

# Oyan Review

Spring 2019

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## Save the Date: 2019 Summer Reading Summit on September 28

Get ready to be inspired, re-energized, and committed to Summer Reading in your own libraries! Head to Salem Public Library on September 28 (the last Saturday of September, the day the Performer's Showcase is typically held every other year) to celebrate all things summer and learn more about how to support our kids' reading!

This event will be FREE and open to any public library staff in Oregon. For libraries sending staff from more than 50 miles away, Friday and Saturday night lodging will be available for up to two staff members from each library on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration opens July 1.

Questions? Ideas? Want to join the Planning Committee or know more about how you can share your summer reading knowledge? Email or call Greta: [greta.bergquist@state.or.us](mailto:greta.bergquist@state.or.us) or 503-378-2528.

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*The 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.*

# Goblins in the Library!

Bridget Rogers and Dillon Peck, Salem Public Library



**L**y sister and I were taught to play Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) by my father when we were in elementary school. Two little girls faced vampires, pirates, solved puzzles, leveled up, and braved the unknown. The benefits of Dungeons and Dragons are numerous: it is a practice in imagination, math, teamwork, leadership, and creative problem solving. I was lucky enough to attend a middle

school that had a Dungeons and Dragons club after school. I found community there and continued to find community in this game as an adult. I will never forget the characters and campaigns we lived, and we wanted to share this joy with the patrons of Salem Public Library. Creatively engaging in a world of imagination, applying knowledge to unexpected situations, and keeping organized resources right at your fingertips are things libraries encourage already, so tabletop roleplaying games seemed like a natural fit. In a place filled with stories, Dungeons and Dragons makes opportunities to create even more.

Last March, we hosted the first of hopefully many tabletop role playing game programs for teens at the Salem Public Library. The goal was for every teen to leave with enough knowledge to embark on their own adventures (with the dice they'd need in hand). We knew that, for some, this would be the beginning of a grand, life-long adventure into tabletop role-playing games, while for others it may only be a fun day at the library, but we thought it was worth a trial run.

D&D has benefited from the rise of the internet, incubating an online community of gamers who offer many resources for free, and we took advantage of it. We used a freely available pre-written campaign called [The Burning Goblins](#) as a starting point for our thirteen intrepid adventurers. After a short presentation explaining what tabletop role playing games are, their benefits, and the different tabletop role playing games available for them to play we then split the players into two groups: those who wanted to take the role of "Dungeon Master" - who essentially lead the game - and those who wanted to play as individual characters.

D&D character creation proved to be more of a programming challenge than

expected. With all the guides, charts, and specialization options in the hands of excited teens with just three staff members to assist, it was less organized and took longer than anticipated. With patience and collaboration, eventually all of our teens ended up making characters they were enthused to play. After a short pep-talk and an overview of the role of the DM and the basic rules, our brave Dungeon Masters were ready to play too. Three groups jumped right in and started playing.

One of the best parts of games like D&D is the way they embrace character's weaknesses, exemplifying ways to celebrate difference and rely on friends for help. One of our teenage girls ended up creating a character that had an extremely low strength, but she played her character eagerly; she said her gnome wizard was much like her, "short but with a mighty mind." Creating characters in groups showed them that they all had flaws, but as a group they could conquer the darkest of dungeons. The scene was heartening; one group of experienced, older teens helped their 12 year old dungeon master as he drew the goblin caves on a grid map; a group of girls were naturals, plunging into adventure with boundless enthusiasm and courage; a group of squirrely boys offered the most unique, raucously creative encounter yet. As the time grew short, the energetic concentration

skyrocketed and everyone was "in the zone."

So, did the participants learn? Did they have fun? For our program, we can answer with an enthusiastic "yes." The teens left laughing, having made new friends, encouraged others, and learned something new and exciting. A few teens even made plans right then to continue playing the campaign that very weekend. We could see community being built right before our eyes.

Everyone who's played D&D remembers their first session, and hopefully all of our teens will continue to turn to our library to progress in their adventures; in goblin populated caves, in tall magically fortified towers atop mystic mountains, in the darkest of forests, and on the stormiest of seas, in Dungeons and Dragons and wherever in this world their adventure leads.



# Congratulations to OYEA Winner Danielle Jones

OYAN's You're Excellent Award is given every year to an individual, library, organization, program, or initiative that has made a positive and significant contribution to teens in libraries in the state of Oregon. This year's winner is Danielle Jones of Multnomah County Library's Hollywood Branch!

Danielle was recommended by colleagues at Multnomah County, the librarian at Grant High School, with whom she collaborates frequently, and teens from her library.

Ella, a Teen Council volunteer, said, "She has never failed to be a source of support and kindness when I had none, and it's hard to put into words how much that support meant to me during some of the toughest periods of my life. I can say without a doubt that I would not be the person I am today without Teen Council, and by extension, Danielle. [...] For the past five, almost six years, my life has been through many transitions, and Danielle has supported each and every one of them unconditionally. I could thank her forever for that."

Another Teen Council volunteer and summer intern, Hannah, said, "Danielle is one of the most supportive and kindest adult that I know and always makes everyone (as far as I know) feel welcome in the spaces she is in. She always makes sure that new people at teen council or tween DIY get introduced to everyone in



the room, but beyond that, she makes sure that spaces are welcoming and inviting for as many people as possible by making sure we share pronouns along with names and making sure our meeting spaces are physically accessible, along with other things. But beyond making spaces inclusive, Danielle really cares about all of the teens that she interacts with. Every time I talk to her, I feel like she really cares about how I am and how I am doing. She was pretty much the first adult I came out to as non-binary, and she has been incredibly supportive, even when other people have forgotten or not bothered to try. She creates a space that feels welcoming and accepting and that means so much to me."

Congratulations, Danielle!

# Deschutes Public Library's Youth Lit Fest

April Witteveen, Deschutes Public Library

Do you love giant task lists, the thrill of communicating with authors (or their agents), and connecting your community with amazing, creative talent? If you answered yes to all of these, then you may be ready to try a literary festival!

Deschutes Public Library (DPL) held our [Youth Lit Fest](#) on April 6, 2019. Hosted at a local high school, we had a slate of seven authors and one speaker with a professional publishing background. From 9:30am-4pm we offered thirteen sessions of interest to youth, teens, and adults (parents, authors, teachers.) We saw approximately 275 attendees at the fest, with many staying for the entire day while others came and went as sessions appealed to them. We consider this a huge success, especially in a town where weekend events are in no short supply and outdoor activities often rule residents' free time.

A bit of history: DPL had run a yearly teen author visit program



for approximately 12 years. We brought in recognizable authors and toured them across as many schools as we could fit into two to three days, sometimes offering an evening session open to the public.

**While this type of programming gave us significant attendance numbers, we felt that the outcomes of the author visits weren't as strong as we'd like**

While this type of programming gave us significant attendance numbers, we felt that the outcomes of the author visits weren't as strong as we'd like to see, especially for those youth and teens who really want to dig deeper into writing and publishing. In 2015 I proposed using our earmarked author visit budget for a single day teen lit



festival, which was then held in April 2016. Attendance for this event was a bit smaller than anticipated, so while we decided to keep the festival approach it would morph into an all-youth event instead of focusing solely on teens, with the hopes of arriving at an attendance goal of 250 (hooray, we did it!).

Working with administration, we organized a savings plan to arrive at our \$15,000 budget over the course of two years. The majority of our funding came from our library Friends and the DPL Foundation. Once money had been secured, we started our hunt for authors. My manager, Heather McNeil, had served on the Caldecott committee that awarded Matthew Cordell for *Wolf in the Snow*, so she immediately reached out to see about his interest and availability. Matthew was in! Bringing in a great picture book author was key to reaching our younger audience; it was a delight to see him interact with this age group.

We continued to search for authors we could accommodate with our budget, which meant focusing on the West Coast. In the end, we flew out Cordell as well as Jaime Wong, formerly of Chronicle Books, while our remaining authors drove in from Oregon and Washington. We loved that Dan Gemeinhart and Katherine Roy traveled with their families, wrapping a little Central Oregon vacation into their time with us. We were able to feature local authors Amber Keyser and Catherine Alene, with Fonda Lee heading over from Portland. Last but certainly not least, Jason Reynolds flew through the internet tubes to join us via Skype (a great option for a high-ticket author who we couldn't have afforded otherwise.)

The details, oh the details! Contracts, facilities, volunteers, food, swag and giveaways, session themes, marketing – we were busy bees with an action form of four or so pages to prove it! Our planning committee included our district





media specialist, Christie Boen, who was instrumental in working out all our needs at the high school. If you host a fest in a location other than your own library, you'll need an insider! A few days ahead of the fest we had our last meeting, knowing we had done our best and now, it was go time.

The big day arrived, and we actually considered ourselves lucky it was a cold and rainy Saturday – a higher likelihood that our attendees would choose us over a hike or bike ride. We set up a greenroom for the authors in a student lounge so they could have a retreat throughout the day, complete with snacks, coffee, sandwiches, and gift bags. It was so neat to see the authors chatting in a circle, sharing notes from the trenches. Everything went off without a hitch: technology had been tested and worked properly, attendees buzzed about sessions in the hallway, and authors let us know they were having a great time. We closed out the day with book sales from local indie store Roundabout Books, and the cute Bontá Gelato food truck parked out front where attendees and volunteers turned in a ticket for a free scoop.

You can check out some photos from the day [at DPL's Flickr stream](#). We currently have a survey out gathering feedback from those who attended, and the comments thus far have been overwhelmingly positive. Our gears are already turning for the next fest! If you'd like further info on how we did it, feel free to drop me a line: [aprilw@deschuteslibrary.org](mailto:aprilw@deschuteslibrary.org).

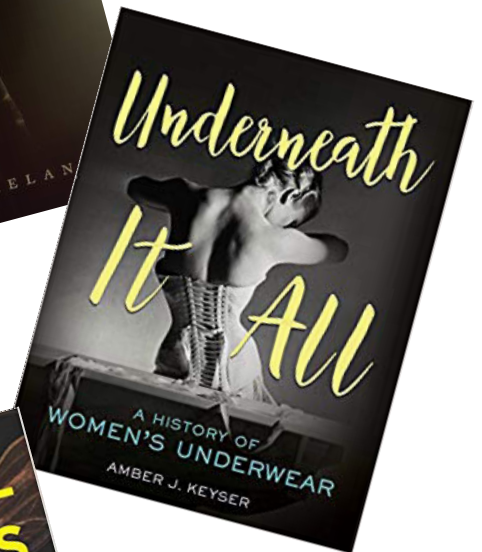
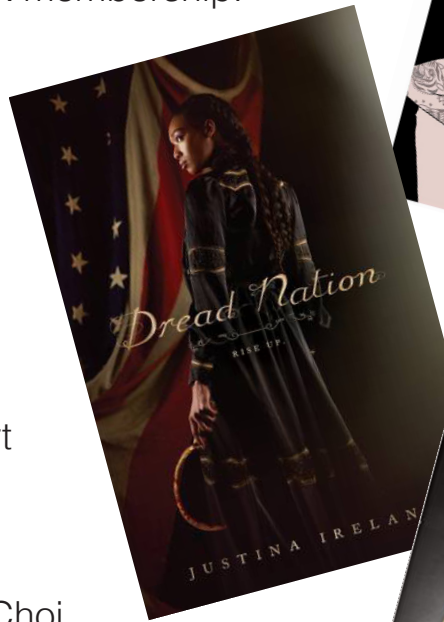
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# 2019 Book Rave Titles Announced

Every year, OYAN members choose their favorite novels for teens from the past two years. Nominations depend upon what the nominator thinks teens in Oregon will like to read or have been reading with enthusiasm, and the final list is created based on a vote of the OYAN membership.

The votes have been counted; here are this year's winners!

- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *What If It's Us* by Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera
- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi
- *The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert
- *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander
- *Munmun* by Jesse Andrews
- *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black
- *Emergency Contact* by Mary HK Choi
- *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor
- *Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland
- *Truly Devious* by Maureen Johnson
- *Underneath It All: A History of Women's Underwear* by Amber J. Keyser
- *Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram
- *Sawkill Girls* by Claire Legrand
- *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi
- *Blood Water Paint* by Joy McCullough
- *Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* by Elizabeth Partridge
- *For Every One* by Jason Reynolds
- *This Mortal Coil* by Emily Suvada
- *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Pride* by Ibi Zoboi





# Why Alex Gino Is Just the Best

Keli Yeats, Multnomah County Library, Rockwood Branch

Author events aren't usually a big draw, especially ones that target youth. That's why, when I was contacted about the opportunity to host Alex Gino, author of *George and You Don't Know Know Everything*, Jilly P., I was excited but hesitant. I knew that since *George* was one of the titles for Oregon Battle of the Books and the ensuing controversy that there would be some interest. I figured that I could work with a nearby youth LGBTQ+ organization and reach out to the Gender/Straight Alliances at the nearby high schools and that would guarantee some turnout. I contacted one organization I have worked with closely to see if they would be interested in bringing some of their youth. They showed some interest so, with one partner in hand, I decided to go ahead and host the event.

During their tour of the Portland area, Alex Gino had made several appearances before the one at my branch. I was really nervous when I heard that 250 people showed up to the event in Canby. But

there were some local politics involved which undoubtedly affected attendance. We were the third event in the Multnomah County Library system. I saw that the event was being promoted heavily by the system, and I realized that Alex Gino would be a bigger draw than most authors. I was hoping for a turnout of around 40 people. I mean, the event at the Central Library only drew in a crowd of 50. And we were the last out of at least five events in the area in as many days.

On the day of the event, my Teen Council helped me set up our large meeting room. We had a few chairs for the adults, and kids could sit on the floor. Our meeting room can accommodate 35 people with furniture, but we could squish in a few more. We just wouldn't tell the Fire Marshall. As the event was set to take place during dinner, I thought it would be nice to provide some food. I purchased enough pizza for 50 participants, thinking that would be more than enough. The branch is in East County and most people don't come out this far. Most of our regular patrons live



within a short distance of the branch. We have hosted some amazing programs that have had little to no turnout. A large number of teen events are only attended by youth who are too polite to say no when I recruit them for a program that has already started. Even our storytimes don't always have regular attendance. It's just the nature of the neighborhood. Like I said, 40 attendees would be an amazing turnout.

Forty minutes before the event was scheduled to start, a father showed up with his sons asking if we were handing out tickets. I told him not to worry. I highly doubted we would have to turn people away. When we opened the door, people started coming in. And they kept coming in. And they still kept coming. And then a middle school showed up with a bus. Commence low level panic. It was clear that we would have to move the event out on to the main floor of the branch. But where? Our footprint is less than 6,000 square feet not counting the Makerspace. We can barely find the space to house our collection, much less the 100 people who turned out

After much discussion, we decided to move Alex Gino to a spot near the service

desk. Attendees filled up all the available space within view. They were sitting at the computers. They were leaning on the stacks. They were peering over the shelves in the children's area. And, as the evening progressed, more folks joined the crowd. Patrons who expected normal branch services were simply out of luck.

When Gino came out, though, it was all worth it. They were patient with all of our desperate scrambling, which included a sound system that wouldn't work. They were warm and kind with an overwhelming audience in a tiny space. They answered every question thoughtfully and thoroughly and gave the asker their full attention. When a parent asked for guidance on how to support their trans teen, they were kind yet firm on what a young person needs. They were candid on their own experience and how much it hurts when a trusted adult doesn't support them in the way they need. Gino clearly takes their role as a trans spokesperson seriously. They made this huge event feel intimate and safe.

The main thing that I was impressed with was their kindness. Despite the emotional labor of their work, they took the time

**Gino clearly takes their role as a trans spokesperson seriously. They made this huge event feel intimate and safe.**

to make each person feel welcomed and cared for. As we were preparing for the event, I had one youth in who really struggled with the idea of a non-binary person. But, at the end of the evening, I saw him in line to get his book signed.

We have never had an event this successful, both in size and in impact. It was clearly meaningful for the attendees, which were a mix of younger youth who had read the book and older youth who were exploring their gender identity.

I didn't hear from a single person who was dissatisfied with the event. I never imagined that this event would be half as successful as it was. I am glad to have been a part of it.



*Alex Gino provides sign language interpreters at all their events*

## OYAN is on Social Media!

### Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/3611201-oyan-oregon-young-adult-network>

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/oyanfans/>

### OYAN Blog

<https://oyanpeeps.wordpress.com>

## Upcoming Meetings

### Spring 2019

Friday, May 3  
11AM to 3PM  
@ Josephine CL

### Summer 2019

Friday, July 19  
11AM to 3PM  
@ Pendleton PL

### Fall 2019 Summer Reading Summit

Saturday, September 28  
Time TBD  
@ Salem PL

## Announcements

### OYAN Raffle Raises Over \$2,000

This year's OYAN raffle raised over \$2,000. This is OYAN's major source of income, and it supports everything OYAN does, including membership meetings and workshops, the Mock Printz event, events at conferences like OLA, the OYEA Award, CSLP support, and OYAN's scholarships.

### YALSA's Future Ready Grant Applications Open Through 5/19

Small, rural, and tribal libraries interested in building college and career readiness programs for middle schoolers are encouraged to apply to the fourth cohort of YALSA's Future Ready With the Library initiative. Details at <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2019/04/03/future-ready-with-the-library-cohort-4-apply-now/>.

## Your OYAN Executive Board

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