

## **Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting**

**September 9, 2011 at UHLS Office**

10:00-12:00 noon

Book Review 9-10:00 12-1:00 Teen Meeting

Attendees: Catherine Brenner-BETH, Carol Roberts-TROY, Joyce Laiosa-Voor, Kimberly Graff-RVLL, Mary Beth Earley-APLD, Ann-Marie Helldorfer-COLN, Lisa Neuman-MEND, Mindy Fowler-SNLK, Laurrene Teachout-STEP, Kathy Stempel-BERN, Molly Chatt-EGRN, Barbara Goetschius-RCSC, Sharon Hodges-PTRB, Judith Wines-ALTM, Jane Chirgwin-RENS, Mary Fellows-UHLS, Diane Riganti-UHLS

### **AGENDA**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **UHLS Updates**

##### **Riverway Storytelling Festival April 16-21, 2012**

Changing Riverway Storytelling Festival to six days. There will be events in libraries or senior centers Monday through Friday. Thursday: Best Loved Stories at BETH. Friday: Ghost Stories at GUIL. Saturday morning at EGRN, Saturday Evening at COLN.

#### **UHLS YSAC New Blog**

We're trying a new way of communicating, taking the place of the wikis but in addition to the youthserv and kidbyte email lists. Mary previewed the blog to the group. There will be a link on the UHLS web page, and Mary will be sending out the blog link in email. You can respond to any posts, and if you would like to initiate posts, please let Mary know and she will gladly give you the privileges. For example, you can post upcoming events in which fellow colleagues might be interested, such as that you are going to a conference and would like to car pool. Program ideas and books are also possible posting topics. The sky is the limit, and Mary welcomes ideas for making the blog more useful to you.

On this blog there will also be an Advance Reader Copies selection program. You can request copies of the ARCs that we receive. As soon as you check the ARCs that you want, they will disappear from the blog, so you will always get what you request. You will receive them a few days later. Reminder: ARCs are never to be put in your collection.

Note from Jane Chirgwin: The NYC Comic Con is offering free and very low cost passes to professionals, a category in which we librarians are included. The dates are October 13-16 and it takes place in the Javits Center in NYC.

#### **Staff Changes**

Mary will be sending out a monthly email to larger library youth services folks requesting changes in your staff, so that we're up to date on your colleagues. Everyone, please remember to email Mary when staff changes.

The Summer Reading Program evaluations and The Grant Challenge evaluations are due on 9-10-11.

#### **Comic Book Grant**

We have heard from the State that we have unofficially received the grant. The Division of Library Development cannot release the official notice until they have the money from the Office of Budget. This might possibly move the time frame of the grant. Stay tuned. The organizational meetings in two weeks will be cancelled a week prior if we still haven't heard.

## **Feedback on the Summer Reading Program Challenge**

Mary asked the group for feedback on the SRP mini-grant school connections challenge. Shared:

Schools would like materials prepared electronically.

It was really hard because I had no cooperation from the school. No one would get back to me.

It was hard because we have two school districts plus private schools.

The requirements were too strict.

All three schools, elementary school, middle school and high school are too much. Should concentrate on just one of them.

Felt like I was irritating the schools because they are so stressed.

We need more flexibility with doing some of the requirements on different levels.

Good that the NYS website had useful material on their web site.

Too many schools, too many kids.

It was good to communicate with the schools.

## **Summer Reading Program**

Attendees shared highlights and lowlights of Summer Reading Program:

TROY- had a 50% increase due to more outreach.

MEND – We donated \$800 to the Humane Society as part of how we did prizes. Our program was six weeks long.

ALTM – The programs on China were very well attended. So China is big!

BETH – More people. The completion prize was a book. Three hundred people attended our end of Summer Party. We continued handing out prizes for completion after the finale. That way if someone was on vacation that week and still completed they could get the prize.

BERN – Low turnout. Required on line registration.

PTRB – more kids completed this year.

STEP – The numbers were down, but more kids were in the library. I offered a summer lunch program from unified services which is income based. Some of the kids brought their lunch to eat with the others. The reptile program, Rhonda's Reptiles, was a huge success.

NASS (via Mary) - had a raffle for prizes. You got six extra raffle tickets if you completed by a specific date, which increased the number of kids who finished.

RCSC -Circulation was up 30% for fiction and 130% for non-fiction. We did summer adventures for kids who have trouble reading. They got to choose what books they wanted to read from a traveling group of books.

APLD – The numbers were way up. We gave a \$25.00 gift card for the major prize. We did passports and you could receive a sticker from all the branches.

SNLK – Our SRP was very simple. We used only paper registration.

EGRN – Our numbers were down. We scaled down the number of programs but they were very well attended.

The teen volunteers were very good. We are going hire more people to do programs instead of trying to do a lot of them ourselves.

CAST (via Mary) – We had one of the science teachers give a program. Went very well.

VOOR – Ours was too ambitious. No teens attended. We have a day care that walks over and we coordinate programs for them.

RENS – Numbers are up. No teens. Had a well-attended Mexican Party.

Ideas tossed out: have a fencing program with light sabers. Music teachers could give a program for young children just demonstrating the instruments, a “petting zoo” like RCS did with the high school students a few years ago. Some feedback that summer is too busy and SRP should be in the winter! Build on that by maybe holding a winter bingo.

**YSAC meeting content**

Mary requested feedback on what should be included in YSAC meetings. Shared:

Would like to keep Tech tune ups.

Do not need guest presenters.

Maybe do Skype, Webinars or YouTube presentations.

Keep Great Reads.

Mock Awards - could be done differently. Have YSAC members read and do the reviews of the books. Really like the list of books. Ask YS people to add to the list and do an e-vote.

**AWE demonstration by company representative Joan Wicks.****Next meetings:**

October 13 - T(w)een Workshop at Schenectady County Public Library

November 17 - Storytime Skills workshop at Guilderland

November 29, 9:00-11:00, UHLS – Show Me the Money Grant writing workshop

December 9 – YSAC – discussion groups pre- and post- meeting

March 1 – Summer Reading Program Workshop; snow date March 8

April 13 – YSAC – book review pre- and post- meeting

May 11 – YSAC – discussion groups pre- and post- meeting

June 8 – YSAC – book review pre- and post – meeting

Upper Hudson Youth Services-Mary Fellows-437-9880 x228—mary@uhls.lib.ny.us