

FALL

Fall 2011

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YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

A Message From Your YSS President

“May you live in interesting times,” the old Irish curse, has had special relevance this summer for many of us.

We've had budget ups and downs, earthquakes, floods and hurricanes, what's next? We've learned we need to be prepared for the unexpected, but also for just keeping things going. The NYLA Board will be meeting shortly to look at our organization from top to bottom, and your YSS Board has looked at our next 5 year plan and made adjustments to it as well. We are hoping to keep ourselves relevant to you and your needs as members, to keep ourselves an active, vibrant, membership-centered organization. These periodic reviews have become an on-going process that keeps NYLA (and YSS) one of the country's most vibrant state library associations.

Of course, for many of our members, the annual conference is a high point of the year, and we have a lot to offer you this November.

Although I'm retired, and won't be able to put it to use in a practical way, I'm really looking forward to “Mother Goose on the Loose” our pre-conference featuring Betsy Diamont Cohen. Although the public library community has been offering pre-school programming for many years, there is a new emphasis in New York State on early childhood education that we hope will highlight our role in community programming and partnerships with other child-serving agencies and this day-long workshop should help you get ready to jump on the bandwagon, as well as offer useful, practical insights for improving existing programs. I hope those of you who concentrate on Children's Services will be able to come.

Conference Planning Chair, Chrissie Morrison and her committee have also planned several interesting programs for those of you serving teens and school aged children with a mix of new and practical ideas to bring home. You'll find the details inside or on the conference website.

So, if we can avoid a plague of locusts or a early blizzard, we should have a great time in Saratoga, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Rosanne Cerny
YSS President

WHAT WORKS

This summer the call went out from New York State's Regents Advisory Council on Libraries (RAC) for input from our library patrons about what library services they believe they will need and how they visualize libraries in their local communities. It was called "Share Your 2020 Vision for Libraries." When we hear calls like this for input that will shape our future, how can we best ensure that the voices of those we serve are heard? How can we make sure that the concerns of children, tweens and teens are fairly represented?

At my library system, we started by putting the widget which went straight to the survey on our website. Easy peasy! We also asked our member libraries to publicize the survey through their summer programming, highlighting the important role of libraries in providing opportunities for literacy. Beyond that though, what's the best way to get people to take action on something not on their radar?

One idea is to make personal connections. I've gotten used to "telling a friend" about New York legislative actions through the NYLA Advocacy page. This time, I sent an email to my NYS email contacts - both colleagues and friends - asking them to take the survey. I told my contacts **why they should care**: because this new plan will almost certainly impact money to public libraries and other resources that help us serve youth and their families. I reminded them that service to children and teens is important and that it is especially important that they express the need for those services to continue.

I offered them some language of how I see libraries: that libraries are instrumental in creating welcoming community spaces, spaces used in partnerships with other community agencies and groups to further the community's goals and meet the lifelong learning needs of people in our communities. Especially, libraries emphasize early literacy through a wide variety of programs and services to families and expanded collaborations with community agencies serving preschoolers. Literacy is a cornerstone skill for success in life. I reminded them that public libraries play a valuable role in providing early and ongoing literacy programs, resources and materials that help children learn and set the stage for gaining stronger skills in reading and writing.

I was surprised and pleased that fifteen people emailed me to say that they had taken the survey. A couple asked me to help guide their message. A few caught me at the pool or throughout my community and said they completed the survey. I hope more took part, and just didn't tell me. Some thanked me for bringing this survey to their attention, and said it reminded them how much they believed in the library institution.

Next time I'll be brave and post surveys to Facebook. Maybe that will spark even more vision!

What do you do that works?? Post it to the YSS Facebook page and let's start a discussion!

Sue Rokos

5 ½ Good Reasons to Become a Member of the Youth Services Section of NYLA

Connections and Networking

Meet with others who do what you do. Gather organizational initiatives, programming ideas and collection development resources from peers to utilize in your library and help you do your job better.

Professional Development

In a time when library systems and school support organizations are severely cutting back services to their members, it is vital to join existing groups of like individuals to continue to learn and grow and help keep prepared for what lies ahead.

Making a Difference for Libraries

Advocacy and awareness begins internally. Learning to speak about and out for libraries is an essential part of organizational sustainability. NYLA and YSS provide tools to help ensure that our libraries will survive and thrive in the future.

Staying Current

Staying ahead of the curve and keeping up with new technologies and trends is imperative. NYLA, YSS and its affiliates offer workshops, listservs and publications to help keep today's librarian and youth service provider relevant and in the know.

Professional Involvement

Becoming involved is a necessary step on the part of the individual to help keep current, enhance professional development and further career goals. An easy way to begin is by joining a professional library association such as YSS and NYLA.

5 ½. Conference Attendance

OK, this one is really part of Professional Development but an added bonus of becoming a YSS member is discounts to the NYLA and YSS conferences. Hope to see you there!

Thanks to the ALA Website for member inspiration!

<http://www.ala.org/ala/membership/whyala/newmembers/5good/index.cfm>

Christina Ryan-Linder

(Incoming) 2nd Vice President

YSS Publications Committee Seeks Your Feedback

The YSS Publications Committee is currently exploring the possibility of future publications, and would like your feedback on the subjects and formats that most interest you. Some members completed an initial print survey that was available in the 2011 YSS Spring Conference packets. Results showed that interest in publications regarding programs and services to preschool and elementary-aged children top the list, followed by those for tweens and teens. For possible new publications, the majority of participants showed interest in compilations of YSS members' successful ideas, including those shared with the Pied Piper Award and at YSS Table Talks. Print and online formats of future publications were of equal interest to the initial survey's participants.

We are seeking feedback from a broader base of YSS membership, and urge you complete this simple online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YSSPUB2011> to let us know which publication topics and mode of delivery might interest and benefit you most. Thanks in advance for taking the time to respond! You can contact me at bzambito@poklib.org with any other questions or comments about NYLA YSS publications.

Beth Zambito,
Publications Committee, 1st Year Member

NYLA YOUTH SERVICES SECTION 2011 ELECTION RESULTS

1st Vice President / President

Term: Fall 2011 - Fall 2014

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Term: Fall 2011 - Fall 2013

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2nd Vice President / Membership

Term: Fall 2011 - Fall 2013

Christina Ryan-Linder

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1st Year Director

Term: Fall 2011 - Fall 2013

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Join YSS at NYLA
2011 Fall Conference
November 2-5
in Saratoga Springs



"Mother Goose on the Loose" CE Workshop*



presented by **Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen**
An all-day workshop with information about baby brain development and school readiness, as well as a hands-on Mother Goose on the Loose session. By the end of this workshop, participants should feel comfortable planning & running their own sessions.

Thursday Programs:



Rocking Teens with Social Media
by YA author
Michelle Zink
(Prophecy of the Sisters trilogy)



Sex in YA Fiction: How Far is Too Far?
by YA author
Eric Luper
(Seth Baumgartner's Love Manifesto)



Friday Programs:

- Video Game Design: No Programming Needed!
- Telling Tales* (Ann Gibson Scholarship event)
- Empire State Award Luncheon*
- Storytimes that Sizzle

Saturday Programs:

YSS Table Talks

* extra charge/ticketed event



2011 ESA Award recipient **Laura Vaccaro Seeger**
(author of *First The Egg, One Boy*)

There is also a variety of youth- and teen-centered workshops that are co-sponsored by YSS and being presented by EFRT, PLS, and SLMS!

NY Libraries
ROCK – and so does YSS!

Come early to take part in our "Mother Goose on the Loose" CE (Continuing Education) workshop on Wednesday, and stay late so you don't miss the wide assortment of Table Talks on Saturday.

It doesn't matter if you work with babies, toddlers, school-age kids, or teens... There is something for everyone at the 2011 NYLA Fall Conference!

I hope to see you all in Saratoga in November.

Chrissie Morrison
YSS Conference Planning Chair

**YSS @ NYLA Fall Conference
Room Monitors Needed**

Want to get active with YSS but don't know where to start? Being a room monitor is the perfect opportunity to help our section without making a big commitment. If you're interested, simply e-mail Chrissie Morrison -- chrissiemorrison@gmail.com -- with the day(s) you will be attending the conference. Thanks, as always, for your support of YSS!

It's the Connection!

At the YSS 2011 Spring Conference, our speaker Elizabeth Burns, co-author of *Pop Goes the Library: Using Pop Culture to Connect with Your Whole Community*, entitled her keynote talk "Toy Story, Glee, and Reality TV: Pop Culture and the Future of Youth Services."

For those of you unable to attend, here is an excerpt of her talk, focusing on how e-books (and other unknown future technological advances) may change the way we think about readers and what we do to help them. But our role as librarians will always be tantamount to reading. Enjoy!

As e-books and e-readers evolve, they will continue to push and expand what we see as "books," as "reading," as literacy and storytelling, and information. It is our choice whether our voices are heard as to how that evolution will include babies, infants, children, and teenagers. Let's bring this back to youth services, and our future. To the one question that we as librarians are asked each day, that we have always been asked, and, I believe, always will be asked.

It is: "Where are the good books?"

We joke among ourselves, on listservs and Twitter and blog posts, about the answer to that. "No, we only have boring books here." "Every book in the library is a good book."

We also all know what this question really is, what is really being asked [is]: "Where is the book I am going to like?" "What is the book that is good for me?" Part of our magic as librarians is knowing what is being asked beyond the words used and being able to answer the real question. Where is the book *I* am going to like? Often asked by someone who really doesn't know what it is they like or how to put it into words. (Heck, most adults cannot do that.)

That question is not going to go away. It does not disappear just because we have e-books in addition to, or instead of, traditional books. If anything, as the options increase, the question becomes more and more important. It also becomes trickier as it impacts how we do readers' advisory. What does it mean, to do readers' advisory for children and teens? It means having a wide and deep knowledge of books. I don't have to have read *Twilight* to be a good teen librarian; I have to respect those who read and loved it. I need to be able to discuss with the readers what it is that they loved about the book and I need to know what other books will meet that need. I may know this from my own reading; or I may know this from reading professional journals and blogs; or I may know this by using something like Novelist. This doesn't change whether *Twilight* is a traditional book or an e-book.

I love being able to walk by bookshelves, looking at the shelves to remember titles – I'm very visual that way. I like being able to pull out a bunch of titles, with the reader being able to sit down and read a bit before making a decision. Using just a catalog can be limiting; finding books that

It's the Connection! (con't)

aren't on the shelf, inadequate cataloging that means I cannot find the book that may work. How will that change, when all books are electronic? Will it push catalogs to be better? Will an e-book model be created that allows for multiple checkouts at one time, so that we never have to say, "I have the perfect book for you, but it's not here"?

I find, as I warned earlier, that I'm saying books and reading. Even though that's not what I mean. Because "what book will I love" isn't about the books. It's about the reader, not the book. It's about the child's experience with learning, with a story, with information, with a narrative. And the answer given does not have anything to do with the collection of materials at the library.

Programming won't go away. Story hours will remain; parents looking for a place to take their little ones. Crafts based on books, book discussions, the 1001 programs that go on at the library, whether it's informational or educational, for school or enjoyment, won't go away just because the book shifts from print to e-book. Our role in lifelong literacy will not go away. It's a role we have always had and we will continue to have. Our role is not about our collections. It's about the connection we make with that child, with that family, library to patron; the connection to a bookworm or a reluctant reader, to a family new in town that makes friendship through the library, the children who have fun with gaming events. It's the connection, regardless of the format. It's both the connection we make with the community, and the connections we help within communities. As E.M. Forester said, "only connect."

And some of that connection is made by sharing and embracing and leveraging what our patrons enjoy—whether it's "Toy Story" or "Glee" or the latest reality show. Connection development is our role—is what we do—is what we have always done. And our future is bright and shiny, if we remember that and continue to advocate for that unique role we have in the literacy life of our patrons.

Used with permission of Elizabeth Burns.

If you you'd like to see more about tween programs, another favorite topic at the 2011 YSS Spring Conference, see "The Tween Scene" here: <http://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene>. Bridge the gap between young children and older teens with these twelve tested tween programs from Tiffany Pahman and Brianne Wilkins-Bester from the Oshawa Public Library.

Lisa C. Wemett,
Third Year Director

SAVE THE DATE
YSS Spring Conference 2012

**Diverse Directions:
Meeting the Challenge**

Friday, March 23, 2012

8:00am-4:30pm

**Holiday Inn Ronkonkoma at the Islip
MacArthur Airport on Long Island**

**DON'T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR
NYLA & YSS
MEMBERSHIPS!!**



YSS ACTIVE MEMBER FORM

Name: _____

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 _____

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.

Please fill out and return to:

Stephanie Kyle
 Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library
 407 William Floyd Pkwy.
 Shirley, NY 11967
 Phone: 631-399-1511 x292 Fax: 631-281-4442
 stephanieakyle@yahoo.com

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: _____

