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Why I Love My TAB More This Year Than Last Year

by Sonja Somerville, Salem Public Library

I have always enjoyed the middle and high school students who volunteered to be a part of the Salem Public Library Teen Advisory Board. However, by spring of 2012 – with one year of teen librarianship under my belt – I realized I could not honestly articulate my own reason for having a TAB. If I was aimless, imagine how aimless the group was. And the meetings.

For better or worse, I decided that we were lacking was (a) a central purpose, (b) goals and (c) set membership. I made a proposal that became a plan. I put the TAB on hiatus for the summer and returned in the fall with a new model that limited the number of seats available on the TAB and, for the first time, set up an application and selection process to replace our open membership style with a closed, set group. Those selected had to commit to regular attendance,

respectful behavior, and active help with the goals.

In addition to the general goals of offering input and improving the Teen Scene, we set four specific goals:

- To organize and participate in periodic work nights to improve and promote the Teen Scene.
- To participate in at least three fundraising activities to support a specific project to improve the Teen Scene.
- For the Teen Scene members to take complete ownership of one annual teen program, from planning to preparation to hosting the event.
- To provide monthly reports about our activities to our official Library Advisory Board.

Current members had a variety of responses. Some

were relieved and eager to take on more responsibility. Some were angry and asked questions like, “You expect us to all of a sudden make this a priority?” A couple predicted that I wouldn’t have any TAB members because no one would want to actually be asked to DO things.

The angry ones were right about themselves. They did not return in the fall. But in the fall, I did receive a pile of applications which resulted in the selection of twelve committed TAB members. A couple of those didn’t last, but most are actively involved and going strong. We have just welcomed three new members to the group after our spring membership drive. Salem Public Library serves 6 high schools and 14 middle schools and I am pleased that as we develop this group, we are bringing together kids from across Salem to build relationships and work together.

Continued on Page 2.

Why I Love My TAB More This Year Than Last Year—Continued From Page 1



The TAB members have been a huge help this year. So far, they have:

- Turned out for multiple work nights to decorate, make a video, to take

photos, to set up displays. They did a particularly amazing job decorating the Teen Scene for the holidays.

- Staffed a concessions stand for three library events, earning money toward replacing the Teen Scene’s Xbox 360.
- Planned and executed a crazy fun Teen Survivor: Library Island program during spring break.
- Reported nearly every month to the Library Advisory Board, keeping the adults aware of their activities.

They have also become a coherent group that works together to brainstorm, bring ideas to the table, provide feedback, and generally make the Salem Public Library Teen Scene a better place.

More recently, it has finally gelled in my own mind that what am I doing is offering a leadership development program. When I look at it that way, it gives me an essential focus as well. I am very pleased with how the TAB has developed this year and I’m looking forward to seeing how we all can grow in 2013-2014.

TLC Interviews—Preparing Teens for Real-Life!
by Dawn Borgardt, Beaverton City Library

It’s not a new idea, and many of you probably already do this. I just started last year, so I want to add my two-cents to the conversation in favor of formalizing your Teen Library Council (or whatever you call it at your library). Last year, we instituted an application process in the month of July and interviewed every applicant. Interviews were short and we accepted everyone who interviewed – it’s not really a process of wedding out the unqualified as it is finding out who is really interested and committed. We only asked three questions during the interview, so each interview took

about 15 minutes. When you multiply that by 17 and add the time it took our Volunteer Manager to schedule the interviews, it does take a extra staff time. But the pay-off is so worth it! Several great things came out of the interviews:

- I got to meet each member one-on-one before the first official event.
- We got to go over expectations (meeting attendance, participation in program planning and execution) together, and that made it much easier to hold members to those



expectations as the school year progressed.

- Each member had the experience of going to an interview. For many, it was their first one! This is great practice for the world of jobs, scholarships, and college.
- The tone was set for the year—this was a group that was going to get things done!

And they did get things done. The TLC members at Beaverton were insanely productive this year,

planning lots of teen events, helping out with a building-wide energy audit, and helping with Children’s programs. I think it would have been a lot harder to do this without the solid framework we set in the interview process. This year, we’ll have open applications in July and interviews in early August again. Last year, I worried we wouldn’t get enough applicants. This year, I have the opposite worry – what will I do if there are too many?!

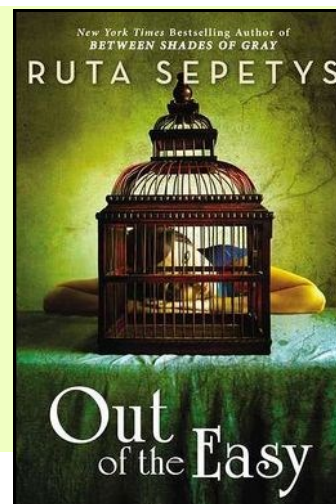
“Out of the Easy” by Ruta Sepetys—Review by Susan Smallsreed, Multnomah County Libraries

Josie, the daughter of a prostitute, lives in the "Easy" - the French Quarter of New Orleans in 1950. At 17, Josie dreams of getting out and away - from everyone who knows her mother, her friends and her past. But how?

She's saved every penny she's earned from cleaning the brothel every morning, working in the bookstore in the afternoon, and it's still only \$300. She'll never afford the college she's dreaming of. Then

a mysterious death in the French Quarter reminds us that decisions can shape our destiny. Life's never been easy for Josie. And it's about to get worse.

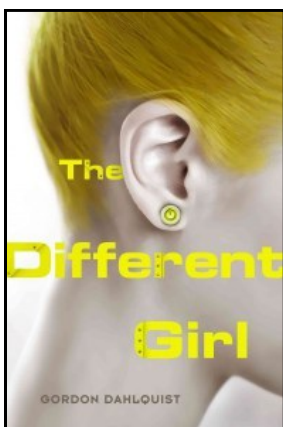
Add a strong, engaging heroine, a vibrant and seedy cast of characters, a noir romance and setting plus a mystery and what have you got? A captivating read from Ruta Sepetys, author of last year's hit, *Between Shades of Grey*. I couldn't put it down.



Cleaning brothels—a contender for the *Dirty Jobs* reality show?

“Different Girl” by Gordon Dalquist

A Review by Gayatri, Cedar Mill Teen



Feel a twist coming?

Different Girl by Gordon Dalquist tells the science fiction story of Veronika and 3 other girls who all live together on an island. They have two adults who take care of them, Isobel and Robert. As the book goes along, you can tell that there is something very different about the 4 girls even though they seem to lead a regular life, they take a walk in the morning, help with lunch and go to school. Later on, a girl named Mary washes ashore on the island, the lone survivor of a

recent shipwreck. Mary's arrival spurs the girls to question who they are and why they are on the island.

Personally, I didn't really like this book, but it was interesting to read and put together the pieces for myself. Because of this, I think it's well written in that sense, but it was boring for me. This book is appropriate for pretty much anyone in middle or high school and it seems like it is the first in a series.

OYAN RAFFLE WINNERS - Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased tickets!

- **Astoria Package:** Mary Lynn Thomas, Newberg Library
- **Sylvia Beach:** Bill Baars, Lake Oswego Public Library
- **Portland Center Stage:** Laura Zeigen, Oregon Health & Science University
- **Literary Arts:** Sara Thompson, Oregon State University/Cascades Campus Library
- **Oregon Symphony:** Maureen Cole, Oregon City Public Library
- **Oregon Shakespeare Festival:** Abbie Anderson, North Bend Public Library
- **Portland Taiko:** Su Liudahl, Lane Library District
- **Hand Made Treasures Package:** Greg Williams, West Linn Public Library
- **Felt Scarves:** Janis Mohr-Tipton, Jackson Co. Library Services & Carrie Ottow, Corvallis Benton County Public Library
- **Dagoba Chocolates:** Ed Gallagher, Albany Public Library
- **McMenamins gift cards:** Penny Hummel, Canby Public Library & Margaret Harmon Myers, Eugene Public Library
- **High Desert Museum:** Candace Morgan
- **Disaster Relief Basket:** Pam North, Sherwood Public Library
- **Blank Journal Package:** Rick Stoddart, Oregon State University Libraries
- **Stash Tea Gift Card:** Lori Moore, Multnomah County Library/Belmont
- **Portland Japanese Garden:** Jenna Scott, Multnomah County Library/Sellwood-Moreland

“Gorgeous” by Paul Rudnick—A Review and Book Talk from Alice MacGougan, Newport Public Library

The Details

336 pages; published April 2013 by Scholastic Press.

The Low-Down

Recent high school grad Becky Randall's life is upended when her much beloved (and morbidly obese) mother dies in their trailer in East Trawley, Missouri.

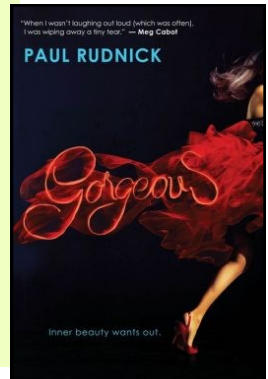
Once she answers a hidden cell phone ringing to her mother's favorite song, she begins her journey to gorgeous and back with the help of the formerly reclusive Tom Kelly, fashion designer extraordinaire.

Review

Rudnick's first foray into young adult fiction is an impressive feat. His protagonist's narrative voice tugs on the heartstrings even as it has us laughing hysterically with its (often colorful) language. Filled with haute couture, movie stars, royalty, and all the accompanying trappings of high living, this book is escapism at its best while not totally lacking in substance. Although the story has some slow parts and extraneous details (especially in the first few chapters), readers will be rewarded by sticking with Becky to the end of her tale.

Booktalk

Becky Randall thinks she knew her mother. She was a quiet, kind woman who had a penchant for pop music, cheesy movies, and fashion magazines. When she dies, Becky discovers that her mother was actually once a world-famous supermodel and now it's Becky's turn. Swept off to New York City by the mysterious fashion guru who made her mom famous, Becky is magically transformed into the most beautiful woman in the world. Featuring an endearing cast of characters, Becky's adventures in modeling, moviemaking, world travel, and fairy tale romance make for entertaining reading in this funny and fabulous new novel.



Inner beauty wants out...
But where does it go?

“The Cloak Society” by Jeremy Kraatz

A Review by Steven, Cedar Mill Teen

The Cloak Society by Jeramey Kraatz is an amazing and exciting book. It's about a young boy named Alex Knight, who has telekinetic powers and spends his life learning to fight and harness his power. Superhero, you say? He fights them. Alex is part of the Cloak Society, an elite and awesome group of supervillains.

This book turns things upside down, because the heroes

are the villains and the villains are the heroes. You start to think, maybe all those villains you've read about are actually the good guys. Who's to say who is good vs. who is bad? Is it the person who say they are right, or is it who is cleverer with his words?

Alex goes on a mission with his peers, the Beta team. While carrying out the mission, he unconsciously saves the life of a young Ranger of

Justice, an enemy. In doing so, he starts a chain reaction that will change his life forever.

I love this book because it is full of action and is somewhat realistic. Alex is just like a regular teen trying to find his place in the world even if he does have superpowers. This book is for ages 10 and up and especially people who like fantasy and superheroes (or villains).



Man, I wanted to be a superhero...

“Your modern teenager is not about to listen to advice from an old person, defined as a person who remembers when there was no Velcro.”

-Dave Barry

"I have my mind, and a mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone. That is why I read so much."



OYAN: Finding great reads for Oregon teens!

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Spring Membership Meeting

The Dalles-Wasco County Library
 722 Court St.
 The Dalles, OR 97058
 541-296-2815

Upcoming Meetings

Spring 2013	May 10 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.	The Dalles-Wasco County Library 722 Court St. The Dalles, OR 97058 541-296-2815
Summer 2013	July 12, 2013 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Eugene Public Library 100 West 10th Avenue Eugene, OR 97401 541-682-5450
Fall 2013		

OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries.

Visit us online at <http://tinyurl.com/8mzjq5n>.