

Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting

May 13, 2011 at UHLS Office

10:00-12:00 noon

(Small library concerns 9:00 - 10:00)

Attendees: Debbie Sternklar-GUIL, Kimberly Graff-RVLL, Ann-Marie Helldorfer-COLN, Lisa Neuman-MEND, Mindy Fowler-SNLK, Laurene Teachout-STEP, Gene Schatoff-WTVT, Maureen DeLaughter-COLN, Kathy Stempel-BERN, Beth Nagel-EGRN, Carol Gaillard-HOOF, Barbara Goetschius-RCSC, Amy Peker-CAST, Jane Chirgwin-RENS, Mary Fellows-UHLS, Diane Riganti-UHLS

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

UHLS Updates

No word on the comics grant

Summer Reading is coming up soon. Please contact UHLS if you need any tech help.

Rearranging Picture Book Collections

Carol Gaillard from Hoosick Falls presented on the changes she is making to organize her picture books by topic rather than alphabetical. Mary shared Carol's handout and a compilation of other collection organization ideas from PUBYAC.

Connecting with Schools – Progress So Far

The group discussed obstacles and successes of the SRP School Connection Challenge.

Discussion: “Meeting Readers Where They Are” Article

YSAC discussed the above mentioned article.

Motivation: The new science on what motivates us, and how to harness it in keeping ourselves, our staff, our volunteers, and our patrons motivated this summer

Mary shared a video of the main points of the book Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us by Daniel Pink. She then led a recap of the main principles and a discussion of how they applied to motivating ourselves, our staff, our volunteers, and our young patrons over Summer Reading Program.

Great Reads/Listens/Views/Plays

The following were discussed:

THE TRUE MEANING OF SMEKDAY BY ADAM REX (audio)

It all starts with a school essay. When twelve-year-old Gratuity ("Tip") Tucci is assigned to write five pages on "The True Meaning of Smekday" for the National Time Capsule contest, she's not sure where to begin. When her mom started telling everyone about the messages aliens were sending through a mole on the back of her neck? Maybe on Christmas Eve, when huge, bizarre spaceships descended on the Earth and the aliens - called Boov - abducted her mother? Or when the Boov declared Earth a colony, renamed it "Smekland" (in honor of glorious Captain Smek), and forced all Americans to relocate to Florida via rocketpod? In any case, Gratuity's story is much, much bigger than the assignment. It involves her unlikely friendship with a renegade Boov mechanic named

J.Lo.; a futile journey south to find Gratuity's mother at the Happy Mouse Kingdom; a cross-country road trip in a hovercar called Slushious; and an outrageous plan to save the Earth from yet another alien invasion

EONA BY ALISON GOODMAN

Eon has been revealed as Eona, the first female Dragoneye in hundreds of years. Along with fellow rebels Ryko and Lady Dela, she is on the run from High Lord Sethon's army. The renegades are on a quest for the black folio, stolen by the drug-riddled Dillon; they must also find Kygo, the young Pearl Emperor, who needs Eona's power and the black folio if he is to wrest back his throne from the self-styled "Emperor" Sethon. Through it all, Eona must come to terms with her new Dragoneye identity and power—and learn to bear the anguish of the ten dragons whose Dragoneyes were murdered. As they focus their power through her, she becomes a dangerous conduit for their plans. . . .

THE WAKE OF THE LORELEI LEE: Being an Account of the Further Adventures of Jacky Faber, On Her Way to Botany Bay (Bloody Jack Adventures) BY LOUIS A. MEYER

Jacky Faber, rich from her exploits diving for Spanish gold, has purchased the *Lorelei Lee* to carry passengers across the Atlantic. Believing she has been absolved of past sins against the Crown, Jacky docks in London to take on her crew, but is instead arrested and sentenced to life in the newly formed penal colony in Australia.

To add insult to injury, the *Lorelei Lee* is confiscated to carry Jacky and more than 200 female convicts to populate New South Wales. Not one to give in to self-pity, Jacky rallies her sisters to "better" their position—resulting in wild escapades, brushes with danger, and much hilarity. Will Jacky find herself a founding mother of New South Wales, Australia? Not if she has anything to do about it!

CLOSE TO FAMOUS BY JOAN BAUER

Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother leave Memphis in the middle of the night, fleeing the mother's abusive boyfriend. Foster has a severe learning disability, a pillowcase full of mementos of her dead father, and a real gift for baking. When she and her singer mother relocate to a tiny, rural West Virginia town, they discover a friendly and welcoming population of delightfully quirky characters. Foster finally learns to read from a reclusive, retired movie star; markets her baked goods at Angry Wayne's Bar and Grill; helps tiny but determined Macon with his documentary; and encourages her mother to become a headliner rather than a backup singer, all the while perfecting her baking technique for the time when she gets her own cooking show like her TV idol, Sonny Kroll. Bauer gently and effortlessly incorporates race (Foster's mother is black; her father was white), religion, social justice, and class issues into a guaranteed feel-good story that dodges sentimentality with humor. Readers who want contemporary fiction with a happy ending will find it here. Grades 5-8. --Debbie Carton

WHERE SHE WENT BY GAYLE FORMAN

In the three years since the tragic accident Mia barely survived in *If I Stay*, she and high school ex-boyfriend Adam have lived separate lives on opposite coasts. But then Adam, now the dissatisfied front man of popular LA-based band Collateral Damage, stops over in New York City for one night before kicking off the European leg of his tour. It happens to be the same evening that Mia, now well on her way to becoming a renowned cellist, is performing at Carnegie Hall. Adam buys a ticket, planning to slip in and out, but Mia spots him and for the first time in years they're face-to-face with each other and their shared past. Over the course of one evening, as Adam and Mia traverse the city's streets, they relive the four days Mia spent in the intensive care unit as well as her departure to Juilliard and from the life she knew. Emotionally raw and incredibly moving, Gayle Forman again showcases her considerable talent for drawing complex characters who face impossible decisions and then bear the consequences. Equally as compelling as *If I Stay*, *Where She Went* is powerful, heartbreaking, and everything fans of Mia, Adam, and Forman could hope for. --Jessica Schein

LIKE PICKLE JUICE ON A COOKIE BY JULIE STERNBERG

Eleanor Abigail Kane has just experienced an August as dreadful as the black parts on a banana: her beloved babysitter, Bibi, has moved away to Florida to care for her ill father, and Eleanor is bereft. How she grows to love a new babysitter, while still cherishing Bibi, forms the center of this understated early chapter book. The story is told in straightforward, steady verse that echoes the gradual pace of Eleanor's healing process. Surrounded by adults who are sympathetic to her loss, Eleanor is allowed time to grieve while being gently encouraged to find joy in new experiences and friends. Cordell's winsome cartoon drawings complement the text without overcrowding the verse. The phrase pickle juice on a cookie is used at first to describe something tragic, and then something ridiculous, and fortunately, this title falls into neither category. It tells a simple, poignant story that will resonate with any child who has ever had to say good-bye. Grades 2-4. --Kara Dean

MOON OVER MANIFEST BY CLARE VANDERPOOL

Starred Review After a life of riding the rails with her father, 12-year-old Abilene can't understand why he has sent her away to stay with Pastor Shady Howard in Manifest, Missouri, a town he left years earlier; but over the summer she pieces together his story. In 1936, Manifest is a town worn down by sadness, drought, and the Depression, but it is more welcoming to newcomers than it was in 1918, when it was a conglomeration of coal-mining immigrants who were kept apart by habit, company practice, and prejudice. Abilene quickly finds friends and uncovers a local mystery. Their summerlong "spy hunt" reveals deep-seated secrets and helps restore residents' faith in the bright future once promised on the town's sign. Abilene's first-person narrative is intertwined with newspaper columns from 1917 to 1918 and stories told by a diviner, Miss Sadie, while letters home from a soldier fighting in WWI

add yet another narrative layer. Vanderpool weaves humor and sorrow into a complex tale involving murders, orphans, bootlegging, and a mother in hiding. With believable dialogue, vocabulary and imagery appropriate to time and place, and well-developed characters, this rich and rewarding first novel is “like sucking on a butterscotch. Smooth and sweet.” Grades 5-8. --Kathleen Isaacs

YOU NAME IT/NEWS FROM YOU

Next meetings:

June 10- YSAC (Book Review)