TIG minutes 12/13/12

Attending: Heather Owings, Kathie Weinberg, Elizabeth Rafferty, Jim Dankiewicz, Beth Chandler, Liz Sundermann, Allison Maricle, Sarah Russo, Cayce Hoffman

Heather Owings from Carroll County is our new TIG Chairperson. Her email address is: howings@carr.org.

Summer Reading—Library Systems’ Best Practices and Changes:

Pre-Registration, Registration and Kickoffs:
Most of the library systems use online systems for registration and other Summer Reading recordkeeping. A few still use paper registration.

Systems that allow for pre-registration let participants start reading but they cannot get stickers or prizes. BCPL starts pre-registration signup in May; most other branches start pre-registration in early June. Most start (regular) registration right after school ends.

In a couple of counties, kickoff events are geared more for publicity purposes than as incentive for teens to join Summer Reading. Several library systems have branch-based kickoff events for the kids.

Many of the library systems send staff to visit schools before kickoff, but not all.

Contests and prizes, by county library system:
Carroll County: the teen involvement numbers have gone up. They do online raffles and offer multiple prizes. Teens need to read 8 books to “finish” Summer Reading (although they can continue reading beyond that).

Montgomery County: Award certificates for finishers; to ‘complete’ program, teens needed to read 4 books. Teen programming was not system-wide, but left up to branches or Friends groups. Two system-wide contests were held based on the Hunger Games and the Olympics. Winners won gift cards donated by Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

Baltimore County: Had a raffle prize system for teens with 9 prizes; some were per branch prizes and some were system-wide (larger items like eReader). Teens had to read 2 books per entry into raffle.

St. Mary’s County: gave out small and fun teen prizes such as packets of band-aids shaped like bacon and silly moustaches.

Anne Arundel County: started giving teens a participation prize when they sign up instead of a completion prize. Registration is on paper. AACPL also held weekly raffles for larger prizes to gear attention towards system’s teen Facebook page.

Enoch Pratt: Teens get a free book for signing up. Prizes based on number of books or number of hours: Flash drive or headphones (4 books / 4 hours); T shirt (8 books / 8 hours). Grand prize drawing for $50 certificate at end of Summer Reading party (must be at party to claim prize).
Registration/completion done online—teens can bring in or librarian access. Books ordered from Scholastic. Teens got to choose from 3 titles (they were really invested in their book choices). And teens’ choices were often unexpected—many guys chose _13 little blue envelopes_. T-shirt prizes were designed by Pratt. Flash drives were from Oriental Trading.

Howard County: Also doing a raffle-type system with “book bucks.” $10 in Book Bucks earns a raffle ticket for smaller prize; $50 earns a ticket for the big prize and headphones. The bigger prizes were more popular. System staff make an effort to get a lot of donations; hundreds of prizes. Simplified instruction book; signup and prizes online. Teens can do book reviews to earn Book Bucks, but they have to be in library to get tickets. Each branch sorts tickets received by what prizes they are for, does drawings, and calls winners.

*Summer Reading ending:*
Most systems end in mid-August. Anne Arundel county stops programming in late July (August is a big travel month for families) but allows kids and teens to collect prizes through August.

Ending early gives staff time to process winners and notify before school starts.

*Teen summer-volunteer duties:*
Carroll County has teens sign up Summer Reading participants. One Carroll Co. branch had contest “who could sign up most adults” for teen volunteers. Most systems have teens also cut out or help with crafts. Cockeysville (BCPL) had teens right inside door signing up and helping kids do various age-appropriate crafts. MCPL has staff help people sign up; one branch did have teen volunteers the first couple of days to help sign up. One system has had parents complain because they’re giving out a child’s information in an open / public area.

*TIG’s Positioning and Repositioning*
We have a Goodreads page: Beth Chandler (current TIG secretary) is moderator; but TIG has not done much with the page. We discussed whether it was useful to keep it. We talked about other options: setting up a discussion on our listserv was a possibility, but the YALSA book listserv is already a good resource for teen reader’s advisory. Most TIG members on the YALSA listserv, save the emails and then use the ‘search’ function (in Outlook or email program) to find what you need. Someone suggested we put suggestions or questions on the TIG Facebook page. The final decision was to share/set up a teen readers’ advisory topic on Facebook page quarterly. The Goodreads page will be deleted.

The TIG email list is currently: TIG@bcpl.net but that may not be working much longer. Stefan (former TIG chair) will contact Heather about possible email list change. [Edited: the new listserv email address is: tig@lists.carr.org.]

We’ve been invited to co-sponsor workshops in FY 2013-14 (starting fall 2013) with PSD. Beth and others briefly described the MLA-DLA conference.

*Teen Programming*
Carroll County is doing Battle of the Books programs this year (Howard Co. also does this); Teams of 6-7 kids are given a list of books to read and answer trivia questions. Last year’s winners were a group of middle-school boys. This year there will be two groups, grades 4-5 and grades 7-8. All the books are Black Eyed Susan books.
**Teen Non-fiction Collections**
The new Common Core has a big influence in Howard Co. Common Core focuses on nonfiction rather than fiction reading. Nonfiction reading and related skills (critical analysis, etc.) is supposed to be incorporated in all subjects.

This puts more focus on teen nonfiction. Many library systems shelve teen nonfiction separately from other nonfiction, but others interfile it with adult non-fiction. The pros and cons of each shelving arrangement was discussed.

**Teen Online Magazine**
Margaret Carty sent us information about a new online magazine “My-say” for middle schoolers [http://www.my-say.org/](http://www.my-say.org/). From website: MY-Say is the online 'zine of choice for Maryland middle school students. It’s written by middle school students for middle school students. The magazine was just launched on 12/12/12.

**Read Across Maryland**
Libraries should get a packet soon. Radical Readers: kids read 30 min/day for 30 days. Kids can enter to win Kindle Fire or Amazon gift card for the value of the Kindle. There will be handouts, a website, and a blog for kids to post in. Creators of the program are interested in learning why kids drop out of program—why don’t they like to read?

**Readers Advisory Roundtable.**


*The Compound* by S.A. Bodeen: Father created a bunker for nuclear war, it comes and they stay for 13 yrs. Good but has some flaws. The book is creepy and has lots of plot holes. Needs a sequel.

*The Diviners* by Libba Bray: Takes place in the Prohibition era. Involves the occult and serial killing, and has an outspoken and bright female main character.

*Magic Under Glass* by Jaclyn Dolamore: Steampunk fantasy romance with strong non-European (Turkey/Central Asia) heroine, romance, suspense, and an elf-prince imprisoned in an automaton. Author lives in western Maryland.

*Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky is back because of the movie release: Don’t listen to in the audiobook in the car you will cry. “Lots of Feels!” Movie does book justice.

Adult book with teen interest: *King Peggy*, an easy to read true story: A woman who is a secretary in Washington DC gets a phone call that her distant uncle died and she is now king of a fishing village in Ghana. She keeps her job in DC, but also is queen of 7000 people with no running water or electricity, terrible schools, and spousal abuse. Peggy works to improve the society, but it’s very sexist and she meets resistance. She gradually succeeds--and without (much) money.

*Dancers Among Us* by Jordan Matter: A photographer took pictures of dancers in public places. Breathtaking images plus the stories behind each photo.
*Chopsticks* by Jessica Anthony: Mystery-romance told in photos and images.

*Beyond Courage* by Doreen Rappaport: A book for teens about Holocaust and resistance fighters. 15 short stories about young Jewish people who resisted Nazis in various countries. Images accompany stories.

*Friends with Boys* by Faith Erin Hicks: Realistic fiction but with a ghost that follows the main character around.

*Drama* by R. Telgemeir: Middle schoolers in a drama club: lots of romance and friend-issues drama as well as a play to put on.

*My Sister Lives On The Mantelpiece* by Annabel Pitcher: 10 year old boy whose sister died in a bombing and his family try to cope with her death.

Submitted by secretary Beth Chandler, 1/10/13. Please email me with any questions or changes at: [ekaterin24@yahoo.com](mailto:ekaterin24@yahoo.com)