



## **Children and Young Adult Services Newsletter August 2012**

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### **1. Welcome**

#### **Happy Summer!**

I often hear from people outside the library world that libraries must be the most relaxing place when school is not in session. After all, libraries are quiet places, aren't they? I try to educate them by putting in a plug for summer reading, describe adult enrichment programs, visits from authors, puppet shows and concerts. It's exciting to be among the mad stampede of wound up children when they line up to push into a program. It's even more exciting to work at the desk the first day reading prizes are released.

When the last summer reading certificate has been handed out and the programmers have all been paid, maybe we can put our feet up. Just in time to start gearing up for the school year. We wouldn't have it any other way.

***Darcy Brixey, CAYAS Chair***

### **2. Introducing the CAYAS Board: 2012-2013**

Meet the 2012-2013 CAYAS Board. Board members are from all over the state and come from different parts of the library world. Being a board member is a great way to get involved in the state-and elections are right around the corner next year. Let one of us know if you would like to be involved!

#### **Darcy Brixey, Chair**

**[dbrixey@kcls.org](mailto:dbrixey@kcls.org)**

Darcy is a teen services librarian for King County Library System. She reads, she writes, she attempts running and karate.

#### **Meredith Hale, Chair Emeritus**

**[mhale@piercecountylibrary.org](mailto:mhale@piercecountylibrary.org)**

Meredith is one of two Teen Services Librarians working for Pierce County Library. She became a librarian after trying her hand at TV Journalism and Museum Education, and feels like this is where she should be (though every once in a while she daydreams about running off and making her cake decorating and baking hobby into more of a real job). She lives very happily in Seattle with her partner Eric, her dog Parker and Eric's cat Elektra.

#### **Sarah Lynch, Incoming Chair**

**[sslynch@kcls.org](mailto:sslynch@kcls.org)**

Sarah Lynch is now working as an Adult Services Librarian for King County Library System, at the Federal Way branch. She was in Teen Services for 5 years prior. She loves CAYAS for keeping her in the loop on what's happening in services for children and teens. Plus, it's great for networking and program ideas.

**Joy Feldman, Secretary**

[jfeldman@sno-isle.org](mailto:jfeldman@sno-isle.org)

After working for eight years in branches small and large, Joy Feldman has now joined the storied ranks of adventurous librarians bringing books by van, bookmobile and sometimes via sasquatch to people of all ages in Snohomish & Island County. When visiting childcares and daycares, children often refer to her simply as "the library".

**Ericka Brunson, Board Position #1**

[ebrunson@krl.org](mailto:ebrunson@krl.org)

Ericka, a self-professed book pusher and Disney Channel aficionado, recently relocated to WA from Kansas where she was kicked out for being too awesome. She is a children's librarian at Kitsap Regional Library, where she remains in a constant state of embarrassing delight at getting paid for doing what she loves.

**Emily Jones, Board Position #2**

[tabbyjones@gmail.com](mailto:tabbyjones@gmail.com)

Emily first started serving youth in public libraries in 2004 as a teen services librarian. Since then she has also worked with children and tweens, and even with faculty and students at a university library (not that much different!). Emily also writes reviews for *Unshelved* Book Club and volunteers at a local animal clinic.

**Sonia Gustafson, Board Position #2**

[sgustafson@sclcd.org](mailto:sgustafson@sclcd.org)

Sonia is a youth services librarian who loves making top five lists. **At work:** baby lapsit, singing and dancing with preschoolers, teen reader's advisory, page supervising, and learning new things. **At home:** Friends, reading, travelling, pets, and playing.

**Treasure Samuel, Board #3**

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Treasure has been a children and teen librarian at Seattle Public Library, a high school English teacher, and an ice cream scooper. She is currently staying at home with 7-month old Kelly (and their 6 year old dachshund Goobers) and thinks it is pretty awesome, though getting free ice cream at work was also pretty great.

**Rachel Adams, Board #3**

[rkadams@kcls.org](mailto:rkadams@kcls.org)

Rachel Adams is a teen librarian with the King County Library System at the Woodmont branch. Rachel graduated from the University of Washington in 2009 and has been working with young adults for over ten years as a librarian, teacher, job training coach and mentor. Rachel thinks the best part about being a librarian is inspiring youth through the power of words.

**Jennifer Sullivan, Board #4**

[jsullivan@sno-isle.org](mailto:jsullivan@sno-isle.org)

Jen Sullivan spends her days working as a substitute librarian at Sno-Isle Libraries and chasing after her busy toddler. Previously, she was a Children's Librarian at Snohomish Library. One of her all-time favorite storytime songs is "Sticky Bubblegum" courtesy of

Nancy Stewart. She's never met a child who doesn't love it!

### **Alpha DeLap, UW iSchool Liaison**

[adelap@uw.edu](mailto:adelap@uw.edu)

A young people's librarian with a penchant for social media and stories, Alpha is passionate about information access, intellectual freedom and literacy in all its forms. She is the proud mother of two awesome little boys, a knitter, runner, yogini and married to her college sweetheart. Alpha is currently in the process of developing a middle grade collection from scratch and conceptualizing the new middle grade library at the [St. Thomas School](#) in Medina, WA.

### **Sarah Ogden, UW iSchool Distance Liaison**

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After a career path full of false starts, confusion, and disappointment Sarah remembered her original junior high school dream of becoming a librarian and everything fell into place. She is currently a second year online student at the University of Washington's iSchool and lives in Olympia, WA with her husband, son, and assorted pets. Sarah enjoys spending time in libraries, playing outdoors, and cooking delicious food. And reading, of course.

### **Jennifer Knight, Blog Editor**

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Jennifer is a Youth Services Librarian for the North Olympic Library System at the Port Angeles Main Library. A 2009 graduate of the University of Washington's MLIS program and one of the co-founders of iYouth, she is a current member of ALSC's program committee and was a member of the 2011 Sibert Committee. Her favorite book for storytime is *Let's Play In the Forest* by Claudia Rueda.

## **3. Voice From the Field**

### **Life gave me lemons, and I hate lemonade...**

Submitted by Treasure Samuel

Well, that's not true. I love lemonade, but it was too silly of a title to resist! Last year, I was laid off from my job as a librarian. Losing your job is absolutely disheartening, but it wasn't unexpected, and I had had time to decide what steps I wanted to take next. Once I stopped hyperventilating about paying bills every month, I became excited when I realized that I would finally have the time to do some library related volunteer work to expand my professional experience and improve my resume. Whether you are in library school, seeking a job, retired, or like me, laid off and opting to stay home with kids, there are a number of great organizations that will help you keep up your skills (and hopefully help you land a job, if you are looking for one!).

First of all, I joined the [CAYAS](#) board! [WLA](#), CAYAS, and other WLA interest groups have many opportunities for you to use your skills or learn some new ones.

I also decided I wanted to keep up with what was happening in children's literature and joined the [Puget Sound Council for the Review of Children's Materials](#). Meetings are held during the school year in Shoreline and it is a great way to meet other librarians and acquire new books for your library (or donate to your favorite library!).

But I was still missing something—kids! I wanted to keep up with story times, so I volunteered to do story times in high needs classrooms through [Page Ahead](#). Not only did I

have a fabulous time learning new things from the kids and their teachers, I also found myself working on other literacy projects and lending my time and energy to book selecting, felt kit making, brochure updating, and other tasks that match my skills.

Of course, there are plenty of other places where you can offer your experience and passion. See what your local library needs (A homework helper? Library sale organizer?) or what literacy organizations meet in your area (I first learned about Page Ahead by being a regular patron at [Mockingbird Books](#) in Seattle).

Maybe your local parent group, coffee shop, or bookstore would love to have you conduct story time. Review books on [Goodreads](#), [LibraryThing](#), or other sites. Or start a blog.

Now I have started doing storytimes for the parent group I meet with—the opportunities are everywhere! Granted, I'm not making any money from this, but I am gaining experience, new skills, new contacts, new references, and a nice list on my resume for when I decide to return to paid library work. So when you can't stand to send in one more job application or retirement is making you restless or unemployment is getting you down, find an organization that makes you feel productive, helpful, and energetic. You'll feel better about yourself and may very well land a job in the process!

## **4. Washington Innovations**

### **Summer Meals with Library on Wheels**

*Submitted by Joy Feldman*

For the second year in a row, Library on Wheels will be visiting summer meals programs throughout Snohomish & Island County. We modeled this program on the success of our community library staff at the Monroe Library, who had been visiting the free lunch program at a local elementary school for the last few summers with great results. In July and August, we will be hitting the road to visit more than 15 different school cafeterias from Lynnwood to Granite Falls to Sultan to Whidbey Island!

Since our department is mobile and more flexible, we coordinate these visits with the schools. However, we make sure to invite community library staff to join us at each site. Summer meals give us the opportunity to meet underserved families. Community library staff bring publicity, a small smattering of library materials to showcase and summer reading sign-ups. They often answer questions from parents about the library and different programs. Library on Wheels staff provide an activity for kids. This program works best if you think of it as a drop-in program. We typically bring both an active and passive activity to appeal to a broad range of kids. We have had lots of success with Roylco straws and connectors and Legos, as well as simple art activities such as decorating door hangers and rubbings.

By the end of the lunch program, kids are eagerly asking when we will be back and we have made a new connection with families in our communities.

### **Skate into a Fun and Cheap Teen Program!**

*Submitted by Rachel Adams*

The Woodmont Library (King County Library System) had a very popular program this summer on Skateboard Maintenance. Gravity Sports, a skate shop in Auburn, Washington taught the program, which covered the basics of taking care of a skateboard, how to build one and what to do when something breaks. As the presenter spoke, he put together a brand new skateboard, which was raffled off at the end of the program. The lucky teen who won is a regular at the branch and was very excited to have a new board to replace his

beaten and broken one. The program was a huge success with many teens, both girls and boys attending. There was also an unexpected element of job training included when the presenter explained how he went from a "troublemaker skateboarder" to the manager of a skate shop giving the teens a sense of how to turn their interests into a job. The local skate shop charged wholesale for the skateboard making, which ended up costing less than \$150 for the program. This program is recommended for those with teen patrons that always bring their skateboard into the library or use the parking lot as a skate park. If you have questions about this program please email Rachel Adams at [rkadams@kcls.org](mailto:rkadams@kcls.org)

### **Mission: Good Grades at Sno-Isle Libraries**

*Submitted by Jennifer Sullivan*

Last fall, Snohomish Library pioneered a successful new program, "Mission: Good Grades." It was designed to introduce students and caregivers to the variety of electronic resources available to help with school. Participants rotated through four stations, each with a librarian spotlighting a different research database. There was also a break to enjoy the Matt Baker Comedy and Stunt Show. The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation and Friends of Snohomish Library generously provided funds for fun prizes and the performer. Library staff partnered with school librarians to promote the program and help as volunteers on the day of the event. The school with the most students in attendance won \$250 for its library. This year, "Mission: Good Grades" will be offered at all Sno-Isle libraries.

## **5. Upcoming Events**

### **Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Tradeshow**

October 13-15, Tacoma, WA

<http://www.pnba.org/show.htm>

### **CAYAS Fall Workshop**

Stay tuned for information about the fall workshop focused on Anime and Manga, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 20 in Spokane and Friday, November 9 in Issaquah.

### **SAVE THE DATE: OLA/WLA Conference**

April 24-26, Vancouver, WA

*The content of this newsletter is the sole responsibility of the CAYAS Interest Group of WLA.*