



West Branch Chapter
Pennsylvania Library Association

Chatterbox

A newsletter to advocate for public, academic & school libraries.

Vol. 6 Issue 1 / Summer 2014

“Get Your Game On: Play, Play, Learn”

PaLA West Branch Chapter hosted their spring workshop on May 29, 2014, at the Professional Development Center at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA. Participants experienced expert advice on how to ‘Get their game on’ from Library Technology Specialist and game designer Brian Mayer, and learned about successful gaming programs in area academic and public libraries from panelists in local academic and public libraries.

Keynote speaker Brian Mayer introduced participants to ideas and resources for bringing games to life in their libraries. He instructed participants to go to gylibraries.org/gaming to see a catalog of resources that can be used with kids. Brian is a member of ALA games and ALA gaming round table. He is also part of a new endeavor called playplaylearn.com; which includes conversations between vendors and educators about how to use games and integrate them into the curriculum. As a game designer Brian created an innovative board game called Underground Railroad; which engages students in the history of slavery and the abolitionist movement in the United States.



His advice to librarians that want to offer successful gaming programs in their libraries is to commit to playing the games so they can become familiar with the format and experience the fun and potential of each game. Games are made up of bits and pieces that can be used in creative ways. Most importantly, libraries need to create experiences that kids cannot get at home playing games by themselves or with a small group of friends, like offering to facilitate tournaments, fantasy flight games that build upon large group experiences and include live-action role playing and giant games.

This workshop was unique because participants had the opportunity to play games together to see first-hand how they worked. One was a fun role playing game called ‘werewolf’; where some of the participants were villages and some were werewolves and the group had to hunt the werewolves before they killed all of the villagers. I was falsely accused of being a werewolf and was put to death by my fellow villagers. It was a murder mystery type game and a genuine blast! Participants also

played a group trivia game where they voted on who gave the correct answer to the trivia question, and played a great risk management game called Incan Gold which took participants on a journey

through a cave to win gold, face danger and/or to lose it all. In my ten years of workshops this one was the most fun I have ever had!

Over lunch participants got into groups and used random materials to create their own games around a library theme. The only rule was that we could not create a game that involved rolling dice to take a turn. It was both challenging and interesting to see the games that the groups came up with.

After the petting zoo of gaming experiences, participants learned about successful gaming programs in area libraries. The first panelist was Mary Broussard from Snowden Library, Lycoming College. Participants learned about a game that teaches plagiarism prevention called ‘Goblin Threat’, which is a fun interactive digital game that was launched in 2009. Students enter a world hunting goblins



and for every trivia question answered correctly, a goblin is captured. Incorrect answers prompt feedback messages with teaching principles. Mary also introduced participants to an Analog Game that is used with freshman orientation. The game which was first implemented in 2009 aimed to get the students to visit all four floors of the library and to interact with library staff.

Panelist Tracey Amey, Director of Madigan Library at the Pennsylvania College of Technology and lifelong gamer, shared with participants how she engaged students through World of War craft and built a new collection that supports

We Want to Hear From You!

Do you know a librarian or library staff member who should be recognized in the newsletter? Is your library hosting a big event, undergoing changes, or just wanting to share? If so, please send your story to us. We are excited about the opportunity to network, gain insight, and applaud their achievements. Please send any ideas to Amanda Emig @ aemig@jvbrown.edu.

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people playing games. This collection along with gaming events inspired faculty interest to create a gaming curriculum program at the college. An essential component of Tracey's success was using borrowed game systems with the library providing a projector and screen to create a unique social gaming experience; this led to hosting tournaments, and an interest in the creation of student gaming clubs. Tracey also discussed the hugely successful 'Comic Con' that is held annually at the college. Last year attendance was up 41%, with over 1000 people in attendance. It will be held this year on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 8 AM-5 PM. There is a \$20 early admission price. Tickets are available online through August 31. Free Admission for kids 12 and under. For tickets go to wildcatcomiccon.pct.edu or facebook.com/wildcatcc. Cost of admission includes film panels, hall of merchants, artist alley, costume workshops, photo booth, caricature artists, face painting and free 'aftercon' events.

Panelist Marna Martin, a public librarian from McBride Memorial Library in Berwick, discussed the successful public library gaming programs that she held at her library. She runs a Dungeons and Dragons Game using 3D dice, and a washable Chess X game board. Games encourage teens to solve problems and work cooperatively. Gaming programs validate teens value from diverse backgrounds and promotes healthy escape. She also had success with a game called 'Betrayal At House on the Hill', has an XBOX 360, and provides live-action role playing games, which springboard to programs on costume design and development.

For more information on how to use games in your library go to School Library System Game Library found at <http://gvlibraries.org/gaming> or visit the following sites: playplaylearn.com or www.ala.org/gamert.

Submitted by Barbara McGary
This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, Governor, through the College and Research Division (<http://crdpala.org>) of PALA. Show your appreciation by becoming a member of PALA! And if you are a member - thank you!

Bookmobiles aren't just for public libraries!



Lycoming College's Snowden Library promotes reading with their new book delivery service, the SnowMobile.

Every two weeks, staff members at Snowden Library fill crates with a selection of novels and popular nonfiction from the Leisure Reading Collection. We load the crates onto a golf cart and bring the books to offices around campus. We use a laptop to connect with the Web client of our circulation system, allowing students, staff and faculty to borrow, renew, and return books without leaving their office buildings. For added convenience, patrons are able to request that we bring specific items on our next visit. We have even used the SnowMobile to accept donations of paperbacks for Snowden's Little Free Library, where patrons can find a good book, read it, and then return it or pass it on.

The SnowMobile's consistent schedule of visits helps our patrons to know when to expect us and has enabled us to develop relationships with regular patrons. Visiting patrons in their spaces allows us to make new connections, promote our collections to new audiences, and take suggestions in an environment where patrons are likely to be more forthcoming with their opinions. Perhaps the most rewarding part of providing this service is the conversations about books that crop up around the book crates.

Congrats from West Branch!



Elisabeth (Lis) Miranda accepted the position as Director at the Blossburg Memorial Library and officially began her new position on June 12. Miranda is a non-profit professional, having most recently held the position of branch executive director at the Tioga County Branch YMCA in Mansfield. She was also employed by the YMCA of Greater New York for 11 years and has volunteered for YMCA international initiatives in China, Thailand and Ukraine. Miranda worked as a military contractor in Iraq from 2006-2007, providing recreational and technological opportunities for military personnel.

Originally from NYC, Miranda has a BA from Hunter College in Near Eastern Archaeology and worked on archaeological digs in Israel, Jordan and Egypt. She is excited to bring her love of reading and learning about the world to children in the Blossburg Community and said that as a child she frequented her local public library so often that other kids called her the "Library Girl." Miranda is very involved with her local Kiwanis Club because she is committed to helping children locally and worldwide.

Jody Cole is the new library director at Shippensburg Public Library.

Shelby Kinsey is the new system administrator for the Potter-Tioga County Library System.

Congrats to **Susan Epley** of West End Library on her retirement.

Brown Library partnership wins state best practice award

The James V. Brown Library has once again been recognized with a Carolyne L. Smith Best Practices in Early Learning Award by the Pennsylvania Library Association.

The award was for the Baby Café program, which is a partnership with Susquehanna Health to provide a safe and child-friendly environment for pregnant, breastfeeding moms and their support person. Participants can meet other breastfeeding moms and receive up-to-date information about breastfeeding. Baby Café is a service to support nursing moms run by a healthcare professional and can help with every aspect of breastfeeding.

The award will be presented during a luncheon and awards ceremony on Sept. 28 at the Lancaster County Convention Center at Marriott. This statewide educational symposium is attended by several hundred librarians, advocates and policymakers. The Best Practices Award celebrates public library programs that are especially creative, innovative and effective in serving young children, their families and caregivers.

"We wanted to bring Baby Café to the library and partner with Susquehanna Health to have a stronger reach and breadth with advocating all the health benefits for babies' development," said Nina White, youth services coordinator at the library. "It is a perfect complement to offer after baby story time for new mothers to attend both programs and gain a sense of parental and community support at the library."

Baby Café meets every other Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Red Program Room on the first floor of the Welch Family Wing. This is one of the many ways Pennsylvania Public Libraries support the PA Forward Initiative through providing health literacy opportunities for learning. Baby Café builds a family's well-being to empower them to live longer, more productive lives.

"Hosting Baby Café becomes an introduction to the library that many new mothers might



not have found otherwise," White said. "It is a mutually strong partnership for healthy babies and moms, child development and early literacy."

White added that the program was originally offered once a month but has grown to be offered every other week. Natalie McCullen, lactation consultant at Susquehanna Health, is the facilitating partner.

"It's a great privilege to partner with the library through the Baby Café. The Baby Café group is dedicated to providing ongoing information and support for moms and babies through their breastfeeding journey," said McCullen. "Many new moms have questions and sometimes challenges starting out with breastfeeding, and this is a great way for our health system to provide ongoing support and assistance as well as promote the mother to mother support that is so important. The Baby Café at the library allows moms to be out in the community networking with other moms as well as taking part in the wonderful programs the library offers."

Christina Furister, participating mom, agrees: "I love being able to socialize with the other moms. The fact that a lactation consultant is here is helpful because it ensures that any areas Stella and I are struggling with, I can bring to her attention and she's able to offer me feedback to work through it. And it seems each mom always has something to offer. It's just a really great hour."

West Branch Dine Out at Annual Conference

Sunday, September 28, 2014 @ 6pm

Press Room, Lancaster

Email Leslie Wishard by September 24 to RSVP: greenlib@epix.net

Get your geek on



Geeking at the Athens Artfest



Allen F. Pierce Library - OPEN HOUSE



James V. Brown Library - OPEN HOUSE



Bradford County - OPEN HOUSE



WILLIAMSPORT
DOWNTOWN KIDS FIRST FRIDAY
"Geek Tattoos"

PA Forward Video Contest

Lights, Camera, Action

In celebration of the Pennsylvania Library Association's PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries literacy initiative, amateur and professional videographers are invited to enter a video contest for a chance to have their video used as a marketing tool across the state. **Grand Prize is \$250, Second Place is \$100 and Third Place is \$50.**

Requirements: Video must be uploaded to YouTube, viewable by the public, include the PA Forward logo with the 5 literacies blocks, and a maximum of 2 minutes in length. Show us how PA Forward works for your library—promoting the library as a literacy hub, enhancing existing or new programs, building stronger connections and partnerships with your community, or simply shining a brighter light on how your library helps to power Pennsylvania's future progress. Off-beat, funny, quirky—whatever you think tells your PA Forward story in the most engaging way. By submitting an entry, you are authorizing the Pennsylvania Library Association the right to use the video in any marketing or promotional materials. All emailed entries should include complete contact information. To enter, email entries and links to the YouTube video to mrowse@jvbrown.edu.

Contest entries will be accepted until September 1, 2014. Winners will be announced at the annual conference in Lancaster, PA, and through the PA Forward's facebook page. For more information on PA Forward, visit www.pafoward.org and www.palibraries.org.

Authors & Illustrators Speak Up for PA Libraries

November 6, 2014

The Pennsylvania Library Association is proud to introduce the "PA Forward Speak Up! Authors & Illustrators Speak Up for PA Libraries" initiative for Thursday, November 6, 2014. This initiative places Pennsylvania authors and illustrators in the spotlight, increasing support for libraries everywhere.

PA Forward Speak Up will match participating PA authors and illustrators with libraries to do programs in which they

speak about the importance and personal impact of libraries and present a program related to their work. The program could take a variety of forms, depending on the capabilities of the authors and illustrators and the program interests of the library: it could be a reading, a lecture about the topic of the book, a demonstration (examples: cooking demonstration by a cookbook author), a presentation of writing/illustrating tips, a talk about their career, etc.)

**VOTE IN THE
PALA STATE WIDE ELECTION!**
Deadline August 11

CHAPTER CHATTER Conversations

Pennsylvania Library Association
West Branch Chapter

Your local chapter
of the Pennsylvania Library
Association needs your input!

Please come
to **Mansfield University
Library on August 15**
**Open Forum from
11:30-1:30 PM,**
**Community Room, 6th Floor,
North Hall Library,**
for a focused discussion and
complementary dessert!

*Calling all librarians
school, academic and public!
Both PaLA members
and non-members!*

We need to hear from you!

- How to make the most of your association!
- What types of continuing education needs do you have!
- How to connect librarians to one another!

Are you a librarian working in:

Potter, Tioga, Bradford,
Cameron, Sullivan, Lycoming,
Clinton, Union, Northumberland,
Snyder, Montour, Columbia county?

**West Branch Chapter covers
12 counties in Pennsylvania!
We are here to support you!**