

READ

Readers Section Newsletter

“Never apologize for what you read”

Volume 15, No. 2

Fall 2007

READ Section Members Can Meet at Upcoming WLA Conference

by Colleen Crowley, READ Chair-Elect

Don't miss the READERS section Business Meeting that will be held on Friday October 19th from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Catherine Hansen, our chair will not be able to attend, but Colleen and hopefully other board members will be there. The agenda will include an opportunity to voice your opinion about future programs and learn about WLA changes that affect the READ unit. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

WLA Conference Sessions may Inspire READ Section Members

By Colleen Crowley

Programs have been planned by READ Chair-Elect Colleen Crowley, & Anne Kasuboski, Chair of the Literary Awards Committee.

This year READ & the Literary Awards committee is thrilled to be offering a smorgasbord of great programs at the WLA annual conference in Green Bay. Several presenters are coming from out of state and will be enlightening attendees on a variety of subjects.

First, we have **Litera Scripta Manet: How to Inspire and Cultivate Booklust in your Patrons via the Web** to be held on Thursday, October 18, 9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

"Litera Scripta Manet" is Latin for "the written word endures." Even as we provide more services to patrons online, books remain the library's brand, and we should celebrate books online as well as in person. This program will teach librarians how to use OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries) to create online programs for their library patrons. Right now OPAL is being

used by several WI library systems to provide training and professional development to staff, but there is a whole other side to OPAL. Discover how libraries around the country are using OPAL as a medium for providing online programs, such as book discussions for patrons. With experience in public, special, and academic libraries, Erica Reynolds currently serves as the Web Content Manager for Johnson County Library. The Johnson County Library was one of the first public libraries to join OPAL in 2004 and has hosted a number of regional and national programs for patrons as well as for librarians. Be the first Wisconsin library to host an OPAL program for your patrons!

As with past WLA conferences we are pleased to offer our annual **Notable Books Marathon** to be held on Thursday, October 18, from 10:45am - 12pm. Our experienced presenters: James A. Gollata, Helene Androski, Beverly DeWeese, and Gary Warren Niebuhr have some fantastic books to tell you about. This session offers thoughtful, inspiring, humorous and fast-paced reviews of notable titles selected from the ALA Notable Books list and the WLA Literary Awards Committee's notable books.

Next up is READ's annual book discussion. Join Gary Niebuhr and READ on Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for a discussion of **One Thousand White Women** by Jim Fergus. This book begins with May Dodd's journey west, into the unknown. Committed into an insane asylum by her blueblood family for the crime of loving a man beneath her station, May finds that her only hope of freedom is to participate in a secret government program whereby women from the "civilized" world become the brides of Cheyenne warriors. What follows is the story of May's breathtaking adventures: her brief, passionate romance with the gallant young army captain John Bourke; her marriage to the great chief

Little Wolf; and her conflict of being caught between two worlds, loving two men, living two lives.

The last READ program before we get to the literary awards programs is for all your patron's who ask questions about finding interesting pet books. **Bibliotherapy with Pet Books- Nonfiction Reads for Animal Lovers** presented by Kirsten Houtman WI Librarian, and Ken Foster, Author, New Orleans, LA; on Thursday October 18th from 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Join Kirsten as she discusses the nonfiction pet memoir and biography books that have been published in the last 7 years. Bestsellers, recommended reads, and some children's titles, will be discussed. Ken Foster, author of *The Dogs Who Found Me*, will end the session with a lively talk about the books he has written about dogs, their behaviors and their resulting effect on the humans who love them.

The Literary Awards committee selected Michael Perry as this year's Banta Award winner. **Just Keep Shoveling** hosted by **Michael Perry**, Author and 2007 Banta Award Winner for *Truck: A Love Story* will be held on Thursday, October 18, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Join author Michael Perry as he reads from his works, talks about the realities of this freelance life, what happens behind the scenes and the process he uses to write. Michael will happily answer questions at the conclusion of his program. Michael Perry is also the author of *Population 485* and *Off Main Street*.

Another Literary Awards committee program is on Friday, October 19th from 10:30am to 11:45am **Poets as Peacemakers, Poets as Healers** featuring **Ellen Kort**, *Wisconsin's First Poet Laureate*. Poetry is the language of the heart. Ellen Kort invites us to explore the many ways the act of poetry, peace making and healing can help us find peace in our relationships with one another, other living things and with the earth. She'll share the work she does as a poetry advocate in workshops, at medical conventions for physicians and psychologists, and with poetry students of all ages. She is intent on creating the awareness that we can all make our presence felt by words and deeds for a peaceful world.

“A home without books is a body without soul”

Chill Out This Summer was a Hot Success

by Mary Dunn

230 participants “chilled out” at this year's adult summer reading program held at the La Crosse Public Library. They read, listened or viewed over 1200 items. Weekly prizes and three grand prizes were given at all three of our locations. At the end of the program we held an ice cream social where the participants received a book that contained ratings and evaluations from the materials that they read and evaluated over the summer. This was our seventh summer and it just keeps getting better every year.

Here are some of the “fun” facts from the program. The number in parenthesis indicates how many evaluation cards we had on that title or author. Both fiction and nonfiction titles were read but I've only included fiction on this list.

Most Read Titles This Summer

Patterson, James – *Cross* (5)
Sandford, John – *Invisible Prey* (5)
Hosseini, Khaled – *The Kite Runner* (5)
Patterson, James – *Quickie* (6)
Evanovich, Janet – *Lean Mean Thirteen* (6)
Rowling, J.K. – *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollow* (6)

Most Read Authors

Clark, Mary Higgins (8)
Pierce, Tamora (8)
Oke, Janette (9)
Sandford, John (10)
Braun, Lillian (11)
Lackey, Mercedes (13)
Rowling, J.K. (19)
Evanovich, Janet (22)
Patterson, James (33)

Most Loved Titles Read This Summer – Rating of 5++

Albom, Mitch – *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*
Albom, Mitch – *For One More Day*
Alexie, Sherman – *Flight*
Baldacci, David – *Simple Genius*
Buckley, Christopher – *Boomsday*
Briskin, Jacquelyn – *Paloverde*
Cross, Donna – *Pope Joan*
Iles, Greg – *True Evil*
Karp, Marshall – *Bloodthirsty*
Michaels, Fern – *No Place Like Home*
Read, Miss – *Village Diary*
Salinger, J.D. – *Catcher in the Rye*
Saul, John – *Suffer the Children*

Most Hated Titles Read This Summer – Rating of 1

Bohjalian, Chris – *Midwives*
Evanovich, Janet – *Twelve Sharp*
Isaacs, Susan – *Past Perfect*
Messud, Clair – *Emperor's Children*

Almost Most Hated Titles – Rating of 2

Bateman, Tracey – *Scraps of Love*
Cleeves, Ann – *Raven Black*
Coben, Harlan – *The Woods*
Dickey, Jerome – *Sleeping with Strangers*
Estep, Maggie – *Flamethrower*
Fielding, Joy – *Heartstopper*
Godwin, Gail – *Evenings at 5:00*
Greeley, Andrew – *A Christmas Wedding*
Hoffman, Alice – *The Ice Queen*
Howard, Linda – *Kiss Me While I Sleep*
Jakes, John – *Savannah*
Kellerman, Jess – *Trouble*
Kellerman, Jonathon – *Capital Crimes*
Kellerman, Jonathon – *Gone*
Lustbader, Eric Van – *Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Betrayal*
Marx, Patricia – *Him Her Again, The End of Him*
McBride, Stuart – *Dying Light*
Meltzer, Brad – *10 Justice*
Miller, Linda Lael – *Pirates*
Patterson, James – *6th Target*
Patterson, James – *Quickie*
Patterson, James – *Sam's Letters to Jennifer*
Patterson, James – *Season of the Machette*
Patterson, James – *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*
Robb, J. D. – *Innocent in Death*
Slavin, Helen – *The Extra Large Medium*
Straka, Andy – *A Witness Above*

Fun With Lean Mean Thirteen

By Niki Maher

Why did the Oscar Grady Public Library in Saukville recently host an evening that included Cheez doodles, Tasty Pastry donuts, pineapple upside down cake and guns (squirt of course) stored in a cookie jar? To celebrate the release of Janet Evanovich's *Lean Mean Thirteen!* Adults who attended this fun filled event enjoyed Stephanie Plum style snacks while answering trivia questions from the book series. The evening also included lively discussion about the books. A few older books in the series were given away along with three copies of *Lean Mean Thirteen*, complete with Janet Evanovich autographed stickers. Each attendee was given a folder with favorite recipes from the Plum women, Joe Morelli and Ranger quizzes and a brochure of Stephanie Plum read-alike books. I also created a display of fun books listed in the brochure.

In a summer season that is so dominated by children's programming, it was nice to be able to offer an evening program that was so entertaining just for adults. Going forward, we will continue adding new and exciting programs as a way to reach out to the community and draw people into the library.

New or Recently Published Children's Series that Adults Will Enjoy

By Colleen Crowley

Buckley, Michael. *The Sisters Grimm Series*
This series is about two sisters whose parents have disappeared. They are forced to live with a mysterious relative they never knew existed. Here they learn their true identity - they are the descendents of the Brothers Grimm and are forced to live in a cursed town with all of the Everafter fairy tale characters solving crimes and looking for clues of their parent's whereabouts. Unlike other books where the plot is explained for readers, these books pick up exactly where the last one left off, making it a necessity to have read the books in order.

The Fairy-tale Detectives Book 1

The Unusual Suspects Book 2

The Problem Child Book 3

Once Upon a Crime Book 4

Kerr, P.B. *Children of the Lamp Series*

This series is comprised of three books so far, and can be found in both young adult or juvenile library collections. In the first book readers meet twins who upon their 12th birthday discover they are genies. These books take you on an edge-of-your seat adventure spanning several continents. The children learn how to use their powers and interact with other djinn, both good and evil. The books could be stand-alone novels but are best read in order.

Akenathen Adventure Book 1

Blue Djinn of Babylon Book 2

Cobra King of Kathmandu Book 3

Day Of The Djinn Warriors Book 4 (will be released January 2008)

Sage, Angie. *Septimus Heap Series*

These books can be read separately, but are very satisfying reads together. Each book is well-paced with intriguing characters and an interesting plot that will leave readers begging for the next book. We can only hope that Angie Sage will write more in the future about these characters.

Magyck Book 1. After learning that she is the Princess, Jenna is whisked from her home and carried toward safety by the Extraordinary

Wizard, those she always believed were her father and brother, and a young guard known only as Boy 412--pursued by agents of those who killed her mother ten years earlier.

Flyte Book 2. When Princess Jenna is pursued by a dark wizard, it is the apprentice, Septimus Heap, who must save her while enduring such terrors as a night in the Forest with hungry wolverines and carnivorous trees.

Physik Book 3. Pulled through a glass that brings him back in time 500 years, Septimus Heap becomes the apprentice of an alchemist. Princess Jenna and her brother Nicko, and a new character named Snorri, risk their lives to bring Septimus back to their time. In the third volume in the series, the chapters change points of view and provide readers with more secrets of the castle.

E.D. Baker. *The Frog Princess Series*

Readers who loved *Ella Enchanted* will be equally amused with this series about a spunky young princess named Emma who who accidentally gets changed into a frog in her efforts to try to do someone named Prince Eadric a favor. In her new form, Emma embarks on many adventures to try to get home to Aunt Grassina, a witch, who may be able to help her return to her human form. Aunt Grassina has troubles of her own and these problems and others are explored in the other books. Books 1-3 were compelling and humorous reads and arguably, the best of the series.

The Frog Princess, Book 1

Dragon's Breath Book 2

Once Upon a Curse Book 3

No Place for Magic Book 4

The Salamander Spell Book 5 (In this prequel to the *Tales of the Frog Princess*, Grassina is a young princess-in-training.)

Smart Pop Anthology Really Pops!

by Maureen Welch

Do you have patrons who are obsessed with past and present cult TV? Want to recommend a book about their favorite show? Check out the *Smart Pop* anthologies published by Benbella Books at www.smartpopbooks.com.

I'm a romance reader which means when I find an author I enjoy reading, I look for everything they've written. My search for books by Jennifer Crusie led me to the *Smart Pop* anthologies. Crusie has edited three of these anthologies: *Flirting with Pride & Prejudice: Fresh Perspectives on the Original Chick-Lit Masterpiece*; *Totally*

Charmed: Demons, Whitelighters and the Power of Three; and *Coffee at Luke's: An Unauthorized Gilmore Girls Gabfest*. Plus Crusie wrote essays for two anthologies edited by Glenn Yeffeth: *"Dating Death" in Seven Seasons of Buffy*; and *"The Assassination of Cordelia Chase" in Five Seasons of Angel*.

A few of the anthologies published this year are on my to-be-read list including *Neptune Noir: Unauthorized Investigations into Veronica Mars* edited by the show's creator Rob Thomas (May); *Perfectly Plum: Unauthorized Essays on the Life, Loves, and Other Disasters of Stephanie Plum, Trenton Bounty Hunter* edited by Leah Wilson (June); *Grey's Anatomy 101: Seattle Grace, Unauthorized* edited by Leah Wilson (August); *House Unauthorized: Vasculitis, Clinic Duty, and Bad Bedside Manner* edited by Leah Wilson (November); and *Jack Bauer for President: Terrorism and Politics in 24* edited by Richard Minter (December).

These anthologies are a mixed bag of essays written by science fiction, fantasy, and romance writers as well as psychologists, critics, the occasional cast/crew member and many a PhD. From the sometimes too academic to the very humorous, there is usually something for a fan to enjoy.

And The Winners Are:

From www.rwanational.org

2007 RITA Winner for Best Traditional Romance

Claiming His Family by Barbara Hannay

2007 RITA Winner for Best Short Contemporary Romance

From The First by Jessica Bird

2007 RITA Winner for Best Long Contemporary Romance

The Mommy Quest by Lori Handeland

2007 RITA Winner for Best Paranormal Romance

A Hunger Like No Other by Kresley Cole

2007 RITA Winner for Best Inspirational Romance

Revealed by Tamera Alexander

2007 RITA Winner for Best First Book

The Husband Trap by Tracy Anne Warren

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Join Readers Section!

Readers Section is not just for readers advisory librarians. If you like to read or if you work with patrons who like to read, please join Readers Section the next time you renew your WLA membership. Tell our friends about us too. We need your financial support, knowledge and participation.

This semiannual newsletter is produced by the Readers Section. Articles may be sent to Mary Dunn (Editor) La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main St., La Crosse, WI 54601, Fax 608-789-7106

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