

OYAN REVIEW OCTOBER 2005



It's time to GET REAL! @ your library! Next week is Teen Read Week. Boy, would your editor love to hear about some of the great programs you'll be having. Then she could share your ideas with other OYAN members in the next newsletter!

In the meantime, though, have a great week!

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MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

April Witteveen, Vice Chair/Chair Elect

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I am a freshly minted teen librarian, having recently been hired at Deschutes County Library System. I am the Teen Librarian in the southern part of the county, working in the La Pine and Sunriver locations. I am incredibly excited to join a great team of folks at DCLS, and even more excited to get to know the teens in my service areas.

Prior to my arrival in Bend I lived in Eugene for a few months. I worked in Veneta at the Fern Ridge Library as a temporary librarian while fellow OYAN member Christine Atkinson was busy taking care of her new little baby. I really enjoyed getting to know the community there, and it was hard to say goodbye to so many wonderful people.

I graduated this past April from the School of Information at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I spent my two years of school working in the Ann Arbor District Library system, and it was there that I found my inspiration for teen services. The opportunities and challenges in this particular field really got my attention, and I hoped that I'd be able to find a great teen librarian position after graduation. I definitely got my wish!

I've enjoyed making the transition from Michigan to Oregon. I love to play outside, and while I'll continue to miss Lake Michigan, the rivers and mountains of Oregon are great for filling the absence. I am a passionate (obsessive?) knitter, and I love to read stacks of teen novels.

Susan Smallsreed, Secretary

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I received my MLS in 2000 from Emporia State University, Kansas, without ever having set foot in Kansas (thank you distance education!) I had no idea what I wanted to do with the MLS other than NOT be a social worker anymore. But my social work experience was in the youth service arena, so one thing I did was join OYAN and start attending meetings. I became a public librarian because they hired me! I started subbing at Fort Vancouver Regional Library (FVRL) and Multnomah County (MCL).

After several months of subbing, I was hired as a part-time reference librarian at the Gresham branch, MCL. Yay! Unfortunately, I got RIFed nine months later. Boo-hoo! So, it was back to subbing for MCL, a temporary position as the homebound outreach coordinator at FVRL, and another temporary job as a reference librarian at Watzek Library, Lewis & Clark College. The good news? I figured out that public librarianship was the place for me because of the variety of work, patrons, and materials.

Eventually, I was re-hired in December 2002 by MCL as the youth librarian for the Northwest Branch Library. Funny thing is, when this branch was built four years ago, I used to fantasize about working there since I live seven blocks away. Dreams DO come true! So, now I walk to work, get to know all the kids in the neighborhood (Halloween is particularly fun when they come to the door!) and get paid to sing silly songs and make a fool of myself.

And what does that have to do with teens? Well, because MCL youth librarians serve the full age range, it's where I've been able to blend my social work experience with librarianship. Now, instead of training other adults in youth development concepts, I get to practice what I preached. Slowly but surely I'm helping to develop teens in the neighborhood, offering them opportunities for service and participation. It's the best! Even better? As Secretary, I get to participate more fully in OYAN, helping to strengthen library services to teens in Oregon.

Other OYAN Officers:

Chair: Susan Ludington, Deschutes Public Library

susanl@dpls.lib.or.us

Newsletter Editor: Lee Catalano, Multnomah County Library

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Web Editor: Alison Kastner, Multnomah County Library

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Past Chairs: Alison Kastner and John Sexton, Ashland Public Library

sexton@jcls.org

Introductions to Susan (Spring '04), Lee (Winter '04), Alison (Summer '04) and John (Summer '04) are in previous OYAN *Reviews*, available here:

http://www.olaweb.org/oyan/Newsletter_OYANReview.htm.

WILSONVILLE TEENS HELP NEW ORLEANS TEENS

Keren Joshi, Wilsonville Public Library

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The Wilsonville Public Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is running a Hurricane Katrina Book Drive from October 3 through December 2 to collect books for the New Orleans Public

Library. Fiction and non-fiction books for all ages are being accepted in book drops at the Wilsonville Public Library and the local public school libraries. Although cash donations are being accepted at the library, the teens didn't want to be yet another group with their hand out for money in the wake of the hurricane, so they decided to focus their efforts on the book drive.

The Wilsonville Public Library is one of twenty libraries nationwide to adopt the New Orleans Public Library as part of the American Library Association's "Adopt a Library" program. This program was established soon after Hurricane Katrina to help rebuild libraries in the gulf coast that were damaged or destroyed by the storm. The teens chose to adopt a library rather than donate to the Louisiana Library Association because they felt like it was more personal. The New Orleans Public Library was one of the hardest hit, with at least six branches wholly or partially destroyed.

David Winkler-Schmit, Coordinator of Children's Services for the New Orleans Public Library, writes, "As you might imagine, our needs are quite extensive – Katrina destroyed many of our collections not to mention equipment, carpeting, computers and essential items. We're in pretty bad shape, but our outlook is a positive one and it has to be. So many New Orleanians depend on our library as their primary information resource center, and we refuse to fail them at their darkest hour."

The TAB is currently in its third year, and consists mainly of high school sophomores. While the group has sponsored recreational and educational programs at the library, this is their first community service project. TAB members contacted the schools about setting up drop sites and are taking on responsibility for picking up, sorting, and cataloging the donations. The library is providing storage space and will be helping the teens with sorting, cataloging, and publicity. In addition to the library drop sites, TAB members will collect books in selected areas on Halloween when they go trick-or-treating. They plan to drop off notification slips a week in advance, and then return on Halloween to collect books along with their candy. They are recruiting their friends to help with the Halloween drive, and are publicizing it at the elementary and middle schools to try to get more volunteers.

The library staff has been very supportive of the teens' efforts. Library Director Pat Duke says, "I cannot possibly be prouder of our Teen Advisory Board. It is early yet, and there are certainly other pressing problems to deal with, but rebuilding the libraries in the region will be an important part of the recovery."

The book drive will culminate in a holiday book sale on December 16, 17, and 18. All donations that cannot be used by the New Orleans Public Library will be sold to raise money for additional books as well carpets, furniture, and computers which were destroyed in the hurricane.

...AND THE CLIO GOES TO...

Sue Plaisance, Hillsboro Public Library
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For the last six years, the Teen Library Council of Hillsboro Public Library has written and produced at least one public service announcement (PSA) each year. Usually the group films a

PSA to promote the summer reading program of Hillsboro Public Library to children. Our future plans are to film a PSA this winter promoting the use of L-Net chat reference to teens.

Public service announcements created for broadcasting on community access cable channels can run from 30 seconds to 20 minutes or more in length. It's best to contact your local community access cable company for its specifications. Writing and filming a public service announcement is a lot of fun and, surprisingly, not as much work as I thought it would be. For a PSA that is about five minutes long, I've found we spend about two to three hours filming. If we film out in the field, I add travel time on top of that. The teens themselves draft the script, which then is sent to our Youth Services manager for approval and suggestions. Once the script is finalized, we work with a volunteer from our local cable company who does the filming and editing for us. The camera and sound equipment are free if we use one of their trained volunteers. The teens decide what costumes to wear, who will act out each part, and where they want to do the filming.

Choosing a location for the filming is always a fun task. The teens look at the summer reading program theme and artwork, and then brainstorm ideas of where they want to go. We've filmed inside the library, usually after hours, three times; and another three times we have used outdoor locations. Our first experience outdoors was filming at the End of the Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City. It was easy to get permission, and we just had to make sure that we did not block access into or out of the building for the regular visitors. Our next venture outdoors took us to Fort Clatsop. Since that is in the National Park system, I had to apply for a special use permit to film in the park. There was a \$50.00 permit fee for non-profit groups but the park interpreter I worked with was able to waive the fee. Last year we filmed in Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro. That was very easy to arrange – no permits needed, no fees – the city parks department was happy to host us.

One of the best benefits of this program is that it is cheap and easy to burn DVD copies of the PSA. The teens love getting their own copies to keep. It also makes it easy to give copies to your administrators for viewing at various meetings and functions. I have been surprised at all the meetings where our PSAs have been shown.

Be aware:

- **Rain.** When we filmed at Fort Clatsop, it rained, of course, so we had to hold large umbrellas over the camera and sound equipment. Rain gear for the teens to wear when they were not being filmed was helpful, too, so they didn't look like drowned rats by the time it was their turn to be filmed.
- **Frantic patrons.** When we filmed a PSA after the library had closed for the evening, adult patrons outside the library could see us and several of them kept banging on the doors and the windows to get in. The lesson to be learned from that experience is that if it is two weeks before the April 15 tax deadline, don't be in the library after hours where you can be seen from outside (a good caution under any circumstances)!
- **The Black Hole.** Twice in the last six years our PSA never made it out of editing into a final version ready for broadcast. Both times the volunteer from the community access

cable company took the raw footage for editing and then disappeared – never to be heard from again. It was disappointing to not receive a final product but we still had lots of fun doing the filming. Now we use Linda Smith, a writer and film maker who is a former on-call librarian for Hillsboro.

If you and your teen group are interested in doing a film project, Linda is willing to work for a nominal fee and is available to work most anywhere in the Portland metropolitan area. You can contact her at smili2@gmail.com or (503) 648-6234. Also, contact your local community access cable company to inquire about their requirements for public service announcements or any other programs you might want to film. They can connect you with trained personnel and professional equipment that can make your project idea become a reality.

On an ending note, remember to have fun during the entire process. Don't get too tied up in the details. Just let your teens' youthful exuberance and energy shine through and their film will be great no matter what catastrophes may happen during the filming

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 30. Multnomah County Library's Teen Author Lecture with Garth Nix. Persian Rugs, Roman Nails, and Very Old Tales: A Look Inside a Fantasy Writer's Mind.

Scottish Rite Center

709 S.W. 15th Avenue, Portland

3 p.m. (doors open at 2:15)

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for students K-12.

For more information: <http://www.multcolib.org/teens/feature.html>

This lecture is expected to sell out.

January 14. Mock Printz.

Newberg Public Library

503 E. Hancock St. Newberg

More information on this workshop will be posted to the OYAN listserv.

BOOK REVIEWS

Come Back to Afghanistan : a California Teenager's Story by Said Hyder Akbar
Bloomsbury USA, 2005.

Hyder was born in Pakistan, son of an Afghan freedom fighter who fled his homeland after the Taliban came to power. As a two-year old, he came to the U.S. with his family and grew up as a fairly typical American suburban teenager. Then, during his junior year of high school, the twin towers fell, the Taliban were chased from power, and his father returned to his homeland to help establish a new Afghan government. For his summer vacation, Hyder visited his father in Kabul, and proceeded to document his experiences over the next two summers in this remarkable book which informs, entertains and astonishes. Here is a typical kid who one week is going to a U-2 concert in San Francisco, and the next week is dodging landmines in Kabul. One day he is among a convoy attacked by Al Qaeda, and five days later he is sitting in a classroom in California. His insights come from personal acquaintance with a number of Afghan leaders and

heroes of the fight against the Russians and the Taliban, but it is his ability to convey the history and passions behind the politics that make the book such a good read.

--John Sexton, Ashland Public Library

Runner by Carl Deuker Houghton Mifflin, 2005

One more time Chance is frustrated with his father. Since his mother couldn't take it any more and left, Chance has been alone, trying to cope with his father's drinking, go to school, and figure out how they're going to pay the bills. When a man approaches Chance and offers him a job, he sees this as a way to pay the rent. All he has to do is pick up occasional packages at a tree along his running route, but something doesn't seem right about it. As this new job gradually becomes more dangerous and more clearly illegal, Chance realizes that he can't get out of this situation alone. By the time he tells his father everything it's almost too late. Only in tragedy does Chance learn how courageous his father could be. This is not really a sports story like most of Deuker's other books, but running is definitely a component. The climax is thrilling, tragic and uplifting all at the same time.

--Anne Guevara, Jackson County Public Library
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Real Time by Pnina Moed Kass Clarion Books, 2004.

Teens in America really have no idea what it is like to live in the Middle East, coping with suicide bombings, security checkpoints, suspicion and war. Omar and Sameh are best friends, Palestinians working in Israeli territory, each with their own ideas of how to make their own lives and society better. Thomas is a German heading to Israel to find out secrets about his grandfather. They are just three of the characters whose stories we hear throughout the course of one morning. By noon that day all of their lives are devastatingly changed. This story is one that could be making real news today in real time.

--Anne Guevara

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar Dutton, 2005.

Scott is starting his freshman year of high school and everything is going wrong. To get next to the girl of his dreams Scott decides to join every club, organization and activity that she does. Unfortunately she somehow drops those same clubs and Scott is left holding the bag. Add to that the fact that he is small, his best friends are going in their own directions and his mother announces that she's pregnant. It all makes for a hilarious freshman year for us, the readers, told by Scott. What a great voice.

--Anne Guevara

Not the End of the World by Geraldine McCaughrean HarperTempest, 2005.

We all know the story of Noah and the Ark, but did you ever stop to think about his family? Or how it might have looked to the neighbors when he was building the boat? Or what it must have been like with two of every animal to clean up after every day? Told mostly from Timna's perspective, Noah's daughter defies her father like any teenager, questions his authority, and creates a world worth reading about. Other members of the family are heard from as well, rounding out a visual of the flood and those spared that raises some interesting ideas. This was a Whitbread Children's Book Award winner in 2004, but should be in YA collections.

--Anne Guevara

47 by Walter Mosley Little, Brown, 2005.

Among African slaves in America, there was a myth about a spirit named High John the Conqueror who – belief had it – would come from Africa to confound the white masters and to ultimately free the slaves. In his first book written for teens, mystery writer Walter Mosley gives life to that myth in the person of Tall John, a young slave of distinctive color and other-worldly capacities who arrives at a Georgia plantation in 1832. Mosley has blended fantasy and myth and a bit of sci-fi into the historical setting of slavery to spin a compelling yarn about a boy who – under the guidance of Tall John – does indeed confound his white masters (and his fellow slaves as well), as he becomes aware of the deeper truth of his existence rooted in the admonition he often receives from Tall John: “neither a master nor a nigger be”. This work can be considered speculative fiction or magical realism and the touch of twentieth century sensibilities can seem a bit jarring, but in the end it is a well-told tale of a hero’s struggle toward self-discovery, identity and independence, set in the unimaginably inhuman and brutal reality that was slavery.

--John Sexton

OYAN QUARTERLY MEETING

Friday, October 28, 2005 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm | Tigard Public Library, Community Room
13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard
(503) 684-6537

Driving Directions

1. From I-5 SOUTH (or NORTH), take the Tigard/Newberg - 99W exit.
2. Merge onto SW BARBUR BLVD (also called 99W).
3. Stay straight to go onto SW PACIFIC HWY (also called 99W) towards Tigard.
4. Travel 1.1 mile and cross over HWY 217.
5. Turn LEFT onto SW HALL BLVD (There is a traffic light at the intersection as well as the Russ Chevrolet dealership on the left.).
6. Travel approx. 1 mile on SW HALL BLVD past City Hall, which is on the right.
7. Cross the Fanno Creek and you will immediately see a big, lovely building. This is the library.
8. Turn left at the next driveway, which leads to the parking lot for the Tigard Public Library.

AGENDA

- I. Introductions
 - a. Attendees
 - b. Additions to the agenda
- II. Old Business
 - a. Approval of summer meeting minutes
 - b. Financial report

- III. Continuing Business
 - a. Past Chair year-end summary
 - b. OLA Board report
 - c. Oregon State Library report
 - d. OLA conference
 - e. OEMA conference
 - f. Mock Printz workshop
 - g. Teen Training at Oregon libraries
 - h. SRP evaluations

- IV. New Business
 - a. 2006 Book Rave nominations
 - b. Teen Read Week
 - c. YRCA Book Award
 - d. Teen Book Award – S. Ludington
 - e. OYEA Award – H. Weisel
 - f. Statewide Teen Read proposal – J. Sexton

- V. Quarterly Business
 - a. Newsletter
 - b. Future meeting dates
 - c. Book reviews and program ideas

Lunch

Lunch will be delivered from Java Mama, a local delicatessen. For specific questions regarding the lunch menu, please call or email Jessica Marie, YA Librarian at Tigard Public Library and host contact, at (503) 684-6537 or jessica@ci.tigard.or.us. Please select your lunch choice from the options below and reply to Jessica by **Tuesday, October 25th**.

- Deli sandwiches (\$5.25 whole, \$3.75 for half): turkey, roast beef, ham, tuna, veggie, or tarragon chicken
- Wraps: chicken tarragon, turkey, tuna, Greek, BBQ chicken, chicken taco, veggie, etc. (\$5.75)
- Everyday sandwich specials (\$5.50 - 6.50): turkey, cranberry sauce & cream cheese
- Salads (\$5.50 small, \$6.50 large): Greek, Philly Beef, Chicken, Caesar, BBQ Chicken, Chicken Taco
- Bagel sandwiches (\$4.25)