

UHLS I Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting
November 10, 2016

Small library concerns discussion group
Meeting
Large library concerns discussion group

9:00 am – 9:50 am
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Attendance:

Mary Fellows (UHLS), Diane Riganti (UHLS), Mia Orobona (CAST), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTR/RVLL), Lisa Neuman (APLM), Alexandra Consler (APLY) Beth Bomba (COLN), Carol Roberts (TROY), Mindy Fowler (SNLK), Ted Riese (MEND), Barbara Goetschius (RCSC).

Meeting Minutes:

UHLS Updates

The Summer Reading Program materials order is due to UHLS on 11-18-16.

The BELLS Grant libraries had their first class presented by Joyce Laiosa. The first class was a tremendous success. Some attendees are already putting in practice what they have learned. The BELLS Bucks takeaway orders will come in December. We're hoping for a Black Friday free shipping deal to save over \$100!

The NYS Ready to Read initiative's last workshop, Everyone Serves Families with Young Children, is available to libraries as an at-your-location training. ALL BELLS grant libraries have committed to host this training. Mary will send more information out about this.

UHLS has a new kit available for loan. The Brain Architecture Game is a tabletop game experience that builds understanding of the powerful role of experiences on early brain development – what promotes it, what derails it, with what consequences for society. It's being tested on a group in early December; look for more information on it before the end of the year.

Beanstack has loaded three templates into everyone's sandbox. They are:

1. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
2. A generic family program
3. A generic adult program

There will be a questionnaire sent out (like the SRP registration software questionnaire). Independently or with Rob Carle's help, each library can set up Beanstack the way they want it. Beanstack is free until June 2017, 7/17-6/18 the grant will pay 2/3 of the cost, 7/18-6/19 the grant will pay 1/3 of the cost and after that each library will pay its total cost of Beanstack.

Beanstack has a mobile website in place (not an app). They are working on the adult side. Each adult can pick a doorway to learning which will lead to questions about the patron's preferred reading style. Books will be recommended on that basis. The question of the age of a patron as

an adult came up and Mary will ask about that. Children's ages are needed to change the reading recommendations as the child grows.

There is a new recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics about screen time guidelines. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages parents to help their children develop healthy media use habits early on. For children younger than 18 months, use of screen media other than video-chatting should be discouraged. Parents of children 18 to 24 months of age who want to introduce digital media should choose high-quality programming/apps and use them together with children, because this is how toddlers learn best. Letting children use media by themselves should be avoided. For children older than 2 years, media limits are very appropriate. Limit screen use to no more than 1 hour or less per day of high-quality programming. Co-view or co-play with your children, and find other activities for to do together that are healthy for the body and mind (e.g., reading, teaching, talking, and playing together).

The group discussed how to convey this information without appearing judgmental. One option is to put posters stating these facts in the children's area. Another is a bookmark that you can put in a DVD that an adult is checking out for their child. You might offer, "Libraries have been keeping up on the research in this area. I'm free to speak to you about it if you would like more information. Also, Storytime is a good break from all the media exposure. Please feel free to join us!"

Media mentorship

The group discussed our role as media mentors, which is to support children and their families in their decisions and practice around media use.

Mary asked, "What can UHLS do to help you with this role?" Responses:

- Good/canned responses to difficult questions/situations.
- Bookmark with the AAP new screen time guidelines.
- A nice way to inform a patron when they are looking for a DVD for a child and they're unsure or you think they are getting something vastly different than what they're anticipating. A great idea: Bethlehem's practice is to offer to print out a professional reviews of any item in questions.

Libraries, communities, you in times of stress

Following the national events of the week, the group agreed to have a discussion not about candidates or our fears about the future, but how in our work with youth and families, in libraries working with our communities, we might be a part of helping our helping our communities grapple with the divides we now see more clearly. Ideas from the discussion:

- Make available more diverse books and materials.
- Invite someone of another culture to storytime.
- Hold a program such as Colonie's Festival of Lights.
- Have a film series of other cultures.
- ESL program working with schools.
- Get a pen pal program going – kids correspond with a kid in another country
- Have Peace Core volunteers come to the library.
- Make anti-bullying materials available for adults and children.

Open-ended art projects

Art on a cart is used at the APLY library. Teens can come in and create what they want. Some teens would rather have more specific instructions, they like to know what they are creating. We can offer options and encourage going off in their own direction.

Best learning from NYLA

Productivity luncheon and Cazenovia Public Library's partnership with the food pantry. Look for conference material links [here](#).

Great reads, listens, views

See bottom.

News from you/you name it

APLY: Had a very successful pumpkin contest. They gave out pumpkins to be painted and the patrons voted on the best pumpkin.

MEND: Carved pumpkins for Halloween. Very successful just a bit of time to clean up.

WSTR: Had a fire prevention program at the library and Open House at the fire station, which was informative – and a whole lot of fun! The children were thrilled to get a close-up look at the fire truck and climb inside. And we were all impressed by the demonstrations of forcible entry and power extrication tools – and more.

Reminder: request Advance Reader Copies from UHLS (to keep!) at <http://horizon.uhls.lib.ny.us/cgi-bin/reports/arc.pl>

Next meetings: December 9 (includes Best of the Best 2016 book reviews), January 13 – Youth Mental Health First Aid training, February 8 – SRP Planning Workshop (February 9 snow date), March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

Stoneheart Trilogy: The Stone Heart (Book 1) by Charlie Fletcher

ISBN: 9780545003650 Ages 8-12

VOYA - *Eileen Kuhl*

Fletcher offers a terrifying mixture of demons, living statues, adventure, time travel, and a puzzling riddle in this complicated work of science fiction and fantasy. While on a trip to the Natural History Museum in London, George defies his teacher and is punished. In his anger, he breaks off a small piece of a carved dragon. This callous act results in the waking of another wicked world in London. George is terrorized by a plethora of stone gargoyles and other carved figures. He discovers statues with opposing natures that inhabit the underside of the city-heartless and cruel taints and spits who retain some of the kindness and humanity of their sculptors. A World War One gunner spit befriends George and explains his predicament. He must find the mysterious Stoneheart of London, return the carving, and make amends within forty-eight hours. He meets Edie, who is familiar with this sinister world, and together they attempt to decipher the many clues to locate the Stoneheart while they are fleeing the

malevolent taints. Unexpected twists keep the action moving, the deadline is pressing, and the suspense never stops. Readers will be biting their nails until the conclusion. In the end, much is explained, but some of the characters and clues remain unclear. The title is very much focused on the landmarks of London, but the setting is described well for the unfamiliar reader. Readers who enjoy fast-paced adventure with an overlay of the supernatural will devour this story. Teens who enjoy William Sleator novels and Neal Shusterman's *Full Tilt* (Simon & Schuster, 2003/VOYA October 2003) will find this book thrilling.

The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, & Treachery by Steve Sheinkin

ISBN: 9781250024602 Ages 11-14

VOYA - *Pam Carlson*

Could anyone actually be so angry over lack of recognition for job performance that he would betray his country? Apparently, Benedict Arnold was that man. He led his troops heroically and suffered permanent injury. But Arnold's arrogance provoked many of his superiors and inspired some to spread false rumors about his methods. He was overlooked when promotion time came around. A complete lack of tact eventually cost him the support of even his long-suffering friend, George Washington. Arnold was close to bankrupt when he struck a deal with the English wherein he would take the command of the fort at West Point and then leave it defenseless, a potentially fatal blow to Americans. Instead, a series of coincidences caused the plot to be discovered. Arnold and his family relocated to England where he died in pain and disgrace in 1801. Sheinkin's writing has a contemporary feel, moving quickly from event to event. Readers almost expect a frustrated Arnold to let loose with some familiar four-letter words. The slow transformation of a fearless fighter into a resolute traitor will intrigue those who only know the end of the story. Source notes and a lengthy bibliography prove the depth of research done by Sheinkin. Reviewer: Pam Carlson

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray

ISBN: 9780385732314 Ages 12-17

Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-An interesting combination of fantasy, light horror, and historical fiction, with a dash of romance thrown in for good measure. On her 16th birthday, Gemma Doyle fights with her mother. She wants to leave India where her family is living, runs off when her mother refuses to send her to London to school, has a dreadful vision and witnesses her mother's death. Two months later, Gemma is enrolled in London's Spence School, still troubled by visions, and unable to share her grief and guilt over her loss. She gradually learns to control her vision and enter the "realms" where magical powers can make anything happen and where her mother waits to instruct her. Gradually she and her new friends learn about the Order, an ancient group of women who maintained the realms and regulated their power, and how two students unleashed an evil creature from the realms by killing a Gypsy girl. Gemma uncovers her mother's connection to those events and learns what she now must do. The fantasy element is obvious, and the boarding-school setting gives a glimpse into a time when girls were taught gentility and the importance of appearances. The author also makes a point about the position of women in Victorian society. Bray's characters are types-Felicity, clever and powerful; Ann, plain and timid; Pippa, beautiful and occasionally thoughtless; Gemma, spirited and chafing under society's

rules—but not offensively so, and they do change as the story progresses. The ending leaves open the likelihood of a sequel. Recommend this to fantasy fans who also like Sherlock Holmes or Mary Russell.—Lisa Prolman, Greenfield Public Library, MA Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

The Copybara Conspiracy: A Novel in Three Acts by Erica Pearl

ISBN: 9780399551727 Ages 10-12

School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—Perl's latest offers the perfect opportunity for a reader's theater program. Seventh grader Olive is tired of feeling left out at school because she prefers acting in the drama club rather than playing a sport. Her school is so sports crazy that the principal never acknowledges any of the other clubs during the morning announcements. Olive decides it's time to take action and embarks on a game plan to ensure that her drama club and other groups at school get the attention they deserve. This is a perfect read for fans of Louis Sachar and Andrew Clements who like comedic protagonists who take action when they feel their rights have been violated. Olive provides the perfect role model for middle schoolers. VERDICT A delightful read that begs to be performed aloud.—Margaret Capobianco, Seaford Library, NY

Messy: The Power of Disorder to Transform Our Lives by Tim Hartford

ISBN: 9781594634796 Adult

Publishers Weekly

Journalist Harford (The Undercover Economist) explores the counterintuitive theory that disorder is at the heart of innovation. His evidence includes the creative genius inspired by the randomness of record producer Brian Eno's *Oblique Strategies* and the rich history of MIT's hastily assembled Building 20. In the business world, Amazon's Jeff Bezos is extolled for the risk taking that carried the company through the dot-com bust. The book also examines what goes wrong in a system that is too organized. Examples include time-wasting email folders, misconceived methods for evaluating physicians' competence, and the horrifying results of "the paradox of automation" when a pilot can't remember how to respond in an emergency due to overreliance on automated operating systems. The book takes readers to some unexpected and entertaining places, including sarcastic corporate social-media accounts, chess strategy, and online-dating algorithms. Harford provides useful and specific instructions on putting his thesis to work, with tips on organizing projects, building an effective team, and honing improvisational skills. Weaving together lessons from history, art, technology, and social and scientific research, Harford's theories have many potential benefits for individuals and businesses seeking to remain on the creative cutting edge, as well as profound implications for society. Agent: Zoë Pagnamenta, Zoë Pagnamenta Agency. (Oct.)

Big Plans by Bob Shea

ISBN: 9781423111009 Ages 4-8

School Library Journal

K-Gr 2- A boy sits in a corner of his empty classroom, his misdeeds recorded on the blackboard. Without a bit of remorse, he muses, "Soon, the entire world will know of my big plans." He climbs to a mountaintop and shouts: "I got big plans! Big plans, I say!" This line becomes his mantra and is repeated many times. On the way down the mountain, he meets a mynah bird who becomes his sidekick. They head into the city, where the boy runs a big company. While

flying its helicopter (with the mynah as pilot), he sees the local football team losing a game. They land the helicopter midfield and score a victory. The boy appoints himself mayor of the city and then President of the United States. There's a photograph of the White House inserted in the middle of Smith's wacky drawings. Next, it's off to the moon, where he does some redecorating. When he blasts off for his trip back to Earth, he spells out the refrain using moon rocks. Now the whole world knows. The last page shows the youngster still in the classroom corner. Smith's vivacious illustrations make this a book to pore over as there are new details to notice with each reading. The format is oversize, and the text and drawings appear in a variety of sizes and shapes. A funny and far-reaching selection.-Ieva Bates, Ann Arbor District Library, MI

We Love You Charlie Freeman by Kaitlyn Greenidge

ISBN: 9781616204679

★School Library Journal

Teenager Charlotte Freeman isn't thrilled when her mother uproots the family to the Toneybee Institute. All of the members of the family know how to speak in sign language and were hired to live at the Institute and teach Charlie, a chimpanzee, how to communicate. Every moment is filmed, and Charlotte is confronted with bigotry everywhere—the town is geographically divided by race. She soon discovers the wrongness of it all—an African American family raising an ape as one of their own. Back in the 1920s, the Toneybee Institute conducted racist, Tuskegee-like experiments, which readers learn about from the point of view of a black woman and from the perspective of the institute's rich white founder. Charlotte's coming-of-age story will ring true with teens, who will cringe at the blatant and subtle racism she encounters. Her sexual identity as a lesbian is never the center of the story, and neither are the apes. This is a literary yet easily approachable novel about race, family, and relationships, making Greenidge an author to watch. While the similarities to Kenneth Oppel's *Half Brother* and Sara Gruen's *Ape House* are obvious, this volume would also pair well with Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. VERDICT This strong debut novel is perfect for book clubs and will initiate discussion about race, stereotypes, and microaggressions—Sarah Hill, Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL

The Ugly Pumpkin by Howard Friedlander

ISBN: 9781483506906 Ages 3-5

Barnes and Noble Overview

Halloween was coming. For all the pumpkins in the pumpkin patch this was the night they had been waiting for all year long. For Halloween meant they would become Jack-O-Lanterns and bring fun and joy to boys and girls everywhere. But not Pumpkin. He was not going to be a Jack-O-Lantern, even though it was his dream. You see, Pumpkin was different. While all the other pumpkins were large and round, Pumpkin was long and somewhat squished. The other pumpkins laughed and made fun of him. They said he didn't look like them. He looked more like an orange eggplant. He was an UGLY PUMPKIN...and could never be a Jack-O-Lantern. No, they said, he could never be one of them. Never. But on this Halloween night...everything was about to change. The pumpkins in the pumpkin patch were about to learn that character was more important than looks.