Hunger Games Extravaganza!
by April Witteveen, Bend Public Library

I first held a Hunger Games-inspired program during the Teen Summer Reading Program in 2009, and it was one of the most successful events of the summer. When I learned that The Hunger Games movie would be released just prior to the start of spring break this year, I wanted to again try for a mid-afternoon, vacation-time program. It’s always a risk to schedule events during any kind of break in the school year, but I can’t stay away from the logic that there are bunches of teens who are just home for the week, looking for a little entertainment.

The gamble paid off, and on Friday, March 30 I had a room full of Hunger Games fanatics, eager to see what was in store during this extravaganza. When they entered our meeting room, the first part of the program involved getting a Hunger Games name for the day; we used the site www.hungernames.com and as the naming went on, there were some laughs about which teens wound up being related as the website’s algorithm released the same last names.

First up for our main activities was The Cornucopia Challenge (we just used one based on the first book in the trilogy): http://www.bethanymediacent.com/hungergames.html. Assembling all the props on the list takes a little time and some creativity—I wound up making little slingshots, bows, and arrows out of poster board, and covering small boxes in paper and labeling them “fire starters” and “anti-venom.” I divided my group into 2 teams, and one by one, team members went to the “cornucopia” to select an item for their team. Be prepared for some creative interpretations of the story and how they might apply to some of the items. I had some feisty teens who were ready to argue every point given, but some good-natured teasing about how The Hunger Games really isn’t fair, in general, helped settle any problems.

We took a little snack break after the Cornucopia Challenge, and then redid our teams to compete in Hunger Games Trivia. My awesome coworker Sheila Grier had put together categories, point values, and questions to set the game up to look like Jeopardy. It was entertaining to get some really obscure questions in the 80 and 100 point categories that even the most die-hard buffs couldn’t answer.

We wrapped up our day with a physical challenge and test of skills to impress any game-maker—a bean bag toss! To wrap things up, I held a raffle and gave away a $10 movie theater gift card—which the winning player promptly took to the theater later that day, presumably to watch The Hunger Games!

It was great fun to see the different teens come together, all with the common ground of being very, very, very into this series of books. Almost all of them had read the books, and a few had already seen the movie multiple times. One of my teens, a Hunger Games fan of the highest order, asked to borrow my Cornucopia props so she could replicate the program at her middle school during lunch one day. The spring break timing did indeed work well, as many of these teens said they had been sitting around all week, and I also attracted a few out-of-town teens whose parents had seen the event advertised and felt like it was a great thing for their teen to do while on vacation in Bend. Success, all around!
Local Youth Still Hungry for the Games by K’Lyn Hann, Newberg Public Library

Anticipation was high for the four staff who didn't know how many eager middle school and high school youth to expect on Friday, March 16th - the week before The Hunger Games movie hit the theaters. The Newberg Public Library was holding its 2nd Hunger Games event. The first event was in 2010 before the release of the last book in the trilogy; we had a nice turn-out of about thirty teens. This second round brought 85 energized fans within the first twenty minutes. Regrettfully, staff had to turn away another forty youth who arrived shortly after the opening crowd.

Participants began by prepping themselves and one another for the games. Volunteer Carmel Swanson (a talented make-up stylist behind local high school plays) was on hand to help with face paint designs. Glow-in-the-dark, temporary wrist tattoos were quickly consumed, along with many cans of temporary hair color. Staff member Patrick Tompkins manned the mini button-making station to help fans make their own Mockingjay pins.

The entire mass of participants moved to the Library's meeting room to learn what their options for playing a live action game representing Hunger Games, but without all the killing, would be. The game consisted of elements of Body Parts Freeze Tag and Hide-n-Seek with many creative book elements mashed together by teen librarian, K’Lyn Hann. After sharing her ideas for this program with fellow Oregon teen librarians as well as in an online workshop, Hann’s instructions for this event had been requested for months prior to the countdown in March from librarians inside and outside Oregon.

After making some group choices, the reapings began by selecting four gamemakers and reaping twenty-four tributes. As the gamemakers made their plans, the tributes were blindfolded, escorted to the darkness upstairs, and placed into their launch positions. Instructions were given over the PA system for the tributes to not move, but remove their blind-folds. A countdown from ten began each frantic game in the darkness. The youth rotated through eight rounds as gamemakers or tributes as well as gamemaker-chosen sponsors or mutations, including mutts with glow-in-the-dark fangs, tracker jackers with gold, sharp finger tips, and fire in a mass of red and orange-streamer plastic.

To staff surprise, the youth were so engrossed in the games that they pretty much ignored the many activities set up to keep those occupied who were waiting their turns. These activities included Hunting Practice (dart board with eye stickers; Katniss always gets her prey through the eye), Berry Toss-Catch with berry Skittles, Target Practice with nerf dart guns and helium balloons, Knot Tying with many library books available, Hand-To-Hand Combat with Twister & Make-Your-Own Twister boards, etc.

In total, the Library had about 120 teens! The other 35 who arrived much later in the evening were allowed in because younger participants had gone home early. The library has received emails, phone calls, and Facebook messages from youth or parents who missed this opportunity and would like a chance or want to do it again.

The 3rd Hunger Games will be this summer!

Graphic Rave Call—by Traci Glass, Eugene Public Library

This is our inaugural Graphic Rave, and I’m very excited to be coordinating the creation of the list of our recommended books in a graphic format! The process will be almost if not totally identical to the process we all go through to come up with our Book Rave list.

The list is looking pretty empty so far...let’s work on fixing that! Mark (Richardson) has graciously put together a category on the OYAN Goodreads page for Graphics Rave nominees; here’s the link to that:

http://tinyurl.com/7eug6yz

Graphic Rave Dates to Remember!

- JUNE 1, 2012—Nominations Close
- JUNE 15, 2012—Preliminary Voting Opens
- JULY 15, 2012—Preliminary Voting Closes
“SHUT UP,” quoth the ever eloquent April Witteveen, this year’s OYEA! winner. These immortal words were spoken as OYAN past-Chair Susan Smallsreed listed her accomplishments in the run-up to the announcement. The award is a surprise to the recipient and the dawning recognition shocked April as much as it delighted the audience at OYAN’s reception on April 25th. The OYEA!, OYAN’s Your Excellent Award, is given to “an individual, library, organization, program, or initiative that has made a positive and significant contribution to teens in libraries in the state of Oregon.” In winning the award April was given a certificate, trophy, and $100 to donate to the teen program of her choice.

April’s nomination came from her manager at the Deschutes Public Library, Heather McNeil, with abundant community support. Her activities with local middle and high schools, statewide groups and national committees made her a shoe-in for the award. A few choice quotes from her nomination packet include, “April will find so many fantastic novels I struggle to carry them out the door!” from a local 8th grader, “[s]he is intelligent, knowledgeable, creative, dedicated, efficient, and FUN” says Heather McNeil, and, succinctly, “April Witteveen ROCKS!!!” writes coworker Chandra Vaneijnsbergen.

Congratulations April, and thanks for all your hard work!

Nominate Someone for OYEA! 2013

WHO*: An individual, library, organization, program, or initiative that has made a positive and significant contribution to teens in libraries in the state of Oregon may be given the award. Eligibility requirements are as follows:
The individual, library, or organization shall reside or operate principally in Oregon. Only living persons may be considered for the award. If a program or initiative is being nominated, it must have occurred within the previous or current year of nomination.

*Preference shall be given to nominees who are supported by a letter of recommendation written and submitted by a teen.

WHAT: The award shall consist of an engraved plaque and a monetary donation up to $100.00 to the teen services program of the award recipient’s choice.

WHERE: The award shall be presented at the annual Oregon Library Association (OLA) Conference by an OYAN Award Committee member.

For the 2013 OLA/WLA Conference –more details to come.

WHY: Because we all know what we do, and we’d like others to know what great things are happening with teens & libraries around the state!

WHEN: Entry deadline for 2013 is TBA.

HOW:
Nominations shall include the following information:
Nominee’s name
Nominee’s contact information
Description of the nominee’s positive and significant contributions to teens in libraries in the State Of Oregon

Send nominations:
via mail to:
Kris Lutsock
McMinnville Public Library
225 Northeast Adams Street
McMinnville, OR 97128

OR
via email to:
kris.lutsock@ci.mcminnville.or.us

*An individual, library, organization, program, or initiative that has made a positive and significant contribution to teens in libraries in the state of Oregon*
The Tillamook County Library just did a Spring Egg Hunt and Cascarones (confetti filled eggshells). It was one of our better attended programs. One teen came to get extra credit for her Spanish class because of the cascarones and the others just came for fun! We did the egg hunt as a scavenger hunt in the library with candy filled plastic eggs. We had 10 to 12 questions including pictures of things in the library and a couple that required actually using the catalogs to find the answers. It took two of us for this whole activity. While I made cascarones with the teens in our meeting room my wonderful assistant in all things teen programming hid the eggs in there correct locations (we did it this way so no grown-ups would find and eat our candy filled eggs).

The cascarones part was not very difficult; the only thing is you have to eat lots of eggs and save your shells for a few weeks before the program. To make your shells, make a quarter-sized hole on the top of the egg and then rinse the shells thoroughly. At the program all you have to do is color/decorate the egg shells, fill them with confetti and glue a piece of tissue paper over the opening. We also bought premade cascarones at Fred Meyer to supplement our activity (it was a kind of last minute idea), in all we had about three dozen shells to decorate and six dozen that they were able to break. After they decorated their cascarones, the teens did the scavenger hunt portion of the program and then as they finished that I went and hid, rather randomly placed the cascarones in the empty lot next to the library so the teens could find them, and have room to chase each other and break the cascarones over each other’s heads. All in all, it was a fun, low cost activity.

The Ripper—Book Review
by Arnav, 10th Grade

_The Ripper_ is a very interesting mystery story that presents many twists and turns the whole way through, keeping the reader on his/her feet. Based in New York City in 1895, this book is a testament to the idea of the American dream that “Anyone can become who they want.” Carver Young, the main character, dreams of becoming a detective despite being brought up in an orphanage where the only exposure to crime he got was from crime novels. However, there is a point where he is thrown out of the orphanage, ready to be adopted right away by Detective Hawking of the world famous Pinkerton Agency. Upon reaching his new home, he is not only given the opportunity to find his biological father, he finds himself in the middle of a real investigation. This investigation is not over a petty theft, but rather tracking down a vicious serial killer known as Jack the Ripper who has thrown New York City into a terrible panic. When the case begins to unfold and Carter begins to get closer to the killer’s identity, events get worse than he could’ve ever imagined. His loyalty to Mr. Hawking and the Pinkertons comes into question, and he is forced to reevaluate where his loyalty lies as the body count climbs. The book is an interesting tale of adventure and deceit that involves what may be the worst homicide you have ever read about. I would recommend this book for kids above the age of ten looking for a bit of adventure along with mystery.

Other Takes on Jack the Ripper Lore include...

- _Ripper_ by Amy Reeves Carol (YA)
- _The Vampire Diaries—Ripper_ by L.J. Smith (YA)
- _From Hell_ by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell Graphic Novel - decidedly NOT YA)
No stranger to living on the edge, sixteen-year-old Wally Stone much prefers the street life of Manhattan to the life of wealth and privilege that her adoptive parents have to offer. Unfortunately, this is the only life she really knows, having no memory of her childhood in Russia or any clue about her true identity...until she stumbles upon a difficult truth. She is the daughter of a Russian mobster who is lusting for revenge and will stop at nothing to get it. That includes killing her mom or even his own child. Wally must now shoulder the burden of not only finding her mom, but protecting them both. Personally, I had a fairly mixed reaction to Dark Eyes by William Richter. The character development was done brilliantly, somewhat reminiscent of the main character of Trafficked...and that is not only because they are both Russian; they both battle the perils of a hard life away from home while also dealing with an identity crisis. I really appreciated that Wally was a strong heroine, something that is necessary for what promises to be a thriller. Unfortunately, the book lacked the level of thrill that the cover seems to promise. Despite that, I would still recommend this book to just about any avid reader.
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Email: markr@wccls.org
Phone: 503.644.0043, Extension 131

Josie Hanneman, Deschutes Public Library
Email: josieh@deschuteslibrary.org
Phone: 541.312.1088

Web Editor
K’Lyn Hann, Newberg Public Library
Email: klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us
Phone: 503.538.8376

Collaborative Summer Reading Chair
Lisa Elliot, Tigard Public Library
Email: lisae@tigard.or.gov

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/

Upcoming Meetings

Spring 2012

Spring Membership Meeting
Friday, May 4, 2012
Meeting 11 a.m. - 3:00 PM
Lebanon Public Library, 55 Academy St.,
Lebanon, OR, 97355,
Tel: 248.4926

Driving Directions:
From I-5 take exit 228 for HWY 34. Continue on HWY 34 for about 8 miles, the library will be in front of you, turn to the right to get to the entrance of our parking lot. Our location is where HWY 34 and HWY 20 merge. Parking should not be an issue, but there is additional parking on the other side (turn to left) of the building, towards the senior center.

Call in to the May 4 meeting! - +1 (773) 945-1030

Summer 2012

July 20
11 AM – 3 PM
Driftwood Public Library
810 SW Hwy. 101 #201
Lincoln City, OR, 97367
541-996-2277

Fall 2012