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# Oyan Review

oregon young adult network

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## Why We Don't Have a Teen Library Council by, Anna Bruce; Happy Valley Library

Three plus years ago, when I started at my new job, we were still in a store front without much extra space and no programs beyond the weekly storytime. We were planning for a big move into a new building with an actual Teen Space, not just an old office with the door removed. With a few months to get ready, I formed a Teen Library Council. They signed up and met monthly, plan-

ning programs for the Summer Reading Program, providing ideas for the Teen Space, and giving feedback on growing the collection.

After the move, an incredibly successful summer, and the beginning of a school year in our new space, the Council continued to meet. At the same time, teen volunteers, who had provided help with summer programs,

asked for continued opportunities to contribute during the school year. Month after month the attendance at Council meetings dwindled. I played with the format, adding projects and brainstorming, but had no change in participation. Meanwhile volunteer hours continued to climb. I suddenly had 4-6 teens helping each weekend, prepping story-



Teens help with Summer Reading Activities, like face painting at our Party in the Park

time crafts, cleaning baby toys, and decorating bulletin boards.

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## YALSA: A National-Local Conference by, Ian Duncanson; Beaverton City Library

It was a pleasure to attend my first YALSA conference courtesy of an OYAN scholarship. I had been to many OLA and ALA conferences, but I didn't know quite what to expect from a national YA librarian-focused gathering. I immediately appreciated the smaller, more manageable conference size right from the start,

and the comradery among YA librarians was unmistakable! It's always funny trying to explain this to library world outsiders, or even those within the library world who work outside of youth services (AKA the BEST place), but there's a certain dynamic energy and creative flow that can always be detected

when you have a roomful of librarians who serve teens and kids.

On Saturday, I attended "Full STEAM Ahead" (Scratch coding), "New Adulthood: Literature and Services for NA Patrons," the William C Morris Author Forum and "A Series of Unfortunate Events" (LGBTQ young

adults transitioning into college life). We have done Scratch coding on a small scale at the BCL with our Code Academy Programs, so it was interesting to see what other libraries are doing. If you haven't tried out Scratch yet, give it a shot! It's so easy that even luddites like me can learn to code a really basic game in

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# Why We Don't Have a Teen Library Council cont.

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So after a year in the new building I decided to quit Teen Library Council. The Council had fulfilled its mission to get our teen program ready to go at our new library space. The teen volunteers coming in regularly didn't want to go to a meeting,

they wanted to help. And it's been great.

Every couple of months I send out the days and times I need help, whether with behind-the-scenes activities like craft prep or at our programs helping with crafts and cleaning up. I have a core group of volunteers who

come weekly or monthly as their schedule allows. I also have students from the local middle schools in leadership classes who rotate in to complete 4-6 hours of service in a quarter. My "regulars" act as mentors to these occasional volunteers, teaming up to complete tasks.

Each month these volunteers provide an average of 35 hours of service. When summer rolls around I have a trained group of teens ready to help with the craziness that is Summer Reading. They know the drill and get to work. They rope their friends in to help and show them how it's done.

With a busy program schedule and a hectic library, the help that these volunteers have provided is invaluable. They are committed, friendly, and so very helpful!



Volunteers clean supplies and prep storytime materials

## Book in a Jar Contest: A Teen Passive Program by, Julie Botting; Hillsboro Public Library

I wanted to do some passive programming in our Young Adult area which would engage the teens but not need supervision. I also wanted to keep the costs to a minimum. While searching on the Internet (and Pinterest) for ideas, I ran across a Book in a Jar Contest. Basically, you shred a book and put it into a clear jar, then put it out along with some entry forms. Teens have to guess which book it is from the sentences

that show through the jar, fill out the entry form and turn it in.

I chose to put mine out for a month at a time and collect the entry forms throughout the month as the entry box fills up. The contest is limited to teens in grades 6-12. To motivate the teens even more to participate, I offered prizes. Two winners are drawn from the correct guesses at the end of the month. The prize is win-

ner's choice: either a book or a gift packet (journal + multi-colored pen | journal + 12-pack of pencils | colored pencils + erasers + sharpener). They've chosen the gift packets so far.

Most work went into the initial setup for designing the sign and entry form, locating and purchasing supplies and prizes, and shredding the first book. After that, it's just re-



The eye-catching display

stocking entry forms, along with the monthly update: shred and replace the book; contact the winners; and put out an updated answer sign.

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## This Year's OYEA! Winner is Amy Wilde



Amy Wilde accepts the 2016 OYEA! award

Congratulations are due to Amy Wilde, librarian at Cascade Middle School in Bend. Amy is the 2016 winner of OYAN's You're Excellent Award (OYEA!), which was presented at the Oregon Library Association's annual conference in April. In addition to her varied work in the school library, Amy was commended for teaching engaging lessons on research and leading the school's Where Everyone Belongs group of student leaders who organize welcoming activities and teach lessons to

other students. She is, it was noted, innovative, resourceful, and inspiring to be around.

Amy was nominated by April Witteveen of the Deschutes Public Library with the support of her colleagues and many, many students who wrote heartfelt letters detailing how Amy has impacted their lives as readers and as people. Just some of their compliments for her included:

- She has helped many readers like me fall deeper in love with reading.
- She spends so much time making sure things are orderly in the library and everywhere else.
- She shows true compassion for all students.
- Her enthusiasm fills the room and seeps in to those around her.
- She is honest, supportive, focused, humorous, committed, positive, creative, and passionate.

- She showed me how awesome the book collection at the library is, but also created awesome after school, before school, and during lunch programs like lunch n' movies, movie nights, and multiple clubs.
- Everyone at our school – reader or not – knows who Mrs. Wilde is. Not just because she is silly or crazy, but because, no matter who you are, Mrs. Wilde can find a book for you.
- Amy has an amazing collection of crazy hats, wigs, and silly costumes that can bring a smile to even the toughest teen's face.
- [Miss Wilde has taught me] we should not be judged by our differences, we should embrace them. I may not be the same, but that is not bad. Mrs. Wilde has taught me the word unique, and unique is a beautiful word.

## 2016 Book Rave List has Been Announced

The 2016 OYAN Book Rave has been announced! This list celebrating the best of young adult literature from the previous year is revealed each year at the Oregon Library Association's annual conference. This year's list has 21 stellar titles published between November 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015.

Books are nominated and later voted on by the members of the Oregon Young Adult Network.

Now that the list is available (in printable PDF - both [color](#) and [b/w](#)), the rest is up to you. Print it! Share it! Show it to teens! Create displays! Help

Oregon teens find and read these exemplary books. Also, stay alert for your opportunity to be a part of developing these best lists. A call for Graphic Novels is out now, for a list that will be announced in October. We'll start looking for new Book Rave nominations in August.

# YALSA: A National-Local Conference cont.

-cont from page 1- an hour or two, and it's FREE! There were fun Scratch challenge sheets available at PLA that we're looking forward to using at our own programs.

The 'New Adult' panel was booktalks on a selection of popular 'New Adult' titles – for those who don't know, 'New Adult' is the 'sexy' older sibling of YA. I wasn't completely aware of the genre, so I thought the booktalks were useful to hear. It doesn't necessarily sound like something I'd be personally into, but it's good to know that there's an alternative you can direct patrons who have outgrown your teen room to. I loved the panel on library collaborations helping LGBTQ teens transition into college life. It helps that I am a big fan of Mariko

Tamaki and David Levithan. Sunday's sessions – "Yes You Can!" on creating teen buy-in and getting staff support was interesting. It was all about changing the culture at libraries to be more accepting of teens and teen programming, and we brainstormed ways to improve our teen spaces. I'm really fortunate to work at a library with an accepting, supportive staff when it comes to teens in the library, a dedicated space and programming, but you can never have too much advocacy. I finished the day attending another session on digital literacy and teens, where they discussed Makey Makey, Arduino and Scratch programming in the library. I'm always looking for more tech-based programming, which seems to be the biggest draw at the BCL. Seeing this session actually motivated me

to implement a successful LEGO stop-motion videos program, which I'm repeating this summer.

The conference was capped with the AWESOME free book and author meet bazaar. I don't need to tell anyone how much fun this was, but getting to meet Jack Gantos and tell him I had just booktalked *Hole in My Life* to a high school class who laughed was a high point. His response? "Funniest bust ever!" It was also great talking to Blake Nelson, Cathy Camper, Gene Yang and all of the other fun, creative minds behind dynamic teen fiction. I'd recommend the YALSA conference to anyone in youth services who wants an informative, teen-focused event that doesn't wear you out like other conferences can tend to do. 2016 is in Pittsburgh!

# Book in a Jar Contest—a teen passive program cont.

-cont. from page 2- February 2016: *Divergent* by Veronica Roth. 71 entries, 64 correct answers. March 2016: *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor. 61 entries, 41 correct.

My favorite entry for March: "The hobbit or Lord of the Rings" with a side note "I am not exactly guesing (sic) it seems right."

With such a great response during the first two months, I plan to continue the program through May 2016. I'll give it a break during Summer Reading, then bring it back for the rest of the year.

BOOK-IN-A-JAR  
**Entry Form**

**What's Your Guess?**  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**Best way to contact you if you win:**  
 Phone/Voicemail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone/Text: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

Sample entry form

OYAN: Finding great reads for Oregon teens!



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 Email: iduncanson@beaverton.gov  
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 Phone: 503.697.6580

**Publications Manager**

Keli Yeats, Multnomah County Library —  
 Rockwood Branch  
 Email: keliy@multcolib.org  
 Phone: 503.988.3596

**Web Editor/CSLP Liason**

K'Lyn Hann, Newberg Public Library  
 Email: klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations to Amy Wilde from Cascade Middle School. She is the recipient of this year's OYEA! Award!**

**Welcome to Anna Bruce from Happy Valley Library as she joins us as our ORCA liason.**

**The OYAN raffle sold 676 tickets earning us more than \$3,000**

**Don't forget to vote in the OLA Board elections. Read about the candidates [here](#).**

We welcome all your comments, articles, photos, book reviews, ideas, and suggestions for future OYAN Review newsletters!  
 Please submit to  
[oyanpublications@gmail.com](mailto:oyanpublications@gmail.com).

**Upcoming Meetings**

Spring 2016	May 6, 2016	Cottage Grove Public Library
Summer 2016	July 22, 2016	The Dalles-Wasco Public Library
Fall 2016	TBD	TBD

*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://tinyurl.com/8mzjq5n>.**