Did you hear the story of the librarian who fell asleep at the dinner table during dinner with her whole family? Would you believe that it happened during the first week of the summer reading program? I remember that infamous week, so many years ago, every year as I prepare for the summer. I literally rested my chin on my hand, and fell asleep. It actually happened two years in a row and I vowed that I would not exhaust myself like that any more. As I prepare the program calendar, work on the copy for our newsletter and web site, and put together material for school visits I remember to pace myself and my programs.

The anticipation of our summer reading program is a hectic, yet exciting time. As we all prepare, don’t forget to put time in your schedule for yourself. Plan ahead for that dinner or picnic outside. Don’t hold a grudge against those enjoying summer; you need to enjoy it, too. Make a list of jobs or chores that can be handed over to volunteers or parents. Need pictures for Facebook or your web site? Hand the camera to a teen and let them take as many shots as they want. There is bound to be some good ones. Do you want to thank your community for their support of your program? Get your teens to design “thank-you” posters that patrons can sign at your programs. Hang them on bulletin boards around your community. You can “dream big” this summer with new ideas to promote, thank and include your community. Our SRP manuals are a great help.

YSS is also gearing up for changes. It is time for elections to replace some of the board. And it is even time to think of NYLA conference where you will be able to learn a new skill, get ideas for programs, meet an author and network with your peers. Please take the time to read our candidates statements and then.....VOTE!

Have a great summer.
Joyce Laoisa, YSS President
Bruce Coville is the 2012 recipient of the Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People. The award is presented by the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association.

Bruce was born in Syracuse, New York. As a young reader he loved Mary Poppins and Dr. Dolittle. He also read lots of Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew and millions of comic books. His only regret is the time he spent watching television, when he could have been reading.

His first book, The Foolish Giant, was published in 1978. It was illustrated by his wife Katherine. Before being published, Bruce worked as a toymaker, gravedigger, cookware salesman and an elementary school teacher. He left teaching in 1981 to devote himself to full-time writing.

Bruce’s ninety-nine books have been published in over a dozen countries and have sold more than sixteen million copies. His newest book, Always October, will be published in August 2012 by HarperCollins. Bruce founded Full Cast Audio, an audiobook company dedicated to creating unabridged, full cast recordings of the best in children’s and young adult literature in 2001. He lives with his wife in Syracuse, New York.

Bruce will accept his award and be the featured speaker at the Empire State Luncheon during the NYLA Conference on Friday, November 9, 2012.

Nominations for the 2014 Award can be made by using the form on the NYLA website. http://nyla.org/associations/13281/files/ESA%202014%20Nomination%20Form.pdf

Drum roll, please! Announcing the 2013 YSS Spring Conference on Friday, May 17, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport in Rochester. “Among the Readers and Beyond” is the theme of this day-long conference in “The Flower City.” Critically acclaimed author of teen and middle-grade novels, Margaret Peterson Haddix, will be our luncheon speaker. Nationally syndicated advice columnist and NPR commentator Amy Dickinson, author of The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Mother, A Daughter and the People Who Raised Them, will provide the keynote speech.

There will be an opportunity to select three workshops from an offering of fifteen presentations and panel discussions. Topics will include reaching reluctant readers, gaming for all ages, outreach in the community, new programming ideas for children, tweens, and teens, music in storytime, powerful partnerships, genre arrangements for early literacy collections, and the new NYS Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy.

Registration includes a continental breakfast and luncheon. Early bird rates apply until Monday, March 25, 2013. Reduced registration fees will be offered for library school students and New York Library Association members in the Youth Services Section and the Section of School Librarians. Members of youth divisions of out-of-state and international library associations may also register at the YSS member rate.

Mark your calendar now to gather with your friends and colleagues in Rochester. Come for the conference and stay to attend the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival, a free event for teens and adults who enjoy young adult literature, on Saturday, May 18. Further information including a Spring Conference 2013 registration brochure will be posted on the YSS Web site by mid-November.
2012 YSS EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINEES

Chrissie Morrison
Nominee For: Vice-President/President-Elect

Present Position:
East Greenbush Community Library, East Greenbush, NY
Librarian I, Youth Services (Tween & Teen Librarian), Full-Time
June 2007 to present
Librarian I, Youth Services (Tween Librarian), Part-Time
September 2004 to June 2007

Prior Professional Experience:
Lansingburgh Central School District
Permanent Substitute Teacher
January 2003 to April 2005

Education:
Masters of Science in Information Science, December 2004
University at Albany, School of Information Science and Policy
/Library and Information Services Track/
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, December 2002
Plattsburgh State University College
/Major Concentration in Elementary Science, Minor in English/

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Professional Memberships:
NYLA – YSS – 2007 to present
NYLA – PLS – 2011 to present
NYLA – NMRT – 2008 to 2011
ALA – YALSA – 2008 to present
NYLA Section/Round Table Board Positions:
YSS Conference Planning Chair – 2011
NMRT Awards Chair – 2009
Mentoring/Teaching:
UAlbany CCI, Grad School, (YA Lit) Guest Lecturer – Spring 2011 to present
UAlbany CCI, Grad School, Internship Mentor – Summer 2007 to present
Publications:
Published in YALS ("Transforming a Teen SRP") – Summer 2010
Programs Featured in VOYA ("Get With the Program" column) – Feb 2012, Dec 2010
Workshop Sessions/Presentations:
YSS Spring Conference – 2012
Missouri Teen SRP Workshop Series – 2011
WLA Spring Conference – 2010
UHLS "Love Those T(w)eens!" – 2009

Position Statement:
I am the Tween & Teen Librarian at the East Greenbush Community Library in East Greenbush, NY. I began working in Youth Services almost 8 years ago, and I have done everything from family storytimes to teen lock-ins and video game tournaments. I’ve written an article about turning around the Teen Summer Reading Program at my library, and some of my teen programs have been featured in VOYA. I have been invited to present programs for NYLA Conferences, YSS Conferences, and other conferences put on by library systems and associations around NY State, and I even traveled around Missouri to present a series of Teen SRP workshops to their Teen Librarians in 2011. In addition to presenting workshops, I have already been involved in NYLA in a couple of capacities. In 2009, I was the NMRT Awards Chair and, in 2011, I was the YSS Conference Planning Committee Chair – A.K.A. the crazy person who planned and coordinated the YSS workshops and events at the 2011 NYLA Fall Conference. I have really enjoyed getting to know many of the amazingly talented librarians in our section, and my goal as YSS Vice-President/President-Elect would be to encourage more YSS members to share their wealth of knowledge and to mentor the newest librarians among us so that we can all shine more brightly!
Name: Lisa Kochik  
Nominee For: 1st Vice President/President Elect

Present Position:
Children’s Librarian and Head Of Youth Services, Newburgh Free Library, Newburgh, NY

Prior Professional Experience:
Local History Librarian, Poughkeepsie Public Library District, Poughkeepsie, NY
Children’s Librarian, Poughkeepsie Public Library District, Poughkeepsie, NY
Children’s Services Assistant, Mid-Hudson Library System, Poughkeepsie, NY

Education:
M.L.S. SUNY-Albany, Albany, NY
B.A. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Member, ALA – 1992- Present (not continuous), ALSC, PLA, YALSA Divisions (varying)
Member, NYLA – 2001- Present; YSS, PLS, Sections
Member, USBBY – 2009 – Present

Position Statement:
Across New York State, libraries serve as vital community centers, uniquely positioned to influence the success and sustainability of a myriad of societal and cultural institutions. The future of libraries is inextricably linked to their continued relevance and value in a community. As a Youth Services Librarian, I have always regarded my position as one of privilege, responsibility and opportunity: Privilege-- to be entrusted with the developing intellect and natural curiosity of a young mind; Responsibility-- to enrich and expand the everyday experience of young people; and Opportunity-- to inspire future generations. My candidacy for the office of YSS 1st Vice President/ President-Elect parallels my professional position in that it affords me the Privilege to serve the YSS Membership, the Responsibility to dedicate my intellect and energy to the NYLA Organization, and the Opportunity to impact the future of New York State Libraries. I welcome the challenge to help keep libraries, and youth services, vital, strong and valued in communities across New York.
Name: Rebecca Verhayden Darling  
Nominee For: First Year Director

Present Position:  
Youth Services Librarian, Town of Ballston Community Library, Burnt Hills, NY (Full-time)

Prior Professional Experience:  
Graduate Assistant, University Library Reference Assistant, State University of New York, University at Albany, Albany, NY

Education:  
Master of Science in Information Science, State University of New York, University at Albany, Albany, NY  
Bachelor of Arts in English, Saint Bonaventure University, Olean, NY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:  
NYLA/NMRT Booth Chair 2012  
University of Albany Student Chapter ALA/NYLA President 2007  
University of Albany Student Chapter ALA/NYLA Vice President 2006-2007  
Member of NYLA/YSS 2006 - Present  
Member of ALA 2006 - Present

Position Statement:  
Growing up, visiting the library with my Dad every week was a special treat. I loved exploring the books and bringing home as many as I could carry. I am blessed to be able to share that experience with children now. Helping kids find new authors, learn about their favorite subjects and develop a love of reading makes our jobs as youth librarians truly special. Furthermore, I believe that it is also our job to use activities and subjects that young people enjoy to meet their educational needs, and to express what our library has to offer in fun and innovative ways. As a youth advocate, it’s my responsibility to ensure that children continue to have these opportunities. NYLA and YSS have allowed me to share ideas and learn from other librarians, to bring the best ideas back to my library and do more with our limited resources. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as the First Year Director and work with other librarians to share knowledge and advocate for our profession and the youth that we represent.
Name: Lisa G Kropp
Nominee For: Secretary

Present Position: Head of Children’s Department, Half Hollow Hills Community Library (2009-present)

Prior Professional Experience:
- Early Childhood Services/Family Place Coordinator: Middle Country Public Library (2004-2008)
- Children’s Librarian: Middle Country Public Library (1999-2004)

Education:
- Certificate in Public Library Administration, Long Island University (2008)
- Master of Library Science, Queens College (1994)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
  - YSS Conference Presenter: March 2012 - Interactive Family Programs
- SCLA: Suffolk County Library Association: Member (2003 – present)
  - Currently serving as President, and have served as Vice President. (2011 –present)
- CLASC: Children’s Librarian Association of Suffolk County: Member (2000-present)
  - Served as President/ Past President (2006-2010)
- ALA/PLA/ALSC (2006- present): Presenter at ALA in 2008 -Read Between the Lions: Public Television and Public Libraries Join Forces to Improve Literacy
- School Library Journal Book Reviewer (1994 – present)

Position Statement:
I feel like I have literally grown up in libraries – from my mom taking me to the Wantagh Library to join the summer reading club for the first time; to discovering the Little House on the Prairie books at the Farmingdale Library; to working as a page, then a clerk, and finally, as a librarian. Being in a library, for me, is just like being home. I’m surrounded by things that I love – great stories, interesting people, and wonderful programs and services to share with the public and with my colleagues.

While the position I am running for is one of Secretary to the NYLA YSS Board, I hope to be able to advocate more for children’s librarians and public libraries. As we all know, when the economy goes bad – libraries flourish as our services are used more. I would like to use my position on the NYLA YSS Board to make sure libraries, and in particular their children’s departments, are not forgotten or left behind. Today, we need support more than ever to ensure that we have the necessary funding to keep our quality programs and services in place that serve such a wide range of ages, from babies to teenagers.
Name: Pamela D. Gunning  
Nominee for: Secretary

Present Position:
Librarian II, Head of Children’s Services, Pearl River Public Library, Pearl River, NY  
PT Librarian, Children’s Services, Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library, Haverstraw, NY

Prior Professional Experience:
Librarian II, Head of Adult Services, Pearl River Public Library, Pearl River, NY  
PT Librarian, Children’s Services, Pearl River Public Library, Pearl River, NY  
Assistant VP/Assistant Manager, Marsh & McLennan Inc. Corporate Information Center, New York, NY

Education:
Public Library Administration Post Master’s Certification,  
Long Island University/CW Post  
MLS – Queens College, Flushing, NY  
BS Elementary Education, St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Library Association of Rockland County, Youth Services Division member  
(current member as treasurer, past chair, YSD conference coordinator in 2008)  
NYLA/YSS, member 2003-present  
RCLS Young Adult Librarians, member 1998-2001, chair 2000-2001

Position Statement:
I have worked in Youth Services for over 20 years, both full and part time. While I enjoyed my time in New York City and in Adult Services, Youth Services is the place for me! I love handing just the right book to an eager child. I love getting them “turned on” to books. I am fortunate to work in a library supportive community that understands the importance of what we do. I am also fortunate to belong to YSS for many years now, attending conferences and receiving ideas, support and encouragement from other YS librarians. I look forward to being able to return that support to other YS librarians and to advocate for and serve our young people in all corners of New York State.
Name: Eileen Caulfield  
Nominee For: Secretary

Present Position:
Librarian III, Head of Children’s Services, Smithtown Special Library District, Smithtown, NY

Prior Professional Experience:
Head of Children’s Services, Wilton Library Association, Wilton, CT
Librarian, Smithtown Special Library District, Smithtown, NY

Education:
Long Island University, CW Post Campus, Public Library Administrators Graduate Certificate Program (currently enrolled)
MLS, Queens College, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Flushing, NY
BA, English, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Member NYLA/YSS
Member ALA/ALSC
Member CLASC (Children’s Librarians Association of Suffolk County)

Position Statement:
I would welcome the opportunity to become secretary and play a more active part of NYLA Youth Services Section (YSS). I believe in the importance of this organization and assisting in any way I can. As the current head of the Children’s Department for the largest library system on Long Island, I know first-hand how important is to be an advocate for youth services in our libraries. My experience has provided me with the requisite skills and abilities to effectively serve as Secretary for YSS.
Check out my new fave: AdvocacyGuru.Com

This site has a plethora of useful information to strengthen your advocacy efforts, courtesy of Stephanie Vance. The author of four books on advocacy, Stephanie has over 20 years of experience in Congressional affairs, in a law firm, as an NPR lobbyist, and in Congressional offices. It’s my favorite kind of advice site, as it’s very conversational and speaks directly to the reader.

I went right to the Tipsheet: http://advocacyguru.com/resources/tipsheet/to learn What NOT to Say When Advocating. I found out NOT to tell staffers “What you’re telling me can’t be right. I heard Jon Stewart of The Daily Show say otherwise.” (Number 4) Okay, I wasn’t going to tell them that, but it reminded me to pre-check my sources!

After reading “But I thought my appointment was with the Senator. I don’t want to meet with ‘just staff’” (Number 10) I’m going to present the library case as if the Senator is there, because “On Capitol Hill, having a good relationship with a staff person can make or break your cause.” I wished I had read and shared this with my fellow advocates before NYLA Advocacy Day!

More timely, though, I browsed Easy, Easier, Easiest: Tips for Connecting with Policymakers and Staff at Home, where I learned that “summer is a great time to build relationships with policymakers and their staff.” Take advantage of the time your officials spend at home for an Easy Tip: Create an event that shows how library funding is affected in your community. Step by step instructions are listed to assist in creating the event. Easier is to set up visits at your summer programs and issue invitations. Easiest of all is to friend them on Facebook; sign up for their Twitter and blog feeds and check out the “degrees of separation” on LinkedIn.

More tips abound! Who knew that the legislative process is like Thanksgiving dinner?? Or how to “Make the Darn Ask!” And I’ve only talked about the Tips page. Really, take a look, the Advocacy Guru really makes what seems impossible very possible!

Sue Rokos, YSS Legislative Liaison

Librarians have a tendency to take for granted the idea of advocacy. They are sure that someone else will speak up about the state of libraries, sustainability and our very existence. We tend to rely on the voices of others to get our point across or our needs addressed and understood. Could this be because we are shy or introverted or that we think someone else will simply say it better than we can? This may be the crux of much of our reluctance to stand up and speak out. I, of course, am generalizing here. Many of us are already on the front lines helping to drive the message about the importance of libraries. This is good! However for some of us it is not so easy to be behind the bullhorn or to be center stage. How wonderful it is to have an organization such as NYLA/YSS backing us up to help make that message clear to an audience who may be taking the library for granted just as much as we take for granted the role of the advocate. Become a louder voice, get others to join in and help spread the word!!

Christina Ryan-Linder,
YSS 2nd Vice President/Membership
YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

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 ___

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 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:
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
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____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

Please fill out and return to:
Christina Ryan-Linder
2nd Vice President
Pearl River Public Library
80 Franklin Ave
Pearl River, NY 10965
clinder@rcis.org