

## **MCLS Children's Committee meeting**

Glendora Public Library

May 14, 2009

In attendance: Megan Wolf, (AHM), Cassandra Stearns (ALT), Darlene Bradley (ARC), Heather Cousin, (ARC), Leila Hassen (AZU), Kay MacDonald (BEV), Joan Mathews (BUR), Norma Juarez (COV), Gina Orello (DOW), Sindee Pickens, (ELS), Katherine Loeser (GDL), Cindy Romero (DORA), Lynda Poling (LBPL), Christina Yueh (MPK), Meg Thackoorie (MOOR), Joanne Center (OXN), Marisa Perley (PVP), Nissa Perez-Montoya (POM), Roger Kelly (SAM), Maida Lin Wong (SOPAS), Christina Carlisle (MCLS), Rosario Garza (MCLS) Mary Menzel (CA Center of the Book)

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Cindy Romero. Introductions followed.

### **MINUTES & AGENDA**

Agenda was approved by consensus.

Sindee Pickens (ELS) name was incorrectly added to the subcommittee list for the Margaret Read MacDonald Workshop in the minutes of the January 14 meeting. Lynda Poling's (LBPL) name was misspelled; minutes were amended and approved. MSP Wong (SOPAS)/Pickens (ELS).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no guests or members of the public who wished to address the Committee.

### **REPORT: MCLS NEWS**

A written report from Christina Carlisle (MCLS) was submitted prior to the meeting. Rosario Garza (MCLS) highlighted the following from the written report:

The statewide **Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros** project distributed over 4,000 bi-lingual books to 25 libraries (or library branches) throughout the state to be given to children attending Día celebrations. The 25 libraries also are receiving up to \$500 in reimbursement for authors/performers at Día events at their libraries. The plan is to continue this project next year.

The **Family Place project** is setting up a training facility at the CoLAPL Carson Branch and CoLAPL staff are being trained to serve as Family Place trainers. Next year, the project will award grants to libraries that want to set up Family Place locations.

Rosario Garza (MCLS) also reported on the MCLS Consolidation including the following:

- Name will be the Southern California Library Cooperative.
- Three areas of governance will be JPA, Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- Committees will exist in the form of interest groups.
- Interest groups may form & dissolve at will.
- Staff representing member libraries will only be allowed.

Much discussion ensued regarding the consolidation, interest groups and virtual meetings to accommodate members traveling long distances.

### **CALIFORNIA CENTER OF THE BOOK**

Mary Menzel spoke to the committee about the programs offered through the California Center of the Book.

#### **Book-club-in-a-box**

The Center will send the library everything they need to present and publicize a multi-week book club, including the books, flyers, bookmarks and postage. *Comix.@\$#!* and *Caught in the Crossfire: Young People and War* are the two programs that are appropriate for middle and high schoolers.

#### **Letters About Literature**

An annual national contest for students in grades 4 through 12. The students are invited to write a letter to an author (living or dead), in which he or she explains just how the author's work has changed the student's life or view of the world.

### **PLANNING FOR 2009-2010**

Cindy Romero (DORA) asked if the committee wanted to change the format of the meetings in light of the MCLS consolidation and morphing from a committee to an interest group. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of virtual meetings vs. face to face meetings. It was determined that the committee would continue as it has in the past and evolve as we progress.

Election of officers:

- Chair, Marissa Perley (PVP)
- Vice Chair, Lynda Poling (LBPL)
- Secretary, Cassandra Stearns (ALT)

It was MSP (Pickens (ELS)/Center (OXN) to accept the nominated slate of officers.

Dates of future meetings:

- Wednesday, September 16, 2009: Monrovia Public Library or EL Segundo Library
- Thursday, January 21, 2010: Downey City Library
- Wednesday, May 19, 2010: Mark Twain Library, Long Beach

Structured Exchange topics:

- Wednesday, September 16: Performer's Directory. This will be a longer meeting than usual. Bring a sack lunch.
- Thursday, January 21, 2010: Storytime planning
- Wednesday, May 19, 2010: Programs on the cheap

2009-2010 Workshop:

Train the puppeteer with special guest trainer Swazzle or Ilene Cohen. Workshop date TBD.

### **STRUCTURED EXCHANGE**

A structured exchange was held on the topic of technology for kids and covered such products as A.W.E computers, Brain Fuse, Tutor.com, etc.

### **ROUNDTABLE REPORTS**

#### **Altadena Library District**

The Altadena Library District's El Día de los Niños / El Día de los Libros celebration took place on Thursday, April 30th in the Main Library's Community Room. The day began at 11:00 AM with a special storytime featuring bilingual stories, songs and fingerplays. Tips for sharing books with children were provided along with bilingual booklists. From 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM children explored Latino culture through a variety of craft projects including, papel picado, crepe paper flowers, and Ojo de Dios. At 3:30 PM special guest storytelling troupe We Tell Stories shared Cuentos de la Familia / Stories of the Family. Throughout the day parents were able to learn more about Altadena Library District services and programs, as well as sign up for new library cards. All children who participated received a free book. Light refreshment was served at each event. The Altadena Library District was one of the libraries to receive a Dia California reimbursement.

#### **Alhambra Civic Center Library**

At the Alhambra Civic Center Library, we are currently offering 3 regular story time programs a week: Family Story Time on Wednesdays at 7 pm (including a puppet show every other week), Preschool Story Time on Thursdays at 10:30 am, and Toddler Story Time on Fridays at 10:30 am. We will be holding chess club meetings on alternating Fridays and Saturdays this summer culminating in a tournament at the end of July.

Thanks to a grant from New Century BMW in Alhambra, the library (in association with the Alhambra Arts and Cultural Events Committee) was able to

offer a series of art classes for children over a period of 5 weeks during the months of April and May. Pieces created in the Beginning Painting (ages 5-10) and Printmaking (ages 10-14) classes will be on display in the lobby of Alhambra City Hall starting June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our library's summer reading program (Be Creative @ Your Library!) for children ages 12 and younger will run from June 23 – August 7. During the program, our patrons will have the opportunity to read (or have someone read to them) 8 books in order to receive some great prizes including a book to keep from the library. We will have different performers visiting including Cookie Einstein, Buster Balloon, Tobie Columbus, and Scott Land in addition to other activities such as a medieval castle building workshop, a 6-word memoir exchange with 2 libraries, and a showing of the 1971 film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

### **Azusa City Library**

Azusa City Library plans on debuting the Summer Reading Program with a concert from the Mariachi Divas to kick off the Be Creative @ Your Library programming season. Also included is a month long Be Your Own Author workshop where kids can learn how to write their own books. The event will kick off with a celebration where participants will read from their own books. The library's bookmobile has been seeing larger crowds on its site stops through Azusa. Storytime, prize giveaways, and library card applications have increased the profile of the bookmobile.

### **El Segundo Public Library**

El Segundo Library will be hosting the library's annual Author Fair on June 7, 2009 from 12:45 – 4:45 p.m. *Stretching Your Dollar* is the theme of this year's event. Approximately 35 adult and children's authors will be participating.

### **Monrovia Public Library**

The new Monrovia Public Library opened its door for the first time on Saturday, May 16. Approximately 3,100 people came to see the new digs. The Monrovia Unified School District hosted a district wide middle and high school spelling bee as part of the grand opening in the morning; author Ray Bradbury was the featured speaker in the afternoon. As expected, the library has remained busy since the opening. Regular programming for youth as well as the Summer Reading Club will start on June 15.

### **Moorpark City Library**

*February:* Craig Newton musical sing-along performance, American Heroes-celebrating our Presidents and Black History month on Feb. 28th.

*March:* Circus Fever author Alva Sachs highlighted as part of the Moorpark Friends of the Library fundraiser on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Funds to go to our children's programming.

*April:* Dia Celebration on April 26<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with the city for the Moorpark Arts Festival, held on the same day. We had a Spanish storyteller, crafts, and a

bilingual Marachi Magic Show with Rafael & Katia. Our local First 5 provided the crafts and the contact for the storyteller, a preschool teacher from our local district. The grant will pay for the Magic show. These community partnerships created our largest attendance count attracting the Latino community, our target audience, for a very successful and fun program. As a result of our Dia success, we have added First 5s Little Bilingual Readers storytime on our Tuesday morning schedule. They bring in their materials and do most of the activities at our library. We do tours and encourage getting a library card as this may be their first time receiving one.

First 5 also does our crafts once a month for our regular weekly Thursday storytimes, increasing our attendance. This has been a wonderful collaboration bringing more Latino and other multicultural families to the library. For Summer Reading Club (SRC) 2009, our Tuesdays are performance days, Wednesdays- crafts hosted by Teens, Thursdays-storytimes presented by Teen Reader's Theatre group, and Fridays in July, hosted by the Moorpark Friends of the Library. We'll have an ongoing Bookmark contest with the winners being announced and bookmarks distributed in September, for our Library Card Sign-Up month.

### **South Pasadena Public Library**

- Marisa Reyes has joined the Children's Services staff as our new part-time Children's Librarian.
- Finished a busy spring of children's programming, including participating in the California Young Reader Medal voting (and CYRM Readers Theater, courtesy of the local high school drama students), Arbor Day celebration, National Library Week presentation by We Tell Stories, Turn Off the TV Week (in partnership with the local elementary schools), Children's Book Week concert by the South Pasadena Strings, a local children's orchestra that just returned from winning gold at Carnegie Hall, and Spring into Shakespeare series.
- Last summer SOPAS added an Outreach Summer Reading component, providing the opportunity for daycare groups to participate. This summer the Outreach Summer Reading Program continues and we're adding a Summer Writing Camp, featuring hands-on writing workshops with local children's and teen authors.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.  
Submitted by Cassandra Stearns