

# 2010 Reader's Advisory Round Table Annual Report

2010 went very fast. Or at least it seemed to go by fast. Maybe it was because we were so busy, both in our professions and with RART! Here is a recap of our doings.

## **Retreat 2010**

*“Readers’ Advisory: Unlock the Mysteries of R.A. Technology and Crime Novels”*

Share a book you’ve read that wasn’t in the mystery genre but turned out to be a mystery, or one that you’d recommend as a mystery that is not catalogued mystery.

RA 2.0: Readers’ Advisory and Technology with Jennifer Hootman (from Minitex) and others

Author Talk: Julie Kramer, Minnesota Book Award-winning author of *Stalking Susan*

Mystery and Crime Novel Readers’ Advisory with Barbara Fister: Get an overview of the genre, discover the sub-genres, catch up on the latest trends and learn about some authors to watch out for (in the best possible sense).

True Crime: Mystery and nonfiction crossover

## **MLA Conference 2010**

C1. Books: The Top 5 of the Top 5: Memoirs, Romance, Thrillers, Historical Fiction & Science Fiction

Five librarians will identify authors and trends in five popular fiction genres: Historical Fiction, Romance, Mysteries, Thrillers, and Science Fiction. We’ll talk about the top five authors and titles in each of these go-to fiction genres and also discuss up-and-comers and trends. At the end of this session, participants will take away book suggestions in genres with which they may be unfamiliar. Participants’ comfort levels in unfamiliar genres will improve, increasing their confidence in suggesting books to library customers. Based on a popular readers’ advisory session at this year’s PLA conference, in this

D1. 50 in 75: RART’s Third Annual Book

This is a reprise of last year’s popular conference session. Five librarians tackle booktalking 50 books in 75 minutes. A serendipitous sampling of titles that crosses genres with glee, this year’s selection will include romance, horror, mystery, thrillers, and more. Readers Advisory is one of the toughest and yet most enjoyable aspects of librarianship— and whether you’re a daily practitioner of RA or it’s an occasional duty, every new title you hear about is something you can share with your patrons. No one can read everything, so book talks help share the joy and spread knowledge.



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K3. Delving into the Otherworld: Murder, Myth, and Music in *False Mermaid* with Erin Hart What do Irish legends about mermaids have to do with contemporary murder on the banks of the Mississippi River? Mystery writer Erin Hart blends together murder, myth, and music in her latest novel, *False Mermaid*. Set in Saint Paul and the rugged coast of western Ireland, this tale of shape-shifters and changelings ultimately delves deep into the inexplicable mysteries of the human heart. Author Erin Hart reads from her novel, accompanied by subtly shifting images of the otherworldly creatures and places that inspired the story, and by an Irish music trio featuring her husband, accordion player Paddy O'Brien. An Irish traditional music trio featuring Paddy O'Brien (button accordion), Nathan Gourley (fiddle), and Dáithí Sproule (guitar & vocals) adds a few atmospheric tunes and airs to Erin Hart's keynote presentation.

## E5. Nonfiction RA 101: The Real Story

Nonfiction Readers' Advisory is an area of huge potential for public libraries and librarians. Can you rattle off five "vacation reads" immediately but become tongue-tied when asked to suggest a good biography? We'll explore what is unique about this "genre" and what makes it such a great treasure for readers wanting information and entertainment alike. Categories such as history, true crime, memoirs, science, and business will be discussed.

## E6. RA Crash

Does the question "Could you recommend a good book?" still make you nervous? Join two Rochester librarians for a session on basic reader's advisory techniques and tools, including a refresher on the RA interview, a collection of helpful print and online resources, and a few quick-and-dirty methods for creating displays, book lists, and book group bags.

## F5. One Book, One Conference

The One Book, One Conference session is a joint effort between the Readers Advisory Roundtable and MLA's president to choose a title for the MLA community to read. The session offers an opportunity to discuss the book amongst ourselves and with its author, Erin Hart. Discussion questions and information about the author will be provided at the conference and also will be found on the MLA website.

## **MLA Business Meeting 7:30PM – 10:30PM**

Reader's Advisory Roundtable (RART) Happy Hour and Business Meeting  
@ Martini's, in the Kahler Grand Hotel Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 7:30— 10:00 PM

## **Outside of MLA 2010**

### **MELSA Club Book:**

Several of us were volunteers at this event in April of 2010. For a recap please read "Feral child raised by patient librarians" Neil Gaiman's Book talk 4/18/10 Stillwater Junior High School Belinda E. Lawrence (RART wanna be)" on our RART page on the MLA website.



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## **Minnesota Book Awards:**

Saturday, April 17 found several members of the RART (Readers' Advisory Round Table) gathered at a round table to celebrate the 22nd annual Minnesota Book Awards. One of our members was even a judge this year. It was a gala evening with much celebration and anticipation as each award was announced. We got a chance to mingle and chat with this year's nominees at the opening reception. A wonderful evening filled with fun, champagne, desserts, and discussing books. Join us next year for the awards presentation.

## **Webinar via Minitex:**

On Tuesday, April 6th, and again on Wednesday, April 14th, Angie Noyes, of the Washington County Library System; Sarah Nagle and Karla Businaro, both of the Carver County Library System; and Jennifer Brannen, and I of the Saint Paul Public Library System, were welcomed by Librarian Jennifer Hootman to an inner bunker at Minitex on the campus of the University of Minnesota. We had been recruited by Jennifer H. to reprise the 50 in 75 Book Blast we'd presented last fall at the Minnesota Library Association conference in St. Cloud. The Minitex webinar format consisted of our PowerPoint slides on a screen that participants could view while we presented our book talks over a telephone line. Both webinars were fully booked, in spite of taking place at 9:00 in the morning. For those who are interested, the webinar has been archived and can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.minitex.umn.edu/Training/Details.aspx?SessionID=284>.

(Our webinar can only be viewed in Internet Explorer.)

--Barb Pierce, Library Associate, Highland Park Library, RART

It was a very busy year. New steering committee members stepped up and pitched in with programs and organizing- thank you! And season steering committee members kept each other on track! It was a good, but exhausting year. 2011 should be interesting.

-submitted by Angie Noyes

