In attendance: Stefan Freed (Chair); Krista McKenzie (Vice-Chair/Secretary); Sarah Avant; Beth Chandler; Lisa Colaianne; Jim Dankiewicz; Catherine DiCristofaro; Leanne Farrell; Katie George; John Jewett; Jennifer Jones; Jessica Nhém; Melissa Racine; Sarah Russo; Stephanie Shauck; Amy Stephens; Jamie Watson; Kathie Weinberg

Meeting was brought to order by TIG Interest Group Chair Stefan Freed at 12:40pm at the Linthicum Branch of Anne Arundel County Public Library.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- After welcoming the attendees and introductions were made, Stefan announced the two dates for the upcoming in-person TIG meetings for the next calendar year: TIG will meet at MLA’s annual conference in April 2010 in Ocean City (exact date & time TBA), and also on Thu Dec 9, 2010 from 12:30-2:30 at the Linthicum Branch of Anne Arundel County Public Library. This is a change from previous years, when TIG would meet in March and December; this decision was made by the PSD Steering Committee.

ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

- Stefan spoke about the various ways that TIG members can communicate with each other between the two in-person meetings, all during the year. Both methods are currently active, and all TIG members are encouraged to utilize them, and to introduce their own threads/topics for discussion. Despite having a presence on Facebook, there are no plans at this time to do away with the listserv.
  
  - Facebook: TIG has its own Facebook Group page. This can be found by searching under “TIG” or by linking: http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?ref=profile&id=1511605114#/group.php?gid=81626980980
  - Listserv: If you are not already a member of the TIG Listserv, pls. email Stefan and he will add you.

DLDS/MAPLA-YA TASK FORCE UPDATE

- Stephanie Shauck, of DLDS, gave an update.
  
  - Across the board, DLDS has been greatly impacted by recent budgetary cutbacks. To date, there have been 14 furlough days established, with the likelihood of more to follow.
  - Rosemary Truitt, the original coordinator of the MAPLA-YA Task Force project, resigned last year. With the massive budget cuts following on the heels of this, the status of the YA Task Force is at a stand-still at this time. In lieu of the YA Taskforce, Youth and YA Coordinators will confer at the Annual Summer Reading Club Meeting.
  - Currently, there is no money for YA programming. Likewise, there is currently no money available from DLDS for competitive grants.
Stephanie offered help to anyone who might need assistance with YA advocacy and YA programming.
LATI training coordinator, Honore Francois has recently retired. Because of the budget crisis, a replacement will not be hired; instead, Stephanie will take on the duties of Honore. It is estimated that it will be three years before DLDS will know enough about the budget projection to hire a new LATI coordinator.

TEEN LIBRARY SPACES
• Jessica Nhjem of Caroline County Public Library talked about her system recently receiving a $50,000 grant, that will be matched by the county, toward creating a new teen space at her branch. TIG members offered tips and information re: rules and guidelines for the teen area; staffing; and community buy-in.

• At one Montgomery County branch, they allow adults in the space only until 3:00 on weekdays and until 12:00 on weekends. After that, the adults are asked to leave so that teens only may occupy the space.
• Howard County Library’s Elkhart branch has signs posted to notify patrons of policies on the teen section.
• Re: allowing “tweens” in the teen area: the consensus from the group is that tweens should be permitted, as they are on the cusp of their teenage years and will soon be the teen patrons that will occupy the section.
• Other group members noted that food and drink policies for teen sections should mirror the policies that the branch has a whole and that the same rules should apply for everyone.
• To create a separated section for teens, glass walls were suggested so that teens could have their own section, yet still be seen by library staff.
• Another suggestion, since staffing has become an issue, is to have college age volunteers in the teen areas for assistance.
• Lastly, there was mention of a Teen Spaces Program that is being featured at the ALA Conference and to get in contact with Kim Tolen, YALSA’s Teen Spaces expert.

READERS’ ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)
• Titles recommended:
  - *The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins - Krista found that the release date of the third book in The Hunger Games series is August 2010.
  - *I’m Down* by Mishna Wolf - the audiobook version is read by the author herself, and addresses what it means to be white and raised in an African-American neighborhood in America.
  - *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead - a good tween read with short chapters.
  - *Gamer Girl* by Marianne Mancusi
  - *House of Night* series by P.C. Cast
  - *Ash* by Melinda Lo - there is an interview with the author about the book on the YALSA blog.
  - *Columbine* by Jeff Kass - non-fiction
  - *The Hate List* by Jennifer Brown - pairs well with *Columbine*
  - *Are These My Bassoombas I See Before Me* by Georgia Nicholson
  - *Let it Snow* by a collection of authors including John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle
  - *Shelf Discovery: Teen Classics We Never Stopped Reading* by Lizzie Skurnick
YA COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN THESE ECONOMY TIMES

• Todd Krueger, of BCPL’s Collection Development Department, shared some tips with Stefan Freed prior to the meeting, which Stefan relayed to the group.

  ➢ “I would highly recommend a shared collection, if that is feasible for any libraries attending that aren't currently in a shared environment. Because of sharing, I certainly purchase fewer copies of teen materials, especially mid-list or niche, for the BCPL collection.”
  ➢ “I would also recommend a good mix of hardcover and paperback, and focus strongly on popular and appealing rather than what a person feels they "should" buy because of its reviews. If there is demand, certainly purchase those, but libraries can't afford shelf-sitters if they are in a tough budgetary cycle.”

• Jamie Watson, of Harford County Public Library’s Collection Development Department, spoke on recent trends and methods of purchasing for the teen collection.

  ➢ She is currently purchasing fewer copies of mid-list titles.
  ➢ In addition, she noted how important it is to advocate for YA budget money and to be sure to indicate how YA literature has exploded.
  ➢ Playaways have become very popular.
  ➢ Graphic novels don’t seem to be as popular as they once were in her system.
  ➢ In addition, she recommended checking out the YALSA Forum for information on books
  ➢ Stefan suggested the Illinois Library Association that can be accessed by setting up or using an already existing PB works account.

LOW COST PROGRAMMING IDEAS: ROUNDTABLE

• Montgomery County Library is working with their Parks & Recreation Department to establish more teen programming.
• Another library system hosted a “Name that Book Cover” contest with prizes being lollipops.
• At one branch, they are hosting an “Every Picture Tells a Story” contest for Summer Reading Club and are creating playlists of music relating to the theme.
• Jennifer Jones, of Harford County Public Library, shared with the group her success story of the recent county-wide “Guitar Hero” Tournament.

  ➢ The system used one “Guitar Hero” package and rotated its use among the branches for the individual branch competitions.
  ➢ Each competitor chose a song from an established playlist.
  ➢ The person receiving the most points from their individual play moved on as finalists.
  ➢ Each branch had 8-15 competitors.
  ➢ The finalists competed for the ultimate title and prize of a Flip Camera.
  ➢ There were 11 finalists in total.
  ➢ Approximately 37 came out in support of the event.

• Relating to video gaming programs in general, Stefan shared two articles with the group:

ATTENDING TRAININGS DURING THE BUDGET CRUNCH

- It was mentioned that many people are finding it difficult to get funding and substitutes to attend training, which has a deep impact because people still need to acquire CEU’s.
- Krista McKenzie mentioned that more committees and organizations are moving their meetings to virtual platforms such as WIMBA.
- Stefan Freed noted that there are two worthwhile programs (in addition to the TIG meeting) being offered at MLA this year. One program is sponsored by PSD and is about social networking and teens to be presented by Elizabeth Rafferty. The other is about what it means that Millennials are turning 30 being presented by Jennifer Rothschild.
- Jamie Watson added that YALSA is offering several online courses that people can register for. In addition, it worth mentioning that Jamie is teaching the very informative course “Power up with Print.”
- Krista mentioned that ALA Annual Conference this year will be in Washington, D.C. and has many programs with teens as the subject matter on the slate.

TWEENS VS. TEENS: EMERGENCE OF THE TWEENS & LIBRARY DEMAND

- Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled until a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista McKenzie, TIG Vice-Chair/Secretary