

UHLS Youth Services Advisory Council

February 10, 2025

2:00 – 3:00, Virtual

Attendance (15): Amy Jeansonne (UHLS), Mary Fellows (UHLS), Julie Weston (VAFL), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTR), Kathy Stempel (BERN), Melissa Tacke (CAST), Ann-Marie Helldorfer (COLN), Suzanne Cardinal (NASS), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Alison Wells (APL), Christina Dady-Esposito (GUIL), Melanie Sheldon (CAST), Lisa Fesmire (VOOR), Gail Brown (VOOR), Maura Powers-Smith (GUIL)

This month's topic: Celebrating the Youth Media Awards

Mary presented on YMA highlights: She discussed them through the following four groups. ([link to the full list of awards](#))

- Programming
 - *The First State of Being* by Erin Entrada Kelly
 - Time travel, Y2K, 1990s fads - food, expressions, dance moves, music
 - *Life After Whale* by Lynn Brunelle, illustrated by Jason Chin
 - Life science, grossology
 - *The Enigma Girls* by Candace Fleming
 - Pair with *The Bletchley Riddle* (local author), code decryption, machines, coding (pair with one of our [tech kits](#))
 - *Noodles on a Bicycle* illustrated by Gracey Zhang, written by Kyo Maclear
 - Japan, noodles, taste testing, noodle art
- Reader's Advisory
 - *Vacation* by Ame Dyckman and illustrated by Mark Teague
 - *Fox Versus Fox* by Corey R. Tabor
 - *One Big Open Sky* by Lesa Cline-Ransome
 - Unique book, check it out to see what you think
 - *The Wrong Way Home* by Kate O'Shaughnessy
 - Lots to discuss
 - *Shark Teeth* by Sherri Winston
 - Powerful, teaches empathy
- Display
 - *Call Me Roberto!: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos* by Nathalie Alonso, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez
 - Baseball, Latino History, Sports

- *One Big Open Sky* by Lesa Cline-Ransome
 - African American history, Pioneers
- Art and Story
 - *Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei: A life in the mountains* illustrated by Yuko Shimizu, written by Anita Yasuda
 - Also great for display and reader’s advisory
 - The following aren’t award winners, but are notable 2024 picture books
 - *A Bear, A Fish, and a Fishy Wish* by Daniel Bernstron, illustrated by Brandon James Scott
 - Could be great for storytime or as a [StoryWalk](#)
 - *The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods* by Michael Please
 - Lots of fun details
 - *Touch the Sky* by Stephanie V. W. Lucianovic, illustrated by Chris Park
 - Perfect for this summer’s Color Our World theme
 - *A Star Shines Through* by Anna Desnitskaya
 - Compassionate depiction of making a new home following displacement
 - *Being Home* by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade
 - A positive “move story”: Cherokee girl’s family rejoining extended family
 - *The Dictionary Story* by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston
 - Clever book making
 - *Drawn Onward* by Daniel Nayeri, illustrated by Matt Rockefeller
 - Palindrome—text reads forward and backward

The group shared other favorites from the past year:

Our list included both YMA winners and other books we loved. Many of them we used or are planning to use for programming.

- *The Table* by Winsome Bingham & Wiley Blevins, illustrated by Jason Griffin
 - *The Yellow Bus* by Loren Long was shared as similar story
- *Spoonful of Frogs* by Casey Lyall, illustrated by Vera Brosgol
 - Suzanne shared some great activities she did with this one
- Two new Old MacDonald books:
 - *Miss MacDonald Has a Farm* by Kalee Gwarjanski, illustrated by Elizabet Vukovic
 - *The Man Who Didn’t Like Animals* by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by LeUyen Pham
- *Not a Box City* by Antoinette Portis
 - Could pair well with [UHLS’s MakeDo Kit](#)
- *Ursula Upside Down* by Corey R. Tabor

- *Me and Other Bunnies* by Mo Willems
- *To Make* by Danielle Davis illustrated by Mags DeRoma
 - Lyrical, waiting, great for this summer
- *Brownstone* by Samuel Teer, illustrated by Mar Julia (Printz Award winner)
 - GN about girl getting to know the father she's never had contact with
- *This is Not My Lunchbox* by Jennifer Dupuis illustrated by Carol Schwartz
 - Good for STEAM program, possibly puppets
- *Bedtime for Sweet Creatures* by Nikki Grimes illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
 - Not this year, but would make a great storytime, even pajama storytime
- *The Girl Who Sang* by Estelle Nadel and Sammy Savos (Sibert honor and Sydney Taylor Award for Middle Grade)
 - Harrowing, Dark, Complex, Graphic Novel, Holocaust
- *Wonder & Awe* by Annie Herzig
 - Will be part of the upcoming ["Get Cozy" Hygge night](#) at COLN

UHLS Updates

- Director Search
 - The search is underway. We'll conduct in-person interviews in March and will keep you updated.
 - It was asked if there will be a party for Tim. While there are no concrete plans yet, we will also keep you posted on that.
- Upcoming Workshops & Trainings
 - **Summer Reading Program Prep**
 - Collaborative Summer Programming Workshops
 - These will both be recorded (but are fun live).
 - Children - 2/25, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
 - [Registration is open](#). We'll send the agenda out soon in case you can only come for part of it. It will be recorded.
 - Teens - 3/11, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
 - You can still join as a presenter! Contact Mary or see her recent youthserv email for information. Registration link for workshop will be coming.
 - **Combined YSAC & ASAC - In person** at [Bring On the Spectrum](#), Albany
 - Tuesday, March 25, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
 - **SAIYL Training - Welcoming LGBTQIA+ Youth in the Library**
 - Tuesday, April 22, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
 - Presented by Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood staff

- New Kits Available
 - [Updated kit flyers](#) were sent to all the libraries
 - Find item descriptions and the borrowing calendar (in multiple formats) here:
 - <https://www.uhls.org/loanable-items/>

ARCs Available!

<http://reports.uhls.org/cgi-bin/staff/arc.pl>

(These ARCs cannot be added to your collection in any way.

By requesting ARCs, you are agreeing to give them to your kid, tween, or teen readers.)

Next Meeting: YSAC & ASAC combined

Tuesday, March 25, 1:00-2:30 pm

In person at [Bring On the Spectrum](#), Albany

Find More Events, Trainings, & Resources

<https://www.uhls.org/youth-and-family-services/>

Upper Hudson Youth Services

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