

Youth Services Advisory Council  
Meeting of February 13, 2009  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
at UHLS

Small Library Concerns discussion group 9:00 - 10:00 AM; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meeting  
Large library concerns discussion group 12:00 – 1:00 PM (cancelled due to lack of attendance)

Attendees: Lisa Neuman (MEND), Pat Sahr (NASS), Darlene Miller (CAST), David Cole (COLN) , Barbara Goetschius (RCSC), Debbie Shoup (RENS), Molly Chatt (EGRN), Jendy Murphy (APLM), Debbie Sternklar (GUIL), Candy Wilson (RVLL), Joyce Laisosa (VOOR) Mary Fellows (UHLS) Diane Riganti (UHLS)

10:00 AM meeting called to order by Mary Fellows

**I. Introductions**

**II. UHLS Updates**

- UHLS Survey has decided that all UHLS meeting will be on Fridays. Implementing this in the summer.
- Drop Anchor at your library—Lois Lansing made a template for the paper mache anchors being used in the grant. They are being decorated according to community.
- Family Literacy and Summer Reading Program grants due to the state in March. Topics to be determined.

**III. Technology Tune-up**

- 1.) [www.StevenBell.Info](http://www.StevenBell.Info) Steven Bell's Resource Center --You will find links to my various library and web projects:
  - Keeping Up Web Site
  - Design Thinking Resources
  - Blended Librarianship
  - Related Blogs
- 2.) [www.BeQRious](http://www.BeQRious) QR codes – interesting idea!

Brought to Mary's attention KidSearch is not working properly.

**IV. CPSIA- what to do?**

- Mary has been sending informative emails to Youthserv.
- Weed books with the copyright date of 1985 and older. Joe Thornton can do reports.
- Check with – and push – your vendors for compliance information on their products. For example, Lakeshore Learning Company states their policy—“With new safety laws going into effect and increasing concern about the safety of children's products, we wanted to provide you with detailed information about Lakeshore's testing and certification process...and share with you the rigorous

steps we take to ensure our products are safe.” This is the kind of proactivity from vendors we should demand.

- Videos and DVD’s PG13 are for 13 year olds and older

**V. Focus on personal development: Dealing with workplace uncertainty** – the group used an exercise and discussion to address this issue.

**VI. Best Youth Services Library Ideas of 2008**

Ghost hunter program: <http://www.webjunction.org/arsl-2008handouts/articles/content/13362077> (choose ghost hunter link);  
<http://www.astrallight.org/ALPI.html>

Build on the senior lock-in idea to create a senior/tween lock-in:

[http://www.webjunction.org/arsl-2008handouts/articles/content/13362077?\\_OCLC\\_ARTICLES\\_getContentFromWJ=true](http://www.webjunction.org/arsl-2008handouts/articles/content/13362077?_OCLC_ARTICLES_getContentFromWJ=true)

Enter every teacher who submits an assignment alert (or the equivalent in your library) into a raffle for a desirable prize (day at a spa?). Do the same for teachers who submit their school’s summer reading list.

Gaming tournaments:

[http://www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Gaming\\_Success\\_Stories](http://www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Gaming_Success_Stories)

Hold a program on the Beatles – great intergenerational appeal! A presenter idea here: <http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=741828> Or do you have someone local who would develop a program?

Independent teen programs: programs without a specific time or place. Book predictions, take-then-make crafts, quizzes & handouts, writing contests, art contests, book review writing.

**VII. Quality versus popularity in your collection** – Mary provided her perspective and then led a discussion of how to create collection balance.

**VIII. Great reads**

**Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson**

From Publishers Weekly:

In a stunning first novel, Anderson uses keen observations and vivid imagery to pull readers into the head of an isolated teenager. Divided into the four marking periods of an academic year, the novel, narrated by Melinda Sordino, begins on her first day as a high school freshman. No one will sit with Melinda on the bus. At school, students call her names and harass her; her best friends from junior high scatter to different cliques and abandon her. Yet Anderson infuses the narrative with a wit that sustains the heroine through her pain and holds readers' empathy. A girl at a school pep rally offers an explanation of the heroine's pariah status when she confronts

Melinda about calling the police at a summer party, resulting in several arrests. But readers do not learn why Melinda made the call until much later: a popular senior raped her that night and, because of her trauma, she barely speaks at all. Only through her work in art class, and with the support of a compassionate teacher there, does she begin to reach out to others and eventually find her voice. Through the first-person narration, the author makes Melinda's pain palpable: "I stand in the center aisle of the auditorium, a wounded zebra in a National Geographic special." Though the symbolism is sometimes heavy-handed, it is effective. The ending, in which her attacker comes after her once more, is the only part of the plot that feels forced. But the book's overall gritty realism and Melinda's hard-won metamorphosis will leave readers touched and inspired. Ages 12-up.

### **Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson**

From Publishers Weekly:

The opening scene of Anderson's ambitious novel about the yellow fever epidemic that ravaged Philadelphia in the late 18th century shows a hint of the gallows humor and insight of her previous novel, *Speak*. Sixteen-year-old Matilda "Mattie" Cook awakens in the sweltering summer heat on August 16th, 1793, to her mother's command to rouse and with a mosquito buzzing in her ear. She shoos her cat from her mother's favorite quilt and thinks to herself, "I had just saved her precious quilt from disaster, but would she appreciate it? Of course not." Mattie's wit again shines through several chapters later during a visit to her wealthy neighbors' house, the Ogilvies. Having refused to let their serving girl, Eliza, coif her for the occasion, Mattie regrets it as soon as she lays eyes on the Ogilvie sisters, who wear matching bombazine gowns, curly hair piled high on their heads ("I should have let Eliza curl my hair. Dash it all"). But thereafter, Mattie's character development, as well as those of her grandfather and widowed mother, takes a back seat to the historical details of Philadelphia and environs. Extremely well researched, Anderson's novel paints a vivid picture of the seedy waterfront, the devastation the disease wreaks on a once thriving city, and the bitterness of neighbor toward neighbor as those suspected of infection are physically cast aside. However, these larger scale views take precedence over the kind of intimate scenes that Anderson crafted so masterfully in *Speak*. Scenes of historical significance, such as George Washington returning to Philadelphia, then the nation's capital, to signify the end of the epidemic are delivered with more impact than scenes of great personal significance to Mattie. Ages 10-14.

### **Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson**

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

### **Little Brother by Cory Doctorow**

"A wonderful, important book...I'd recommend Little Brother over pretty much any book I've read this year, and I'd want to get it into the hands of as many smart thirteen-year-olds, male and female, as I can. Because I think it'll change lives. Because some kids, maybe just a few, won't

be the same after they've read it. Maybe they'll change politically, maybe technologically. Maybe it'll just be the first book they loved or that spoke to their inner geek. Maybe they'll want to argue about it and disagree with it. Maybe they'll want to open their computer and see what's in there. I don't know. It made me want to be thirteen again *right now*, and reading it for the first time." —Neil Gaiman, author of Sandman and American Gods on Little Brother

### **If I Stay by Gayle Forman**

In a single moment, *everything* changes. Seventeen-year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck...

A sophisticated, layered, and heartachingly beautiful story about the power of family and friends, the choices we all make—and the ultimate choice Mia commands.

### **The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II: The Kingdom on the Waves and The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson**

With the publication of *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Volume I* back in 2006, M.T. Anderson assured readers that his gripping account of the American Revolution from the perspective of a young slave in colonial Boston would continue. Volume I received the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, and the anticipation among critics and readers inevitably grew for the story to continue. Thankfully, Anderson is a man of his word. With *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Volume II: The Kingdom on the Waves* Anderson has not just delivered an equally haunting second and final act to his hero's story, he's also completed a literary masterpiece that simply blows away its limited categorization as Young Adult lit.

*Octavian II* engages the reader (teenaged or otherwise) to reimagine the birth of the nation from an unfamiliar perspective--that of an African American slave compelled by incredible circumstance, and the hope of freedom, to fight in a counterrevolutionary army. No less than David McCullough and Joseph Ellis, Anderson turns everything you thought you knew about American history sideways. Through his expert incorporation of historical detail and colonial-era voice, the novel transports us deep into the perilous military and moral battles that defined the American Revolution. That these historical conflicts continue to inform today's charged debates about national identity and purpose makes his novels all the more relevant and powerful. --  
Lauren Nemroff

### **I Want to Be Free by Joseph Slate**

Before I die, I want to be free. But the Big Man says, "You belong to me." A runaway slave has broken the chains that bound him, but as he sets out for the land of the free, he still carries the weight of an iron ring around his ankle. As long as it remains, and as long as the Big Man hunts him, he'll never truly be free. But rescuing an orphaned slave child from certain capture gives him the strength to keep moving on, and miraculously, the child's love and gratitude are all that is needed to destroy the shackle once and for all. This moving, poetic text is based on a story from the sacred literature of Buddha.

### **The Daily Coyote: A Story of Love, Survival, and Trust in the Wilds of Wyoming by Shreve Stockton**

When photographer and writer Shreve Stockton decided to move back to her beloved New York from San Francisco, she decided to take her time and make the trip on her Vespa. When she reached Wyoming, Shreve was captivated by the red dirt, the Bighorn Mountains, and the wide-open spaces. Unable to shake the spell of the "cowboy state," she soon found herself trading her New York City apartment for a house in Ten Sleep, Wyoming -- population 300.

Shreve threw away her cell phone and took to the rules of the land, adjusting to a lifestyle that was a near antithesis to that of the urban jungle. Time is of a different essence, nature is both livelihood and enemy, deer and coyote mark the dawn and dusk. After she met a local cowboy by chance on the side of the road, first a friendship and then a romance blossomed between them. When Shreve was unexpectedly presented with a ten-day-old coyote pup whose parents had been shot for killing sheep, she had a choice to make. Despite her reservations and the terror of her tomcat Eli, Shreve decided to do the unthinkable -- to raise the coyote pup she came to call Charlie in her 12 12-foot log cabin.

In arresting prose and illuminated with Shreve's breathtaking photography, *The Daily Coyote* is at once Shreve's month-by-month exploration of Charlie's first year and a meditation on the nature of wildness versus domestication, of nature versus nurture, and of forgiveness, loyalty, and love in all its forms.

### **Liberation of Gabriel King by K.L. Going**

From Booklist:

Gr. 4-6. "Could a chicken become a warrior and fight oppression?" Small for his age, Gabriel, 10, is scared of the bullies in his all-white trailer park in small-town Georgia in 1976. His tough best friend, Frita, the only black kid in his class, helps him to overcome his fear, and he's able to stand with her when the Klan threatens. As in Going's Printz Honor Book *Fat Kid Rules the World* (2003), which was written for an older audience, the characters here are funny and brave and drawn with candor and immediacy. At first Frita is a bit too perfect, too strong and wise, and Going's message sometimes overwhelms the story, as when Frita makes Gabe list his fears, which he overcomes one by one. But there is lots of farce and fun, too--until the quietly building tension peaks with the terror of racist confrontation and the courage of people, adults and kids, who stand up together.

### **A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban**

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6—An impressive and poignant debut novel. Eleven-year-old Zoe dreams of giving piano recitals at Carnegie Hall. When her father purchases a Perfectone D-60, though, she must settle for the sounds of the organ rather than the distinguished sounds of a baby grand. Her organ teacher, Mabelline Person, notices the child's small talent for music and recommends her for the "Perfectone Perform-O-Rama"; she will play Neil Diamond's "Forever in Blue Jeans." Accepting this new twist to her ambitions, Zoe must depend on a quirky support system: her father, who gets anxious when he leaves the house and who earns diplomas from Living Room University; her workaholic mother; and her classmate Wheeler, who follows Zoe home from school daily to spend time with her father, baking. Playing television theme songs from the '60s and '70s rather than Bach doesn't get Zoe down. Instead, aware of the stark difference between her dream and her reality, she forges ahead and, as an underdog, faces the uncertainty of entering the competition. In the end, resilient and resourceful Zoe finds perfection in the most imperfect and

unique situations, and she shines. The refreshing writing is full of pearls of wisdom, and readers will relate to this fully developed character. The sensitive story is filled with hope and humor. It has a feel-good quality and a subtle message about how doing one's best and believing in oneself are what really matter.

**We are the Ship The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson**

The story of Negro League baseball is the story of gifted athletes and determined owners; of racial discrimination and international sportsmanship; of fortunes won and lost; of triumphs and defeats on and off the field. It is a perfect mirror for the social and political history of black America in the first half of the twentieth century. But most of all, the story of the Negro Leagues is about hundreds of unsung heroes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do the one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball. Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through its decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. The voice is so authentic, you will feel as if you are sitting on dusty bleachers listening intently to the memories of a man who has known the great ballplayers of that time and shared their experiences. But what makes this book so outstanding are the dozens of full-page and double-page oil paintings--breathtaking in their perspectives, rich in emotion, and created with understanding and affection for these lost heroes of our national game. We Are the Ship is a tour de force for baseball lovers of all ages.

Next meetings: March 5 (SRP workshop at Schenectady), April 17, May 8, June 19