



NCLA

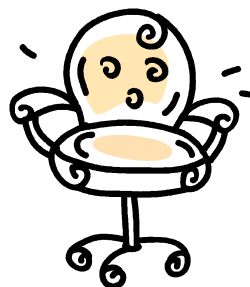
Youth Services

Chapbook...

Volume 66, Spring 2009

**Quarterly Journal of the Youth Services Section
North Carolina Library Association**

Message from the Chair



My Fellow Chapbook Readers:

Even though summer is just starting, change is in the air. (But then change is what we've always been about.) School is out, days are longer, the fun of Summer Reading is just beginning, and already we start to look forward to plan our fall programs.

In the fall will come the NCLA conference and with that will come the inevitable changing of our board members. Some will be moving up and some will be moving on. All have done a great job over the past two years (and some much longer). We will have to say goodbye to Loree Kelly, our Past Chair. She has been terrific in her service to the Board. Cindy Dye, from the Greensboro Public Library, will be stepping in as the new Chair, and I'm sure she will find it as fun and rewarding as I have. There is a complete slate of candidates for other board positions listed further down in this issue.

Of course, I will move into the Past Chair position. I have had a great time being on the Youth Services Section Board and serving for a short time as the YSS Chair. We had a fantastic retreat last fall and I'm really looking forward to the upcoming NCLA conference in Greenville this October. Being part of the YSS Board really raises your awareness about what issues and concerns face youth services providers throughout the state. It allows you to meet and talk with people from all over, and best of all, try to help others. We plan and coordinate conference programs and a fall retreat, but we also try to raise awareness of the goals and mission of NCLA, award scholarships and funds to YS programs and try to provide help to youth service providers throughout the state (and sometimes

beyond). I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to let us know if you would be interested in helping out too.

The NCLA Biennium Conference will be held in Greenville NC, October 6-9, so start making plans now. I know a lot of library systems have already started cutting back on travel expenses, but conferences offer so many educational and networking opportunities that you can often make a good case for the cost. This year's conference will offer a variety of programs for youth services staff. Our annual breakfast meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6, and will feature two keynote speakers, Beth Krommes and Kerry Madden. Illustrator Beth Krommes won the 2009 Caldecott for her beautiful work in "The House in the Night," and she will speak on her experience of winning this prestigious award. Kerry Madden, author of the Maggie Valley series and other books including the recently published teen biography "Up Close: Harper Lee," will discuss her work and the process and inspiration behind writing a book. Don't worry if you can't join us for the breakfast meeting, both speakers will also present program sessions later in the day. Along with these dynamic guest speakers, YSS will be sponsoring other programs. Topics will include gaming, one session on gaming as an art form and one for those of us with low or no budgets, manga art, booktalking, children's programming and collaboration with other agencies in your area. And of course there will be vendors, parties, socializing and much more. I encourage everyone to try their best to join us for a great conference.

Thanks again for the opportunity of serving you as Chair. I look forward to seeing you at the Conference. Have a great summer!

Lara Luck
Forsyth County Public Library



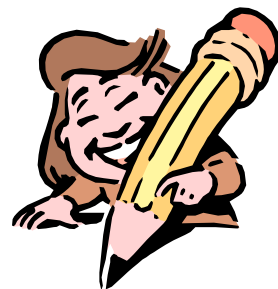
From the Editor.....

I invite our readership to submit articles to the Chapbook; to share your tried and true special programs, or interesting projects, or upcoming events whereby all readers may be informed or even motivated to try something new. There is no deadline.

Send as a single-spaced, 1-4-page Word attachment to:

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Slate of Candidates for Elected Officers

Dear NCLA Youth Services Section Members,

The slate of candidates for elected officers of the NCLA Youth Services Section for the next biennium is listed below along with brief biographies of the candidates:

CHAIR—CYNTHIA DYE, GREENSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY-HEMPHILL BRANCH

Cynthia Dye is a graduate of Appalachian State University. She has worked for the Greensboro Public Library for 11 years, the last 4 years as a Children's Specialist at the Hemphill Branch Library. The Hemphill Branch has a hands-on art studio and all programs have an art focus. Cynthia visits area after-school programs at schools, recreations centers, and Boys & Girls clubs to present art and literacy programs. She also coordinates a large teen volunteer program at Hemphill, supervising 25-45 active volunteers, depending on the season.

VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT—MARY KLEINFELDT, NEW HANOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Kleinfeldt is a para-professional at the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington, NC. She worked with the NHCPL's Smart Start preschool outreach for five years and has worked in the Children's Department for the last five. As part of her work at the Main Library she develops and presents storytime programs used throughout the county's library system and presents workshops and special events for babies to teens at library branches throughout the county. Before working for New Hanover County, she received her BA from Florida State University and was a professional musician and Kindermusik instructor for several years. She served on the eastern regional Summer Reading Program workshop committee for three years and currently serves as the YSS membership representative.

SECRETARY/TREASURER—JACKY MILLER, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jacky Miller has been Youth Services Librarian at the Rockingham County Public Library for more than 25 years. She has been involved with the Youth Services Section (formerly Children's Services Section) of NCLA in one capacity or another for about the same amount of time. She looks forward to another two years with the section.

DIRECTOR—DEBRA GILBERT, WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Debra Gilbert is currently a Children's Librarian at the West Regional Library located in Wake County, a position she has held for the past 3 years. Prior to this, she was a Children's Librarian at the Harrison Public Library in New York for 4 years. In addition to her daily job responsibilities, Debra represents her library in several community projects. She hires and trains teen volunteers and serves on a county wide committee to

find ways to recruit and retain volunteers. She visits local elementary schools to promote the library and all the programs and services it has to offer. Also, she is Chair of the countywide reading program “Wake Reads Together”. As a Director on the NCLA Youth Services Section Board, she was involved in planning the Biennial Retreat in October 2008 and presented a workshop at this Retreat. She looks forward to serving as a Director for another 2 years.

DIRECTOR—TANIKA MARTIN, DURHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Tanika Martin is the Children’s Librarian at the East Regional Library in Durham. She has worked for the Durham County Library System for 10 years. During this time she has also served as Sr. Library Assistant in the East Regional Children’s Department and Staff Assistant in Resources and Technical Services at the Main Library. She performs storytime for babies and toddlers and leads a Good Manners with Miss Tanika series. She works with Home Schooled families to meet their education goals, conducts Story Exploring for kids utilizing the MotherRead curriculum, and serves as Chair for the Children’s Quality Council. She is looking forward to working as a Director on the NCLA Youth Services Section Board for the next 2 years.

Please be advised that any member or members of the section may present a candidate or candidates for the elected officers of this Section provided that (1) they notify the chair of the section, in writing, (2) the notification must be signed by 10 members of this section, (3) the consent of the nominee or nominees has been secured and so indicated on the notification (4) nominating petition must be received by the chair 10 weeks prior to the biennial meeting for inclusion in a mailed ballot (5) ballots will be mailed if and only if there is more than one candidate nominated for any given position. If there is only one candidate for a given position, no mail ballot will be sent and a vote will be taken by acclamation.

FROM THE STATEYouth Services

Youth Services Consultant: [Lori Special](#)

BOOK AWARDS AND LISTS

- [ALA Children and Young Adult Awards](#)
- [Battle of the Books](#)
- [North Carolina Children's Book Award](#)
- [NC Kids Books Wiki](#)—a place to add your favorite book about NC for youth.

NCKIDS LISTSERV

A place for NC public library youth services staff to collaborate and receive real-time communication from the State Library. View past posts via the list's archive. [Click here to subscribe to the NCKids list.](#)

[NING: SOCIAL NETWORK FOR LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES PROFESSIONALS](#)

The [State Library of North Carolina's Youth Services space](#) on Ning is a social networking site for public library youth services professionals in North Carolina. Contact [Lori Special](#), the Youth Services Consultant for more information about subscribing.

[PERFORMERS DIRECTORY](#)

The Performer's Directory lists Web sites and e-mail addresses for individuals or groups who do children's programming. Click on [Performers Directory](#) to view the searchable list.

[STATEWIDE SUMMER READING PROGRAM \(SRP\)](#)

North Carolina is a member of [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#). The State Library of North Carolina sponsors four regional Summer Reading Program workshops to help prepare youth services professionals across the state for an action-filled summer.

Go to the [Youth Services Wiki](#) and click on the Sidebar for more information about individual workshops.

To register for Summer Reading Program workshops in your area, click on the word [EventKeeper](#).

[YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE \(YSAC\)](#)

Visit the [Youth Services Wiki](#) for more information about the Youth Services Advisory Committee, previous meeting minutes and more.



<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/index.html>

Note: I would encourage you to check out the State Library site. You will especially want to know the latest developments and collaborate with peers by subscribing to NCKids Listserv...Editor



**NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD PROGRAM
Announces the 2009 Winners!**

Who is Melvin Bubble?, written by Nick Bruel, is the winner in the Picture Book category.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal, by Jeff Kinney, is the winner in the Junior Book category.

There were 167,652 votes cast this year by children in the State of North Carolina. *Who is Melvin Bubble?* won with 19,652 of the 140,002 votes cast in the Picture Book category. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal* won with 12,054 votes of the 27,650 votes cast in the Junior Book category.

The North Carolina Children's Book Award Program is a children's choice program sponsored by school and public libraries in North Carolina and is designed to introduce children to current children's literature and to instill a love of reading.

The 2010 nominated titles for the NCCBA contest will be announced in mid-May. Nominated titles will be posted to the NCSLMA site and the Bookhive site listed below, and will be highlighted at various workshops throughout our state.

For further details, please visit: <http://www.plcmc.org/bookhive/NCCBA/>
For additional information, please contact Jane Deacle at: jdeacle@co.wake.nc.us

Library Anime Conventions for the Faint of Heart (And the Low on Cash)

By Nicole Lambert

Last year representatives from Wake County Public Libraries had the good fortune to score a table at Animazement, North Carolina's annual anime convention. We had the table set up in "Artist's Alley" and shared information about library programs and services with convention attendees. While we were there we were approached by librarians from other library system, some of whom were at the convention to represent their libraries and some who were there for fun. They were happy to share with us ideas for programs and information on upcoming events from their libraries. It was during these many conversations that we learned that several libraries had presented anime conventions of their own. Of course, several of us thought that sounded like something we might want to try as well, so planning for Camicon (Cameron Village Library Anime Convention) began. In this article I will cover how we planned this particular convention, which will take place on Saturday, June sixth. Hopefully this will be of use to those who would like to plan their own anime convention or smaller, related events at their library.

Choosing the Venue

When planning the anime convention several of the larger, regional branches in the Wake County Public Library System were considered before we settled on Cameron Village Regional Library. These are the things we took into account before settling on this particular library: the number of events that would require an indoor venue, the availability of outdoor space for performances if needed, amount of parking available, other large events planned at those locations, and the home branch of those interested in participating. Cameron Village Library fell short in a few of these categories, but excelled in others resulting in choosing that particular branch.

When we were first planning for the anime convention there were several performers and events we hoped to book that would need an indoor space. Anime screenings, a staple of anime conventions all over the globe, would require a room with a screen and a sound system if possible. We had originally hoped to book a performer for a tea ceremony, which would also need to be indoors. We also hoped to book several workshops such as origami, plushy toy making, and a class on Japanese culture. We also needed a space to display entries in a fan art contest. Events that could be booked outside included the karate/kendo demonstration, taiko drummers, and a cosplay (costume play) contest.

Cameron Village Library had the advantage of several large rooms that could be used for these performances so it was decided that the entire convention could take place inside the building. There were several people involved with this project when planning first began. Unfortunately life began to interfere and soon there was only a planning committee of one, me. As Cameron Village Library is my home branch, it made the most sense to plan the convention for that location.



Taiko Drummers from the Nippon Club Picture Gallery

Booking Performers

Due to the current economic climate, Wake County Public Libraries are currently operating without a programming budget. It is possible for us to print some (but very little) publicity for our programs, but it is not possible for us to pay performers or purchase food for our events. For this reason every event booked for the anime convention had to be free.

Given that the part of the mission statement for Wake County Public Library is to “foster the pursuit of knowledge for the residents of Wake County,” I tried to focus first on cultural events. I hoped to book performers for the taiko drums, mochi-tsuki, karate, and a tea ceremony. Luckily, Raleigh is home to the Nippon Club of the Triangle (trianglejapanclub.org). This organization meets at the North Carolina Japan Center and is dedicated to providing intercultural programs in the Triangle region. Within the Nippon Club there are several smaller clubs for taiko drummers, the tea ceremony, and mochi-tsuki (the pounding of steamed mochi rice). Out of the three groups the taiko drummers were the ones available to participate in the anime convention. The date of the convention was chosen to accommodate their availability.

For our karate and Japanese weapons presentation I contacted a local dojo. They will be sending a small group of students and instructors. Both groups agreed to perform without a fee. Both performances were booked to take place in the first floor programming room.

We booked several other outside performers to fill out the schedule for this event. A former library employee was one of the presenters for Para Para dancing at Animazement. Para Para dancing is a synchronized group dance involving mostly arm movements that is very popular at anime conventions. Often convention attendees can be found dancing together in the hallways. The former employee agreed to teach Para Para dancing at our convention and she was also booked in the programming room.

I contacted the Japan Center to find someone to talk about Japanese culture and language in one half of the meeting room upstairs. A member of the Teen Advisory Board at Eva Perry will be teaching a workshop on sewing plushy toys. I also contacted local schools that had Japanese teachers to locate other possible presenters. When planning an anime or cultural convention, I would recommend first locating local schools and clubs that might have an interest in participating. Unfortunately some performers had plans to participate in or lead summer camps that would interfere with booking them, and some were unwilling or unable to waive their fees for the library. Other presenters that may be booked include origami instructors, storytellers, and musicians.

Anime Screenings

It would not be an anime convention without anime screenings. The great thing about anime companies in the United States is that most of the companies are more than willing to allow libraries and clubs to screen their properties without charging them. In most cases all that is required to request screening permission for a series or movie is a short email to the copyright owning company for permission. It is important to include the title requested, and the date and location of the screening. Some popular anime movies, such as the works of Hayao Miyazaki, are licensed through Swank Motion Pictures and require payment for a performance license. Some anime companies have departments devoted to fan support that may be able to provide DVDs for the screenings. Most companies will provide screening permission but require you provide your own DVD. In running the anime club at the library, I have found that Netflix has a great selection of anime available on DVD. It is also may be possible to request DVDs through interlibrary loan if your library doesn't have a collection.

At Camicon we will be using one half of the meeting room upstairs as a screening room. We will be screening series throughout the day. Series have been chosen on the basis of their quality and rating. We will use volunteers to switch the DVDs when necessary. Due to the fact that using the sound system in the room would interfere with the workshops, a home sound system will be used during the anime convention.

Cosplay and Fan Art Contests

Cosplay is one of the most popular activities anime conventions. Attendees often dress as their favorite characters and many of the contests are quite elaborate. Most contests include skit performances. One major consideration for a library would be the usage of props. Many anime characters carry weapons of some sort so contest rules must clearly state what types of props, if any, are allowed in the building. Springfield City Library in Massachusetts have hosted anime conventions for several years. I would suggest that anyone planning a cosplay contest take a look at their rules as a basis to work from (www.springfieldlibrary.org/chibiconn/chibiconn_cosplay.html).

As was the case with Springfield City Library, we will be requiring a sign-up form to enter the contest. This should help us greatly when choosing the order of contestants and with knowing how many skits to expect. Our cosplay contest at Camicon will be the last event of the day in the first floor programming room.

Fan art is artwork that features copyrighted characters, in this case from anime series and video games. The entries for the fan art contest will be displayed in the first floor conference room. I will begin accepting entries the week before the contest, though we will accept entries the day of the contest so long as they arrive before 10:30 in the morning. Entries will be numbered and attendees will vote for their favorite. As with the cosplay contest, I looked to other library systems for examples of rules. Southern Oaks Library in Oklahoma City has hosted fan art and fan fiction contests last year. I used the rules for their fan art contest as a model:

http://www.metrolibrary.org/mls/mls_news/2009/fan_fiction_at_so_library_2009-02.pdf.

Prizes

Given that I wanted to have contests as part of the anime convention, it was important to look for prize donations. I have been in charge of the anime club at the library for a few years so I already had contact information for several of the public relations people at various national anime companies. In addition to donations from these companies, I was hoping for donations from art supply companies and local comic book, costume, and art stores.

I sent out my first round of donation requests in September. Most of these requests were sent through traditional mail. A few companies did have an email address listed as the contact for donation request so they were contacted by email. The letters sent out included general information about the event (expected size, targeted age group, and date), any specific donation requests, information on how to claim tax credit for donations, and an offer to advertize for the company in question at the event if they did donate. Specific donation requests included requests for donations for artist pens, manga drawing pads, and supplies for the plushy workshop. Second and third mailings of these letters were sent out in January and March to those companies that had not yet replied. Some companies never replied, some sent items right away. A little over half of the requests garnered a positive reply. Through the generosity of these companies I not only have enough prizes to cover the contests we will host, I also have plenty of extra items for door prizes.

For additional information please contact Nicole.mikesell@co.wake.nc.us

If It Doesn't Work, Change It!

By Cynthia Dye

After years of success with an afternoon school age program, suddenly we could not pay them to attend. I'm sure you have been there; no matter how you plan or who you invite to entertain, there is no or very low attendance. So rather than invest planning and preparation time for programs with a very small or non-existent audience, we decided to change it!

The old program, met weekly and rotated through:

- 1) a program on a popular children's book author or illustrator
- 2) a program about a foreign country, usually with a world traveler or foreign national to present pictures and items of interest
- 3) a showing of a current family feature movie and
- 4) A seasonal program such as a holiday party, recognition of special day or special guest performers.

The new program consists of two concurrent book clubs for school-agers: kindergarten through third grade and fourth grade through eighth grade. At our branch we have two full time children's specialists, but if there is only one of you, ask an excited mom of one of the book clubbers or an older teen or adult volunteer to help. In fact, a possible three way split is preferable, because the fourth through eighth grade group is such a wide age range.

This program has really filled a need in our Greensboro homeschool community. Homeschool families are the core of our book clubs. The homeschool moms find the concurrent book clubs great for their schedule, as they bring the whole family and everyone gets their own club. Each group either reads one or two selections a month, depending on length.



“Julia with Books....and More”

The younger group often reads books from a series such as Henry and Mudge or by a particular author like Kevin Henkes. The books are either reserved by the individual students from the regular collection or they are supplied by a small children's book club collection.

Meeting each week, we were concerned about providing enough activities to keep the students busy and engaged. However, that has become the least of our worries. Originally because of the art studio in our library, we wanted to have an art activity each week. Now, we are not driven by that, but allow the art to flow when suitable and plan other activities as needed.

We've tried writing, cooking, and science activities in conjunction with the books we've read. Special guests have been invited, like the dog trainer when the younger group read Henry and Mudge books, or a local author, when the older group read novels in verse during poetry month.

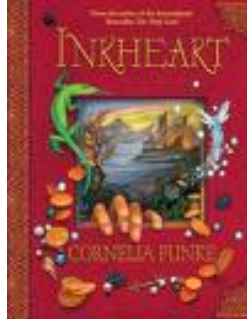


We sometimes serve refreshments but not always. Parents are often willing to contribute snacks if your budget is limited.

“Pride with Girls”

I have found that some of our best meetings occurred when we were in-between books, discussing what they were reading on their own, or sharing their favorite books. The most successful program happened when the older students, after sharing, decided to read something outside of their normal interest because it was recommended by a fellow book clubber.

Since the book clubs run September to May, and are replaced in our programming schedule by weekly Summer Reading programs, the older group has decided to continue meeting on their own throughout the summer. I can't wait to see what the fall will bring!



Silvertonque: a Review of **Inkheart**, the movie
by Claire Ramsey

"Since the dawn of time," says the Narrator, "storytellers have enchanted audiences with their words. But there is an even rarer gift. There are those, who by reading out loud, can bring characters to life. Out of books and into our world. Most of these Silvertongues, as they are known, prefer to keep their skills a secret... but some do not even know this gift is theirs, until it is too late."

The idea of reading characters out of their books is one that instantly attracted me. I am sure many librarians and library patrons of all ages can imagine book characters that they would like to meet: talk to, have lunch with, have a sleepover. **Inkheart**, both book and movie, takes that premise and runs with it. I found it a rather difficult read, myself, but the tween-teen reading club (at the library where I then worked) read and discussed it avidly. I wanted to take them to see the movie as a reward; unfortunately, it did not come out until several years after we finished the book. I hope they went and saw it!

Difficult read or no, the movie **Inkheart** is not difficult to enjoy in the least. Brendan Fraser, Helen Mirren, Paul Bettany, Andy Serkis (of Lord of the Rings Gollum fame), and of course "Meggie" actress Eliza Bennett, all bring the concept to life in an engaging, relaxing movie. Well, I was relaxed.

Though I read reviewers who complained that the movie did not do the text justice (a perspective I find unlikely, with author Cornelia Funke as a producer), I think kids will be on the edges of their seats whether they have read the book or not. As a librarian who liked expanding our library's DVD collection with works based very closely on books, I would certainly have lobbied to make an exception in the 'no feature films' rule for this movie.

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2007-2009 Biennium**

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