PASS WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY VIRTUAL CHAPTER — W.I.T

April 2016 Newsletter

Can you believe it is just a little over six months until PASS Summit? This year is going fast. If you haven't registered for Summit and need a discount code, please use VC15NKH5 to save $150.

In 2009, the PASS Summit WIT Luncheon topic was "Encouraging the Next Generation," and Kathi was honored to be part of the panel. We were also lucky enough to have Lynn Langit on the panel. Over the past couple of years, with the help of organizations like Code.Org, young people are being introduced to programming, and computer science is being taught in many schools. Lynn Langit has been teaching kids to code before it was cool. On May 4th, Lynn will present "Using Teaching Kids Programming Courseware for Kids Ages 10-17." This webinar will cover how to use the courseware that Lynn has developed. Be sure to join us!

We have been making changes to the WIT VC website. We recently removed the calendar from the WIT & SQL Saturday page and replaced it with a table. This way, you can see all the upcoming events with just a glance. Be sure to visit our page to see the list of all future webinars, past newsletters, and videos of previous webinars.

Rie and Kathi

Technology for Ladies??

I've been seeing posts on Facebook recently about some books with strange titles such as "Entity Framework Code First For Ladies", "Assembly Language For Ladies", and "Android Programming For Ladies." Each one of these titles is a renamed copy of an existing eBook from a software company which gives these books away for free. Each book has an identical and generic description on Amazon, and they seem to have random author names.

Despite the fact that these are possibly pirated books, why would anyone think that women need a special book to learn a technology? The presumption is that the books would be easier and more appropriate for the fairer gender. How ridiculous!

I have to admit that I once thought that the number of men cut out for technology jobs was naturally higher than the number of women who were meant for tech. I thought that women like myself with a talent for programming or data were the exceptions. Eventually, I learned how girls and young women are discouraged from considering tech and other STEM careers while it is the opposite for boys and young men. Of the women who do enter tech, it is often difficult to keep them there because of the unwelcoming "brogrammer" culture found in many companies. It was only in the past

couple of years that I learned that programming was essentially invented by a woman, and that the number of women in tech began to decrease drastically in the 80s.

Men do not have any special inborn talents that make them more suitable for programming or any other tech jobs. Women don't need any special books. We have what it takes to learn our technology of choice. In fact, we are probably the ones writing the books.

--Kathi

Great Links

We are always looking for input from our members. Please drop us a line at witvc@sqlpass.org if you have something you would like to share, would like to write an article for the newsletter, or if you would like to present a webinar. We are looking for any topic that would be interesting to the WIT group and data platform topics presented by women. This is a great way to get experience as a speaker.

http://crosscut.com/2016/03/bringing-women-back-to-computer-science-uw-in-national-spotlight-over-efforts/
https://www.youtube.com/user/sheplusplus
http://www.digitaltrends.com/business/where-did-all-the-women-in-computer-science-go/

Webinar Schedule

Date	Webinar	Presenter
May 3, 2016	Beyond CXPACKET: Understanding Wait Statistics	Jes Borland
May 4, 2016	Using Teaching Kids Programming Courseware with Kids Ages 10-17	Lynn Langit
June 7, 2016	From Entry Level to Tech Guru	LaShana Lewis
July 12, 2016	3 SKILLS EVERY JUNIOR DBA MUST KNOW	Kendra Little
July 12, 2016	A SQL Developer's Guide to MDX Basics	Shabnam Watson
August 2, 2016	Improving Your PowerPoint Skills	Evelyn Maxwell

SQL Saturdays

Event	Location	Date	Session Title	Organizer
SQL Saturday #522	Jacksonville	5/7/2016	From Non-Technical to Fully Employed Technical: The Road Less Traveled	Susan Schneider

SQL Saturday #514	Houston	5/14/2016	Whip Away Stress at Home & Work to Create a Better You	Karlyn LeBlanc
SQL Saturday #516	Rochester	5/14/2016	Dealing With Difficult Coworkers	Gigi Bell
SQL Saturday #521	Atlanta	5//21/2016	Whip Away Stress at Home & Work to Create a Better You	Karlyn LeBlanc
SQL Saturday #521	Atlanta	5//21/2016	Women in Technology: Identifying, Understanding and Combating Gender Bias	Rie Irish
SQL Saturday #521	Atlanta	5//21/2016	Making the Most of Virtual Chapters and Other Free Training	Rie Irish
SQL Saturday #521	Atlanta	5//21/2016	I'm It - Survival Techniques for the Lone DBA	Monica Rathbun
SQL Saturday #491	Pensacola	6/4/2016	Whip Away Stress at Home & Work to Create a Better You	Karlyn LeBlanc
SQL Saturday #491	Pensacola	6/4/2016	I'm It - Survival Techniques for the Lone DBA	Monica Rathbun
SQL Saturday #571	Philadelphia	6/4/2016	Dealing With Difficult Coworkers	Gigi Bell