

BCLA Readers' Advisory Interest Group

Minutes: January 16th, 2018

9:15 - 11 at Burnaby Central

Present: Stephanie Hong (SPL & VPL), Shelley Wilson-Roberts (NWPL), Tara Matsuzaki (WVML), Barbara Edwards (VPL), Eleri Staiger (SLAIS), Jill Bassett (BPL), Alan Woo (SPL)

Regrets: Andrea Davidson (SPL), Michelle Ng (SLAIS), Claire Westlake (NVDPL), Fiona Hunt (WVML)

1. Thank you to outgoing RAIG member Claire Westlake. We appreciate all your contributions over the past two years!
2. Interesting RA tidbits
 - a. Andrea:
 - i. <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/lists/most-overlooked-books-2017/history-of-a-disappearance/>
 - ii. <http://lithub.com/40-overlooked-books-from-2017-as-chosen-by-booksellers/>
 - iii. <http://mainepublic.org/post/best-overlooked-books-2017#stream/0>
 - b. Barbara:
 - i. Small team at VPL two works on RA
 - ii. Online RA includes Books Just for You form & good gifts form
 - iii. Twitter RA periodically
 - iv. [Canada Council](#)-funded literary reading series – Louise Bernice Halfe & Joanne Arnott as well as Omar El Akkad
 - v. Spring - Read Local BC will be coming out again
 - c. Shelley:
 - i. Blind Date with a Book at NWPL
 - d. Jill:
 - i. Joined the RA work of BPL i.e. staff picks and sharing the BPL online recommendation program on Facebook to great success
 - ii. BPL fiction and non-fiction book club
 - e. Alan
 - i. Revising book advisor program – shifting to form-based RA (modeled after Seattle & Portland)
 - f. Stephanie:
 - i. ten form-based RA which is published on BiblioCommons temporarily
 - ii. [Read it Forward](#)
 1. Literary Horoscope
 2. Book Apothecary
 3. Author interviews & podcast & Instagram book bento
3. Response to RAIG's letters to BCLA Board & LibraryBound
 - a. No response from BCLA Board (letter* sent Nov 20/17)
 - b. From Michael Gray of LibraryBound:

Thank-you for explaining the situation to us, and thanks, too, for all of the time and energy you, Shelley, and the rest of the members have invested in the group's initiatives. We're certainly proud to have played a small role in your accomplishments.

Going forward, we fully intend to continue with our sponsorship of the RAIG in whatever form it takes. I completely understand how hard it must be to recruit replacements for departing members. I know everyone is extremely busy and it's hard to find room for new commitments. Hopefully, though, at some stage, you'll be able to expand the group again and resume mounting events like RA in a Day. We're more than happy to help in any way possible.

Thanks again for keeping us informed.

- c. Next steps?
 - i. Public Library Interest Group – HOLD
 - ii. Meet 4x per year
 - 1. January, April, July & October
 - 2. One of our meetings could be dedicated to a discussion of the state of RA – in Oct.?
 - iii. Focus on social media
 - 1. Stephanie adding Eleri & Jill to RAIG google list & social media
 - 2. Instagram
 - 3. Blog
 - a. Post Loan Stars monthly
 - b. Best Bets (the wider BC RA community joined in this year)
 - 4. Instagram take-over and/or interviewing – brainstorm dream team of literary figures w/ social media experience
 - iv. Send out call for interested parties via BCLA list &/or BCLA Perspectives - HOLD
 - v. BC Library Conference in May
 - 1. social event – Barbara checking
 - a. use the Sheraton pub
 - 2. scholarship to attend BCLA – Tara will inquire
 - vi. BCLA Book Club w/ celebrity – brainstorm celebrity dream team
 - vii. Google hang-out as teleconference solution – Stephanie checking to see if we can make it happen
 - 1. Journal Club - roll out for Oct
- 4. Committee Updates
 - a. SLAIS:
 - b. Education Liaisons: Alan & Stephanie
 - c. Engagement: Barbara
 - d. Digital Services: Stephanie
 - e. Outreach: Stephanie
 - i. Will contact Fraser Valley re: student representation
- 5. Blog schedule
- 6. Meeting schedule
 - a. April meeting in Surrey - Alan
 - b. October meeting at VPL - Stephanie

- i. BCLA Perspectives – Titles to Talk About – Shelley will send out a message to the list for suggestions

Next meeting: Tues April 17 9:15

For Reference – RAIG Annual Calendar:

- Jan – annual planning
- Feb – craft Beyond Hope proposal
- April - BC Library Conference
- June - Beyond Hope
- Aug meeting = holiday
- Sept – brainstorm BC Library conference proposals & check w/ BPL re: mtg room
- Oct - RA in a Day (solicit Best Bets from the crowd) individualized RA i.e. SPL
- Nov – craft BCLA proposals
- Dec - Best Bets
- Dec meeting = holiday

For Reference - BCLA Perspectives Deadlines:

	Deadlines
Story Pitch Date	October 1; January 4; April 1; July 1
Submission Date	October 15; January 15; April 15; July 15
Publication Date	November 1; February 1; May 1; August 1

* November 1, 2017

Dear BCLA Board of Directors:

We are writing today to inform you of the current status of BCLA’s Readers Advisory Interest Group and our hopes for the future.

Since 2011 the Readers Advisory Interest Group has been a vibrant and productive crew of library professionals committed to elevating Readers’ Advisory services and skills in BC libraries. We produced five “RA in a Day/ 1/2Day” events, presented at the Beyond Hope conference and presented or convened three sessions and two author events at the BC Library conference. RAIG developed Readers’ Advisory core competencies, surveyed BC library staff on RA training needs, maintained an active blog with posts on a wide variety of RA topics, contributed the regular “Titles to Talk about” feature in BCLA Perspectives and developed a strong Instagram presence.

Over the past five years, RAIG has depended upon a core of committed volunteers who have contributed time and energy to producing RA professional development events and materials for the BC library community. We wish to thank these individuals for their dedication and contributions. However, the composition of our membership has changed in recent months due to career advancements and relocations.

We no longer have the capacity as a group to produce professional development events or resources and therefore have reduced our meeting schedule to quarterly. We would like to send an open letter to the BC Library community, describing RAIG’s current situation and inviting any RA enthusiasts who want

to contribute their time and abilities to join RAIG. We wanted to let the BCLA Board know about the changes in our group and meeting schedule prior to sending a broader message out on the BCLA List. Thank you for the support of the BCLA Board, Executive Director and administration staff over the years.

Sincerely,
Tara Matsuzaki and Shelley Wilson-Roberts
Co-chairs of RAIG