CODING FILM DISCUSSION NOTES

(This started as a discussion after the film and moved as a smaller group over to the pub.)

- A number of the people attending the film were parents of girls (and many of those parents work in tech). Their response to the question: would you encourage your daughter to go into the tech industry? was mixed. Some said yes. Others said that essentially that the industry is so mysogynistic at present that they would not.

- It was noted that nobody from the school district came to the event, despite our efforts to work with them.

- Several people suggested starting a club or group for girls interested in STEM (Science Tech Engineering Math). Girls clubs have the potential to create lifelong friendships/networks. They are interest-based, not age-based.

- There are Computer Camps for girls -- could we bring one here?

- How can we put pressure on SD46 to improve their curriculum (esp. re coding). Can we connect with individual PACS? Is it possible to bring curriculum in through SPIDER?

- There is a mentorship program in Vancouver that connects girls with scientists - could we get involved in that?

- Could we work with the Girl Guides? They are the only local group with a specific mandate to work with girls.

- What other community groups might be allies? Example: Ruby Lake Lagoon Society.

- Could we hold contests for kids for coding or other?

- Should we start a chapter of Ladies Learning Code? They provide curriculum and resources. (This would both support girls and women.)

- When can we do this again? Lots of people asked that about the workshop and it's a good question. What would we need? First, CapU has the only appropriate computer lab. Next, a lot of self-employed women provided many hours of volunteer support, not to mention the time that Donna and Richard put in to organize the event. It's not reasonable to expect all of us to do that for free in future more than maybe once a year.

- We need a champion to move this forward, and likely some funding to pay a coordinator and/or to pay honoraria to volunteers. That's the only way we could do more frequent events.

Note: Here are the statistics for Canada. They are not as dire as the U.S. but the trends are similar. The best stat I could find on employment in IT was 3 of 4 employees are men, but this provided no breakdown on what type of jobs.

http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2013001/article/11874-eng.htm

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/Reports-Rapports/Women_Science_Engineering_e.pdf

http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-599-x/81-599-x2011006-eng.htm

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