

Youth Services Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

June 15, 2007

At

Upper Hudson Library System

Book review 9:00-10:00; Meeting 10:00-12:00; Book review and teen services discussion group
10:00 am-12:00 noon

Attendance: Carol Roberts (Troy Public Library), Jennifer Ward (Albany Public Library) Trevor Oakley (Guilderland Public Library) Carol Gaillard (Cheney Library) Mindy Fowler (Sand Lake Town Library) Ginger Hewitt (Watervliet Public Library) Judith Wines (Altamont Free Library) Lisa Neuman (Menands Public Library) Chrissie Morrison (East Greenbush Community Library) Rose Stuart (Albany Public Library--Pine Hills Branch/East Greenbush Community Library) Barbara Goetschius (RCS Community Library) Debbie Canzano (Cohoes Public Library) Darlene Miller (Castleton) Ann Wolf (Rensselaerville) Maureen DeLaughter (William K. Sanford Town Library) Mary Fellows (UHLS) Diane Riganti (UHLS)

UHLS UPDATES

UHLS will be looking into the Online Summer Reading software for next year. MVLS is using software this year (Evanced Solutions) and will let us know how it worked out for them.

Aqua Browser seems to be a dead issue. The Automated Services Committee was not interested in purchasing it.

Summer Reading prize books are arriving at the UHLS office and will be sent to you in mid July.

September 11, 2007 is the all day Michael Sullivan training workshop on books and reading. Workshop will be at UHLS offices.

The Real Guys Read grant is still pending. No word yet. Because there were 35 applicants for a two-year grant for which libraries could apply for \$50,000 a year, and the state has only \$300,000 total funds available to grant, it seems unlikely that we will get funded this year. Mary is exploring other grant possibilities

Question about coordinating home school group information asked at SRP workshop returned to the group for more information. No ideas.

Mary wants to be sure YSAC meetings are meeting needs of UHLS member library staff. After brief discussion about when a survey would be most welcome, the group asked to give feedback on a survey soon.

We are initiating a new service. At each YSAC meeting, we will send around a packet of photocopied articles from professional journals, vetted by Mary. If you would like a photocopy of any

article, please sign the paper and a photocopy will be sent to you as soon as possible. This is an easy way to keep up on important information in the journals.

MAIN PROGRAM:

Gaming in the Library? You Bet!

Presented by Trevor Oakley (Guilderland Public Library)
and Chrissie Morrison (East Greenbush Community Library)

Guilderland Public Library has purchased 110 games and three consoles including Ninetento-Playstation 2 and Wii. They asked the Board of Trustees for money left over from the general fund. They said they wanted to start a new collection. Within 72 hours, 98 games went out, circulation increased 450%. Trevor purchased games that the kids enjoy. He purchased used games to build the collection. Guilderland Public Library leaves the games out on the floor with the small donut security labels. The games are seven-day loan, non-request, no renewal. There is a possibility that gaming can be brought into senior centers or assisted living homes (Adult Services is exploring this.) Seniors can enjoy gaming also. Big Brain Academy is a learning experience for seniors.

East Greenbush Community Library has not purchased games for loan because the kids said they would steal them. East Greenbush Community Library owns the DDR and Guitar Hero. They host programs where the kids bring their own hardware. Come in and play games and leave with a free book.

Further information:

- Baker & Taylor sells the games.
- Best system to buy is Playstation 2.
- Can buy used games-\$25-\$30 average. Wii is \$50.00
- Add in your collection development policy- media as a whole. E (everyone) T (teens)
- Great points for gaming in libraries:
 - There are games which are Academic.
 - Teaches learning skills & problem solving.
 - Groups are coming together to play the games.
 - People read alone, what is wrong with gaming alone?

Magazines & Web sites

- Electronic Gaming Monthly
- Game Pro
- GameSpot.com
- SLJ and VOYA have gaming reviews

Also: There is no reason ever to purchase a Web cam. Kids do not need to send their picture to anyone, ever.

Christine McGinty from Bethlehem Public Library has invented games in a powerpoint presentation. Examples of two games were shown. Copies of the games will be made available through Mary.

SUMMER PROGRAMS OF NOTE:

RCS Community Library is doing an identify the person kit

Monopoly Board games –Bookopoly is available.

Honest Weight Food coop programs – remember that they're FREE

Doodles: <http://www.doodles.com/>

GREAT READS DISCUSSED:

Tamar: A novel of Espionage, Passion and Betrayal by Mal Peet

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 8 Up—This lengthy Carnegie Medal-winning novel is masterfully crafted, written in cinematic prose, and peopled by well-drawn, multidimensional characters. Intense and riveting, it is a mystery, a tale of passion, and a drama about resistance fighters in the Netherlands during World War II. The story unfolds in parallel narratives, most told by an omniscient narrator describing the resistance struggle, and fewer chapters as a narrative told by 15-year-old Tamar, the granddaughter of one of the resistance fighters. The locale and time shift between Holland in 1944 and '45 and England in 1995. The constant dangers faced by the resistance fighters as well as their determination to succeed in liberating their country from German occupation come vividly to life. Dart, Tamar, and Marijke are the main characters in this part of the book. Their loyalty to one another and the movement is palpable though love and jealousy gradually enter the story and painfully change the dynamics. Other characters jeopardize the safety of the group and intensify the life-threatening hazards they face. Peet deftly handles the developing intrigue that totally focuses readers. After her beloved grandfather commits suicide, modern-day Tamar is determined to undercover the mystery contained in a box of seemingly unrelated objects that he has left for her. Peet keeps the story going back and forth in time, and readers must wait till the end of this intricate book to understand fully what happened to these courageous people. This is an extraordinary, gripping novel.—Renee Steinberg, formerly at Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJ

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (January 23, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763634883

ISBN-13: 978-0763634889

A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama by Laura Any Schlitz

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8—Maud's life at an orphanage has been one of neglect and poverty. When the Hawthorne sisters appear out of nowhere and adopt the 11-year-old troublemaker, she vows to be obedient. Distracted by unfamiliar pleasures such as new clothes, ice cream, and indoor plumbing, she doesn't worry too much about the sisters' insistence that her presence in their home be kept hidden. Well cared for but bored, she finds a way to communicate with Muffet, a deaf serving woman, and the two develop a close relationship. Mysteries abound, and Maud soon discovers the family secret—the Hawthorne sisters make their living by conducting fraudulent séances and they need Maud to play the part of a girl's ghost to deceive a grieving mother. Wanting to earn her guardians' affections, Maud is drawn further and further into the scheme despite her growing qualms of conscience. Only after a betrayal and a tragedy does she finally find the loving home for which she longs. Filled with heavy atmosphere and suspense, this story re-creates life in early-20th-century New England and showcases the plight of orphans. Maud is a charismatic, three-dimensional character who is torn between doing the right thing and putting her own needs first. While much of the plot is predictable, particularly the ending, the book will find an audience with fans of gothic tales.—Melissa Moore, Union University Library, Jackson, TN

Reading level: Young Adult

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (September 12, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763629308

ISBN-13: 978-0763629304

Next Meetings:

September 21, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 15, March 13
(Summer Reading Program workshop at Schenectady), April 4, May 16, June 13

Teen Services Discussion Group
12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Attendees: Maureen DeLaughter (William K. Sanford Town Library), Trevor Oakley (Guilderland Public Library), Darlene Miller (Castleton Public Library), Chrissie Morrison (EGRN), Ann Wolf (Rensselaerville Library) Mary Fellows (UHLS), Diane Riganti (UHLS)

Programs:

William K. Sanford Town Library

- Battle of the Bands 181 kids attended
- Have teens raise their own money to fund programs
- Film group—130 people making 5-10 minute movies
- One-minute movies
- Teen program does not have to be book related
- Pirates versus ninjas

Guilderland Public Library

- Has more active programs

Teen grant thoughts

- Read it Forward
- Gaming grant

Books:

The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl by [Barry Lyga](#)

Reading level: Young Adult

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin (October 2, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618723927

ISBN-13: 978-0618723928

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up—On good days, Fanboy is invisible to the students at his high school. On bad ones, he's a target for bullying and violence. When a classmate is cruel to him, Fanboy adds him to The List and moves on. His only real friend, Cal, is a jock who can't be seen with him in public. Their love of comics, though, keeps them close friends outside of school. Reading comics and writing his own graphic novel, *Schemata*, are the only things that keep him sane. He dreams of showing his work to a famous author at a comic-book convention and being discovered as the next great graphic novelist. When Goth Girl Kyra IMs him with photos of him being beaten up, he's skeptical. Why does she care what happens to him? He learns, though, that she's as much an outsider as he is. The two form a tentative friendship based on hatred of their classmates, particularly jocks, and her interest in *Schemata*. Fanboy is a rule follower, but Kyra is a rebel with a foul mouth. She teaches him to stand up for himself, and gives him the confidence to do it. Lyga looks at how teens are pushed to their limits by society. Though he toys with such concepts as teen suicide and Columbine-like violence, the novel never turns tragic. His love of comics carries over into all three teen characters, breathing animation into a potentially sad but often funny story. This is a great bridge book for teens who already like graphic novels.—Stephanie L. Petruso, Anne Arundel County Public Library, Odenton, MD

The Politics of Life: 25 Rules for Survival in a Brutal and Manipulative World by [Craig Crawford](#)

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (June 25, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0742552500

ISBN-13: 978-0742552500

From Publishers Weekly

Washington journalist and author Crawford (*Attack the Messenger*) gives Machiavelli a user-friendly 21st century update with this guide to life's struggles for the unwary, the good-natured and the "never met a man I didn't like" gang. Though his perception of the world and his cautionary stance can be glum, Crawford's wisdom, for the most part, is unarguable. A veteran of the barracuda business world, he regales readers with Art of War-like rules from the get-go: "Life is a Filthy Battle," "A True Enemy Should Be Eliminated, Never Tolerated" and "Never Postpone the Inevitable Conflict" among them. The author maintains that people often follow Machiavelli's militant advice without considering the philosopher's admonitions for balance: "People get their way simply by asserting something...with believable-sounding support," whether or not it's true, "manipulating people...not unlike training dogs." To buck up for the fight, Crawford encourages "a positive outlook on pain will help you ease the harm that you must occasionally do to another...cast the experience on character-building." Though his advice isn't groundbreaking, Crawford is adept in his use of anecdotes to illustrate tough truths in a logical framework, providing excellent advice for launching endeavors, moving in a positive direction, surviving the scoundrels and embracing life. Crawford's tone can be harsh, but the slight flinching reaction one might begin with segues to enjoyment and identification as Crawford presents recognizable real-life scenarios, prompting plenty ah-ha moments of practical discovery.

Tantalize by [Cynthia Leitich Smith](#)

Reading level: Young Adult

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (February 13, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763627917

ISBN-13: 978-0763627911

From Publishers Weekly

Following her parents' death, Quincie Morris was left in her Uncle Davidson's care, and the fate of the family's Italian restaurant was left in hers. Now 17, Quincie, who narrates, and her uncle have renamed the place Sanguini's. They've remodeled it with a "vampire theme," which they believe will sell in their Texas college town since "vampires are a fringe population, and Austin is a tolerant place." A month before the grand re-opening, however, the longtime chef is mauled to death in the kitchen, and the murder suspect is a werewolf. Quincie finds this problematic, since her lifelong best friend and love interest, Kieren, is a "hybrid werewolf" who traces his lupine heritage to the wolves that roamed Ireland with St. Patrick. A new chef shows up who may be talented but is also spooky, with red contact lenses, pale hair and a menu featuring sweetbreads, blood sausage and baby squirrels in honey cream sauce. Best known for her Native

American stories, Smith uses advertisements, newspaper clippings and menu pages to liven the pace, and creates palpable tension in the novel's second half. Quincie's story hews closer to the campy *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* episodes (e.g., " 'You ate the police?!' I exclaimed") than to the elegant romanticism of Stephenie Meyer's books, but horror fans will be hooked by Kieren's quiet, hirsute hunkiness, and Texans by the premise that nearly everybody in their capitol is a shapeshifter. Ages 14-up. (*Mar.*)

Resurrection Men by [T.K. Welsh](#)

Reading level: Young Adult

Hardcover: 214 pages

Publisher: Dutton Juvenile (April 19, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525476997

ISBN-13: 978-0525476993

Kirkus

(For) audiences that relish historical fiction (A) lurid stomach-churner... strewn with corpses and gruesome relics.

Book Description

London, 1830s. Twelve-year-old Victor, an orphan, knows that life is dangerous, and death by disease or accident is common. But to Mr. Tipple and Mr. Biggs, these are streets teeming with possibility, where a child, once dead, is a commodity, and a "fresh subject" can fetch as much as nine guineas. In this dark underworld, Victor must uncover the identity of the ghoulish murderer who is at the heart of London's furtive trade in human corpses.

Anatomy of a Boyfriend by [Daria Snadowsky](#)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Books for Young Readers (January 9, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385733208

ISBN-13: 978-0385733205

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Dominique and Amy—best friends and high school seniors in Florida—attend the big football game where Dom meets local track star Wesley. Wes is shy, and he and Dom e-mail and IM each other for some time before they start dating. Things get heavy pretty quickly and they lose their virginity on the clichéd prom night. Then they go to different colleges in the fall, and their relationship changes. Snadowsky describes Dom's first intimate relationship in frank and graphic terms. This novel discusses masturbation, oral sex, and intercourse both as part of Dom and Wes's romantic relationship and as casual pastime for Amy. For 17-year-old girls, the main characters have fairly mature voices and some of the novel reads like a *Cosmopolitan* article. The story is not highly original, but it does deal in modern terms with the real issues of discovering sex for the first time and dealing with it in a responsible way.—Corinda J. Humphrey, Los Angeles Public Library

Grief Girl: My True Story by [Erin Vincent](#)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Books for Young Readers (March 13, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385733534

ISBN-13: 978-0385733533

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—At age 14, Vincent lost both parents in a traffic accident. This is a gripping memoir of the aftermath of their deaths. Although her loss took place more than 20 years ago in Australia, her use of the present tense and a wholly authentic adolescent voice lend her retelling palpable immediacy. Gritty language, a swift pace, and glimpses of humor amid tragedy make this a page-turner. The author captivatingly portrays her journey through the stages of grief, which she aptly points out take place in no discernible order. Perhaps most poignant is the heartbreaking post-funeral abandonment of her and her siblings by adult friends and relatives. Teens will sympathize with her 18-year-old sister's anger at the crushing responsibility of parenting her younger siblings. At the same time, the author's own feelings of rejection, abandonment, and self-blame will resonate with many readers. Recommend this book to those who have experienced loss, or want to understand what a friend might be going through, as well as to teens looking for an absorbing read.—Rebecca M. Jones, Fort Myers-Lee County Library, FL