

Youth Services Advisory Council

Meeting of June 12, 2009

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

At UHLS

9:00 – 10:00 AM Review book selection; 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Meeting

12:00 – 1:00 PM Teen Discussion

Attendees: Attendees: Debbie Shoup (GUIL), Debbie Canzano, (COHS), Pat Sahr (NASS) Julie Zelman (BRUN) Carol Gaillard (HOOF) Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Carol Roberts (TROY), Lisa Neuman (MEND), Darlene Miller (CAST), Barbara Goetschius (RCSC), Chrissie Morrison (EGRN), Candy Wilson (RVLL), Joyce Laiosa (VOOR), Laurene Teachout (STEP), Gail Brown (VOOR), Kathy Stemple (BERN) Judith Wines (ALTM) Jennifer Ward (APLM) Mary Fellows (UHLS) Diane Riganti (UHLS)

10:00 AM meeting called to order by Mary Fellows

**I. Introductions**

**II. UHLS Updates**

- The Pool Collection has been weeded. There are picture and holiday books available for your taking beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> will be a Tween/Teen Workshop at Guilderland Public Library. October 9<sup>th</sup> is a YSAC meeting at UHLS. Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Storytime Skills workshop at Schenectady County Public Library. December 11<sup>th</sup> YSAC meeting at UHLS.
- Explore Your Shore Grant Anchors were displayed at the Art on Lark Festival.
- Henry Hudson is still very active. An East Greenbush family made a very entertaining video including Henry on his adventures.
- Any problems with the Online Summer Reading Program? Idea, possibly for next year: we would like it to open on a generic page.

**III. Technology Tune-up**

Three web sites worth looking at are:

- [www.biguniverse.com](http://www.biguniverse.com)
  - Create your own book online
- <http://scratch.mit.edu>
  - Using lib computers (borrowing laptops from UHLS) to have kids learn Scratch and animate a folktale (or creation story).
- <http://www.pewinternet.org/Presentations/2009/8-Friending-libraries.aspx>
  - Improving youth services through understanding the relationships of adults to information . . . which they will teach children and children will absorb earlier and earlier.

#### **IV. Best Summer Reading plans**

It was decided that each library would send a copy of their summer reading calendar of events to other libraries so all can see what each other is doing. A PDF Format was suggested.

COHS-Crafts- sidewalk games for all ages.

EGRN-Dance teacher teaching choreography from Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers. Friday movie including popcorn.

BERN-having a performer teaching how to play spoons. Kathy showed her outfit that she wore for the school visits. Jumpsuit purchased from Harbor Freight with paint splotches on it.

They had literary lunches- 6 weeks 10 kids brought their lunch to the library and they had book discussions.

CAST-weekly local artists are giving are lessons.

RVLL-Showing the previous Harry Potter movie before the next one comes out.

MEND-Albany History & Art Institute planning to do Japanese Fish Printing cards.

APLM-Having computer camp for 2 weeks for ages 9-14. Morning computer and afternoon crafts.

STEP- Having Dazzle Dogs, Mask making, Play Singing, Ringing Trees, Local artist-felting and basket weaving, a video exchange, chicken program and movie night.

RCSC-Young Adult programming Workshop-Local Artists.

GUIL-Sculpting with chocolate dough, Japanese based loom program.

#### **V. GREAT READS**

##### **My Life in Pink and Green by Lisa Greenwald**

From Booklist:

After 12-year-old Lucy spots a foreclosure warning in the mail, she realizes that the small-town Connecticut pharmacy owned and run by her mother and grandmother is in jeopardy. While Mom and Grandma argue about how to handle the crisis, Lucy, an aspiring makeup artist, joins her school's Earth Club, researches green businesses, and hatches a plan to expand the pharmacy into an eco-spa. Many young readers will recognize likable Lucy's frustrations ("I can't wait for the day when adults take kids seriously"), as well as her growing excitement, all expressed in an utterly believable voice: "The Earth would be healthier just because of us . . . Like, my heart beats really fast when I think about it." Tales of young entrepreneurs featuring wish-fulfilling plots of young people gaining power have perennial appeal. This story of a family coping with dramatic financial strain may have

particular resonance in the current climate, and Greenwald deftly blends eco-facts and makeup tips, friendship and family dynamics, and spot-on middle-school politics into a warm, uplifting debut. Grades 4-7. --Gillian Engberg

### **The Year We Disappeared: A Father and Daughter Memoir by Cylin & John Busby**

From Booklist

Before August 31, 1979, nine-year-old Cylin's biggest worry was avoiding her grumpy neighbor. Then her family's life changed forever when her father, a Cape Cod policeman, was shot on his drive to work. Horribly injured, with most of his lower jaw blown away, John Busby somehow managed to stop his car and run for help. Although John was convinced he knew his attacker's identity, the investigation mysteriously stalled, and the Busby family was given 24-hour protection during the long experimental effort to reconstruct John's face. Eventually the family went into hiding, starting over in another state. In alternating chapters, John and Cylin Busby tell the story of John's ordeal and the devastating impact on his family. John's laconic, just-the-facts-ma'am style underscores the horror he was enduring, while Cylin's perspective drives home the fear and emotional misery the family suffered. The appalling physical injuries may deter the squeamish, but this riveting story will stay with readers, particularly its message that John's anger and desire for revenge were the hardest wounds to heal. Grades 9-12. --Lynn Rutan

### **Chicken Dance by Jacques Couvillon**

When eleven-year-old Don Schmidt wins a chicken-judging contest in his small town of Horse Island, Louisiana and goes from outcast to instant celebrity, even his neglectful mother occasionally takes notice of him and eventually he discovers some shocking family secrets.

### **Sucks to be Me by Kimberly Pauley**

From booklist

Most high-school juniors face big questions about their futures, but few ask the question posed to 16-year-old Mina: should she stay human or should she become a vampire, like her parents? In this breezy, often uproarious debut novel, Pauley follows Mina through her decision-making process, which includes classes about vampire history and culture and field trips with her eccentric uncle Mortie, the first vampire in the family. The juxtaposition between Mina's normal, human high-school existence and "vampire camp" creates hilarious contrasts, all narrated in Mina's wisecracking, authentic teen voice. Mina's frequent lists, such as "Why It Sucks to Have Parents Who Are Vampires" and IM exchanges between Mina and her best friend, add to the pitch-perfect humor. A chirpy cheerleader considering the vampire life and a cast of handsome romantic prospects round out the appealing supporting cast. Readers will race through this lighthearted debut, filled with vampire lore, to discover Mina's final decision, and they might recognize Mina's larger struggle to move between very different cultural worlds. Grades 7-10. --Gillian Engberg

### **Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side by Beth Fantaskey**

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. A romance involving a high school girl and a handsome vampire may sound a little too familiar, yet this first novel quickly bursts ahead of the pack of *Twilight*-wannabes. Down-to-earth mathlete Jessica Packwood is completely horrified when, a few months shy of her 18th birthday, a Romanian named Lucius Vladescu shows up on her doorstep, claiming that he and she are vampire royalty betrothed to each other since infancy—what's worse, her adoptive parents verify the betrothal story and explain that her birth parents identified

themselves as vampires, too. Fantaskey makes this premise work by playing up its absurdities without laughing at them, endowing Jessica with a coolly ironic sensibility and Lucius with old-world snobberies that Jessica's girlfriends find irresistible. Jessica's laidback parents serve as foils for imperious Lucius (Can I ever again be happy in our soaring Gothic castle after walking the halls of Woodrow Wilson High School, a literal ode to linoleum? he asks sarcastically); a scene at a steakhouse where the vegan Packwoods meet the carnivorous Vladescus is first-rate comedy. The romance sizzles, the plot develops ingeniously and suspensefully, and the satire sings. Ages 14–up.

### **Winter Girls by Laurie Halse Anderson**

From Booklist

\*Starred Review\* Problem-novel fodder becomes a devastating portrait of the extremes of self-deception in this brutal and poetic deconstruction of how one girl stealthily vanishes into the depths of anorexia. Lia has been down this road before: her competitive relationship with her best friend, Cassie, once landed them both in the hospital, but now not even Cassie's death can eradicate Lia's disgust of the "fat cows" who scrutinize her body all day long. Her father (no, "Professor Overbrook") and her mother (no, "Dr. Marrigan") are frighteningly easy to dupe—tinkering and sabotage inflate her scale readings as her weight secretly plunges: 101.30, 97.00, 89.00. Anderson illuminates a dark but utterly realistic world where every piece of food is just a caloric number, inner voices scream "NO!" with each swallow, and self-worth is too easily gauged: "I am the space between my thighs, daylight shining through." Struck-through sentences, incessant repetition, and even blank pages make Lia's inner turmoil tactile, and gruesome details of her decomposition will test sensitive readers. But this is necessary reading for anyone caught in a feedback loop of weight loss as well as any parent unfamiliar with the scripts teens recite so easily to escape from such deadly situations. Grades 9-12.

### **Imagine a place by Sarah Tomson: paintings by Rob Gonsalves**

Illustrations and evocative text show how imagination can reveal the extraordinary in the everyday.

### **Soul Enchilada by David Macinnis Gil**

From Booklist

Eunice "Bug" Smoot is a recent high-school graduate with all sorts of problems: she's about to get evicted from the flophouse apartment she rents, she's just been fired from her pizza-delivery job, and it seems like every day some idiot is giving her crap for being half-African American and half-Tejana. The only light in her life is her dead grandfather's classic 1958 Cadillac Biarritz—and even that goes down the tubes when a demon named Mr. Beals materializes in the passenger seat and demands repossession of the vehicle. Turns out, her grandfather financed the car by selling his soul. Luckily, Bug's crush, a car-wash attendant, just happens to moonlight for the International Supernatural Immigration Service and he's got some ideas about how to deport this "Illegal." Gill's debut has weirdness to spare: there's insect-puking villains, pizza-delivery contests with Satan, and some very high-stakes basketball. At times it can all be too much to swallow, but Bug is a refreshingly gutsy female protagonist with an attitude that will win over readers searching for something different. Grades 7-10. --Daniel Kraus

### **Soft Shoulders by Liza Frenette**

An award-winning children's story of three girls who learn about nature, friendship, and survival during a snowstorm in the Adirondack Mountains.

## **VI. Book Discussion: Living Dead Girl**

Interview with the author:

<http://www.popgurls.com/index.php3>

Published reviews and awards:

<http://www.elizabethwrites.com/livingdeadgirl.php>

Blog Discussions:

<http://bookshelvesofdoom.blogs.com/>

Reading group guide:

<http://books.simonandschuster.com/Living-Dead-Girl/Elizabeth-Scott/9781416960591/>

Questions considered:

What did you think about this book?

What is its audience?

What is its value?

Does it belong in your library? Why or why not? If it belongs, in which section?

Given its controversial nature, if the need arose, how would you defend your decision to put it in your collection?

(refer to Mary's email on 6-12-09)

Next meetings: September 17 Tween/Teen Workshop at GUIL, October 9 YSAC at UHLS, November 5 Storytime Skills at Schenectady, Dec 11 YSAC at UHLS

Teen Discussion Group 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Attendees: Chrissie Morrison (EGRN), Laurrene Teachout (STEP), Joyce Laasia (VOOR), Gail Brown (VOOR) Debbie Shoup (GUIL) Mary Fellows (UHLS) Diane Riganti (UHLS)

12:00 PM meeting called to order by Mary Fellows

### **I. Introductions**

### **II. Programs:**

- Kids bring in Tee shirts, the library supplies the art materials and they decorate the tee shirt.
- Bits, Bytes & Bots--computer adventures. They will do a workshop.

- Two part comic book workshop
- Book talking
- Tween Leggo Club
- Teen Advisory Club—You're Never too old for this.....
- Make Graphic Books—Center for Cartoon Studies. Adventure in Cartooning.
- **Magic** Battle with Cards (like Pokemon)

### III. Great Reads:

#### **Hero by Perry Moore**

From [Booklist](#)

Thom Creed tries not to disappoint his dad, a disgraced caped crusader who now toils as a factory drudge, so he keeps his gay identity and his developing superpowers under wraps. Then he secretly tries out for the prestigious League, joining aspiring heroes in villain-busting adventures that escalate alongside more private discoveries. Written in a wry, first-person voice realistically peppered with occasional slang and slurs, this ambitious first novel from a Hollywood producer doesn't entirely cohere. The alternate-reality framework is too cursory, and the more realistic strands feel overstuffed with problems, even as they incorporate many well-chosen scenes (including Thom's awkward, anonymous first pickup, which goes only as far as a kiss). Still, Moore's casting of a gay teen hero in a high-concept fantasy marks a significant expansion of GLBTQ literature into genres that reflect teens' diverse reading interests; given the mainstream popularity of comics-inspired tales, the average, ordinary, gay teen superhero who comes out and saves the world will raise cheers from within the GLBTQ community and beyond. Mattson, Jennifer

#### **13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher**

From [Booklist](#)

When Clay Jenson plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide. Clay spends the rest of the day and long into the night listening to Hannah's voice and going to the locations she wants him to visit. The text alternates, sometimes quickly, between Hannah's voice (italicized) and Clay's thoughts as he listens to her words, which illuminate betrayals and secrets that demonstrate the consequences of even small actions. Hannah, herself, is not free from guilt, her own inaction having played a part in an accidental auto death and a rape. The message about how we treat one another, although sometimes heavy, makes for compelling reading. Give this to fans of Gail Giles psychological thrillers. Dobrez, Cindy

#### **Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

From [Booklist](#)

*\*Starred Review\** This is a grand-opening salvo in a new series by the author of the Underland Chronicles. Sixteen-year-old Katniss poaches food for her widowed mother and little sister from the forest outside the legal perimeter of District 12, the poorest of the dozen districts constituting Panem, the North American dystopic state that has replaced the U.S. in the not-too-distant future. Her hunting and tracking skills serve her well when she is then cast into the nation's annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death where contestants must battle harsh terrain, artificially concocted weather conditions, and two teenaged contestants from each of Panem's districts. District 12's second "tribute" is Peeta, the baker's son, who has been in love with Katniss since he was five. Each new plot twist ratchets up the tension, moving the story forward and keeping

the reader on edge. Although Katniss may be skilled with a bow and arrow and adept at analyzing her opponents' next moves, she has much to learn about personal sentiments, especially her own. Populated by three-dimensional characters, this is a superb tale of physical adventure, political suspense, and romance. Grades 9-12. --Francisca Goldsmith

### **Misadventures of Maude March by Audry Coulombis**

From School Library Journal

\*Starred Review. Grade 5-8--Sallie March, 11, devotee of dime novels, narrates this rollicking Wild West adventure. The irrepressible tomboy and her ladylike older sister, Maude, have been living in Cedar Rapids with their stern Aunt Ruthie since their parents died. When she is shot dead by a random bullet, Reverend Peasley takes the girls in, but works them like servants. Then grandfatherly Mr. Wilburn proposes to Maude, and it's the last straw. The sisters take two horses and head to Independence, MO, in hopes of finding their uncle. They disguise themselves as boys and begin to live as dime-novel heroes, hooking up with Marion Hardly, aka Joe Harden (*the Joe Harden, of the dimer series?*), who is also their aunt's killer. Although the girls' intentions are never bad, they end up in the midst of a bank robbery and committing murder. The newspapers are full of news of Mad Maude March, gone crazy with grief. All ends well as they make it to Missouri, where everyone has a reputation anyway. Sallie's narration is delightful, with understatement that are laugh-out-loud hilarious. While this novel at first seems a departure for Coulombis, there are many similarities to *Getting Near to Baby* (1999) and *Say Yes* (2002, both Putnam). Her strong females are memorable, largely due to her perfect pitch in conveying their unique voices. Hard to put down, and a fun read-aloud.--*Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME*

### **Masterpiece by Elise Broach**

From [Booklist](#)

James lives an invisible existence in a grand apartment on the Upper East Side. His mother, busy with her new husband and baby and her climb up the Manhattan social ladder, has little time for him. By contrast, Marvin, a beetle whose overprotective, extended family resides behind James' mother's kitchen, gets more attention than he wants. The two find friendship when James' artist father gives him a pen-and-ink set, and Marvin discovers his talent for "drawing," crafting delicate, museum-quality miniatures with his legs. When Marvin and James find themselves embroiled in a plot to steal a Dürer drawing from the Metropolitan Museum, they must find creative ways to communicate to foil the thieves and protect the masterpiece. Murphy's own pen-and-ink spot art reflects the text's sweet insouciance. With suspense, art history, complex family relationships (human and arthropod), and a resonant friendship, this enjoyable outing will satisfy the reserved and adventurous alike. Grades 3-6. --Thom Barthelmess

### **Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon Hale**

From [Booklist](#)

This graphic novel retelling of the fairy-tale classic, set in a swashbuckling Wild West, puts action first and features some serious girl power in its spunky and strong heroine. Young Rapunzel lives a lonely life, never knowing what lies beyond the high garden walls of her mother's royal villa until one day she climbs the wall to see what's on the other side. When she finds that the world outside is a dark place oppressed by her mother's greed for power and uncovers the real secret of her own birth, she is imprisoned in a magic tree tower. In her years of captivity, she learns a lot about self-reliance and care for her exceptionally long hair, and eventually she is able to escape, vowing to bring down her mother's cruel empire. Hale's art matches the story well, yielding expressive characters and lending a wonderful sense of place to

the fantasy landscape. Rich with humor and excitement, this is an alternate version of a classic that will become a fast favorite of young readers. Grades 5-8. --Tina Coleman

### **Beastly by Alex Flinn**

#### Review

"Teens will LOL. They will also find their preoccupations with looks, status and pride explored thoroughly." (Kirkus Reviews )

"[An] engrossing tale that will have appeal for fans of fantasy and realistic fiction" -- VOYA. (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) )

#### Product Description

A beast. Not quite wolf or bear, gorilla or dog but a horrible new creature who walks upright—a creature with fangs and claws and hair springing from every pore. I am a monster.

You think I'm talking fairy tales? No way. The place is New York City. The time is now. It's no deformity, no disease. And I'll stay this way forever—ruined—unless I can break the spell.

Yes, the spell, the one the witch in my English class cast on me. Why did she turn me into a beast who hides by day and prowls by night? I'll tell you. I'll tell you how I used to be Kyle Kingsbury, the guy you wished you were, with money, perfect looks, and the perfect life. And then, I'll tell you how I became perfectly . . . beastly.

### **Into the Volcano by Don Wood**

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg embark on an adventure after their eccentric aunt invites them to come see the island of Kocalaha, their mother's birthplace. Duffy, excited to get away from the gloomy winter in their hometown, jumps at the chance, but Sumo is worried: a lot of things could go wrong so far away from home. The boys are taken into the heart of a volcano to explore and learn more about their heritage, but the seemingly dormant volcano is in the midst of waking up. The situation quickly becomes perilous, and between the volcano's power and shocking revelations of family secrets, it appears neither boy will make it out alive. With such a thrilling story, Wood scores points for both pacing and characterization. The action moves along at breakneck speed, and through all of the twists and turns, the reader is left wondering if the boys will survive. The art is beautifully rendered in thick bold lines and a rich color palette and is a nice break from the mainstream comic style. Although this adventure may be a little too scary for younger readers on their own, it makes a fun book for parents and children to share together. Grades 4-7. --Tina Coleman

### **Eternal Smile by Gene Luen Yang**

#### Book Description

From two masters of the graphic novel--Gene Luen Yang (*American Born Chinese*) and Derek Kirk Kim (*Same Difference and Other Stories*) come fantastical adventures through the worlds we live in and the worlds we create: the story of a prince who defeats his greatest enemy only to discover that maybe his world is not what it had seemed; the story of a frog who finds that just being a frog might be the way to go; and the story of a woman who receives an email from Prince Henry of Nigeria asking for a loan to help save his family. With vivid artwork and moving writing, Derek Kirk Kim and Gene Luen Yang test the boundaries between fantasy and reality, exploring the ways that the world of the imagination can affect real life.

