A Message from the President

I love Fall. It’s my favorite season. I love the changing colors on the leaves, and the wonderful sound they make when you crunch through them after they’ve fallen to the ground. I love the clean, crisp air and the cerulean hue of the sky. I love the anticipation of activities starting up again after the summer break. I was always one of those weird kids who loved school. To this day I look through a college, or even high school, listing of courses and want to sign up for most of them. Except for math. Math and I are not friends.

Another great thing about Fall is that’s when NYLA’s Annual Conference happens! What a great lineup of programs we have this year! On Thursday we have our membership meeting, followed by a talk by author Eric Luper. I hope you all will attend, as your votes are needed on the revised bylaws and other issues. You may win a fabulous prize – possibly chocolate, possibly socks – from the YSS President if you attend. Our Telling Tales event happens on Thursday as well, with local storytellers Marni Gillard and Kate Dudding. Your donations to the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund will be gratefully accepted at this event.

Friday is a full day of fabulous programming. Video games, pop culture fans, libraries led by teens, and food pantries and family literacy will all be explored. I am particularly excited, however, about our Empire State Award luncheon. Our winner this year is Steve Sheinkin, and if you haven’t heard him speak, you’re in for a real treat. I think he’s amazing. After reading Bomb, I gave copies to most of the young people I know. Of course, one of the joys of the conference is the networking, and seeing friends from far flung places. And the shopping. We can’t forget the shopping.

Another thing to look forward to this Fall is the newly revamped Three Apples Award! Our committee has been working diligently to clean up files associated with this award, and to devise a usable form for nominations. They hope to be able to launch the whole kit and kaboodle soon, so keep your eyes peeled for that.

Another committee is deeply involved in planning the Spring Conference, its theme being Out of the Box. The date of the Spring Conference is Friday, April 28, 2017, and it’s in beautiful downtown Ithaca. Put that date on your calendar in big letters, because it’s a can’t miss event! The shopping – I mean conference – will be great. Please also plan on coming to the Past Presidents’ dinner on Thursday, April 27, 2017, which I will be planning. It’s not just for Past Presidents. It’s for anyone who enjoys good food and good conversation.

When you attend these conferences, or any time at all, please consider filling out an Active Member form. YSS is only as strong and vital as its members. I know you all are talented and have much to offer. Share it with YSS, in any capacity you choose.

This newsletter article is the last I will write as the YSS President. I’ve enjoyed my year. As always, I encourage you to contact me (maryjo.smith@libraryweb.org) with any questions or concerns.

See you in Saratoga!
Incoming (2016-2017) YSS Board

The calendar year for YSS Board positions runs from NYLA Annual Conference to NYLA Annual Conference. At the 2016 NYLA Annual Conference, we will transition to our incoming (2016-2017) YSS Board.

**Past President:** Mary Jo C. Smith, Gates Public Library  
**President:** Christina Ryan-Linder, Greenburgh Public Library  
**1st Vice President:** Laura Panter, Sachem Public Library  
**2nd Vice President:** Lisa Neuman, Albany Public Library  
**3rd Year Director:** Amanda Schiavulli, Fingerlakes Library System  
**2nd Year Director:** Jennifer Burke, DeWitt Community Library  
**1st Year Director:** Liz Anastasi, Greenburgh Public Library  
**Conference Planning Chair:** Elizabeth Portillo, Eastchester Public Library  
**Secretary:** Kim Hazen, Guernsey Memorial Library  
**Treasurer:** Pat Connor, Rochester Public Library  
**Web Liaison:** Cathy Brenner, Bethlehem Public Library

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**Congratulations to our newly elected Board Members:**

![1st Vice President/President-Elect](image1)
**Laura Panter**

![Secretary](image2)
**Kim Hazen**

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**Interested in Getting More Involved?!?**

If you are interested in becoming more active in YSS, joining a YSS Committee, and/or running for a position on the YSS Board, check out our website. We have a [Get Involved in YSS](#) page dedicated to explaining the various positions available in our committees and on the Executive Board and an [Active Member Form](#) that you can use to let us know how you’d like to help!
2016 NYLA Annual Conference at a Glance

**Thursday, 11/3**  
**YSS Membership Meeting**  
Featuring Eric Luper

**Telling Tales: An Ann Gibson Fundraiser**  
With Marni Gillard and Kate Dudding

**Friday, 11/4**  
**Library Spaces and Pop Culture Fandoms**  
Trevor Oakley and Caitlin Sheldon, Saratoga Springs Public Library

**Empire State Award Luncheon**  
Honoring 2016 ESA winner Steve Sheinkin

**Advocating for Video Games in Libraries**  
James Hutter, Westbury Memorial Public Library  
Barbara Grace, Garden City Public Library  
Chloe Wasserman, Brooklyn Public Library  
Josh Firer, Bellmore Memorial Library

**Teen Led Libraries: Beyond Advisory Groups**  
Regina DeMauro, Tompkins County Public Library

**Saturday, 11/5**  
**Family Literacy in a Food Pantry**  
Betsy Kennedy, Cazenovia Public Library

**YSS Table Talks**  
Topics will include 2017 Summer Reading crafts, computer programs for teens, storytelling, LEGO’s, and more!

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Do you like cute pets?  
Do you like reading books?  
Then, you’re gonna LOVE the 2017 YSS calendar filled with pictures of cute pets reading books!

(Well… Some pets are just dressed up and/or posed in book-themed pictures, but you get the idea!)

Get your Cute Pets of YSS 2017 calendar at the YSS booth for $10!
Take Your Child to the Library Day is February 4, 2017!

**Take Your Child to the Library Day in 6 Easy Steps:**

1. Decide where you’re celebrating. Meeting room? Children’s Area? Don’t forget to book your space!
2. Plan your event – Are you doing your own event? Hiring a performer? Both? How many teen volunteers do you need?
3. Arrange for goodies! (“If you feed them, they will come!”)
4. Advertise – via press releases, on social media, announcements at YS programs, in your newsletter, and with in-house posters.
5. Register with the TYCttLD blog
6. Download materials from the NYLA Advocacy page for TYCttLD

**YSS Member Spotlight - Anne Gregory**

Anne Gregory, a Children's Librarian at the Beauchamp Branch of the Onondaga County Public Library, is sporting a new look this year. She went from waist-length hair to a shaved head to help raise money for childhood cancer research. Not only does she look totally awesome with her fun new hair, but she helped to raise $800 for St. Baldricks and donated about 18 inches of hair to make wigs for children. Way to go, Anne!
YSS Awards & Scholarships

Get recognition for your hard work... Save time planning programs... Collaborate with other librarians in your service area... Save money attending grad school and/or conferences... What’s not to love about the YSS Awards & Scholarships?!

Ann Gibson Scholarship Award
This award is given annually to honor the memory of Ann Gibson, a dynamic, dedicated librarian, storyteller and teacher, in recognition of her many contributions to the field of youth services librarianship. Applications are available online and due in late Spring each year. (Look ahead to the next page for an article about the 2016 Ann Gibson Scholarship winner!)

Pied Piper Award
This award recognizes excellence in the creation of promotional materials for a library program, or the creation of an individual program that promotes service to the young people of New York State. Applications are available online and the 2017 Pied Piper Award application deadline is December 2, 2016.

Empire State Award
This award is presented to a New York State author/illustrator to honor a body of work which represents excellence in children’s and young adult literature for young people. We are currently accepting nominations for the 2018 YSS Empire State Award, and you can find the nomination form online.

The 3 Apples Book Award is BACK!
These 3 awards – for young readers, children, and teens – have been developed to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure and to give the children and teens in New York State the opportunity to participate in honoring their favorite books. It is co-sponsored by the Youth Services Section and the Section for School Librarians of NYLA, which together represent the public and school libraries of the state. Newly revamped, after a two year hiatus, the 3 Apples Book Award is a great way for school and public librarians to collaborate and build a lasting partnership!

Spring Conference Scholarships
These two scholarships are awarded to encourage continuing education in the field of library youth services by participating in the annual YSS Spring Conference. In addition to having the full registration fee of the conference waived, each recipient will receive a reimbursement for hotel charges, meals, and transportation costs in an amount up to $250. 2017 Spring Conference Scholarship applications will be up on the YSS website shortly!

New Member Spring Conference Scholarship – The applicant must be a current regular or student member of NYLA/YSS. The applicant may be a graduate library student (full- or part-time) who is matriculated at her/his institution, a practicing librarian or paraprofessional employed in New York State, or involved in a related youth services field (e.g. storytelling, an illustrator, etc.) for less than 10 years.

Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship – This award is reserved for veteran librarians. The applicant must be a current regular of NYLA/YSS. In addition, the applicant must have at least 10 years of post-graduate experience working in libraries and is currently working in the area of youth services in a public or school library in New York. She/he must be able to demonstrate that she/he has had a significant impact on youth and youth services in her/his community.
Congratulations, 2016 Ann Gibson Scholarship Winner: Julie Tootell

Julie Tootell is pursuing her Master of Information Studies with a concentration in Library and Information Services/School Library Media Specialist at The University at Albany. In addition to her studies, she is currently a substitute teacher in the Voorheesville and Bethlehem Schools.

Previous library experience includes 9 years of work in a public library in Newmarket, England. While in this position, Julie transformed the children’s department from a dull corner to a vibrant, activity-filled area. She lead singing groups for preschool children, conducted interactive book readings, coordinated a celebration of the Queen’s Jubilee, and actively promoted summer reading for children ages 4 to 11 years throughout local schools. She spent an additional 2 years collaborating with teachers in a village college for students ages 11-16 years.

Outside of work and studies, Julie loves to spend time with her husband and daughter. She has a great passion for storytelling and enjoys traveling and taking photographs. She is a graphic artist and generally describes herself as a creative and crafty person. Her claim to fame is being able to make anything out of a piece of cardboard! Her most ambitious cardboard creation was a 3D, life-sized donkey.

Julie’s goal is to work in an elementary school library to enthuse library users from an early age to grow up to love their libraries. She feels that her studies have prepared her to be a stronger and better-equipped librarian and hopes to continue to offer exciting and innovative library programs upon completion of her degree.

More information about this scholarship is available online via the YSS Scholarships & Award page.

Prepared by the YSS Scholarship Committee:
Terry Rabideau, Hannah Baumgartner, Michelle Waldenmaier
2017 YSS Spring Conference

It has been *more than three decades* since the Annual YSS Spring Conference has been in the Ithaca area and we are ready to show you something extraordinary!

Your conference will begin at the historic **State Theatre of Ithaca** where our Keynote Breakfast will inspire you to get up, get moving and advocate for your library. You will then take a short walk through the new and updated **Ithaca Commons** to our breakout sessions located at the independent movie theater, **Cinemapolis**. Back at the State Theatre, lunch will be served with our Author and Illustrator Luncheon. The afternoon sessions will continue back at Cinemapolis and the **Tompkins County Public Library**.

While this may sound like a lot of walking, we have planned time for you to network, take in the sights of Ithaca and check out some of the local flavors. Most importantly, there will be accessibility options available for those in need.

For the first time ever, registration for the conference will be available online. We have a great lineup of programs ready for you, from forming community partnerships to grant writing to STEM and STEAM programs, and much, MUCH more!

New York is quite the sizable state, so you may need a place to stay if you’re coming from out of town. There are a few hotel options available, but if you want to jump on the special rate, give the **Hotel Ithaca** a call and request the NYLA-YSS 2017 Room Rate of $124/night. This rate is valid for the nights of Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28, 2016. You have plenty of time to reserve the room, but with so much to do in Ithaca, why not consider planning a mini vacation around NYLA-YSS? You deserve it!

For more details about the 2017 YSS Spring Conference, visit the “**Events**” page of the YSS Website or contact Conference Chair Amanda Schiavulli at **aschiavulli@flls.org**.
2017 YSS Spring Conference Featured Speakers

**Morning Keynote: Advocacy through Action**

Your morning Keynote speaker is 2015 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker, Sue Kowalski.

Sue is a 2003 graduate of Syracuse University and has been a school librarian since then. Sue has been at Pine Grove Middle School in the East Syracuse Minoa School District since 2007. She was a classroom teacher for 10 years in the Syracuse City School District before starting her library career. Sue is active with NYLA and has accepted a variety of roles to #leadoutloud! Pine Grove received the National School Library Program of the Year in 2011. Sue was a recipient of the "I Love My Librarian" Award in 2012 and named a Visionary Leader in Learning Commons by Teacher Librarian Magazine in 2013.

Sue is passionate about the power of advocacy through strategic action and will discuss just that! If you are making amazing strides at your library and no one knows about it, are your efforts really having the impact they could? Do you feel limited by the time and dollars you have to run a quality outreach campaign? Together we will explore ideas and best practices to transform strategic leadership to meaningful advocacy for your programs.

Curate ideas from the presenter, the audience, and a thoughtful look in your own back yard! Connect with her on Twitter: @spkowalski

**Collaborative Visual Luncheon with Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri**

Get ready to be blown away by the dynamic duo that informed you of how much *Dragons Love Tacos*, warned you about *Darn Squirrels* and most recently gave you a new reason to love robots in *Robo-Sauce*.

Collaboration is extremely important in the 21st Century Library and Adam and Dan will show you how effective and rewarding collaboration can be. In this talk, you will learn a bit about the guys, the creative process that goes into making a collaborative picture book, and be prepared to put your thinking caps on as you help Dan draw an original story before your eyes! Following their talk, copies of their books will be available for purchase and autograph.

Adam Rubin is the New York Times best-selling author of a half dozen critically-acclaimed picture books. He grew up outside of New York City, went to school at Washington University in St. Louis and spent his "formative" years in Chicago. After ten years working in the creative departments of various advertising agencies, Adam recently quit his day job to focus on writing full-time. Other interests include camping, 3D puzzles, improv comedy, nature documentaries and cartoons. He currently lives in Manhattan.

Daniel Salmieri grew up in Brooklyn and went to the University of the Arts for Illustration in Philadelphia. Since then he's illustrated eight picture books, including a New York Times best seller and Notable Book. He has also won several awards including the Borders Original Voices Award and the NAIBA Book of the Year Award. Daniel's work has been recognized by American Illustration and The Society of Illustrators. He currently lives in Brooklyn.

Visit their websites – [www.adamrubinhasawebsite.com](http://www.adamrubinhasawebsite.com) and [www.danielsalmieri.com](http://www.danielsalmieri.com)
YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

YSS ACTIVE MEMBER FORM

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_____

**Submit Active Member forms to neumanl@albanypubliclibrary.org**

Revised 02/14