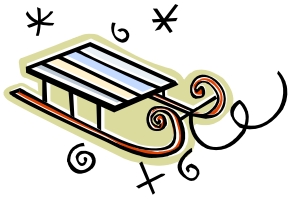


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Library Fun ... Whenever You're Ready

by Sonja Somerville, Teen Services Librarian, Salem Public Library

Anyone who has ever tried to find the "perfect night" for teen programs must know ... there is no such thing. So, I've been looking for opportunities to do "programs on demand" – special activities that can be available for a week or more so youth can participate when they're ready.

A couple are ongoing. On the table between the catalog computers in the teen area, I have book recommendation forms and an invitation to fill one out. Every week or two, I choose 10, print out the book covers, and display them on a bulletin board.

I use a big display window near the teen service desk to ask a monthly question – usually something really deep like, "What is the best video game EVER?" We write responses on pieces of paper and post them around the question. Kids can "vote" by adding a sticker to an existing answer or have us write and post a new answer. I'm surprised how closely they watch the outcomes.

The most successful effort was the "Wall of Memes." All during Teen Tech Week last year, I had meme generators and popular meme sites pre-



loaded on a couple of our public use computers. Youth could make their own or find some that were super funny and print them out. The goal was to totally fill the display window and we came pretty close, with more than 40 kids participating. It drew a lot of foot traffic and several people asked permission to take photos and post our "Wall" on Facebook. We'll be doing that again in March!

We also had a lot of fun creating a universe of quirky aliens during Teen Read Week in October. I kept craft supplies out on a table for a



week with a sign inviting anyone to "Create an Alien." I provided cards as well so they could name their alien,

assign a planet, and tell us a little about their creation.

The result was hilarious. My favorite moment was when two boys – both seniors in high school and total strangers – took over the table and devoted half an hour to making some outrageous characters.

People seem to enjoy the flexibility of "on demand" programs, so I remain alert for other fun ideas!

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Teen Art Show=Smashing Success by Ian Duncanson, Beaverton Public Library

The Beaverton City Library's 2012 Teen Art Show was a smashing success! For the tenth year in a row, we invited teens in grades 6-12 to display their works of art at the library. We marketed the show in the usual library spots, as well as individually to all of the art teachers in the area at both public and private schools. Large signs were designed in-house and then sent to Reprographics to be blown up into poster form for display in the teen room and at the show itself.

As an added incentive to artists, two prizes were offered for the first time this year – a \$100 gift card to Blick Art for the People's Choice Award, and a \$50 gift card for the school's art department with the most submissions. The \$100 card was purchased by the library foundation, and the \$50 card was generously donated by Blick themselves. While the teens were happy enough to have a public forum to display their work in, the gift card prizes provided an added buzz of excitement and made the show more official.

We accepted submissions at the teen desk November 12 – 14. As the work arrived, official display cards were typed up (using our in-house template) and the art was moved from the office down to the display area in the library's meeting rooms to keep it organized. Our summer / fall intern Wendy helped immensely with both setup and takedown. The show opened on November 15 at 3 p.m. after school let out with some light refreshments – sparkling juice in disposable champagne glasses and trays with cheese and fruit. It remained open for public viewing during normal library hours until the 18th. The show was staffed at all times by fantastic volunteers, most of



them from our own Teen Library Council. The volunteers were responsible for welcoming and tallying visitors, encouraging People's Choice Award voting and commenting in the notebook and making sure the art was safe.

In terms of submissions, both in number and diversity, this was easily our biggest year yet. There were over 174 pieces of art from 74 different artists!

In addition to the art, the Beaverton School District's Signal To Noise youth media project (<http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/media/signal-to-noise/index.html>) furnished us with their 2012 videos on DVD. These videos were projected during the art show to add another kind of artistic media to the exhibit.

The People's Choice Award was voted on via ballot by the show's viewers (one vote per person), and then tallied after it closed. When the dust settled, Jordan Le's *Green Dragon* sculpture, constructed out of recycled wires and aluminum, was the clear winner! Westview High School received the \$50 Blick award for its art department, and homeschooled teens also



contributed an enormous amount of submissions.

The teen art show is one of the annual high points of our programming schedules. It is such a tremendous pleasure to see the outpouring of creativity and enthusiasm and provide teens a forum to have their hard work displayed and recognized by the community. We had a door tally of 598 visitors this year, and the opening ceremony was enthusiastically attended by artists and their family members! Onward to the Eleventh Annual Teen Art Show in November of 2013!

Put the “Give” in Thanksgiving by Sonja Somerville, Teen Services Librarian, Salem Public Library

I got to thinking one day about the value of encouraging teens to help others – and the idea for Put the “Give” in Thanksgiving was born. The basic idea was simple: first, work with community agencies to find something people could make that would help the agency; then, put together the needed supplies; and finally, invite the community to “pay it forward” by using their time and talents to create the item – and leave it with us to deliver to the community agencies. This last was the most difficult to some visitors, who really wanted to keep what they made, but most people embraced the spirit of the thing.

I was also delighted when the idea took off inside the library. Although my initial pitch was focused just on teens, we ended up making a decision to conduct the program in the middle of the main floor and invite the whole community to “pay it forward.”

We’ve done the program for two years, attracting hundreds of participants and creating – in total – more than 1,000 items donated to community partners.

Over the two years, specific components included:

Cat and dog toys donated to the Willamette Humane Society.



The Humane Society was kind enough to supply patterns for cat and dog toys made of fleece. We added jingle bells to the tied cat toys as a special flourish. I let the staff and a couple of friends know I needed fleece scraps and I believe I still have enough to carry on for a third year. The biggest challenge with these was starting well ahead of time pre-cutting the strips of fleece. It took a lot of volunteer time, but have the fleece pre-cut made it quite easy for people of all ages to participate.



A story/coloring book and audiobook donated to Family Building Blocks.

I designed a simple book of familiar (and copyright-free) traditional nursery rhymes illustrated with Microsoft line-drawing clip art, leaving a large space on the front so community members could design a cover. We supplied the books and markers, crayons, and colored pencils. Nearby, we had a volunteer in a small room with a digital recorder and invited visitors to read one of the rhymes. Later, we chose a selection of the nicest sounding recordings and put together a CD featuring 20 community members reading the 20 rhymes in the book. I burned and labeled these later and packaged them with the books to offer Family Building Blocks clients a “read along” literacy experience.

Thank you cards for soldiers.

Card blanks and envelopes were the centerpiece for a table filled with markers, crayons, stamps and stamp pads, stickers, bits of colored paper, decorate scissors, stick-on jewels and all manner of pretty things so people could create a thank you card and express their sentiments to military personnel. We also had a few pre-printed cards available for folks who were feeling grateful, but not creative.

Military care boxes mailed overseas.

Placed near the thank you card area, this was the one component that asked for a donation of more than time and talent. Community members were asked to bring items to be sent to active military personnel. Lists of the “most wanted”

items were published online and in the media releases. They were extremely generous, which was very gratifying. The Post Office supplies standard-sized boxes that can be packed and sent for a flat fee to military personnel. I would encourage anyone who tries this part, however, to have a flexible source for postage or perhaps work with a military-affiliated partner who agrees to do the mailing.

Craft kits for kids donated to both the Boys and Girls Club of Salem and Community Action Head Start.

I designed a series of simple “bug puppets” were made of pre-cut paper shapes and a popsicle stick. Community members packaged all the parts with instructions for the child about putting the toy together. In this way, we were giving the children an activity instead of just a completed item. We also offered a more “free form” craft kit that included a paper plate cut into the base for a mask. That table was covered with containers of feathers, bits of paper, jewels, yarn, sticky foam shapes, and other bling so visitors would pack the kit with everything a child would need to create an amazing disguise.



None of the supplies were particularly expensive and many elements were easily found for us among the bins of leftover bits from other crafty programs. Because there were many tables, we did need about 6-8 volunteers to welcome visitors and get them started.

It has been tremendous fun and wonderful to see how people of all ages in the community embrace the idea of using their visit to the library to “pay it forward.”

Coming Soon!**2013 Mock Printz Workshop at Multnomah County Central Library**

There is still space for both teens and adults at the 2013 Mock Printz Workshop at Multnomah County Central Library on Saturday January 26 from 12-4pm. Register today for this free event by sending the name, library, and email address for each participant to Susan Smallsreed at susansm@multcolib.org.

As usual a short list of 10 of the best teen books of 2012 will be read, discussed, and then voted upon two days before the actual Printz Medal is announced at the ALA Annual meeting. Here are the details of the Oregon event.

Date: January 26, 2013

Time: Noon–4 p.m.

Location: US Bank Room, Central Library, Multnomah County Library

Address: 801 SW 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97205

Cost: FREE!

Food: Eat first or bring a lunch. Snacks & beverages available during the mid-afternoon break.

Maximum in-person audience: 40 adults, 20 teens – *registrations available on a first-come basis*

“Immortal City” by Scott Speer—Teen Book Review

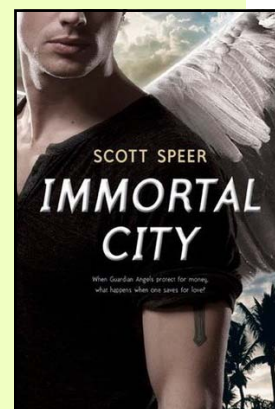
A Review by Gayatri of Cedar Mills Community Library

If you are a fan of the City of Bones (or books like it), you will enjoy *Immortal City* by Scott Speer.

This book is a mix of romance and a little action, but may appeal to both boys and girls. It is set in a world where angels live with humans as their protection, and as you can imagine, angels are extremely famous and adored by all teenagers- all except the heroine of the story, Maddy. She dislikes them because they only protect the humans

they are assigned to by their leaders and not all humans.

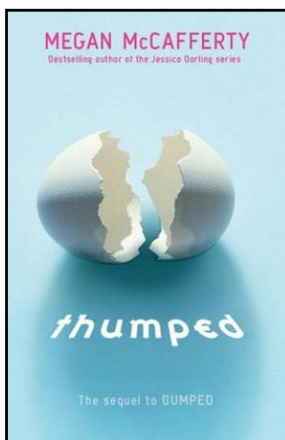
However, she soon meets Jackson Godspeed, the hottest angel in her city. Of course they fall in love- Maddie a little reluctantly at first- and they try to change the ways of the angels. Maddy starts to discover secrets about her past, and the book comes to a close in a very thrilling finale.



A mix of romance and action with appeal for both boys and girls.

“Thumped” by Megan McCafferty—Book Review

A Review by Anvita of the Cedar Mills Community Library



This sequel is strong enough to stand alone!

The sequel to Megan McCafferty's *Bumped, Thumped* starts 35 weeks after famous twins Melody and Harmony have separated and gone back to their previous lives. Harmony has gone back to Goodside, the pious conservative church community that she grew up in. Unfortunately, she isn't able to revive her faith in the principles of this world, nor can she get over the man she fell for, Jondoe. Back in Otherside, Melody keeps up a fake relationship with Jondoe for the sake of her fans while pining for her best friend, Zen. On the surface, it seems like the two twins have everything they could ever need- fame, stable lives and caring significant others. Only they know that this image is far from the truth, but can they really admit the truth to the world that hangs on to their every word and action?

Although this book is a sequel, it almost felt as if it could stand on its own. McCafferty establishes the setting so well at the beginning of the book that I didn't even realize that it was a sequel until about 70 pages into the book. I did, however, feel that the twins are the only characters in this book with enough depth. Zen especially seemed like a character with a lot of untapped potential. I really, really liked him right from when he was introduced in this book, but I wish I could have related more to him. It also took me a little while to adjust to the language and the world of this book in general. After I got into the book, though, it was very, very tough to put down. I would recommend this book to almost any reader, especially to high school girls.

“33 Minutes ... Until Morgan Sturtz Kicks My Butt” by Todd Hasak-Lowy

A Book Talk from Sonja Somerville, Salem Public Library

The Facts

224 pages; published January 2013

The Basics

Sam Lewis is in deep trouble and he knows it. Yesterday, Morgan Sturtz – the same guy who used to be Sam’s best friend – announced that he was going to kick Sam’s butt right after lunch. Just 33 minutes from now. Sam’s got a lot of thinking to do in those 33 minutes.

Booktalk

Sam Lewis is smart – Mathlete

smart. His best friend, Morgan Sturtz, is a star on the middle school football team. Wait – did I say best friend? I should have said USED TO BE best friend. Sam and Morgan became best friends way back on the day they worked together to win a big baseball game. Sam and Morgan were best friends just a couple of months ago on The Absolutely Most Amazing Day Ever when they played the most perfect, beautiful game possible of Alien Wars.

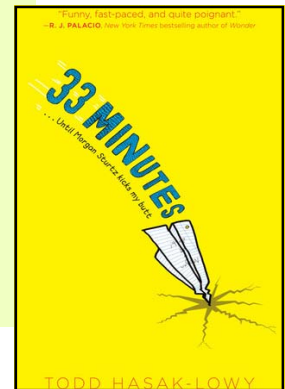
But Sam and Morgan aren’t best friends now. Morgan is going to kick Sam’s butt right after lunch – 33 minutes from now – and everyone in the

school knows it. Because Morgan and Sam haven’t been the same since Chris moved into town. And now Morgan has done something awful to Sam and maybe Sam has done something pretty awful to Morgan – because Morgan Sturtz is going to kick Sam’s butt.

Can anything save this friendship? Can anything save Sam’s butt?

Random Thoughts

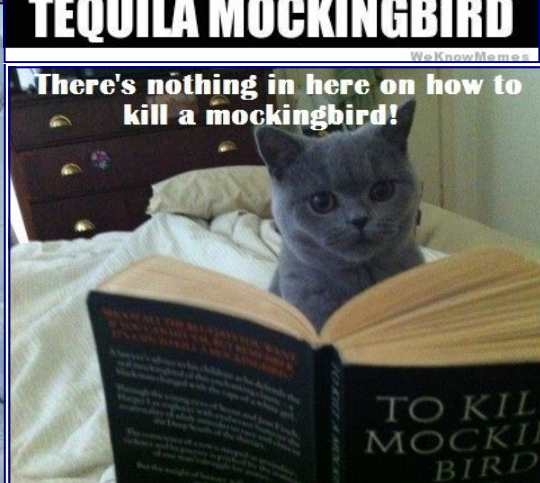
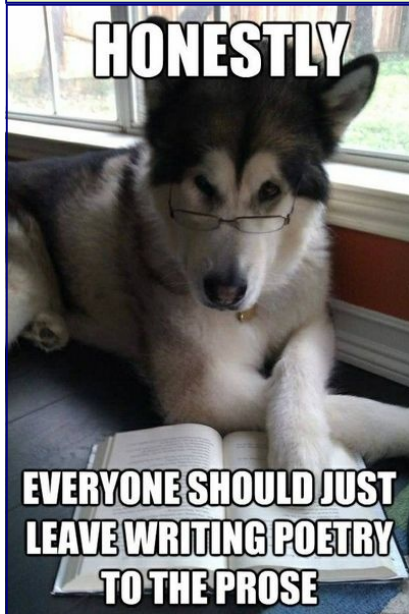
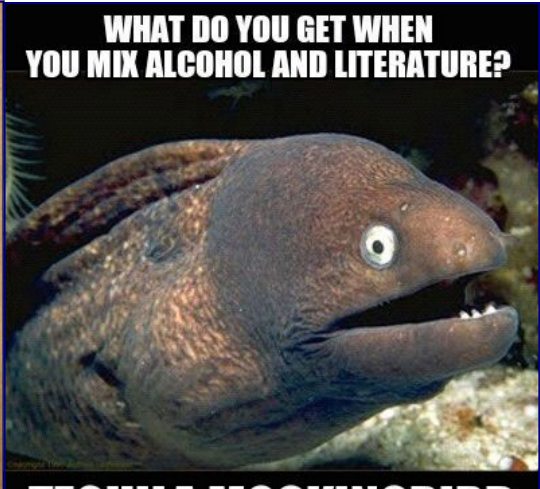
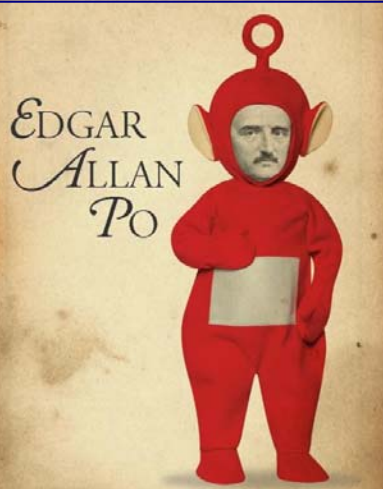
I’ve never met a live Mathlete. For me, they are only the stuff of books and TV shows. Are they real?



With 33 minutes until a scheduled butt-kicking, can anything save Sam Lewis?

Wall of Memes

- for the Literary Set -



Is there such a thing as reading too much?



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Winter Membership Meeting

Friday, January 18, 2013

Meeting 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Salem Public Library

585 Liberty St. SE

Salem, OR 97304

Tel: 503.588.6071

Meeting will be in Anderson Rooms A&B, located on the lower level at Salem Public Library.

Parking is metered at 50/hour.

Lunch can be purchased from the library's in-house café, Stone Soup Bistro (www.stonesoupbistrobakery.blogspot.com)

Sonja is taking pre-orders until 3 p.m. Thursday.

Upcoming Meetings

Winter 2013	January 18 11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Salem Public Library 585 Liberty St. SE Salem, OR 97304
Spring 2013	May 10 11 a.m.-3 p.m.	The Dalles Public Library 722 Court St The Dalles, OR 97058 541-296-2815
Summer 2013		

OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries.

Visit us online at <http://www.olaweb.org/oayan/>