Teen Librarians Meeting
Monday, April 9th, 2018 @ RCLS
Co-Chairs: Dianne Aimone and Jessica Gordon

Attendees: [Bold denotes a new attendee]
● Dianne Aimone- Albert Wisner Public Library, Warwick
● Kimberly Carletta- Orangeburg Library
● Jennifer Cohen- Suffern Free Library
● Felicia DaVolio- Newburgh Free Library
● Meaghan Doyle- Cornwall Public Library
● Gia Farruggia- Monroe Free Library
● Randall Enos- Ramapo Catskill Library System
● Joanna Goldfarb- Valley Cottage Free Library
● Karen Golding- Goshen Public Library and Historical Society
● Jessica Gordon- Finkelstein Memorial Library
● Mary Phillips- New City Free Library
● **Kristie Revicki- Nanuet Public Library** (Welcome back!)

1. Welcome & Introductions
   a. Sunshine Fund Report- The fund currently has $96.80 in it.

2. Chair News
   a. LARC news
      ■ SCRAWL is having its book launch party on Thursday, May 10th from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Valley Cottage Library! The book is currently being laid out.

3. Randy’s Notes
   a. Publishers’ Previews: At the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter conference, HMH Books for Young Readers were publicizing the following YA books: *Brightly Burning* by Alexa Donne, *Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe* by Preston Norton, and *After the Shot Drops* by Randy Ribay (which has already been published to multiple starred reviews).
   b. Special Workshops
      ■ Reports:
         ● The Westchester Library System offered a tour of their LEADER Lab. The lab is basically a maker space where librarians can be taught how to do more technical coding and crafts (like making your own soap or how to use a vinyl cutter). Sullivan County is interested in making a similar type of lab.
• A Banned Books Symposium was held at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh on Saturday, March 10th. Jay Asher was supposed to be the keynote speaker but was cancelled due to getting in trouble for sexual harassment. He was replaced by James LaRue, director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the ALA.

■ Coming Up:

• The YSS Spring Conference will be held at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center in Syracuse, New York on Thursday, April 12th. Registration has closed. If anybody needs a ride, they can email renos@rcls.org as he will be driving people up to conference in the RCLS van.

• The GOAT (Greatest of All Time) teen librarian meetup will be taking place at East Greenbush Community Library in East Greenbush, New York on Thursday, April 26th. Sponsored by Albany-area librarians, the meetup hopes to connect teen librarians from the tristate area.

• Day of Dialogue will be taking place on Wednesday, May 30th at New York University. While the event is currently sold out, there is a waitlist. If you plan on attending, it’s advised you bring a rolling suitcase to help carry all the ARCs handed out.

• BookExpo will happen at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City from Wednesday, May 30th to Friday, June 1st. If you attend BookExpo, please collect ARCs that can be used as prizes for Battle of the Books in the fall. Immediately following BookExpo will be BookCon, which will be held on Saturday, June 2nd and Sunday, June 3rd.

• Fall Into Books will be on Wednesday, October 24th at the Crestview Conference Center in West Nyack. The speakers will be activist and author Sandra Uwiringiyimana (How Dare the Sun Rise) and Nick Glass, founder and executive director of TeachingBooks.net. Make sure to register early because the conference center has a sparsity of space.

c. Summer Reading Program News: If you need to manually access the hard copy version of the Collaborative Summer Library Program manual, you can borrow it from RCLS for a few days. Contact Randy if you need to do so.
d. RCLS Professional Collection: The teen librarians’ LibGuide is now available at http://guides.rcls.org/c.php?g=566564&p=3902145. Right now the content on the guide is pretty sparse and really only has a few links to blogs and notes from teen librarian meetings but we’re looking for more content! We hope to one day have listings of performers for teen programs (including providers of babysitting classes), information useful to Battle of the Books teams, trivia questions to use, and guides to manga. If you’d like to submit materials for the LibGuide, you’ll need to send them to an administrator of the page: Randy, Dianne Aimone (daimone@rcls.org), Jessica Gordon (jgordon@rcls.org), and Jennifer Cohen (jcohen@rcls.org) can all add content to the page for you.

4. Topics
   a. Services for Teens on the Autism Spectrum
      - The Albert Wisner Public Library in Warwick won a $5000 Autism Welcome Here grant to hold programming that is inclusive of the autism community. Part of the grant requirements are that “people with autism, family members or other community stakeholders are involved in the development and/or implementation of the project,” so you would need help from the local autism community to run a successful program (for example, the Hudson Valley has the Autism Resource Center). Even if you’re not applying for the grant, you should still contact local activists with knowledge of autism if you plan on having an inclusive program.
      - While parents and guardians of teens with autism want more social opportunities for their children, they might not bring their teen into the library out of fear of their teen causing a scene. On a related note, registration for events for teens with autism is not often useful because those with autism often have to cancel at the last minute due to having a day where they just can’t handle a social event.
      - One thing to keep in mind: while people with autism are often referred to as “high-functioning” vs. “low-functioning,” this phrasing is generally frowned upon by the actual autism community.
      - Some ideas for programs to hold: dance programs, arts and crafts events, and game nights (the latter is a specially good choice since they’re relatively easy to run and tend to be popular- who doesn’t love board games?).
      - When staffing your event, it’s a good idea for employees to have some training beforehand on how to sensitively work with people who aren’t neurotypical. This includes training teen volunteers who might help out at the event. Speaking of teen volunteers, teens with
autism can also do volunteer work, whether as youth ambassadors at autism-inclusive events (if they’re able to handle social events) or by helping out with cleaning books or shelf-reading (tasks they can do alone and/or at their own pace).

- When promoting your event, newsletters, flyers, and brochures don’t tend to work in regards to this type of programming. Word of mouth is very important- look on Facebook for local parenting groups.

- There are some challenging issues when it comes to interacting with patrons who have autism. What happens when an adult with autism is brought into the children’s room or an event for youth by an aide? What do you do when an aide brings their client with autism into the library but then doesn’t do their job of taking care of them, either paying attention to their phone or computer instead? What about when a parent or guardian drops their child or teen with autism off at an event and then simply leaves? There does need to be some boundaries in regard to acceptable behavior in the library, no matter what the age of the person.

- RCLS has some books on the subject of services for teens on the autism spectrum that librarians can borrow:
  - *Programming for Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder* by Barbara Klipper
  - *Library Services for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders* by Lesley S.J. Farmer

5. Committee Updates
   a. Battle of the Books Committee- This year’s Battle will be on Saturday, September 8th. The location isn’t confirmed yet. There will be pizza for the teens participating starting at 11:00 AM, with the Battle itself starting at noon. Contact Dianne by Friday, June 1st if you’re participating. Participating libraries have until Sunday, July 15th to send in their participation fee of $75; if your library needs an invoice for this, contact Randy.

   b. Mock Printz Committee- The committee is looking for new members. The next meeting will probably be sometime in May; Mary Phillips will send out an email with more information about the date. If you can’t make it to meetings but you have ideas and/or thoughts on which books published in 2018 are Printz Award worthy, let Mary (mphillips@newcitylibrary.org) know. The current reading list for the Mock Printz Committee is currently:

   - *Love, Hate & Other Filters* by Samira Ahmed
Life Inside My Mind: 31 Authors Share Their Personal Struggles, edited by Jessica Burkhart

Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick Douglass, a Monumental American Man by Tonya Bolden

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

The Hazel Wood by Melissa Albert

Thunderhead by Neal Shusterman

Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card by Sara Saedi

Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World by Pénélope Bagieu

Chasing King’s Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Assassin by James L. Swanson

Dread Nation by Justina Ireland

After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay

American Panda by Gloria Chao

The Apocalypse of Elena Mendoza by Shaun David Hutchinson

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang

Speak: The Graphic Novel by Laurie Halse Anderson, illustrated by Emily Carroll

What the Night Sings by Vesper Stamper

6. Next Meeting
   a. The end of year meeting and luncheon will be on Monday, May 7th from 10:15 AM-1:00 PM at Finkelstein Memorial Library.

   b. Jessica will be in touch with more information about food for the luncheon. Right now she’s planning on Italian food and the price will be $12 per person, payable at the meeting.

   c. The speaker at the luncheon will be local author Sayantani DasGupta, whose middle grade book The Serpent’s Secret came out in February to multiple starred reviews.