

YSS Newsletter

2024 YSS Board

- Liz Anastasi, President
- Lex Abenshon, 1st VP (Pres. Elect)
- Kim Hazen, Past President
- Mary Jo C. Smith, 2nd VP (Membership)
- Windy Cardarelli, Secretary
- Nan Brown, Treasurer
- Joyce Laiosa, YSS Rep. to NYLA Council
- Katherine St. Laurent, 2024 Spring Conference Director
- Dana Hysell, 2025 Spring Conference Dir.

- Jaclyn Bleich, Web Liaison
- Sarah Reid, Newsletter Editor



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Contact us

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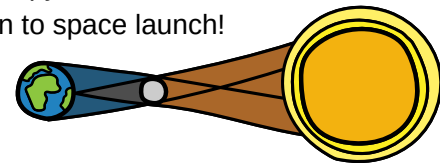


A Message from the YSS President

Libraries across New York are preparing for the upcoming Solar Eclipse on April 8. Responding to community interest and educational opportunities, countless eclipse and space lessons and programs are being planned, collections are being updated, and solar eclipse glasses inventories are being double-checked.

In light of this “eclipse fever,” I thought it might be fun to identify some stellar Space facts about the written word. Call me campy, but I could not resist presenting a space-themed list as a countdown to space launch!

Let's start the countdown...



5... LOOKING BACK

The oldest recorded eclipse in human history may have been created in 3340 B.C.E.! Archaeologists at the Loughcrew Megalithic Monument in County Meath, Ireland, uncovered these ancient eclipse records described as series of spiral-shaped and circular petroglyphs, or rock carvings made by pecking into stone. – science.nasa.gov/eclipses

4... LEARNING FROM HISTORY

Around 1200 B.C.E., in Anyang, China, eclipses were recorded on oxen shoulder blades and tortoise shells. In the 1980s and 1990s, over 3,000 years after these records were created, a team of astronomers at NASA studied these eclipse records to research changes in Earth's rotation.

3... BOOKS IN SPACE

Astronaut Susan Helms was allowed ten paperbacks in her space travel carry-on. Some of the titles she chose included *Gone With the Wind*, *Vanity Fair* and *War and Peace*. – <https://space.stackexchange.com/>

2... STORYTIME IN SPACE

Story Time From Space Videos Eclipse Series - Who better to learn about eclipse science and safety than an astronaut? Story Time From Space is packed with videos of Astronauts reading children's books from the International Space Station! – storytimefromspace.com/eclipse

1... LOOKING FORWARD

Save the date? The next total solar eclipse will not be visible in New York until 2079.

... Blastoff!



Wishing everyone a safe and fun eclipse season with a restful recovery to follow!

Liz Anastasi, YSS President

YSS SPRING
CONFERENCE

**THE ROARING
TWENTIES**

FINDING YOUR VOICE
IN A LOUD DECADE

Calling all fellas and flappers!

Round up your youth services pals from every nook and cranny of the state and make tracks to Clayton for the 2024 NYLA YSS Conference!

We're loaded with top-notch speakers, swell experiences, and a heap of knowledge to soak up, so don't miss out!

Don't drag your feet, register before March 31st!

Visit www.nyla.org/yss for the full scoop!

CLAYTON, NY
APRIL 19, 2024



FEATURING
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Lisa Fipps, Author of Starfish



Kelly Jensen of Book Riot



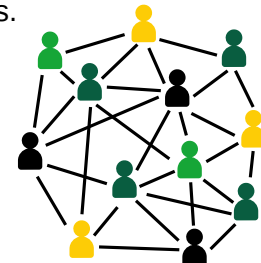
Why did you choose YSS Membership?

By now we all know that NYLA has a new membership database. Hopefully you've all gone to it and filled out your profile. Of course, when you filled out your profile, I'm confident you proudly chose YSS as your section.

What?! Are there actually people who don't know the wonders of YSS membership? I asked some folks to share with me their thoughts about YSS membership. I was curious about why they chose YSS membership and what they feel are the advantages of being a YSS member. Below please find some of their replies.

Tonia Burton, Children's Services Consultant for the Monroe County Library System:

Membership in YSS helps me stay connected with others in our profession beyond the library system I work in. Those connections help us all develop our services and skills through thoughtful conversations, professional development, and collegial circles. New York State has a variety of public libraries offering a wide range of services to different populations. Making connections through YSS helps members connect with others in the state serving similar populations while also having the opportunity to learn about services and programs offered by libraries that may be different.



Nan Brown, Teen Services Librarian, Central Library, Syracuse:

I joined the YSS board in 2018, when I learned about an open position. It was an opportunity to meet more Youth Services Librarians around the state, learn about our work, and contribute to the profession.

Kim Hazen, Youth Services Librarian, Guernsey Memorial Library and current YSS Past President:

I have been a member of YSS for many years. As the sole Youth Services Librarian at a small, rural public library, I value the connections I have been able to make with youth services staff from all areas of New York State. As a member, I am able to attend the annual spring conference that not only enhances my professional development but gives me the opportunity to see a different area of the state each year. The information and opportunities that YSS provides to its members is invaluable.

Claire Lovell, Digital Services Librarian, South Central Regional Library Council:

I joined YSS for the camaraderie while I was a Youth Services Librarian in Central New York. I changed jobs due largely to family needs during COVID, and I'm staying involved in YSS because the other people involved in YSS are some of the best librarians on the planet! Their creativity, dedication, humor and passion for the work are unparalleled.



Dana Hysell, Outreach Service Specialist (Youth, Advocacy, & Construction), Westchester Library System:

I joined YSS because in my position at the system level I work with all of the youth services librarians throughout our member libraries but I am not in a library myself. This is a wonderful opportunity to really know what's going on not only in the libraries in my area, but with youth services folks from around the state. Partnership is the name of the game for me and there is no greater collaboration for that than with YSS.

Jennifer Lesinski, Children's Services and Outreach, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library:

I joined YSS in the hopes that it would help connect me with other youth librarians and share ideas as I was just starting out my career in library science. In the years since, I have met librarians from all over the state, shared ideas, and gained inspiration for programs and storytimes. I've been lucky to attend several Spring Conferences and always come away with new ideas as well as feeling reinvigorated about librarianship.

When I returned to the area in 1988, I immediately joined NYLA and YSS. It never occurred to me not to, as it was my professional organization. I have served on the YSS Board several times in my long career, and it's always been an amazing experience. Youth serving librarians are among the most dedicated, caring, and fun people around. I count myself lucky to be a YSS member and spend time learning from, and laughing with, all these wonderful YSS members. Won't you join us?

Submitted by MaryJo Smith, Second Vice-President for Membership

Get on Board – YSS Needs YOU!

NYLA's Youth Services Section is looking for Executive Board candidates for the following positions beginning in the Fall of 2024.

1st Vice President/President-Elect: The 1st VP oversees the work of all the YSS Committees and appoints new people to serve on these committees. During the second year, the 1st VP becomes the President. The President organizes the YSS Board meetings and represents YSS to SSL. The third year of the term is served as Past President. They plan the Pre-Conference Dinner (night before YSS Spring Conference), gather a slate of candidates to run for YSS offices, and oversee the reports of the liaisons.

2nd VP/Membership: The second vice president/membership is a three-year term that helps NYLA and YSS to grow and engage membership. They work with the YSS Executive Board to provide exciting incentives that will encourage new members.

2026 Spring Conference Director: Interested in bringing the YSS Spring Conference to your hometown in Spring 2026? This two-year position will nominate a committee of no more than ten people to plan and oversee the conference over the span of two years.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please fill out our [Active Member Form](#) today!

Questions? Email no.kim@4cls.org

Submitted by Kim Hazen, Past YSS President



Congratulations to the Pied Piper Award Winner!

Samantha DiPietro from Levittown Public Library in Long Island has been awarded the 2024 Pied Piper Award given annually by the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association, for the library program “Globe Trotters”! This award recognizes excellence in promotional materials or programs that further service to youth in or by New York State Libraries.

Ms. DiPietro's entry was chosen out of many quality entries, but impressed judges with an engaging, interactive, and welcoming program for Levittown Public Library's patrons.

The Pied Piper Award committee would like to congratulate Ms. DiPietro on receiving this award and for the inclusive, and fun program they have established in their library community.

We look forward to Samantha's presentation at the YSS conference this year in Clayton.

Submitted by Stephanie Olson, 2024 Pied Piper Award Committee Chair



Nominations Open for Empire State Award

First presented in 1990 by the Youth Services Section (YSS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA), the Empire State Award is a one-time award presented to a living author or illustrator currently residing in NY State.

The award honors a body of work that represents excellence in children's or young adult literature and has made a significant contribution to literature for young people. The Award is presented to the winning author or illustrator at the NYLA Annual Conference.



Any member of YSS is eligible to submit a nomination to the Committee Chair. The Committee members will consider these nominations along with their own. Nominations are always ongoing throughout the year, so you can nominate an author at any time, but December 1 is the deadline to select the year's winner. Submit your nomination by December 1, 2024, [using this online form](#).

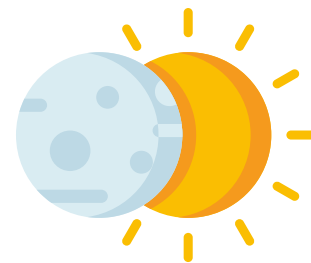
NY State Library Updates

Is your library ready for the total solar eclipse taking place on April 8th?

This exciting event will find many parts of New York State in the path of totality, which means the Moon will completely block out the Sun. Those geographic areas will experience a total eclipse if skies are clear that day. Check out the [eclipse information for cities in NY](#) to see exactly what to expect. Schools, libraries, and cultural institutions are busy planning many different eclipse-related and STEM events to engage students of ALL ages in this rare phenomenon.

There are many helpful resources to explore on the State Library's [Youth Services Eclipse Resources page](#).

Find additional curated resources from [WXXI Education](#) including a digital toolkit of PBS KIDS resources featuring video clips, games, printables, crafts, and more. The resources are appropriate for use with young children and their families in a variety of learning settings including libraries, schools, and out-of-school spaces. [Access WXXI's PBS KIDS Solar Eclipse Resources here](#).



Summer Reading at New York Libraries

The State Library receives information each year from systems and libraries to help determine the final participation number for Summer Reading. Updates for the 2023 season will be posted soon to the [Summer Reading participation page](#), but we can report that 1.6 million children and teens participated in and attended Summer Reading programs in 2023. **Thanks again to all libraries and systems for continuing to offer strong programming and learning opportunities for patrons of all ages!**

All public library system Youth Services Consultants have received the code to access the 2024 CSLP online manual to share with appropriate staff in member libraries. If you haven't received or still need the 2024 code, please reach out to the Youth Services Consultant for your system, or email nyslyouth@nysed.gov to request it.



Did you know that CSLP now owns the program content, artwork and graphics for Adventure Begins at Your Library AND for several previous years? Program materials from these previous years can be used year-round. See the [Summer Program Archives](#) on the CSLP site for more information.

The 2024 Summer Reading Lunch and Learn series is underway! Sessions are scheduled to begin in late February and will continue into March and April. All sessions will be recorded and posted or available (after they are closed-captioned) for future viewing. These short sessions are designed to help libraries with ideas for planning adventure-themed summer programs, and make library staff aware of helpful resources. Check out the list of scheduled sessions below and plan to attend! More sessions are being scheduled so check the State Library Calendar of Events often for new additions. Be sure to filter by the Youth Services category when you're in the calendar to get the latest Lunch and Learn or other Youth Services offerings.

(Continued on the following page.)

NY State Library Updates (continued)

Lunch and Learn Sessions

Is your library looking for ideas and inspiration as you plan for Summer Reading 2024 and "Adventure Begins at Your Library"? Check out the list of [Lunch and Learn sessions](#) on the State Library calendar of events. These free sessions are coordinated by Youth Services at the NY State Library to help libraries with planning and access to valuable information and resources. These sessions include:

- **Tasting History @ Your Library** - Recording to be posted soon.
- **Smokey Says...Read Adventures to Celebrate His 80th Birthday** - Recording to be posted soon.
- **Incorporating Spanish-Language Content into Your Summer Reading Program** - Friday, March 8, 12:30-1:00pm
- **4-H STEM Adventures – Summer Reading Surprises** - Friday, March 15, 11:30am-12:30pm
- **Get Started with Closed Captions** - Thursday, March 21, 12:30-1:30pm
- **Summer Meals at NYS Libraries** - Wednesday, March 27, 11:00am-12:00pm
- **Expand Your Summer Reading Program with the Talking Book + Braille Library** - Thursday, April 4, 11:30am-12:15pm

Just in case you missed one of our Lunch and Learn sessions, they are available to view online! Visit the "Youth Services" section of the [NYS Library Webinars](#) page to access our archived webinars.

More Summer Reading Updates!

The [Smokey Bear Reading Challenge](#) allows libraries to use materials from the USDA Forest Service to promote Summer Reading and Learning. Materials can also be incorporated into any library program that takes place from January to November 2024. The challenge celebrates outdoor awareness and activity as well as Smokey Bear's 80th birthday and aligns with the 2024 Summer Reading theme of "Adventure Begins at Your Library." The [library toolkit](#) contains materials such as themed graphics, posters, bookmarks, games, a challenge log, reading lists and more for libraries to utilize.

CSLP is currently working on production of the themed PSA video for **Adventure Begins at Your Library** and expects to have it available for libraries to use for outreach efforts by mid-April. This year's PSA video will incorporate some of the wonderful Adventure-themed artwork, so stay tuned! When the 2024 video becomes available, libraries will be able to access it on the [Promote Your Summer Reading Program page](#) of the Youth Services site.

CSLP has had very strong sales of incentive items this year from the catalog and through the online store, so libraries planning to get any of these items for their 2024 Summer Reading programs should place orders as soon as possible.

Is your library thinking about participating in the Summer Meals program this year? Last year, nearly 60 libraries operated as Summer Meal sites, and provided healthy snacks or food to kids and teens. Serving Summer Meals is a great way to boost attendance at library programs and raise awareness within the community. Kids need access to healthy food when school's out, so they can continue to learn and grow. The State Library and Hunger Solutions New York will be offering an online session on "Summer Meals at NYS Libraries" on March 27, so be sure to register to learn more about the program, how to find and connect with a sponsor, eligibility guidelines, and how your library can participate. For more information and a link to register, see the [event listing](#) on the State Library LibCal.

Want to see what's happening at the New York State Library, and receive news about upcoming programs, available resources and current initiatives? [Subscribe to receive the quarterly newsletter](#) via email when new issues are published.

Questions about State Library Youth Services initiatives or programs?
Email Sharon Phillips, Youth Services Program Manager at the NY State Library
at nyslyouth@nysed.gov





Talking Book and Braille Library Updates

Spring is coming! Although the temperatures remain cold, the air smells fresh and crisp and the days are getting longer again. Families are enjoying time outdoors exploring the natural world. **Here at the Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) in Albany, NY, we offer a wide array of books for young children, middle readers, and teens, in multiple languages.** All those who are blind, have low vision, or have a physical or reading disability that prevents their use of regular print materials are eligible for service. Our team is ready to help you select titles that enhance your Spring adventures. Our website features bibliographies on many topics or we can personalize a list for you on almost any topic.

You can also use your smartphone or tablet, to get books and magazines to suit your interests anytime, anywhere, via BARD—the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download website—and the BARD Mobile app. These downloadable materials are great for spring break travel or family hikes. These materials are instantly available and completely portable.

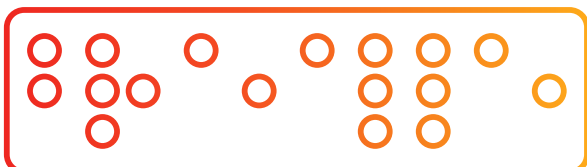
TBBL can also provide braille or audio books and magazines such as National Geographic Kids, Spider, and Sports Illustrated Kids via download or through the mail, postage-free. Easy-to-operate talking-book playback machines are also available. Our talking-book cartridges hold multiple books or series, so families can keep reading without waiting for the next book to arrive.

Check out our print-braille titles, in both fiction and nonfiction, for readers in pre-k through 3rd grade. These books feature colorful illustrations, alongside printed text, and a braille plastic overlay. A diverse and inclusive collection with contemporary themes, these books will speak to young readers.

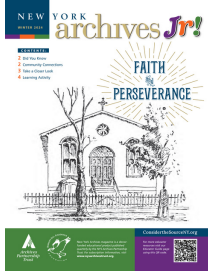
Want to build your collection of braille at home? Braille on Demand allows members to request up to five braille books per month, free of charge, to keep at home and build their home library. Choose from any of the tens of thousands of braille titles available on BARD.

For proficient braille readers, the Zoomax eReader is available. Refreshable braille displays, or eReaders, are devices with small pins that electronically move up and down through holes representing a braille cell. Users move their fingers across the cells as if they were reading braille on paper.

Teachers, Librarians, or others who serve those who are blind or have low vision may register as a TBBL institution member, please contact us to apply. TBBL Toll Free: 1-800-342-3688 or TBBL Email: tbbl@nysed.gov.



New York Archives Jr!



Discover *New York Archives Jr!* with the latest issue, *Faith and Perseverance* (Winter 2024), which explores the historical significance of Buffalo's Black churches.

Archives Jr! is specifically designed for students in grades 4-8 and is available for **FREE** to classroom educators. Request a **FREE** set of the latest issue for your classroom or library as well as any or all of the previous three issues [here](#).

You can also check out the online versions [here](#).

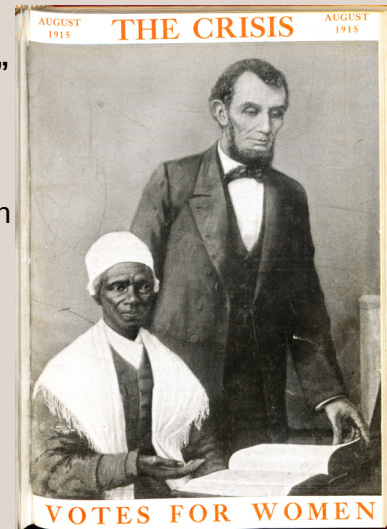
Primary Source Documents Webinar for Educators

The New York State Library will be hosting the following webinar for educators:

“Celebrating the 19th Amendment: Women's Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage Documents”
Monday, March 25, 3:30-4:30pm

Primary source documents from the New York State Library on the Women's Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage movements will be shared to utilize in your classrooms and libraries. The 19th Amendment and the Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage movements are primarily taught in Grades 4, 7, 8 and 11. Useful strategies for analyzation of documents will be provided. Highlights include comparing and contrasting Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage political cartoons, broadsides, pamphlets, advertisements, election texts and vocabulary. Primary sources with historical figures of President Woodrow Wilson, Amelia Bloomer, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others will be presented.

CTLE credit will be provided (1 hour). Visit [here](#) to register for the workshop.



From the NYS Office of Cultural Education

Women's
Culture & History

Celebrating Spring | PBS KIDS Collection for Parents

A webpage from PBS KIDS with spring-themed curated content for families. Games, videos, articles, and more!

Women's History Month (March 2024)

Women's Culture + History Resources from PBS Learning Media

A folder of classroom-ready or at-home learning multimedia resources from PBS all in celebration of Women's History Month. K-12.



Asian American & Pacific Islander Month (May 2024)

See Us Coming Together: A Sesame Street Special

See Us Coming Together: A Sesame Street Special finds Alan, Elmo, Abby Cadabby, and Tamir preparing for a “Neighbor Day” festival with a new friend named Ji-Young. With other Sesame Street neighbors and celebrity guests, the friends support Ji-Young as she deepens her cultural pride and sense of belonging after experiencing a racial incident in which another child tells her to “go home.” In age-appropriate ways, the friends explore the rich diversity across many Asian and Pacific Islander cultures and identities and come to understand the power of coming together as a community!

To Be Well Read, Kids Must Be Well Fed: Updates from Hunger Solutions

Planting Seeds for Summer Meals

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) allows kids and teens age 18 and under access to healthy meals at no cost throughout the summer months. Summer meal sites are the places where kids can get summer meals with no sign-up or paperwork required; kids can just drop by when meals are served. Last summer, this vital program allowed nearly 450 schools and community organizations to serve free, healthy meals at thousands of sites across New York State - and libraries served as nearly 60 of those sites!

Still, too many kids miss out on summer meals. In New York, only 1 in 4 low-income children – who receive free or reduced-price school lunch – ate summer meals in July 2022 (FRAC 2023). This translates to only 425,114 children accessing a summer lunch compared to the 1.5 million children who rely on free or reduced-price school lunch each school day. Read more from Hunger Solutions New York on summer meal participation [here](#).

Libraries help alleviate summertime hunger! Libraries can raise awareness to families about the availability of summer meals through outreach. Libraries can also help keep kids engaged at summer meal sites by offering reading programs at existing sites or providing meals during their own summertime programming. Hunger Solutions New York provides support to libraries looking to get more involved in summer meals! Use our outreach materials to help families learn about summer meals and find nearby summer meal sites.



If you'd like to learn more about getting involved in summer meals, [register here to join Hunger Solutions New York for a "Summer Meals at NYS Libraries" webinar on Wednesday, March 27 at 11am!](#) For specific questions, reach out to Hunger Solutions New York's Afterschool and Summer Meals Specialist at Cody.Bloomfield@HungerSolutionsNY.org.



WIC for Modern Families!

It's a great time to get WIC! WIC is the nation's leading public health and nutrition program, providing healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support to pregnant women and families with kids under age 5. And now with remote services, such as phone appointments, online nutrition education, the WIC2Go app, and the eWIC shopping card to buy healthy food tailored to their unique nutrition needs, families can participate more easily than ever -- and MANY more NYers could participate, including working families and non-US citizens. Dads and other primary caregivers also can apply for children in their care, too.

In general, WIC participation is especially low among pregnant women and children ages 2-5, vital times for brain development. Libraries are helping to raise awareness with turn-key outreach resources like short videos, social media, and print materials in the [WIC Help New York Resource Center](#).

WIC's new 24/7 virtual assistant, Wanda, can help families in English or Spanish to easily learn about WIC and find a local WIC office in about 3 minutes. Libraries can help spread the word about Wanda by sharing this [rack card](#) with patrons. It includes a QR code that takes the person directly to the virtual assistant webpage to begin the prescreen. **We are thrilled that 100+ libraries have [ordered them in bulk FREE](#) of charge so far and invite you as well!**

For WIC questions, reach out to Misha Marvel, Manager, Early Childhood Nutrition Policy & Engagement, at Misha.Marvel@HungerSolutionsNY.org.

