

## Youth Services Advisory Council

### Meeting Notes

September 21, 2007

At

Upper Hudson Library System

10:00 am-12:00 noon

(Book review 9:00-10:00; reception for Cherry Neil 9:15-10:00; book review and teen services discussion group 12:00-1:00)

**Attendance:** Judith Wines (Altamont Free Library) Beth Bomba, David Cole (William K. Sanford Town Library) Sharon Hodges (Petersburg Public Library) Carolyn Durnin (Grafton Community Library) Joyce Laiosa (Voorheesville Public Library) Maureen De Laughter (William K. Sanford Town Library) Pat Sahr (Nassau Free Library) Darlene Miller (Castleton Public Library) Lee Ricci (William K. Sanford Town Library) Lisa Neuman (Menands Public Library) Candy Wilson (Rensselaerville Library) Leslie Saperstone (Guilderland Public Library) Chris McGinty (Bethlehem Public Library) Barbara Goetschius (RCS Community Library) Carol Roberts (Troy Public Library) Mary Fellows (UHLS) Diane Riganti (UHLS)

### UHLS Updates

Thank you for the Summer Reading Program Statistics; if you have not sent them in, please do.

Karen Balsen is the new consultant at DLD. She will be doing Youth Services only part time. Mary is working with the other system YS consultants to try to get NYS to manage and pay for online registration software for the Summer Reading Program. It will be a long process.

Please consider joining the New York Library Association (NYLA), our statewide library professional association. They are very instrumental in lobbying for money for libraries, which helps us all, and there is an active youth services section. [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org)

A survey about possible changes in the Youth Services Advisory Council meetings will be one sent out this fall.

Remember that UHLS can help with the weeding of your collections. We can run a program with the statistics needed for weeding, and Mary can give you weeding training and come out and help get you started.

Mary sent around professional journal articles. Anyone interested was able to request a copy of the articles.

### Summer Learning: Boys and Reading

Mary shared learning from a program at ALA Annual Conference this past summer by Dr. Leonard Sax, author of *Why Gender Matters: what parents and teachers need to know about the emerging science of sex differences*. Sax, a noted pediatrician, looks at the controversial question of biologically-based gender differences, arguing that these variations are a biological reality and that they play a key role in the development of personality trait. He has also written a new book called *Boys adrift: the five factors driving the growing epidemic of unmotivated boys and underachieving young men*.

## **Database Trials**

The group reviewed the databases on trial and current databases. The consensus was a strong vote to keep Children's Literature Comprehension Database, add Novelist and Grolier Online, not purchase Authors 4 Teens, Kids Info Bits, or Biography Resource Center.

## **Summer Reading Program Highlights**

William K. Sanford Town Library campfire program (the finale) was the highlight of their summer reading program, 50-60 people attended.

Petersburg Public Library's highlight: members from the brain injury center did a program on stressing the importance for children to wear bike helmets.

Grafton Community Library's kick off was the highlight of the summer and the Harry Potter jellybean contest.

Voorheesville Public Library's silent scavenger hunt for 3-4<sup>th</sup> grades finishing with a Candy bar "line up" was the highlight of the summer.

William K. Sanford Town Library Teen art program and the DVR every Thursday was a great addition to the summer program.

Nassau Free Library had a new helper who organized the summer reading program. Prizes were from the community.

Castleton Public Library's Summer Reading program was fabulous! They made a detective clue box out of cigar boxes. They also have various community organizations such as the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue and the Fire Company.

Menands Public Library had a very successful ice cream social. The police did fingerprinting and the children got to ride on a fire truck. They also had a scavenger hunt.

Rensselaerville Library had a Frog that was hidden in various places and children had to find the clues to find the frog.

Guilford Public Library had a very successful Teen bake off.

(Program note: have staff do the baking and the Teens are the judges)

Bethlehem Public Library Had Teen volunteers doing story times. They had a Murder Mystery dinner. Where in the World is IKE, who traveled all over.

RCS Community Library had the older kids do a mystery theater. The Recreation Programs built up the Summer Reading program every week.

Troy Public Library had a Harry Potter Party, The Tang Museum, Grafton Lakes Program and Sylvia and the magic trunk.

Altamont Free Library did a large map of the United States this year. The intern ran the Teen summer program.

**Guest Performer: Dan Mahoney**

**Next meetings: October 12 at Bethlehem Public Library, 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  
Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Maureen De Laughter (William K. Sanford Town Library) Chris McGinty (Bethlehem Public Library) Mary Fellows (UHLS) Diane Riganti (UHLS)

**Programming:**

Gaming: Guitar Hero, DVR, etc.  
Gross out food—chocolate covered bugs etc.  
Staff cooks for teen judges  
Chalk drawings in the library parking lot

**Workshops ideas:**

Refreshing my job (plateauing)  
How to ask for donations  
Grant writing for teen programs

**Suggestions:**

Bring in an intern to work with the teens. They are younger and you might get a great response.  
Comfortable furniture in the libraries for teens.  
Ask for money right before the budget is going to run out. Perhaps there is leftover money needing to be spent

**Books:**

***The Falconer's Knot* by Mary Hoffman**

From School Library Journal

Grade 7–10—Fans of the author's "Stravaganza" series (Bloomsbury) will welcome this novel set in Renaissance Italy. Wealthy young nobleman Silvano, 16, is infatuated with beautiful Angelica, who is married to a coarse sheep farmer named Piero. When Piero is murdered with Silvano's dagger, the teen is forced to flee, seeking sanctuary with a group of Franciscans. At the friary, two more murders cast further suspicion on him. A parallel story involves Aureliana, who has been forced by her family to marry a rich man she does not love. Her true love, Eduardo, has become a friar named Anselmo in the very friary where Silvano seeks refuge. As the stories coalesce, multiple murders, romance, betrayals, and star-crossed lovers all make for a page-turning mystery, and, in truly satisfying Shakespearean fashion, everyone ends up with the proper lover at the end. The book provides a well-realized setting rich with details of the time period, which are deftly woven into the plot. Especially interesting are the descriptions of the art of color-making for the pigments used for religious paintings. Engrossing historical fiction.—*Quinby Frank, Green Acres School, Rockville, MD*

## ***Number of the Beast 666* by various authors**

### Book Description

This anthology brings together the best of today's horror writers in one spine-tingling collection. All of these stories are guaranteed to terrify! So lock the door. Turn on the lights. Don't answer the phone. Open the book...if you dare...stories By:

Peter Abrahams, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes, Isobel Bird, P.D. Cacek, Melissa de la Cruz, Joshua Gee, Heather Graham, T.E.D. Klein, Bentley Little, Jane Mason, David Moody, Joyce Carol Oates, Christopher Pike, Ellen Schreiber, Sarah Hines Stephens, Laurie Faria Stolarz, Robin Wasserman, Chet Williamson.

## ***Memoirs of a teenage Amnesiac* by Gabrielle Zevin**

### From Booklist

*\*Starred Review\** Contemporary realism, set askew, is the silver streak of Zevin, whose *Elsewhere* (2005) depicted a teen's experiences in the afterlife. This equally sensitive, joyful novel, her second for YAs, tackles the slippery nature of human identity, deceptively tucked within a plot familiar from TV soaps. After high-school junior Naomi conks her head, she can't remember anything that happened since sixth grade. She is by turns mystified and startled by evidence of her present life, from the birth-control pills in her bedside table to her parents' astonishing, rancorous split. Eventually, the memories return, leaving Naomi questioning the basis of a new, intense romance, and wondering which of her two lives, present or former, represents her most authentic self. The amnesia device could have been more convincingly played, but Zevin writes revealingly about emotions and relationships. Especially vivid is the Hepburn-Tracy bond Naomi shares with yearbook co-chief Will, whom she wounds with her lurching self-reinvention even as she discovers deeper feelings: "I had thought the way I felt about Will was just a room, but it had turned out to be a mansion." Pulled by the heart-bruising love story, readers will pause to contemplate irresistible questions: If the past were a blank slate, what would you become? Does the search for one's truest identity necessarily mean rejecting all that has gone before? Mattson, Jennifer