

**Maryland Library Association
Children's Services Division
Baltimore County Public Library, Randallstown
February 14, 2005**

In Attendance: Linda Berg, Montgomery County Public Library Davis; Janis Cooker, St Mary's County Library Lexington Park; Sally Majoros, Baltimore County Public Library Arbutus; Sharyn Yenser, BCPL Randallstown; Vera Shade, BCPL Rosedale; Julie Dietzel-Glair, Frederick County Public Library, C. Burr Artz; Irva Nachlas-Gabin, Howard County Library, East Columbia; Susan Maranto, HCL Savage; Sophia VanSchaick, Harford County Public Library Edgewood; Contobia Adams, HCL East Columbia; Andrea Shore, BCPL Towson; April Wright, BCPL Reisterstown; Nancy Feierstein, BCPL Randallstown; Betsy Diamant-Cohen, EPFL Central

Topic of the Month

Contobia Adams of Howard County Library spoke about her experiences in creating an afterschool program for teens at BCPL Woodlawn. She said that a survey that was taken said that the teens wanted their own space, where they could eat, not be policed all the time – a sort of safety net of distant supervision but no regulation. Woodlawn made a space available to teens from 2 – 6 pm with access to laptops. They had to spend ½ hour on homework. They had speakers, field trips, programs. There was food for those who stayed more than 2 hours. Contobia had an average of 45 teens drop in. Amongst her experiences is that of getting a large gay and lesbian teen group to interact with the heterosexual teens.

Janis spoke about the success of St Mary's Co's teen program developed with a DLDS grant. The grant has run out but the program is largely being continued at SMC libraries.

Sharyn and Nancy reported on recent events at Randallstown where the police officer who already patrols the branch has had to have reinforcements come to help deal with problem teen behavior.

Sophia said that her branch's main problems with teens come from noise, language and abuse of the library's food policies. Edgewood is not experiencing problems as difficult as Randallstown's.

Linda said that Davis branch has been having a problem with adult behavior – flashers.

Contobia recommends that systems who want to deal with a teen problem have David Miller of Urban Leadership, www.urbanleadership.org, meet with the staff and do an assessment of the problem. She recommends bringing in local youth agencies, the PTAs, etc, having an open house for parents and teens. Offer to train adult volunteers as rovers to diffuse problems on the spot. She says think of them as a challenge not a problem. Learn their names, preferably during a positive interaction – I like that color; nice outfit; etc.

Contobia's recommended books:

- Teen Angst Naaah: a quasiautobiography by Ned Vizzini
- A Teenager's guide to school outside the box by Rebecca Greene
- Too old for this, too young for that: your survival guide for the middle school years by Harriet S Mostache and Karen Unger

Minutes

Corrections: Under Fall Conference (Kids Are Customers) Kit, not Susan, will look into BWI Books graphic novels info.

Under Go Around: Sharyn's son will be participating in a Model Congress at Harvard U in Boston.

Vera's last name is Shade.

The Children's supervisor in FCPL is Sherry Quinones.

Fall Conference (Kids Are Customers)

We are on schedule with our preparations. Sharyn brought some information on Priscilla Cummings. Andrea corrected the impression that all BCPL branches would be having Susan Stockdale programs this summer. Either of these authors would be candidates for Kids Are Customers.

To do: Julie will confirm that Kathy K has booked The Meeting Place in Columbia for October 27.

Blue Crab Award

Vera is considering chairing the committee beginning in June '05.

Their next meeting is February 15.

Western Maryland Workshop

The PDF has been submitted. Susan has contacted the A+ panel. She will write up and submit the workshop announcement for Happenings. We will expect attendees to register as usual.

Kathy MacMillan gave Sharyn a copy of her Storytime Spectacular presentation.

To Do: Kids Are Customers talk table presenters will bring copies of their handouts for workshop attendees to take.

Maryland Library Association Annual Conference 2005

Julie will bring CSD AV requirements to the next MLA meeting. Room assignments have been made.

Julie may email to see if someone can drive David Milgrim to Salisbury airport. It was agreed that CSD members would take David and Sara Pennypacker out for dinner on Thursday night as part of the usual CSD get together.

David suggested that one of the titles available for him to sign be See Pip Point, the Blue Crab winner. He also suggested his other Pip and Otto books. He is pleased about the award and happy to sign copies.

Julie is still waiting to hear from Sara Pennypacker.

You can register online. Information about the CSD offerings is on line at the mdlb.org website.

Other/New Business

Susan will email the Executive Board minutes.

The Annual Conference will be in Ocean City through 2007. They have been actively searching for another venue but there doesn't seem to be anywhere else in the state that is large enough to handle the vendors as well as the conference.

The MLA Executive Board has been active in approaching the Governor about Maryland library issues.

Janis wants to know how best to find out if the creator of the Blue Crab plaques has received his check from MLA.

Betsy needs testers of her Mother Goose on the Loose website which she is creating as part of her doctoral thesis. Volunteers would have to stay late at the March meeting. Sophia will check on the availability of pcs.

Topic of the month: Contobia's plan to handle teens in your branch.

To do: Susan will check with the MLA office about the Blue Crab plaque check.

Sophia will check on pcs for the CSD volunteers to use at Abingdon in March.

Go Around

Julie FCPL staff have completed the Growing with Mother Goose training offered by the Vermont Center for the Book. FCPL staff will be able to train child care providers on how to use books to enhance other educational activities.

Sophia At Susan Deeney's suggestion, Sophia approached a Cadette GS troop about putting on a show at the library. They did a brief rendition of The 3 Girly Goats Gruff which they supplemented by having the audience act it out and then having the audience help them do some nursery rhymes. The Girl Scouts had also prepared a craft. The leader and the troop want to do this again.

Sophia's oldest daughter was accepted by her first choice for grad school – York University in England – and has since been accepted by all her other choices. But she has decided to join the Canadian equivalent of the Peace Corps for a couple of years.

Sharyn 89 kids attended her most recent storytime.

Vera Rosedale moved their Saturday Baby Booster program to a weekday to improve attendance. Vera only had 1 parent and child at the first session but the parent was so impressed that she talked it up to her mom's club and attendance has improved greatly.

Sally Arbutus will be hosting their 2nd annual Prom Night where local merchants show gowns, hairdos, makeup and nails, limos and so on. Arbutus is trying to encourage teens to come to their branch.

Nancy Randallstown has partnered with Pages bookstore. Pages has a lot of contacts with African American authors and the library has had Zane in already as well as Kimberla Lawson Roby. Zane will be back in March with several lesser known authors. Their next author will be Betty De Ramus who wrote Forbidden Fruits: love stories from the Underground Railroad.

Andrea She is looking forward to Howard County Parks and Rec's Performer's Showcase on March 3 and 4. She will email us the contact info.

April She has been busy dealing with kids after school in the library. She has been able to deal effectively with some unruly behavior.

Janis She had 77 at the last preschool storytime. Fewer attend the baby storytimes but it is still successful.

Linda They should have good attendance at their Valentine craft activity in spite of a mix up with the publicity. She has 25 babies and 25 adults attend her baby storytime (12-23 months). They offer the 3-5 year old storytime 2ce and they get 20 2 year olds. She limits the size of the book discussion group to 25. She mostly gets 3rd and 4th grade boys!

Irva East Columbia is planning a Harry Potter welcome party with a magician and so on.

Betsy Pratt is having their Fairy Tale Festival. One of the highlights will be Pratt's Preschool Princess Ball at Central. We want to see pictures.

Susan They have tried to offer a preschool Chinese New Year program and not had much attendance. This year they offered it as a schoolage program and it was very successful.

Next Meeting

Monday March 14, 10 am Harford County Public Library, Abingdon

Agenda and Directions

Introductions

Minutes

Fall Conference

Blue Crab Award

Western Maryland Workshop

MLA Conference 2005

Topic of the Month

Other/New Business

Go Around

From I-95: West on Md Route 24 (Towards Bel Air)

Left on Singer Road

Right on Tollgate Road (first exit on the roundabout, then 2nd on the next roundabout)

Left at entrance to Library

Staff entrance is at the back.