Don't Judge a Book By its Cover

Pauline Lynch Shostack
Onondaga Community College
SUNYLA 2013
What is a Human Library?
A Human Library is a way for people to reach out and connect with individuals in their community with whom they might not normally interact. Visitors to this library have an opportunity during a planned event to borrow and engage in conversation with a Human Book. Human Libraries promote tolerance, celebrate differences and encourage understanding of people who come from varied cultural or lifestyle backgrounds.

What is a Human Book?
Human Books are volunteers who are willing to share their stories with others in a safe environment.

What is a Reader?
Readers check out Human Books for 20 minutes. By doing so, they have the opportunity to participate in one-on-one or small-group conversations with Human Books to ask questions and to learn about another’s life experiences or special interests.

Help us find Human Books.
We are looking for volunteers to act as Human Books. Would you like to volunteer? If so, please write your book title on the blank paper in front of you. We will add your book to our bookshelf at the front of the room.
Background
Why?
Event Timeline
Next time...
A little background…

1st Human Library @ Roskilde Festival Denmark

1st National Human Library Day

Human Library events in 28 countries

2008

2012

2013

SUNY Onondaga hosts a Human Library event!

2000
Event Planning

- Idea!
- Committee Formation
- Book Topics – Student Survey, Brainstorming
- Book Volunteer Recruitment
- Publicity
- Financial Support
- Recruit Event Volunteers
- Website
- Event setup
- Evaluations /Thank Yous

Timeline:
- August 2012: Idea!
- September 2012: Committee Formation
- October 2012: Book Topics – Student Survey, Brainstorming
- December 2012: Book Volunteer Recruitment
- January 2013: Publicity
- February 2013: Financial Support
- March 2013: Recruit Event Volunteers
- April 2013: Website
- May 2013: Event setup
- April 3, 2013: Evaluations /Thank Yous
Committee Makeup

- Library staff members (7)
- Diversity Affairs Assistant Director
- Faculty Member (COM)
- Public Library Director
- Librarian (Broome Community College)

Additional support from:
- Student Association
- Career & Applied Learning Center
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Available Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>10:00–12:00</td>
<td>The autobiography of an African American male from Washington, D.C., who has overcome numerous obstacles to achieve success at a relatively young age and how his sense of self-understanding and cultural identity has helped him through life. An honest, relatable, and thought-provoking story of perseverance, passion, and pride.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Art</td>
<td>12:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Body art has existed for centuries, and after the 19th century, it has continued to gain popularity. Today, it is rare to find a person who doesn't have at least one tattoo today. This book has been in our office since 2005, and we've seen the rise and fall of tattoo trends over the years. Her full-arm tattoo “sleeve” is still in progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Survivor</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>This book was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The cancer has no cure but has been diagnosed. As the CEO of a large company, he has been to many doctors to find out what they feel. It is a frightening disease that is still hard to carry. This one is an open book about his cancer journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chef</td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Here's a Cookbook who is a food writer, working at Gray Rock Farm in Canandaigua. She's been to Greyfriars Kitchen and the Syracuse Passover, and she's worked with the Onondaga Free Library and the Community Supported Agriculture farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College President</td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Le Moyne College is the setting for this book. The author has been the president since 2008. He previously served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of sociology at the University of Dayton. Andrew Cuomo, the governor of New York, now also serves on the Development Council (RED), where he is on the Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Enthusiast</td>
<td>10:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>The author is a fitness enthusiast. He is a marathon runner and a fitness coach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formerly Homeless</td>
<td>10:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>The author is a former homeless individual who has turned his life around. He is now a successful entrepreneur and a mentor to others who are struggling with addiction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Attack Survivor</td>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>On October 13, 2008, at the age of 60, this author suffered a major heart attack and cardiac arrest. He has since undergone a series of surgeries and his health has greatly improved.</td>
</tr>
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If you would like to participate...
HUMAN BOOKS BY TITLE

- AFRICAN AMERICAN
- BODY ART
- CANCER SURVIVOR
- CHEF
- COLLEGE PRESIDENT
- FITNESS ENTHUSIAST
- FORMERLY HOMELESS
- HEART ATTACK SURVIVOR
- HISPANIC AMERICAN
- HOMELESS OUTREACH
- LIFE IN BANGLADESH
- LIFE IN NIGERIA
- LIFE IN THAILAND
- LIFE IN UZBEKISTAN
- MENTAL HEALTH
- PROFESSIONAL
- MUSICIAN
- NEW YORK CITY LIFE
- PAGAN
- POLITICIAN
- PRIEST
- PROFESSOR
- SPIRITUAL LEADER
- SURVIVOR OF SUICIDE
- TELEVISION PRODUCER
- TRIATHLETE
- TV METEOROLOGIST
- TV REPORTER
- UNDECIDED MAJOR
- VETERAN

NEW ADDITIONS:
- LAW ENFORCEMENT
- LIFE IN CHINA
- SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 10:00 – 2:00PM
COULTER LIBRARY

http://library.sunyccc.edu/news/events/humanlibrary.php

Publicity
Publicity
Registration

The Human Library

Reserve A Book

Students complete the form below and press the submit button to make a reservation. If you are participating in this event for a class, please enter your instructor's name.

Reservations are 20 minutes long.

*Name 1: ____________________________  Instructor: ____________________________
Name 2: ____________________________  Instructor: ____________________________
Name 3: ____________________________  Instructor: ____________________________
*Email: ____________________________
Book: Veteran I

What's it like to have served in the Army in Iraq? This Veteran Book grew up in Auburn, NY and went to Auburn High School. At the age of 17, she enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Time: 10:00  Description: ____________________________

* Required fields

If you have any questions or problems registering, please contact: Pauline Shostack at 315-498-2708, e-mail shostacp@sunyocc.edu or Angela Weiler at 315-498-2340, e-mail weilera@sunyocc.edu
Registration
Registration
WANT TO LEARN MORE?
Classroom Connection

• Seven faculty members had some/all of their students participate.
  – Three instructors cancelled classes and had students attend this event instead. (COM/PSY/ENG)
  – Two instructors gave extra credit for attending this event. (Freshman Seminar/EDU)

• 10 faculty members were book volunteers.
“Upon entering the library, I expected I would notice the pagan at once, because she should look very out of the ordinary and wearing weird clothes. I discovered my perception was very wrong. The pagan I was introduced to was a normal looking woman, wearing a t-shirt and jeans. While we talked, I realized that she believes in many things that I do, as a catholic.”

~Psychology student paper excerpt
Evaluation Results

• 105 readers
• 32 book volunteers
• Overall positive response (books & readers)
• Strong classroom connection
Reader Survey

• Book title suggestions
  – Life in the Middle East
  – Psychic
  – Ex-con
  – Vegan
  – Current soldier
  – Medical professional

• Best sellers
  – Survivor of Suicide
  – Formerly Homeless
  – Pagan
  – Body Art
Reader Survey

• Meeting a person I probably would not have met otherwise.
• That it was a one-on-one interview
• I was given inspiration to continue to push on in life
• I think they should do this every semester. It is a unique experience that helps to expand knowledge through social interaction, which you do not always get in a classroom.
• I want to be a “book” next time!
Book Survey

• Overwhelming positive experience
• Almost all our books want to volunteer again next year
• Benefits
  – Humanizing topic
  – Teaching
• Challenges
  – Not knowing the questions ahead of time
  – More time
Next time...

• Recruit volunteer readers
• Change book volunteer time block
• Regional event
• “More Information” table
Questions?

Additional information: http://myhome.sunyocc.edu/~shostacp