

**BAYA Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 2011**  
**Oakland Main Library**

**Next Meeting:**

Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Location: Berkeley Public Library  
2090 Kittredge St.  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
510 981 6100

Topic: How to Win Friends and Take Advantage of People: Successful  
School/Public Library Collaboration

Website: [www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org)

**Members/ friends present:**

1. Amy Sonnie – Oakland Public Library
2. Beth Wrenn-Estes – San Jose State University Instructor
3. Brandi Bette Smead, BAYA Secretary – Benicia Public Library
4. Caroline Davis – San Leandro Public Library, volunteer
5. Carla Avitabile -
6. Chris Selig, BAYA Vice President – San Leandro Library
7. Gary Morrison – Fremont Main Library (Alameda County Library)
8. JoAnn Rees – Sunnyvale Public Library
9. Lisa Hubbell – San Jose State University Student
10. Marie Richardson – Mountain View Public Library
11. Marla Bergman – San Francisco Public Library
12. Rebecca Schaffer – San Jose State University Student
13. Sandi Imperio – Santa Cruz Public Library
14. Teresa Parham – Pleasanton Public Library
15. Tim Madigan – Contra Costa County Library (Hercules/ Pinole)
16. Will Marston – Berkeley Public Library
17. Xochitl Gavidia – Oakland Public Library

**Book & Program Sharing:**

Amy Sonnie: Planning an international event, Culture Fest, with her Teen Advisory Group. Will connect with Brandi Bette about her Casa Buena event.

Sandi Imperio: You Wish by Mandy Hubbard

Marie Richardson: Pathfinder by Orson Scott Card (*awful!*)

Marie gave us an update on the issues with her library's special needs student.

JoAnn Rees: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Boys by Naoki Urasawa (20 volume graphic novel series)

Pluto by Naoki Urasawa (8 volume graphic novel series)

*So You Want to Be A ... Series* SJ had a series where each event was focused on a different profession. Some were open to all ages and others were just for kids and teens.

Lisa Hubbell: Lost Hero by Rick Riordan (*disappointing*)

Amy Sonnie: Youth Speaks Exhibition (lots of great posters decorating the event room)/  
Bart Stop Series

Brandi Bette Smead: The Benicia Public Library had a Cupcake Contest. Everyone baked and decorated a dozen cupcakes in advance and the winners of The Cupcake Wars (from *Sift: Cupcake and Dessert Bar*) judged! They had 29 contestants and 300 attendees.

### **BAYA Business:**

Agenda Revision:

Due to a small number of attendees, some major sicknesses and not much official business to discuss, there was a motion to move the business meeting. The motion was seconded and business discussed.

Book Reviews:

Please send the book reviews to Marie Richardson.

### **Presentation:**

#### **Handling Challenges to Young Adult Materials**

- **Amy Sonnie**, Author of *Revolutionary Voices*, one of the top challenged books of 2010
  - About the book: there are 56 LGBTQ youth represented in the book; it is comprised of non-fiction writing and artwork; it reaches beyond coming-out stories; it has been nominated for awards by *Lambda Lit* and *School Library Journal*.
- Teen Outreach Library at the Oakland Public Library
- Member of the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Why was this book banned?

Beverly Marinelli, a resident of Lumberton, NJ who just happens to belong to a local chapter of Glenn Beck's 9.12 project, filed a formal complaint stating that the book was "pervasively vulgar, obscene, and inappropriate." Three other books were challenged at the same time but this was the only one that was actually removed.

Here is a quote taken from an email message from the local Burlington County librarian, Gail Sweet, to two other librarians in the system about the book:

*"We need to pull 'Revolutionary Voices' by Amy Sonnie from our shelves. How can we grab books so that they never ever get back into circulation? Copies need to totally disappear (as in not a good idea to send copies to the book sale).*

Gail also wrote it was "*child pornography.*"

(To see the entire email conversation about this challenge, click on this link:

<http://blog.librarylaw.com/files/foiaemails.pdf>.)

The public got together to defend the book:

- School youth and Alumni
- Hundreds of people concerned about censorship and GLBTQ rights

- Authors, artists and journalists
- Teachers and librarians
- Legal experts

Dee Venuto, school librarian at Rancocas Valley Regional High School, New Jersey, is the 2011 recipient of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Intellectual Freedom Award. Through her research, it is now known that the challenge came from a politically motivated person and not just a concerned citizen.

How the book banning started:

- Exposé of Safe & Drug-Free Schools "Czar" Kevin Jennings (click on the YouTube link for the Expose: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFLVGJ\\_67HQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFLVGJ_67HQ))
- GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network)
- Gateway Pundit, Jim Hoft: <http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2010/08/sick-school-prn-books-removed-from-nj-library-after-gateway-pundit-report-on-obamas-crazed-safe-schools-czar/>

Here is a list of the books that they targeted:

- [Queer 13](#)
- [Being Different](#)
- [The Full Spectrum](#)
- [Revolutionary Voices](#)
- [Reflections of a Rock Lobster](#)
- [Passages of Pride](#)
- [Growing Up Gay/Growing Up Lesbian](#)
- [The Order of the Poison Oak](#)
- [In Your Face](#)
- [Mama's Boy, Preacher's Son](#)
- [Love & Sex: Ten Stories of Truth](#)
- Fox News
- 9.12 Project (and Glenn Beck)
- Beverly Marinelli, "concerned citizen"

How can you keep something like this from happening in your own library?  
You need to know your collection and your collection development policy.

Beth Wrenn-Estes  
Creating Challenge Defense Files

What is in your file?

- Librarians are front line; be prepared! Sometimes you can tell which books are going to be challenged.
- Know your collection.
- Selection or collection development policy
- ALA's Freedom to Read Statement
- ALA's Library Bill of Rights

- Reviews: good and bad
- NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Rationales (mostly for schools)
  - <http://www.ncte.org/action/anti-censorship/rationales>
- Reconsideration form
- “Tea and sympathy” Sometimes the patron just needs to be heard.
- Be compassionate and an active listener.
- Back yourself up.
- Don’t take this personally!

“The best defense is a good offense.”