

UHLS Adult Services Advisory Council
July 21, 2023 | 10:00am-11:00am | Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Judith Wines (UHLS), Anne Myers (UHLS), Amy Powarzynski (WSTR), Tracey Clague (NASS), Maria Buhl (GUIL), Jody Squadere (EGRN), Leanna Sweet (GRAF), Kristina Ronald (GUIL), Kelly Akin (VAFL), Amy McLaughlin (APL)

Updates

Outreach mini grants: The grant forms went out a few weeks ago. They are due at the end of September, and there will be a Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council meeting in October to announce who has been selected; once selected, libraries will have a year to complete the requirements. The “hard requirement” is finding a community partner. UHLS did these mini grants years ago, and it is a great way to cultivate local partnerships.

The Great Give Back: This is a statewide library initiative where libraries provide opportunities for community service; Judith will send out a survey to gauge interest, and is open to ideas for community partner partnerships. The team discusses the possibility of collecting for a food pantry as a system wide initiative. Whatever is picked, it is good for the library’s image to give back to the community. The event will take place on Saturday, October 21st, but libraries can still participate even if they choose a different date or create a longer-running program.

AGS Book Club: This is an ongoing virtual monthly event, with the target audience being patrons of libraries that don’t have their own book clubs and patrons looking for a virtual book club option. The next two dates are Thursday, September 7th, and Wednesday, October 11th.

Field Trip for Grown-Ups: Alcove Reservoir and Feura Bush Water Treatment Plant, Wednesday 9/27 at 10am

This field trip will be open to all patrons, with the target audience being people interested in water sources and engineering. There is a limit of 20 attendees, but the Albany Water Department may be willing to run a similar program at a later date if there is interest. UHLS will send out registration information and flyers next week. Transportation will not be provided; the plan is to meet at RCS and caravan to the reservoir.

Let Freedom Read - Banned Books event 10/3

There will be a system-wide event for Banned Books Week, scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd at 6pm at APLM. The event will feature local authors and celebrities. The event will no longer be streamed on Zoom, as the majority of people attended in person last year. Further information will be sent out by email.

Sound of Freedom: *Sound of Freedom* is a movie currently in theaters about child trafficking loosely based on a true story (not intended to be a documentary). This film has been claimed to promote right-wing conspiracy theories (particularly QAnon). Judith says libraries may anticipate patron requests to screen it. Libraries should think about in advance how to handle requests to show the film, and consider offering counterprogramming, e.g. with OCFS and [information](#) about human trafficking in New York. Leanna and Amy both mentioned they have had patrons inquiring about the film and asking the libraries to purchase the film (the DVD release date is 9/29/23).

Expired Content and Active Holds: Judith said UHLS purchases expired items with active holds twice a month (spending about \$4,000 a month). UHLS doesn't have enough money to buy all expired content that has active holds, so the items that aren't purchased remain available in the catalog for patrons to request. To address this issue, ECAC has decided to ask Overdrive to cancel all holds on expired content that are over a year old. Overdrive may need to cancel all holds that are over a year old. The vast majority of old holds are suspended holds. If individual libraries do their own ordering, consider ordering items that have expired and still have holds. Reach out to Anne or Judith for assistance.

RLA: SALS, MVLS and MHLS are borrowing more from us than us from them. Make sure UHLS patrons know about RLA.

Local Content: There is a possibility of allowing local content on Overdrive, but only for content created as part of a library program. This will need to be discussed and decided by the DA.

People Counters: Judith inquired about how libraries track how many people visit the library every year for use in the annual report. Kelly said that they do it every day, while Leanna said that they track based on times they come in, with three categories: teens, children, and adults. GUIL uses software, and EGRN has a door counter in their foyer and a laser in the children's room.

Author Visits: Judith emphasized the importance of understanding the audience for these events, and suggested considering the library's policy on book signings and book

selling, as well as the possibility of using the library speakers consortium for virtual visits or paying for an author to visit the library. Hosting panel discussions is another possibility, e.g. groups of authors, self-publishing panel, etc. Amy suggested finding a community partner to collaborate with, such as the Writers Institute, Literacy Magazine, or League of Women Voters, to widen the audience and reach. Judith suggested keeping an eye on bookstores' calendar to see if they have a big author coming for an event. Discussion ensued with EGRN and GUIL sharing info author visit series.

Open Forum

Amy mentioned patrons requesting movies (such as *Sound of Freedom*) but not being able to purchase them due to decreasing release of content on DVD. They mention that they do not buy Blu-Rays, and they are looking for workarounds to get these movies to show at their library and in a format that their patron can borrow. Judith suggested using a streaming service to show movies at the library, as long as the content is covered in the license. Jody said that EGRN has shown some movies that they've streamed through Netflix and Hulu accounts.