

## **UHLS I Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting**

**December 8, 2017**

**Book review**

**9:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Meeting**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Book review & Teen Services Discussion**

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

**See meeting handouts and links list here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/103CnVT6hcJD7BHnW1MFHSS55cXXuyykG5Nfq61h6X0c/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Attendance:**

Mary Fellows (UHLS), Diane Riganti (UHLS), Beth Bomba (COLN), Elissa Valente (COLN), Carol Roberts (TROY), Sandy Tabor (GUIL), Jenna Zaborowski (EGRN), Jane Chirguin (RENS), Carol Gaillard (HOOF), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (RVLL/WSTR), Christine McGinty (BETH), Anne Coleta (BETH), Joelle Adler (CAST), Barbara Goetschius (RCSC), Kathy Stempel (BERN), Lexi Consler Neudecker (APLD), Kelly Vadney (WTVT).

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **UHLS Updates**

- The Summer Planning Workshop is at Schenectady Public Library on February 1, 2018. The snow date is February 15, 2018.
- The 1KBB order form will be sent out soon.
- A flyer reminding libraries of the kits and equipment that UHLS has to loan is in the delivery bins.
- At the January 12, 2018 meeting Sue Rokos will do a present the Best of the Best Books 2017 for youth.

#### **Presentation of an Early literacy tool called Starling**

The group viewed two videos on this new tool and discussed its possible applications.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEXAYuZDwg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npOd6ipoVeM>

#### **Refreshing youth Spaces**

Mary presented a slide show of various youth spaces in libraries. One main tip: change it up!

#### **Intellectual freedom and youth services**

There was a discussion about reading and updating your libraries policies according to the Library Bill of Rights. This is a best practice.

Handout: Library Bill of Rights

Handout: Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights

## **Highlights of the Juvenile Review List**

Mary shared of her highlights of the lists

### **Great Reads:**

Titles discussed:

#### **The Nowhere Girls by Amy Reed**

School Library Journal

This gritty and timely novel examines the culture of sexism and rape through the eyes of three girls and a chorus of the universal "Us." Grace, the new girl in town, just wants to blend in to the point of invisibility. Having been forced out of their conservative Southern Baptist Church when her preacher mother becomes "too liberal," Grace is still reeling from the ostracism and is struggling to figure out who she is and what she should believe. Rosina, the daughter of a very conservative Mexican American single mother, spends her days babysitting her younger cousins and working in her family's restaurant. What she really wants is recognition as a gay punk rocker who needs more from life. Erin, a teen on the high-functioning side of the autism spectrum, consumes herself with marine biology and Star Trek while wrestling with appropriate emotions and reactions and an overly involved mother. "Us" iterates the thoughts, fears, and conflicts of a chorus of unnamed characters. When Grace discovers that her new room was also the room of Lucy, the girl who accused a group of popular boys of gang rape last year, she convinces Erin and Rosina to help her get justice for Lucy. Neither one is particularly enthusiastic about the idea, but slowly an anonymous group of "Nowhere Girls" begin to attack the sexist culture of their school despite negative reactions. The strong characters do not detract from the equally strong plot but move it forward with compassion and strength as they address with frank honesty what it means to be female in today's world. The empowerment of the girls in this book will resonate with young adults. VERDICT A must-read for every teen.—Janet Hilbun, University of North Texas, Denton

#### **Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu**

Publishers Weekly

At Viv's Texas high school, no one stops the boys from wearing T-shirts that degrade women, while girls get sent home for minor dress code violations. Boys—mainly football jocks—harass girls in classes and corridors without consequence. Viv, a junior, is used to it, but one day she decides that enough is enough. Inspired by her mother's days as a rebellious Riot Grrrl, Viv creates and circulates issues of Moxie, a girl-power zine, at school. More girls take Moxie-endorsed action with each issue, and because Viv hasn't owned up to being behind it, other girls get into the act and things snowball. Mathieu (Afterward) isn't going for nuance: the jocks are total jerks, the all-male administration is unfailingly sexist, and the Moxie spirit crosses cliques and racial boundaries with an intersectional ease that can be elusive in real life. But seeing the girls changing their definitions of what's acceptable as they become radicalized is satisfying and moving, both for Viv and for readers. If it's depressing that Viv has to reach back to the '90s for models, perhaps this unapologetically feminist book will help change that. Ages 12–up. Agent: Kerry Sparks, Levine Greenberg Rostan. (Sept.)

### **When's My Birthday by Julie Fogliano**

School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 1—An exuberant ode to children's anticipation for the most special day each year: their birthday. Fogliano's insistent verse wastes no time and doesn't even stop for traditional capitalization—just like the young narrators, who want to know, "when's my birthday?/where's my birthday?/how many days until/my birthday?" They continue breathlessly, wondering if they will "sing so happy happy?" on the big day. The exaggerated excitement is echoed in Robinson's clever use of scale, as in a spread featuring a gigantic present tied with white twine. A little girl reaches up to pull the string, dwarfed by its size. The long and tall trim size is also ideal for displaying a towering, swimming pool—size birthday cake so large that the young birthday boy needs a ladder to reach the candles. A muted palette of slate blue, mustard yellow, forest green, and burnt sienna, sometimes appearing on a rich black background, reflects the festive tone of the text without tipping over into what could be—in the hands of a less skilled poet and artist—overwhelming or obnoxious in its fervor. Instead, readers will appreciate and immediately recognize the joyful expectancy. VERDICT Buoyant and perfectly childlike, meant to be read aloud with gusto and a keen sense of urgency. A first purchase for any library, and a ready-made gift for home collections.—Kiera Parrott, School Library Journal

### **The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

Kirkus

Ada discovers there are worse things than bombs after she escapes her Mam's cruelty during a children's evacuation of World War II London. Crippled by an untreated club foot and imprisoned at home by Mam, Ada has survived, but she hasn't thrived. Only caring for her brother, Jamie, has made life tolerable. As he grows, goes out and tells Ada about the world, her determination to enter it surges. She secretly begins learning to walk and joins Jamie when Mam sends him to the country. Ada narrates, recalling events and dialogue in vivid detail. The siblings are housed with Susan, a reluctant guardian grieving the death of her friend Becky. Yet Susan's care is life-changing. Ada's voice is brisk and honest; her dawning realizations are made all the more poignant for their simplicity. With Susan's help and the therapeutic freedom she feels on horseback, Ada begins to work through a minefield of memories but still harbors hope that Mam will accept her. In interesting counterpoint, Susan also knows what it is like to be rejected by her parents. With the reappearance of Mam, things come to an explosive head, metaphorically and literally. Ignorance and abuse are brought to light, as are the healing powers of care, respect and love. Set against a backdrop of war and sacrifice, Ada's personal fight for freedom and ultimate triumph are cause for celebration. (Historical fiction. 8-12)

### **The War I Finally Won by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

Kirkus

Ada returns in this sequel to Newbery Honor book *The War That Saved My Life* (2015). Shortly after the events that closed the last book, a successful surgery means overjoyed 11-year-old, white Ada no longer has a clubfoot. She can walk, run, and ride relatively pain-free, but pain returns in a different way: Ada's abusive birth mother has been killed in an air raid. Enough back story is provided that readers new to Ada's story won't be lost. Patient Susan, providing a home to Ada and her little brother, Jamie, during the Blitz, becomes their legal guardian, but Ada,

damaged by 10 years of abuse, doesn't ever feel safe. Living in the midst of a world war only adds to Ada's constant worries, and from blackout screens to rations, the stress and strain felt in everyday Kent during World War II is plain. But Ada finds comfort in her horse, Butter, and her family, which grows to include privileged Lady Thorton and Ruth, a teenage, Jewish German refugee. Ada's struggles with her trauma are portrayed with such incredible nuance and heart-wrenching realism that readers are sure to empathize deeply and revel in the joy of watching thoughtful, introspective Ada heal and grow. When tragedy strikes, all suffer, but Ada is able to help another in greater anguish than herself thanks to lessons from her own painful past. Thoughtful, brave, true, and wise beyond her years, Ada is for the ages—as is this book. Wonderful. (Historical fiction. 10-14)

### **One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus**

School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—A smart, twisted, and unpredictable YA mystery that will have readers guessing until the very end. This debut novel follows four high school students thrown together in detention with the creator of their school's gossip app. All of them come out alive. The creator doesn't. And now they are all suspects in his murder. Each student takes a turn at narrating, and tension builds as secrets are revealed in a way that mirrors the gossip app. Who is telling the truth? Who is lying? McManus uses alternating viewpoints to tell the story. Each chapter is short and quick, which makes the plot move at a fast pace and will engage readers. At the beginning, keeping characters straight might be a tough task for some, but it is easy to understand the motives of each character, and they soon become easier to distinguish. This factor makes it hard to know who is guilty and who is innocent. VERDICT A strong selection for teens interested in contemporary YA mysteries and thrillers.—Caitlin Wilson, Brooklyn Public Library

### **There's Someone Inside Your House by Stephanie Perkins**

Kirkus

Someone is murdering high school students. Most freeze in fear, but a brave few try to stop the killings. Senior Makani Young has been living in corn-obsessed Nebraska for just a little over a year. She has developed a crush and made some friends, but a dark secret keeps her from truly opening up to those around her. As the only half-African-American and half-Native Hawaiian student in her school, she already stands out, but as the killing spree continues, the press descends, and rumors fly, Makani is increasingly nervous that her past will be exposed. However, the charming and incredibly shy Ollie, a white boy with hot-pink hair, a lip ring, and wanderlust, provides an excellent distraction from the horror and fear. Graphic violence and bloody mayhem saturate this high-speed slasher story. And while Makani's secret and the killer's hidden identity might keep the pages turning, this is less a psychological thriller and more a study in gore. The intimacy and precision of the killer's machinations hint at some grand psychological reveal, but lacking even basic jump-scares, this tale is high in yuck and low in fright. The tendency of the characters toward preachy inner monologues feels false. Bloody? Yes. Scary? No. (Horror. 14-16)

**Reminder:** request Advance Reader Copies from UHLS (to keep!) at  
Staff can request titles here: <http://reports.uhls.org/cgi-bin/staff/arc.pl>

**Next Meetings:**

**January 12, 2018 (includes best of youth books 2017), February 1, 2018 SRP Workshop at Schenectady Public Library (Snow date 2/15/2018), March 9, Teen Librarian Meetup April 26 at EGRN, May 11, June 8, 2018.**

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