

10-1-2009

Book Review: All to One Another: The University at Home and in the World

Bonnie Tollifson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln>

Recommended Citation

Tollifson, Bonnie (2009) "Book Review: All to One Another: The University at Home and in the World," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 57: Iss. 3, Article 10.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol57/iss3/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University.

Hugo tells about growing up in and adapting to life in America and learning about what happened to his family in Europe. This part of his story fills one with mixed emotions—relief that Hugo, some of his family, and the other children with him at Aspet escaped the fate the Nazis had in store for them; joy that in the midst of all this, Hugo still had vestiges of the child exhibited by his practically empty suitcase heavy with the socks full of marbles he had won; and triumph that at least in America he was allowed to fight back when he was treated unjustly.

In the last sections of the book, Hugo Schiller, who today sings in Synagogue, explains why he personally believes it is an obligation for him to tell his story—whenever evil is not confronted, the “possibility exists for a Holocaust to [happen] again.” Those who survived, fought, resisted, or helped liberate, and who witnessed these events need to recount their stories so people will know the truth from those who experienced it. Through the telling, people can know it really happened and thereby remain ever-vigilant in hopes that we can prevent such a history from ever repeating itself.

Finally, Mr. Schiller explains his dedication to “doing good deeds” and “being responsible.”

“Because the world must be balanced, there must be more good deeds than there are evil deeds...”

He leaves the reader with a list of “things [they] can do to make [the] world a better place.” Included on the list are ‘treating other people the way you wish to be treated; being responsible for your own actions; using your mind to think; being courageous in the face of danger; staying strong and saying “no” when you should; and persevering.’ He also encourages readers to be always grateful for what they have and to develop their “own personal plan for making the world a better place.”

Arielle Aaron has not only presented Hugo Schiller’s amazing story of survival; but has also produced an excellent teaching tool for the classroom that can assist in lesson-planning and opening up discussions about history, society, government, politics, prejudice, the holocaust, morality and personal responsibility in a very real and personal way. In addition to Mr. Schiller’s story, the book includes pictures, maps, a vocabulary list, on-going memory projects, information about the Hugo Schiller Holocaust Resource Center, a Chronology of the Holocaust, a Glossary of Terms, and a Bibliography.

Paris E. Webb

Marshall University Libraries, Huntington WV

Sorensen, Andrew A. *All to One Another: The University at Home and in the World*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2008. ISBN 978-1-57003-773-3 \$19.95.

Dr. Andrew A Sorensen, president of the University of South Carolina from 2002-2008, retired just before the publication of this volume of speeches and articles. Through this assemblage of items, shines a man who cares deeply for the University of South Carolina and his adopted state of South Carolina. The common theme found in the collection is that of hope for the future through expanding the vision of the University to encompass the community, the state and the world beyond.

Dr. Sorensen likens the role of the University President to that of a preacher, teacher, cheerleader, scholar, diplomat, warrior, peacemaker, coach and shepherd — dependent on the moment. He felt that as the state's flagship university, the university has "an obligation to be accessible to all the people of South Carolina, not just the wealthiest or most academically gifted but all the people." Toward that end he conducted annual Bowtie Bus Tours to visit and recruit students in the state. He felt that a man's skin color should be no more important than the color of his eyes and that our success as a community and as a nation was dependent on the collective success of individuals.

His plan for the university included attracting quality students, giving them the best education, and then, in partnership with the state and businesses, providing those graduates a place to work within the state. He felt that South Carolina had fallen behind in business recruitment and job creation, but that all working together could change current perceptions and make the state competitive with other regions in the county.

While seeking the strength of common goals, and applying that strength for the common good, a university president strives to make a difference that will remain after his tenure is over. From reading his words, it is obvious that USC is indeed better for Dr Sorensen's tenure and he will be long remembered.

Recommended for all in South Carolina, and any library with a collection of inspirational speeches.

Bonnie Tollifson

Thompson, Mary V. 2008. *In the Hands of a Good Providence: Religion in the Life of George Washington*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press. ISBN 978-0-8139-2763-3. \$29.95.

Already being hailed as "likely the best book that will ever be written on Washington and Christianity" (Grizzard), Mary V. Thompson's new work goes beyond the long-established and mostly unchallenged answers to questions about the first President's religious beliefs. A historian at Mt. Vernon since 1980, Mary Thompson was inspired by a simple question about Washington's religious beliefs that happened to be sent to the museum on a rare day when the researcher herself had time to delve deeply into the answer. She had always been taught to give out the standard answer, that Washington was a Deist. As she began to look further, however, she started to suspect that the actual answer was going to be much more complicated and full of nuances. Quickly developing her own interest in the topic, she began to focus her search on the primary sources available to her. These sources included a multitude of items, everything from Washington and his family's own writings (both published and unpublished), the books they owned, their financial records, local church records, their letters, and even the furnishings of their house (the author notes the possible significance of the pictures of a religious nature that were known to be displayed in the Washington home in chapter four). She analyzes together these sometimes seemingly disparate things and is able to make relevant and often innovative connections that help give a more clear picture of the Washington family's religious experience. Throughout the book, she also draws parallels between the Washington family's religious experiences and the evolution of Christianity itself in eighteenth and nineteenth century America.

Grizzard, Frank. Quote on the Publisher's Website. 2008.
<<http://www.upress.virginia.edu/books/thompson2.HTM>>.

Allison Faix

Kimbel Library, Coastal Carolina University (SC)