

Maryland Library Association
Children's Services Division Steering Committee Meeting
Monday, July 12, 2004 Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch

In Attendance: Julie Dietzel-Glair, FCPL, C. Burr Artz Branch, Sharyn Yenzler, BCPL, Randallstown Branch, Linda Berg, MCPL, Davis Branch, Betsy Diamant-Cohen, EPFL, Central Branch, Kit Bloom, LBPH, Susan Maranto, HCL Savage Branch, Evelyn Moessinger, HCPL, Bel Air Branch, Nancy Feierstein, BCPL, Randallstown, Sally Majoros, BCPL, Arbutus Branch.

Go Around:

Sharyn remarked that two special story times, with Bob Brown and the Reluctant Dragon, and Horne's Punch and Judy Show brought in over 210 children each. Also, the My First Library Card campaign is doing well, and regular drop-in story times are averaging over 60 in attendance for the summer. Many summer camp groups are using this as an activity. Baby Boosters Story Times are drawing around 15 babies. The Blue Sky Puppet Troupe will be presenting a program this Saturday.

Linda Berg dressed up as Cinderella, minus a shoe, to help promote the Summer Reading Club. One performer they used she doesn't recommend, as his program was too slow-paced (Ed McDade). Very successful programs included two science themed programs and the Stevens puppets.

Kit Bloom told ghost stories for a special Camp for disabled children, and it was a great success. She shared the fact that the children wanted to tell their own stories afterwards. One of the counselors told her that the child who was currently telling his story had never talked before! Very exciting!

Susan Maranto enjoyed having our own Kathy MacMillan do her signed fairytale story time. She asked for ideas to help encourage people who come to programs to also check out books – something to which we all contributed ideas.

Evelyn Moessinger reported that juggler Nicolo Whimsy does a very good program that includes references to library materials. Baltimore Zoo animal programs were well received also. Max and Ruby will be the stars of the next program.

Nancy Feierstein said that summer reading statistics were up, with many day care centers taking advantage of the program. The volunteers are a competent, good bunch this year. They are still awaiting the new shelving at Randallstown, so parts of the collection remain inaccessible to the public.

Sally Majoros spoke about an upcoming Harry Potter program, as well as two "special" drop-ins that went well " Dress Up As Your Favorite Character" and a patriotic themed one. The Summer Reading Club is going well so far.

Julie Dietzel-Glair said their director wants a 50% increase in Summer Reading Membership this year and everyone is working to meet this goal. The wonderful prizes that were obtained for the system by the library PR person should be a great incentive for children to sign up – a trip for 4 to DisneyWorld, and 2 round-trip airline tickets for any desired location on SouthWest Airlines. The Friends of the Library also helped pay for some of the Disney trip costs. Upcoming programs include Spot and Winnie the Pooh, and a mythology themed one.

Betsy Diamant-Cohen said they set up a Summer Reading Club enrollment table at Mondawin Mall. They are particularly watching for higher completion rates this year. They are giving just one really neat prize, for completing the gameboard, (purple radios), instead of a variety of smaller prizes. She is working with The Walters Art Museum on partnering programs, such as was done with the Baltimore Museum of Art. Family Place just finished 6 sessions. She has been very busy, giving workshops at the Orlando Public Library and at ALA, and has an article in Children and Libraries Magazine on learning and brain development. She is also working with a prison program.

Minutes:

There was one correction: Sharyn reported that she attended a school to read stories and spoke about the Summer Reading Club, not the First Library Card Kickoff event.

Executive Board:

No report Susan did mention that she needs nominations for Vice-President and Secretary for next year by October.

MLA

Julie meets in August with the committee for the '05 Conference. We discussed various programs that CSD could present next year: Evelyn Moessinger told about a workshop she did on the importance of knowing about how the brain develops during the first three years of life, and how important this is for all library staff, both circulation as well as librarian. She would be willing to do a program (about 2 hours). We already have Rachael Colman doing baby-signs at pre-conference for 4 hours. Kit Bloom will put out feelers for presenters about serving populations of special needs kids. We might have a small program with the authors who win the Blue Crab Award. Possible other choices might be programming pizzaz (school age) and book talking tips, always popular.

To Do: Kit Bloom will try to find a presenter for a program about serving populations of special needs kids.

Fall Conference

Susan has spoken with Kevin O'Malley, and all is set there. The same person who introduces the various programs will do the Crab and e-Crab write-ups, and send them to

Susan, who will edit them and send them in. Julie will introduce Kevin O'Malley, Kit will introduce Kathy MacMillan, who will in turn introduce the Blue Crab Panel, Sharyn will introduce Katie George. We need to compile a list of needed equipment for the Meeting House, contact Margaret to see that a flyer about the conference is sent out, Sharyn will create a flyer, and Susan will send press releases to Crab and e-Crab. She has already sent in copy to Happenings. Susan has contacted the MLA Bookstore, and they will be coming.

To Do: Susan will find out what equipment is needed, contact Margaret about sending out a flyer, and send press releases to Crab and e-Crab. Sharyn will create a flyer.

Blue Crab Award

Sally reported that the committee has selected four books by four authors (fiction beginning reader, non-fiction beginning reader, fiction transitional reader, non-fiction transitional reader). They are now working on compiling two annotated lists combining fiction and non-fiction for beginning and transitional readers. They were a bit distressed upon learning that ALA is sponsoring an award for this reading group, but so be it. The new committee has already met and will begin discussing books published in 2004. The names of our winners will be announced at Kids Are Customers Too.

Puppetry 101

To Do: Susan will check with Katie George about doing this program for Western Maryland.

New Business

September 17 is the Book Festival downtown.

Next Meeting

August 9 Eldersburg