presentation that were discussed:
  - Google Exec Shares How She Builds Truly Meaningful Relationships
  - Are Work Friendships a Good Thing?
  - The Pandemic is Changing Work Friendships
  - Big Friendship: How We Keep Each Other Close
  - How to Be Happy at Work: the Power of Purpose, Hope, and Friendships
  - Shine Theory 101
  - Shine Theory and the Art of Humility

Dr. Mega Subramaniam and Linda Braun on assisting library staff through crises:

- Dr. Mega Subramaniam and Linda Braun presented on their findings through researching libraries supporting communities through crises. You can look at their findings via the Field Guide, their presentation What is Essential When Serving Youth and Families Through Crises?, or through the PowerPoint presentation they used at our meeting.
- The Public Servant Mindset means working with the community and not for the community.
- How does our understanding of equity reinforce current power structures?
• There are 4 Essential Tasks (that are not sequential) when doing this work:
  o Learn about the community.
  o Co-create with the community.
  o Iterate and assess with the community.
  o Design structures for the community.
• Co-creating equalizes the power dynamics – it democratizes and shares the power. That’s working with instead of for the community.
• Do It With Others (DIWO) instead of Do It Yourself (DIY)
• Co-Design Techniques
• Co-Design Session Template
• The main takeaway of co-design is that you don't know what to do right away – that's the point of the session, to work with and not for.

Thank you, LDD Leadership!

• LDD accomplished some great things during this tumultuous past year – we featured some amazing guest speakers during our meetings, highlighted awesome book choices with our Leaders Who Library Book Club, selected quality speakers to present at the MLA/DLA Conference and for standalone programs, collaborated with other Divisions to host fun trivia nights, and even more. We want to thank everyone who helped the Division pull off these feats:
• Thank you to Anita Crawford, who served as LDD President this past year! It’s not a goodbye, it’s a see-you-later, as she transitions to her role of Past-President.
• Thank you to Krista Regester, who served as LDD Vice President & President Elect this past year.
• Thank you to Suzanne Terry, who will be serving as our new LDD Vice President this year!
• Thank you to Rhiannon George, who served as LDD Secretary this past year, and will continue to serve as Secretary this year! And who is writing these minutes and feels weird congratulating herself in the third person!
• Thank you to Rachel Miller, a member of our Steering Committee, who served as our Leaders Who Library Book Club Coordinator!
• Thank you to all members of the LDD Steering Committee for your input and assistance throughout the year! We could not have accomplished all we did if not for your support.