Teen Librarians Meeting  
Monday, April 15th, 2019 @ RCLS  
Co-Chairs: Dianne Aimone and Jessica Gordon

Attendees: [Bold denotes a new attendee]
- Dianne Aimone- Finkelstein Memorial Library
- Barron Angell- Florida Public Library
- Laurie Angle- Albert Wisner Public Library, Warwick
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Attreed- Middletown Thrall Library
- Jennifer Cohen- Suffern Free 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
- Felicia O'Keefe- Newburgh Free Library
- Mary Phillips- New City Free Library
- Kristie Revicki- Nanuet Public Library

1. Welcome & Introductions
   a. Sunshine Fund Report- There is currently only $12 in the Sunshine Fund. We will be collecting money for the fund at the final meeting and luncheon in May.

2. Chair News
   a. LARC news- The new edition of SCRAWL has been sent to the printer with a run of 150 copies. More teens submitted pieces of writing for the book this year. The launch party will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30 PM at the Pearl River Public Library.
   b. Chair nominations- Dianne Aimone is no longer at the Albert Wisner Public Library in Warwick so she can no longer be the chair representing Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. Barron Angell, Meaghan Doyle, and Emelia Estep nominated themselves to take over Dianne’s position, with Meaghan winning. She will take over from Dianne after the May meeting. While Jessica is technically no longer the teen services librarian at Finkelstein Memorial Library, she will be staying on as the Rockland County chair and liaison with LARC.

3. Joanna’s Notes
   a. Advocacy
i. 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. Some suggestions for projects your teens can do is cleaning up trash in the local community, having a special storytime run by teens, having teens create toys for dogs for your local animal shelter, or having your teens organize a food drive. Grace Riario and Joanna want RCLS libraries to participate in the Great Giveback as a system-wide initiative. If your library is going to be taking part in the event, register on the Great Giveback’s website and let Joanna (jgoldfarb@rcls.org) know what you’re doing for the event.

ii. Census 2020- The census is completely online this year. With Rockland County (among others) already suffering from an undercounted population, it is important for libraries to aid in getting as much of our population counted as possible, including encouraging our teens to get their families to fill out the census. Is there any interest in having a youth-oriented census training to teach library staff how to fill out the census so that we can help family members of our teens fill it out at events we hold?

b. Publisher Previews- If you would like to see the catalogs of the upcoming books that will be published by Penguin and Random House, contact Joanna.

i. Penguin

1. *We Walked the Sky* by Lisa Fiedler, which comes out on July 2nd, is “a stunning, multigenerational story about two teenagers: Victoria, who joins the circus in 1965, and her granddaughter, Callie, who leaves the circus fifty years later. Perfect for fans of This is Us.”

2. *Life Sucks: How to Deal with the Way Life Is, Was, and Always Will Be Unfair*, which was published on April 9th and written by New York Times best-selling authors Michael I. Bennett, MD and Sarah Bennett, is “a book for teens that shows readers that we all deal with crap in our lives and how to laugh at some of the things we can't control.”

ii. Random House

1. *Spin the Dawn*, the first book in Elizabeth Lim’s new *The Blood of Stars* series, will be published on July 9th.
2. The award-winning British novel *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Raúf will be published in America for the first time on August 6th.

c. Conferences and Awards
   i. 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. This is also the day that the Supreme Court will be ruling on whether the immigration question can be on the census, as well as the day *Avengers: Endgame* comes out.
   ii. The Library Journal-sponsored Day of Dialog will be taking place on Wednesday, May 29th from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. The Early Bird sale has ended but you can still buy tickets at full price [here](#). Day of Dialog always fills up so make sure to register ASAP.
   iii. Book Expo will be taking place Wednesday, May 29th to Friday, May 31st, and will immediately be followed by Book Con (Saturday, June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd). Both events will take place at the Javits Center in New York City.
   iv. Applications for the RCLS Annual Meeting Awards are due on Friday, June 14th. For the first time, there will be a separate Member Library Young Adult Program Year of the Award to honor a teen program. The children’s program award has been renamed to the Randall Enos Member Library Children’s Program Year of the Award.
   v. The ALA Annual Conference is in Washington, DC this year from Thursday, June 20th to Tuesday, June 25th.
   vi. 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.

d. Updates and Reviews
   i. Vidcode- The database needs to be presented at the next system’s services meeting as they are the ones who choose what databases the system subscribes too. If RCLS does decide to subscribe to VidCode, there are two options for the subscription:
      1. Order a more expensive subscription for the whole system so that every library can use the database.
      2. Have specific libraries who want to use the database opt-in, with both RCLS and the libraries paying for the smaller fee.
ii. Simon and Schuster visit - Some of our teen services librarians visited the publishing house for professional day on March 29th. The group met with lots of employees of the company and even learned something new about today’s YA editing industry: editors sometimes pitch stories and hire authors to write books based on those ideas! Also, Dianne learned that Simon and Schuster will send the system lots of ARCs (advanced reader copies) upon request that can then be distributed to various libraries in the system. The librarians who attended received CE credits and thank-you notes will be sent to the Simon and Schuster employees who met with us.

iii. Battle of the Books Panel - An informational meeting was held for libraries that are interested in taking part in this year’s Battle of the Books that have either never had a team participate before or who have a new teen services librarian that hasn’t coached a team before. Ten librarians from nine libraries attended the event and Greenwood Lake Public Library has already confirmed that they will take part in the Battle with their first ever BotB team!

iv. There will be a juvenile book preview at RCLS from Monday, May 6th through Wednesday, June 5th. Keep an eye out for an email for RCLS letting us know when we can start making appointments to check out the books being previewed.

v. Stronger Together: The 2019 LARC Conference took place on Friday, April 12th. There were two youth-oriented breakout sessions: “Raising Digitally Responsible Youth” in the morning, and “Successful Collaboration in Youth Services” in the afternoon. Jennifer Cohen also presented on creating a library disaster plan during the afternoon sessions.

e. About Joanna: “Joanna Goldfarb recently became the newest RCLS employee, moving onto the staff roster as the RCLS Youth Services Consultant, a position which was previously held by Randall Enos who retired in February.

   Prior to coming to work at RCLS, Joanna was employed for four years as Head of Youth Services at the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello and most recently she spent two years as the Head of Teen Services at the Valley Cottage Library. Joanna received her MLS from City University of New York at Queens in 2013. During that time, she worked briefly at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library. Joanna completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY New Paltz, majoring in English and minoring in Jewish Studies. It was a comment by a New Paltz professor that steered Joanna
to the library profession. Her enjoyment of working with young people has had a positive impact on her career direction. She is currently reading Illegal by Colfer & Donkin, which is one of the 2019 Battle of the Books titles.

Joanna resides in Nyack. She is originally from Monticello and grew up with parents Helen and James and brother, Eli. A member of both the Rockland Road Runners and the Sullivan Striders, her free time activity is running. Joanna has completed seven marathons, with a Boston Marathon qualifying personal record of 3:29:10. In October 2018, she qualified for the 2020 Boston Marathon, but won’t find out if she’s awarded entry to the race until September 2019. This year, Joanna will be taking part in Rock the Ridge in New Paltz. It is a 50-mile race through the Mohonk Preserve. In October, she will participate in the Chicago Marathon for the first time. In her leisurely downtime, Joanna is an aficionado of the Harry Potter and Star Wars books and movie series.

She is happy to be working at RCLS and looks forward to meeting and interacting with the member library staff in this new role. Her enthusiasm, creativity and dedication to youth services makes her an ideal candidate to honor and build upon the legacy left by Randall Enos.” (Bio taken from April 1st, 2019 issue of RCLS Weekly Memo)

4. Committee Updates
   a. Battle of the Books Committee- This year’s Battle will be taking place on Sunday, September 8th at SUNY Orange (also known as Orange County Community College) with pizza being made available to teens at 11 AM and the Battle beginning promptly at noon and runs until 4:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for pizza and soda distribution before the Battle begins. The date to commit to participate in the Battle is Saturday, June 1st (if you’re not sure if you’ll wind up with more than ten teens participating, you don’t need to know whether you’ll have one or two teams at the Battle by this date). The registration fee for the Battle is $75 per team and is due to Joanna by Monday, July 15th. If you need an invoice for the registration fee, let Joanna know. The committee is thinking of buying an electronic scoreboard for the event instead of the flippable card contraption we currently use for the Battle. There have also been slight changes made to the rules for the battle; the revised version of the rules will be available online soon.

   b. Mock Printz Committee- After one meeting, the committee has already eliminated eight books from contention and plan on eliminating more at the next meeting. Members of the committee have created spreadsheets to hasten the process of deciding what books will stay in contention for the Mock Printz Awards and which will be eliminated.

5. Special Topic: Resources for Collection Development
a. **Common Sense Media**: Breaks down exactly what content that parents might find questionable is in the book (or movie, comic, video game, etc.). It also gives you both parents' and youths' opinions on what age group the content is geared to, which is helpful since the two groups often have different views on what is "appropriate."

b. **VOYA**: Book reviews come out late, often way after a book is actually published, but it has good articles about programming. It's also one of the only publications that sometimes publishes actual teen opinions as reviews, even when the teen's opinion on the book goes against what their own reviewers felt.

c. **Kirkus**: Books are reviewed months before they are actually published which is great. While they have separate review sections for children's and teen books, their opinion on which books are for what age range tend to differ from other collection development resource magazines (Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Booklist, etc.) - they will often list books that are clearly for younger children as being "middle grade." Kirkus also tends to make how diverse a book is the focus of their reviews, rather than how readable the book is or whether teens will be interested in it. While Kirkus claims to be very focused on the topic of diversity, they have been behind some questionable and problematic reviews themselves - including multiple books they've given starred reviews to for being great examples of #WeNeedDiverseBooks later being pulled from being published due to racial insensitivity. This is not helped by the fact that their youth literature editor, who writes twice a month on racial diversity in books, is white.

d. **Epic Reads**: Puts out a monthly list of the most anticipated YA books being published. The list isn't independently created though: it's run by HarperCollins so the list focuses on their upcoming books.

6. **Next Meeting**: Our last meeting until the fall and our annual luncheon will be on Monday, May 6th at RCLS. The regular teen meeting will begin at 10:15 AM, with lunch beginning at noon. If you plan on eating lunch with us, bring $10 to the meeting. After lunch, from 1:00-3:00 PM, there will be a presentation by Michael Cart.