



January 16, 2009

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/oyan/>**

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Happy New Year!

(Paper cut by the artists at Sino Paper Art, www.sinopaperart.com)

ARTICLES

YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium

OYAN Scholarship Recipient Report
April Witteveen, Teen Services Librarian
Bend Public Library
aprilw@dpls.us

As soon as I saw the early advertising for the YALSA lit conference, I knew I had to go. I'm sure we can all appreciate the lure of getting to geek out over teen books for 3 days, and Nashville is always a fun time. I applied for an OYAN scholarship to help cover some of my lodging costs, and in exchange for the scholarship I'm writing to tell OYAN about my experience.

I signed up for the "Picturing the Story: Teen Readers Get Graphic @ Your Library" preconference on Friday the 7th. As the material selector for both the teen and adult graphic novel/manga collections for DPL, attending this was a no-brainer. The day began with a panel discussion of how graphic novels are created, and how they fit in libraries. A manga publishing representative was on the panel, as well as manga creator Svetlana Chmakova (writes the series *Dramacon*), Nashville Public Library Teen Librarian Angela Frederick, and two of Angela's die-hard manga-reading patrons, Andrew and Seth.

Svetlana began with a fun presentation on her creative process, and how she came to the world of manga. As the panel discussion progressed, it was very cool to hear the two teen boys talk about why they enjoy reading manga: the stories can be funny, the art is important, it's something different than a "regular" book, etc. The question and answer period led to audience members wanting a full run-down of the teens' favorite manga, which you can now find on the YA Lit Conference wiki:
http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/2008_Young_Adult_Literature_Symposium#Andrew_and_Seth.27s_Manga_Lists.

The rest of the preconference was great, as well. A school librarian from Austin presented some manga basics, and Peggy Burns from Drawn and Quarterly gave a great presentation on some adult graphic novels that would have great teen crossover-appeal. If I ever give up the librarian gig, I'm going after Peggy's job! Undoubtedly, the highlight of the day was Gene Luen Yang. He's the creator of *American Born Chinese*, a fantastic graphic novel that was a finalist for the Printz Award a couple of years back. He was charmingly nerdy, witty, and a much better speaker than you might expect of an ex-high school computer teacher. Needless to say, I had to get a photo with him.

The day wrapped up with a meet and greet cocktail party. Other authors were starting to arrive at the hotel, and everyone was buzzing about who they'd get to see the next day at the regular conference sessions.

Saturday morning I attended the Never Enough Nonfiction session. I was looking forward to learning about some great titles to add to DPL's teen nonfiction section, an area that tends to see fairly low circulation. The author of *No Choirboy*, Susan Kuklin, spoke about writing her book about teens convicted as adults of capital crimes. I knew this book would be a hit on the high school circuit, and proceeded to bring it on my next school visit upon returning home.

Next up was Reading Between Cultures, a presentation by the author Mitali Perkins. This was an outstanding, eye-opening session. Mitali had the audience consider very critically the books we offer teens in a hope to reflect their cultural experience. She spoke about several of the stereotypes that exist for non-white fictional characters, and she gave us 6

questions to ask ourselves when considering “multicultural” literature. I could write a whole paper on this presentation alone, including the short film Mitali showed called “A Girl Like Me,” in which a cast of non-white teen girls talk about their experiences living between cultures in the U.S. Mitali posted a blog entry about her presentation here: <http://www.mitaliblog.com/2008/11/books-between-cultures-at-yalsas-ya-lit.html>.

After lunch, I attended the Beyond the Rainbow Cannon: Books for LGBT Teens presentation. I’m always seeking out titles with LGBT characters, and the two presenters also talked about books that, while they may not be specifically written with LGBT teens in mind, will still address issues that affect them (just like all teens!): loneliness, friendship, abuse, family issues, and more. There was also some discussion on how best to get LGBT-themed books into the hands of those who need them, how to retain these titles that so often wind up missing, and how to make your library and teen area a visibly safe space for LGBT teens.

To make it a hugely full day, there was a fourth session to attend. I chose to hear Rollie Welch, a hilarious ex-teen librarian turned collection development manager in Cleveland, talk about street lit and other genres “out of the mainstream.” While there’s not currently a huge demand for street lit in Deschutes County, it’s still important to know about new trends.

That evening was another meet and greet, this time featuring the authors who had come to Nashville for the conference. I was thrilled to meet Julie Ann Peters (another geeky photo op!), and I also got to meet Barry Lyga and gush to him about how much I love his stories. Despite this event capping off a huge day, I was still able to meet up with some new friends and head to downtown Nashville for some tasty food, free music, and karaoke (which is very, very, serious in Nashville—you never know when you’ll get discovered!!).

Sunday morning came rather early. I grabbed a seat in a packed hall to hear Coe Booth, Barry Lyga, Julie Ann Peters, and two YALSA big-names (Teri Lesesne and Rosemary Chance) talk on the Hit List or Hot List: How Teens Read Now. The three authors took turns talking about their experiences with writing and publishing edgy books for teen readers. Most interesting to me was hearing Barry talk about his book *Boy Toy*. He was kind of bummed that it wasn’t causing as much of a stir as he had hoped...until he found out the book wasn’t even making it to several bookstores’ shelves because of its perceived “inappropriate” content. Ms. Peters got several of us getting out the Kleenex as she shared stories of teens who wrote to her saying her books saved their life, helped them accept who they are, etc. Coe Booth talked about her books *Tyrell* and *Kendra*, and she was delightful. The three of them helped reinforce the importance of making “dangerous” books available to our teen patrons, and the value of opening dialogue about the topics in these books.

That closed out the conference for me...I finished off my stay in Nashville with one more visit downtown for barbeque, the Nashville Public Library (a great Carnegie building), and a stop into a shop selling cowboy boots at the ridiculous bargain cost of “buy one, get 2 pairs free.”

I had a fantastic time at the Lit Conference, and look forward to the next one to be held in New Mexico in 2010 (you should all go). If you’re curious about what else went on at the conference, there are lots of podcasts from YALSA here: <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/tag/ya-lit-symposium/>

Thanks, OYAN!

First Thursday at Tualatin Public Library

Aimee Meuchel, Teen Services Librarian
Tualatin Public Library
ameuchel@ci.tualatin.or.us

On December 4th, I partnered with the art teacher at Hazelbrook Middle School, Chelsey Peterson, to put on a show of student artwork in the Teen Room at the library. Around 50 pieces of art were featured in the show, both pictures and ceramics. Hors d'oeuvres were made by the middle school home ec classes. We hoped around 80 people would come and enjoy the show, but over 130 came! It was a fun night. We had many people come who hadn't yet been to see our new library. And we plan on doing this again in April or May and hopefully include the high school and elementary schools.

To advertise, we printed special invitations that were given to every student at Hazelbrook. We also dropped off invitations around Tualatin local business. The art teacher, Chelsey Peterson, was instrumental in making this a success. Her students were thrilled to have a venue for their art. The pieces are in the Teen Room into January. Having art in the room has changed the atmosphere. It is much warmer and more welcoming. It is also fun to see new teens in the room and overhear, "I drew that"! This program is hopefully the start of many more like it.

The OYAN Raffle Coming to a Conference Near You...

Letter to Potential Raffle Winners

K'Lynn Hann
Newburg Public Library
klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us

Dear Potential OYAN Raffle winners,

Once you have bought your ticket(s), you could be a winner. But what would YOU like to win? As one of those possible winners, Susan Smallreed (susansm@multcolib.org) or I (klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us) would like to hear from you. We're currently rounding up some of the regular prizes like Sylvia Beach, but we'd like to know if you have any ideas for something you'd like to win. Please let one of us know as soon as possible so that we have time to follow through with your idea.

Thanks for your support,
K'Lyn Hann

Newberg Public Library
ph: 503.554.7732

Letter to Raffle Supporters

K'Lynn Hann
Newberg Public Library
klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us

Dear OYAN Raffle supporters,

Many of you have supported OYAN's biggest (okay, more like only) fundraiser by buying raffle tickets. Some of you know that part of the support also comes from donations of items for the gift baskets or whole gift baskets. You're welcome to contribute items or baskets for this year's raffle. Please contact me (klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us) or Susan Smallreed (susansm@multcolib.org) by March 1st to coordinate getting those items or baskets to us.

Thanks for your support,
K'Lyn Hann
Newberg Public Library
ph: 503.554.7732

YA Material REVIEWS

Book Reviews

Kristin Starnes, OYAN Chair
Youth Services Librarian
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
Kristin.Starnes@ci.corvallis.or.us

Confession of a Triple Shot Betty by Jody Gehrman follows the life of 16-year-old Geena, working in a drive-up coffee shop during the summer in Sonoma, California. Geena is super excited to spend the summer with her two best friends, Amber and her cousin Hero. But Amber is a sassy, explicit-talking, tattoo-obsessed girl with a reputation and Hero is a beautiful, smart, sheltered rich girl home for the summer from her private boarding school. As you'd expect, the two girls instantly don't like each other and Geena's plans for a summer hanging out as the "three musketeers" seems unlikely from the start. Throw in a handful of hot guys, romantic triangles, and MySpace sabotage...and you've suddenly got a much more interesting summer full of newfound friendships and plots of revenge. This is a modern tale inspired by Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and will be appreciated by fans of *Gossip Girl* read-alikes.

Mark Richardson
Cedar Mill Community Library
MarkR@wcccls.org

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<http://sonofrich.wordpress.com/category/young-adult-lit/>

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart

Is Frankie Landau-Banks too smart to be believed? I'm not sure, but she is smart, self-possessed and confident in unique ways that not every 15 year old younger sister would be. In *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart, we are introduced to Frankie by learning that she has changed from a gawky 14 year old debate geek into a beautiful young woman with a handsome boyfriend as a Sophomore. But her boyfriend is keeping secrets from her and she is determined to find out what they are. As she uncovers the male only secret society that exists on her ritzy preparatory high school campus, Frankie sets out to manipulate and control the group to prove to herself that girls can prank as well as boys, even if the boys won't allow it. Lockhart works in references to Foucault and his panopticon that will appeal to smart readers curious about philosophy or gender roles in society. While the book is enjoyable and well written, I fear the appeal will be limited to girls who are college bound, and maybe that just who the author had in mind when she wrote it. I did enjoy reading a story where getting and keeping a boyfriend was not the ultimate goal for the protagonist. For Frankie, the fact that the boyfriend did not truly see the real Frankie and allow her to be a part of his world was the death nail for their romance. His discovery of her betrayal didn't help either. But lessons were learned and hopefully everyone was better for it in the end. Frankie looks to be a formidable young woman by the end and that, too, is as the author intended.

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Gennifer Choldenko

This was an enjoyable story about two teens who were struggling to fit in at their school and the variety of obstacles that make this effort at "normal" difficult for them. Then Choldenko sees fit to drop a bombshell in the middle of the story that I really didn't see coming. This completely changed the feel and trajectory of the story and took the rather light tale into slightly deeper territory. The book still works and the characters are all still relatable and likable, but it could have easily come off the rails.

The story follows Kirsten, an overweight 12 year old dealing with old friends looking for new social circles to travel in and parents who are talking about divorce. Walker is an African-American student who has transferred to Kirsten's upper-class school to get a better education. When the two of them get detention for being late to class, they begin to know each other better. Their connection gets stronger throughout the book (though not in the way you may be thinking), until it leads to the major plot point of the book. This event leads Walker on a search for his own identity until he ultimately comes to accept that he is who he is no matter what new information about his past comes up. Choldenko decides to end the book there but I would have enjoyed experiencing the new status quo between Kirsten and Walker as well as the other characters as they learned about Walk's past. Maybe that will be fodder for a sequel, though I won't hold my breath. Overall, an enjoyable read that would work for any middle school library.

Ian Duncanson
Young Adult Librarian
Beaverton City Library
iduncanson@ci.beaverton.or.us

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

Teenage hacker Marcus and his friends thought they were experts at computer subterfuge, having mastered their school's surveillance measures and written their own computer code at home. When a major terrorist attack occurs in their home city of San Francisco, Marcus & co. happen to be skipping school to go gaming and are caught up in a Department of Homeland Security dragnet, detained and tortured at an undisclosed location. Rather than letting it destroy his will, Marcus aims to organize dissidents and bring down the DHS's iron fist via an underground X-Box gaming network.

"Little Brother" is a fast-paced, modern sci-fi novel that deals with timely issues like constitutional rights in a time of terror, prisoner torture and "big brother" technology. Marcus is a strong lead character, and you will cheer as he both talks the talk and walks the walk, battling DHS jackboots and putting his life on the line for freedom. The story careens from one dangerous situation to the next at neck-breaking speed, slowing down occasionally to describe the finer points of computer security, codebreaking and hacking. Fear not - these asides weave well into the story and are highly informative. Fans of modern sci-fi, George Orwell and healthy dissent will really enjoy this.

Punk Rock Etiquette: The Ultimate How-To Guide for DIY, Punk, Indie, and Underground Bands by Travis Nichols

Whether you've got a dream punk band in your head or have been bashing out tunes in the basement / garage for a few months, this is the book for you! One could argue that "punk rock etiquette" is an oxymoron in and of itself, but Travis Nichols guides you through the dos and don'ts of picking band members, naming the band, writing songs, purchasing (and subsequently learning) musical instruments, recording, touring and more! And what better way to do this than through a series of hilarious examples, vignettes and cartoons? You don't have to be into underground tunes or even playing music to get a chuckle out of this little guidebook.

Audio Book Reviews

Lee Catalano

Multnomah County Library

leec@multcolib.org

The Compound by S.A. Bodeen. Read by Christopher Lane. Brilliance Audio, 2008.

Eli and his two sisters, his mother and father escaped nuclear devastation six years ago through his wealthy father's foresight in preparing an underground shelter for them to live in for 15 years. Unfortunately, in their race to the Compound they left behind Eli's nine-year-old twin brother Eddy, his mother's mother, and his chocolate lab Cocoa. Eli considers himself the "evil" twin, and is convinced that it was his selfishness that left Eddy behind. As a result, he has cut himself off literally from human contact, and just fills his endless days in the Compound with schoolwork, fitness, reading and his chores in the hydroponic garden. One day, Eli happens upon the computer that Eddy would have been using in their early days in the Compound. Eli had an identical computer, but his father replaced it shortly after their arrival, saying it needed upgrading. On Eddy's computer, though, the icon for accessing the Internet is still there. And when Eli clicks on this, he finds that he is online. He soon discovers that the wireless cloud only exists in and near his father's locked office. In secret, Eli accesses the Internet and finds himself im-ing Eddy ... and learning that there was no nuclear war. Eddy and his grandmother believed the family had died in a fiery car crash. It turns out that everyone but Dad wants to get out of the Compound; unfortunately, only Dad has the key to the door. Narrator Christopher Lane, portraying Eli, reads with clipped lack of emotion at the beginning of the story, then warms with passion and action as the plot progresses. His portrayal of Eli's father, megalomaniac extraordinaire, was

positively terrifying -- powerful and threatening. It's a tremendously exciting race between them to the Compound's exit.

Deadline by Chris Crutcher. Read by Steven Boyer. Recorded Books, 2008.

Ben Wolf learns in a pre-season physical for cross-country that he has a very fast-moving form of leukemia which will kill him within the year. He decides to tell no one so that he will be treated normally in the time he has left, but he decides to use his time wisely and do some things he's always wanted to do. Ben plays football for the first time, and has the thrill of winning a game as he catches a very tough pass from his brother, Cody, the quarterback. He meets and becomes the boyfriend of the girl of his dreams, Dallas Suzuki. He makes deep connections with the town drunk and with his football coach. Nearing the end, he does reveal his illness to family and friends, and then he dies. I'm not very fond of Crutcher's form of bibliotherapy, and if I had read this book I think that I would have quickly rejected its melodramatic premise. But as audio, I believed it. I blame the narrator. Steven Boyer read with conviction. He probably thought the story was as ridiculous and overblown as I did, but you'd never know it with his reading. He believed in what he was reading, and so I believed. He read Ben with the right amount of snarky, teenage superiority, while leaving plenty of room for quiet introspection and dreamy conversations with a figment of his imagination, the creatively named Hey-soos. A great audiobook narrator can take mediocre material and make it great. Boyer does that here.

Fairest by Gail Carson Levine. Read by Sarah McNaughton and the Full Cast Family. Full Cast Audio, 2007.

Foundling Aza is raised by the loving proprietors of the Featherbed Inn in the country of Ayortha. Aza doesn't resemble Ayorthans -- she towers over most of them and her features aren't delicate and refined. Still, she does possess what Ayorthans value the most: A beautiful singing voice and a talent for composing. Aza has an additional musical talent: She can "illuse," or throw, her voice, imitating those of others. Aza visits the court of Ayortha at the time of the king's wedding, and -- when the new queen Ivi discovers her "illusing" -- is soon forced to sing for the queen. All too soon, this secret -- coupled with a mysterious mirror that offers Aza a vision of a more beautiful self -- threatens to destroy her happiness and very possibly her life. This is a fairy tale, so good prevails and Aza learns to love herself as others do -- for who she is, not what she looks like. *Fairest* was meant to be interpreted in the audio format. Instead of reading the lines of poetry that Levine has written, your ears are filled with lovely singing voices adding texture and interest. The Full Cast Family of actors, led by Sarah McNaughton -- reading and singing as Aza -- are uniformly excellent. They read their parts with authenticity and character, and they can sing too! You could read this book, but why would you when you can listen to it?

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. Read by the author. Recorded Books, 2008.

A rather sinister man with a knife has dispatched the family living in an old house, all except for the toddler sleeping on the top floor. This child -- who has just learned how to walk -- slips out of his crib and bumps down the stairs and out the door, and makes his way to the nearby graveyard; it's no longer used to bury people, but its residents are still fairly active at night. When the baby arrives, they all seem to know that he needs protection. Mr. and Mrs. Owens take him in, calling him Nobody. The Owenses need someone who is not dead to help them care for Bod -- someone who can leave the graveyard for food and clothing and the like -- and the mysterious Silas steps forward as guardian. Silas isn't dead, but he's not alive either. As Bod grows up, he has numerous adventures in and out of the graveyard. Some adventures are humorous, some poignant, and some downright scary. Because the man Jack who murdered his family needs to finish the job, no matter how long it takes. Fortunately -- until Bod is old enough to deal with Jack himself -- Silas, the Owens, the wonderful Mrs. Lupescu (teacher and werewolf), Liza (buried in unconsecrated ground because she was a witch), and his other friends and neighbors are there to teach him about

the world. Gaiman has created a world that feels very real, and is populated by an array of characters who clearly hold a place in the author's affections. I can tell this because of how he reads this book: Gaiman can be droll, he can be scary, he can be moving all with equal skill. Unlike many authors who read their own books, Gaiman is very good. He creates distinct characters and consistently voices them throughout the story. He knows when to be dramatic, and when to let the story tell itself. A delightful performance.

Graphic Novel Review

Mark Richardson
Cedar Mill Community Library
MarkR@wcccls.org

Pilfered (with permission) from:
<http://cmclquickpicks.wordpress.com/category/graphic-novels/>

Local by Brian Wood and Ryan Kelley

This is a great graphic novel and a nicely designed book from local publisher Oni Press. It chronicles the journey of Megan, a young woman in her twenties, by telling her story one issue/chapter/city at a time. The story starts in Portland and shows Megan at a turning point in her young life. When confronted with a difficult decision, she imagines what her life would be like if she makes different choices. All end badly for her and she ultimately decides to get away from her life (and boyfriend) to avoid her problem. This sets in motion a decade's worth of movement and growing pains as Megan moves from city to city trying to figure out who she is and who she wants to be. In some chapters, she is central to the story, while in others, she is on the periphery as other characters come forward and affect her. In each city, Wood and Kelley take the time to learn about the city and environment in order to depict it accurately. They got photos and stories about each place from the many contributors on the book's [website](#). It's fun to see the Nob Hill Pharmacy and Union Station depicted in the first chapter. The story takes Megan to some interesting places and she is not always the most likable character, but the conclusion is well done and her growth is evident by the end. One of the best graphic novels I've read this year.

Professional Resource Review

Kristin Starnes, OYAN Chair
Youth Services Librarian
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
kristin.starnes@ci.corvallis.or.us

The Hipster Librarian's Guide to Teen Craft Projects by Tina Coleman and Peggie Llanes

We've all been there. A great teen program idea, a lot of prep work, money invested, awesome posters and flyers distributed, and even advertised online, but only 2 teens (or worse – zero!) show up to the actual program. This seems like a never-ending conversation between librarians serving teens. What to do? A new professional resource from ALA Editions (2009), ***The Hipster Librarian's Guide to Teen Craft Projects*** by Tina Coleman and Peggie Llanes just might offer some answers for the librarian in need of unique ideas for creative teen programming. As stated in the book's introduction, "Teens want something they can't get elsewhere, something that they can become personally involved in, not just as passive viewers, but as active participants." The projects listed

inside cover step-by-step instructions accompanied by photographs, reproducible handouts, and even website devoted to more ideas. The website was still under construction when I visited it, but it looks promising. Overall, this book contains unique, artsy ideas for DIY, recycle and reuse, low-cost programs with teens.

OYAN QUARTERLY MEETING (January 30, 2009)

OYAN is a membership organization that exists to provide a network of 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 school and public libraries. If you are interested in learning more about OYAN or becoming a member please visit our website at <http://www.olaweb.org/oayan/>.

Driving Directions to Corvallis-Benton Public Library

645 NW Monroe Ave
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 766-6793
www.thebestlibrary.net/
CONTACT PERSON: Kristin Starnes

From I-5 (North or South):

Take EXIT 228, OR-34 toward Corvallis
Turn LEFT onto NW 4th Street
Turn RIGHT onto NW Jackson
Turn LEFT onto NW 5th Street
Turn RIGHT onto NW Monroe Avenue
End at 645 NW Monroe Ave

Parking

Street parking is a mix of metered, free and two-hour spaces. The parking lot and garage behind the library is metered.

Agenda (tentative)

**OYAN Quarterly Business Meeting
Corvallis-Benton Public Library
Friday, January 30, 2009
11 am-3 pm**

1. Introductions
 - a. Attendees
 - b. Additions to Agenda

2. Old Business
 - a. Review/approve October 25, 2008 OYAN minutes
 - b. Review Financial report