

**Youth Services Advisory Council**  
September 13, 2013

**Upper Hudson Library System**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Book review 9:00 - 10:00 and 12:00 – 1:00; teen services discussion group 12:00 – 1:00 –  
(bring your own lunch)

Attendees: Mary Fellows UHLS, Diane Riganti UHLS, Barbara Goetschius RCSC, Renee Scott APLY, Mary Beth Earley APLM, Tor Loney APLM, Joyce Laiosa VOOR, Lee Ricci APLH, Carol Roberts TROY, Sharon Hodges PTRB, Mindy Flower SNLK, Elissa Valente COLN, Judy Petrosillo BERN, Lee Ackerman-Sawyer WSTR, Tori Russo BETH, Sarah Colwill EGRN, Diane Martin GUIL, Molly Chatt EGRN, Mary Beth Mulligan ALTM, Debbie Sternklar GUIL, Jane Chirgwin RENS

**AGENDA**

- **Welcome and introductions**

- **UHLS updates**

- **Slogan Fizz Boom Read question:**

- In the past, many libraries have indicated a preference for using one slogan for Summer Reading at New York Libraries. For 2014, the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) has created a poster using the slogan “Fizz! Boom! Read!” that can be used for all summer reading programs (children, teen, adult). For the 2014 summer reading program, would you be in favor of using one slogan (Fizz! Boom! Read!)? We could then order the early literacy, children, and one-slogan poster for statewide distribution.  
Response: yes.

- **Tumble books**

- How's it going?

No help whatsoever in marketing from TB. We should have more press on it. Ex: Times Union, library newsletters. Mary will continue to pursue.  
Will work on IPAD but you have to go to a different screen.  
Can't be marked as a favorite, have to go through UHLS website.

- **Teen services presentation to DA**

A while back, a group of YS folks who serve teens got together for a discussion about possible joint projects for teens within Upper Hudson Library System. One result was

a document presenting what participating members of that group wished that their administrations knew about teen services. The document (already vetted by some UHLS teen librarians) was shared with the group, which agreed that it was good to go to directors with a few minor changes. The document will be sent to directors a few weeks before the November DA meeting. Mary will make herself available to attend the DA meeting in November to participate in the discussion and answer questions.

- **Strengthen your teen services in 15 minutes a day: handout and discussion**

Additional ideas from participants:

Get suggestions from teens.

Set up a display to highlight the YA collection.

Call the schools and put library events on the morning announcements.

Always say something about a teen event or about a teen (this teen was very helpful; he/she...) at a staff meeting.

Get a teacher as a contact to give you information on what interests teens or what is going on at school.

Keep paper book lists so teens can take one.

Find program ideas in other flyers and on other teen websites.

Get a list of databases that the schools use and get the password

Homework help

Investigate Department of Labor to come in and speak about jobs for teens.

- **Gaming in the library**

It's all about FUN!

Airline mag article on gamification: gamifying is weaving games into our real-world interaction, games that are so alluring that they change our behavior. Games to get consumers to behave in certain ways to win points that lead to free food. Game to get doctors to submit answers to questions posed by users; doctors get points and esteem. Idea of gamifiers: to put a game layer on top of the world to solve intractable problems like hunger in Africa.

Question: how do we already gamify our services? How could we gamify them more? Group discussed.

Further discussion on non-video games with information mainly from a presentation by Brian Mayer, Genesee Valley BOCES, at YSS Spring Conference: <http://www.gvlibraries.org/gaming>  
List of excellent games for various age groups on web site; here are a couple of toddler games: Go Away Monster; Caribou. Other useful links:

funagain.com gives grants to libs: <https://www.funagain.com>  
<https://www.funagain.com/control/rc?p=grants>  
<http://librarygamer.wordpress.com/about/>  
[www.boardgamegeek.com](http://www.boardgamegeek.com)

- **What does it mean to be a professional? Handout and discussion.**
- **Discussion and handout of the best titles on this month's book review lists.**
- **Choosing title for June's difficult book discussion: ideas. Title TBD early next year.**  
Smoke, sequel to Burned by Ellen Hopkins  
Grave Mercy or Dark Triumph by Robin LaFevers  
Please email your suggestions to Mary.
- **Great reads**

**Sunny Sweet is SO Not Sorry by Jennifer Ann Mann ISBN:1599909774**

We've all woken up on the wrong side of the bed. But have you ever woken up *stuck* to the bed? Masha Sweet has. And there's only one possible reason: her little sister Sunny. Masha is used to Sunny's evil genius ways, but the glue Sunny used to secure a bouquet of plastic daisies to Masha's head is not coming out! The girls have to stay home from school and through a bizarre turn of events, they wind up at the hospital. It's the perfect place to fix Masha's head...but first they will (almost) contract a (not so) killer virus, steal a cast, and lead the nurses on a wild goose chase. When this is all over, Sunny Sweet is going to be so sorry!

**A Matter of Days by Amber Kizer ISBN: 9780385739733**

Review by School Library Journal Review

Gr 8 Up-Few have survived the BluStar plague. This book opens on Day 56, when Nadia pulls a quilt over her dead mother and helps her younger brother finish packing the Jeep so they can hit the road. Nadia isn't quite old enough to drive, but since the virus has killed almost everyone in the world, traffic isn't a problem. They plan to drive from Washington state to West Virginia, where relatives may still be alive. Nadia and Rabbit are somewhat prepared, thanks to their soldier father (who was killed in Afghanistan) and their uncle, a military doctor who encouraged them to play first-person-shooter video games and purchased camping gear for them. They are smart about how to scavenge gasoline and food and sniff out safe places to sleep. They adopt

an injured dog and join forces with Zack, a streetwise older teen they meet on the way. This is a first-rate survival story, as the travelers use their wits to negotiate shopping malls, abandoned railroad stations, and deserted towns. Occasional violence and a few four letter words make the likely audience a little older than readers of Susan Beth Pfeffer's "The Last Survivors" series (Harcourt). Fans of Rick Yancey's *The 5th Wave* (Putnam, 2013), S. D. Crockett's *After the Snow* (Feiwel & Friends, 2012), or Cormac McCarthy's adult novel *The Road* (Knopf, 2006) will find this a satisfying read. The plot tension is excellent, with just the right pacing of desperately needing something and finding, stealing, or making it. The story comes to a satisfying conclusion on Day 100, while leaving the door open for a sequel.-Maggie Knapp, Trinity Valley School, Fort Worth, TX

**One Came Home by Amy Timberlake ISBN: 0375869255**

Review by School Library Journal Review

Gr 5-8-Thirteen-year-old Georgie Burkhardt can shoot better than anyone in Placid, Wisconsin. She can handle accounts and serve customers in her family's general store. What she can't do is accept that the unrecognizable body wearing her older sister's blue-green gown is Agatha. Determined to discover what happened after Agatha abruptly left town with a group of pigeons, Georgie sets out to follow her route. In return for the loan of a mule, she reluctantly allows Billy McCabe, one of Agatha's suitors, to accompany her. The journey includes a menacing cougar and ruthless counterfeiter, but Georgie's narration offers more than action-packed adventure. She unravels the tangle of events that led to Agatha's sudden departure and acknowledges her own role. By turns humorous and reflective, Georgie's unique and honest voice includes confusion about her feelings for Billy and doubts about her ability to kill even in desperate circumstances. Timberlake seamlessly integrates information about two significant events that occurred in Wisconsin in 1871: the largest recorded nesting of passenger pigeons in spring and devastating firestorms in fall. Georgie's physical and emotional odyssey that occurs between those two events will linger in readers' minds.-Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**March Book 1 by John Lewis ISBN: 9781603093002**

Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president. Now, to share his remarkable story with new generations, Lewis presents *March*, a graphic novel trilogy, in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell (winner of the Eisner Award and LA Times Book Prize finalist for *Swallow Me Whole*). *March* is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through

nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall. Many years ago, John Lewis and other student activists drew inspiration from the 1958 comic book "Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story." Now, his own comics bring those days to life for a new audience, testifying to a movement whose echoes will be heard for generations.

**Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman**      **ISBN: 9780062255655**

Review by Booklist Review

*\*Starred Review\** In Gaiman's first novel for adults since *Anansi Boys* (2005), the never-named fiftyish narrator is back in his childhood homeland, rural Sussex, England, where he's just delivered the eulogy at a funeral. With an hour or so to kill afterward, he drives about aimlessly, he thinks until he's at the crucible of his consciousness: a farmhouse with a duck pond. There, when he was seven, lived the Hempstocks, a crone, a housewife, and an 11-year-old girl, who said they were grandmother, mother, and daughter. Now, he finds the crone and, eventually, the housewife the same ones, unchanged while the girl is still gone, just as she was at the end of the childhood adventure he recalls in a reverie that lasts all afternoon. He remembers how he became the vector for a malign force attempting to invade and waste our world. The three Hempstocks are guardians, from time almost immemorial, situated to block such forces and, should that fail, fight them. Gaiman mines mythological typology the three-fold goddess, the water of life (the pond, actually an ocean) and his own childhood milieu to build the cosmology and the theater of a story he tells more gracefully than any he's told since *Stardust* (1999). And don't worry about that for adults designation: it's a matter of tone. This lovely yarn is good for anyone who can read it.--Olson, Ray Copyright 2010

**Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz**

**ISBN: 38110000305444**

Review by Booklist Review

When Aristotle and Dante meet, in the summer of 1987, they are 15-year-olds existing in the universe between boys and men. The two are opposites in most ways: Dante is sure of his place in the world, while Ari feels he may never know who he is or what he wants. But both are thoughtful about their feelings and interactions with others, and this title is primarily focused on the back-and-forth in their relationship over the course of a year. Family issues take center stage, as well as issues of Mexican identity, but the heart of the novel is Dante's openness about his homosexuality and Ari's suppression of his. Saenz (*Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood*, 2004) writes toward the end of the novel that to be careful with people and words was a rare and beautiful thing. And that's exactly what Saenz does he treats his characters carefully, giving them space and time to find their place in the world, and to find each other. This moves at a slower pace than many YA novels, but patient readers, and those struggling with their own sexuality, may find it to be a thought-provoking read.--Kelley, Ann

**A Certain Slant of Light by Cynthia Thayer**      **ISBN: 0312261322**

Review by Booklist Review

Peter could not care less that a brutal ice storm has cut him off from the roads that lead into town. For almost 20 years, the retired musician has isolated himself in a remote cabin on the coast of Maine, filling his long days by tending to his animals and re-creating, in an old

dollhouse, the life he used to have with his wife and two small children, who all perished in a fire. When he ventures out of his cabin after the storm, he discovers, to his great shock and dismay, a pregnant woman with a wicked bruise on her right cheek. Elaine is in need of shelter, and Peter reluctantly complies. One night stretches into months, and these two lonely people eventually reveal their tortured secrets. Thayer's sheep-shearing coastal region is vividly described, and her characters are raw and realistic. Peter--his thoughts and outbursts often tinged with self-deprecation and cynical humor--is no stereotypical gruff hermit. Elaine--with her alabaster beauty and unwavering religion--is no wimp, and theirs is an unexpected romance. --Kristin Klobberdanz

**Cain at Gettysburg by Ralph Peters      ISBN: 0765330474**

Review by Booklist Review

\*Starred Review\* Peters' Civil War mysteries written under the name of Owen Parry established that he knew his way around the Civil War. But they did not prepare readers for a novel of the Battle of Gettysburg that surpasses Michael Shaara's classic *The Killer Angels*. The novel begins with the campaign well underway, with Lee ruminating on tactics and Meade being awakened to discover that he now commands the Army of the Potomac. The foci, then, become multiple, as we shift from the commanders down to the rank and file of two regiments, the Twenty-Sixth North Carolina and the German American Twenty-Sixth Wisconsin (a long-overdue portrayal of the much-derided German immigrant soldiers). Both are practically slaughtered on the first day, and on the second, Meade has to repair the damage caused by Dan Sickles' almost criminal stupidity. The body count mounts with grim steadiness, although the grimmest moment involves only two casualties a North Carolinian who commits suicide over the loss of his twin brother and an innocent bystander shot in the groin by the same bullet. After that, even Pickett's charge is almost an anticlimax, although it is a brilliant portrayal of how the Confederate infantry felt marching forward, hit both in front and in flank by Union general Henry Hunt's well-placed artillery. In fact, brilliant is an adjective one is tempted to wear out in describing this book, because so little of it falls below that level.--Green, Roland

**One SRP success or failure that you learned from**

RCSC-Did a program from 4H. They did not follow the script exactly because it was very time consuming. They were asked to do the program during the school year. Very well attended.

VOOR-Did a garden program from 4H. Great response, well attended.

RENS-they did a Zombie movie. They had a zombie make up artist and a director.

The Costumer was a great help. The kids did the script. The movie is five to six minutes long.

COLN-They had the Valley Cats come but before you book them make sure it isn't the players day off.

BETH-Very successful sewing program. Well attended.

APLM-Dinosaur Dig. They put dinosaur bones in plaster of paris in yogurt cups and the children scraped the bones out. They did the edible landfill program.

**Reminder: request Advance Reader Copies from UHLS (to keep!) at**

<http://horizon.uhls.lib.ny.us/cgi-bin/reports/arc.pl>

**Next meetings: October 24 (Storytime Skills Workshop), November 8, December 5 (Tween/Teen Workshop), December 20 (Award mocks meeting #1) January 10 (Awards mocks meeting #2), February 6 (SRP Planning Workshop), March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13**

### **Teen Discussion Group Notes**

Mary Fellows UHLS, Diane Riganti UHLS, Elissa Velente COLN, Lee Ackerman Sawyer WSTR, Tori Russo BETH, Mary Beth Mulligan ALTM, Debbie Sternkla, GUIL, Tor Loney APLM

#### **Discussion Topics**

Try to make a connection to the school regarding teens, likes, books they are reading, activities. Respect and accept teens, do not pre judge.

Noise is a factor, but only when there is a teen program going on.

How to get teens in the library.

A lot of teens need community service for college. Do programs and crafts to make things and give to food banks and other organizations.

Have teens make things out of boxes (refrigerator boxes) for programs for school age or preschool. (Example-COLN's cardboard box town)