

# **Youth Services Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Notes**

September 22, 2006

At

Upper Hudson Library System

Book Review 9:00-10:00 Meeting 10:00 am-12:00 noon

Book Review & Teen Discussion 12:00 noon-1:00

Attendance: Judith Wines (Altamont Free Library) Kathy Stempel (Berne Public Library) Carol Roberts (Troy Public Library) Darlene Miller (Castleton Public Library) Lisa Neuman (Menands Public Library) Joyce Laiosa (Voorheesville Public Library) Jane Chirgwin (Rensselaer City Library) Barbara Goetschius (RCS Community Library) Debbie Canzano (Cohoes Public Library) Julie Zelman (Brunswick Community Library) Mary Beth Earley (Albany Public Library) Carolyn Durnin (Grafton Community Library) Mindy Fowler (Sand Lake Town Library) Ginger Hewitt (Watervliet Public Library) Ann Marie Cicchinelli (William K. Sanford Town Library)

### **UHLS UPDATES**

#### **Arts Grant**

At each UHLS member library participating, percussion artist Brian Mellick will present an hour-long workshop on sound for young teens (middle school age group). Brian will discuss and demonstrate unusual percussion instruments and using sound qualities to support imagery. He and the teens will then create basic instruments out of found objects. During the second hour, professional storyteller Marni Gillard will join the program. She and Brian will perform a story, with Marni telling while Brian adds sound imagery. Then Marni will teach the teens the story, helping the tellers to learn the story and the sound effects teens to learn their parts. After more rehearsal, the teens will present the program to a library audience of younger children.

We are aiming for a summer schedule so that you can incorporate this program into your SRP if you desire. Since both presenters are fairly local (Ravena and Schenectady), we should be able to be flexible.

The artist fees for each performance are \$500 for both performers and including their mileage. The maximum grant we can apply for is \$5000. The amount received and the number of libraries ultimately interested in participating will determine each library's co-pay. Remember that it is also always possible to go together with another library to sponsor a program.

#### **Cooking Grant**

The Cooking Grant has gone extremely well. UHLS has established an excellent relationship with Capital News Channel 9. The pictures are on the web site.

Rensselaerville Library has established a good relationship with the school. Castleton Public Library enjoyed all the programs. Voorheesville Public Library has established a relationship with the principle.

### **Cookbook**

As a result of the cooking grant there will be a UHLS cookbook. All libraries are invited to send in recipes. Information will be sent to each library via delivery.

### **Summer Reading Program 2007 and beyond**

New York has now joined the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a group of 30+ stated that band together to choose a common theme. Hire an illustrator, and get quantity discounts on incentives. The 2007 Collaborative Summer Library Program theme is Get a Clue @ your Library (for children) and YNK – You Never Know @ the Library (for teens). The SRP ordering booklet was handed out to attendees. The rest were sent in the delivery. Our deadline is November 17, 2006 for the materials that Upper Hudson Library System pays for. We are now ordering from Upstart.

### **Summer Reading Program**

Not much enthusiasm for the theme this year.

Liberty Ridge coupons were appreciated and handed out as prizes.

#### **Best Programs and Ideas**

- Tang Museum
- Royal Ball/Barbeque
- Narnia Party—made snow globes out of baby food jars
- Panda trained horse/therapy horse
- Chinese Cooking with Teens
- Ology craft night (mythology, fairyology etc.)
- Long John Silvia Honest Weight food co op
- Scotia Glenville museum
- Stone Soup at the Arvilla E. Diver Memorial Library fair
- Movie afternoon
- Had a treasure chest for prizes
- Kept track of reading by name tags

#### **Program to avoid**

Watervliet had a bad experience with Think-a-majigits- How pirates live, from Ballston Spa.

### **Quick and Easy crafts**

Demonstration of some summer reading craft ideas.

### **Guest presenter: Kathy Ceceri, World History Through Crafts**

Next meetings: 10-20-06 at UHLS, 11-17-06 at UHLS Book Review

# Teen Services Discussion Group

## Meeting Notes

September 22, 2006

At

Upper Hudson Library System

12:00 -1:00 pm

**Attendance:** Carol Roberts (Troy Public Library) Mindy Fowler (Sand Lake Town Library) Mary Beth Earley (Albany Public Library) Mary Fellows (UHLS), Diane Riganti (UHLS)

We will try a Wiki instead of a Teen Service Blog. Mary has one in testing. Also, Mary put a UHLS profile on MySpace.com. Other libraries have profiles, and it's a way to be a presence in a forum teens use frequently.

### Program Ideas

- ❖ Skateboarding
- ❖ Game night—Chess
- ❖ Movie night
- ❖ Duct Tape Crafts
- ❖ Mystery Theatre
- ❖ Teen Art Work
- ❖ Drama Club
- ❖ Anime Club
- ❖ Dance Revolution
- ❖ Saratoga Savoy—Swing kids

### Books Discussed

#### Crank by Ellen Hopkins

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—Seventeen-year-old Kristina Snow is introduced to crank on a trip to visit her wayward father. Caught up in a fast-paced, frightening, and unfamiliar world, she morphs into "Bree" after she "shakes hands with the monster." Her fearless, risk-taking alter ego grows stronger, "convincing me to be someone I never dreamed I'd want to be." When Kristina goes home, things don't return to normal. Although she tries to reconnect with her mother and her former life as a good student, her drug use soon takes over, leaving her "starving for speed" and for boys who will soon leave her scarred and pregnant. Hopkins writes in free-verse poems that paint painfully sharp images of Kristina/Bree and those around her, detailing how powerful the "monster" can be. The poems are masterpieces of word, shape, and pacing, compelling readers on to the next chapter in Kristina's spiraling world. This is a topical page-turner and a stunning portrayal of a teen's loss of direction and realistically uncertain future.—*Sharon Korbeck, Waupaca Area Public Library, WI*  
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### **Burned by Ellen Hopkins**

#### **From [Booklist](#)**

Gr. 9-12. Full of anger at her father, an alcoholic who abuses her mother, Pattyn begins to question her Mormon religion and her preordained, subservient role within it. She is confused by her mother's acceptance of the brutal abuse, and although she is furious at and terrified of her father, she still longs for his love and approval. As the consequences of her anger become more dramatic, her parents send her to spend the summer with her aunt on a Nevada ranch. There she finds the love and acceptance she craves, both from her aunt and from a college-age neighbor, Ethan. Told in elegant free verse, *Burned* envelopes the reader in Pattyn's highs and lows, her gradual opening to love, and her bouts of rage, confusion, and doubt. It exposes the mind of the abused, but regrettably offers no viable plan to deal with the abuser, a reality perhaps, but a plot element that may raise eyebrows in the adult community. Still, this will easily find rapid-fire circulation among its YA audience. A troubling but beautifully written novel. *Frances Bradburn*

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### **Daniel Half Human and the Good Nazi by David Chotjewitz**

#### **From [Booklist](#)**

Gr. 7-12. In Hamburg, Germany, in the 1930s, Daniel enjoys being part of the Hitler Youth until he discovers his mother is Jewish and he is thrown out of his elite school. He still has fun with his best friend, Armin, who falls in love with Daniel's Jewish cousin; but tension mounts, racism is rampant, and Armin begins to stay away, though he takes risks and warns his friend to hide. Daniel's return to Hamburg in 1945 as interpreter for the Allies frames the novel, which switches among the viewpoints of too many characters, including Daniel's parents, who fight about whether to leave the country. But the detailed history woven into the fiction (including the effect of Germany's defeat in World War I, Hitler's rise, and the violence of Kristallnacht) helps make this clearly translated novel an important title for the Holocaust curriculum, especially given the friendship drama that keeps raising ethical questions to the very last page. *Hazel Rochman*

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### **Book thief by Markus Zusak**

#### **From [School Library Journal](#)**

*Starred Review.* Grade 9 Up—Zusak has created a work that deserves the attention of sophisticated teen and adult readers. Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate

over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel's story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves. An extraordinary narrative. —*Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA*

### **I am the messenger by Markus Zusak**

#### **From [Booklist](#)**

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 9-12. Ed is a 19-year-old loser only marginally connected to the world; he's the son that not even his mother loves. But his life begins to change after he acts heroically during a robbery. Perhaps it's the notoriety he receives that leads to his receiving playing cards in the mail. Ed instinctively understands that the scrawled words on the aces are clues to be followed, which lead him to people he will help (including some he'll have to hurt first). But as much as he changes those who come into his life, he changes himself more. Two particular elements will keep readers enthralled: the panoply of characters who stream in and out of the story, and the mystery of the person sending Ed on the life-altering missions. Concerning the former, Zusak succeeds brilliantly. Ed's voice is assured and unmistakable, and other characters, although seen through Ed's eyes, are realistically and memorably evoked (readers will almost smell Ed's odoriferous dog when it ambles across the pages). As for the ending, however, Zusak is too clever by half. He offers too few nuts-and-bolts details before wrapping things up with an unexpected, somewhat unsatisfying recasting of the narrative. Happily, that doesn't diminish the life-affirming intricacies that come before. *Ilene Cooper*