Welcome to new member Lynn Nymick!

We opened with Round Robin introductions and book recommendation and discussions:

- Meg:
  - The City in the Middle of the Night by Charlie Jane Anders (Fic) and
  - Dry by Neal and Jarred Shusterman (Fic)
  - *She also discussed the Books for the Beast YA conference held biennially at PRAT and shared the required reading lists for each of the sections offered at the program.

- Crystal: two WWII (NF) books,
  - A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell and
  - Madame Fourcade’s Secret War by Lynne Olsen.
  - Also Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik (Fic).

- Lynn N.:
  - Spearhead by Adam Makos (also WWII NF)

- Krista: two graphic novels,
  - Pumpkinhead by Rainbow Rowell and
  - Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe,
  - *which sparked a discussion about proper pronoun usage

- Monica:
  - Cold Storage by David Koepp (Fic)
  - Astounding by Alec Nevala-Lee (NF)
  - *Both Monica and Krista plugged the Small Press Expo held in Rockville annually.

- Amy:
  - Old Bones by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

Next we covered our MLA group work plan:

- Holding at least 4 meetings/year and share the notes from meetings to the MLA page. We are on track to accomplish this.

- Sponsoring at least 2 conference programs and 1 standalone training program (with accompanying program evaluations), with at least 10 attendees each. We are also on track to accomplish this, as further discussed later in the meeting.
 Increasing our social media presence via our Instagram page. This will entail at least once weekly posts to our page, linking to our MLA webpage, and gaining at least 25 new followers (We were at 53 followers as of 10/11/19 at 10 am).

  - Methods for boosting posts and page visibility were discussed. For now, we will have rotating IG responsibilities. Krista will take point for October, Meg for November, Crystal for December, and Amy for January. We will each post at least once per week, preferably on a set day. Krista will ensure that all of us have access to updating the page, and we will all add hashtags and other content to posts as needed to boost visibility. MLA webpage actions were discussed later in the meeting.

 Hosting at least 2 social events, and recruiting at least 3 new members to RAIG. We are on track to accomplish for both of these, with the social meetings discussed later in the meeting and already having recruited at least 3 new members (Suzanne and Cecilia will be attending future RAIG meeting.).

  - We decided to investigate notifying library system training coordinators across MD about our training events, to increase potential attendance.
  - Meg and Amy will be coordinating on a small introduction on involvement with RAIG for recruitment purposes, to be distributed to interested people as well as shared on our webpage.
  - Krista will be forwarding MaryLib listserv invites to members of RAIG who are not yet receiving the listserv emails.

 We developed plans for our 2 MLA programs:

  - The second annual publisher Book Buzz program will feature a new presenter, from Rosarium, a small local press, as well as representatives from HarperCollins and Penguin RandomHouse. Monica is handling our speaker agreements with all the publishing houses. Amy and Meg requested a 2 hour time slot on Thursday, for peak visibility and sufficient time for all presenters to present without rushing.

  - Our second planned program is on Fandoms. As it’s only planned as an hour-long program, we decided to narrow down our presentation to 3 popular fandoms:
    - Harry Potter (Suzanne from Frederick may be interested in leading this segment.)
    - Jane Austen (We hope that Lynn H. will be excited to lead this segment).
    - Either Star Wars or Star Trek. While there are many Star Wars books being released, as well as TV shows and movies, there are also currently many Star Trek read-alike books available, and we think that Beena may be excited to lead a Trek segment. Crystal has volunteered to lead the segment if Beena is not interested or wants a co-presenter.
    - Meg is willing to act as co-presenter or substitute presenter on any of these topics, if needed.
    - We will also need RAIG members to introduce and wrap up both Book Buzz and Fandoms.
    - We want to ensure that our programs have consistent content. We are less concerned about consistent graphics for the fandoms presentations, but content and length of each segment (15 minutes each) should be consistent.
Each segment of Fandoms should include an explanation/description of the fandom, analysis of what appeal factors the fandom has, and then read-alike suggestions. We would like to have physical takeaways for all attendees, so are planning on lists of the suggested read-alikes.

We’re also considering having members or attendees in fandom cosplay or other related attire, and having visuals like standing cut outs.

Presentations at Book Buzz will be handled by the publishing representatives.

- We will discuss our standalone event closer to the date, which will be in late May after the MLA conference is over. The topic will be JF and YA Readers’ Advisory for Adults. We need to submit the application by early January. Lynn H. has expressed interest in being involved with that presentation, as have Meg and Crystal. We are hoping to hold it at the Laurel Library again, as facilities and parking worked out so well there for our previous standalone program.

- We have plans for both social events already as well.
  o One will follow our standalone presentation in late May, which was a success last time we held one after a standalone presentation. While theme is still TBD, it will probably correlate to or continue discussion of the standalone program’s topic.
  o Crystal has suggested and will take point on planning the second program, to be held in early January. The theme is tentatively Bring Your Best (books of 2019), with each attendee bringing a title or two that they most enjoyed in 2019 (not necessarily published in 2019). Crystal is going to investigate possible venue options in Columbia, so that we’ve spread out locations for events while remaining fairly central. We also discussed the possibility of offering inexpensive blue ribbons to offer as prizes for best books. (Which we could then photograph together for fun Instagram posts!)

- We would like to offer regular articles/content for MLA’s Crab publication as well. We’ve just missed the deadline for the next issue, but will submit an article or two for the first issue of 2020. Crystal has volunteered to write as many articles as needed:
  o beginning with an informative recruitment piece called We are RAIG, introducing all willing RAIG members, with their favorite genres and a title they’re currently recommending, as well as a summary of quotations about why we each like participating in RAIG.
  o We may also include a brief announcement of any upcoming RAIG events, to increase visibility and awareness, as well as attendance at the events.

- Our MLA webpage is in need of a significant overhaul. We have agreed to remove all past Readers’ Advisory links, and replace it with the introduction to RAIG, a link to our Instagram page, updated leadership/contact information, and posted minutes from our group meetings. For now, Monica will take point in contacting Bob Koontz to arrange all needed changes. In the future we may add brief genre explorations as well, but further discussion will be needed before we act on that.

- Krista had two recommendations to add to the meeting agenda:
  o Baltimore County Library already has 8 staff members who prepare and present Book Buzz and Readers’ Advisory programs around the county. We could book them for an additional session as a very simple-for-us RAIG program for a future date. Krista will send us all the PDFs they’ve created for their program information.
As we’ve discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring MLA programs in the past, Krista requested that we co-sponsor LDD’s Treat Yo Self (and Others) Better program, which, while it focuses on self-care, communications, and related topics, includes a readers’ advisory list. Our official co-sponsorship is probably the only related task we would need to do. We unanimously voted to act as co-sponsors of the program.

- We ended the meeting at noon, with plans to reconvene for our next quarter meeting on January 9, 2020, at the same time and location.