

UHLS I Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting

June 8, 2018

Book Review

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Meeting

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Book Review

12:00 am - 1:00 pm

Attendance:

Mary Fellows (UHLS), Diane Custard (UHLS), Hanna Ricottilli (RENS/APLM), Kathy Stempel (BERN), Carol Roberts (TROY), Joelle Adler (CAST), Gail Brown (VOOR), Elissa Valente (COLN), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTR/RVLL), Molly Chatt (EGRN), Barbara Goetschius (RCSC), Christine McGinty (BETH), Amy McCarthy (GUIL), Melissa Lockett (PTRB).

Meeting Minutes:

UHLS Updates:

- Mary has volunteered to come help with a summer reading program at each library. Please reach out to her with dates and she'll be glad to help if she's available.
- The Library Expedition will be September 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018. More information will be coming. Mary is going to see if libraries are interested in renting costumes during this time. Most popular costumes were: Elephant & Piggie, Pete the Cat, Pinkalicious, Bad Kitty, Llama Llama, Fly Guy and Wild Thing. The costumes will be rented from Costume Specialist. (<https://costumespecialists.com/>)
- As Continuing Education Mary is going to look into Webinars from ALSC. There is a very good webinar on Sensory Play. More information to come.
- UHLS is pleased to offer a special continuing education opportunity: a scholarship to attend the ALSC National Institute, taking place in Cincinnati, Ohio September 27-29, 2018. Sponsored by our national children's librarians association, the Institute is high level children's services-focused professional development

Just Fiction: Race, Culture and Power in Kid/YA Books

A discussion was held about the highlights of this presentation by author Mitali Perkins. held at the G.O.A.T. Teen Services Meetup. Handout: Straight Talk on Race: Challenging the Stereotypes in Kids' Books

The Future of Well-Being in a Tech-Saturated World

A discussion was held about the findings of this study:

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2018/04/17/the-future-of-well-being-in-a-tech-saturated-world/>

Suggestions given for libraries:

Have parenting classes with experts speaking about screen time.

Have creative writing programs.

Do a No/Low Tech program.

Speak about using technology more efficiently and effectively.

No cell use allowed during program but teens can keep in touch through text outside of the library.

Hold a No Cell Phone Storytime. Have caregivers gather and discuss things among themselves.

Screenagers Movie – highly recommended by COLN staff. <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/>

Difficult book discussion

Participants were asked in advance to think about the hardest book they have ever loved.

A few titles of difficult books were discussed -why they are considered difficult, what library uses for programs or readers advisory might be.

Midnight Without a Moon by Linda Williams Jackson

Rose Lee Carter, a 13-year-old African-American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955. Her world is rocked when a 14-year-old African-American boy, Emmett Till, is killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman.

Shine by Lauren Myracle

Cat has been distant from childhood best friend Patrick for three years (she began to "ignore the whole world" after an older friend of her brother's molested her). Even so, when a horrific and possible hate crime leaves openly gay Patrick comatose, she decides to "look straight into the ugliness and find out who hurt him." She grows suspicious of her brother's friends, "the redneck posse," who were with Patrick the night of his attack—especially as she learns they are keeping dangerous secrets, including dealing and using meth. Myracle (Bliss) paints the desperate poverty and bitter divisions within Cat's mountain community well, with memorable details like a friend coloring the duct tape patches on her couch to match the fabric or a meth cooker's bathtub filled with funnels and coffee filters. These details and the thick mystery that Cat unfurls will keep readers engaged—and suspecting several characters, as Cat does. The final faceoff strains believability and the conclusion is a tad neat, but readers will find themselves thinking about Cat's complicated rural community long after the mystery has been solved. Ages 14–up. (May)

What Are Girls Made Of by Alana K. Arnold

When Nina Faye was fourteen, her mother told her there was no such thing as unconditional love. Nina believed her. Now Nina is sixteen. And she'll do anything for the boy she loves, just to prove she's worthy of him. But when he breaks up with her, Nina is lost. What if she is not a girlfriend? What is she made of? Broken-hearted, Nina tries to figure out what the conditions of love are. She's been volunteering at a high-kill animal shelter where she realizes that for dogs waiting to be adopted, love comes only to those with youth, symmetry, and quietness. She also ruminates on the strange, dark time her

mother took her to Italy to see statues of saints who endured unspeakable torture because of their unquestioning devotion to the divine. Is this what love is?

Ask Me How I Got here by Christine Heppermann

Addie is a good student and the star of the cross-country team at her private Catholic school. When she discovers that she is pregnant, she gets an abortion with the support of her boyfriend and parents. Afterward, she struggles with what the pregnancy and her decision mean, both to her self-perception and those around her, leading Addie to discover more surprising things about herself. The spare yet meaningful verse shines, while the poems ascribed to Addie herself are particularly poignant. The narrative focuses on Addie's emotional journey while deftly avoiding the tired tropes of typical pregnant teen stories. This is not a story about making the decision to have an abortion but rather one about accepting how decisions shape who we are, for better or for worse. The only readers disappointed will be those looking for a black-and-white pronouncement about abortion and its consequences. Teens mature enough to appreciate Heppermann's subtlety will welcome this fresh, relatable novel that is bold enough to venture into relatively unexplored territory. VERDICT This standout of both craft and theme is recommended for high school and public libraries.—Elizabeth Saxton, Tiffin, OH

Female of the Species by Mindy McGinnis

Three high school seniors come together in McGinnis's harrowing rumination on the nature of violence and the power of friendship in a small town. Three years ago, Alex Craft's older sister, Anna, was raped and murdered, but there wasn't enough evidence to convict the killer. Someone took matters into his or her own hands and killed the perpetrator, and McGinnis (*A Madness So Discreet*) doesn't make it hard to guess who. Once a girl on the periphery, Alex attracts the attention of jock Jack Fisher, who's more than just a guy who can put a ball through a net. Despite differing personalities, Alex and Peekay—shorthand for preacher's kid, though her real name is Claire—bond while volunteering at the local animal shelter, with Peekay in awe of Alex's stoicism. McGinnis gracefully avoids the pitfalls of creating a teenage vigilante, instead maintaining a sense of piercing realism. Alex is a pained girl in dangerous free fall, whose fierce independence is challenged by newfound friendships, even love, though neither may be enough to stave off the inevitable. Ages 14–up.

Soldier Boy by Keely Hutton

In this brutal debut novel inspired by real-life events, Hutton addresses the horrors of the Ugandan civil war through two child soldiers. The narrative primarily follows Ricky Richard Anywar, kidnapped at age 14 and forcibly inducted into Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army alongside his brother and friends in 1989. Over the next few years, Ricky survives horrifying conditions, brutal training, and numerous combat missions, always looking for a chance to escape. Meanwhile, in 2006, 11-year-old Samuel recuperates from grievous injuries after falling in battle, unable to trust his caregivers or the strange

man who insists on learning his story. Both boys are forced to confront the memories of lost friends and the things they did to stay alive. Hutton approaches the setting, conflict, and characters with unremitting honesty, drawing from Anywar's own life (he contributes an afterword) while using the fictional Samuel as a stand-in for the current generation of unwilling soldiers. This isn't an easy or pleasant read—Hutton doesn't shy from discussions of rape, torture, and abuse—but it's eye-opening and relevant. Ages 13–up.

Highlights of the review lists and picture books

Mary presented some highlights of NF books and J & YA Fiction review books. Mary cannot review the picture books since she is chair of the Caldecott committee. There were a few picture books discussed by attendees.

Self-Directed Programming Ideas Handout – see bottom

Programming for Summer Reading Programs – Participant Share

Colonie's Got Talent show for teens.

Guilderland is having a Build Your Own Computer that attendees get to take home.

Petersburgh Public Library is having a community dance with a rock climbing wall.

Troy Public Library is doing stories in the park.

Various other plans are all set for Summer Reading Programs at all member libraries.

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

Next meetings TBD!

Upper Hudson Youth Services – Mary Fellows – 437-9880x228, mary@uhls.lib.ny.us

Quote of the day:

We will certainly develop new ways to adapt to the digital environment. The key question: What is the balance of the real and the virtual that will keep us healthy in every sense?

~MICHAEL ROGERS, in The Future of Well-Being in a Tech-Saturated World by Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie, Pew Research Center

Self-Directed Programming Ideas YSAC June 2018

Interactive Displays:

- Book Club Bulletin Board: Encourage patrons to share their comments about a book they loved by writing them on provided note cards or Upstart's [Book Review Cards](#) and posting them to a bulletin board under the heading "Books We Couldn't Put Down."
- Book Spine Poetry: Leave a selection of books out on a table, along with instructions for [book spine poetry](#). Challenge patrons to create their own poems with the books! Encourage them to take pictures of their poems and tag your library's social media.
- Favorite Places to Read: Title a bulletin board "Where Do YOU Like to Read?" Have patrons post snapshots of their favorite reading spots. Encourage participation by offering a prize (such as a gift certificate for a local business) for the most unique reading spot.
 - <http://ideas.demco.com/blog/6-easy-engaging-ideas-passive-programming/>

Other:

Coloring Corner

For adults or kids! Set up a coloring corner and provide supplies for all ages, including adult and children's coloring pages, markers, colored pencils and crayons. Check out Upstart's line of [Color Craze](#) resources for bookmarks, stickers, coloring sheets and more to add to your selection.

Mary's note: As Bethlehem Public Library does, have designs printed cheaply (<\$5) on large paper at Staples, using their engineering print service:

<https://www.staples.com/sbd/content/copyandprint/engineering-prints.html>

Puzzles

Old-fashioned puzzles and board games are a great way to get patrons to spend more time in the library. Put a puzzle out on a table along with a sign inviting patrons to jump in and work on the puzzle.

Games

Another idea is to create a game corner in the library. Display a couple of board games on tables, along with the instructions, and provide several more games on a shelf nearby. Be sure to provide [games for a range of ages](#), such as Candy Land, Guess Who?, Apples to Apples, checkers, chess and Monopoly.

Craft Stick Bookmarks

Next to a sign inviting patrons to make their own bookmarks, set out craft sticks, markers and/or paint, glue and decorations such as stick-on googly eyes, small stickers, beads, small pompoms, scrapbook paper, etc.

- <http://ideas.demco.com/blog/6-easy-engaging-ideas-passive-programming/>

Post Office

The Post Office is a new activity station I set up in the library last Saturday. After setting out [this mailbox](#) and hanging up a few encouraging prompts, it was immediately a busy place for kids to play and create.

Here's what kids can do at this station:

- Respond to the question of the month. This month's question is: "What's your favorite color?" The responses will be hung up on the wall for all to see.
- Send a post card to the children at another branch. That branch will also have this activity station and be able to draw a picture/send a message to the kids at my library. These will be exchanged and also be displayed.
- Or, you can write a note for someone you know that will make them smile and give it to them in person.

The goal of this experience is to promote and encourage writing, teach the concept of correspondence, self esteem (being proud of their response on the wall), and a little history to boot.

Since the Chattanooga Public Library has an incredible [Local History Department](#), I created a small side display of historical post offices of Chattanooga. I printed out images available to the public through the digital archives browsable through the [library's online catalog](#). Not only is this a fun little learning experience for kids and their caregivers to see these historic institutions, but it's also a nice cross promotion of another department's services.

<http://www.sturdyforcommonthings.com/2014/08/speedy-delivery-post-office-in-the-library/>

- Guess the book by the tweet: Write a series of 140-character tweets from characters in popular teen books. Have teens write and share their own. **Here's an example of this program.** This could be done with Facebook statuses too—what status would a famous character write?
- Origami: Print out instructions, leave some paper, and let the teens fold away. Have a space for teens to display their creations.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OBGwr9qm39WZ8s-I9tTNB5uNbQTC-Cel_G43X53RNq8/edit