Teen Librarians Meeting  
Monday, February 4th, 2018 @ RCLS  
Co-Chairs: Dianne Aimone and Jessica Gordon

Attendees: [Bold denotes a new attendee]  
- Dianne Aimone- Albert Wisner Public Library, Warwick  
- Barron Angell- Florida Public Library  
- Jennifer Cohen- Suffern Free Library  
- Risa D'Angelo- Tuxedo Park Library  
- Meaghan Doyle- Cornwall Public Library  
- Emilia Estep- Mamakating Library  
- Linda Geissler- Woodbury Library  
- Joanna Goldfarb- Ramapo Catskill Library System  
- Karen Golding- Goshen Public Library & Historical Society  
- Jessica Gordon- Finkelstein Memorial Library  
- Katie Hardiman- Sloatsburg Public Library  
- Felicia O'Keefe- Newburgh Free Library  
- Kristie Revicki- Nanuet Public Library

1. Welcome & Introductions  
   a. Sunshine Fund Report- After spending $100 on Randy’s farewell gifts, we currently have $27 in the Sunshine Fund. As we need more money to get Joanna a welcome gift, we collected funds at the meeting.

2. Chair News  
   a. LARC News- The deadline for submitting written and art pieces to Scrawl: Rockland Teens Write 2019 has passed. 103 teens submitted pieces, with some teens submitting multiple pieces, an increase over last year in terms of submissions. The editors will be meeting on Friday, February 8th to discuss what pieces should go into this year’s publication.
   b. With Dianne Aimone moving from Albert Wisner to Finkelstein, a new chair is needed for our groups to represent Orange and Sullivan counties. The chairs’ responsibilities include, but are not limited to, putting together agendas for our meetings, organizing our professional day and annual luncheons, keeping track of the Sunshine Fund, etc.
   c. There has been a date change for our annual summer reading planning workshop: the workshop will now be taking place on Monday, March 11th from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.
d. Update on Professional Development Day: After months of not getting a reply from them, Simon and Schuster finally got back in touch with Randy Enos. At the moment, they are thinking we might be able to visit their offices sometime in late-February or early-to-mid-March. While this doesn’t leave much time to prepare, their offices, right near Grand Central Station, are extremely convenient to get to.

e. Update on Teen Librarians’ Annual Luncheon: While the luncheon was originally supposed to take place at Finkelstein, it will now be on Monday, May 6th at RCLS. This change in date is to allow RCLS to take charge of organizing the luncheon and the presentation. The proposed agenda for May 6th is as follows:
   i. 9:00-10:15 AM- Battle of the Books Committee Meeting
   ii. 10:15 AM-12:00 PM- Teen Librarians Meeting
   iii. 12:00-1:00 PM- Lunch (Have your order forms in by 9:00 AM if attending Battle of the Books meeting; if not attending the BotB meeting, Joanna will be sending a form out through email that you can send back to her with your lunch choices.)
   iv. 1:00-3:00 PM- Presentation by Michael Cart (The presentation will be on what adult services librarians need to learn about teen services and materials.)

f. VidCode- Baron gave a talk and passed out a handout on a program called VidCode. The following is from his follow-up email repeating the details:
   i. “For those that missed today's Teen Librarians meeting, one of the topics discussed was Vidcode, a company that provides online access to a database that teaches teens how to code using things they enjoy, such as how to code a Snapchat filter. This program was Kickstarted in 2015 (they raised over $31.000) by 3 women who met at Hackercon (a convention for programmers and coders) and wanted to improve the number of women in the field through an easy to use teaching tool, which is great for all teens… The prices quoted to me were: Partial Rollout - $30 per teen per year, or $2900 for a Full Rollout for as many teen as wanted to sign up, though this was just for Florida so it's possible that price may go higher if we tell them that the whole system wants to participate. Given this is generally too much for any one library to spend, it seemed pertinent to check with everyone else and see if there was system-wide interest, and if so whether RCLS would be willing to fund it. Another idea I had was to use this for some kind of a
system-wide STEM/Coding Contest to replace the RCLS Minecraft Competition, which Sue Scott will no longer be running due to low interest. If you have any questions you can let me know [bangell@rcls.org], and Leandra from Vidcode said she is more than happy to set up a multi-person video conference (via Uber-conference) to demonstrate and explain more if anyone is interested in that.”

3. Joanna’s Notes
   a. Randy wrote us a nice card thanking us for the gift card and Hawaiian shirt he received for his retirement.
   b. Summer Reading Program
      i. Summer Reading Video Challenge- Unlike in previous years, where the challenge was used to produce videos that would promote summer reading programs, this year’s videos can be submitted between June 1st and August 2nd. A few librarians mentioned trying to make either a stop-motion animation video or a lip dub for the contest.
      ii. Flash drives containing the Collaborative Summer Library Program manuals have been distributed. If no one at your library has received it yet or if your flash drive doesn’t work, contact Joanna (jgoldfarb@rcls.org) and she’ll be able to send you one of the extra ones.
      iii. Each library in RCLS will be sent 3 of the official CSLP posters- the children’s poster, the teen poster, and the generic poster for adults. If you don’t want the poster, contact Joanna. It was noted at the meeting that one of the official children’s posters from the program uses racist stereotypes.
   c. Advocacy
      i. NYLA Library Advocacy Day is on Wednesday, February 27th. Governor Cuomo has a history of using library funding as bargaining chips in his annual budget so it’s important that we show legislators how much value libraries have. Every year RCLS drives a bus filled with library supporters up to Albany to meet with legislators. More information is available here.
      ii. The Great Giveback (www.thegreatgiveback.org) will be taking place on Saturday, October 19th. The program’s “mission is to provide a day of opportunities for library patrons to participate in meaningful service-oriented experiences” at the library.
Census 2020 is coming up and, for the first time, the census will be online. This means libraries will need digital resources to help with census taking, including tablets and computers. Start thinking about how your library can help and develop community partners for accurate census taking. Remember that children under five years old are the demographic that’s the least accurately counted. Having an accurate population count ensures that we also have an accurate number of representatives in the House of Representatives. The census bureau is hiring- go to census.gov for more information on employment.

d. Conferences
   i. The LARC 2019 Conference will be taking place on Friday, April 12th at the Crestview Conference Center in West Nyack. Jennifer will be doing a presentation on disaster planning at the conference.
   ii. NYLA’S YSS Spring Conference will be taking place on Friday, April 26th from 8:30 AM-4:15 PM at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown.
   iii. This year’s Fall into Books will be taking place on Friday, October 25th at the Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center in Kingston. The author presentation will be given by Margaret Peterson Haddix.
   iv. The ALA Annual Conference is in Washington, DC this year from Thursday, June 20th to Tuesday, June 25th. This is closer to us than it usually is, especially since it’s unlikely that they’ll ever hold it in New York City again.

e. Other Notables
   i. On Monday, January 28th, ALA announced their choices for this year’s Youth Media Awards. The Printz Award went to The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo, which our Mock Printz Committee named as an Honor book. The Poet X also won the Pura Belpré Author Award, and its audiobook version was named an Odyssey Honor Audiobook. There were three Printz Honors books chosen this year: Damsel by Elana K. Arnold, A Heart in a Body in the World by Deb Caletti, and I, Claudia by Mary McCoy.
   ii. Wondering how Joanna’s emails look so snazzy? She uses LibraryAware! Paid for by RCLS, LibraryAware provides great templates for doing publicity and, best of all, any library in the system can use it! If you’d like an account to be made for your library, contact Martha Sullivan at msullivan@rcls.org.
 iii. RCLS will be holding its annual Performers’ Showcase on Friday, February 22nd from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM. More information is available [here](#).

4. Committee Updates
   a. Battle of the Books Committee
      i. The following are the books for this year's Battle:
         - Contemporary: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas [This is the only one of the books chosen for this year's Battle that only comes in hardcover.]
         - Fantasy: *I am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore
         - Graphic Novel: *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin
         - Historical Fiction: *The Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse
         - Humor: *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli
         - Mystery: *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk
         - Nonfiction: *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater
      ii. The committee is looking into getting a new question reader for this year's Battle as the one we've been using makes some off-color jokes and comments that make the teams and audience uncomfortable.
      iii. The committee is also thinking of having a possible informational meeting at RCLS for librarians who are interested in creating a new BotB team at their library but want to learn more about the competition first.
   b. Mock Printz Committee & 2019 Chair Elections
      i. Besides the winners and honors mentioned in Joanna’s notes, *Sadie* by Courtney Summers won the Odyssey Award for best audiobook, while *Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka was named a finalist for the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults. Both of these books were nominees at this year's Mock Printz Awards.
      ii. We held elections to name a new chair for the Mock Printz Committee. The candidates were Karen Golding and Kristie Revicki. The new chair of the committee will be Karen Golding.

5. Focus Topic: Teen Volunteers
   a. With New York state’s new rules about all employees and volunteers who work ten or more hours per pay period needing to go through training to avoid sexual harassment, many librarians were wondering whether this
would include their teen volunteers. Most librarians have decided not to make their teens go through this training since it would be extremely difficult to coordinate.

b. What kind of volunteer work do we have for teens to do all year round? Shelf-reading, homework tutoring, computer help, crafts and event preparation are all examples of what teens work on. There are problems with getting teens to commit to long-term programs and in actually showing up when they promise to.

c. How long do you keep track of records of teen volunteers’ hours? While some only hold onto them for a year, teens often come back a few years later asking for their records for their college applications. How do you keep them? Some have binders filled with timesheets, others have Excel files, some have a combination of the two.

6. Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 1st from 10:15 AM-12:00 PM at RCLS. The special topic will be Resources for Collection Development.