



Volume 57, Fall 2006

Chapbook . . .

Quarterly Journal of the Youth Services Section North Carolina Library Association



Message from the Chair

November 2006

Hello Chapbook Readers,

Our big news this quarter is all about the NCLA/YSS retreat workshop that was held at the Brown Summit Conference Center on Thursday and Friday, November 2nd and 3rd. The YSS Board worked very hard to ensure an enjoyable and informative workshop for everyone and I think we succeeded. Our presenters were all well received.

- Ian Rennie, a teen librarian from PLCMC, gave a wonderful and well-researched presentation on graphic novels.
- Kathleen Pierce, a teen librarian from Wake County, gave a great presentation on blogs and blogging that was fun, informative, and useful.
- And, Rob Reid, as always, was wonderfully entertaining and full of great ideas for story times.
- Workshop attendees got lots of great programming ideas from each other at the Trade Secrets segment on Thursday night and 15 participants joined NCLA/YSS during the workshop!

We received 60 workshop evaluations from attendees and most of the comments, especially about the presentations, were very positive. However, we received constructive criticism and feedback too. We thank all attendees for

coming to the workshop and participating with so much enthusiasm and dedication. Thanks for your comments, good and bad.

We appreciate your honesty and frankness and will use your input to plan better workshops in the future for all North Carolina youth services staff.

Before I close, I would like to acknowledge Jim Rosinia, State Library Youth Services Consultant and member of the YSS Board. As you have probably heard, Jim will resign from his position with the State Library and the YSS Board on December 29. On behalf of the YSS Board, I would like to thank Jim for his outstanding work and service. He has made work life so much easier for youth services library staff with his contributions--promoting and providing excellent communication to youth services staff throughout the state with NCKIDS, joining the Collaborative Summer Reading Program, and as a member of the State Library Commission Youth Services Advisory Committee--to name a few. The recent YSAC survey that Jim helped initiate will shape future State Library programs for NC youth services. Thank you, Jim. The YSS Board extends our sincere thanks for all of your hard work. Working with you has been a pleasure and we will miss you and your great sense of humor. Best wishes to you and your family.

Finally, on behalf of the YSS Board once again, I wish all Chapbook readers a wonderful holiday season.

Loree Kelly, YSS Chair



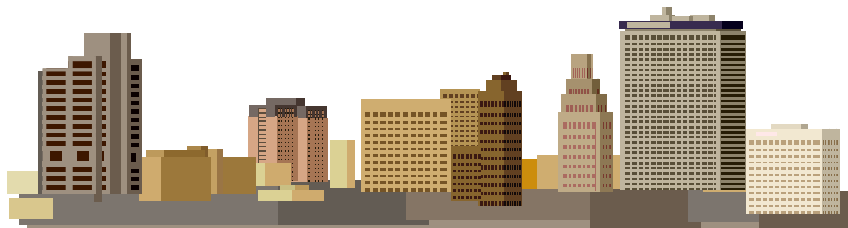
From the Editor.....

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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From the State Library...

By Jim Rosinia,

State Library Youth Consultant

If you subscribe to NCKIDS or NCTEENS, then you've already read a message from me in which I announced that, for a variety of personal reasons – yes, one of them is health related – I have resigned my position at the State Library of North Carolina. [See what you learn if you subscribe to NCKIDS or NCTEENS?] I will be leaving at the end of this year.

Since I began work here as the Youth Services Consultant in March 2001, I've worked in the Library Development (LD) Section of the State Library. People seem a bit unsure of just what sort of “development” LD does. Some wonder if, like the Development Office at a university or large library system, LD helps libraries by raising money or making grants. Well, LD does some of the latter, albeit indirectly.

Each year, the State Library receives money from the federal government – specifically, from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Through a variety of grant programs, the State Library makes that money available to libraries of all types across the state. The LD consultants assist with the LSTA grant program by being the first group to review grant applications and Letters of Intent (i.e., “the XYZ Library would like to apply for a grant but, before we do, here's the brief application you require of us that will give you an idea of what our full application will propose”). Others will make the final decision of who gets funded but Library Development staff do help libraries “develop” in this way.

In general, LD strives to “develop programs that assure equitable library services statewide.” What does that mean? Well, as a former LD colleague of mine used to say, “It's like the BASF commercial: we don't ‘make’ library service – we make the library service you deliver better.” Or at least we try to make the direct library service you deliver better.

Each consultant in LD has a portfolio of counties and is available to libraries of all types in those counties for “across the board” consulting services. Additionally, each of us has a specific specialty area. These include Continuing Education, Public Library Networking, Library Communications, Public Library Management, and Youth Services. (The cast of characters is available at <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/ldstaff.htm>.) Through our general and specialized services, each of us tries to help libraries and library staff develop.

In my almost six years here, I have tried to help library staff serving children and teens in a number of ways.

I've responded to a variety of requests for information – from creating a Christian fiction collection to creating a graphic novel and comics collection; from the best use of space in a combined school library / public library branch to the best use of space on a web page; from developing an outcome based evaluation to developing a “behavior policy.”

I've suggested that the State Library use its appropriation of state funds which support Summer Reading to join the Collaborative Summer Library Program; to pay the membership fee for each public library in the state; to purchase program manuals for each public library branch; and to provide each library with a voucher to support the purchase of program materials and incentives. Judging from the feedback I've received over the past few years, it appears this was a good suggestion – bendable toys notwithstanding.

I've tried to making information available various ways: from the “virtual” (i.e., web pages and email lists) to the personal (i.e., staff development presentations and workshops on serving youth of all ages – from early literacy to teen services). I've been pleased to see that the email lists are increasingly being used, not just as a way for the State Library to disseminate information, but as a way for library staff across the state to ask questions and share ideas. However, judging from feedback I've recently received, it appears I didn't do enough when it came to workshops.

The recent survey to which 294 of you responded – and a big THANKS! to those of you who did – has provided the Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) of the State Library Commission with a wealth of data. Among the comments submitted on the survey were repeated requests for more workshops on a wide variety of topics related to youth services. While there are no guarantees, rest assured that your requests have been noted by the YSAC as committee members work on a recommendation for the future of State Library support of public library services to children and teens. And, of course, all results of the survey will certainly be passed along to my successor.

In my time here, it's been my great good fortune to get to know a number of you – some online and on the phone and others live and in person. I've been able to learn and even witness what you're doing to serve children and teens. I have been consistently impressed with level of creativity and dedication all across the state in libraries of all sizes. Similarly, I have been moved by the hours of hard work library staff are willing to put into serving children and teens: a willingness that can only be explained by the passion you have for the work you're doing; a passion that comes from a sense of mission and from a conviction that you are in a unique position to make a real difference in the lives of young people.

I share your conviction – you are engaged in very important work. I hope that, somehow, I have been of some help to you with it.

And I wish you all the best.



Art and Literacy Pieced Together

By Marya Ryals

Imagine a large room filled with energy—a room where young and old work side by side, where members of diverse cultures collaborate, where action verbs, hand-painted fabrics and pizza abound. What is this creative chaos, you may ask? It's the Hemphill Art and Literacy Story Quilt Project, of course. For a period of eight weeks this past summer, members of 29 families came together on Thursdays and Saturdays to create a unique blend of literature and art. The project was funded by a grant from the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation in honor of William Hemphill, long-time library advocate and benefactor.

Visiting author Suzie Wilde worked with participants to write an original children's story. Children and adults alike had the chance to create characters, describe the setting, and develop the plot. Many elements were chosen through a majority vote and creative thinking was rewarded with chocolate! When the story was complete, fiber artist Peg Gignoux led the group through the entire quilt-making process. An amazing technique involving fabric dye and plastic zipper bags was used to create the colorful fabrics. Members of the group worked together to paint designs on the fabrics and cut out quilt pieces to illustrate the story. Details were added with beading and embroidery.

One goal of the project was to bring together diverse members of the Hemphill Library community. Children as young as 4 years old, school-agers, teens, parents and grandparents each contributed their special talents to the project. For example, college-bound student Whitney Stanley worked on beading designs with her younger sisters Sydney and Symone while grandmother Janice Shaffer learned Guatemalan embroidery techniques from a book over a weekend and taught them to the children the following Thursday. Quentin and LaVonya Dunston observed the enthusiasm of their six children and began working on the project themselves. A total of 65 children and adults participated in this unique and successful project.

The completed quilt panels were unveiled at our annual Cultural Arts Festival on October 8. The quilt panels have now gone to be framed but will be permanently displayed at the Hemphill Branch of the Greensboro Public Library this coming spring. At the same time, copies of the book, *Tell Me a Patch*, based on the story and quilt illustrations, will be presented to the library and every participating family. A clue for the curious—the story does take place in a library setting! We invite you to visit the Hemphill Library at 2301 West Vandalia Road in Greensboro to view this amazing work of art. For more information, call (336)373-2925.

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Miss Connie's Nearly Southern Charm School: *Experimental Programming*

Introduction

In another profession, creating “new programming” involves flowcharts, computers, and left-brained software designers. Limits are imposed by system hardware, six-digit budgets, and project deadlines. Happily, in the children’s department of the public library, creating “new programming” involves brainstorming, craft supplies, and right-AND-left-brained library staff. We also have limits imposed by physical space, tiny budgets (if we’re lucky), and available time. It simply *feels* like the sky is the limit because we can find a way to create interesting and worthwhile programs on just about anything; you name it, you can make a great program. And if you create it, and promote it, they *will* come.

At the Mountain Island Branch of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC), we have been experimenting with some different types of programs in addition to the traditional storytimes, craft programs, and book clubs. Why we felt the need to experiment is complicated to explain. Don’t all of us stir things up a bit from time to time? Enjoy a little commotion? Some carrying on? Spice, for goodness sake? It has something to do with responding to patron and community needs, pushing against our own boundaries, and continuously seeking ways to give just a little bit more with resources we already have.

In any case, these are our experiments and experiences, from the large to the small. They are shared to stimulate your interest and to keep the collective creative juices flowing. Furthermore, we are simply storytellers. Here are our stories.

Miss Connie's Nearly Southern Charm School

The idea for this program originated from Sheri Rosen’s *Girl Talk* program. Sheri is my colleague at the North County Regional Library, another PLCMC branch. For *Girl Talk*, rising 3rd-5th graders gathered for a series of programs on fitness, nutrition, skin care, etc. I wanted to do something similar at my branch. Thinking about this, I noticed local adverts for pricey summer camps on manners and etiquette; then I remembered my years-ago experience in “Miss Kathleen Wellman’s School of Modeling” in Cincinnati, Ohio. These three sources of inspiration blended into what turned out to be a hugely successful program held last summer: ‘Miss Connie’s Nearly Southern Charm School.’



For the first time, we deliberately targeted a wide age range combining pre-teens, t’weens, and young adults: ages 10-16. We needed time together, so we met every week for 1 ½ -2 hours all summer long.

As many as twenty young ladies were registered; an average of 15 girls, ages 9 (almost 10) to 15, attended each week. Somehow we recruited a culturally diverse group as well, that included not only Caucasian, African American, and Latina students, but also Native American, Arab and

Asian. (Honest, I am not making this up.)

We plucked eyebrows, manicured fingernails, and gave egg-white facials. We lay on the floor of the community room with cucumber slices on our eyelids during a visualization exercise. We learned isometrics, relaxation exercises, interview techniques, and how to make proper introductions. We studied fabrics, fashion design, dressing by the point system, how to create a wardrobe, shop wisely, and do your own laundry. I was especially surprised at the students' keen interest in table settings and dining etiquette. They also asked wonderful questions of our guest speakers, a chiropractor and physician's assistant. Documentaries helped address some more serious topics: eating disorders and women's geopolitical issues. We watched *Dying to be Thin* and *Behind the Labels*, each followed by spirited discussion.

We practiced, practiced, practiced: good posture, walking, sitting, standing, arising and sitting in a chair, going up and down stairs; entering and exiting a room, the back-seat of a two-door vehicle, and an SUV. At all times, we attempted to use complete sentences and practice good listening and speaking skills, e.g., not interrupting. Each week each participant introduced a new vocabulary word in front of the group; how to spell and pronounce it, and use it in a sentence. As I explained to the group, "Life is complicated. You are going to need a lot of words to understand it and express yourself."

Mostly, we laughed and talked and had great fun. There was a whole lot of bonding going on. Tearful goodbyes sealed the sisterhood, and we are already getting inquiries about next summer.

Under the Story Umbrella

This is a weekly event held year-round, even during those brief intervals when we take a break from other children's programming. It is a brief, ten to fifteen minute reading aloud of an interesting passage in children's literature. Billed as appropriate for ages 5 to 105, anyone within earshot is a potential participant. Our dedicated champion of this program is Xina Lowe. She gathers together those who have come intentionally and invites any other likely-to-be-interested candidate in the library at that time.

Settling into a cozy corner of our library where there is some soft family-style seating, Xina begins to read aloud. Soon everyone is caught up in the story, picturing the characters, the action, and imagining what's going to happen next, as the language of literature enters the ear to subtly paint its meaning on the mind. It is a dramatic, funny, poignant, or pivotal selection that finds its way into the spotlight 'under the story umbrella.' Generally, it is not a picture book, but a longer, often a classic work that aims to introduce listeners to good literature by giving them just a little taste. Ideally, and it has indeed occurred, the sampled book is swiftly checked out by an interested family with a new craving immediately after the reading.

Selections Xina has made include Rudyard Kipling's *The Elephant's Child*: "The Elephant's Child goes to the banks of the great, grey, green, greasy Limpopo River all set about with fever trees to find out what the Crocodile has for dinner"; Anne H. White's *A Dog Called Scholar*, when "Scholar Discovers the Town" and makes friends with the King Dog; Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, when Sophie introduces the Big Friendly Giant to the Queen. Once, when Xina was on vacation, I filled in and chose, Kate DiCamillo's *The*

Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, and read the part where Edward is tossed overboard and sinks to the bottom of the sea. What fun! (Well, not for Edward.)

Batteries Not Included

This is a weekly K-5 afterschool program created with boys in mind. That is to say, girls are welcome, but when we are dreaming up our programs for this offering we do our absolute best to “think boy.”

The generic description reads “Out of the box and off the wall, unplug after school at the library; enjoy a snack served with something unpredictable, icky, or goofy.” Okay.

We have learned how the Internet works, courtesy of a downloaded 12 minute video clip from <http://www.warriorsofthe.net> and created warriors of our own from paper towel tubes and colorful collage materials. We built a geodesic dome and looked at all our architecture and building books. Local library patron and Renaissance Festival aficionado, Phil Combs, visited with all manner of period weaponry and armor. And we requested a video on Interlibrary Loan called *Sour Death Balls*, so we can watch the similarities of a culturally diverse group experience sour candies, sample some different varieties ourselves, and graph the results. One day I hope to make individual batches of “Moon Gunk.” You get the idea. So far, so good.

Action Faction

Once upon a time a certain library branch had so many toddlers wanting to sign up for storytime we didn’t know what to do. We doubled the traditional storytimes offered for this age group from two to four each week and still couldn’t meet the demand. Witness the frantic mothers of two-year-olds who are devastated that their child cannot stay seated for a story. Also note the brain research connecting physical movement and learning. Voilá! The ‘Action Faction’ was born.

This is a morning program for ages 18 months to three years. Its canned description is: “Listen, look and leap: A new and very ‘moving’ storytime for those who can’t sit down.” There is really nothing inherently unique here. Simply think of it as the inverse of the traditional toddler programs; that is, if traditional programs for toddlers feature two to three stories interspersed with fingerplays, rhymes, and music activities, Action Faction features one and only one story sandwiched between every movement-based toddler activity imaginable.

If we learn a rhyme or poem, we clap our hands or add motions. We practice different ways of walking: stomp, tiptoe, speed, or amble, forward, backward, side to side; moving: sway, bend, wiggle, shake, and stretch; standing: tall, lean, and slouch; jumping: hop on one foot, jump, and leap. Toes flex and point. Hands, eyes, mouths, and arms, open and shut. We learn to name body parts and how to move in concert with others: form a line or a circle, hold a partner’s hand, bow, link elbows, make a bridge, etc. We use props, such as the parachute, hoops, musical instruments, scarves and streamers. We pretend.

Like all our other toddler programs, Action Faction has been jam-packed and wildly popular. It seems strange at first when we are so accustomed to that armload of books to share. Just tell one and display the others. It does require considerable energy, but think of the calories it must consume! At times it is even aerobic.

Parents or caregivers and children seem exceedingly happy with this program. I always advise grownups that this does not take the place of traditional toddler storytime, it is simply an alternative; and some families come regularly to both.

Calendar Quotes

Commonly known among ourselves as “Blurbs” or the “Blurb of the Month” or the “Pithy Quote Thing,” we began adding a quote from children’s literature at the bottom of our monthly children’s calendar. Similar to the goals of “Under the Story Umbrella,” we hope to print just a snippet or snatch of a story that speaks meaningfully to the adults who are the primary users of this calendar. Begun recently, we have yet to receive much in the way of feedback on this practice. But those of us preparing the calendar have enjoyed it immensely. Some of our choices follow.

“When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.”

The Skin Horse, The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

“Why sometimes I’ve believed as many as 6 impossible things before breakfast!”

The White Queen, Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

“It isn’t so much that I lost my way as that I got blown off course.”

Mrs. Whatsit, A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle

“God bless us, every one!”

Tiny Tim, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Connie Purcell, Librarian

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Loft Art Club for Teens

The Loft Art Club is for 12-18 year olds at ImaginOn, the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. A partnership was created with the Charlotte Art League, CAL, www.charlotteartleague.com, which is a group of volunteer adult artists that share their time and skills with the teens each month. Solid talent, a variety of projects including pastels, gesture drawing, sketches, 3D collage, computer art with Photoshop and more, are taught throughout the school year; September-June. Participants are not required to bring supplies, but are encouraged if they are able. Materials such as drawing paper, pencils, markers, or 3D objects for the collage class are asked to be brought. If a teen is not able to bring these, it is no problem. Donations are given by the Charlotte Art League, the library's programming budget, and through the generosity of library and theatre co-workers.

Advertising for the program consists of a blog on the ImaginOn web site: www.imaginon.org and a link to the CAL site. (Click on The Loft at the top, then find the blog in the right column.) Articles in ImaginOn's online newsletter as well as CAL's are sent out periodically. Digital photos of the teens' drawings are taken to post on the blog.



CAL would like to host a showing just for the art created by the teens in the Loft Art Club. Hanging, framing, and displaying art would be part of the skills taught to the teens interested in participating in the showing.

Before we formed a partnership with CAL, we literally went door to door in the Charlotte art community to see what organizations- art stores, local colleges, art galleries, etc.- who might have people that could commit to one workshop at a time, who were interested in volunteering. Fortunately, CAL is able to provide enough instructors for the school year and the group of teens that attend, are creating wonderful works and learning valuable skills.

Submitted by: Kelly Czarnecki, Young Adult Librarian, ImaginOn, the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Email: kczarnecki@plcmc.org for more information.

Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales Pet Parade by Sheri Rosen

What's a better way to kick off the summer reading theme of "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" than a neighborhood pet parade?



We did a lot of advertising for this : newspaper announcements, posters, banners, bookmarks, and school/daycare visitations, so that we would have a good crowd, which we did.

The rules were simple for both pets and their owners.

- **The children had to have a parent with them and their pets had to be on a leash or in a carrier.**
- **Animals were not allowed in the library so pet owner caretakers stayed with the pets outside while the Humane Society presented an on-going video program addressing pet care, to the children in the community room.**
- **If they did not have a pet, they could dress up as their favorite pet, or bring a stuffed animal.**

I contacted one of the local school principals and the Mayor of Huntersville to be judges. The first activity was the pet parade. The categories ranged from cutest, most talented, most unusual, pet that most resembles their owner, to smallest or saddest face. Award certificates were given to the winners along with a book. I had placed numbers on the children's backs to make it easier for the judges. All they had to do was place the winner's number on the preprinted certificate. Then when the judging was done I called the numbers and when the winners came up, I let each pick out a book, while I filled in the name.

We had a pooper-scooper brigade on the lookout for fallen debris. Pails of water were left by the roadside for thirsty animals. Teen volunteers helped with the bookdrop (relocated outside the parking lot entrance), and crowd control.

Other activities were simultaneously included. There was something for everyone to do.

- We had a beanbag toss area where kids tossed beanbags through standup animal cutouts and received stickers.
- I had contacted the local police dept. and they brought out a k-9 dog and did a demonstration for us. They children really enjoyed that.
- One of the local farms was able to bring out two Highland calves and a mother and baby llama, which the children were able to feed and pet.
- The circulation dept. held a book sale and manned a table where customers could get a library card.
- We provided sidewalk chalk for the children to draw pets on the sidewalk.
- A staff member manned the tent where the children made paper bag puppets from precut pet faces. Even the smallest child could glue stick the crayoned face on a bag.

This program lasted for two hours in the cool of the morning, from 10-12pm. We kept it rolling and the time went by quickly. We also had our library mascot, Brarydog interacting with the crowd. Fun was had by all.



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2007 North Carolina Children's Book Award Nominees

PICTURE BOOKS-----JUNIOR BOOKS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Actual Size By Jenkins, Steve | Becoming Naomi Le'on |
| Bad Kitty by Bruel, Nick | by Ryan, Pam Munoz |
| Chicks and Salsa by Reynolds, Aaron | A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of |
| Dad, Jackie and Me by Uhlberg, | a Stray by Martin, Ann M. |
| Myron | Duel of the Ironclads by |
| I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! by | O'Brien, Patrick |
| Beaumont, Karen | Gregor the Overlander (Underland |
| If You Decide to Go to the Moon by | Chronicles) by Collins, Suzanne |
| McNulty, Faith | The Journey That Saved Curious |
| Leaf Man by Ehlert, Lois | George: The True Wartime Escape |
| Love and Roast Chicken: A | of Margret and H.A. Rey by Bordon, |
| Trickster Tale from the Andes | Louise |
| Mountains by Knutson, Barbara | Kamishibai Man by Say, Allen |
| Mrs. McBloom Clean Up Your | Please Bury Me in the Library by |
| Classroom by DiPuccio, Kelly | Lewis, J. Patrick |
| Once Upon A Cool Motorcycle | The Scarlet Stockings Spy by |
| Dude by O'Malley, Kevin | Noble, Trinka Hakes. |
| Show Way by Woodson, Jacquelin | Whales on Stilts by Anderson, M.T. |
| Snip Snap!: What's That? by | Runny Babbit: A Billy Sook by |
| Bergman, Mara | Silverstin, Shel |
| Sunny Boy: The Life and Times of a | Jim Thorpe's Bright Path by |
| Tortoise by Fleming, Candace | Bruchac, Joseph |
| Terrific by Agee, Jon | Ace Lacewing: Bug Detective by |
| Three Silly Billies by Palatini, Margie | Biedrzycki, David |
| When Charlie McButton Lost | |
| Power by Collins, Suzanne | |

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