

**Technology Information Forum Meeting
February 4, 2016 @ East Islip Public Library**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by Bob Johnson. The minutes from the January 7, 2016 meeting were approved after a motion from Mary O'Grady and seconded by Brian Lauther. Jason Terhune and the East Islip Library were thanked for hosting the meeting. Bob then started a discussion about where libraries are going and what changes are needed in the future. He gave us an intro to the Amazon Bookstore, which opened in Seattle, Washington recently. This is Amazon's first brick and mortar retail store and it might be the first of many. In addition to selling books, the store offers a section dedicated to various gadgets, mostly created by Amazon itself, such as Echo, Fire TV, Kindle Fire, etc.

This led to a conversation on how Amazon can affect libraries and covered how libraries spend their money, rising costs/lower state aid, smaller percentage of patrons coming to the library, and availability of e-books and Internet sources. Bob suggested that in order to be involved, the library has to evolve by offering more programs and services to their patrons. He said we need to reboot libraries, because Amazon won't fill the need for the underserved and lower economic population that libraries welcome. Marketing, senior outreach, targeting 20 and 30 year olds, and extending ourselves outside the library are some ideas he shared. Bob will be setting up a committee to address these issues.

Chris DeCristofaro brought up an article in the Wall Street Journal, *In the Age of Google, Librarians Get Shelved*, by Steve Barker, a librarian who perceives the professional librarian as a dying breed. The article had conflicting information and a lack of specific facts on libraries, leading a majority of us to disagree with it, citing a new, technology-oriented role for the librarian in the present and going forth into the future.

A round-table discussion followed, covering such topics as Makerspace kits, 3D printers, Windows 10 upgrade, printer software, and NYS contracts.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm. The next meeting will be on March 3rd, 9:30am coffee, 10am meeting, at the newly renovated Longwood Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Schott