



Page 1 YART Connections

Up and Coming Utah Author: Bobbie Pyron

by Kara Pearson
Sandy Library

Local Librarian, Bobbie Pyron, can now add author to her list of accomplishments. Her first novel, *The Ring*, was published on September 30th. Inspired by her step-daughter, Bobbie came up with the idea for the story while transporting her to and from boxing class.

Coping with pressures from her boyfriend, learning about her brother's secret, and trying to measure up to her father's expectations, it is no wonder that Mardie is angry and frustrated. But when she discovers a girls' boxing club at the gym, Mardie is drawn in by the fighters' fearlessness and strength. The ring is the only place left where no one judges her. An inspiring story about standing up for oneself and gaining inner confidence.

This is your first book. How long did it take from the time you wrote the book to publication?

About four years total.

What's your favorite part of the book?

The boxing scenes. I liked watching boxing and doing

the research on it.

What are the major themes in your work?

Believing in yourself; standing up for yourself; and respecting the differences in people. This story has Latinos and homosexuals and it is about not putting people in neat little boxes.

When naming your characters, do you give any thought to the actual meaning?

Naming characters is the fun part. The names come from friends or family names that I mix and match.

Were you ever asked to change your name or a book title?

Not on *The Ring*, but on my second book the title will probably change. Luckily, it doesn't bother me.

What do you want people



Bobbie with her dog, Boo

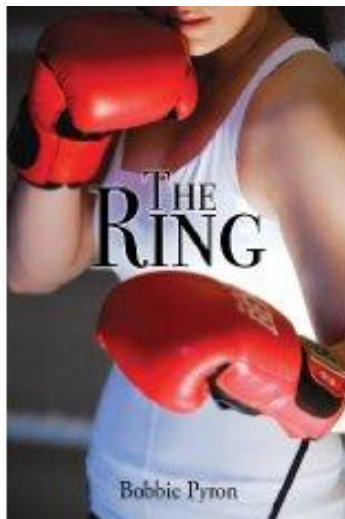
to take away from your work?

I want to write a book that when a person finishes it they hug it and say, "I loved it."

Which, if any, of your novels would you like to live out?

Not *The Ring*. I would not live that age again for anything.

Continued on page 5



Inside this issue:

-Creating Connections in Cedar City	2
-Tech Tips	
-Grant Writing	3
-Folded Books	4
-People Profile	5
-Author cont...	
-Creating Connections in St. George	6
-Helpful Web Sites	
-Grant Opportunity	7
-Fall Workshop Review	
-Teen Programs for the Winter Months	8-9

Be more involved in YART!

Join the YART Google Group! Just email

utahyart@gmail.com

and receive email updates.

Young Adult Round Table

Kara Pearson, Chair
kpearson@slcolibrary.org
Carrie Rogers-Whitehead, Vice-Chair
crwhitehead@slcolibrary.org
Deborah Smith, Secretary
dsmith@weberpl.org
Trudi Cooper, Webmaster
trudic@co.davis.ut.us
Kim Jackson, Webmaster
jacksoki@mac.com



Creating Connections in Cedar City

By Emily Larson
Cedar City Public Library

At the Cedar City Library, we have long had a separate area for teen books. However, circulation wasn't as high as we would have liked, so we decided to try and improve it. Our solution was to create a New Release or Teen Reads area. We set aside a few shelves at the front of our young adult area for those books that are newly published, or just new to our library. This has been very successful. Teens are able to quickly find the latest books from their favorite authors. Not only are the new books checking out more, but since usually only the latest book in a series is on the new shelf teens are pulled into the rest of the area to find other books. Our overall young adult circulation has noticeably increased.

We also offer a summer reading program for our teens each year. They are given a reading log at the beginning of the summer and earn a series of prizes which are based on the year's theme. Some of the prizes we offered for the "Express Yourself" theme this year were bent pencils, mood rings, and instrument shaped key chains. The final prize is always a book, many of which are currently the most popular young adult books at our library. We had many teens participate this year, and we hope to encourage even more to take part next year.



Tech Tip

By Kim Jackson
YART Webmaster



Twitter, Twitter . . . Tweet?

You've probably heard of Twitter. You may even use it. But could you answer a question about it if a patron came up to you and asked? As a librarian who specializes in teen services, your colleagues probably assume that you know more about this technology than anyone else on staff. Even though research is beginning to show that teens aren't really Twitter's primary users (check out this recent YALSA blog entry from librarian Kathy Mahoney to learn more: <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/10/26/teens-dont-tweet/>) there is immense value in knowing and being able to teach teens how to use this technology (<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/08/06/teens-dont-tweet-so-what/>).

Now to help those tweeting patrons.

Twitter has a fantastic help site that can prove to be an invaluable resource to you as you serve your community and act as a technology expert at your library.

<http://help.twitter.com/portal>

The fabulous video from Howcast can help patrons answer most of their basic questions -- it's the right place to start! If they need more help, look to the right; you'll love the Trending Articles addressing the most current Twitter and tweeting issues. Right below that is the Help Resources topics; yes, they do address troubleshooting Twitter on a phone.

But, not only does this site address technical questions, the folks

at Twitter also seek to address questions about identity confusion, spam, and other concerns your patrons may have about using this technology.

If that's not quite enough, or if some on the fly help is needed, your patron can pose a question to @bbgeeks -- they provide realtime answers to questions through Twitter.

Now that you can answer all sorts of questions (or point your patrons in the right direction), check out this article, run this month in The Salt Lake Tribune. This is a great article to show to patrons (including teens) the job-hunting benefits of knowing how to tweet like professionals!

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_13516341

The Not-So-Scary Guide to Grantwriting



By Melissa Zuckerman
Weber County Library System

10 years ago, while working on my BA in Chico, CA, I took a class that has made a longstanding impact on my life. That class was Grantwriting for Nonprofits and I still use resources and lessons learned from that class to this day. Below you will find a combination of the good advice and resources of my grantwriting professor, and lessons learned the hard way during my first year as a librarian and grantwriter.

Where to Look

- ◆ Journals – School Library Journal, ALSC, YALSA and their blogs.
- ◆ Large grant-giving organizations - NEH, NEA, NASA, The Smithsonian.
- ◆ For-profit grant-givers - Target, Wal-mart, National Geographic, publishers of childrens/teens books.
- ◆ State organizations - Endowment for Humanities; Endowment for Arts; Library Association.
- ◆ Grant-specific websites - www.foundationcenter.org has some very useful free content including a listing of the top 50 grant-giving institutions for each state and a search for grantors by subject area.

What to Do

Many of these grant-giving institutions have RSS feeds or email updates you can subscribe to, but if they don't you'll want to check through their websites every couple months to see if anything new has been added.

Don't apply for just any grant, make sure it's something that really sparks your interest because if you are awarded the grant you'll probably spend more time on it than you think.

Remember the saying "two heads are better than one"... apply that to grant-writing! All grantors are looking for exceptional, innovative ideas or projects to fund. They want to fund something they will be proud of. Getting more people involved in the brainstorming process will help elevate your ideas from the common to awesome!

Who to Ask

Once you have your awesome ideas for the grant you want to apply for, take a minute and envision what it would take to pull it off. Will your organization support use of space, time, and personnel for this project? Do the ideas

you've generated follow the Vision and Mission and Goals of your institution? If so, you're ready to go see the boss!

Before you apply for that grant you need to talk it through with someone (or several someones). One reason is to ensure only one person from your organization is applying for the grant (someone else may already be applying for the grant you saw). Also, they will want you to review your ideas for the grant so they can resolve any problem areas you may have missed.

When to Apply

If all goes well, you're now ready to apply for the grant. Some grants are easy to apply for; you send in a short statement about your library and what you will do with the grant money and that's it (YALSA's mini-grants are a great example of this). Other grants require more detailed information, taking up more of your time. The lesson is to check those deadlines. If you're applying for a smaller grant with a less detailed application, you can probably finish the application in less than a week. If you're applying for a NEH grant, though, you're going to need 6-8 weeks to put everything in its place. The good news is that larger, more complicated grants often include a checklist of what needs to be done and an approximation of how long each task takes. Just make sure you give yourself enough time... and if it's a complicated grant, get help from your collaborators.

How to Write

Most grantors want some statistical information on your library. Check your library's website, or look at other grants people from your system have applied for to get the basic background information. If none of that is available, you can go to www.census.gov type in your county, city or zip code and look for the factsheet... that will have a detailed analysis of the demographics for your area.

All grants I've seen have done an excellent job of outlining what they want to see in your application... they'll even tell you how many words or pages you're limited to. The key to getting their attention is to answer all their questions and clearly show the value, to their organization and yours, of funding your unique idea. It isn't easy, and you will see more failures than successes. The good news is that each time you try, you will learn something new, and successful grantwriting can only come from real-life practice. So get out there and try it!

Melissa Zuckerman is a Youth Services Librarian for the Weber County Library System. Email Melissa or friend her on Facebook at melissazuckerman@hotmail.com.

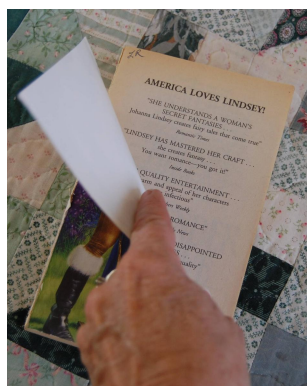
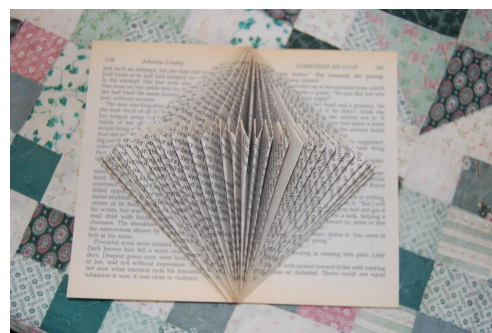
The Amazing Folded Books

by Melinda Barlow
Utah County Library

We did folded books for our Summer Reading Teen/Adult program this past year. It was a huge success! I wanted to break a world record with over 800 books folded by Teens/Adults. Unfortunately, we did not make it, but the display is fabulous and everyone that comes to the library is impressed with the hanging art.

Here are the instructions for you to create a work of art in your library:

1. Start with old paperback books. They seem to work the best. You can use hardback books, but they are very hard to hang if you want to do a hanging display.
2. Take off the cover of the book and any hard pages that are in the book. Some paperback books have an advertisement in the book.
3. Crack the spine of the book if it is new. Do this by opening the book and pushing it down flat.
4. Fold one corner of the page to the center to form a point. Now fold the other corner down.
5. Repeat this step over and over and you will have your first folded book.
6. By changing the way you fold you will get a different look every time.
7. We told the kids to just BE CREATIVE and that is what they did.
8. BE CREATIVE, AND HAVE FUN!



Want to write an article
or advertise an event?
Just email your idea or
article to:
utahyart@gmail.com

YART Connections: People Profile

Diane Marsh

& Linda Bethers

Youth Service Librarians

Pleasant Grove Library

Diane

Linda

Diane is a Young Adult and Children's Librarian for the Pleasant Grove Public Library. She began her library career as a volunteer and then was hired on permanently. Fourteen years later, she continues to share her passion for reading with young people. Diane raised two out of five children who have reading disabilities, so she relates to the frustrated parents in similar situations and considers herself a master readers advisor. Diane loves historical fiction and recommends *Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson.



Linda works as a School Librarian at Greenwood Elementary (17 years) by day and a young adult and children's librarian at Pleasant Grove Public Library (10 years) by night—and summer. Her claim to fame? She wrote the picture book "Christmas Oranges" and has published articles in various magazines. Linda is an active member of the Beehive Award committee. Her favorite authors are Sherwood Smith, Roland Smith, and Will Hobbs.

by Deborah Smith, Weber County Library

Up and Coming Utah Author Continued....

Who is your favorite character in *The Ring*?

The trainer in the book, Kitty, is very funny and sassy, but strict at the same time.

If you could work with any author who would it be?

Cynthia Rylant. Her work is so beautiful. She is a very compassionate writer and every word in her books count.

Which authors have the same writing style as your own?

I think Chris Crutcher and K.L. Going are pretty similar to my own style.

How do you get your ideas?

I get my ideas from things that I see and read. However, I can't write a word until I hear the narrative voice in my head.

What is the best piece of advice you got when you were starting out as a writer?

Start the story at the place when

everything changes in the main character's life. It is important to have at least a few characters that the reader can relate to.

Do you have any say on the covers of your books?

On *The Ring* I was lucky enough to have a lot of input. Unfortunately for my next book coming out in 2011, *Blue Ridge Moon*, I don't have as much say about the cover.

Bobbie's favorite things:

Books

- The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron
- A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libby Bray
- Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
- Any books by Cynthia Rylant

Movies

- Tender Mercies
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Young Frankenstein
- Lars and the Real Girl

Bobbie is also very passionate about the outdoors.



For more information about Bobbie Pyron, visit her website at:

<http://www.bobbiepyron.com>.

Creating Connections in St. George

by Christa Phelps

St. George Main Branch Library

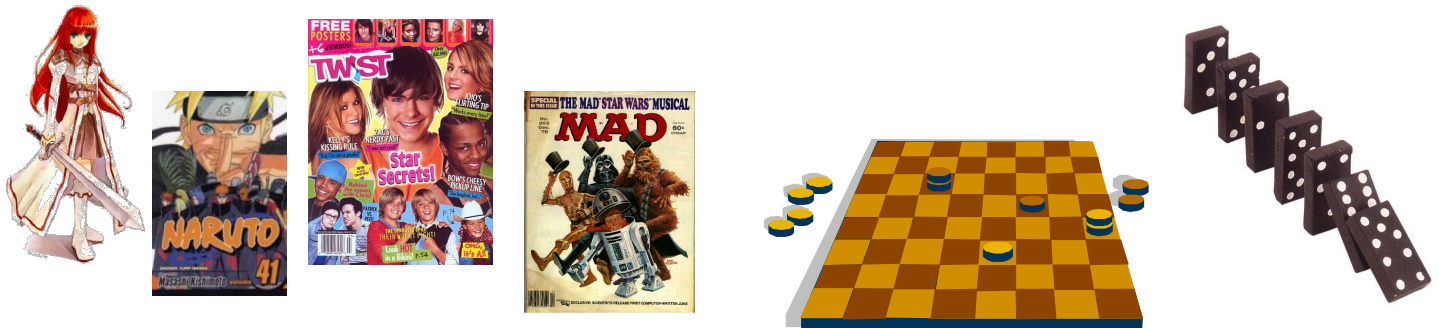
"I'm bored!" What parent hasn't heard that before, right? Well, bring your teens and in the words of Bob Barker, "Come on down" to the St. George Library. We offer more than a dozen different magazines geared for teens. We have various types of Anime/Manga, and of course books. We also have Chess, Checkers, Dominoes and Puzzles while they hang out. So if you're lucky, you just might not ever hear those words again.

We recently finished our Summer Reading Program and it was a great success. We held workshops which included Journaling and Creative Expressions. In the Creative Expressions workshop we had fun making necklaces and wallets from old book covers. Each participant even made a hacky sack type bean bag. With our final event we watched movies with refreshments and held a prize drawing where we had not one, but three Grand Prize winners.

Some fun things in the past have been pre-publication book parties for Twilight and Harry Potter. Both of these included games, giveaways and treats. We also read published excerpts from the books and viewed reviews on our Big Screen in the Community Room. These events turned out to be so popular that we even had adults without children come.

Currently we have an extremely popular anime club, Anime Fannatiku, which happens every fourth Saturday. Anime and Manga continue to be popular here and we always generate a good turnout.

Next time you hear your teen's start to say, "I'm bored!", offer to bring them in to see us at the St. George Library.



Helpful Websites

by Trudi Cooper

YART Webmaster

This is an interesting web site as it has identified "40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents" that "help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible." The URL is for a page the Search Institute has prepared of ideas for what libraries can do to encourage positive growth.

You can find out more at

<http://www.search-institute.org/system/files/librarians8x14.pdf>



I have had several people say they wish they knew more about using Twitter. This is a site that helps!

<http://mashable.com/guidebook/twitter/>



Don't Miss This Grant Opportunity

"2010 Frances Henne/YALSA/VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) Research Grant"

The deadline for this opportunity is coming up! Don't miss your chance!

This grant of \$1000 provides seed money for small-scale projects that will encourage research that responds to the YALSA Research Agenda, available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/aboutyalsa/yalsaresearch.cfm>

Details regarding the applications for the 2010 Frances Henne YALSA/VOYA Research Grant are available from the YALSA Web site: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/awardsandgrants/franceshenne.cfm>

For more information please contact us via e-mail (yalsa@ala.org) or by phone (800-545-2433 x 4387).

Applications for the grant are due in the YALSA Office by December 1, 2009. Please pass this information on.



CSRT/YART Fall Workshop Review

by Carrie Rogers-Whitehead
Kearns Library



On September 11, 2009 librarians and media specialists from around the state headed up to the Ogden Valley Branch in Huntsville to "get real" and learn about nonfiction for teens and children. This was the second combined CSRT/YART workshop and featured Kathleen Baxter, BER speaker, author, and nonfiction expert. Ms. Baxter spoke on the best nonfiction for teens and tweens, books to "grab" guys, and the recent titles that are getting the buzz.

YART presented three break-out sessions at the workshop. First was "745.5: Crafts for Teens" where attendees learned about some creative crafts and shared some of their own ideas. Also, there was "Into the Hands of a Reader: Marketing Your Nonfiction Collection" which showed innovative ways to display and market books. The third breakout session was "60 in a Jiffy" that showcased sixty program ideas in sixty minutes.

The near 100 attendees from the workshop enjoyed the informational and creative programs presented. One person commented that "I really enjoyed the day and loved Kathleen Baxter." Another said that the CSRT/YART workshop was "one of the best conferences I ever attended" and that "the day just flew by." YART is looking forward to collaborating with CSRT on another workshop next year.



Fun Teen Programs During the Winter Months

*By Shelley Maag
Springville Library*

With winter in the air and programs moving inside, it's time to start thinking about winter teen activities once again. Here are a few suggestions for crafts and activities that should keep your YA's entertained and out of the cold.

1. Make a snow globe – snow globes can be filled or covered with so many things that teens will be free to make an item that is uniquely “them.”

These can be made from anything from glass baby food bottles to clear travel-sized shampoo bottles to my favorite, the little round canning jars for jam. Plastic or other water-safe items can be hot glued to the inside of the lid of the item to create a winter, or any other type of, scene. Add water and sparkles, fake snow (kids can make their own from white shopping bags), or confetti. Once the lid is fastened on they are ready to go. While the canning jars will hold up on their own, putting hot or super glue around the other lids before fastening is usually a good idea.

2. Make a candy display – this is best as a group project, creating a scene that can be left on display in the library for the season.

Gingerbread houses aren't the only fun winter project: creating a candy scene from other materials can allow for extra creativity and more participation. My favorite is using an All-Day-Sucker recipe (see below) to create a cookie-sheet sized, light blue candy “lake.” Teens at the program can use other provided supplies (pretzels, Nerds, suckers, fruit roll ups, sticks of gum, royal icing...) to create their own candy person for the display. If you elevate the “lake,” the teens could even make a fish, penguin or Loch Ness Monster to go under the water. Don't forget the snow around the lake. I just learned about Insta-snow (available online) that is not only fun and exciting to create, but heavy enough to stay on your display.

2 c. sugar
1 c. water
2/3 c. corn syrup
1/2 tsp. oil flavor (Optional for displays)
Food coloring

Combine sugar, water and corn syrup. Cook to hard crack (300°F.).

Remove from heat. Add flavoring and food coloring. Stir and pour onto a large greased cookie sheet or other greased heat resistant surface to create a “lake” or into greased sucker molds on a greased cookie sheet if you want to actually make suckers. Double or half depending on how big you want your “lake” a half recipe should do for a medium sized “lake”.

3. Design your own stickers - a year 'round project, but great for the indoors.

Using rolled sticky-backed vinyl from a vinyl cutter or your local craft store, let kids design and cut out their own snowboard or skateboard sized sticker. This works best if a pattern is traced or drawn on cardboard, cut out, and traced onto the vinyl. If your teens are mature enough, use Exacto knives to trace the pattern and get direct cut-out results. If not, scissors will do the trick once the pattern is traced on, but allow for less detail.

Fun Teen Programs During the Winter Months Cont.

4. Snowflake Library – another reclaimed book idea

Save up discarded Calvin and Hobbes, Garfield, Manga or other colorful teen books. Let the kids cut folded or traced snowflake patterns out of the pages of the book. They can take them home or you can create a snowflake display in your teen area.

5. Christmas Clips – make from clothes pins. Target has very affordable wooden ones.

Get some decorative Christmas and winter patterned paper and let kids choose a strip to mod-podge onto the front and back of a clothes pin. Glitter is a fun addition before the mod-podge dries. Add fake jewels, charms, or other colorful and festive items to the front of the pin and a magnet to the back. You may cut the strips in advance for a quicker project, or just let the teens go for it.

6. Mario and Sonic and the Winter Olympic Games – if you can get a few Wiis and games, this is a great activity.

We did it with the Summer Olympics and checked out most of our Olympic books at the program. Have the kids keep track of their scores and give out a Gold, Silver, and Bronze level prize to add to the effect.

7. Battle of the Books – with some popular competitive books out, now is a great time to create a competition.

Create teams and arrange for prizes. The Teen Team at my library set up “The Hunger Games Archery Tournament”, “The Ranger’s Apprentice Sword Fights (I found foam swords at Kmart), “Percy Jackson’s Greek Knowledge Bowl,” “Harry Potter’s Jelly Bean Taste Test,” “Twilight Race for the Blood Game (who can move the blood-colored punch from one cup to the other using only a straw), and Eragon Blindfold Pictionary. It was a blast, even for the teens who hadn’t read all the books. Some even took a title home.

