

Youth Services Advisory Council

June 12, 2015

Upper Hudson Library System

Small Library Concerns Discussion 9:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Meeting 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Large Library Concerns Discussion Group 12:00 AM - 1:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Mary Fellows UHLS, Diane Riganti UHLS, Carol Roberts TROY, Mary Beth Earley APLM, Lee Ackerman-Sawyer WSTR, Ann-Marie Helldorfer COLN, Barbara Goetschius, Mia Orobona CAST, Molly Chatt EGRN

AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

UHLS UPDATES

- The Kids Catalog is being worked on with a tentative end of June deadline. There can be changes made at a later date.
- Please add your programs to the YS Program calendar. Be very mindful of the AM & PM when adding programs
- The Applebee coupons you requested will be in the delivery next week. No Bruegger coupons have been sent yet. The person in charge is elusive.
- There will be librarian MakerDay at APLM on 12-3-15.
- The Makedo kit is new at UHLS. It is a kit for playful cardboard construction. See more about it here: <https://mymakedo.com/>
- UHLS is interviewing for the Manager, Adult and Outreach Services position.

TECHNOLOGY TUNE UP

The subscription to Tumblebooks is up for renewal. Do you wish to renew it or is there something else that we should be looking at? Do you want to do a trial of something else? Group suggested that StarWalk Media, which we viewed, serves a different purpose from TumbleBooks and isn't comparable. Group asked Mary to research any TumbleBook comparables.

DIFFICULT BOOK DISCUSSION

As our annual "difficult book" discussion the group discussed *Leverage* by Joshua Cohen.

STAYING POSITIVE DURING SUMMER HECTICNESS

Mary shared ideas on how to stay positive during Summer Reading Program. The group shared their best practices for maintaining energy, humor, and optimism during the summer.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

Lots of summer fun coming! Please check the Youth Service calendar on UHLS website for programs from the member libraries. There will be programs like: Chocolate Olympics, Walk Like a Chicken, Family Summer Reading Programs, Zombie Apocalypse, Super Hero Training Academy, etc.

GREAT READS

The Great War: stories inspired by items from the First World War / David Almond [and 10 others]

ISBN: 9780763675547

(Publisher's weekly * review)

Eleven authors mark the centenary of WWI with original short stories that are simultaneously poignant, thought-provoking, and relevant. David Almond, Michael Morpurgo, Ursula Dubosarsky, Marcus Sedgwick, and others anchor their fictional narratives around objects specific to that time—the nose of a zeppelin bomb, a wartime butter dish, etc. In A.L. Kennedy's stream-of-consciousness narrative, "Another Kind of Missing," a child relates his visit to his recuperating soldier father; half his face is gone, but "the men and women at the Tin Noses Shop.... will make him a mask.... And no one will be able to tell the difference from how he was." And Tanya Lee Stone's "A Harlem Hellfighter and His Horn," written in verse, follows an aspiring musician who takes up with bandleader James Reese Europe, eventually joining the famed infantry regiment ("There was no question about it for me./ I followed Europe to/ Europe/ without taking a beat"). Kay's haunting b&w illustrations bookend each story, exploding into pointy geometric shapes that recall shrapnel. Explanations of the featured objects conclude this evocative, potent anthology. Ages 10–up.

Ms. Marvel by G. Willow Wilson

ISBN: 9780785190219

(Barnes & Noble overview)

Marvel Comics presents the all-new Ms. Marvel, the groundbreaking heroine that has become an international sensation! Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she is suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the all-new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! As Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts? Or will the weight of the legacy before her be too much to handle? Kamala has no idea either. But she's comin' for you, New York! It's history in the making from acclaimed writer G. Willow Wilson (Air, Cairo) and beloved artist Adrian Alphona (Runaways)!

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson

ISBN: 9780803734968

(Barnes & Noble overview)

Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. At thirteen, isolated Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude cliff-dives and wears red-red lipstick and does the talking for both of them. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. Something has happened to wreck the twins in different

and dramatic ways . . . until Jude meets a cocky, broken, beautiful boy, as well as someone else—an even more unpredictable new force in her life. The early years are Noah's story to tell. The later years are Jude's. What the twins don't realize is that they each have only half the story, and if they could just find their way back to one another, they'd have a chance to remake their world.

The Dead I know by Scot Garner

ISBN: 9780544232747

(Publishers Weekly * review)

Australian author Gardner delves powerfully into the psychology of loss and the complexities of memory. Aaron Rowe has attended five schools in five years when his school counselor suggests that he take a job with funeral director John Barton. John leads Aaron through all of the aspects of the mortuary business, from attending funerals to assembling coffins and preparing the corpses, which is often shockingly gory. While Aaron excels in his work and finds comfort in providing a person with “a final grace,” at his trailer-park home he’s dealing with his unpredictable Mam: “Sometimes she was lucid and practical; other times she was a stormy two-year-old.” On top of everything, Aaron has recurring nightmares and sleepwalks, which puts him in increasingly dangerous situations. Gardner’s rich novel combines flashes of dark humor, an elusive narrator, and a carefully rendered supporting cast to create profound moments that will linger in readers’ minds. “What is life without a memory? Is it death?” Aaron wonders, as he makes peace with his past and finds a place in the future. Ages 14–up.

Meet the Dullards by Sara Pennypacker - discussion about this one; not necessarily recommended

ISBN: 9780062198563

(School Library Journal * review)

K-Gr 2—In this tongue-in-cheek tale, Mr. and Mrs. Dullard take great pride in being humdrum. Family activities include watching paint dry and savoring vanilla ice cream (“Hold the cones. And extract the vanilla”). The Dullards are horrified at exclamation marks, flowered wallpaper, and sociable neighbors bearing gifts of applesauce cake. They try their best to shelter their children from such colorful influences. Away from their parents' watchful gaze, however, Salmieri's colored-pencil illustrations humorously show Blanda, Borely, and Little Dud breaking out of their mild molds by juggling paintbrushes, climbing on clotheslines, and befriending puppies. There are also plenty of sight gags to chuckle at, from the children gathered around an unplugged, blank television screen to piles of plain cardboard boxes full of “gray shirts.” VERDICT This title follows in the quirky tradition of Harry Allard's “The Stupids” books (Houghton), with clever wordplay and subversive fun that will appeal to children everywhere.

Bellweather Rhapsody by Kate Racculia

ISBN: 9780544483910

(Publishers Weekly * review)

This rich brew of a novel from Racculia (This Must Be the Place) mixes together murder, music, and eccentric humor. In 1982, in Clinton’s Kill, N.Y., a new bride murdered her husband, then killed herself, shortly after checking into Room 712 of the Bellweather Hotel. In 1997, high

school drama queen Alice Hatmaker checks into the same room to perform at the statewide music festival, along with her talented twin brother, Rabbit. Alice's roommate is virtuoso flautist Jill Faccelli, whose overbearing mother, Viola Fabian, runs the festival. As a snow storm looms, Alice finds Jill hanged in one of the rooms. But when she returns with help, the body is missing, replaced by a note reading, "NOW SHE IS MINE." Only Minnie Graves, who witnessed the original murder-suicide when she was 10 and has returned to the hotel as a young woman to confront her demons, believes Alice's story. Together, she and Alice try to find out what happened to Jill. Racculia thus sets the stage for a novel of dueling wills, marked by textured characterization and an ebullient storytelling style. Agent: Bonnie Nadell, Hill Nadell Literary Agency.

Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D. Schmidt

ISBN: 9780544462229

(Barnes & Noble overview)

The two-time Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt delivers the shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled, passionate teen who wants to find his baby at any cost. In this riveting novel, two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires.

Ready Player One by Ernest Kline

ISBN: 9780307887443

(Barnes & Noble overview)

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

The Only Child by Guojing

ISBN: 9780553497045

(Barnes & Noble review)

A little girl—lost and alone—follows a mysterious stag deep into the woods, and, like Alice down the rabbit hole, she finds herself in a strange and wondrous world. But . . . home and family are very far away. How will she get back there? In this magnificently illustrated—and wordless—masterpiece, debut artist Guojing brilliantly captures the rich and deeply-felt emotional life of a child, filled with loneliness and longing as well as love and joy.

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

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

Next Meetings:

September 11, 2015 at UHLS

October 1, 2015 - Storytime Skills and Early Literacy training at Schenectady (all day)

November 13, 2015 at UHLS

December 3, 2015 - Librarian MakerDay at APL (all day)

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