

OYAN REVIEW

January 11, 2008

OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries. Visit us online at <http://www.olaweb.org/oyan/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	3
Picture Books and Teens? _____	3
Teen Volunteers in your Library: Part 2 _____	5
Hardwear Jewelry: Jewelry from a Toolbox _____	8
Mock Printz Workshop 2008 _____	9
Unconventional Collection Development Resources _____	9
Guitar Hero @ the Eugene Public Library _____	9
OYAN Book Rave* _____	9
2008 Nominees _____	9
BOOK REVIEWS _____	9
Upcoming Release _____	9
Audio Book Reviews _____	9
WEBLIOGRAPHIES [None submitted this month] _____	9
PERSONALS _____	9
Jackson County Update _____	9
OYAN QUARTERLY MEETING (January 25th, 2008) _____	9
Driving Directions to Hillsboro Main Library _____	9
Agenda _____	9
Lunch (deadline: Tues., Jan. 22 nd) _____	9

ARTICLES

Picture Books and Teens?

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As some of you know, I make outreach visits to two residential programs for teen girls in Northwest Portland. Why, you ask? Well, during the first 25 years of my professional life I worked in these kinds of programs as a Social Worker. Becoming a librarian gave me a new way to 1) interact with and support positive youth development and 2) develop future library supporters and users. I thought if they could form a trusting relationship with me, they may learn to see the library as a source of enrichment, healing and fun.

Why picture books? 'Cause I love 'em! And I believe we all need to be read to. There are great picture books out there that are funny as well as inspiring. And just yesterday I had an experience that confirmed this belief.

It was my monthly visit to a secure shelter program for 8 teen girls. These are girls waiting to go live somewhere. It could be a foster home, a treatment program, or even occasionally to return home. Over the past year I've developed a routine of reading a couple of picture books before I book talk some age appropriate titles that they can "check out" from me.

When I started to read yesterday, I had the usual reaction from two girls I'd never met. "You're reading us stories?!!" (Said as only a self-absorbed teen can say it.) To which I replied, "Yup! Everyone needs stories." Luckily two other girls each said, "I like it!" and so I continued.

The first book I shared was "about my favorite rock band, **Punk Farm!**" They listened politely until I started singing/screaming "E-I-E-I OOOOO!", whereupon they collapsed in hysterical laughter at the sight of this 'old fart', head bobbin', voice screechin' librarian. Of course, then I 'had' to do **Punk Farm On Tour** with the same results.

By this time, they were all with me and I pulled out **Show Way** by Jacqueline Woodson. There were a few questions at the beginning ("What's slavery?" and "What's a plantation owner?") but mid-way through they all were sitting up listening intently. When the story was over I told them it was the true story of the author's family history, and a discussion about family history began. Many of the girls said they didn't know anything about their grandparents or greats, demonstrating once again how disconnected many of them are from family. Then we briefly talked about how they could ask their parents for family memories or start now and write down what they are experiencing, so that their children will have a record.

It was a poignant conversation. The question "What's slavery?" really got me. I was made aware once again of the effect of stress & chaos on one's ability to learn. For whatever reason, these girls are not at home and one assumes that their time at home was not safe or secure. And again I was reminded of the important role a librarian can play in providing even a brief moment of calm when a teen can listen and learn.

References

Krosoczka, Jarrett. (2005). **Punk Farm**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Krosoczka, Jarrett. (2007). **Punk Farm on Tour**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Woodson, Jacqueline. (2005). **Show Way**. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Talbot Hudson, Ills.

Some of my other favorites:

Willems, Mo. (2004). **Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale**. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.

Stewart, Sarah. (2004). **The Friend**. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux. David Small, Ills.

Cole, Heidi and Vogl, Nancy. (2005). **Am I a color too?** Bellevue, WA: Illumination Arts. Gerald Purnell, Ills.

Wormell, Chris. (2002). **George and the Dragon**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Beaumont, Karen. (2005). **I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!** New York: Harcourt. David Catrow, Ills.

Teen Volunteers in your Library: Part 2

Part 1: Implementation and Completion of the First Session

April Witteveen, Teen Services Librarian

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In the Fall OYAN Review, I wrote about starting a teen volunteer program at the Bend Public Library. Upon publication of that issue, I had just met my teens face-to-face at our orientation meeting. Let's skip ahead and get right to the numbers: over a 9-week session, the thirteen teen volunteers I supervised worked for over 113 hours! To thank the teens, each received a thank-you note and a \$5 gift card to Starbucks. Feedback was incredibly positive from the Youth Services, Outreach, and Adult Reference departments, and the teens themselves also shared a lot of positive thoughts in their written evaluations at the end of the session.

Now, to step back...scheduling did prove to be a little bit tricky, as it involved me shuffling reference desk hours, preparing for days when I needed to set up and deliver special teen programming, and other occasions when I'd be away from my desk. One very happy, though not necessarily shocking, discovery was that these teens were all excellent at working independently. At times when I was busy, I was able to leave written directions and let the volunteers gather their materials and get to work without direct supervision. As the weeks progressed, the need for my involvement lessened as many of the tasks were similar in nature.

Finding enough work for the teens was also a challenge. I seemed to feel worse than the volunteers did about asking them to cut out story time craft worksheets week after week. I trained the majority of the volunteers on Dewey, so shelf reading was always a stand-in task (and the only negative aspect of the program that was noted on the teens' evaluations). However, the teens were able to work on a variety of projects that our librarians didn't have the time to focus on, such as weeding through the picture book collection and locating periodicals for recataloging. They also kept us well-stocked in sharpened pencils and scrap paper, as well as a variety of ILL and Books By Mail labels.

Here are a few things I learned during the first session:

- You probably won't save time by implementing a teen volunteer program. I had to increase my own personal workload to spend time figuring out projects for the teens, tracking their hours, scheduling, etc.
- The teens who signed up were exceptional—and exceptionally busy. I needed to be flexible and open minded when one teen was only able to show up for 4 or 5 shifts, or another needed to shuffle her shift from week to week. What I stressed was responsibility—if you can't make it in, please call or email me. I was very impressed to only have one occasion of a no-call no-show.
- The teens were happy to be there. While I felt occasional guilt about not having more exciting projects for them to work on, the teens volunteered because they want to help the library in whatever way we needed.

And here are some hopes for upcoming sessions:

- Find more ways to incorporate the teens' creativity into the volunteer program. I offered volunteer credit for written book and media reviews, and hope that in the future the teens can create themed book displays in the children's room, make posters for teen bulletin boards, and design flyers for teen programs.
- I'd be thrilled for a teen advisory board to evolve from the teen volunteer program, especially if some of my younger teens become repeat volunteers.
- Overall, I hope the program proves to be sustainable and of continuing value to the staff of the library, and to the teens who volunteer.

Hardware Jewelry: Jewelry from a Toolbox

*Connie Replinger
Senior Youth Services Librarian
Salem Public Library*

This program, based on the book with the same title (*by Hannah Rogge, ISBN: 9781584794806*), was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This was advertised as a program to make gifts for people in your family, and we had 17 very enthusiastic teen girls (ages 12-17) attend the 2 hour program.

The girls were able to make four projects from the book, plus there was a table where they could make their own creations with hardware and jewelry odds and ends. I had 2 copies of the book out for them to look at and follow the steps on. They didn't need much help, but it helped that I had made the projects already so they could see the finished product and I could tell them what to do if they didn't understand the book's instructions.

The finished projects were earrings from washers, a necklace from nuts, a choker out of a rubber cord and washers, and a bracelet out of "O" rings. On their own, they created earrings with rubber bands and beads, and made necklaces out of the "S" hooks and copper wire. The easiest to make was the "O" ring bracelet, but it was also the most expensive. The hardest was the choker because attaching the clasp at the end was difficult to handle.

I bought the jewelry components through Fire Mountain Gems (www.firemountaingems.com) and found the hardware elements at Lowe's, Home Depot, and True Value. I brought needle nose pliers from home and asked other staff to borrow theirs. While not each project needed the pliers at all times, it would have been better to have had a few more pairs (we had 5 for them to share).

The other downside to this program was that it wasn't a very cheap program, but it was a definite success, and I have enough materials left over to do it again.

Mock Printz Workshop 2008

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On Saturday, January 5th, teens and library staff gathered at Multnomah County Library's Central Library for the Multnomah County Library-OYAN Mock Printz Award Workshop. Participants read the following ten titles in advance of the workshop and came prepared to advocate for their favorites:

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie

My Mother the Cheerleader by Robert Sharenow

Red Glass by Laura Resau

Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You by Peter Cameron

A Swift, Pure Cry by Siobhan Dowd

Tasting the Sky by Ibtisam Barakat

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt

Your Own, Sylvia by Stephanie Hemphill

Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You by Peter Cameron won the top honor, with participants praising the quirky, yet realistic voice of the protagonist.

Two honor books were chosen: *Red Glass* by Laura Resau and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Strong characterization was noted for both titles, with *Red Glass* also drawing accolades for its rich portrayal of Mexican culture.

Visit <http://www.unikron.com/clients/ala-webcast-2008> on Monday, January 14th at 7:30 am for a live webcast of the youth awards press conference at ALA. The Michael L. Printz Award website will have the results posted later that day at www.ala.org/yalsa/printz.

Unconventional Collection Development Resources

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If you are like me, you have a stack of School Library Journal, VOYA, Booklist and other conventional collection development journals in a pile on your desk. Maybe you have a few favorite websites that you use. These resources are great; don't get me wrong. Our core collections are built by using these sources. However, there are many other resources out there for building your YA collection. Some you may not have thought of before. These "out of the box" ideas will add some variety to your shelves and get your teens excited about what you may come up with next.

Online Resources

- **MySpace Books:**
 - <http://collect.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=books> MySpace has a great site dedicated to books. Since most visitors on the site are between 14-30, you can be assured the books listed are geared towards that crowd.

Included is a list of current top sellers, links to MySpace book clubs, and many featured titles.

- **Costco Connection Magazine:**
 - Print from warehouses or online at <http://www.costco.com/Service/FeaturePage.aspx?ProductNo=11023465> No, you don't have to be a Costco member to access this resource. Each month Costco features a book and then has at least one full page of new titles. Many listed titles are for young adults.
- **Series and Sequels:**
 - <http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/readers/series/juv/> A great library in Missouri hosts this fantastic list of young adult series and sequels. Never miss the new Gossip Girls again!
- **Movie Tie-Ins:**
 - <http://www.amazon.com/Movie-Tie-Ins-Genre-Fiction-Books/b?ie=UTF8&node=4497> You know as soon as they make a movie of it, teens want to read the book. Be sure and keep an eye on this subpage of Amazon.com
- **TV Tie-Ins:**
 - <http://www.teentelevision.com/default.asp> This site is great to pop into once in a while to see what's hot in teen TV.

The Old Fashioned Way

- Visit the book aisle next time you are in Powell's, Target or Wal-Mart. You may be surprised! As librarians we strive to have the best, newest and hottest items for our patrons, but we can't know about everything that comes out. I have found some great books at retail stores. I whip out my cell phone and email myself a list right there in the aisle. Then when I get back to work I can order the titles through our vendor as I normally would.
- Likewise, see what CD's are top sellers and what video games are sold out. This will help you know what teens are interested in. Often you can find quality non fiction for your collection based on hip-hop artists or other celebrities.

I hope you have found these ideas useful. Anything we can do to keep our teens coming in to our libraries is worth the extra effort!

Guitar Hero @ the Eugene Public Library

Traci Glass

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Future Guitar Gods were born at the first ever all video gaming event at the Downtown branch of the Eugene Public Library held Thursday, December 3! Teens and tweens came to play video games, check out the library's great collection of gaming magazines and books and meet other gamers (which included me!)! Guitar Hero II and Guitar Hero III were definitely the star games, and my mind was filled for the rest of the day with the guitar solos from *Mississippi Queen* and *Bulls on Parade*, the most popular songs to

play by far. Instead of tournament style, we played freestyle; not once did I have to chide teens for hogging the games. All the teens graciously gave up the guitars to those waiting when their song was over. I was lucky to not have to rent or buy a lot of equipment for our first foray into the gaming world. I brought my Playstation 2, Guitar Hero II and my 2 personal guitars. My very helpful volunteer, Billy, brought his Playstation 2 and his Nintendo Gamecube for those gamers not interested in Guitar Hero. The Library graciously paid for Guitar Hero III and an extra guitar controller so that all four Guitar Hero players could have a guitar to play. For those of you looking to do Guitar Hero gaming day – 1 word of advice: make sure that you unlock all the songs and save your game to a memory card before the gaming day. Lucky for my teens, my husband and I love playing Guitar Hero, so we “worked” really hard on our off time to make sure all the songs were unlocked and saved. That way your teens can have access to all 30 or so songs, instead of the requisite 10 or so the game gives you if you don’t unlock any. All in all, this was a fun and easy first attempt into the library gaming world . . . For next time, I’m wishing for a Wii!

OYAN Book Rave*

2008 Nominees

OYANers start your reading! Here's the final list of nominees for the 2008 OYAN Book Rave* Be prepared to choose titles for the 2008 list at our Winter OYAN meeting on Friday, January 25 in Hillsboro (details of meeting at the end of newsletter).

Author	Title	Read	Vote
Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>Twisted</i> , 2007		
Anderson, MT	<i>The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing</i> , 2006		
Avi	<i>The Traitor's Gate</i> , 2007		
Brooks, Kevin	<i>Being</i> , 2007		
Calhoun, Dia	<i>Avielle of Rhia</i> , 2006		
Castelluci, Cecil	<i>The Plain Janes</i> , 2007		
Choldenko, Gennifer	<i>If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period</i> , 2007		
Clare, Cassandra	<i>City of Bones</i> , 2007		
Connolly, John	<i>The Book of Lost Things</i> , 2006		
Corrigan, Eireann	<i>Ordinary Ghosts</i> , 2007		
Crutcher, Chis	<i>Deadline</i> , 2007		
Dessen, Sarah	<i>Just Listen</i> , 2006		
Dowd, Siobhan	<i>A Swift, Pure Cry</i> , 2007		
Draper, Sharon	<i>Copper Sun</i> , 2006		
Grossman, Austin	<i>Soon I Will Be Invincible</i> , 2007		
Hautman, Pete	<i>Rash</i> , 2006 – REMOVED – it's on the 2007 Rave		
Hemphill, Stephanie	<i>Your Own Sylvia</i> , 2007		
Hopkins, Ellen	<i>Impulse</i> , 2007		
Kadohata, Cynthia	<i>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam</i> , 2007		
Klass, David	<i>Firestorm</i> , 2006		
Klein, Lisa	<i>Ophelia</i> , 2006		
Koertge, Ron	<i>Strays</i> , 2007		
Korman, Gordon	<i>Born to Rock</i> , 2006		
Larson, Kirby	<i>Hattie Big Sky</i> , 2006		
Lester, Julius	<i>Cupid</i> , 2007		

Madison, Bennett	<i>Lulu Dark and the Summer of the Fox</i> , 2006		
Marillier, Juliet	<i>Wildwood Dancing</i> , 2007		
Marr, Melissa	<i>Wicked Lovely</i> , 2007		
McCaughrean, Geraldine	<i>The White Darkness</i> , 2007		
Moriarty, Jaclyn	<i>The Murder of Bindy MacKenzie</i> , 2006		
Murdock, Catherine	<i>The Off Season</i> , 2007		
Patterson, James	<i>Saving the world and other extreme sports</i> , 2007		
Pfeffer, Susan Beth	<i>Life As We Knew It</i> , 2006		
Reeve, Philip	<i>Larklight</i> , 2007		
Reinhardt, Dana	<i>Harmless</i> , 2007		
Runyon, Brent	<i>Maybe</i> , 2006		
Schmidt, Gary D.	<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> , 2007		
Schultz, Samantha	<i>I Don't Want to be Crazy</i> , 2006		
Setterfield, Diane	<i>The Thirteenth Tale</i> , 2007		
Somper, Justin	<i>Demons of the Ocean (Vampirates #1)</i> , 2006		
Strasser, Todd	<i>Boot Camp</i> , 2007		
Thompson, Kate	<i>The New Policeman</i> , 2007		
Walde, Christine	<i>Candy Darlings</i> , 2007		

**Votes for favorite titles can be submitted by email prior to our quarterly meeting in January 25th, 2008, where those votes will be tallied along with those cast by attendees at the meeting. In order to vote for a title, the voter must have read the book.*

BOOK REVIEWS

Upcoming Release

Carol Reich, Youth Services Manager
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Marc Acito will soon be publishing the sequel to *How I Paid for College*. The new book is titled *Attack of the Theater People* and is due out April 29th. There are returning characters from the first book, along with lots of new trouble for Edward, who is now 20 and having job issues after he was booted out of school for being "too jazz hands for Juilliard." For a complete synopsis, see <http://www.marcacito.com/atpbook.htm>.

Audio Book Reviews

Lee Catalano
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Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher. Listening Library, 2007.

Clay Jensen receives a package of seven cassette tapes anonymously in the mail. It takes him a little while to find the correct hardware to play the tapes, but once he starts listening he can't stop: Hannah Baker -- the girl he'd been crushing on most of the summer and school year; the girl who took too many pills just a few weeks ago -- has left him a message. A message for Clay and the other people who made her life so unbearable that she felt she had no choice but to end it. Clay must listen to the seven tapes, and then pass them on to the next person -- the next of the 13 reasons why.

This is the kind of book that cries out for audio interpretation: one of the voices is actually supposed to be playing in your earphones! Two accomplished readers, Joel Johnstone and Debra Wiseman, play the roles of Clay and Hannah and they are terrific. Both read with genuine emotion -- grief and anger. Just like Clay -- you can't stop listening. You can't stop from moving on to the next cassette to understand what happened to Hannah. And -- most effectively in this story, I thought -- like Clay, you can't help hoping that someone is going to help Hannah, rather than harm her. But at the same time, you know that Hannah is dead, and that you are hoping in vain.

The book's author spent some time at Listening Library's studios while his book was being recorded. He writes about it here, in his blog: <http://discomermaids.blogspot.com/>. His posts are from November 23 and 24, 2007.

Before I Die by Jenny Downham. Listening Library, 2007.

No, the heroine of this novel dies of cancer, not suicide. Still, it is another book about dead teenagers (sorry!).

Tessa has terminal leukemia. She's been fighting the cancer since she was 12, but her diagnosis four years later is that everything has been done that can be done. Tessa makes a list of the things she wants to do before she dies. Her list isn't much of a surprise: fall in love, have sex, drive, take drugs. One, I loved in particular: Say yes to everything. Yet it is the very ordinariness of Tessa's list that makes this book so powerful. Why shouldn't any teenager, any person, get to do these things before they die? Tessa is angry, she's frightened, she's fragile, she's utterly frustrating to those around her, she's completely mesmerizing. And, we don't leave her until she's gone.

This a first person story, and so all of Tessa's suffering is right there -- inescapable. But so is her humor, her impishness, her love for her family and friends, her lust for life. The narrator, Charlotte Parry is not afraid to voice all of Tessa's emotions and listening to her will make you cry. But, in the end, it's a good cry, not to be missed.

Peak by Roland Smith. Recorded Books, 2007.

Peark Marcello, just months away from turning 14, lives to climb; but since he lives in New York City, he's taken to climbing skyscrapers -- until he gets caught. His father, who lives in Thailand, shows up after a seven-year absence to intervene when the court gives Peak a three-year sentence. He says he'll take Peak back with him until the media circus dies down. But, Peak's father has an ulterior motive: He wants to take Peak with him on a climbing expedition to the top of Mt. Everest, so he can say that his climbing company, Peak Experience, successfully brought the youngest climber to the summit. In this life-and-death climb, Peak wonders if he's ready to face the rigors of the mountain, along with a number of other obstacles -- physical and emotional -- that he'll meet along the way.

This great adventure story will have the listener freezing, gripping and gasping for air along with Peak as Ramon de Ocampo brings the character and the setting alive with his on-target portrayal of a smart, mouthy, yet vulnerable teenager. Peak the boy, and Peak the book will take you to the remotest region of the world and you won't know whether you'll be coming back until the very last minutes of the story.

WEBLIOGRAPHIES [None submitted this month]

PERSONALS

Jackson County Update

Anne Guevara

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John Sexton is in Westchester County, New York as YA Consultant for their system of 33 libraries. He comments about our wonderful Oregon YA librarians by comparison all the time.

I [Anne] am now Head of Branches, driving the County. I love it. Last night I was in our Eagle Point Branch where a Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament was going on based on [Newberg Public Library's] program! She had 17 teens, and they were great. What a fun program!

Kim Wolfe is Head of the Medford Library (Branch Manager title). She is excellent and having a blast.

Kim and I [Anne] are amazed at the positive energy here in Jackson County again, working for LSSI is wonderful.

She says hello to all and will send more details next time as she was headed onto a plane for vacation when she sent this.

OYAN QUARTERLY MEETING (January 25th, 2008)

OYAN members are invited to our next meeting on **Friday, January 25, 2008, from 11:00am – 3:00pm at the Hillsboro Public Library** At our meetings we discuss OYAN business; upcoming events and conferences; books and materials; and library programs of interest to teens.

OYAN is a membership organization that exists to provide a network of communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens; to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon; and to promote cooperation school and public libraries. If you are interested in learning more about OYAN or becoming a member please visit our website at <http://www.olaweb.org/oayan/> .

Driving Directions to Hillsboro Main Library

2850 NE Brookwood Parkway

503-615-6500

From I-5:

- Take 217 to Beaverton
- Continue until the junction with Highway 26
- Go west on the Sunset Hwy (26)
- Takes exit 61 Shute Road/Helvetia
- Turn left (south) on Shute road
- You'll continue for a couple of miles.

- When you've crossed Evergreen, merge into the left-hand lane of what has now turned into Brookwood Parkway
- We're the next building after a gray and white building and pond on your left
- The entryway is under construction to install a stoplight, but there is a left-turn lane at the library entrance.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/29b5fp>

Agenda

**OYAN Quarterly Business Meeting
Hillsboro Public Library
Friday, January 25, 2008
11 am-3 pm**

1. Introductions
 - a. Attendees
 - b. Additions to Agenda

2. Old Business
 - a. Review/approve October 26, 2007 OYAN minutes
 - b. Review Financial report
3. Resource Sharing (programs, ideas, book reviews new websites, bibliographies, etc.)

Mock Printz report
Book Rave 2008
4. Continuing Business
 - a. OLA Board Report of December 7, 2007
 - b. OLA Annual Conference Update
 - c. OSL Report

LUNCH 12:30pm – 1:00pm
5. New Business
 - a. OYAN Raffle 2008
 - b. Unveil new OYAN banner
 - c. OYAN/teen authors to Oregon
 - d. OYEA Award Update

Upcoming Meetings

Spring: April 25, 2008 - Albany Public Library, Albany, OR (originally scheduled for the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Corvallis, OR)
 Summer 2008 - TBA
 Fall 2008 - Tualatin Public Library, Tualatin, OR

Lunch (deadline: Tues., Jan. 22nd)

Our Lampman Award winning hostess with the mostest Carol Reich has devised the following nutritious option for lunch and will be ordering a *variety of pizzas, vegetarian and*

meat, along with Greek salad, soft drinks and water. Lunch should be about **\$7.00**. Please email Carol (carolr@ci.hillsboro.or.us) if you want the pizza lunch. **Deadline: Tuesday, January 22nd**. Please feel free to bring your own lunch if you wish.