

## Young Adult Round Table

# YART Connections

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>SRC Programs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Creative Crafts</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Books About...</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PBWiki 2.0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>People Profile</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Creating Connections</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Another Connection</b>	<b>4</b>

## Utah Author: Ann Dee Ellis



### What was your favorite book(s) as a teen?

I have always been an avid reader. My mom, a teacher and a children's librarian, allowed me to read for hours on end—even if it meant getting out of chores or other family responsibilities. I avoided a lot of yard work by holing up in the basement with a book.

As for a favorite, it's hard to choose. I read the Brontës. I read Robert Cormier. I read Ursula LeGuin. I read Sylvia Plath. I read Louise Plummer. I read really bad teen romance novels that I can't remember the names of but the covers had pictures of chiseled seventeen-year-old boys with brooding faces. I was not picky.

### What is your writing process?

When I write, the main character guides the story. In the pre-writing or

discovery stage, I play around until a strong personality appears. I was surprised when Logan showed up for my first book, *This is What I Did*. I wasn't expecting to write a novel about an awkward thirteen-year-old boy scout. Mazzy, the main character in my second book, *Everything is Fine*, appeared right away. She was even more demanding than Logan. This is one of the reasons why I love to write (and read). You get to live in the head of someone else . . . experience what they experience, go where they go, say what they say. It's exciting.

### Who is your favorite character in your books so far and why?

I love Mazzy. She karate chops at people, eats

marshmallows all day and wears oranges in her swimsuit top. She also protects her mom at all costs, loves a boy, and worries about things she can't control. Maybe I love her because she's the type of person I wish I could be. Brave.

### What are you working on now?

Right now I'm working on a mortuary book. I love mortuaries.

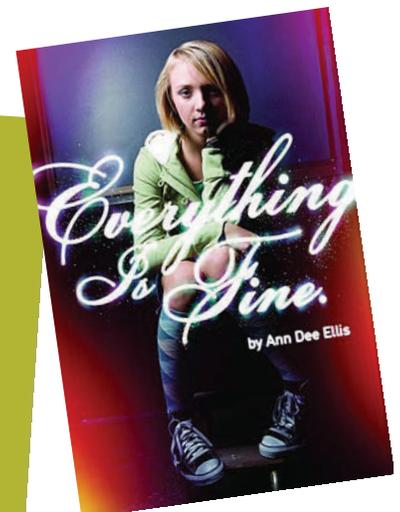
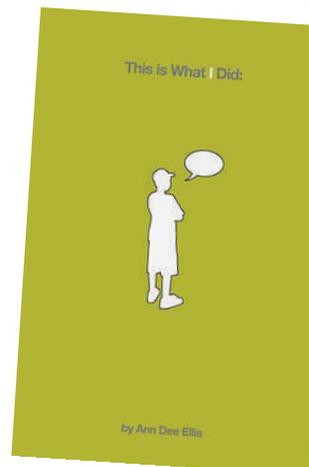
### Do you visit schools or libraries?

Of course!

### Check out her website:

[www.anndeellis.com](http://www.anndeellis.com)

**Be more involved in YART!**  
**Join the YART Google Group!**  
**Just email [utahyart@gmail.com](mailto:utahyart@gmail.com) and then receive email updates.**



# Summer Reading Programs

By Marilee Clark,  
Orem Public Library

The dog days of summer don't have to be boring for teenage library patrons. At the Orem Library, summer is filled with good books and fun activities during our teen summer reading program.



Our teens are definitely the creative type, and they enjoy programs where they get to try something new and interesting. Illustrator Michael Phipps joined us last summer to share his experiences in the publishing world, then the teens tried their hands at redesigning a book cover of their own. The summer before, they took turns

writing a chapter of a fantasy novel that was finished by the end of the summer. And this summer we'll follow up on a very popular filmmaking program from last year by filming a PSA with our teens.

Another of the perennial highlights of our summer reading program is a visit from a young adult author. The teens are always excited to hear from some of their favorite writers. Many of them have writing ambitions of their own, so they appreciate advice and information about writing and publishing. We've enjoyed hosting great writers such as Ann Cannon, Shannon Hale, Kimberly Heuston, Martine Leavitt and Chris Crowe, and find that their appeal extends beyond just our teens. The author visits are one where parents have been known to stick around, as well.

Last summer, we tried something new to help our teens get more familiar with the library and expand their reading interests. With the help of community sponsors, we had a drawing at the end of the summer for prizes such as gift certificates to local businesses and books. To enter the drawing, teens were encouraged to read a nonfiction title, watch a silent



film, listen to jazz or world music, or attend summer reading programs. Those who fulfilled the requirements were entered in the drawing, and one lucky boy won an iPod. What was most encouraging to us as librarians, though, was the enthusiasm for the books in the giveaway. Many of our teens requested books over chocolate and pizza!

This year, we're looking forward to Summer Unplugged with an emphasis on healthy, sustainable living. We're planning activities like found art sculptures, foods that are good for your body and the earth, and a list of great "green" books combined with great outdoor reading spots. With a little planning and some enthusiastic presenters, summer at the library can be fun for patrons of all ages.

# Creative Crafts at Murray Library

By Kayla Chandler,  
Murray Library

This year at the Murray Library we have introduced a monthly teen craft program. It has been a great success and the teens anxiously anticipate each new project. Our objectives are simple; provide the teens with an outlet for creativity and remind them that the library is a great place to learn new things. We provide basic instruction



and demonstration before giving them as much freedom and creative control as possible. Advertising goes up a week before with examples of the finished projects to catch their attention. We also promote the craft in our monthly teen book club and our weekly manga/ anime club. It is a simple one hour drop-in program with an average attendance of 20 teens. Some crafts

have been holiday related, such as, the dragon puppets for Chinese New Year, others because they are so darned cute! The teens seem to enjoy learning new things and expressing themselves through personalizing the crafts.



## Books About Expressing Yourself

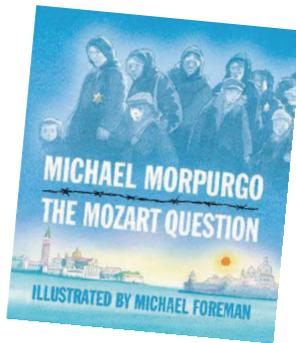
By Susan Jeppesen,  
Bingham Creek Library

It's pretty cool to think that there is no other person in the world exactly like you. Even twins have some differences. And every person wants to express their own unique feelings and talents. What's great is that there are so many ways to express ourselves. If you want some great reading, or ideas about expressing yourself, check out these books:

### Short but Powerful:

**The Wall** by Peter Sis expresses the author's feelings about growing up in Soviet controlled Czechoslovakia.

**The Mozart Question** by Michael Morpurgo. How would you feel about the beautiful music you used to express yourself, if it was suddenly turned to a horrible use?



### Some Expressive Fiction:

**Becoming Billie Holiday** by Carole Boston Weatherford tells the story in verse of the famous jazz vocalist's life and experiences.

**Dragonson** by Anne McCaffrey is a coming of age story of a girl whose talents for music are discouraged by her father because she is female.

**Flipped** by Wendelin Van Draanen. Juli and Bryce express their true feelings for each other in alternating chapters, as they grow from second graders into teens.

**Stuck in Neutral** by Terry Trueman. Shawn has cerebral palsy cannot talk or even feed himself, yet he is totally aware of his world, and suspects his father is planning to murder him.



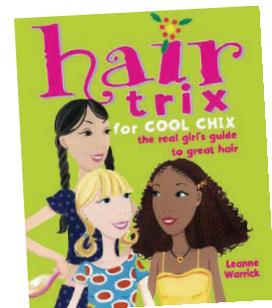
**Sharing Sam** by Katherine Applegate. In this book about hiding feelings to protect a dying friend, Alison falls for Sam, but realizes her best friend Isabella, who is dying of cancer, likes him too.

### Non-fiction:

**Teen Makeup: Looks to Match Your Every Mood** by Linda Mason. Want makeup that expresses who you are?

Try this one.

**Hair Trix for Cool Chix: The Real Girl's Guide to Great Hair** by Leanne Warrick. Get a doo that expresses you!



**Poems from Homeroom: A Writer's Place to Start** by Kathi Appelt. Read some poems and get tips on how to write your own.

## Introducing PBWiki 2.0

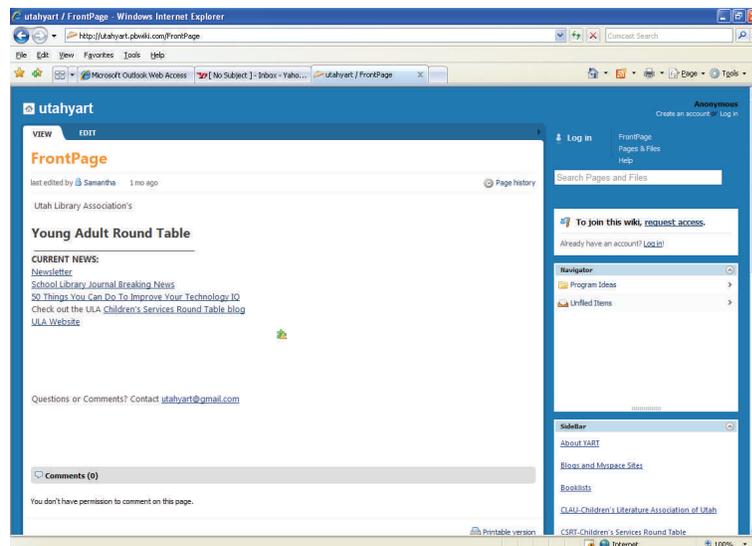
By Allison Madsen,  
South Jordan Library

Many of you may have notice that the YART Wiki looks a little different than it used to. PBWiki has made some changes that make it easier to search, add, and edit items on the wiki. We at YART hope that you see the wiki as a place to find and post programming ideas, booklists, and more. In many ways our wiki page works like a network intranet that allows anyone, who has a log-in, to contribute files from any computer with access to the Internet.

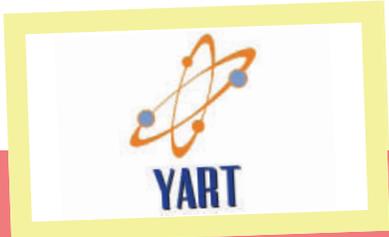
The change that will affect most of you will be that you need to create a personal log-in and password to add information to the wiki. You can still view pages and get information from the wiki without creating a personal log in, but we WANT you to contribute to

the YART Wiki so please visit <http://utahyart.pbwiki.com> and create an account today! If you would like to know more about the changes to

PBWiki visit their website at <http://pbwiki.com/content/pbwiki20> they have a short video that does an excellent job explaining what has been updated.



# YART Connections: People Profile



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## YOUNG ADULT ROUND TABLE

Utah Library Association

Check out our WIKI:  
[www.utahyart.pbwiki.com](http://www.utahyart.pbwiki.com)

Youth Services Librarian, In-coming YART Chair  
Salt Lake County Library Services / Sandy Library  
[kpearson@slcolibrary.org](mailto:kpearson@slcolibrary.org)

Kara received her MLS degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. She provides library services for both children and teens. Kara enjoys traveling, playing volleyball, watching movies. She has lived in many different places including Arizona, Utah, Texas, Nevada, and South Korea, where she taught English.



Kara Pearson

Her favorite authors are Nancy Springer, Robin McKinley, and she loves *Poison Study* by Maria Snyder.

Want to write an article or advertise an event?  
Just email your idea or article to:  
[utahyart@gmail.com](mailto:utahyart@gmail.com)

**Another Kind of YART Connection:**  
Patricia Foster from Whitmore Library shared the following story, "At ULA May 2008, a young woman came up to me and asked if I remembered her. I looked at her for a moment and knew immediately who she was. She was active at the very beginning of the teen poetry cafe nights at Riverton Library, and I even remembered her name. She told me that she is now a librarian at a college in Weber Co. and it was because she was inspired by me and my teen events at Riverton. We both were attending the same program and we just beamed at each other the whole time we were in the room."

## Creating Connections: YART Pancake and Strategic Planning Meeting

By Samantha Hastings,  
West Jordan Library  
YART members from several libraries met and discussed the past year's programs, what is working and what isn't working. We brainstormed to create a direction and goals for the future of YART; including a vision and mission.

**Vision:** Promoting Excellence in Teen Library Services.  
**Mission:** The Young Adult Round Table will establish a standard for

the best in Teen Library services in Utah by:  
-Providing trainings and professional educational



Carrie, Leslie, Deborah, Phuong,, Kara, Sue

opportunities throughout the state.  
-Improving communication, networking, and the sharing of ideas between Utah librarians in person and online.  
-Increasing membership and active participation in the Round Table.  
\* \* \*  
The group also focused on partnerships with other roundtables, community groups, and working in conjunction with the State Library. And, of course, the eating of pancakes.