Happy 1st Anniversary, YSRT!

By Heidi Tice

We have completed our first year as the Youth Services Round Table. And I think we have done so rather successfully. We managed all 4 issues in the quarterly newsletter. We created a social media presence with Facebook, Pinterest, and our collaboration blog. And I managed to visit 17 libraries outside of my system (not counting the 10 I visited on my ULA Trip last month). We’re on a roll and looking forward to our 2nd year. Let us know how we can help you!

YSRT 2015-2016 Goals

1. To continue to reach out to librarians/media specialists who serve youth throughout the state of Utah (especially those who are not ULA and/or YSRT members) that they may have access to what is already available and in place with the YSRT. This may possibly bring more in as ULA members, but the main goal for now is to bring our skills and experiences together for the benefit of each other no matter what our ULA status may be.

2. To hold a successful, well-planned, and properly budgeted Fall Conference/Workshop which will encourage networking and provide information and training for public and school librarians who work with youth (ages 0-19). We have planned our Fall Conference for September 18th, 2015 at the Pleasant Valley Library branch in South Ogden.

3. To continue with the quarterly newsletter with content pertinent to those who serve children, teens, or both.

4. To encourage and increase more communication among YSRT members, helping members feel they are more a part of a helpful group that they can turn to for ideas, suggestions, answers, encouragement, and more. Part of this will be achieved through our social media presence (Facebook, Pinterest, and YSRT blog).

No Logo Available

We still need a YSRT logo!! Please help if you can. Submit designs or names of people you think could create one for us to Heidi. Thank you!
2015 ULA Conference Report

Storytimes for Everyone! Adults as Partners in Developing Language and Literacy in Young Children (Pre-Conference all-day session)

by Michelle DeKorver

I could go on and on about Saroj Ghoting and what a wonderful presenter she was. So, I will rave a tiny bit before I go on to a few truisms that I learned. The class lasted pretty much all day long, but felt like a one hour class because Saroj was that amazing. She had us interacting with her and playing along the entire time. She drew every eye. Basically, she practiced on US what she was teaching. (And, it worked!) I would definitely go to another of her classes or workshops. I was enthralled the entire time.

I love classes that not only teach how to do something, but add in the WHY! It is so much more powerful to me to not only know that you catch the children’s attention better by using an animated face when telling a story, but to know the science of why an infant will watch and listen better, as a result. For example, did you know that at only ONE hour old an infant can read some facial expressions? By one YEAR old, a child is one hundred percent literate in paralinguistics. In other words, if you smile at a child, but your body language says, “Go away! I don’t want to be near you right now,” the child will intuitively be aware that you are not engaged. He will either lose interest, himself or may even throw a tantrum to respond that he is not happy to be there, either.

Did you know that children only remember things that are relevant to themselves? For example, Saroj told us all a story that had a few different descriptors for Grandmother Spider. She was little, weak, and old. When asked to retell the story, most children remember the parts that they apply to themselves – specifically the word “little.” Most adults, on the other hand, focus on the age part of the description. The moral is to adapt the stories, topics, or lessons to apply to your audience! One more gem I picked up from this preconference is, “Telling the story is NOT about memorizing the words. It is about knowing and visualizing the story.” This made me realize that although sometimes I miss a word or two in a story, ultimately, I (and the few exacting parents who are reading along) am probably the only one who will ever know. The children neither know nor care. They just heard a great story and think that books, reading, and libraries are the best things EVER, as a result. And, isn’t that the goal we all want to meet as Children’s Services specialists?
50 Shades of Greatness by Sherrie Mortensen

The North Logan Library did a great job with this presentation (one of the 8 – I think – their library presented). The message of this presentation was everyone has talents, interests, and knowledge beyond their assigned function at the library. Your library will be stronger and your staff happier and more fulfilled in their work if we tap into those outside interests and allow them to serve our patrons in these areas.

Here are two examples. An older staff member got an e-reader for Christmas and did not know how to use it. She went to work and figured it out. Now she teaches a class at the library to older patrons who are learning to use their e-readers. She speaks the same language as the older patrons and understands their questions. While there are younger staff who understand the tech, she is a great match to teach the students.

A young shelver had talent and interest in art. She was allowed to paint a main pillar in the library using a literature theme. The pillar has become a major focal point of the library and the artist used it in her portfolio to obtain an art scholarship at USU.

Upon return home I took a second look at our shelving and part time staff and found, a guitar player to accompany story time, a science major who is excited to teach a summer science camp, and a theater major who is now leading a twice a week children’s theater group.

Enable your staff to share their inner greatness!

Redstone, Zombies, and Creepers, Oh My! How to Start a Minecraft Club by Bekah Goodman

Donna Cardon and Sheila Nielson shared how two non-gaming librarians who knew nothing about Minecraft started two successful Minecraft clubs (one survival mode, the other creative) at their library. Why a Minecraft club at the library? It teaches STEM skills, there are now many book tie-ins, and kids love it! They shared great tips for starting a club, as well as basics for every gaming beginner--something I needed. What I found most helpful were the ideas they shared on how to give the club members a goal to work towards together. They were able to use a computer lab for their club, and purchased the EDU edition so they had administrator privileges. Their handout was very helpful and can be found through the ULA website.
2015 ULA Conference Report—continued

Utah Kids Ready to Read in Storytime
by Sarah Hall
Sharon Deeds, Liesl Johnson, and Heather Novotny presented a vivacious and fun panel loaded with ideas to promote the ideals of the "Utah Kids Ready to Read" program. From interactive stories with puppets to indoor ice skating on paper plates, learning in all forms can be fun and excited when presented in Storytime.

Engaging Readers with Creative Encouragement
by Michelle DeKorver
Erin Warnick and Lori Bonner from the American Fork Public Library presented this session which was introduced with the words, “You don’t have to fall into a vat of acid to gain summer reading super powers.” Their presentation was fun, quirky, and high energy. They whizzed through a whirlwind of Summer Reading suggestions, including prizes – and where to get the best deals, event ideas – and how to get people who will help, and attention-grabbing (yet budget-friendly) decorations! The one hour class flew by with a free lapel button for each participant and occasional random drawings for other prizes! I walked away thinking, “Wow! I am not being creative enough or looking hard enough at my resources and how I can use them differently!” Morals of the story? 1. Get inspired and get creative in your programming. 2. Enthusiasm is contagious, so LOVE what you do and the patrons will love it, too.

Literacy and Social-Emotional Development Connections in Children's Literature by Heidi Tice
Emily Darowski and Rachel Wadham presented on judging the quality of books we want to put in our collections. They stated that Children’s books have two purposes: to entertain and to teach. They made the point that not many books do both. Books that teach are evaluated on instructional/teaching quality, suitability for intended use, and developmental appropriateness. They then proceeded to give some examples of books they evaluated and how those books faired. While I have been evaluating books for many years, I never before had actual terms for how I should be evaluating a book that teaches. This will be helpful for me in the future.

Congratulations
Our new member-at-large Sherrie Mortensen received the ULA Paraprofessional Certificate at the ULA Conference in May. Well done, Sherrie!

Best Wishes
We will miss having Liesl Johnson as one of our members-at-large. She was a great addition to the YSRT. Good luck to her as she continues her pursuits in the many aspects of librarianship that she is involved in!

Libraries Visited
These are the libraries that Heidi visited since our last newsletter:
*Washington County Library System:
- Springdale branch
- Hurricane branch
- Washington branch
- Saint George branch
- Santa Clara branch
- Enterprise branch
- New Harmony branch
*Cedar City Library in the Park
*Parowan Library
*Beaver City Library

Congratulations
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SAVE THE DATE:
Annual YSRT Fall Conference is Sept. 18.
Theme: That Thing You Do!
Location: Pleasant Valley Library (South Ogden) - highlighted in this issue.
Registration online July 1–Aug. 15: $12 w/lunch, $6 w/o lunch.
Registration online Aug. 16-Sept. 12 or at the door: $15 w/lunch, $7.50 w/o lunch.

Financial Literacy by Christina Walsh

Presented by librarians from BYU, Washington County, and Salt Lake County, this session outlined resources & program ideas that focus on building financial literacy skills in children, teens, and adults. Our communities need this type of programming, and libraries are the perfect place to offer it. Libraries are already recognized as free, unbiased community centers for independent and guided learning. RUSA, the Reference & User Services Association, published Financial Literacy guidelines and best practices for libraries in 2014. These, and other resources shared in the session can be found on at www ula.org.

Beehive Book Bash by Heidi Tice

The annual ULA Conference ended with its annual Beehive Book Bash. Since I read all the nominees each summer, this session is one of my favorites. I enjoy getting a quick run-down on each book in the 5 categories. It builds up my excitement and even helps determine which books I’ll read first in my summer line-up. Check out what the nominees are here: http://www.clau.org/2015-2016-nominess-for-the-beehive-book-award.html

Discovery at the Library by Heidi Tice

I drove in to Parowan City, and something about the name was familiar—like I’d written it in my family history stuff multiple times. So, of course, I asked the librarian! Wasn’t sure which family line it was, but when I mentioned Jesse N. Smith, she pointed out the window and said, “That’s his house right there.” It brought a huge amount of joy for this East coast girl to make a discovery like that.

Thank you so much!!!

Preschool Pioneer Online by Heidi Tice

I enjoyed the clips that Lisa Cohne shared at the beginning of her session which showed there are two arguments about kids and technology: one completely against and others thinking it is a great tool but should not be the solution to learning. I liked hearing the distinction between digital natives (the children growing up now) and digital immigrants (my generation). The two groups go about things differently. She then proceeded to show us various tools and resources on the Preschool Pioneer website.

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The Pleasant Valley Branch of Weber County is a 38,835 sq. ft., LEED Gold certified, state-of-the-art Library and community center that was completed in early 2009. The Branch was positioned in the southern portion of Weber County to meet the explosive demand for multi-faceted Library services in that area. The 4.25-acre building site was donated by an interested family; Friends of the Library canvassed the community, and the Library Development Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, pledged support in raising funds to enhance the basic building infrastructure with world-class, technology-smart, multipurpose spaces.

The Branch has a gallery, board room, amphitheater, and a theater seating for 250 people. The Pleasant Valley Branch contains the only consumer health center in the System, which has a multi-media touch screen health information kiosk. The Branch houses a specialty coffee and café shop. The open and light-infused building hosts a variety of activities including children’s Discovery Time, the After School Program, book discussions, film screenings, outdoor concerts, author events, exercise classes, and a Teen Chess Club.

Community spaces and private rooms can be rented for business and private functions during and after Library business hours. The Branch has a professional kitchen attached to a community room for catering special events. The Pleasant Valley Branch offers WIFI, an e-media kiosk, work spaces, a computer lab for teens, and computer spaces for adults and children. Computer and technology classes are taught at the Branch throughout the year.

If you would like to have your library spotlighted or have a program idea to share, please send the information to the YSRT Chair. Thank you!

Program Swap by Heidi Tice

Basing our program off of Murray Library’s, Holladay Library has completed its first year of Teen Hour—an after school program 4 days a week to give the teens from the Junior High across the street a place to hang out and have fun while they wait to go home. At Holladay, we have provided use of the Wii each day as well as coloring and chess. Then we have supplied a different game, craft, or activity each day. The teen favorites for the year were Ductigami, knitting, Spot It, CD mosaic art, Shake ‘N’ Take, Shrinkydinks, making lip balm, decorating mugs, and making buttons. Repeats of these will take place next year, but I’d love to have more ideas!!!

New Member-at-Large: Christina Walsh

Christina Walsh is brand new to the Salt Lake City area, where she serves as the Teen Services Coordinator for the City Library. Christina is already in love with this area as there is lots to experience - the strong arts community, great food scene, super friendly people, and of course the surrounding natural beauty! Christina began working for libraries many years ago, when she was a teen herself. Since then, she has worked in both academic and public libraries. Most recently, she headed up teen programming for the Tulsa City-County Library system in Oklahoma (goodbye humid summers!). In her spare time she loves cooking, hiking with her dog, going to pub trivia, crafting, and reading teen fiction (she's specifically been geeking out to teen mysteries lately).