Wallkill’s Masters of Code

Lisa Palmer, Library Assistant/Website Administrator, Wallkill Public Library

Masters of Code participants got a big treat Thursday, March 19 when they had the opportunity to chat with Amazon.com software engineer Diane Panagiotopoulos! Diane and a colleague were Skyped into the coding session and spent nearly a half hour sharing details about their work and answering questions from the full class of seven coders in attendance.

Based in Seattle, Diane discussed how, despite the fact that Amazon is the largest Internet-based retailer in the U.S., it doesn’t take an advanced degree from MIT to work there. All you need, she said, is a computer science degree.

In her case, she didn’t always think computer science would be for her because she wasn’t as comfortable with math as others. But, she said, if you like thinking and solving puzzles, you can excel at computer science. Diane now writes code for new products at Amazon.

She is the daughter of Evan Panagiotopoulos, a retired IBM programmer and computer consultant who so kindly volunteered to help library technician Lori Mullooly facilitate Masters of Code after reading about the success of the Hour of Code program Lori offered in the fall.

Masters of Code will be wrapping up the last of its six-week sessions next week. The kids who have taken part just finished writing code for their own game (coming soon to the library’s website).
and learned computer science basics in the process, a subject few schools, for some reason, teach.

Thanks to Evan and Diane for their invaluable help and inspiration!

**RCLS Juvenile Preview Session**

*Randy Enos, RCLS Youth Services Consultant*

The RCLS Preview Session for juvenile books at RCLS opened on Wednesday, March 25 and runs through **Friday, April 24**. I hope you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to look at over 1,130 books published during 2014 and 2015 for children and teens.

The preview books are divided by category (picture, fiction, nonfiction-individual, nonfiction-series, series-fiction, young adult fiction, young adult nonfiction, and pop-up/toy books, etc.), allowing you to focus on the areas in which you are interested. Visit the [RCLS Web site](#) for details, instructions on how the preview operates and a list of the books.

Those who participate in the RCLS Preview Session will be able to request specific books from the collection for their library.

Free items are also available to those who come to RCLS to preview the books.

The collection is available for viewing Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment (you must register to participate), contact Eileen Kieva at ext. 221 or e-mail.

For more information about the RCLS Preview Session, visit the [RCLS website](#).

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**Minecraft Challenge 2015**

A Minecraft Challenge for Summer Reading will be held again this year. The challenge is to build the best “Secret Volcano Lair” or any lair or superhero hideout. Rules and ideas can be found at [guides.rcls.org/videogames](http://guides.rcls.org/videogames). Contact Sue Scott at [suescott@rcls.org](mailto:suescott@rcls.org) for questions or to book the Minecraft kit. First come, first served!

**Celebrate National Library Week**

Looking for ways to promote [National Library Week](#), April 12–18? ALA’s Campaign for America’s Libraries has a variety of tools and promotional ideas to help you promote the theme of “Unlimited Possibilities @ your library.” Leading up to and throughout National Library Week, librarians can encourage DIYs, crafters, makers, job seekers, small business owners, and students to showcase what they have made or accomplished thanks to their public, school, academic, or special library by tweeting with the hashtag #librarymade or posting to Facebook.

**NYS 2015 Teen Video Challenge Finalists**

*Karen Balsen, Coordinator, Summer Reading at New York Libraries, New York State Library*

As part of Summer Reading at New York Libraries, the New York State Library is pleased to announce the following finalists in the 2015 New York State Teen Video Challenge:

- [Unmask a New Hero](#) (Rye Free Reading Room)
- [Unmask Your Imagination](#) (DeWitt Community Library)

The Teen Video Challenge is a video competition that encourages teens to create a 30-90 second video promoting summer reading and public libraries using the 2015 teen summer reading slogan “Unmask.”

These finalists were selected by a group of judges consisting of librarians that work with youth. In the coming weeks, a final winner for New York State will be selected by a panel of celebrity judges. The State winner will be announced in April. The winning and finalist videos will be added to the [Summer Reading at New York Libraries website](http://www.nyslibrary.org/summer-reading.html).
2014 RCLS Annual Program of the Year Awards

At the RCLS Legislative Breakfast and Annual Meeting held on Friday, September 12 Annual Awards presentations were made. The following is a description of a program that was nominated for the Adult Member Library Program of the Year Award.

Program: “Punk On” Concert
Creator: Chuck Thomas
Nominating Library: Newburgh Free Library

This free concert was held on Friday, June 20, 2014 as part of Newburgh Illuminated 2014, a citywide, three-day annual celebration focusing on the historical and cultural heritage of Newburgh. Billed as a “family-friendly night of music,” the concert was offered in collaboration with Outsider Magazine, Mrs. Max Boutique, Altercation Records and Nature’s Pantry. Bands included Martyr Art, Dead Empires, Armalite Rifles, Locutus and Young Blacks. More than 80 punk enthusiasts attended the concert, which enabled the library to reach out to that elusive 20 - 30 age demographic. Attendees were asked to bring canned goods to be donated to the Food Pantry of the Hudson Valley.

This collaboration forged brand new alliances between the library and our community and hopefully changed some perceptions about libraries – it certainly changed some perceptions on our part. The musicians and promoters came to the library and requested the opportunity to perform at the library. They explained that most often, punk concerts are held in bars or other venues that are not especially family friendly and that there are a number of young teens who love punk music and can’t go to a bar-type venue but their parents are happy to have them go to the library. The promoters of this event (that was provided at no cost to the library, except staff time) immediately asked if they could come back again in the fall and if this could become an annual event. From our point of view it was a win/win situation and there was no headline that read “Library Gets Noise Complaint.”

Funds for Capital Projects: Gladys Brooks Foundation

The Gladys Brooks Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations located in New York. Grant applications will be considered only for major expenditures, generally between $50,000 and $100,000. Funds are intended to be used for capital projects, including equipment and endowments.

Grant applications generally will be considered where
• outside funding (including governmental) is not available;
• the project will be largely funded by the grant unless the grant request covers a discrete component of a larger project and
• the funds will be used for capital projects including equipment or endowments.

Applications for direct salary support will not be accepted.

Grant applications for libraries will be considered generally for resource endowments (print, film, electronic database, speakers/workshops), capital construction and innovative equipment. Projects fostering broader public access to global information sources utilizing collaborative efforts, pioneering technologies and equipment are encouraged.

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, May 29. Visit the Foundation’s website for more information and to request the application materials online. Electronic submissions are not accepted at this time.

Share your library news with the RCLS Weekly Memo. Send your article to rclsmemo@rcls.org
Deadlines

★ Tuesday, April 7 @ 8 a.m.  
Registration for System Orientation (4/8)

★ Wednesday, April 15 @ 10 a.m.  
Intro to LibGuides 2.0, Warwick (4/16)

★ Monday, April 20 @ 10 a.m.  
Intro to LibGuides 2.0, Haverstraw (4/21)

★ Tuesday, April 21 @ 8 a.m.  
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Adult Programming (4/23)

Job Openings

✓ Job Postings

✓ Building Your e-résumé

You are Invited

Join us on Wednesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. for System Orientation at RCLS. Any member libraries’ employees, trustees or Friends are invited to attend. You will meet with the RCLS director and the various department heads to get a total picture of the services offered to member libraries. Register today using the RCLS calendar before it’s too late.

System Calendar

For a complete and up-to-date list of events, including links to additional information, see the RCLS Calendar. To add information, contact Ruth Daubenspeck.

March

Monday, 30
Adult Programmers’ Showcase, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

April

Friday, 3
Orange/Ulster BOCES Spring Recess Day  
RCLS CLOSED

Wednesday, 8
System Orientation, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, 9
Directors Association Executive Committee,  
RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, 10
Emerging Leaders-Managing Today’s Public Libraries,  
RCLS – 9:00 a.m.

Monday, 13
RCLS Teen Librarians Meeting, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, 16
Intro to LibGuides 2.0, Warwick – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, 16
Educational Online Resources, RCLS – 4:15 p.m.

Monday, 20
RCLS Board Meeting, RCLS – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 21
Intro to LibGuides 2.0, Haverstraw – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, 23
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Adult Programming,  
RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, 23
RCLS Managers Meeting, RCLS – 2:00 p.m.

RCLS Headquarters E-mail and Extension Directory (845.243.3747)

Robert Hubsher ............Executive Director ................................................................. 242
Chuck Conklin .............Delivery & Building Maintenance Supervisor ......................... 226
Randall Enos ...............Youth Services Consultant ...................................................... 240
Amy Haase-Thomas .......ILL/Tech Services Librarian ................................................... 237
Stephen Hoefer .............Fiscal Officer ........................................................................ 223
Jerry Kuntz ..................Electronic Resources Consultant .............................................. 246
Grace Riario .................Assistant Director & Outreach Coordinator ....................... 233
John Schneider .............ANSER Manager and Systems Administrator .................... 228