

# **RART 2015 Summary**

## **MLA**

### **Retreat 2015**

Our 2015 Retreat at the Inver Glen Library, "Racial Equity and Reader's Advisory" featured many wonderful speakers on the topic of diverse literature.

- DORT (Diversity Outreach Roundtable) who enlightened the group on lesser known diverse titles that librarians should be aware of.
- Carol Jackson spoke specifically about Adult diverse titles, and also provided a brochure to take away from the retreat.
- A Library Media Specialist panel provided insight on what diverse book titles are popular in their schools.

### **Conference**

#### 50 in 60 Youth Book Blast

Reader's Advisory Roundtable (RART) and the Children and Young People's Section (CYP) presents 50 youth titles (or more) in 60 minutes. Take 5 librarians and unleash their expertise from picture books to Teen literature, and you get a whole lot of new and interesting titles for your library!

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Speakers :

Anne Friederichs (Librarian Dakota County Library)

Dawn LaBrosse (Youth Services Supervisor Washington County Library)

Katy Schultz (Materials Selection Librarian Saint Paul Public Library)

Kirsten Vaughn (Librarian East Central Regional Library)

Gail Nordstrom (Public Library Consultant Viking Library System)

#### 50 in 60 Book Speed Dating

This session is a reprise of a popular one from the past few conferences. Nine librarians tackle booktalking 50 books in 60 minutes. A satisfying sampling of titles that crosses genres with enthusiasm, this year's selection will include science fiction fantasy series, international mysteries, literary award nominees, books that go bump in the night, memoirs, and "bird," chivalry, food, and music books. Readers' advisory is one the toughest and yet most enjoyable aspects of librarianship and whether

you're a daily practitioner of RA or it's an occasional duty, every new title you hear about is something you can share with your patrons.

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Speakers :

Brian R. Kraft (Senior Library Manager Technical Services Washington County Library)

Carol Jackson (Senior Librarian Ramsey County Library)

Jean Silverberg (Librarian Dakota County Library)

Laurel Bradshaw (Adult Services Librarian Carver County Library)

Linda Dallavalle (Librarian Dakota County Library)

Rachel Gray (Information Services Librarian SELCO)

#### Reader's Advisory Roundtable (RART) Sub-Unit Meeting (took place instead of the annual Happy Hour)

The Readers Advisory Roundtable is looking for new members, new ideas, and new leaders. The Annual Conference is one of the only opportunities for subunit members to meet in the same room and plan for the upcoming year. We'll use this opportunity to get subunit business done, find out what's happening around the state, and make plans for moving our subunit and the association forward. Not member of MLA or RART? No problem! Everyone is welcome to join us.

#### One Conference One Book with Stephan Eric Clark

Join the Readers Advisory Roundtable for a conversation with Stephan Erik Clark, about his latest book Sweetness #9, our One Conference One Book selection. This funny and moving novel received a Colbert bump, launching Clark into the "must read" category. It's 1973, and David Leveraux has landed his dream job as a Flavorist-in-Training, working in the secretive industry where chemists create the flavors for everything from the cherry in your can of soda to the butter on your popcorn. While testing a new artificial sweetener he notices unusual side effects in the laboratory rats and monkeys: anxiety, obesity, and a generalized dissatisfaction with life. David tries to blow the whistle, but he swallows it instead. Years later, Sweetness #9 is America's most popular sweetener—and David's family is changing. His wife is gaining weight, his son has stopped using verbs and his daughter suffers from a generalized dissatisfaction with life. Is Sweetness #9 to blame, along with David's failure to stop it? Or are these just symptoms of the American condition? David's search for an answer unfolds in this expansive novel that is at once a comic satire, a family story and a profound exploration of our deepest cultural anxieties. Wickedly funny and wildly imaginative, Sweetness #9 questions whether what we eat truly makes us who we are. Clark will have copies of Sweetness #9 to sell and sign.

## **Outside of MLA**

### **Plots & Pints pub quiz**

Members of RART participated in Plots & Pints for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. A fun evening was had by all. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the St Paul Public Library, and proceeds benefited the Minnesota Book Awards.

### **Tomes on Tap**

In an effort to encourage reader's advisory dialog among members of different library systems, Tomes on Tap has continued in its 4<sup>th</sup> year! Here are a few of the great reads from 2015:

July 18, 2015 - The Copper Hen & Kitchen, Minneapolis - Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

April 18, 2015 - Mill Street Tavern, Cannon Falls - Shakespeare Saved my Life / Laura Bates

January 2, 2015 - Moe's, Mounds View - The Slap / Christos Tsiolkas

A new section of Tomes on Tap was created this year: Traveling Tomes on Tap! Its first meeting was in Duluth (October 24, 2015 - Zeitgeist Arts Café, Duluth - A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson), and we are hoping that the 'traveling' theme continues in 2016!

### **Reader's Advisory Special Interest Group in Carver County Libraries**

In 2015, a Reader's Advisory Special Interest Group was started by Heidi Hoks (director of Carver County Libraries) and 3 RART members (Laurel Bradshaw, Sarah Nagle and Kristin Jones). This group is in charge of keeping library staff informed about newest and best book, genre trends and effective ways to incorporate reader's advisory in to each and every library position. So far, a GoodReads account for staff has been started and we are hoping to present on various RA topics at future staff meetings.