RAIG Quarterly Meeting 07/01/22

1pm, via Zoom

In attendance: Meg Faller, Amy Jenkins, Monica McAbee, Bina Pittman, Jeff Stainbrook, Crystal Tracy (taking notes)

Meg announced that Maryam from Howard CPL is interested in joining RAIG, although was unable to attend this meeting. Welcome Maryam!

Booktalk Round Table:

- **Amy**: Day off by the pool!
  
  The Marlow Murder Club by Robert Thorogood (author of Death in Paradise novels that got made into TV program), a sort of Agatha Christie with a modern twist cozy mystery

- **Crystal**: finally reading again!
  
  All the Feels by Olivia Dade, a contemporary romance with fat-positive and ADHD representation, as well as well developed characters and lots of funny dialogue.

  All the Young Men by Ruth Corker Burns, a memoir about her life and work as a young single mom helping young men dying of AIDS in rural Arkansas during the AIDS crisis. Extremely engaging, accessible, and sympathetic look at that aspect of US history.

- **Jeff**: reading at maximum velocity for a workplace reading competition!
  
  Beautiful World Where Are You by Sally Rooney, rereading by listening on audio

  We Don’t Know Ourselves by Fintan O’Toole, a personal history of sixty years of Irish life, with memoir and history

  On Juneteenth by Annette Gordon-Reed, a nonfiction specifically about the holiday of Juneteenth

  The book of Form and Emptiness by Ruth Ozeki—just started this novel

- **Meg**: lots of reading on her cross country road trip!
  
  The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd, a magical story inspired by true events involving maps and towns that pop into existence where they didn’t belong. Engrossed her whole family while on the road trip.

  Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson, a dual timeline family story with siblings who are the children of Jamaican immigrants to USA and their mother’s story.

- **Bina**: too many books to cover them all!
  
  The Maid by Nita Prose, humorous fiction with mystery and romance with a character who presents as neurodivergent
Not the Witch You Wed by April Asher, a funny contemporary paranormal romance about a woman without her own magic from a family of witches

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

Ramon y Julieta by Alana Albertson, a Latinx contemporary romantic retelling of Romeo and Juliet

Monica: reading two books by the same author concurrently! Irreverently humorous modern fiction that deals with identity and marginalization and family. Unconventional narrative structure lends itself especially well to audio format.

Delicious Foods by James Hannaham, about a mother dealing with addiction and a son searching for her, with one narrative thread being delivered by the drugs to which the mother is addicted.

Didn’t Nobody Give a Shit What Happened to Carlotta also by James Hannaham (set on the 4th of July weekend, so perfect timing!), about a trans woman navigating life outside of prison after being incarcerated (in a men’s prison) for the last 20 years. The audio is delightfully narrated by the author.

Conference wrap-up and feedback:

Book Buzz went really well, despite some glitches, such as presenters arriving later than expected. The room was PACKED, and all ARC copies were distributed, although one title with many copies had to be moved to the lobby, where it was cleared out in no time. Thank you to Monica for arranging the presenters and Amy and Meg for getting the program together on the ground!

The TikTok presentation also went really well. Meg said that the experiment with her and Bina creating TikTok accounts for the sole purpose of tracking #booktok for trending book information was very well received and useful. It gave attendees realistic expectations of (time) cost/benefit analysis for using Tiktok for professional/informational library purposes, along with some shortcuts to gaining similar results (such as consulting Barnes and Nobles’ #booktok collections). She highlighted how it can be used for collection development as well as readers advisory, especially in regard to filling gaps in collection, such as areas of diversity representation.

Amy said that feedback was overall great. The Tiktok presentation was rated as engaging, with tangible information and skills to take back to the attendees’ library systems. Congrats to Meg on the presentation, Bina for her research contributions and feedback, and Crystal for her work creating the Power Point presentation! Oh, and our RAIG tiaras remained popular.

Planning for this fiscal year’s events:

Conference planning: We will continue to offer a Book Buzz program every year. It is very popular and well attended, with lots of practical information for librarians as well as the very popular
free ARCs. Monica remains our contact with the publishers, and we will determine who will facilitate it in person closer to the conference date.

For our second conference program, we are tentatively planning an audio “listeners’ advisory” program, as audio books only continue to increase in popularity. We would like, if possible, to partner with MD State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled to talk about accessibility issues and discuss the difference between commercial audio vs the audio used by their library. Amy would like to possibly address the issues of the court ruling that means libraries no longer have a discount on digital items. Amy and Jeff have volunteered to lead this presentation, with everyone else on the team willing to help out as well.

Planning our autumn stand alone program:

Amy and Meg need to submit the program request form before September 1, so we needed to plan this program ASAP so as not to miss our deadline. We are going to do a 1.5 hour virtual program highlighting LGBTQ+ reads, representing all aspects of the LGBTQ+ community, specifically intersectionality with disability and race. Since October is LGBTQ+ History month, that would be a great month to hold it, but not necessary, pending scheduling. Although round table discussions of book categories are fun and in demand, they are not often granted CEU status, so we need to do a more traditional informational format. While Jeff volunteered to organize the program, he would prefer that someone who identifies with the LGBTQ+ community to lead it. Monica is going to contact the new MLA LGBTQ+ group to see if they are interested in doing a joint program with us. Meg, Amy, and Crystal are willing to assist with the program as well. We can use the MLA Zoom account for the presentation. Jeff will get the 3 objectives and a description for marketing the program to Meg and Amy before September 1.

Plans for a RAIG social:

We will need to plan a social event for the next fiscal year as well. We are tentatively interested in doing a virtual reading recommendation round table for that, since librarians love talking about and recommend books. Meg suggested a social justice theme, which we were all interested in as well.

Instagram update:

Meg continues to post regularly, about once/ week, with regular assistance and contributions from the folks from TIG. Meg is always looking for book photography she can share. If you have contributions, please upload to the RAIG Zoom channel or contact Meg directly if necessary.

Member happenings:

Crystal and Bina are both seeking employment. Offers of references were made by the team, along with hopes that both of them could remain active members of RAIG at their new jobs as well.
Meg mentioned that she is now active on Story Graph as well as Goodreads, and offered to connect and share book recommendations with anyone interested. Crystal is also on both platforms.

We adjourned at 2:30pm. Our next scheduled meeting is Friday, October 7, from 1-3, with remaining quarterly meetings for the fiscal year on January 6 and April 7.