



Oakland Main Library

www.baya.org

January 30, 2007

Next meeting:

March 27, 2007
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Berkeley Main Library
2090 Kittredge Street
510.981.6100

Teen Advisory Groups:

Antonio Lopez will lead a panel discussion featuring teens from the Berkeley Library Teen Advisory Group

Report on Finances

We are still seeing a decline in finances. The current balance is \$4,769. While the last author symposium almost broke even, because of the falling attendance BAYA will not be having an Author Symposium in the 2007 calendar year. Former treasurer Kay Finney and current treasurer Vicky Chen reminded members to stay current with paying dues.

ALA Midwinter report

Vi Dyas and Tracey Firestone reported attending the "Serving YAs in Urban Areas" The YA Urban list serve is for librarians in large urban public library systems who serve young adults to network, exchange ideas, discuss common problems and seek solutions in an effort to improve service to young adults in urban library systems." To subscribe: Send a request to subscribe to YALSA@ala.org.

Vi is also on the YALSA 50th Anniversary Task Force and is building a Flickr album of pictures of teen areas from various libraries. If you have a picture to contribute, please send them to Vi at <mailto:vdyas@ci.berkeley.ca.us>.

There was also a discussion about celebrating Teen Tech Week, which will be celebrated for the first time March 4-10 2007, at various libraries. Suggestions can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw.htm>. Some tech innovations such as Second Life, machinima (usually short films made using game graphics), a British book site that matches books to the reader's mood were mentioned, Miranda Doyle's <http://www.teenlibrarian.com/> was also briefly discussed.

General Discussion

Book Review Editor Debbie Carton reminded members to email their book reviews to her <mailto:dec1@ci.berkeley.ca.us>. The question of how we can make our review books more accessible was discussed. Some members felt that submitting the reviews to Amazon or Booksellers would aid this. There was also the discussion of formally including teens in the review process.

Printz discussion

The choice was generally applauded as recognition of the graphic novel as literature. Many librarians felt that graphic novels were much more diverse than most readers who read manga or superhero type graphic novels might be aware. There was a general hope that the award would help raise awareness of the diversity of graphic novels while others felt the award itself might keep some readers away from the book.

Serving the Underserved

Tracey Firestone, Manager of Young Adult Services for Oakland Public Library gave a presentation on the various ways that teen services librarians can advocate for teens. She emphasized the importance of this as teens are dealing with the difficulty of their developmental stage, unsympathetic representation in the media and occasionally hostile treatment from the community.

She urged teen librarians to reach out to as many segments of the community as we could, including the teens' parents, to educate and advocate on the behalf of teens. Reaching out to staff first to insure the fair treatment of teens within our own libraries. Tracey also emphasized the necessity to "keep friends and don't offend people" in the process of advocating for teens.

Some suggestions to aid the process of advocacy:

1. Talking to teachers on staff development day at the schools to explain the limits of the library collection and explain why some assignments can not be completed by students with the resources we offer. This may include creating a form letter for the teachers.
2. Introduce teachers to databases.
3. Create positive news about teens and respond to negative articles about teens with positive information.
4. Communicate with administrators about teen collection use and importance.

Finally she had some suggestions for working with staff in a harmonious way:

1. Seek Contact
2. Do nice things for them.
3. Lighten up.
4. Act friendly
5. Resist criticizing
6. Be grateful