PASS Women in Tech VC Newsletter

December 2015

I hope all of you are enjoying the holiday season with, hopefully, some much deserved time off to spend with family and friends.

Starting this month, Rie Irish and I are the new leaders of the Women in Tech Virtual Chapter. Please join us in thanking Meredith Ryan for her many years of leadership! Meredith will be focusing on other volunteer opportunities at PASS, but will continue to be involved with the chapter as a member, mentor, and administrator.

We have some great plans for 2016. In addition to the newsletter, we will be hosting several webinars. The first webinar will be held in conjunction with the Professional Development VC on January 4th. I will be speaking about writing technical books. Click here to register.

Would you like to contribute to the chapter? We are looking for short articles for the newsletters and speakers for the webinars. Of course, we would like to cover WIT topics, but we are also looking for SQL Server topics from women speakers. This is a great way for new speakers to get some experience. Please send a note to witvc@sqlpass.org if you wish to speak or have an idea for an article.

Best wishes,

Kathi Kellenberger

Book Review

Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand In the Sun and Be Your Own Person by Shonda Rimes

Many of you know Shonda Rimes or at least watch her television shows. She is the writer, creator, and producer of several hit dramas such as *Grey's Anatomy* and *Scandal*. This book tells how Shonda spent her life working and taking care of her three daughters. From the outside, she looked successful and happy, but she was actually miserable. After her sister said to her "You never say yes to anything," she decide to start saying yes to opportunities that she would normally turn down, such as interviews and award ceremonies. Saying yes to things that scared her changed her life drastically…and for the better.

My favorite part of the story was her commencement speech at her alma mater, Dartmouth College. Even if you are not interested in reading the book, the speech is worth checking out. Shonda says that there are dreamers and there are doers. Dreaming doesn't really get you anywhere. To accomplish your goals, you have to stop dreaming and start doing.

This book, a mixture of memoir and self-actualization manual, is also very entertaining and definitely worth the read.

Resources

Many members of the WIT chapter have focused on encouraging the next generation to consider tech careers. There are so many great resources that, not only teach programming concepts, but are also tons of fun. If you know about a great resource, be sure to send it to witvc@sqlpass.org to have it included in the newsletter. This month, we would like to tell you about two great resources.

Code.org

This site has several coding challenges that children and adults can complete in an hour, resources for teachers, and more. The Hour of Code challenges are really fun and have tie-ins to popular themes such as Star Wars, Frozen, and Minecraft. This site just keeps growing so be sure to check back often.

Techgirlz.org

Have you ever wanted to run a tech workshop for girls but didn't know how to get started? This site has everything you need to run a TechShopz, including how to find an instructor if you need one. By helping girls embrace technology, you can change the face of tech.

We will have a webinar on February 4th telling how to get started running a TechShopz. I hope that many of you take this opportunity to learn how to make a difference in your communities!