Dear YSS Members,

As I prepare this, the old year is coming to an end, our new Board has been installed, the Rockefeller Center tree is lit, and Sarah Sachs, Past President, and I have just returned home from our annual meeting at the State Library. I had hoped that there would be some comforting news from that meeting, but outside of the continuing support from DLD staff, and their positive feelings about the vital work you do to support literacy and New York’s youth every day, the outlook in Albany is not hopeful.

For those of you who don’t know me very well, let me say that I have recently retired from the Queens Library (and a couple of others) after 40 years as a Children’s Librarian, Branch Manager and Children’s Services Coordinator, and I’ve been there before. When I graduated from Rutgers, about the only Public Library positions that were advertised were for catalogers and Children’s Librarians. Guess what I chose?

In the seventies (who remembers “Ford to City: Drop Dead”?) I was one of the lucky NYPL librarians who never got laid off, but many of my friends did. We survived that siege, but it took close to a decade for staffing levels, salaries and hiring to get back to something like normal. For most of the four decades I worked for New York City libraries, it seemed that every time we took a few steps forward, we took at least one back. By the time I became Coordinator at Queens and became involved with the other 20 or so Coordinators of major urban libraries at ALA, we were again going through hard times here in the Northeast, and although we got sympathy from the others, until the tough times moved first to California and then swept back across the country, no one could believe that as vital a service as public libraries could be under attack from a public who seemingly loved us, and politicians who had always supported us. Well folks, it happened, and it is happening again.

For all the genuine support we have in our communities, when fiscal crises get bad enough, libraries suffer. And so do librarians. I frankly couldn’t face it again, because this time many of the people scheduled to be laid off were people I trained, who I knew were doing a great job, and who will eventually be leaders in our field. All I can do now is offer as much support to my successor and other librarians in New York State as possible, and the knowledge that things will eventually improve.

Forty years ago, I decided to put my professional support dollars with my Union and with NYLA because I knew that the money that supported us locally was decided upon mostly by City Hall and Albany. For most of you that’s still true. I have chosen to give back some time, and the benefit (?) of my experience to YSS because when things got tough in the past, our local organizations supported us, and continued to provide training and networking that kept our creative juices flowing so we could give the best to the children and teens we worked with in towns from Montauk to Buffalo, and that’s what YSS will continue to do as long as we have a committed membership.

I know times are tough, but I hope as the new year begins and you get that renewal notice from NYLA that you will recommit your membership dollars to help us help you. It’s a good investment of your money and your time. Just ask someone who has been there.

Rosanne Cerny
YSS President
Don’t miss the opportunity to join in the learning and excitement of the 36th annual YSS Spring Conference on Friday, April 29, 2011. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport, 911 Brooks Avenue, Rochester, New York. Award-winning author Susan Campbell Bartoletti will be the luncheon speaker. Elizabeth Burns, co-author of *Pop Goes the Library: Using Pop Culture to Connect with Your Whole Community*, will provide the keynote speech entitled “Toy Story, Glee, and Reality TV: Pop Culture and the Future of Youth Services.”

“Libraries in Bloom” is the theme of this day-long conference in “The Flower City.” There will be an opportunity for participants to select three workshops from an offering of fifteen presentations and panel discussions specifically geared to children’s and young adult specialists and library generalists in facilities large and small, rural and urban. Topics will include library web pages for youth, new programming ideas for children, tweens, and teens, the importance of play in human development, services to homeschooling families, using social networking to communicate with library patrons, volunteering in state and national library associations, display and exhibit design, marketing your youth programs, creative writing, and baby-toddler programs. All of this plus morning refreshments and a luncheon featuring Susan Campbell Bartoletti, author of *They Called Themselves the K.K.K.* (Houghton Mifflin, 2010). Bartoletti received the Newbery Honor Award in 2006 for *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*.

NYLA members of the Youth Services and School Library Media Sections and graduate students enrolled in MLS programs may register at the early bird rate of $100 until Thursday, March 31, 2011. Members of youth divisions of out-of-state and international library associations may also register at the YSS member rate. The early bird rate for non-members is $135. (Join NYLA/YSS as a first time member and your savings will be $10.) Registration is ongoing and attendance is limited, so don’t wait. Standard fees apply for registrations postmarked April 1 or later: members ($110) and non-members ($145).

All conference participants are also invited to a special celebration to honor our Section’s Past Presidents. This event is $37 per person. It will be held on Thursday evening, April 28. Join us at 6pm p.m. at Mario’s Italian Steakhouse for an elegant dinner. Registration for this event closes on Wednesday, April 20.
For hotel rooms, please contact the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport by Monday, April 2 (585-328-6000 or 800-HOLIDAY). Please state that you are attending the New York Library Association’s Youth Services Section Conference to receive the special room rates of $109 for a standard room (single or double). As the buds of spring burst forth into the show we’ve all been waiting for throughout the long winter, there is much to do and enjoy in Rochester. The Holiday Inn is a 5-minute ride from Rochester’s international airport. Complimentary shuttle service is available 24 hours a day. Enjoy the hotel’s indoor pool, their fitness center, or take a short walk to explore the Genesee Valley Greenway or the Erie Canal Heritage Trail as the world turns green again. A short drive away is Genesee Valley Park, with access to the trail bordering the Genesee River, flowing through the picturesque campus of the University of Rochester. Use the conference as the starting point for an enjoyable spring weekend in Rochester, with easy access to a myriad of regional attractions. Visit Rochester’s multifaceted Web page (www.visitorochester.com) offers you planning materials and videos of local attractions to help you design a weekend just for you.

At the conference, the Conference Planning Committee will be collecting new books for children and teens to be donated to local literacy organizations on behalf of YSS. Just bring the books with you and hand them in at the conference registration table. For every new book you donate, you will receive a complimentary raffle ticket which can be used for the gift basket drawings on the day of the conference. Even one or two new books will help in this effort. Assist us in making this contribution to the fight against illiteracy in our community. (Thank you to our colleagues in the New York Library Assistants Association for this great idea!)

Gather with friends and colleagues in Rochester to examine the constantly changing field of youth services. For further information, please e-mail your inquiry to yss2011@frontier.com. More details along with the conference brochure and registration form can be found on our Web site: www.nyla.org/yss.

by Lisa C. Wemett,
Third Year Director and Spring Conference Chair
A Thank You

To the YSS Executive Board:

Thank you for treating me to the wonderful Past President’s dinner at the spring conference in Albany. The food was delicious, and the company convivial as always. The evening was a terrific opportunity to look back at the strong history of YSS as well as to get a glimpse into its promising future. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to work—and celebrate—with such a dedicated group of youth services people.

While registering for this year’s NYLA conference in Saratoga Springs, I reflected on the conference two years ago and wanted to thank the YSS Board again for naming me YSS Dewey Fellow. What a terrific year to be chosen! The YSS workshop lineup that year was outstanding. To give just a few examples: Matthew McElligott’s brilliant presentation likening picture book art to cinema was creative, intriguing and enlightening. I recommend his books to our customers with pleasure. The “Boys and Reading” session was dynamic, informative and inspiring. I made the handouts part of our heavily-used Reader’s Advisory resources in the Children’s Library. The online summer reading registration presentation provided a foretaste of things to come and helped me to prepare our library for participation this summer. The practicality, energy, determination, enthusiasm, vision, creativity and humor which characterize YSS were evident in all the sessions I attended. As always, YSS brought me the best to equip me to help others, whether colleagues or the families we serve.

I continue to recommend involvement in YSS to library students doing their field work at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library as well as to those who have already entered the profession. I can do so with confidence and enthusiasm because of the way an organization with a solid tradition of excellence continually evaluates itself and strives to be cutting edge in all ways. Whether this involves reaching out to current and prospective members, collaborating with partners or embracing the change and challenges of the future, YSS works to the benefit of all.

It has been a privilege to be involved with YSS over the years in various offices as well as on publication, nominating, spring conference planning and scholarship committees. I could not have asked for a finer group with whom to work with in each of these areas. It was a very great honor to be named your Dewey Fellow. I will always be deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Janet Kreason
Head of Youth Services
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

Reprinted with the permission of Janet Kreason.
ALBANY, N.Y., November 18, 2010 - The New York State Library, in conjunction with the nationwide Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), has announced the "You Are Here" Teen Video Challenge 2011, a competition for teens to get involved with reading and their public library's summer reading program.

For 2011, the State Library and CSLP are taking a new approach to involve teenagers in promoting summer reading and public libraries. The Teen Video Challenge is a CSLP sponsored competition with prizes for teens who create their state's winning video to promote reading, libraries, and the 2011 CSLP slogan, "You Are Here." A New York State teen with the winning entry will be awarded $250 and his or her library will receive $100.

"Teens across New York State are invited to create a 30- to 90-second video using the slogan 'You are Here' to promote summer reading at their local libraries," says Karen Balsen, coordinator of Summer Reading at New York Libraries. Balsen, who is also the New York State representative for the CSLP and chair of its PR and Marketing Committee proposed the idea to the CSLP to encourage teen's participation in the creative process. "The idea is to involve teens in thinking about the benefits of summer reading before and during the summer months. It's also an opportunity for New York State teens to showcase their creativity and have their ideas heard before a national audience."

Each state and CSLP member entity that participates in Teen Video Challenge 2011 will organize and implement their own competition to arrive at one winner per state, or member entity, that will be named an official CSLP 2011 Teen Video to promote summer reading nationwide. Winners will be announced by CSLP in spring 2011.

Full details about the Summer Reading at New York Libraries "You Are Here" Teen Video Challenge 2011 are available at participating local libraries and at www.summerreadingnys.org.

New York State partners with 48 other states, Washington D.C., American Samoa, and the Mariana Islands, as part of the national Collaborative Summer Library Program to share best practices and ideas for program goals, activities and themes.

The Summer Reading at New York Libraries is a program of the New York State Library in the Office of Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department and is funded through the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, with funds awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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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
Frederick 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:
Stephanie Kyle, YA Librarian
Mastics-Meriches-Shirley Community Library
407 William Floyd Pkwy
Shirley, NY 11967
631-399-1511 x292 Fax: 631-281-4442
stephaniekyle@yahoo.com