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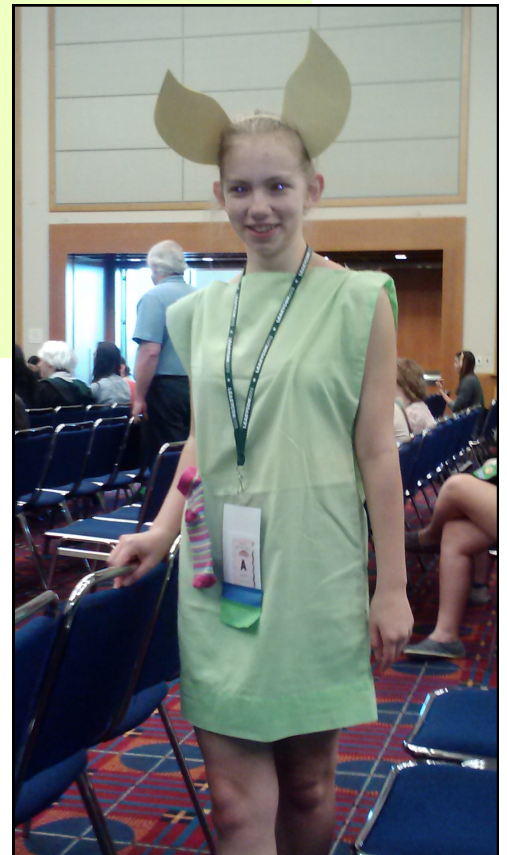
LeakyCon 2013

by Susan Smallsreed, Multnomah County Library District

Last September, when LeakyCon announced that it would be held in Portland, I decided to attend. I considered it my professional “duty” to immerse myself in youth culture in order to better relate to teens in the community. And it was an opportunity to see and hear some great YA authors during the LeakyLit program track. It was *not* because I am fan of Harry Potter (wink, wink).

For those of you that don't know, LeakyCon started as an international fan gathering for Harry Potter. It has now morphed into a giant fantasy, YouTube, Glee, Broadway musical and nerdfighter fandom fest. Just observing the energy and commitment of 5,000 fans (including several other OYAN members) was worth the time and money. But there were many other highlights. Watching authors literally roll on the floor, share their teenage writing, and not take themselves too seriously was a treat; Seeing amazing costumes was impressive; Buying a new mascot for the teen council (Dobie); and best of all, seeing 5,000 nerds gathered in one place reveling in their nerdiness was refreshing.

The LeakyLit track was organized by Maureen Johnson and Robin



Does anyone have a sock for Dobbie?

Wasserman, both of whom were fun and irreverent. They recruited David Levithan, Maggie Stiefvater, E. Lockhart, Matt de la Pena, Barry Lyga, Rainbow Rowell, Stephanie Perkins, Laini Taylor, Amber Benson, Anthony Rapp, Coe Booth, Rebecca Carlson,



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Leigh Bardugo, and Lev Grossman. I can only imagine what Maureen and Robin had on these guys to get them to participate.

Another thing I learned as exhaustion set in, was that young people don't need breaks. The workshops were non-stop from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. And then there were the wizard rock concerts. I have it on good authority that the concerts were AWESOME! But, I must be getting old—I left about 30 minutes into the first set of a young woman singing sad Harry Potter songs.

Some of the workshops I attended:

"Authors Acting Badly (*except for Amber and Anthony)"—David Levithan, Amber Benson, Anthony Rapp (of *Rent* fame), Rainbow Rowell, and E. (as in Emily) Lockhart. Very bad, but hilarious reader's theater, the first piece made up from first lines of fantasy fiction. This was followed by a couple of bastardized scenes from books I don't remember.

"Is YA Lit 'Literature'?"—Robin W., David Levithan, Coe Booth, E. Lockhart, Lev Grossman, Laini Taylor. YA literature has a reputation among authors as not being "serious writing" and yet it's the fastest growing segment of publishing, over half of which is purchased by adults. This was a fascinating discussion of what is 'literature' and should YA writing



Hangin' with the archnemesis



Large crowd patiently waiting for a nerd fix.

can be considered in this category? The answer, of course, was yes, the best of YA writing is literature.

"The Lying Game"—Was a mash-up of "two truths and a lie" and "20 questions." Each author was given an envelope with a statement about her/him that was either true or false. Regardless of

its veracity, the author had to defend the statement as a truth when questioned by the opposing team who then decided if it was true or not. Unfortunately, the team of E. Lockhart, Lev Grossman, Stephanie Perkins, and Maggie Stiefvater lost to Rainbow Rowell, Barry Lyga, David Levithan and the hilarious Leigh Bardugo. Man, can these folks LIE...which you'd expect since they do it for a living. Who knew Maggie Stiefvater played seven instruments...but not the accordion?

"I was a Teenage Writer"—E. Lockhart, Barry Lyga, Maggie Stiefvater, Laini Taylor, and Leigh Bardugo read samples of some of their first written works. Boy were they BAD. Thank gods each of the authors improved with age!

"The Author House Cup Tournament!"—The piece de resistance of the LeakyLit track at which YA authors battle for the honor of a Hogwarts house! The authors were split into four teams of 3 and given four 'challenges' that writers face. I can only remember three of them:

- *The Pit of Procrastination*—in which they struggled to "write" at least 10,000 words per day.
- *The Deadline Dilemma*—in which they had to 'edit' their manuscript and tunnel through the challenge of meeting their deadline; and finally,
- *The Machine of Unpredicatability*—in which each

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hoped to receive good reviews, best seller accolades and movie options.

This was an absolutely riot of screaming audience members and running authors. All I can say is that it was refreshing to see other grownups publicly humiliate themselves like I do!

The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones—Sony Pictures chose LeakyCon as the site of the first public screening of the trailer and footage for the soon to be released movie version of Cassandra Clare’s best seller. Sandwiched in between was a taped interview with Clare. Mark your calendars for August 21. It actually looks good!

The last thing I attended was the ***Esther Earl Charity Ball***. Arriving a bit late, I found everybody still patiently waiting in massive lines for the doors to the mainstage to open. This is when I realized what a lovely group of conventioners we were. We were happy to sit/stand in line, chat, play trivia and card games, snack and people watch. I was reminded of my younger years at rock concerts – and impressed that this group did it without the drugs. Go Nerds, Go!

If you haven’t already, when given the opportunity, attend a fan convention. It’s fun, exhausting and an experience everyone should have.



Beautiful hawk



Created with a puppet stage and a bunch of props.

Super fun!!

- Submitted by April Witteveen, Community Librarian, Deschutes Public Library District

Photo Booth at the 2nd Annual Teen Lock In at the Downtown Bend Library



Lawn Party in Beaverton!

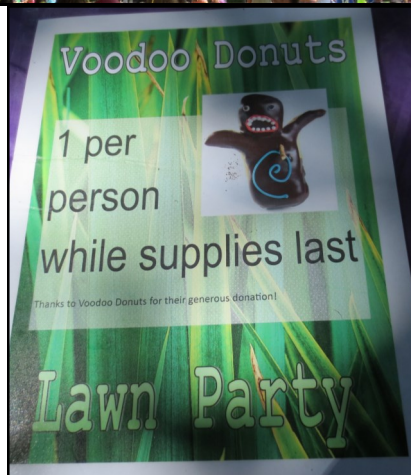
by Ian Duncanson, Beaverton City Library

We decided to kick off our Teen Summer Reading 2013 prize pick-up with our first ever lawn party! The Beaverton City Library is fortunate to have a large, well-manicured front lawn and a huge tree. In other summers, we've done tie-dye programs on the lawn, but we had never had a larger-scale event on the lawn. July 8 was our first day of summer reading prize pick-up, so we chose July 9 because the scheduling worked out better for both of us. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful, but we also had the meeting rooms reserved in case of bad weather.

The lawn party had several different areas – a station where teens could redeem their summer reading logs and pick their free book or Powell's gift card, a refreshments station with water and donuts donated generously by Voodoo Donuts, a tie-dye station, and lawn games, including beanbag toss and retro classics like "Red Light, Green Light." We got around the lack of WiFi outside the library by printing the list of summer reading registrants and checking them off to complete in the computer later as they turned in their reading logs.

Needless to say, the donuts, complete with the requisite weird Voodoo toppings, including Fruit Loops, Cocoa

Puffs, and bubble gum on top were an enormous hit and went within the first ten minutes of the program. We had three dozen, but I wished I had asked for four or five dozen!



In the past, we've done traditional tie-dyeing via craft store kits. While this worked well and was popular with the teens, it was very messy, even for a lawn program. For the lawn party event, we went an alternate route and used sharpies and rubbing alcohol to tie-dye. Not only was this cheaper and less messy, the designs still looked cool! Teens brought their own white T-shirts, and we provided the sharpies, rubbing alcohol, and cups. It's a

simple method—you draw a design on an area of the T-Shirt, then put the design half of the shirt over a cup and saturate it with rubbing alcohol to get the tie-dye effect. Instructions can be

found at <http://blog.sharpie.com/tag/tie-dye/>. The tie-dyeing proved to be our most popular station on the lawn, and the sharpie method worked great!

During the school year, we had held a 'retro nostalgia' night filled with '90s pop culture goodness that the

teens would remember from their childhood. One of the most popular parts of that event included playing games like "Duck Duck Goose" and "Red Light, Green Light," so we brought this back for the lawn party. The teens were so preoccupied with tie-dyeing that it was harder to get rounds started, but there were several people playing a rollicking game of "Red Light, Green Light." These games can be great additions to your library teen programs because everyone already knows how to play them, and they cost nothing and require no prep. Think teens are too cool to play? You'd be surprised! The most popular game on the lawn was by far the beanbag toss, which Dawn brought in from home; the older teens in particular really got into tossing the beanbags and keeping score, and the game continued through much of the lawn party.

Lawn Party in Beaverton—Continues from Page 4

We consider the BCL’s 2013 Teen Summer Reading Lawn Party to be a smashing success, and we plan to repeat the event next year. I will definitely ask for a slightly larger donut donation, and I think that incorporating more lawn games with physical pieces like Croquet or Bocce Ball would be great. We had 128 teens attend, which was our biggest summer event turnout since the breakdance program!



Tye-dyeing with Sharpies and rubbing alcohol at the Beaverton Lawn Party!

“Rapture Practice” by Aaron Hartzler—A Review from Sonja Somerville, Salem Public Library (www.myssr.wordpress.com)

The Facts

400 pages; published April 2013

The Basics

Aaron Hartzler was brought up in a Baptist family so strict that other Baptists seemed radically permissive by comparison. Wishing to be obedient, but desperate to be true to himself, Aaron struggles to keep his place in his family while spreading his wings.

Review

What made this book striking to read was that throughout the stories of Aaron’s wayward youth, he clearly

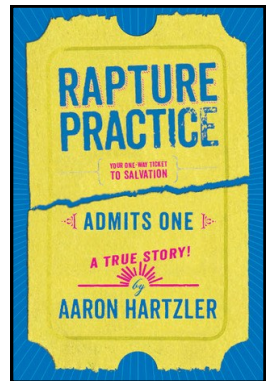
loves and even admires his family and their singular devotion to religion. However, he doesn’t share it. He chafes painfully under the oppressive rules of his unusually strict household. He can’t see movies. There’s no TV. No listening to any station other than 88.5 KLJC, Kansas City’s home for “beautiful, sacred music.” It’s a religious view that forgives serial killers, as long as they confess their sins and open their hearts to Jesus, but condemns the two men holding hands while they watch a gay pride parade – two men who kind of look like Aaron.

He never expresses hatred for his family, but he does talk about plenty of confusion and frustration. He constantly disappoints his parents because all the rules, all the restrictions just plain don’t make any sense to him. He just cannot live inside the box they’ve created.

So, he challenges the rules and sneaks out of bounds again and again. The stories as he tells them are equal parts hilarious and heart-rending.

Random Thoughts

This story will intrigue some people because it is so different from their own families. It will move others because it reminds them so much of theirs.



The true story of a boy chafing under the oppression of his devout family.

“Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labeled ‘This could change your life’.” - Helen Exley



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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>.

Summer Membership Meeting

Eugene Public Library
100 West 10th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-5450

Upcoming Meetings

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 Workshop 2013	October 25, 2013 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Beaverton Public Library 12375 SW 5th St Beaverton (503) 644-2197
Fall 2013	October 23, 2013 1-4 p.m.	Beaverton Public Library 12375 SW 5th St Beaverton (503) 644-2197