Maryland Library Association Teen Interest Group
Winter Meeting, December 4, 2019, 2-4pm
South Bowie Branch Library, Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

★ Welcome, introductions
  ○ Please share: Name, Title, Library System, which book you brought along and why (and any other books you’re currently loving/reading)
  ○ Books shared:
    ■ *Orpheus Girl* by Brynne Rebele-Henry
    ■ Frank Miller’s new fantasy novel,
    ■ *You Bring the Distant Near* by Mitali Perkins
    ■ *Wayward Son (Carry On #2)* by Rainbow Rowell
    ■ *The Witch Girl* by Molly Ostertag
    ■ *Counting Darkness* by Robin LaFevers and *Grave Mercy* by Robin LaFevers
    ■ *The Toll* by Neal Schusterman (and the entire Scythe series!)
    ■ *The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue* by Mackenzie Lee
    ■ *Moongirl and Devil Dinosaur* by Brandon Montclare and Amy Reeder.

★ MLA Updates
  ○ [May 6-8 in Cambridge](#), 1920s theme
  ○ Need for baskets for the MLA Conference - if anyone wants to put one together for TIG/teen-related, let me know
    ■ Any theme ideas?
  ○ Scheduled programs sponsored by TIG:
    ■ Wednesday Pre-Conference on T3
    ■ Thursday 9 am Prom Dress
    ■ Friday 11 am Next Level Teen Programming
    ■ Tech Petting Zoo Friday 10-12
  ○ Other helpful conference presentations:
    ■ TIG member Jake is doing an all day Wednesday pre-conference on D&D in the library - will be very hands-on!
    ■ BCPL is doing a diversity initiative and has created kits to promote and support diversity - will be showcasing that in a session on Thursday.

★ Other training opportunities:
  ○ Teen Connect conference: April 8, all day at Odenton Library in AACPL. Free! Limited registration so speak to your youth services coordinator in your county.
    ■ Visit website: [https://sites.google.com/view/teenconnectformdlibraries/home](https://sites.google.com/view/teenconnectformdlibraries/home)
  ○ Kids Are Customers, Too! Will be March 5, has a teen track and lots of great opportunities to learn about how to support your teens.
★ YALSA T3 Trainings available
  ○ Contact Kelsey (kelsey.hughes@pgcmls.info) if interested
  ○ Topics: Connected Learning, Computational Thinking, Ages & Stages, Effective Facilitation
  ○ Flexible and adaptable - can combine topics, different lengths, etc.

★ Future of TIG
  ○ What are we doing now/what have we tried?
    ■ In 2018-2019, there was one meeting. Members wanted to have options to meet online and in person to share with each other. Facebook was proposed as a good online conversation place, but did not
  ○ What would you like to see? Social? Trainings? Other?
    ■ Often teen librarians are very siloed and they need a place to be able to talk to one another and hear from folks who are passionate about teens
      ● Especially a need for libraries that are transitioning to have a sounding board
    ■ Forums: in person or video platform meetings - immediacy is good
      ● Moving around to different areas would be helpful
        ○ Maybe meet every other month or quarterly?
        ○ Choose a sharing topic that’s planned in advance
          ■ Also asking about books and programs happening
            ■ Ideas: talking about spaces
              ● Would be good to have an online platform, but Facebook might not be the place
              ● Maybe a Google site or a wiki site? That way resources can be shared to it
                ○ Perhaps the Make-It Place?
  ○ Leadership opportunities for 2020-2021 - if you want to become more involved with MLA, TIG could use a co-chair or perhaps even a new chair for next year! Let me know if you’re interested or know someone who would be.

★ Shareout
  ○ What’s going well with teen services in your library?
    ■ Program idea: Making “Oddly Satisfying” videos
    ■ Baltimore: Sewing/Fashion Design Summer Camp
    ■ LARP @ BCPL - Owings Mills
    ■ BCPL-Towson starting a Teen Advisory Board, may incorporate some fashion design and some conversations with a professional in the field.
  ○ What challenges are you facing? What ideas does the group have to help?
    ■ Passive programs and materials
• Wherever possible, leave materials out and make them available! Teens are afraid to ask
• If you lose your board game materials, you can often ask a board game company to replace lost pieces.
• Uno is a good game to have
• Button makers are great!
• Response walls or art walls
• This is a great topic for our forum! What passive activities have worked?
• Sticker mosaic idea - sticker by number activity
• Also poster size black and white prints for coloring

■ Challenge of teen spaces:
• At one library system, there has always been a challenge of creating teen space, has always been a little forced/impromptu and not big enough. Will finally be having some dedicated space.
• How to attract teens? Keep the stuff out and available! Passive programs.
• Idea: art wall - teens can post whatever they want on the wall within reason (should have some guidelines about how to respect the wall)
• Challenge of limiting age in the teen space, not only the older but also the younger. What if a teen or tween comes with their sibling who they’re responsible for? Also a challenge in programs.
  ○ How to keep grownups out? Maybe they’re only allowed at certain times
• To incorporate teens and tweens, maybe do the same program twice, once for younger teens/tweens and one for older teens

■ Teen Book Display ideas:
• Could use props to make the display more interesting (ex: playaways with headphones or plinko board)
  • Kitchensink RA
• Interactive displays can work well - teens write reviews or provide feedback on the books in real time.

■ How to make your branch friendly to teens if you’re not a “teen branch”
• Making sure management are on board
• Doing a lot of training particularly on teen development
• Teen programs require commitment - you have to build this population slowly