A NEW RESOURCE FOR TEEN PROGRAMMING

Programming is a challenge; teen programming is even more of a challenge and with Covid-19 shuttering everyone's world, teen programming challenges are rocketing into the stratosphere. I have gone, once again and always, back to my most reliable resource for ideas—teens. I've asked them what would be helpful when—and however—school starts in the fall. They suggested audio-books for the required readings and study helpers. When I told them that it looked like no programming was going to be happening this year, they asked for other ways to share and communicate. So we are planning space to share ratings for all sorts of local and online things, writing notes to support each other and share concerns and maybe some voting for ... stuff.

The teens I talk to (well, email, message and chase on Instagram more than talk in person these days) are mostly part of the Ketchikan Public Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG)—though I am more than willing to listen to the opinions and ideas of any teen who passes my way. I like listening to them; I think I'm pretty good at it since I've been doing it for 13 years now as their Staff Liaison. I'm not the first to listen to teens, though. I know that for a fact because I was part of the Mesa Public Library's Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) back in the 1980s. Then I was the teen that
was being listened to.

Diane Tuccillo was the Young Adult Librarian and herder of teens at the MPL and has become a lifelong friend, adviser and hero. Before becoming a librarian she had been a high school drama director and coach, which may be the perfect lead-in to working with teens in the library!

She had also taught English, giving her that literary bent. She was always willing to listen and support (most of) our ideas, suggestions and opinions, and she has continued to give teens a voice in libraries through the years. She has written several books on the topic of teens and libraries including “Library Teen Advisory Groups” and “Teen-Centered Library Service: Putting Youth Participation into Practice.”

Knowing that I am the liaison for the Ketchikan Public Library’s Teen Advisory Group, she has kept me up to date on her activities with YALSA and her Teen Service Librarianship at the Poudre River Public Library in Colorado. We even created a webinar together for Web Junction called “Teaming Up With Teens.” So when she told me about her latest book, “Totally Tweens & Teens: Youth-Created and Youth-Led Library Programs,” I was delighted to share some of the top TAG programs with her.

Now I have the final product in hand and am thrilled to be a part of such a useful tool for teen programming. Not only has she collected a wide variety of programs created by and for teens, but she has also included information on why youth-led programs are so important, how to help programs get approval and funding, and how to evaluate the programs.

That last bit is actually something I’m not great with, I figure if they all make it out the door happy at the end, it is a triumph, but she has some great explanations on the importance of evaluation and straightforward ways to get the feedback. So, trust me, if after all these years I can get something new and useful from a teen programming book, you might consider taking a look yourself, especially if you hope to have successful teen programming.

Eventually we will get through the Covid mess (oh please, sooner rather than later) and get back to having folks in our building, in-person story times, and even teen programming.

If you are interested in letting them do at least a good chunk of the work so you can deal with other things on your list, consider letting the youth do the planning (and a good deal more!) or just get some new programming ideas in general and check out Diane’s latest. And if you do, don’t forget to look for TAG’s contributions. I, myself, am really looking forward to finding out what they come up with next. Good Reading!

Kelly Johnson
Office Manager and
T.A.G. Staff Liaison
Ketchikan Public Library

https://www.google.com/search?q=ketchikan+public+library&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjytMyr8Y7rAhXBI_TQIHRy_AKcQ_AUoA3oECBQ0Q&biw=929&bih=932

Completely terrifying; *You* gives the reader a glimpse into the mind of a stalker who truly believes he is doing nothing wrong. While none of the characters are particularly likeable, the reader is given a unique look at those who will do anything for what they think is love. Kepnes weaves a fascinating tale of obsession and control that leaves readers holding their breath, waiting to see what Joe might do next. Lock your doors and close your blinds; you never know who might be Out there.


Even though it's 15 years old and makes no mention of COVID-19, *The Monster at Our Door* is the best book about the pandemic. In fact, it's superior to anything that will be written. Davis does something mainstream American commentators are congenitally unable to do: He looks beyond the failures of a few "great men" with ostentatious titles, and finds the root cause of all recent pandemics in the capitalist mode of production.

For Davis, most pandemics arise during the age-old interaction between humans and animals. But it is only recently that production for profit has created an industrialized farming system that crowds together billions of animals in the most appalling conditions, doses them with antibiotics, then transports them around the world.

This creates the perfect situation for common animal viruses to quickly mutate into something deadly, capable of jumping to humans. Davis finds that even the ageless practice of eating wild animals has been made dangerous by production for profit, which forces peasants into crowded, dirty factory towns where supplanting one's diet with wild animals is the only way to survive.

Now stronger and more widespread than ever, some of these diseases inevitably jump to humans. Here again, Davis pillories
production for profit.

One of his examples: Vaccines aren't profitable, so they aren't researched. Instead, pharmaceutical companies invest in marketing and, above all else, medicines that can be sold for life to those people suffering the other consequences of industrialized food: diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

Finally, Davis pours cold water on the idea that with good leadership the state can lead the fight against pandemics.

He cites many examples of varied states acting in the same way: blaming national competitors for outbreaks, greatly prioritizing military over health spending, obscuring warning signs to protect profits of big corporations, and so on. That's just scratching the surface. There's a great deal more that will interest and horrify readers.

At first glance, The Book of Ebenezer Le Page is conventional. Edwards's title character recounts his life on the Channel Island of Guernsey from childhood to old age. What makes the work unusual is the slow, meandering, apparently aimless and almost cyclical first-person telling. This approach makes because Ebenezer is an aged man, simply recounting his life the best he can.

He repeatedly professes his own ignorance, has little formal education, and his longest proud memory is winning a ham at a fair. Yet there's more to Ebenezer. There are philosophical musings, moral lessons and mysteries in things Ebenezer's decorum will not permit him to recount. Above all, this is a character whose life, however mundane, can't help but fascinate the reader. William Golding said to read it is not like reading but living. I figure that is true.
It appears at first to be concerned with a zombie plague, but soon involves a hostile megachurch preacher, a potentially sinister artificial intelligence, white nationalists, and the collapse of civilization—all amid a deadly global pandemic.

It has an end-of-times feel like Justin Cronin’s *The Passage* or Stephen King's *The Stand*, but it moves along at the clip of a Dan Brown mystery.

Paul Adasiak  
Rasmuson Library  
University of Fairbanks

Alaskans think of themselves as Can-Do people. Our self-image is of bravery and self-reliance—people able to strike out on our own and deal with Come-What-May. It is strength that makes us what we are. But there is another way: the way of humility—perhaps the strongest attribute of all. Here are three books which show the principle of humility in the lives of some pretty amazing Alaskans.

Thoughts and Memories of an Old Eskimo. Alice Aliya Corpuz. Location and date of publication unlisted; probably self-published. ISBN probably unassigned. My copy is autographed.

This 20-verse collection of the author’s poetry is printed on nice antiqued yellow paper. The poetry isn't always well constructed, but the poet deals mostly with profound issues, and her insights are with unwavering honesty and deep wisdom.

As I write, I haven’t found any details about her or her life. Her village. Where she resides. Is she still living? Her purpose in writing. Did she write more poetry (I hope so). I do know that relatives still live in Alaska. She talks about fishing for bass. Does anyone know of any bass fishing in or near Alaska!?!
(Book Buzz -- Cont. from pg. 5)


Jennifer spent her youth and perhaps some of her older years hopelessly addicted to narcotics. She has been clean and sober for about a decade and is the moving force behind Freedom House, a Soldotna faith-based recovery residence for women.

She recently won a State volunteer award. She doesn’t minimize her struggle. She went through rehab several times. But she offers good, honest counsel about addiction and about life in general.


Peter John was born at Rampart about 1901. He lived in Minto throughout his life. He was Traditional First Chief of Interior Alaskan Athabaskans and instrumental in creating the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. He died at Minto at the age of 101 in 2002. This is an edited edition of his oral history sessions with Mr. Krupa. It is well worth reading and meditating on. Though he seems to reject most Western missionary efforts to convert his people, he discusses his own personal belief in Christianity, what it means to him and how it can help others. What comes across is integrity and deep, deep wisdom. I would like to have known this man.

Micah Muer
Information Literacy Librarian
Mat-Su College

(Cont. on pg. 7)
Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons, libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably tasteful, of appropriate length, “decently” well-written; author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include length, perhaps spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences... (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in Newspeak.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three AkLA members).

If the editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspeak Committee.
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<td><a href="mailto:lsterling@alaska.edu">lsterling@alaska.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
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