

**Linda Braun:** Hi Camden where are you from?

**Camden Tadhg:** I'm at Hennepin County Library in Minneapolis

11/04/2009 - 7:00pm

**Jenine Lillian:** Hooray for Hennepin! :) Welcome!

**Linda Braun:** I know some of your colleagues - great people

**Jenine Lillian:** Do you have a Facebook page for Hennepin teens or only MySpace?

**Camden Tadhg:** we only have Myspace right now. I keep wanting to make a Facebook page but I just haven't got the time.

**Jenine Lillian:** I believe we're linked on MySpace--my page for the book is under my name.

Hi, Angelina. Where are you logging in from?

**Angelina Manfredi:** Hi, I go by Angie :) and I am from Los Alamos, NM.

**Linda Braun:** Hi Angie

**Jenine Lillian:** Great, Angie! I was just asking Camden if their library teens were on Facebook or only MySpace.

Hi, Sarah. Where are you coming from this evening?

**Angelina Manfredi:** hello all and Camden I am jealous you get to work at the super cool Hennepin, your 'bookspace' is revolutionary!

**Sarah Ludwig:** hi! i'm in darien, ct

**Jenine Lillian:** Welcome, all!

**Linda Braun:** Hi Sarah!

**Sarah Ludwig:** i will be in and out since i'm on the help desk :)

hi linda!

**Jenine Lillian:** I'm sure we'll have more folks join us throughout the hour--it is a casual drop-in session.

I'm also hoping that some contributors from the book will join in.

**Sarah Ludwig:** my programming budget is starting to peter out so i'm excited to hear what everyone is doing!

**Jenine Lillian:** You are in the right place! :D Hi, Beatriz. Where are you tonight?

**Beatriz Wallace:** Seattle Public Library, on the ref desk

**Jenine Lillian:** Which branch? I live in Seattle.

**Beatriz Wallace:** I'm hoping to get ideas to pass along to our teen lib

**Sarah Ludwig:** that's nice of you!

**Beatriz Wallace:** I'm at South Park

**Jenine Lillian:** (I am presenting in April at the TSL meeting--coordinating with SPL)

**Beatriz Wallace:** I will tell Ken to look for you!

**Jenine Lillian:** I'll do a couple of announcements and then open it up for questions, now that we've got a group together.

First of all, special thanks to YALSA, esp. Stevie, for setting up this series and this chat session re. Cool Teen Programs for Under \$100

Stevie has been working very hard to increase opportunities for distribution (Amazon, B T, etc.). And, today, she told me that 64 copies of the book sold in its first month!

The book is not only a great tool for Teen Librarians, but a fundraiser for YALSA!

Have any of you seen the book yet?

**Beatriz Wallace:** No, but it sounds like a good rec for our teen lib!

**Jenine Lillian:** <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2757>

This is the only place to order it from at present. (I know SPL has requested a copy from Montlake, so you may want to do a purchase request at your individual

**Angelina Manfredi:** no, but next time we do purchasing for our professional collection, I plan to get it.

**Jenine Lillian:** branch levels and/or ask the Friends of the Library to order it for you)

**Sarah Ludwig:** I definitely want to get it, too!

**Jenine Lillian:** YALSA members get 10% discount as well.

**Sarah Ludwig:** Nice! :)

**Jenine Lillian:** Another way you can keep up to date on the book and related projects is to become a fan at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cool-Teen-Programs-for-Under-100/111459884239?ref=ts>

So few people have seen the book that it'll be a little challenging to give you all the great stuff, but I'll do a sampler for you here

Hi, Stevie! I was just singing your praises!

**Jenine Lillian:** Okay, well, while we work on that, does anyone have questions they want to address tonight?

**Camden Tadhg:** Ideas for how to get your hands on free supplies.

**Sarah Ludwig:** i am interested in drop-in or "passive" programs

**Jenine Lillian:** Such as?

**Stephanie Kuenn:** Hi! Sorry, I was having some tech difficulties. I don't have a PDF of the TOC here (I'm at home), but I'll see if I can grab one to upload

**Jenine Lillian:** Sarah, can you specify if you want to cover drop-in or passive programs?  
Camden: what sort of supplies? We can cover it all!

Thanks, Stevie! No one has seen the book yet, so that'd be super helpful!

**Beatriz Wallace:** Any new twists on gaming programs, other than Wii or DDR, etc.

**Sarah Ludwig:** jenine, both--i usually do those two things in tandem

**Jenine Lillian:** Great, Beatriz! There's a whole section on gaming, including non-electronic games.

**Sarah Ludwig:** like drop-in craft programs that require very little supervision

**Angelina Manfredi:** at our recent lock-in we discovered they were more interested at playing RISK than DDR ...

**Jenine Lillian:** Okay--so, Sarah, it looks like you have a staffing issue that impacts your teen events

**Angelina Manfredi:** so I am starting "Board To Death" (or "Get on Board") ... a once a month night of board games.

**Camden Tadhg:** Any supplies, really. We don't have a programming budget at all so I often figure out what I can get for free and then plan the program around that.

**Jenine Lillian:** Yes, Angie, boardgames and "old skool" game play are big with teens and kids now

Okay, how about I'll start with supplies b/c that can really reach everyone, then go to types of programs?

Does that suit?

**Sarah Ludwig:** mmmm, not necessarily, it's just that i like to do stuff when there are a lot of teens around and it's easy to just give them to do that doesn't take too much work on my part

**Jenine Lillian:** (Please feel free to take notes or share this with colleagues)

**Sarah Ludwig:** like, i have a bucket of craft supplies i like to toss into the mix when the room is busy or some flip cams

**Beatriz Wallace:** Also any other ideas that would appeal to jaded, urban teens. (gaming and manga art have been successful for us)

**Jenine Lillian:** Understood, Sarah. Low maintenance is what you seek?

**Sarah Ludwig:** yes, exactly!

**Camden Tadhg:** I've been running some programs based on what I have lying around my apartment or what I know a good dumpster for.

**Jenine Lillian:** Great!

**Sarah Ludwig:** like, i would love to just have a list of ideas that i and my part-timers could quickly choose from

**Jenine Lillian:** Aren't we resourceful? We have to be! Okay, let me start with supplies and then go forward

(Meanwhile, Stevie is getting us a TOC so you can have a list of programs to work with, so that gets that taken care of, too!)

Hooray!

I'm a big believer in "there's no harm in asking" and I've been surprised to find that I can find nearly anything I need for programs by basically being a social networking site and spiraling out to teens/community.

You could do solicitation from craft/tech/game/grocery/other stores and also partner with organizations.

Though, if you're really struggling with time and budget and staffing, as many are, I think a great strategy is to start right where you are.

For example, ask at a staff meeting or put a sign or email out for staff/volunteers and esp. the Friends of the Library group to see if certain supplies are available. Asking for outright donations of all sorts of stuff can be great, too, though you should be prepared to sort as though you're doing a garage sale--you'll get all kinds of things; from Nat'l Geographic collections to odd scraps of fabric and buttons. Even furniture...

So, in this way, you can start right where you are--with your staff/volunteers, etc.

You can also announce a need online. For example, if you're on MySpace and your teens are there and you want to build your manga selection but can't, ask them to donate copies they don't need/want anymore. Then, you can have a Teen Anime Club and have a book collective through that.

Make sense?

In the book, I explained how my Teen Knitting Group was a zero budget program and yet, we had supplies and materials for all who attended each month.

**Stephanie Kuenn:** Hi! The TOC is now available here:

<http://connect.ala.org/node/87466>

**Jenine Lillian:** One of the most amazing and unexpected ways that program received support was through a friend that taught me to knit's blog

Thanks, Stevie!!! :)

My friend mailed a box to our library with misc. stuff she had at home and posted the address and information to get in touch with me, explaining I was starting a group for teens to knit without resources.

Suddenly, I got magazines, patterns, yarn, supplies, knitting needles, notions, and even books mailed to us from all over the country.

The teens loved sorting through it and we started asking the adults in the community if they wanted to contribute to our yarn swap.

**Linda Braun:** You are making me think that specific social networks might be good connections

**Jenine Lillian:** The group is still going, even though I moved home to Seattle.

**Linda Braun:** For example Ravelry has a huge librarian following And, it might be a good place to put out a call for supplies

**Jenine Lillian:** I use Facebook, primarily. Yes, there are niche networks, but those are sign-up based only with waitlists.

**Linda Braun:** Maybe other subject/content specific social networks would also "work."

**Jenine Lillian:** memberships block ideas sometimes online

YALSA-BK is a great way to put out a call for any ideas and supply swap as well as Craigslist.com and the free section of your local paper.

**Stephanie Kuenn:** And I think Beatriz mentioned the dumpster jokingly, but it's not a joke! One program in the book, a craft program, used old magazines and books that the library planned to weed

**Jenine Lillian:** Libraries tend to be filled with odd assortments of supplies that have gone redundant and also, with staff who tend to collect things, so it never hurts to ask.

Esp. for altered books, which is a program featured in the book as well.

**Angelina Manfredi:** And of course Freecycle.org

**Jenine Lillian:** Right! So many resources!

Okay, so, does that give everyone enough to start with?

**Camden Tadhg:** I was totally serious about the dumpster. In big cities, there are all sorts of amazing dumpsters with free supplies in them :)

**Beatriz Wallace:** Good idea about social networking to get supplies

**Jenine Lillian:** Absolutely! Seattle has some great thrift and dumpsters, too! Oh, one last thought: don't be afraid to connect with the schools, and not just the librarians there--they also have surplus and connections: remember working with wallpaper samples to do arts and crafts?

You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Just roll it.

Okay, so, on to "low maintenance" teen programs...

Can someone give me an example of an event that falls into this category (besides a book display with survey box)?

**Beatriz Wallace:** RE: knitting, I saw a great idea at Lopez Island Library. A librarian started a knitting project, then left the basket there with different colors yarn, and the community was invited to knit as much as they wanted. So everyone has been adding on as they like

The librarian there got the idea from a European library, don't remember which.

**Jenine Lillian:** That's wonderful! There are tons of ways this could be done with teens: origami, code, rubberband chains, poetry, drawing, etc.

**Camden Tadhg:** off-topic: Is this chat going to be available online after we finish or should I be taking notes?

**Jenine Lillian:** Linda? Stevie?

**Angelina Manfredi:** yes, we had a teen create a sign that said "I've had a bad day, have you? If so, sing (sic) here!"

**Stephanie Kuenn:** I'll be posting a transcript on the YALSA blog tomorrow.

**Jenine Lillian:** Great!

**Angelina Manfredi:** it went on for almost four months before it got 'defaced' and we had to take it down.

**Jenine Lillian:** Wow! 4 Months is a long time! Great idea, indeed.

**Angelina Manfredi:** that went on the teen bulletin board, which has space for them to post things. of course, this DOES require checking

**Beatriz Wallace:** Ooh, a "confessions" book. Or maybe not...

**Jenine Lillian:** Okay, so that's a great example: You start with something simple that can be added to, put a display with books and related materials (please always include multiple formats), and you don't even need directions, usually.

**Angelina Manfredi:** (and sometimes theft, they stole my sign from the \$1 store that said 'if it's too loud, your too old.') but it's worth it.

**Jenine Lillian:** I find that teens naturally approach things as though they are performance art.

**Angelina Manfredi:** yes, I call it my postsecret corner ... I created 'postsecrets' from book characters and then made an area for them to 'confess' WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?

**Jenine Lillian:** I've done a few of these bulletin board type events and I'll try to remember the themes:

**Sarah Ludwig:** i'm sorry i missed it when you were talking about low maintenace stuff!

i will read the transcript later

**Jenine Lillian:** Poetry on a Post-It was very cool

**Sarah Ludwig:** thank you for addressing it!

**Jenine Lillian:** Actually, I've used a lot of post-its for this

**Linda Braun:** Still talking bout it @sarah

**Camden Tadhg:** have people had success with magnetic poetry?

**Jenine Lillian:** Summer Reading: Desert Island book, write one book you'd take with you if you were stuck on a desert island--yes, only one.

Make your own magnetic poetry can be done cheaply with magnetic sheets that are white on one side and some black Sharpies and scissors.

Yes, they love it! But, if you don't have a supply budget, use post its or index cards or the backs of old card catalog cards.

**Angelina Manfredi:** yes, we made our own and used magnetic message boards. you can also use cookie sheets, we had some success with that too.

**Linda Braun:** Have u done themed magnetic poetry or more of a free for all

**Jenine Lillian:** Can anyone think of other low maintenance events that don't need a trip to the store? I've done facilitated magnetic poetry workshops.

**Angelina Manfredi:** free for all magnetic poetry, but sometimes they ask us for more words, so that's cool.

**Jenine Lillian:** We make poems together and separately and do a beatnik kind of read aloud and finger snap clap.

Mine used the blank magnets or post its, so we could make any word we wanted.

**Linda Braun:** Thanks

**Jenine Lillian:** Oh, I just remembered: with the paper (index cards) version, you can give two to each person (or more if it's a small group) and have them describe their favorite animal or vehicle in one word on one card and then put a word they like on the other (many variations)

**Jenine Lillian:** Then, you gather them all up, shuffle them, and read them straight through. You can repeat it.

It actually makes poetry. I've done this with 4th through adult ages.

**Linda Braun:** And I had a ? for Angie on the Post Secret idea.

**Angelina Manfredi:** sure, Linda

**Linda Braun:** Do I have it right that you selected the books and the teens came up with the secrets?

**Angelina Manfredi:** nope, I created secrets for characters then hung them up with some info about postsecret/the postsecret books ...

**Jenine Lillian:** We have about 15 minutes left, so I'd like to be sure to get to the other question we had re. urban kids and gaming.

**Linda Braun:** Thanks Angie - I thought I was missing something.

**Angelina Manfredi:** (linda I'll send you info via email/twitter)

**Jenine Lillian:** In the book, there is a section of events about gaming--both "traditional" board game and game consols. see the URL Stevie posted for TOC.

Just as with knitting, papercrafts, scrapbooking, and other "old skool" activities, there has been a resurgence of interest in fashion and games of previous generations. Bowling is a great example of this--teens love it and it's a great incentive program for tweens and teens.

In-house, I'd recommend doing a board game night and tossing out a bunch of options on tables, just to see what gets picked up.

Teens will often bring games from home to share, too.

Some libraries still have communities for D&D (both online and on paper) as well as Magic the Gathering

There is a Bingo night for teens in the book that was so popular, it became a recurring event. BINGO! I know! It's exciting.

There's a MONOPOLY Tournament how-to in the book as well, which can be done with zero dollars.

**Angelina Manfredi:** yes, bingo! we did bingo with m&ms, they LOVED it!

**Beatriz Wallace:** M&M's there's an idea!

**Angelina Manfredi:** they got super competitive!!!

**Jenine Lillian:** You can do the same with Clue, Sorry, Battleship, etc. Heck, some teens will grab the Connect Four box or the Who's Who "kid's games" if they are there.

**Beatriz Wallace:** Loteria might be good if you have a Latino neighborhood or just to introduce Mexican bingo to yourkids

**Jenine Lillian:** There are a lot of ideas and resources in the book for this and also, any materials that camp counselors would use for word games, board games, team building games, etc. I would recommend using.

Again, it seems YALSA-BK is a great list for these ideas! So, checking in with our original question-askers: how'd we do?

I'm going to post some helpful links here before we wrap-up:

**Beatriz Wallace:** I picked up some intriguing ideas that we can jump off of. Thanks! And I just put Cool Ideas on hold. :)

**Jenine Lillian:** To order the book, go to the ALA Store and use your YALSA membership number to get 10% off. Here is the link to the store:  
<http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2757>

**Angelina Manfredi:** that's just our ALA #?

**Jenine Lillian:** Currently, it is the only distributor. Yes, ALA #.

I will be presenting at the Public Library Association's National Conference in Portland, Oregon in March, 2010 about the book, too!

**Angelina Manfredi:** yay, I will try to make your program!

**Jenine Lillian:** To connect with the contributors, you can become a fan of the book on Facebook (and also get news about it) at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cool-Teen-Programs-for-Under-100/111459884239?ref=ts>

Lastly, if you are interested in taking Professional Development courses online in the comfort of your own library, visit my website at [www.jeninelillian.com](http://www.jeninelillian.com) where I'll be teaching courses on Cool Teen Programs and soon, stuff for littl'uns, too.

**Linda Braun:** Jenine - were there any programs that really surprised you in the book Totally different or unexpected?

**Jenine Lillian:**

There were some very interesting submissions for the book, Linda. I love the diversity of what was chosen and the fact that my vision for events that were immediately implementable has now come true!

We needed it before the recession, so I'm even more glad it's published this year.

**Linda Braun:** thanks

**Jenine Lillian:** As I said earlier, Stevie is working hard to get the book more widely distributed and I have heard from many librarians that due to Centralized Collection Devel or contractual agreements, they are not free to purchase online.

**Stephanie Kuenn:** they can buy over the phone, too, through ALA Editions.

**Beatriz Wallace:** Thank you for the helpful chat! Goodnight!

**Jenine Lillian:** I'd like to get the book to more teen librarians and highly recommend that folks reach out to their Friends of the Library groups and other possible purchasers.

Thank you all for serving our teens!

**Stephanie Kuenn:** Thanks! Transcript will be up tomorrow, probably in the afternoon.

**Jenine Lillian:** And, thank you to YALSA, for supporting us and bringing us together! Thanks, Stevie! You can reach me at [jenine@jeninelillian.com](mailto:jenine@jeninelillian.com) anytime!

**Camden Tadhg:** thank you!

**Jenine Lillian:** Good night, all.