

Notes from Youth Services Meeting, September 25, 2015

Attending libraries: BC, DE, DI, EN, GR, HR, NO, ON, OX, SH, SI, SM, SP, UN, VE (2), WO

Corine Van Althius from NO conducted a hands-on workshop on making altered book birdhouse sculptures which incorporated engineering, math and art skills. Participants will be able to replicate at their libraries and may borrow a collection of glue guns from 4CLS to use for in this or other programs. If you would like printed instructions for this project, please email Starr at slatronica@4cls.org. Corine's considerable talent was also exhibited throughout the library in many creative displays.

While attendees worked on their projects Starr demonstrated the contents of the STEM/STEAM links she curated. Some links offered background and rationale for incorporating these multifaceted learning experiences into storytimes and other library programs and activities. Other sites provide excellent and inspiring examples of successful library programs and "pop-up" programming that provide STEAM experiences. Links to booklists and other resources for STEAM background and programming are included on the list of links which has been distributed via the ys discussion list and will be posted on the Intranet.

Starr demonstrated turning a T-shirt into a book bag/farmers' market bag/beach bag and the technique of decorating fabric using freezer paper stencils and spray bleach, incorporating engineering, chemistry, and art. Attendees made their own examples of this project which would be good for school age kids or teens.

Librarians don't have to be skilled in STEAM subjects to offer programming. STEAM programming provides a perfect opportunity to partner with organizations and individuals within the community that have expertise in these fields. Suggestions from member libraries include:

- Rogers Environmental Center in Sherburne
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1831.html>
- Local farmers—Unadilla has hosted terrific programs that feature baby goats, angora rabbits, roosters, etc.
- Caterpillar/butterfly programs. Stacey from Greene invited people to harvest caterpillars from her farm
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - Broome County www.ccebroome.org
 - Chenango County www.chenango.cce.cornell.edu
 - Delaware County www.ccedelaware.org
 - Otsego County www.cceschoharie-otsego.org
- 4-H (most work through CCE above)
- State Parks, (e.g Glimmerglass)

- Historical Societies
- Ross Park Zoo www.rossparkzoo.com
- South Side Stables in Worcester <http://www.southsidestables.com/> (miniature Jerseys!)
- Animal Adventure <http://theanimaladventurepark.com/>
- Wolf Mountain www.thewolfmountainnaturecenter.org
- Talons: Birds of prey <http://www.talonsbirdsofprey.com/>
- Bark-9 Therapy Dogs <https://www.facebook.com/Bark9AfterHours>
- Discovery Center of the Southern Tier www.thediscoverycenter.org
- Local Universities offer a host of experts from student clubs to faculty. (For the “Dig Into Reading” SRP the Binghamton University Archeology Department offered programs in libraries.)
- Roberson Museum and Science Center www.roberson.org
- Your local school Open House Events and faculty
- Friends and family members with expertise and a willingness to share.

Starr presented a “lunar ooze” project that demonstrates the phenomena that formed the lunar “maria” (plural of mare) which show up as the dark blotches on the surface of the moon. Many more excellent space-related STEAM programs and activities can be found at the Lunar and Planetary Institute’s Explore page:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/>

Andrea from Unadilla reported on the terrific response she has had from using “Big Books” in her storytimes. Sara-Jo from Endicott echoed her endorsement and noted that they help to capture the attention of adults in the back of the room who then participate in the story rather than chatting among themselves. Starr will dedicate some of her budget to purchasing a collection that can be borrowed by the member libraries for programming, but will not be available for the public. Please contact her if you know of good sources for this format.

Unattended children policies were discussed. Few libraries had formal documents which address this. Endicott’s limit is 12 years, Delhi’s is 10, before a child may be at the library on his/her own. Starr encouraged people to work with their directors/boards to formulate an official policy to protect the child and the library and to present an objective and uniform messages to parents and caregivers in advance of any problem. For sample policies visit

http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php?title=Unattended_Children_in_Libraries

Starr showed the Talking Book and Braille Library website

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/> and recommended that libraries become familiar and register their institution in order to be prepared to help patrons who may need this service. Lead time is required as hard copy applications need to be mailed in for approval. Libraries can request a player and cartridge for demonstration purposes. Children are eligible for this program if they are visually impaired, have a certifiable learning disability, and are physically unable to hold and manipulate a book. Books are now available for download to registered users via BARD

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/bard/> and specific titles may be requested if they are not already in the collection. Starr encouraged libraries to be on the lookout for families/children that would benefit from this service and to work with schools to increase awareness.

Starr reported that next summer will probably be the last year for Family Literacy funds targeted for SRP. The award amount will be determined by the number of libraries that apply. The application process will be improved to require the library director's authorization to avoid issues of confusion that arose when checks were distributed this past summer. Applications will open after the first of the year.

A discussion of programming affirmed the position that this is a core service to children and families and is especially crucial in small communities where the library is the "only game in town". Learning and enrichment occurs on many levels and environments and these experiential opportunities will lead kids to access other resources within the library. It interaction with staff and presenters that turn inventory into information, inspiration and innovation. The American Library Association released a study on the impact of programs in public libraries less than a year ago <http://nilppa.newknowledge.org/> for those who would like to delve deeper into the subject.

Topics for future CE were tabled due to lack of time. Instead discussion will be held via the yslist to include all members of the YS community.

Raffle drawing—Heather from Delhi won a pair of "hand" earrings donated by Starr to commemorate the hands-on workshop/experiences of the meeting.

The next YS meeting will be held at Huntington Memorial Library on Monday, November 9th from 10am-1pm.