It’s still early in March as I write this article and we had a snowy morning followed by sunshine and warmer temperatures. Spring is coming and soon the snow will give way to more birdsongs and blooming flowers. In the meantime, as youth services staff, many of us are probably busy planning for our summer reading programs.

This year’s theme has so many possibilities, it’s almost overwhelming to choose just a few things to do. Our library loves the garden gnomes and is thinking of ways to incorporate gnome crafts into our program. In addition, there are possibilities with archaeology, gardening (which leads to food and healthy eating programs), dinosaurs, etc.

One of the things I love best about summer reading program is the creativity that it allows us to use in our work. For the past few years, our children’s room has had a program where different staff set up different stations around the room with games and activities for children. This has become one of the things that we really look forward to presenting.

Now is the time to start brainstorming different ways that you can work with community partners too to promote your program. Are the schools involved? Can you go in and introduce yourselves to the children and teens in your schools? How about the local restaurants and activity centers? Are there museums nearby that the children might be interested in visiting? Will they give you free passes as prizes?

If you have more than one youth services staff member in your department, make sure to include everyone in brainstorming ideas on how to get the word out about your summer program. Chances are, they have some wonderful ideas to share. If you don’t, call or email your system consultant if you have one. They are there to help. The New York State Library also has resources for you to use, check them out!

Alright, enough about summer! Here’s one last note about Spring!

The YSS Spring Conference in Rochester is coming up in May. If you haven’t yet done so, check it out on NYLA’s website. In addition to the conference, there is the Arbuthnot Lecture, the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival AND the Lilac Festival all happening over a 4-day period of time!

Jen Ogrodowski
YSS President
Call It “Street Cred”: 2013 YSS Conference Speakers

Think a one-day conference on youth services might not have world-class presenters? Think again! The line-up of speakers at the 38th annual YSS Spring Conference, “Among the Readers and Beyond,” in Rochester on Friday, May 17 includes experts who are proficient in a wide variety of areas that have an impact on serving youth in public and school libraries.

Whether you call it “street cred,” gravitas, or authority, these conference presenters are knowledgeable, highly qualified, and specialists in their fields of endeavor. Their workshops will offer an outstanding continuing education experience for librarians and paraprofessionals who work with children, tweens, and teens. Here is just a sampling of the accolades our speakers have received within the world of libraries and their own communities.

Patricia Gingras is a frequent presenter at music education conferences. Gingras is the Early Childhood Coordinator of the Eastman Community Music School and also an artist-in-residence for the Rochester City School District. She will explore books and age-appropriate musical fun in her workshop, “Music and Children’s Literature—A Perfect Match.”

Educator, librarian, and gaming expert Brian Mayer literally wrote the book on learning and board games: Libraries Got Game: Aligned Learning through Modern Board Games (co-authored with Christopher Harris for ALA Editions, 2010). Mayer has also written for School Library Journal and other professional resources, aligning the gaming experience to national learning standards. In “Unplugging Games in the Library,” Mayer will discuss how to engage students from primary to high school in a “community of play” where the players gain the fundamentals of success: cooperation, risk assessment, critical thinking, flexibility, problem-solving, and dialog.

Two faculty members at SUNY Geneseo, Dr. Sharon Peck and Michelle Costello, have offered storytelling institutes for Geneseo students, providing instruction and practice in the art of storytelling. Costello is the Education and Instructional Design Librarian at Geneseo’s Milne Library. Dr. Peck is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Literacy Division of the School of Education. Dr. Peck is a member of the League for Advancement of New England Storytelling and the North East Regional Director for the Puppeteers of America. In “Spinning a Tale of Intrigue through Engaged Storytelling,” they will teach conference participants how to increase student engagement both with literature and through their shared experiences.

As the librarian at the Richard J. Bailey Elementary School, Melissa Iamonico initiated a project resulting in a 600-square-foot mural of storybook characters on the walls of her library. She knows how to keep students interested in reading. In her workshop, Iamonico will identify strategies, programs, and reader-friendly books with wide appeal that will reach reluctant readers.

Lauren Britton, Director of Transliteracy Development, was the creator of the first public library makerspace at the Fayetteville Free Library outside of Syracuse. She has participated in webinars and
online symposiums in conjunction with Library Journal, OCLC, and ALA’s Public Library Association, telling about her experiences with the “FabLab” makerspace. “Transformative technology” like 3D printers has changed the library into a place of doing and making, not just learning, by providing access to digital tools for game makers, programmers, musicians, and authors, among other users. Learn more about this innovative concept in her presentation, “Library Makerspaces: Developing a Read-Write Culture in Your Library.”

In “Powerful Partnerships,” Mary Fellows of the Upper Hudson Library System will share her tips on how to cultivate effective working relationships and build advocates in the community through creative collaborations. Fellows is the Immediate Past President of the Association for Library Service to Children and a Past President of the Youth Services Section. She was the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the Hudson Mohawk Library Association, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the information profession.

Jim Belair, School Library System Director for Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES, is committed to help librarians become emerging Common Core Instructional Leaders. In “Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Public Libraries,” Belair will delve into what the CCSS are, what this shift means for teachers and students, and strategies for public libraries to support NYS’s new learning standards. Belair is a member of the Rochester Regional Library Council’s Director’s Advisory Committee and served as a presenter at a full-day pre-conference on the CCSS at NYLA’s 2012 conference in Saratoga Springs.

The YSS Spring Conference will be held May 17 at the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport. In addition to the workshops, featured speakers will include authors Margaret Peterson Haddix and Amy Dickinson. Conference registration includes a continental breakfast, luncheon, and three one-hour workshops (from a selection of fifteen choices). Reduced registration fees will be offered for library school students and NYLA members in YSS and the Section of School Librarians. Please see the NYLA Web page for details: www.nyla.org. On the home page, select the “YSS Spring Conference” link on the calendar. The complete conference brochure and registration form are PDFs on the YSS Conference page.

This article first appeared in the December 2012 issue of the NYLA e-Bulletin.
The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, presents the

2013 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture

War Boy to War Horse

by Michael Morpurgo

Thursday, May 16, 2013
7 p.m. • Doors open at 6 p.m.

Linehan Chapel • Nazareth College
4245 East Avenue • Rochester, New York 14618

Hosted by Nazareth College and the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association.

Free tickets are required for admission and are available by visiting www.nyla.org/yss.
For more information, call 585-328-6658.

The award-winning author of Kensuke’s Kingdom and War Horse will talk about his life writing, the journey from being a Second World War baby to becoming Britain’s Children’s Laureate, and ultimately the success of War Horse on stage and screen.
Making a Difference...

Think about the last time you made a change, or made a difference in your job, home, personal relationship, etc. How did that change make you feel? Good, bad, excited, scared? Change can be one of the most exhilarating and stressful things in life. If you have read “Who Moved My Cheese?” by Spencer Johnson you may even be able to categorize yourself as the trend setter, early adapter or the one who needs a whole lot of convincing to make a move. Whichever character best represents you, in the end, at some point we all have to make that modification, transformation or leap in our lives. By joining YSS you have already taken the first step in helping make a difference in your career and your library community just by being a member. The next step is up to you. Help further change by becoming more involved in the NYLA/YSS community. Sign up to be an active member, tell peers and friends about YSS and encourage them to join or just help spread the word about libraries as you go about your daily life. Lending your voice to hundreds of others will help bring about the change we need to see in libraries and may just be the vehicle you need to bring about change in your life as well.

Christina Ryan-Linder
YSS 2nd Vice President/Membership

To: All YSS Members

From: The 2014 YSS Spring Conference Planning Committee

Spring is just around the corner and we hope to see you at the 2013 YSS Spring Conference in Rochester.

The planning committee for the 2014 YSS Spring Conference has already been hard at work planning for next year. At this time we would like to hear from you! Please let us know what workshops you would like to see offered. And, if you are doing something new and exciting that you would like to share with others in the field, let us know that, too.

2014 seems a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. The time to make your suggestions for next year’s YSS Spring Conference is now! Please send them to YSS 2nd Year Director Terry Rabideau: trabideau@wppl.lib.ny.us

The planning committee appreciates and looks forward to your input. Thank you!
Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Institution: _______________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________

Work Phone:____________________ Home Phone: _______________________

Fax: ___________________________ *Email: ____________________________

*We send our newsletter by email only.

I am interested in helping in the following ways:

- Presenter—YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference—YSS Tabletalks _____
  (Presenting a workshop is based on your knowledge and expertise.)

- Room Monitor—YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____
  (Handing out evaluation sheets before the program and collecting them after.)

- Running for an elected position on the YSS Executive Board _____

- Being on a YSS Committee ______
  (See reverse side for list of committees.)

- Working at the YSS booth at the Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____

- Writing an article for the newsletter ______

- Planning YSS programs for the NYLA Conference ______

- Local Arrangements person for the YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____

- Web/Computer Work ______

- Work on a task group to develop a YSS publication _____

Revised 01/12
Committees and Lists of Skills

Committees
Scholarship _____
Pied Piper Award _____
Empire State Award _____
Publications _____
Conference Planning _____
3 Apples Award _____
Web Advisory _____

Listserv
I am interested in joining the YSS Listserv. This member benefit will offer YSS members another resource for networking and interacting with peers from across the state. Discussions are open to anything related to NYLA/YSS as well as questions and discussions about general youth services work in libraries.

Member News
Did you have a recent career change, promotion, special activity or honor related to youth services librarianship? Do you have some personal news that you would like to share? (new child, grandchild, etc.? ) If so, let us know and we will put it in the YSS Transitions section of the YSS newsletter. Take a few moments to let other YSS members know about you.

Name: ____________________________ Position: ____________________________

Library: __________________________

Address: __________________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

I would like to share: __________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Please make sure you have provided your email on the first page.
Please fill out and return to:
Christina Ryan-Linder
Pearl River Public Library
80 Franklin Avenue
Pearl River, NY 10965
crider@rcls.org

Revised 01/12