Greetings from Syracuse, the Salt City! I hope this article finds you healthy and well. After carefully avoiding it for two years, I caught the coronavirus back in April, and it knocked me out. Thankfully, my doctor prescribed an antiviral and I got to experience the absolute delight that is “Paxlovid mouth.” You know when you try and swallow medication or vitamins and it doesn’t go down the first time? THAT was what my mouth tasted like...fun times! It did its job and I’m healthy now, so I’m very grateful for vaccines and medicines.

Speaking of gratitude, our Spring Conference on April 8 in Schenectady was our first in person event and it was wonderful to be back together in person. Chrissie and her committee knocked it out of the park organizing fantastic sessions and speakers. Thank you for your hard work! Author Chris Crutcher gave an amazing keynote as well as several workshops on censorship. I think the entire audience was glued to every word he said...I know I was! Thank you to everyone who presented workshops and generously gave their time and knowledge to us. If you missed it, check out the YSS website for links to the presentations and handouts. I’m looking forward to next year’s conference!

Don’t forget to vote! Elections for NYLA 2022 Council are soon. Voting opens June 1 - June 15. Information about the candidates and how to vote can be found on the NYLA website. This election also includes those running for YSS Executive Board positions. I want to give a shout-out to those YSS members who dedicate their time and experience to give back to our profession! We’re always looking for volunteers to work on committees, run for Executive Board positions, plan conferences and work on other projects. If you’re interested in helping out, please fill out an Active Member Form. We’d love to have you!
By now, many of you are elbows deep in planning your Summer Reading Programs. For public libraries, this is the busiest time of the year. Are you using CSLP’s “Oceans of Possibilities” theme? I’m loving this ocean/sea theme! Whether it’s storytimes, library displays, crafts, games, hands-on activities, grab and go kits, entertainers, and more, I can’t wait to see all the amazing programs you offer to the children and teens in your communities.

This is the first time in 13 years I’m not planning a Summer Reading Program. Why, you ask? I started a new job at the beginning of May! I’m the Director of Maxwell Memorial Library in Camillus, which is on the Westside of Syracuse. As many of you know, I was a Children’s Librarian for the past almost 14 years, and while I will always be one in my soul, this was an amazing opportunity I couldn’t pass up! I am still learning so much, but I am very excited to be at Maxwell, and to grow in my professional abilities. Don’t worry! I’m still very involved in youth services (I can’t quit it!) and am looking forward to translating all the leadership experience I gained running a children’s services department into managing a library.

I want to end this article with something powerful I recently heard. I found it useful, and hope you will too, especially as we enter SRP craziness in the midst of year two of a pandemic. I recently attended the Section of School Librarians Conference on May 20-21. Dr. Adolph Brown III, clinical psychologist and nationally renowned educator and speaker, gave the opening keynote. Hands down, he was one of the BEST speakers I’ve ever heard at a library conference! Dynamic and engaging, I was left inspired. He said all of us carry a backpack. This backpack is filled with things we’re dealing with in our life (stress, illness, money problems, relationship issues, etc.), and we also have a smaller backpack inside the big one. This small one is our childhood issues and traumas. Empty your backpacks. Every day we have to look into the mirror and get rid of anything that is holding us back. If you don’t look into the mirror and examine things in your backpack and empty it out, these things will interfere with your happiness and success in life. Whatever is holding you back, take care of yourself and let it go. Wishing you all peace and amazing Summer Reading Programs. You got this!

Jenny Burke
YSS President
YSS Spring Conference Summary

On Friday April 8, 2022, the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association presented their Annual Spring Conference: May The Odds Be Ever In Your Favor. The conference was held at the Rivers Casino & Resort Event Center in Schenectady, NY. As it was the first conference YSS held in person since everything shut down in 2020, we were thrilled to have 100 people in attendance! (We also had 36 attendees, 8 of whom were YSS Past Presidents, at the Pre-Conference Reception held at Druthers Brewing Company on the evening prior.)

We started off the conference with a delicious breakfast and an inspiring keynote from Chris Crutcher -- a bestselling YA author with an extensive history in coaching, teaching, and social work/youth advocacy. Attendees enjoyed a variety of informative workshops throughout the day by attending 3 of 12 possible breakout sessions, and they also had the opportunity to speak to a representative from NY Hunger Solutions about becoming a "Summer Feeding" location. According to survey results, our first attempt at having a networking luncheon rather than a luncheon speaker was also well-received, so we will definitely pass that along to future Spring Conference Directors!

Speaking of successes at the conference:

- We collected more than 300 personal care items (and a $10 cash donation) for our charity partner, Things of My Very Own
- The Open Door Bookstore of Schenectady, NY, sold books worth over $350 at our conference bookstore
- And our Silent Auction items (at the Pre-Conference Reception) and Conference Raffle Baskets raised $654 for YSS Scholarships

Be sure to check out the YSS Conference Archive for digital copies of presenter’s handouts and presentations, and #MayTheOddsBeEverInYourFavor

Chrissie Morrison
2022 YSS Spring Conference Director
Summer 22 YSS Newsletter

YSS Marketing Updates

Be sure to stay up-to-date on all YSS news, announcements, trends, and inspiring topics by following YSS NYLA on social media. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Twitter!

Want to brag about a great program or display you've created? Are you excited about what's happening at your library and want to share it with your YSS colleagues? Send pictures and a description to Jennifer Lelinski (huntjennifer25@gmail.com) to be posted on our social media platforms! We look forward to seeing what's happening at your libraries! (Please be sure to have sharing permissions before sending pictures our way.)

Jennifer Lelinski

Nominations are Open for NYLA Awards!

NYLA is the “Voice of the Library Community.” If you believe that then you must know some people that make up the Community and work hard for it through their membership, leadership, collaborations, and simple hard work. That is what the NYLA Awards are all about.

We will begin taking nominations on June 1 for FIVE major awards: NYLA’s Distinguished Achievement Award, the Mary Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award, the Academic/Special Librarian of the Year Award, the Public Librarian of the Year Award, and the School Librarian of the Year Award. Nominations may be made from June 1 until July 15th. You can find the forms and the criteria for each award at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYLAAwards22.

These awards cover the last 12-18 months. Anyone that was nominated last year, is still eligible for consideration. Please resubmit the nomination with any updated information. Self-nominations are perfectly acceptable. It is time to look around and think about what makes our organization, our careers, and our dynamic ideas merge into action. These awards are wonderful for recipients, but they also encourage others in our profession with proven ideas. Please think about nominating a worthy candidate! In case you forgot, the Public Librarian of the Year 2021 went to our own YSS member, Gail Brown!

YSS Scholarship Winners

Rose Stuart - Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship:

Rose Stuart's dedication to youth services in librarianship is demonstrated with over a decade of services to the children in her community. She currently works at the Colonie Town Library where she can explore her passion for developing programs that engage kids. Her professional goal is to be leader within the library and help youth services provide the best level of service to her community. She creates a nurturing and educational environment, that is also full of enjoyment for her patrons. Rose not only inspires her colleagues to do the same, but helps them succeed as well.

Kristin McClune - New Member Spring Conference Scholarship:

Kristin McClune is a pillar in her community, from her EMT and time as a firefighters to becoming the youth services coordinator for NorthEast Millerton Library. She always seeks opportunity to gain more knowledge of how children and families utilize her programs and resources of their public libraries to help them learn to read and subsequently grow as members of their community. She has an eagerness to learn more about how she can apply the knowledge she has gained into her future as a library media specialist.
2022 Empire State Award Winner

First presented to Maurice Sendak in 1990, the Empire State Award is given annually to an author or illustrator currently residing in New York State, acknowledging their significant contribution to the field of literature for young people. Nominations are made by librarians across the state and the winner is selected by a 3-person committee.

The announcement of the 2022 Empire State Award winner was made at the YSS Spring Conference on April 8. The Empire State Award Committee is pleased and excited that the winner of the 2022 Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People is Kate Messner. This year's winner is the latest awardee among youth literature greats such as Brian Selznick, Jerry Pinkney, Laurie Halse Anderson, and Jacqueline Woodson to name just a few. Ms. Messner is scheduled to speak at the award luncheon on Friday, November 4, 2022 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Your input is greatly appreciated, so please consider submitting a nomination for your favorite NY state author and/or illustrator by using the online form on the YSS page of the NYLA’s website at YSS ESA Nominating Form Survey. You never know - maybe one of your favorites will win in the near future! We value your input and rely on our members to contribute to building an amazing pool of worthy nominations.

If you are interested in seeing a list of all ESA winners or are seeking additional information, please visit the ESA page of the NYLA website at Empire State Award Winners.

Gail Brown, Empire State Award Committee Chair

You’ve Got a Friend

How many of you depend on your local Friends of the Library organization to help with the cost of your Summer Reading Program? Perhaps they help with prizes, or a big kick-off, a finale, or perhaps the whole summer of programs. Whatever they do, don’t forget to thank them as a sponsor and let the whole library community know you appreciate your “Friends.”

The summer programs can keep you busier than any other time of the year, as you all know. It is most helpful to have a thank you banner or just an 8” x 11” thank you note in a frame made up to use all summer. A small table with Friends membership envelopes is another way to remind patrons of the importance of your local F.O.L. I recently heard about a library that used a QR code on their banner which brought the patron to the donation page of their F.O.L. It is a lovely opportunity to say “thank you.” Our Friends of Libraries Section is celebrating 30 years as a NYLA Roundtable and then into a NYLA Section. Although you will hear more about this in the Fall, I hope this reminder about your local F.O.L. will empower you to share your gratitude. The two pictures above are advertising sponsored programs with a local F.O.L.

Lisa Wemett
Friends Liaison
SSL Summer Leadership Institute

Syracuse University Sheraton, Syracuse, New York
August 4th and 5th

Thursday 8/4, 12:00pm—5:30pm and
7pm—9pm Friday, 8/5, 9am—1pm
(arrival/check in/lunch on 8/4 starting at
11am) **11 NYSED CTLE hours will be
given for attendance at this event.**

**Activities include:** keynotes, interactive
work times, resources curated by parti-
cipants, and a Thursday evening practical.
And of course, once the discussions end,
we will have the famous margarita mixer
during the Institute Scholarship basket
raffle and auction!

**Registration:** $200 includes the
program, meals, and parking. Registration
does **not** include lodging.

**ALL** Institute participants must be NYLA/
SSL members. If you are not a member
please go to [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org) and join (first-
time membership is $25). **Online registration** will be handled by NYLA and
will open on 6/1.

**Lodging:** room reservations may be made by calling
the Sheraton directly at (888)-627-7097 or
(315)-475-3000. Rooms are $133+ tax and fees, single
or double occupancy. Ask for the NYLA/SSL Institute
rate when booking. All room reservations must be made
by 6/28/2022.

[https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1621954005942&key=GRP](https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1621954005942&key=GRP)

This school year has been a year of challenged and
removed books from school libraries and classrooms.
We work every day with the students who are caught in
the controversies, especially students of color, students who are learning about their own or
friends’ gender identities and students who need to learn about the true history and culture
of our country.

At this institute, our speakers and interactive discussions will examine how school librarians
can encourage a love of reading, knowledge of students’ own and other cultures that make
up our country, and teach students the critical thinking skills they need to be strong learners
and citizens.
2024 Spring Conference Director Search

Bring the 2024 YSS Spring Conference to your area in New York State as the NYLA-YSS 2024 Spring Conference Director!

It’s similar to planning a wedding – but with a lot of help - and someone else’s money!

**You choose:**

- The theme
- Where to have it
- When to have it
- Your committee members (and they get FREE attendance!)

**Your committee helps you with ALL THE THINGS such as:**

- Raffles
- Registration
- Venue
- Conference sessions

The YSS Board is there to help you through the whole process!

The term starts at NYLA 2022 in Saratoga Springs and ends November 2024. You shadow the 2023 Conference Director, attend YSS board meetings – only 4 a year- and start planning your event.

Pictures and information about past spring conferences at [www.nyla.org/yss](http://www.nyla.org/yss) or [www.facebook.com/yssnyla](http://www.facebook.com/yssnyla)

Interested? Contact Amanda.Schiavulli@gmail.com

**Vote Now for your 2022 YSS Board Candidates**

Take a look at the profiles for the incoming YSS Board candidates, Liz Anastazi, Nancarrow Brown, and Joyce Laiosa on the following pages. Then place your vote on the website!
PRESENT POSITION
- CHAIR, NEW YORK STATE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS - JOINT YSS-SSL COMMITTEE

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
- HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT, GREENBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
- NYLA YSS FIRST, SECOND, THIRD YEAR DIRECTOR
- ASSOCIATION OF BOOKMOBILE & OUTREACH SERVICES - BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE, CHAIR OF COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
- WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM BATTLE OF THE BOOKS - PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE CHAIR
- WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, CONFERENCE CHAIR

EDUCATION
- SUNY ALBANY, MSIS

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS
- HARTSDALE/GREENBURGH ROTARY CLUB

POSITION STATEMENT
THE IMPORTANCE OF ADVOCACY FOR YOUTH IN LIBRARIES, ESPECIALLY TWEENS AND TEENS, IS HARD TO EXAGERATE. AS WE ALL KNOW, POSITIVE LIBRARY EXPERIENCES ON THE EVE OF ADULTHOOD CAN LEAD TO LIFE-LONG LIBRARY USERS AND ADVOCATES. IT IS THE AIM OF YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARY STAFF TO DO JUST THAT-- FOSTER THIS RELATIONSHIP BY CREATING AND OFFERING WELCOMING AND ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES WHERE YOUNG ADULTS FEEL SUPPORTED, SAFE, AND EAGER TO RETURN.

NYLA-YSSIS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR ANYONE IN YOUTH SERVICES, PROVIDING CONTINUING EDUCATION, NETWORKING, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE AND COLLABORATE WITH SIMILARLY-PASSIONATE COLLEAGUES FROM NEAR AND FAR. WITH 2020, A NEW NORMAL EMERGED, AND WITH IT, A PARADIGM SHIFT IN LIBRARIES, AND ESPECIALLY YOUTH SERVICES. NOW MORE THAN EVER WE NEED THE CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS AND COLLEAGUES AND YSS IS RISING TO THE CHALLENGE -- FACILITATING RELATIONSHIPS AND INNOVATION. AS A PART OF THE YSS BOARD, I WILL STRIVE TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND THIS ESSENTIAL INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EDUCATION FOR WHICH YSS IS SO WELL-KNOWN.
PRESENT POSITION
- Young Adult and Community Outreach Services Librarian at the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
- Substitute Reference Librarian, Cayuga Community College
- For other relevant experience, I worked as the Assistant Office Manager at Tops for several years and was responsible for maintaining store reports, counting funds, balancing monetary intake against store records, and preparing daily bank deposits.

EDUCATION
- Syracuse University, Master of Science in Library and Information Science
- Le Moyne College, Masters of Science for Teachers: Adolescent Education
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Bachelor’s of Science

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS
- New York State Library Association: Public Libraries Section, Youth Services Section, and Corrections and Outreach Round Table
- NYLA YSS Newsletter Editor, November 2018 - November 2022
- Beta Phi Mu International Library and Information Studies Honor Society, Chapter Pi Lambda Sigma

POSITION STATEMENT
The past few years have been overwhelming for many of us. One thing that hasn’t changed is the importance of our profession and the impact we have on the youth we serve. It’s a joy every time a child’s eyes light up at the book you introduced to them or over a fun and educational activity they participated in at the library. Through these tough times, those moments have kept me grounded and inspired.

It has been my pleasure for the past five years to work as the YSS Newsletter Editor. During that time, the support from the YSS Board and the section as a whole has been wonderful. As Treasurer, I would continue to work for you to support the efforts of our board and committee members as they work to provide the best resources and opportunities for all of our members. I’ve seen the dynamic things our section and profession can accomplish when we work together and it’s been my privilege to be a part of it.
PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 - RETIRED FROM VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, VOORHEESVILLE, NY
- 2013 - INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 2001 TO 2013 - HEAD OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 1997 TO 2001 - YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN, VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 2015 TO 2019 - CONSULTANT TO UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM AND MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEMS (BOTH NY STATE) WITH NY STATE FAMILY LITERACY GRANT (TRAINING LIBRARIANS AND VOLUNTEERS IN EARLY LITERACY SKILLS WITH CURRICULUM AND WORKSHOPS; EARLY LITERACY STEM KITS)

EDUCATION

- STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, MASTERS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE
- STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, BACHELOR OF ARTS [RUSSIAN LANGUAGE]

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

- 2017 - 2022 READER FOR DANIEL CASEY AWARD, FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES SECTION
- 2014 - 2019 READER FOR LETTERS FOR LITERATURE, EMPIRE CENTER OF THE BOOK
- 2014 - 2017 DANIEL CASEY AWARD CHAIR; FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES SECTION
- 2010-2014 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT AND IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF YOUTH SERVICE SECTION
- 2007 CHAIR OF EMPIRE STATE AWARD COMMITTEE, YSS
- 2006 MEMBER EMPIRE STATE AWARD COMMITTEE, YSS
- 2002-2005 TREASURER OF YOUTH SERVICES SECTION
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:
- 2022-2023 CHAIR OF THE ALSC SIBERT NONFICTION BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE
- 2018 STANDING FOR ALSC SIBERT NONFICTION BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE
- 2017-2019 ALSC BECHTEL AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE
- 2014-2016 ALSC NOTABLE BOOKS COMMITTEE (CHILDREN’S)
- 2012-2014 ALSC CHILDREN AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
- 2008-2010 ALSC ARBUTHNOT 2010 LECTURE COMMITTEE
- 2004-2006 CHAIR OF THE ALSC EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- 2002-2004 ALSC EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- 2002-2003 CARNEGIE COMMITTEE, ALSC

POSITION STATEMENT

YSS IS WHERE I STARTED MY YOUTH SERVICES CAREER, AT A SPRING CONFERENCE, SET IN ALBANY. THE THIRD YEAR DIRECTOR WAS MICKI NEVITT AND THE LUNCHEON SPEAKER WAS KATHYRN LASKY. THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS WAS WITH GREGORY MAGUIRE. I HADN'T FINISHED MY DEGREE YET, BUT EVERYONE I MET WAS WELCOMING ME TO YSS. I LOVED IT! MY LIBRARIAN-HEART HAS ALWAYS FELT A PART OF YSS.

I'M VERY GLAD THAT A NEW POSITION HAS BEEN CREATED TO SERVE ON THE NYLA COUNCIL FOR THREE YEARS. THE PRESIDENTS OF EACH SECTION SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME WHEN SERVING ON NYLA COUNCIL TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS OF THE COUNCIL, NOR LEARN THE PROCEDURES AND ROUTINE OF COUNCIL. I HOPE THAT MY TENURE IN THIS POSITION WILL SUPPORT THE WORK OF YSS AND LET COUNCIL KNOW MORE ABOUT YSS.
The Importance of Storytelling

Storytelling has been much on my mind lately, in part because I will soon act as a judge at an event where young people will be telling fairy tales. The prospect of this event fills me with delight, as I believe so much can be learned and gained from the telling of stories.

Early on in my professional life, many years ago, storytelling was all the rage. In recent years it seems to have fallen out of favor, and the practitioners are fewer. I hope to encourage you to try your hand at storytelling. I’m not going to talk about the mechanics of storytelling. There are plenty of webinars and books for that. Rather, I want to talk about why we should tell folk and fairy tales.

Fairy tales impart life lessons. Sharon Salluzzo, a wonderful storyteller, says this: “They connect us with people of old who shared these tales and passed what they learned to the next generation. They hold a collective human wisdom that informs us through the entire range of our feelings.” Some of these life lessons are concepts such as goodness defeating evil, obstacles being overcome through teamwork, and the importance of being kind. Perhaps my favorite motif, and one that speaks powerfully to children, is that of the smallest and weakest creature winning through cleverness.

Neil Gaiman, paraphrasing G. K. Chesterton, writes, “Fairy tales are more than true—not because they tell us dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten.” Children know there are fears and dangers to face. Fairy tales tell them they have the power to face and defeat them.

Though these tales have existed through the centuries, they are created anew with each telling. Ann Gibson, for whom one of our scholarships is named, was my mentor, and a magnificent storyteller. While I tell a story I heard from her, it is not the same story, because I tell it with my own words, phrasing, and physicality. The listeners bring their own imaginations to my telling, and the mental pictures they create will be wholly their own. Thus, we bring the story to life together, and I show children a little of myself, which allows a connection to form between us. Sharon Salluzzo says, “When we connect with one another, we develop empathy, we share a story experience, and we create a lasting bond.”

Once upon a time. There once was a... Phrases such as these hold magic, and open the door to a place where dragons are conquered, rabbits escape briar patches, and turnips are pulled from the ground by everyone working together. Children need that place of wonder. Share it with them.

MaryJo Smith
2nd Vice President, Membership
New York State Library Announcements

Keep up with upcoming informative events and programs sponsored by the New York State Library! Programs are now listed on the LibCal calendar: [NYS Library Events - OCE Events - OCE (libcal.com)]

Did you miss a 2022 Summer Reading Lunch and Learn session or a recent Ready to Read webinar or want to watch one again? Check out this page for recordings of recent webinars [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/webinars/index.html#Recent] or find links to Lunch and Learn sessions presented by Summer Reading partner organizations by going to [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/librarians-educators/le-resources/]

READY TO READ at NEW YORK LIBRARIES

- DayByDayNY and the Family Literacy Calendar have some NEW resources for families looking to explore all that New York State has to offer. The museum map has been updated for 2022, and a new page of links to NY state events and sites has been added at [https://daybydayny.org/explore-ny/]
- Find a NEW promotional flyer for One More Story at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/documents/DayByDayNY2022.png]

SUMMER READING at NEW YORK LIBRARIES

- Libraries are gearing up and getting ready to dive into Oceans of Possibilities and Summer Reading 2022! Remember that public libraries can share the online manual access code with local schools to assist with partnering on Summer Reading and Learning and to get more students to participate. Be sure to connect with your local school district to suggest bringing a library event or activity to a meal distribution site or summer school location. It’s a great way to involve more kids and families in your summer programs.
- Find aquarium and other water-related ideas and resources for Oceans of Possibilities at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/summer-reading-2022-activities/]
- Where can you find agreeable penguins, disinterested nautiluses, and fish that stubbornly resist revealing their innermost thoughts? Why in this year's Summer Reading PSA videos! CSLP has released the creative new 2022 PSA videos, and they are a great addition to library websites as a way to increase promotion for Oceans of Possibilities. YouTube links to the English and Spanish versions can be found at:
  - Full PSA English Youtube link: [https://youtu.be/tJTLHas_erE]
  - Full PSA Spanish Youtube link: [https://youtu.be/0DjbTp-HFgQ]
- They are also posted on the Summer Reading at New York Libraries site at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/]
- Check out the UPDATED Summer Reading flyers for 2022 and download them at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/facts.htm] to help with promotion and outreach.
- READsquared refresher training sessions for NY libraries were offered in February and early March. If you were unable to attend a session, find the recorded sessions at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readssquared/] Remember that libraries using READsqured can always get technical help and support by emailing

To summer reading at new york libraries

They are also posted on the Summer Reading at New York Libraries site at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/]

Under "PSAs for 2022." The "base" files are available for libraries to add their own logo or text if they want to customize the message. These downloadable files can be found in the CSLP Online Manual for Oceans of Possibilities at [www.cslpreads.org](http://www.cslpreads.org)<http://www.cslpreads.org/>

Check out the UPDATED Summer Reading flyers for 2022 and download them at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/facts.htm] to help with promotion and outreach.

READsquared refresher training sessions for NY libraries were offered in February and early March. If you were unable to attend a session, find the recorded sessions at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readssquared/] Remember that libraries using READsquared can always get technical help and support by emailing
support@r2stg.zohosupport.com. There is also a searchable support knowledgebase that is very helpful for addressing common READsquared questions and issues.

- Don’t have a READsquared account for your library? You can still request one to be set up in time to use for this summer. Find information at https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/
- Need help finding interesting library programs for this summer or for other times of the year? Don’t forget to use the Performers and Programs statewide database to locate programs and presenters: https://performersandprograms.com/index.html
- Remember that libraries can be involved in the Summer Meals program by working with local sponsor organizations to provide meals and snacks, by providing outreach materials to library patrons, or by working with schools to bring library activities to food distribution sites. Learn more at https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/
- Check out no Kid Hungry’s resource about summer and afterschool meals and libraries: https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/programs/summer-and-afterschool-meals-libraries
- **Reminder about Discontinuation of the Teen Video Challenge in 2022:** The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) is not sponsoring the national TVC contest this year and will not be coordinating entries from State Library agencies. This information about the discontinuation of the national Teen Video Challenge has been shared widely with Public Library System staff. Information about the change and discontinuation of TVC can be found at https://www.summerreadingnys.org/teen-video-challenge/ Library systems may wish to coordinate a similar teen competition in their local region this year, or a group of member libraries in a particular area may want to work together to sponsor a contest for teens in their local communities as part of Summer Reading and Oceans of Possibilities.
- The New York State Library wishes you a safe and successful Summer Reading and Learning season!
- Be sure to sign up for NYLINE at https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/nyline.htm to stay informed about library-related news and updates all around New York State.
- Looking ahead to the summer of 2025? CSLP will be having an August listening session about Slogans and Themes favorites from the final list of vetted and translated 2025 Slogans and 2026 Themes to inform state reps in the before the official vote at the Annual CSLP meeting.

**UPDATE FROM NOVELny**
The New York State Library sponsored two webinars on using the NOVELny databases to support Summer Reading. Both will be recorded for later viewing. (Note that the Britannica one already happened.)

**Support Summer Reading with your Gale NOVELny Resources**
Your summer reading programs play an important role in encouraging students to keep their skills up and be better prepared for the new school year by engaging literacy skills. Your NOVELny resources can support these programs with additional reading materials to strengthen understanding of texts, engage readers with critical analyses of texts, and foster close reading of text. We’ll explore these ideas and more in this session.
Using Britannica School to Support Summer Reading

Summer Reading Programs are a great way to continue literacy education for students throughout summer months while encouraging communities that can support all students when returning to school in the fall. While summer reading programs have supported students in many ways, students need additional support to make their summer learning experiences more in depth. Integrating Britannica School into Summer Reading Programs can support students in inquiry and research throughout summer months to continue student driven curiosity. Participants in this session will:

1. Explore strategies to embed into lessons to support deep learning when exploring media sources or reading a text
2. Learn how to support all learners and students and support their independent use of tools
3. Select graphic organizers to implement in lessons and activities in the Fall for Back-to-School learning and for students to use while reading
4. Identify strategies to support struggling students by engaging background knowledge
5. Develop rich learning experiences for students through inquiry and research

Questions about Youth Services programs or initiatives?
Email Sharon Phillips, New York State Library Youth Services Program Manager at nyslyouth@nysed.gov
Updates from Hunger Solutions

Connect Families to WIC with Wanda

In the Spring 22 YSS Newsletter Edition, we shared some background and data on the vital importance of WIC’s public health services and a few ways how libraries can help connect many more families to this underserved program. Now, we share some new resources to easily educate moms, moms-to-be, and families about WIC.

An innovative new resource is WIC’s new online virtual Assistant, Wanda, an effective tool to help families connect to WIC. In less than three minutes, families can learn about WIC services, find out if they may be eligible, learn about WIC clinics near them, and even automatically request the clinics follow-up with them. (Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most WIC offices are taking applications and conducting appointments and nutrition counseling over the phone.) Wanda is easy to use on a computer, tablet or phone.

To help spread the word about Wanda, you can order and share this new postcard with patrons. The postcard includes a QR code that takes the person directly to the virtual assistant webpage to begin the prescreen. You can order postcards at no cost.

There are many more resources available to help reach the families you serve. The WIC Help New York Resource Center, created and maintained by Hunger Solutions New York, includes a ‘print-on-demand’ letter-sized flyer, and a QR code that can be downloaded and used in print and digital materials. Also available are high-resolution graphics for websites, newsletters, emails and social media posts. Sample social media language is included, too.

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