

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

**May 11, 2018**

**At Bethlehem Public Library**

**Small Library Discussion Group**

**Meeting**

**Optional after meeting activities**

**9:00 am - 9:40 am**

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

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

**See meeting handouts and links here:**

### **Attendance:**

Mary Fellows (UHLS), Diane Riganti (UHLS), Ann-Marie Helldorfer (COLN), Lisa Neuman (APLM), Lexie Consler Neudecker (APLD), Christine McGinty (BETH), Cathy Brenner (BETH), Anne Coletta (BETH), Amy McCarthy (GUIL), Tori Russo (BETH), Mary Dugan (BETH), Kathy Stempel (BERN), Hannah Ricottilli (RENS), Ted Riese (MEND), Lise Smith (HOOF), Joelle Adler (CAST), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTER & RVLL), Jenna Zaborowski (EGRN).

Thank you to Chris and her staff for hosting the meeting.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **UHLS Updates:**

- Mary is willing to come to any program this summer to help. Please email her if you would like her assistance. She will drop by to see some of the libraries programs.
- Library Expedition: 2018: Upper Hudson Library Expedition: Become a 36er! is a project designed to encourage Albany and Rensselaer County residents to visit and explore multiple UHLS member libraries. The tentative dates are September 1 to November 30, 2018. An overview draft was handed out. Ira Marcks, a local author and artist, has been hired to do the artwork. Mary is looking into renting costumes for the kick off paid for by Family Literacy Grant money. Details to follow.
- June is a Review Copy meeting. Come prepared to talk about a picture book from the review list that you love since Mary, as chair of the Caldecott Committee this year can't talk about picture books with the group.
- Difficult book: Also, at our June YSAC, come prepared to talk about a powerful, maybe difficult book for teens that spoke to you and how you have or might use it with teens. The title need not be recent.
- Handout: The Future of Well-Being in a Tech-Saturated World-Pew Charitable trust study. We will discuss this at the June meeting.

**G.O.A.T. Teen Services Meetup** - Fifty people attended from 4 states.

Comments:

- Very useful to get ideas from a wider group of people.
- It was nice to meet a diverse group of people and discuss ideas.

- Great for the focus to be on Teen services only
- Interesting program ideas-escape room, movie chat. Have Teen focus groups at the school after school. Teachers give extra credit for library teen volunteers.

At the June meeting we will discuss Mitali Perkins presentation, Books Between Cultures.

### **Early Literacy: Strengthening Families With Young Children**

Principles: Reading is an essential life skill. Learning to read begins at birth. Parents and caregivers are a child's first teachers. We teach parents through modeling and direct messages how to help their child. A great many valued resources on:

<http://everychildreadytoread.org> & <http://everychildreadytoread.org/resources>

- Mary has the Literacy message cards document.
- Practice what we say to parents about the Five Skills.
- Helpful to write the message on a white board at Storytime.

### **School Visits: little things that can make a big difference.**

- Do them!
- Remember you are "on" from the moment you drive up. Put on a friendly face and introduce yourself to everyone with a smile. Dwell on the funny, cute, or nice things that happen. Sharing good stories increases your happiness as you experience the events again and increases the other person's happiness as they imagine them.
- Remember to make sure all the AV equipment is working correctly at the school.
- Coordinate with fellow co-worker.
- Bring RIF books.

### **Efficiency during the summer months and beyond**

- Mary did a short experiment with all attendees on multi-tasking, proving it doesn't really work.
- Take time to blow off steam, stress lowers productivity and service level. Take a short walk.
- Say to yourself, "Focus", if you find your mind wandering with too much to do.
- Mark a calendar for tangibles and intangibles. Set benchmark dates to have a program planned by a certain date.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Do a Faux pas list!
- Do a list of what worked well.

### **Fun-self directed program ideas to throw into your summer**

- This will be a handout at each meeting.

## **Great Reads:**

### **Plague Land by Alex Scarrow**

ISBN: 9781492652106      Kirkus

A New Jersey teen transplanted to London survives a devastating new pandemic—but almost nobody else does. Leon's misery in his new British school seems like the absolute worst, until the dying begins. The plague starts as merely a series of nightmarish and unconnected deaths, but the disease spreads almost faster than rumor. Moments after infection, the victims begin hemorrhaging, and within hours they've been reduced to a bloody soup. Vignettes from alternate points of view show the advancing disaster, but to Leon, it's merely a fearful suspicion based on odd news stories. The conspiracy boards are alight: is this plague engineered by the CIA, North Korea, Mossad, Russia, aliens, or the Islamic State? With his mother and younger sister, Leon flees the city, but there's nowhere safe from the illness that's about to destroy all animal life on Earth. Cinematically gory imagery of melted bodies and twitching viscera punctuate Leon's months of survival as one of the last remaining humans. Leon is racially undescribed but seemingly white; the uneven representations of race, class, and culture rely on stale tropes. It's not clear if the sequel will be able to achieve the gross-out levels of this opener, since there's not many humans left to liquefy. For fans of overwhelming and grisly carnage. (Horror. 13-16)

### **Saints & Misfits by S.K. Ali**

ISBN: 9781481499248      School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Life has settled since Janna's parents' divorce, but several new obstacles are making things difficult. Her brother, Muhammad, is moving back home as he changes majors and pursues marriage, while Janna silently battles against a respected boy at her mosque who attempted to rape her. To cope, Janna has separated people into categories. Farooq is a monster, but there are also saints, like Muhammad's fiancée. And then there are misfits, like Janna. This categorization isn't expressed overtly other than through chapter headings and occasional references, but it allows readers to see the world as Janna views it. Yet where there is darkness, there is also light: Janna has a lovely relationship with an elderly gentleman she cares for weekly, loves Flannery O'Connor, is a focused student, and has a crush on a boy, though he's non-Muslim. Ali's writing is balanced between Janna's inner dialogue and what transpires around her. The structured delivery magnifies the teen's rich voice in a character-driven novel about identity, highlighting her faith and typical teenage stress. Readers can empathize with Janna's problems, and the pages will turn quickly. Each secondary character adds depth to the narrative and simultaneously strengthens the diverse portrait that the Toronto-based author shares. VERDICT This timely and authentic portrayal is an indisputable purchase in the realistic fiction category.—Alicia Abdul, Albany High School Library, NY  
Podkin One Ear

### **My Pillow Keeps Moving by Laura Gehl**

ISBN: 9780425288245      Kirkus

An enterprising little dog insinuates its way into the heart and home of an unsuspecting man. First seen on the street huddling with a cat for warmth, the canine enters a shop called the Pillow Place and curls up on a pile of pillows. An unnamed, mustachioed, nearsighted white man

is rather unobservant and mistakenly chooses the puppy for his bed. But this "pillow" does not conform to expectations, moving around and leaving the man sleepless. He tries to return the "broken" item, but, as the smarmy, white clerk points out, it is soft and fluffy and therefore "not broken." The canine protagonist then emulates a footstool that at home is too noisy but very comfy. The jacket the man next purchases has a furry dog collar that makes stinky burps and belches, but the man has to admit it is indeed warm and cozy. Finally he realizes the truth and names his new friend Jackie. On their way to buy a new hat, Jackie winks at the orange cat, who has been lurking patiently in nearly every scene, and—voilà, a cat hat. Gehl's tale is slight and wonderfully silly. Weyant's clever, brightly hued, digitally enhanced watercolor-and-ink cartoons provide details that enlarge the action and greatly add to the fun. Little readers will delight in being more sharply tuned to events than the confused gentleman and will gleefully point out the visual clues. A sweet gigglefest. (Picture book. 3-6)

### **Wedgie & Gizmo by Suzanne Selfors**

ISBN: 9780062447630      School Library Journal

Gr 2–5—Gizmo may be a guinea pig, but he considers himself to be an evil genius. When Elliot and his dad, along with Gizmo, move in with Jasmine and Jackson, their mom, and Wedgie, their dog, Gizmo vows destruction. Wedgie, or Super Wedgie, as he likes to be known, wears a red cape, loves to eat food off the floor, and does not like the vet. Through both animals' alternating points of view, readers learn about the adjustments of moving and becoming a new, blended family. Snippets of human conversations and lists of evil plans give a hilarious and unique perspective to this story of two families coming together. The illustrations and short chapters help break up the text for young readers, while the dialogue, formatted like lines in a script, make this ideal for readers theater programs. VERDICT This first installment is great for one-on-one sharing or independent reading. A solid purchase for libraries looking for early chapter books.—Shana Morales, Windsor Public Library, CT

### **Welcome to Bethlehem Public Library**

Chris McGinty and the Bethlehem staff offered a panoply of resources and experiences for attendees. The Library's Virtual Reality headset was available for experimenting with, as was a customized library card maker which BPL may loan to UHLS libraries beginning in January 2019. A variety of the Library's programming kits were out for examination, as were some more unusual items the Library loans, such as American Girl Dolls, Binoculars, Ozbots, Telescopes, and Virtual Reality headsets.

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

**Next meetings: June 8 Review Book Meeting at UHLS**

**Upper Hudson Youth Services – Mary Fellows – 518-437-9880 x228**

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