



YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of May 25, 2015

No. 207

Northumberland Public Library

Story Hour Featured Circus Theme

Clowns, magicians, gymnasts and a trained dog made the May 21 Listening Lambs at the Library Story Hour an event to remember. The event, held at the Northumberland Public Library, drew a crowd of more than 80 young children and parents.

After **Jan Bates**, the library's Coordinator of Children's Services, read "Olivia" – the tale of a young girl who saves the circus – things moved into high gear. The day's Story Hour theme was **Come to the Circus**, and the eager audience did exactly that.

To help set the stage, Library Director **Alice Cooper** played recorded calliope music as Mary the Clown passed out small tickets to the children. Clown Daisy Dew and Bates, now dressed as the ringmaster,



instantly evoked images of the Big Top. The first act was Magician Seth Hughes, assisted by his brother, Isaac. Seth, now 11, said he'd been doing magic tricks since he was 8 and learned them from books at the library.

Then came a performance by Ebie Cox and Bleu, her trained English Labrador Retriever. Story Hours normally include a snack and this time it was cotton candy and popsicles delivered to the kids by the clowns. Daisy Dew the clown then gave them a short

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Chesapeake Public Library

Free Comic Book Day... At Indian River Library!

Zap! Pow! Bam! Boom! The Indian River Branch in the Chesapeake Public Library System hosted its fourth annual Free Comic Book Day event on Saturday, May 2, 2015.



FCBD is an event that takes place on the first Saturday in May across North America. On this day Comic Book Stores and other participating locations come together to give away free comic books. The Indian River Library has participated in this program since 2012 in order to help promote literacy and introduce the genre of Comic Books and Graphic Novels to all readers.

The Indian River Library had visitors from Star Wars characters, Marvel characters, Tidewater

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Youth Services Notes

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communities and individuals thrive through broad

public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and

lifelong learning. This newsletter project is made

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Thanks

for the photos and information!

- ◇ **Jim Watkins**, Charlotte County Library
- ◇ **Jessica Maitland**, Chesapeake Public Library
- ◇ **Maria Mena**, Newport News Public Library
- ◇ **Carol Aubut**, Norfolk Public Library
- ◇ **Dan Hirst**, Northumberland Public Library
- ◇ **Michael Welch**, Virginia Department of Health
- ◇ **Dorothy Stolz**, Carroll County (Maryland) Public Library



Dates to Remember

Virginia Conferences

October 21-23, 2015..... Virginia Library Association Annual Conference..... Richmond

National Conferences

June 25-30, 2015..... American Library Association Annual Conference..... San Francisco

November 6-8, 2015..... YALSA'S 2015 Young Adult Symposium..... Portland

April 5-9, 2016..... Public Library Association 2016 Conference..... Denver

June 23-28, 2016..... American Library Association Annual Conference..... Orlando

September 15-17, 2016..... ALSC National Institute 2016..... Charlotte

Workshops / Early Literacy Activity Center (ELAC) Exchanges

September 9-10, 2015..... Library of Virginia Fall Youth Services Workshop..... Richmond

Story Hour Featured Circus Theme

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history of clowns. Long before clowns were in circuses, she said, clowns were in churches, where they helped the clergy by miming the readings that were done in Latin. This practice ended after the Reformation, so clowns moved to secular events and, eventually, circuses.

The circus ended with the children singing "I Want to be a Lamb" and then a remarkable gymnastic performance by the Northern Neck High Flyers. While the circus marked the final Thursday Hour for children almost 3 through 6 until September, Bates noted that there is plenty going on at the library this summer. Thursday Story Hours – for children of all ages – begin June 17 and run through August. There also will be Special Reading Events at the Heathsville YMCA on Mondays starting June 15 and running through late July, Space Camp in August, plus various other activities.

"We have great things planned," Bates said. "Are you going to come back and see me?" A loud chorus of "Yay!" was the answer.

Submitted by Don Hirst, Northumberland Public Library Publicist. 

Free Comic Book Day... At Indian River Library

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Comicon, Dave & Busters, & Trilogy Comics. Activities included a costume contest, Lego room, board games, photo booth, create a superhero, superhero masks, batstaches, fling a superhero, shrinky dinks, perler beads, and glitter tattoos. There were also 3 panels: Superhero Mad Libs, Star Wars Trivia, & Web Comics. Families and customers of all ages enjoyed the day full of activities with a door count of 633 guests for the day.



Are you interested in hosting FCBD at your library? Get more information here:

<http://www.freecomicbookday.com>



Start planning early! The Indian River Library partnered with a local comic book store in December to place an order to purchase comics. Feel free to contact **Ms. Jessica Maitland** if you have any questions on how the Indian River Library got started with their FCBD event.

Submitted by Jessica Maitland, Youth Services Librarian II, Indian River Library, Chesapeake Public Library. 

Newport News Public Library

Second ToshiCon Convention a Hit at Newport News Public Library

Over 90 teens and teen volunteers flocked to the Main Street Library on Saturday, May 16 for the second annual ToshiCon convention.

The event included hands on crafts, a photo shoot station, face painting, Anime screening, gaming competitions, and Cosplay contest and dance.

ToshiCon was sponsored by the Library System's Herbert H. Neisser Fund with additional funding from the Newport News Public Library System Foundation, Friends of the Newport News Public Library, Newport News Barnes and Noble, World's Best Comics, and The Frank T. and Mary D. Baker Family Charitable Fund of the Lutheran Community Foundation.

Submitted by Maria Mena, Family and Youth Services Coordinator.



Cosplay winners



Teen members of the organizing committee



Pin Mania table



USDA Food and Nutrition Service

“At the Picnic Table” — Bassett Library

A Special 2015 Summer Meals Program Edition of *At the Picnic Table* contains an article about the **Basset Library, a branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library** and its participation in the **USDA’s Summer Food Service Program**.

At the Picnic Table is a newsletter produced for partners throughout the Mid-Atlantic Regional of the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A copy of the article is attached to this newsletter. 

Norfolk Public Library

7 Cities 1 Book: Fahrenheit 451 Display

The Staff at the **Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch Library** in Norfolk celebrated **7 Cities 1 Book, Fahrenheit 451** with a display and programs. The Children’s program included a synopsis of the book; followed by a group discussion. They were then asked to write a brief paper about what their life would be like without books.

Submitted by Carol Aubut.



American Library Association

ALA Conference Programs That May Be of Interest to Youth Services Librarians

If you are going to San Francisco for the American Library Association conference in June, here are a few programs and events that may be of interest.

Time for Storytime!

Friday, June 26, 2015 - 3:00pm to 4:00pm

LOCATION:

Hilton San Francisco Union

Golden Gate 1

DESCRIPTION:

Get ready to move, dance, sing, and play! Three respected children’s storytime authorities, Betsy Diamant-Cohen, Linda Ernst, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting, will share examples from their popular storytime books, offer tips and advice, and take your questions. You’ll learn about early literacy and have a great time!

EARLY LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY

Reception at the Children’s Creativity Museum in the Yerba Buena Gardens

WHEN: Friday evening, June 26, 2015 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM

WHERE: The Children’s Creativity Museum – behind the historic 1906 Children’s Carousel and a quick, a few-minutes’ walk from the Moscone Convention Center.

WHAT: Come celebrate the great ways libraries are serving as centers for early learning. Join us for a free, informal reception with poster sessions and presentations highlighting innovative library services and community partnerships that support the developmental needs of young children (0-5), their families and caregivers. Visit with poster presenters, grab a light snack, and get inspired about early learning in libraries!

HOSTED BY: The California State Library’s Early Learning with Families (ELF) Initiative

Capacity is limited so pre-registration is required at:

<https://fs16.formsite.com/heathercalifa/form27/index.html>

We’re expecting a crowd so register early!

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“There are worse crimes than burning books.

One is not reading them.”

~ Joseph Brodsky ~

ALA Conference Programs for Youth Services Librarians

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The Fusion of Play—and All Five Early Literacy Practices—into Library Environments

Saturday, June 27, 2015 - 1:00pm to 2:30pm

LOCATION:

Moscone Convention Center

2018 (W)

PRESENTERS:

Speaker: Blake Ratcliffe, Founder and Co-Owner, TMC Kids

Speaker: Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, San Francisco Public Library

Speaker: Tracy Hvezda-Lehtola | Youth Services Librarian, Hennepin County (Minn.) Library

Speaker: Dorothy Stoltz, Programming & Outreach Services Manager, Carrol County (Md.) Public Library

Speaker: James Bradberry, Architect/Designer, James Bradberry Architects

Speaker: Kim Van Der Veen, Principal, Burgeon Group

Speaker: Marisa Conner, Youth Services Coordinator, Baltimore County Public Library

DESCRIPTION:

Please join us for a discussion of how libraries are incorporating talk, sing, read, write, and play into library spaces for early learning. We'll interview librarians and designers to see what worked and what didn't; discuss optimal ways for librarians to work with interior designers to achieve successful designs; share how to achieve a successful play environment without hiring designers. All sizes—of libraries, budgets, and ambitions—will be featured.

Meet the Authors — The Power of Play: Designing Early Learning Spaces

Sunday, June 28, 2015 – 1:00pm – 1:30pm

LOCATION: Moscone Convention Center ALA Store
Dorothy Stoltz, Marisa Conner, James Bradberry

Early Learning in the Library: Tools, Partnerships, and Promising Practices

Sunday, June 28, 2015 - 3:00pm to 4:00pm

LOCATION:

Moscone Convention Center

2004 (W)

PRESENTERS:

Speaker: Beth Crist, Youth and Family Services Consultant, Colorado State Library

Speaker: Clara Bohrer, Director, West Bloomfield Township Public Library

Speaker: Diane Hutchins, Consultant & Project Manager, Washington State Library

Speaker: Susan Hildreth, Executive Director, Califa Library Group

Speaker: Tim Carrigan, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services

DESCRIPTION:

Since 2013, IMLS has funded \$8.5 million in early learning projects in communities nationwide. This panel of grantees will share promising practices and lessons learned, with a focus on leveraging partnerships with state and local education and social service providers. Come learn about resources that inform libraries' work in this area, including a forthcoming framework for aligning library programming with state early learning standards (in collaboration with the BUILD Initiative); the "Growing Young Minds" report; Prescription for Success, a program connecting Reach Out and Read clinics with local museums and libraries; and an update on the PLA/ALSC study that examines how library programming around early literacy development affects parent engagement.



YALSA Membership Meeting and President's Program: Taking a Deep Dive Into Digital Literacy: Shark Tank for Library Staff

(Jen Bishop from Carroll is a finalist in the Shark Tank contest)

Monday, June 29, 2015 - 10:30am to 11:30am

LOCATION:

Moscone Convention Center

2014 (W)

PRESENTERS:

Speaker: Crystle Martin

Speaker: K-Fai Steele

Speaker: Susan Del Rosario

DESCRIPTION:

Think Shark Tank, the popular TV show that features aspiring entrepreneurs pitching their business idea to a panel of potential investors. In YALSA's version, library staff pitch their ideas to a group of sharks made up of tech entrepreneurs, educators, and library staff. Come learn about the programs that made it to the finals and listen to the feedback from YALSA's group of Sharks: Susan Del Rosario, Senior Director of Library Programs, Tutor.com; Crystle Martin, Post-Doctoral Researcher, UC Irvine; K-Fai Steele, Program Associate, National Writing Project; David ten Have, Lead on Business Strategy, Makey Makey.

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ALA Conference Programs for Youth Services Librarians

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Early Literacy Outreach for Teen Parents: Engage & Inspire with ECRR 2.0

Monday, June 29, 2015 - 1:00pm to 2:30pm

LOCATION:

Moscone Convention Center

2006 (W)

PRESENTERS:

Speaker: Corinne Sanchez, Community Services
Supervisor, San Antonio Public Library

Speaker: Xelena Gomez, Early Literacy Specialist, San
Antonio Public Library

DESCRIPTION:

The Every Child Ready to Read 2.0 initiative has provided a powerful toolkit for introducing parents to early literacy practices. When those parents also happen to be teenagers, it is essential to take a fun-yet-thoughtful approach to programming. In this session, you will receive reliable, time-tested methods for reaching your teen parent population and introducing the five ECRR practices in a way that is simple, straightforward, and highly interactive. The San Antonio Public Library has impacted a majority of their city's teen parent population enrolled in school. Learn how you can too.

Email from –

Dorothy Stoltz

Programming & Outreach Services Manager

Carroll County Public Library

New Windsor, MD 21776 

Virginia Children's Book Festival 2015

The inaugural
Virginia Children's
Book Festival,
hosted by
Longwood
University in
October 2014, was a
phenomenal
success, and the
2015 Festival is shaping up to be even more
promising! Check out the line-up!

www.vachildrensbookfestival.com

Panel Discussions

Reluctant Readers: The Appeal of the YA Series

In 2011, the Association of American Publishers ranked Children's/Young Adult books as the single fastest-growing 



publishing category. A recent increase in quality, enduring themes and the genre's unique adolescent viewpoints, "which are often illuminated with emotion but not informed by experience," says Meredith Barnes, a literary agent with Lowenstein Associates, can woo even the most reluctant of readers. Our panel discussion will address what is unique about YA literature and how to introduce it and support it as a way to get your child reading.

Panelists: Martina Boone, Seth Fishman, Lamar Giles, Gigi Amateau, Dr. Jennifer Miskec

Reluctant Readers: Comic Books and Graphic Novels

Too often, there is a persistent perception that comics and graphic novels are not edifying for our children. Librarians that include graphic novels and comics on their shelves have found a surge in voluntary sign-outs from groups traditionally classified as "reluctant readers," often middle-school boys, a notoriously difficult group to reach. Graphic novels and comic books can offer well-written and exciting stories, new points of view and stimulating artwork. Our panel discusses these books' importance, tremendous variety and how to help your child choose appropriately.

Panelists: Cece Bell, Ben Hatke, Lamar Giles, Tom Angleberger, Professor Jeff Halliday, Curator Cindy Jackson

Empowering Girls through Books

Building a girl's self-esteem begins early and requires consistent attention throughout the years. From preschool books like "I Love my Hair," a book that encourages African American children to be proud of their physical characteristics, to "Ella Enchanted," a book for middle school children that eschews traditional fairy tale characters in favor of a strong-willed heroine who doesn't need saving, girls greatly benefit from books that help them overcome the obstacles of becoming a woman. Our panel discusses the mounting pressure girls face from TV, magazines, on the playground and in class and how introducing them to powerful and confident female characters is one asset we have in raising strong girls.

Panelists: Martina Boone, Gigi Amateau, Deb Stone, Jacqueline Woodson, Sophie Blackall, Ben Hatke, Liz Magill

Empowering Boys through Books

Like girls, boys need positive images of themselves. It's a fact of life that a very large percentage of people shop for children's books by gender. While this should not be a hard-and-fast rule, especially when seeking to encourage empathy and respect, choosing books by gender can be an advantage when seeking to introduce boys to empowering versions of themselves. And it's important to start early, but as boys progress through school, they are often shamed for reading. Our panel will address what boys need when they read and how to encourage them even as society discourages them.

Panelists: Kwame Alexander, Ben Hatke, Anita Garland, John Bemelmans Marciano

Creating a Reading Home: Why Fairy Tales Matter

The children's book genre has exploded in recent years and while that's laudable, fairy tales still play an important role

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Virginia Children's Book Festival 2015

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in a child's development and remain a surefire way to engage and interest children in stories and reading as well as providing them with important tools as they grow. Fairy tales help teach right and wrong, develop critical-thinking, boost imagination and help children deal with emotions and anxiety. Our panel will discuss the benefit of making fairy tales an integral part of your child's reading life and how they can help parents with their child's development.

Panelists: Martina Boone, Dr, Rhonda Brock-Servais, Anne Blankman, Brenda Chapman (writer of Pixar's "Brave").

Reluctant Readers: Using Minecraft to Encourage Reading

It's not often one hears of using video games to encourage reading, but as children are bombarded with electronic media, games like Minecraft can serve a useful purpose. By pairing gameplay based on books children read with drawing, writing and discussion, parents, teachers and librarians provide children more opportunity to engage and participate in reading and literature. Our panel will discuss the general benefits of Minecraft and specific ways to integrate it into your child's reading life. A Minecraft workshop will be available.

Panelists: to be determined.

Civil Rights in Children's Literature: An Ongoing Story

Farmville, Virginia, home of the Virginia Children's Book Festival, is also home to the Robert Russa Moton School, now museum, the setting for a 1951 student strike that eventually produced three-fourths of the plaintiffs in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Held at the Moton Museum, our panel begins its discussion of civil rights in children's literature with Teri Kanefield's, *Girl from the Tar Paper School*, based on the life of Barbara Johns who led the Moton strike, and moves into our modern day, addressing the issues of race, gender, disabilities, sexual orientation and others that confront our children today and how children's literature is an important tool in helping our children address and understand these issues.

Panelists: Jacqueline Woodson, Kwame Alexander, Duncan Tonatiuh, Lamar Giles, Gigi Amateau, Cece Bell, Teri Kanefield, London Ladd

Email sent to Virginia Libraries discussion list by Jim Watkins, Charlotte County Library, May 14, 2015 

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors of learning are always open.”

~ Laura Bush ~

LVA Library Development and Networking

Study on the Impact of Summer Reading Programs in Virginia

Every summer, public libraries in every state offer a reading program. Anecdotal information shows that parents, children and teens love their summer reading program. Staff at the Library of Virginia wanted to explore further the impact that library summer reading programs have on supporting summer learning and preventing summer reading loss. Partnering with the Virginia Department of Education, using a system that tracks what children are reading in the summer, and working with the expertise of an international research company, McREL, we are conducting a study on the impact of the summer reading program in Virginia.

Of interest to most people is Report Three. The findings in this report are presented in the webinar found at:

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/LDND/srp-impact/>

If you wish to read the full report or the executive summaries, they are also posted on the same webpage.

The study began in 2013, and the final report in four parts is expected to be released in December 2015.

- ◇ **Report One** examines how many books participants read and if they are reading at their age level. The report also provides information from a survey directed at the public libraries
- ◇ **Report Two** describes site visits to five Virginia public libraries. Interviews were conducted with parents and library staff to document best practices for the summer reading program.
- ◇ **Report Three** examines the results of merging the data with the Virginia Department of Education reading tests.
- ◇ **Report Four** is an examination of reading scores of children and teens who participated in the summer reading program for more than one year

For more information, contact:

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Bassett Branch Library: Feeding Children's Mind and Body

Armando Vasquez, USDA, FNS Public Affairs

Who says that children will only find books in a library? Not the staff from Virginia's Bassett Branch Library in Bassett.

When Karen Barley, branch manager, and Janet Boucher, children's librarian, were discussing plans for the Blue Ridge Regional Library's annual summer reading program, they remembered an inquiry into whether or not the county libraries could participate as feeding sites in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program.

Realizing that the library could serve either a snack or a full meal after the reading programs to children, the staff became very excited and interested in making an impact on their community. "Knowing there were many local families who were struggling financially due to lost jobs in the area, I quickly decided to serve lunch," said Karen. After speaking to Marci Lexa, director of Henry County School Nutrition Program, Karen learned that Bassett Branch Library could become an open feeding site. The library would provide free meals to any child 18 years and under. This was an awesome opportunity, considering that the Bassett Library would not only be able to serve lunch to children who were attending programs at the library, but also to any child in the area who visited the library during the time that lunch was being served.

This being their first year, the library ran the feeding program in conjunction with their Summer Reading Program two days a week after their scheduled children's program and fed any child who was visiting the library. The library served an average of 50 meals



per week, during the summer reading program. Thus a very successful pilot project emerged and they are planning to participate once again this year. "To the staff at Bassett Library this was

a perfect fit for us to serve our community," said Karen. "Not only were we able to feed the minds of our area children with our reading program but we also fed their bodies as well."