

Issue 2

Spring 2011



YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

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A Message From Your YSS President

To Our Members:

I have two very different topics to address in this Newsletter, so I hope you will bear with me for taking up quite a bit of space this time.

The first subject on my mind is a very serious issue, the dismissal of three more Youth Services Consultants from two more Public Library Systems. The two recent firings have occurred in Westchester where both Judith Rovenger and John Sexton were let go, and in the Mid-Hudson LS where Christine Linder-Ryan was the victim of budget cuts. A year or so ago, administrative realignments at the New York Public Library eliminated direct leadership of both Children's and Teens Services as a whole and divided the responsibility for materials, programs and training among several departments. (Anne Carol Moore is probably still spinning in her grave!) That these recent cuts have been added to losses in our ranks in other parts of the state should be a matter of grave concern to all of us.

Indeed, it was the first issue that the YSS Board took up at our February meeting. Cutting these positions is an assault on Children's and Teen Services at every level. We all know at the local level how vital services to youth are for the health of our community libraries—a very high percentage of traffic in local libraries comes from children, teens and their parents and other care givers—and in many libraries the bulk of public programming revolve around our younger customers. Children's Services also brings publicity, community support and political backers to public libraries, and in some communities the only non-school group activities for teenagers occur at the library.

For the local librarians providing these services, who are usually the only youth specialists in the building, the Consultant or Coordinator in the System is their major support for training, networking, liaison to the State Library for summer reading programs, grants and other services they provide. They share literature knowledge, programming expertise, links to other educators and service providers, ideas for new programs and services, and a host of other supports, especially for new practitioners. Even experienced youth librarians need the support and networking the Consultant's committees and meetings offer, and the occasional advice on how to reconfigure collections or programs.

Like many new librarians, I started in a local unaffiliated town library in New Jersey. My Director was sensible enough to seek out more experienced librarians in the County who could offer some mentoring, and NJLA offered programs, but what a help a Consultant who could come to the library would have been! How many wheels did I reinvent? How many mediocre programs did my kids suffer through until I learned a few tricks? What professional training did I miss in those early days? Later on, as most of you know, I finally filled that consulting position in Staten Island and at Queens and training, and in some cases retraining was always my first priority. But I was also a sounding board for complaints, a resource for weeding, a middle-man who could talk to Managers about the needs of the collection, scheduling problems and a variety of other issues, and I know my colleagues all across the state were filling those same roles.

Where do the newbies turn now? Who serves as the liaison to the State Library? Who provides a presence for Youth Services for the whole county or multi-county system? Who brings in speakers and authors and other trainers to refresh one's professional soul? Who reaches out to the media? Who represented youth on Advocacy Day?

The YSS Board intends to reach out to the systems to encourage them to replace these specialists as soon as fiscally possible, but you and your supervisors who value youth services in their libraries also need to reach out to System Directors and Boards to reiterate how important these leadership positions are, and how valued the member libraries consider them.

If Children's and Teen collections, services and programs are valuable to our community libraries, the supervisory staff that trains and supports librarians at the local level are pearls without price.

Here endeth the sermon.

Rosanne Cerny, YSS President

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A Message to the Membership (Part 2)

And now for something completely different!

Your YSS Board met on February 11th with a productive day long meeting.

Our committees are doing a variety of really good things. Lisa Wemett's planning committee has a great Spring Conference waiting for us in Rochester on April 29th. Details are announced elsewhere in these pages and on the NYLA website, where you can download the application as well. Especially for those of you in the Western part of the state this is a great opportunity to join other YSS members for the latest information, trends and practical ideas whether you serve preschoolers, children or teens or all ages. For those of us downstate, it's a chance for a nice Spring weekend away. Also at the Conference the Pied Piper Committee will be presenting the 2011 award.

Three Apples Award voting begins April 1st. Our joint YSS/SLMS Committee will be sending out the word on the net, on both our web pages, NYLINE-Y and their site. Keep an eye out for their announcement, rules and deadlines so your kids can join the rest of the state in participating.

Our newest committee, Web Advisory, has been officially charged. It will be chaired by Tori Russo, our web mistress, and volunteers are encouraged to let Joyce Laiosa, Vice President, know of your interest in serving. The committee will help Tori keep our various electronic media (web page, Facebook, etc.) up-to-date with suggestions for content. Joyce will be appointing 1, 2 and 3 year members to start serving as soon as possible. Eventually, as the shorter terms expire all members will be appointed for 3 years to bring the committee in line with our other groups.

While only an average of 75% of NYLA membership have renewed this year, YSS lost only a handful of members for a great retention rate in comparison to other sections. If it's time for you to renew, we hope you will stick with us. Let us know what's on your mind and if you can, volunteer on a committee, to help out at one of the conferences, or share your successes with us by sending a short article to the Newsletter.

And finally, there's a great line-up of programs bring planned for next Fall in Saratoga, including a new Empire State Award winner (and luncheon), and a pre-Conference that will focus on early childhood. We'll be bringing you more information in the next several Newsletters.

And remember, if you have something on your mind, feel free to contact the Board, we're here to serve the members of YSS.

Rosanne Cerny

YSS President

What's New at the YSS Spring Conference?

Whether you've been involved in youth services for over a decade or have just started a new job this month (Congratulations, Shana!), you'll find a dynamic line-up of workshops on Friday, April 29 that will increase your job skills when working with youth. Help your library "bloom" by attending YSS's 36th annual Spring Conference in Rochester at the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport.

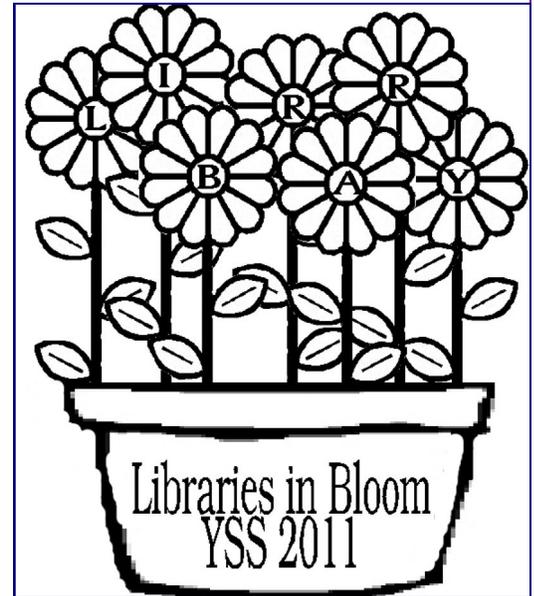
If you expect the "same old, same old" in our NYLA/YSS conference brochure, then you're not reading closely enough! Where else can you find a workshop on the importance of play in child development, taught by a staff member of a nationally-recognized children's museum? Where else can you take a class on creative writing with an award-winning author? Feeling stuck in a rut and want to learn how volunteerism could give your career a push? Come hear our panel members who will inspire you to get involved and kick start your job path while meeting new colleagues and friends all over the state and nation. Do you look at your library's Web page and wonder how on Earth you could add some enhancements to encourage your young patrons to use their library? Look no more because we have a workshop to motivate you with simple Web applications that will make that page POP!

These are just a few of the fifteen offerings this year in Rochester. You know you want to be there! And you need to keep current with those continuing education credits for your certification and Civil Service examinations.

Beyond the sessions this year, you will also find a small array of interesting vendors. Here are some of the displays that you'll see: Rochester NY Etsy Street Team (R-NEST) is a group of artisans and crafters in the Rochester area who offer handmade, one-of-a-kind creations. Their table will feature handmade jewelry, reclaimed Scrabble® and domino pendants, resin necklaces and charms, upcycled plush toys, collectibles, and quilted items. First Year Director Cathy Henderson has a wonderful selection of youth-related items and tchotchkes at the YSS Booth. Guildcraft Arts and Crafts will show the latest in craft supplies and kits to assist you with your multicultural projects this summer. As the TBF Committee moves toward May, they want you and your teen patrons to come out for the 6th Annual Teen Book Festival at Nazareth College. Rochester is certainly "Made for Living" and the display from VisitRochester will point out our region's rich resources in history, arts, and culture. Barnes and Noble – Pittsford will be handling Susan Campbell Bartoletti's books so you can go home with autographed purchases. They will also be showing off the latest in e-readers, their "NOOK."

Finally, if you love to win, your chances to win one of our fabulous raffle baskets have increased this year. If you register for the conference before our Early Bird deadline (Thursday, March 31), you will receive one free raffle ticket. Our raffle is similar to a silent auction: locate the basket you covet most and drop your ticket in the matching box—the winner may be YOU! We will be selling raffle tickets all morning, until the start of Susan Campbell Bartoletti's luncheon speech, so you will be able to increase your chances by buying additional tickets. If you participate in our book donation service project, you'll also receive one complimentary raffle ticket for each new book you donate. These new books for children and teens will be donated to local literacy organizations on behalf of YSS. Please assist us in making this wonderful contribution, to help fight illiteracy in our communities.

Come bloom in Rochester at "Libraries in Bloom!" For all the details, find a copy of our conference brochure at www.nyla.org/yss. See you there!



by Lisa C. Wemett,

Third Year Director and Conference Chair

Three Apples Award

The Three Apples Award gives children and teens across New York State a rare opportunity to have their opinions count. The Three Apples committee would like to remind you that voting for the Three Apples Award begins in April. Paper ballots to use with children and teens will be available on the Three Apples website.

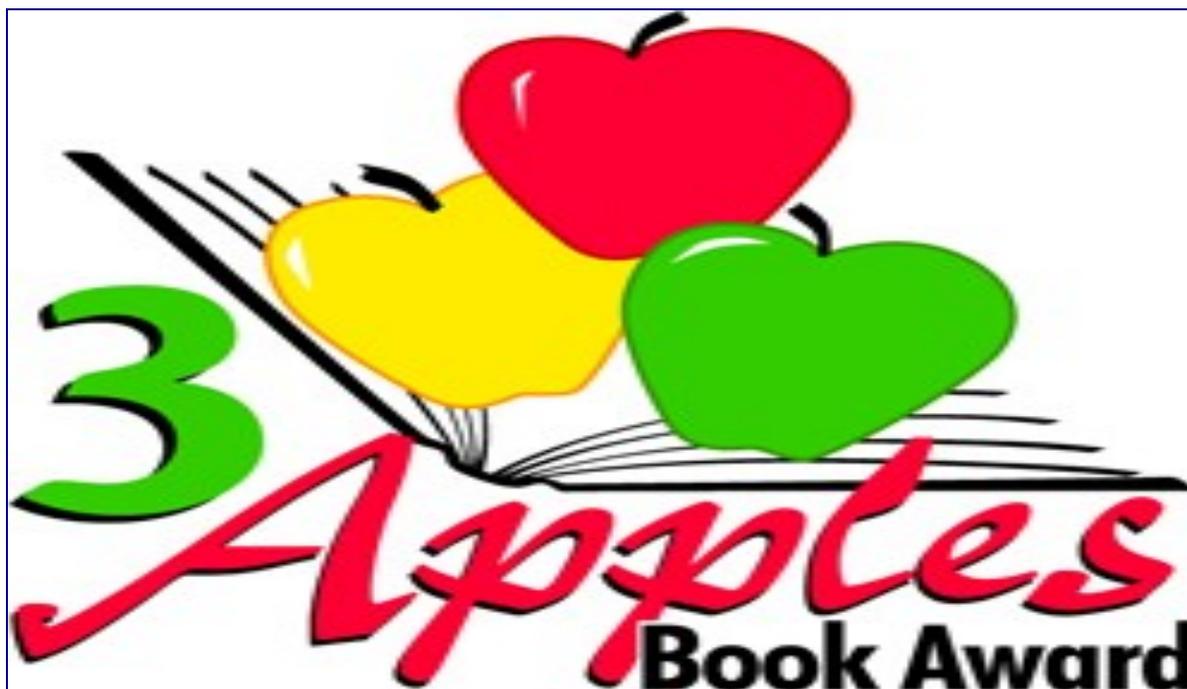
<http://www.3applesbookaward.org/>

The voting will be open during the entire month. You can submit your votes all at once or a few at a time, whichever works best for you.

This year the Three Apples Committee is sponsoring a drawing for a \$50.00 Barnes and Noble gift card for one participating librarian from each level. We will randomly select a name from among those who submitted votes during the month of April.

The winners will be announced on the Three Apples website on May 10th.

Help us spread the word for this one of a kind award to the children and teen readers of New York State.



The Power of Library Systems

On Monday morning, my son Tim brings *The Lightning Thief* to school. He tells Joe how good it is, and Joe runs to the school library and checks out the library's single copy.

On Tuesday, Tim and Joe start talking about the book at lunch. Lunchmates Xavier, Matt and Ben run to the school library at the end of lunch to request the book. The school owns just one copy, and Joe has it.

What to do? The boys, like all kids, want it NOW. The school librarian suggests the public library.

Xavier's mother takes him that night to the public library, where their one copy is available. Xavier checks it out.

Meanwhile, Matt's father works late so Matt gets to the library after Xavier, and the book is no longer available.

The librarian reserves a copy for Matt from another library.

Ben's mother, from home, has checked the library catalog, and discovered that their public library's copy is out.

She reserves a copy online.

On Wednesday, those two reserves are filled at neighboring libraries, one in the same system, and one in the neighboring library system, where the books are put into delivery, another cooperative service between the two systems.

On Thursday, the two books are delivered to the public library for Matt and Ben, and they are alerted through emails that their books have arrived.

On Friday, all five boys are avidly reading and discussing *The Lightning Thief* at lunch, where four more boys are asking where to get the books, and NOW.

What happened here?

The school library, with limited funds, has just one copy of the book. Joe got that one. The school librarian could tell by checking the public library automated catalog that the local public library, also with limited funding, has just one copy. This is great for Xavier. But Matt, Ben and their friends will need the power of the library system to assist them.

The two cooperating public library systems fund and maintain the automated library catalog and circulation system in 60+ public libraries, which enables the boys to find the books they want to read, NOW. And it allows them to reserve books from other libraries in their own and neighboring systems. When staff at the other libraries fill the boys' reserves, they put the books into the delivery service.

The public library system funds delivery of those books to Matt and Ben's local public library, with a delivery team that picks up and delivers to each library. Within one or two days, those two books can be at the boys' local library for pickup, and an e-mail notice sent to the boys telling them so.

Through the power of the public library system, resource sharing and library staff with a mission to connect kids to books, by the end of the week all five boys are reading the same book.

This is also an example of social reading, an important strategy in getting kids to read. Kids can talk up a book with enthusiasm way better than most adults. And kids trust other kids. Remember Harry Potter? Twilight? The Wimpy Kid? Each reader of these books created buzz, which drew other readers to these books. The best way to get kids to read is to support that buzz.

Kids who read, succeed, and through the efforts of our public library systems, get the materials they want WHEN they want and need them.

Let's tell our state legislators the real story, that our libraries are part of the solution, not the problem. Cutting the budgets of our public library systems really does affect that little guy. Without the momentum of the boys' excitement over their own book choice, four of those boys would not have picked up that book to read. Let's keep the momentum positive with no more cuts for system libraries.

Sue Rokos

YSS Legislative Liaison



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 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 office on the YSS board _____
 - Being on a YSS Committee _____
(See reverse side for list of committees)
 - Working at the YSS booth at Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____
 - Writing an article for the newsletter _____
 - Planning YSS programs for NYLA conference _____
 - Local Arrangements person for 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 _____

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 make sure you have provided your email on the first page.

Member News

Did you have a recent career change, promotion, special activity or honor related to youth services librarianship? Do you have something 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 continue on a separate sheet if needed.

Please fill out and return to:

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