

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CONFERENCE 2008

Keynote Presentation (9:00-10:00 a.m.)

### ***Understanding and Managing Generational Differences***

Greg Anderson, President of Strategic Government Resources, Inc.

Today, more than ever, libraries employ and serve a wide range of generations. Understanding generational information is critical to blending generations in a way that will work for and not against us. Greg Anderson will kick off the conference by reviewing some generational identities and explaining how to use that information in working with colleagues, customers and supporters.

*Greg Anderson, President of Strategic Government Resources, Inc., has 20 years of experience training, coaching, managing and working with non-profit and for-profit agencies. He has a passion for helping people maximize their potential in all areas of life and has trained accordingly. He has authored two educational curriculums for teens, facilitated in-service training for private and public school systems, lectured at the collegiate level and trained local and state government employees on many topics.*

### **Children's Track**

#### **Have Fun with Puppets (10:15-11:00 a.m.)**

A review of basic puppetry skills, this session will spotlight various ways to use puppets when working with children. It will also include a demonstration of how to manipulate several different types of puppets and an opportunity to practice the skills.

*Elizabeth Beamon, Youth Services at Southlake Public Library, is an accomplished puppeteer, an award-winning storyteller with over 15 years of storytelling experience and a lifetime member of the Texas Storytelling Association.*

#### **Listening to Today's Youngest Generation (11:15 a.m.-noon)**

We are at a unique place in our culture because our youngest generation, Millennials, are now having children of their own. While some refer to the youngest of the young as "The We Generation" others struggle to find out exactly what to call them. What exactly do we know about them, and what strategies will successful public sector organizations put in place to make sure they remain engaged? Please come to this session prepared to share strategies that are working for you personally as we engage in a brainstorming activity to determine what we are hearing as we listen to today's youngest generation!

*Greg Anderson, President of Strategic Government Resources, Inc.*

#### **Running a Storytelling Club for Grades 4-6 (1:30-2:15 p.m.)**

Knowing the importance of your own stories, that no one can tell those stories like you can and how to share them is empowering. Retired teacher and principal Waynetta Ausmus knows first-hand the power of a story and how it can entertain and inspire and connect. She has used that knowledge and her own storytelling skills to bring children together and empower them to recognize their own stories and to hone their own storytelling skills and will help you do the same.

*While growing up in Pawhuska and Bartlesville, OK, Waynetta Ausmus heard stories galore: Cherokee stories from Mama and Grandma, horse stories from Grandpa Stephens and her horse trainer Mr. Miller, and family stories from her dad. It was natural, then, that she should start telling stories herself, at a very early age... some true, some tall tale and some just a little bit embellished. When she isn't at home on The Lucky Me Ranch, with her husband Marvin and all of their horses, Longhorns, Nigerian Dwarf goats, guineas, silky chickens, dogs and cats and various other critters,*

*she travels about telling stories and interviewing folks. From time to time, she and Marvin even host Cowboy gatherings at their ranch!*

**Yes, You TOO Can Tell Stories** (2:30-3:15 p.m.)

Come hear stories that you can tell and learn different techniques to enhance the stories and make them your own. Everyone wants to hear a "good" story, and YOU can be the next teller!  
*Elizabeth Beamon, Youth Services at Southlake Public Library*

## **'Tweens & Teens Track**

**Electronic & Video Gaming Tournaments** (10:15-11:00 a.m. and 2:30-3:15 p.m.)

School Library Journal calls it, "The hottest trend in school and public libraries." Teens have called it, "fun", "cool" and "the source of all über-pwnage!" (which is a good thing, believe it or not). The Arlington Public Library System calls it a record-breaking series of teen programs that have helped them see a 66% increase in Young Adult circulation stats over the last two years. Learn how you can plan, promote and coordinate Electronic & Video Gaming Tournaments for your teen community - without any great financial investments!

James Ponder, a Sr. Reference Assistant with the Arlington Public Library System, has enjoyed working with young adults ever since he was one himself. He has been co-sponsor of the George W. Hawkes Central Library's Teen Library Council since the fall of 2006. In that time, he has worked with other library staff and a highly talented group of teen volunteers (the real "experts") to put on several innovative programs for the young adults of Arlington, including the successful series of Game On! video game tournaments, which have recently been expanded to include extra competitions for younger gamers in grades 1-6 and senior citizens. His most relevant qualification, however, is that he has been a barrel-dodging, mushroom-jumping, blinky-ghost-chomping video game fanatic for as long as he can remember.

**Storytelling Clubs: Piecing It All Together** (11:15 a.m.-noon)

For Janet Latham, incorporating storytelling in the classroom began in 1984, when she first visited the Tejas Storytelling Festival. The "quilt project" was inspired four years later by an audio rendition of Lauren Mills's *The Rag Coat*. Since her first endeavor, a school-wide project in an Austin middle school, Janet has used the idea of quilts with several different grade levels to tune students into personal stories, for they are the fabric of our culture. This session will provide an overview of the projects and techniques she has used through the years.

*Janet Latham, W.S. Ryan Elementary School (Denton) Librarian, has been in education for 30 years and has taught at all grade levels K-12 in some capacity at some time: High School English, Middle School English, Reading, ESL, Elementary Reading before becoming an elementary school librarian. She has taught in private schools, rural and inner-city public schools and in the Middle East and Africa.*

**Listening to Today's Teens** (1:30-2:15 p.m.)

They fascinate and frustrate us. They are simultaneously outgoing and withdrawn. They typically do not trust most people over 30, and they know they outnumber the preceding generation almost 2 to 1. They are the modern teenager. It is fairly easy to hear them, but it is not always so easy to listen to them. During this session, participants will explore several deep level listening techniques coupled with a brainstorming session to identify effective communication strategies to help us listen to and engage teens in our local libraries.

*Greg Anderson, President of Strategic Government Resources*

## **New Technology Track**

**Designing for the Small Screen** (10:15-11:00 a.m.)

Today's youth are using their mobile phones to connect to Internet, despite the fact that the screens are small. In this session we will learn how to optimize your library's existing website for the small screen, how to design pages specifically for mobile phones, and when it is most appropriate to do each.

*Jesse Ephraim, Youth Services Librarian for the City of Southlake, has been working with computers since he was 13. Before becoming a librarian, he was a computer programmer and web developer for 10 years. He teaches software classes for the City of Southlake and always gets rave reviews when he provides sessions for our regional library conferences.*

## **Web 2.WHATEVER (11:15 a.m.-noon and 1:30-2:15 p.m.)**

What IS Web 2.0? Does anyone really know? How does it affect libraries? Is it just a bunch of hype and buzzwords? In this session we are going to get to the core of what Web 2.0 REALLY is and learn how to spot the concepts and technologies that are useful to libraries. We will focus on developing the tools and skills to help librarians sort out the good stuff from the overwhelming flood of marketing buzz, early adopter excitement and general confusion.

*Jesse Ephraim, Youth Services Librarian for the City of Southlake*

## **Professional Development Track**

### **True Colors for Working with Colleagues (10:15-11:00 a.m.)**

Are you orange, green, blue or gold? For nearly 30 years the True Colors® program has been teaching people how to discover their greatest strengths and understand the strengths of others. This session explains how familiarity with the four personality temperaments and the corresponding True Colors can improve your work environment.

*Carolyn Davidson Brewer, North Texas Regional Library System Assistant Director, is certified as a True Colors® consultant. She has been involved with libraries for nearly 15 years and believes that the True Colors® concepts can benefit the library world in numerous ways.*

### **Let's Get Graphic: The Positive Power of Graphic Novels (11:15 a.m.-noon)**

Librarians and teachers will learn about dynamic graphic novels for student reading enjoyment in grades K-8, as well as criteria for evaluating quality graphic materials.

*Dr. Jane Claes, Assistant Professor in the School Library & Information Science Program at the University of Houston Clear Lake, teaches children's literature and school library courses. She is the ALA 2009 Notable Children's Recordings Chair and has served on the ALA Notable Videos for Children Committee and the TLA Texas Bluebonnet Award Selection Committee.*

*An Assistant Professor in the School of Library & Information Studies at TWU, Dr. Janet Hilburn teaches children's and young adult literature as well as school library courses. She currently serves on AASL's Distinguished Service Award Committee and YALSA's Fabulous Films for Young Adults Committee. She reviews books for School Library Journal and is the co-editor of the regional review journal, Librarian's Choices.*

*Paula Griffith, Instructor in the School Library & Information Science Program at the University of Houston Clear Lake and a doctoral candidate at U of H, teaches young adult literature and school library courses. She has presented at International Reading Assn. national conferences as well as the IRA World Reading Congress and the European Reading Conference. She recently presented a paper on her dissertation research at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA on the importance of series books to the adolescent reader.*

### **Using True Colors with Youth (1:30-2:15 p.m.)**

For nearly 30 years the True Colors® program has been teaching people how to discover their greatest strengths and understand the strengths of others. This session explains how familiarity with the four personality temperaments and the corresponding True Colors can improve family, school and social relationships for young people.

*Carolyn Davidson Brewer, North Texas Regional Library System Assistant Director*

### **What's on Your Mind about Reading Promotions (2:30-3:15 p.m.)**

Share your success stories, concerns and issues about promoting reading within your library's community. Get the group to help you flesh out a concept you'd like to try or to help you rework one that didn't quite get the results you thought it would.

## Diverse Populations

### **Read Across the Prairie: Becoming a Community of Readers (10:15-11:00 a.m.)**

In 2005 Grand Prairie ISD sparked a reading initiative that spread throughout the community. In the first 2 weeks, over 25,000 students and staff pledged to join the GPISD Community of Readers, pledging to read every day "just for the fun of it." This session will describe the development and implementation of that program.

*Belinda Jacks, Library Media Director for Grand Prairie ISD, has been involved with GPISD's Read Across the Prairie program since it began. On March 1, 2007, she and a group of librarians and students went to the State capitol where they were recognized by legislators for their efforts in supporting Grand Prairie's community of readers. The House of Representatives celebrated the group's "Read Across the Prairie" program with a congratulatory resolution. Last year the project also won TLA's Wayne Williams Award which recognizes a project that exemplifies the highest levels of achievement, professional standards and inspiration to other libraries.*

### **Bringing Families & Books Together (11:15 a.m.-noon)**

The Kinkeade Early Childhood School's Families Reading Together Program was started in Fall, 2001. Learn how the program got started, how it works and what has changed over the years.

*Kristi Betts, M.Ed., with a specialization in early childhood literacy created – as her graduate project in 1998 – a handbook of activities for parents to use with their young children in the development of literacy skills at home. That handbook is the basis for the Families Reading Together Program.*

### **Sign Me Up! Sign Language in the Library (1:30-2:15 p.m.)**

Sign Language is the third most-used language in the U.S., following English and Spanish. Children are naturals for picking up another language. They love using their hands. Some love having a secret code that only those "in the know" can share. Some love sharing with their families new things they are learning. No matter what the incentive may be, learning sign language will expand their world and build camaraderie in your family, classroom or library. By exposing children to sign language, you are building their skill-base, building their self-esteem and possibly giving them a new career option.

*Deborah Vaden is Library Services Manager at Irving Public Library. She has been serving children and families for 18 years, first at Dallas Public Library and now in Irving. And yes, she has known Lonesome Hank since he came out of retirement and looks forward to his visit to IPL on his tour next summer. (You'll have to ask her about him!)*

### **Universally-Designed Collection Development @ Your Library (2:30-3:15 p.m.)**

By providing multiple modes of representation, expression and engagement, Universal Design for Learning [UDL] (CAST, 2008), now mandated for U.S. pre-K-12 public education under IDEA 2004, promotes the learning and literacy of our libraries' diverse patrons at all levels. In this hands-on session, participants will engage in UDL-focused youth collection development, via interaction with a variety of multimodal library materials.

*Ellen Perlow, MSLS, PhD [Health Studies], is a Children's/Media Librarian and doctoral student in Special Education at TWU. She also is a graduate of the California State University at Northridge [CSUN] Assistive Technology Applications Certificate Program (September 2000), CSUN Symposium Series advanced accessibility training (2001-2003) and a regular conference participant and presenter on accessibility and assistive technology.*

*Mary Cissell, MLS, PhD, an Assistant Professor in the School of Library & Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi, teaches children's literature, young adult literature, youth services and school library courses. She has served on the ALA Schneider Family Book Award*

*Committee, the TLA Awards Committee, as convener of the YALSA Teaching Young Adult Literature Discussion Group, and as chair of the ALSC Melcher/Bound-to-Stay-Bound Scholarship Committee. She currently serves on the Faye F. Kaigler Children's Book Festival Advisory Board, Medallion Selection Committee and Kaigler-Lamont Award Committee.*