A Message from the President

What a wonderful Spring Conference we had! The festivities started the night before, with our annual Past Presidents’ Dinner. The Past Presidents’ Dinner is a perfect time to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. Our current Past President, Mary Ferris, provided several baskets on which to bid, with the proceeds going to the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund. The beautiful Desmond hotel in Albany was the setting for the conference. The keynote speaker, Jarrett Krosoczka, was funny and energetic. He revealed that he was the new author for the Star Wars Jedi Academy series, and he gave us all an ARC of the first book. He knows the way to a librarian’s heart is free books. Bruce Coville was our luncheon speaker, and he engaged us in thinking about the ripple effect our actions have in the lives of others. At the luncheon we also learned the identity of the Empire State Award winner, who I’m pleased to say, is Steve Sheinkin! I am so excited for the Empire State Award luncheon this fall in Saratoga Springs! The sessions I attended at the conference were excellent. Mary Fellows gave a great presentation on conflict resolution and understanding your own style for dealing with conflict. The first afternoon session on free summer lunch at the library was informative, and the second one, given by a pediatrician, provided background on brain development and described a community partnership that had been developed with Albany Medical School students. I hope you all had an opportunity to attend and refresh and reboot your enthusiasm for our profession. Kudos go to Liz Liddington and her tireless committee. Mark your calendars now for the 2017 Spring Conference, which will take place April 28, 2017 in beautiful Ithaca, NY. Remember—Ithaca is gorges.

We have an election coming up very soon, and our slate is excellent. Running unopposed for 1st Vice President/President Elect is Laura Panter of Sachem Public Library. For Secretary we have Valle Blair, of Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System and Kim Hazen of Guernsey Memorial Library. Our First Year Director candidates are Liz Anastasi of Greenburgh Public Library and Jackie Narkiewicz of Copiague Memorial Public Library. The voting opens on June 15, and it runs until July 15. Participate in your section and vote! Better still, if you’d like to...
be even more involved, be sure to fill out an Active Member form, found under the big “Get Involved” button on YSS’s part of the NYLA website. The more our members are actively contributing to our section, the stronger we are. Not to mention, it’s FUN!

We completed our revision of the YSS bylaws at the last Executive Board meeting. At the Summer Executive Board meeting, we will examine them and vote on them in preparation for presenting them for acceptance at the Fall Conference. The remaining document to be replaced is the Long Range Plan that expired in 2012. I encourage you, again, to send me any feedback you have regarding the Long Range Plan to me at maryjo.smith@libraryweb.org. What issues would you like to see YSS focus on in the next five years? I’d like to create a workable document in which everyone feels ownership.

Summer reading looms before us. My fervent wish for all of you is sunshine, busy (but not chaotic) libraries, and good books to read. Please feel free to contact me at any time, with any questions or concerns. On your mark...

Mary Jo C. Smith

Spring Conference Wrap-Up

The 2016 YSS Spring Conference took place on Friday, April 15th at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. Over 175 library professionals attended the daylong conference. The conference featured keynote speaker, Jarrett Krosoczka, the author of over 25 books, including the popular Lunch Lady graphic novel series. Bruce Coville, award winning author of more than 50 titles, was the luncheon speaker.

15 workshops were held throughout the day. They focused on a variety of topics of interest to library professionals. Handouts for many of the workshops have been posted on the YSS section webpage and can be found at http://bit.ly/1OlXb8L

The YSS Booth, raffle basket fundraiser, and Past President dinner brought in more than $1,000! (These funds are used towards the YSS Scholarships.)

Liz Liddington
2016 YSS Spring Conference Chair
YSS Committee Update - YSS Conference Planning Committee

Elizabeth Portillo has been at the Eastchester Public Library as their YA Librarian, for the last year and a half. She is currently the Westchester Library System Battle of the Books President after being one of the founding members of the massive event, just 2 and a half short years ago. Last year, Elizabeth also served as NYLA's New Member Engagement Subcommittee Chair, and the year before that, as their Conference Programmer. Elizabeth is excited to be the NYLA Conference Planning Chair for 2017.

For a complete listing of current YSS Committee Members, go to http://bit.ly/ysscommittees

Election for YSS Officers

Don’t forget to vote in the upcoming NYLA and YSS Elections at www.nyla.org

Log in to your account, and then select “Voting – Polls/Elections” from the Member Options in the left column menu. (Circled in red on the image below.)

Want to learn more about the candidates before you cast your vote? Check out the YSS Candidate Profiles near the end of this newsletter!
Empire State Award Announcement

The Youth Services Section of NYLA is excited to announce that the winner of the 2016 Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People is **Steve Sheinkin**. Mr. Sheinkin will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, November 4, 2016, during the Association’s annual conference in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Steve Sheinkin is a resident of Saratoga Springs and an award-winning author of nonfiction for children and young adults. He began his career writing textbooks, including one-page biographies, skills lessons, and entire chapters. In 2009, he wrote his last textbook and walked away never to return. Following his departure from the world of textbook publishing, he released the graphic novel series, *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey*, and eventually his first nonfiction work, *King George: What Was His Problem?*, which is a look at the stories of the American Revolution that would not be published in the textbooks he used to write.

Two of his books, *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* and *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights* were both National Book Award finalists. In 2013, *Bomb* was a Newbery Honor book and won the Sibert Medal from the Association for Library Service to Children. His most recent work, *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* is a National Book Award finalist and was this year’s winner of the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

First awarded in 1990, the Empire State Award is given to an author and/or illustrator currently residing in New York State to honor a significant body of work in the field of literature for young people. Past recipients of this award include Maurice Sendak, Madeleine L’Engle, Vera Williams, Donald Crews, Jean Craighead George, Jerry Pinkney, Joseph Bruchac, Linda Sue Park, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Bruce Coville, Laurie Halse Anderson, Jacqueline Woodson, and last year’s honoree, Vivian Vande Velde. The Empire State Award committee is pleased to welcome Steve Sheinkin to this group.

Joshua J. Carlson,
Chair of the Empire State Award Committee

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Any member of the Youth Services Section is eligible to submit a nomination to the ESA Committee Chair. We are currently preparing to accept nominations for our 2018 Empire State Award. [Get more information and download a nomination form from the Empire State Award page of the YSS website!](#)
Pied Piper Award

Hey Youth Services Librarians:

Have a program you’re proud of, and has been noticed by your community? Here is one way you can get some professional credit, and share your refreshing and original idea with your colleagues. The Pied Piper Award recognizes excellence in the creation of promotional materials for a library program, or the creation of an individual program that promotes library service – literacy, enrichment, and entertainment – to the young people of New York State.

The 2016 winner was just announced at the YSS Spring Conference luncheon, but the 2017 award is already open for entries. YOU could be the next Pied Piper Award winner!

Entries for the 2017 Pied Piper Award must be received by December 2, 2016. All you have to do is send in a description of your program [offered between December 1, 2015 and November 30, 2016] with copies of your promotional materials. The winner receives a $50 bookstore gift certificate, an award certificate, and bragging rights.

For more information on how to enter, and/or to download a submission form, visit the Pied Piper Award page on the Youth Services Section of NYLA website.

Make your library organization proud and enter to win the [next year] Pied Piper Award today!

Chinasa Seyse,
Pied Piper Committee Chair
CALLING ALL PET LOVERS:

Attention NYLA and YSS members! We're looking for photos of your furry friends for the 2017 YSS Publication Committee Calendar. Send us a picture of your pet reading a good book or posing in a literary scene and it could be included in the calendar!

Send original photographs (high resolution only) to Matt Krueger – matt.krueger@libraryweb.org

Please be sure to include the name of the animal and the photographer so we can give proper credit. The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2016. Please feel free to contact Matt with any questions. Calendars will be available for purchase at the annual NYLA conference in November!

The Three Apples Book Award is returning in September 2016!

Did you know that New York State was one of the only states to have a true kid’s choice book award? One where the children in the state voted for their favorite titles, based on their own book choices, and not those offered to them by librarians in a curated list?

Launched over ten years ago, the award went from children’s and teen titles to also include a picture book title as well – hence we truly had three different “apples” that spanned children in grades K-12. The award was 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.

The Three Apples Book Award is co-sponsored by the Youth Services Section and the Section of School Librarians of the New York Library Association, which together represent the public and school libraries of the state.

This September, after a two year hiatus, the award will return with a new website and a streamlined voting tally process. So when you visit your school libraries to talk about summer reading this June, let the school library contact know that the 3 Apples Book Award will be back in the fall – ready for students and public library patrons to nominate their favorite titles!

Sample fliers, brochures, display ideas, and more will be located on our website after August 15. Stay tuned for an announcement on our Facebook page and in our fall newsletter.

Do you have questions about the award? Contact [YSS Chair] Lisa Kropp at lisa@suffolknet.org or [SSL Chair] Molly Clark at mclark@oswego.org
NYLA Annual Conference Sneak Peek

Strong.  
Strategic.  
Sustainable.  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
November 2-5, 2016

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 storytelling, LEGO, 2017 Summer Reading crafts,  
computer programs for teens, and more!
NYLA YSS Spring Conference 2017

OUT OF THE BOX

Friday
April 28, 2017

State Theatre of Ithaca
Ithaca, NY

www.nyla.org/yss

Save the Date!

More details to come!

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Voice of the Library Community

YOUTH SERVICES SECTIO
YSS Candidate Profile: 1st Vice President/President-Elect

Laura Panter
Head of Teen Services, Sachem Public Library
(Holbrook, NY)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:

VOYA Magazine- Reviewer of Young Adult Literature 2006-present

Long Island Library Conference Committee Member 2008-Arrangements Co-chair & Program Presenter


ALA/YALSA- (2002-present) Awards & Booklists Marketing Taskforce committee member

2012-2013, Best Fiction for Young Adults Selection Committee 2013-2014

Position Statement:

I have always been an advocate to services for youth, especially for teens since I began working in the public schools almost twenty years ago. I feel it is so important to bring services and information to youth at this time in their lives when they most need the support of everyone in their community, most importantly libraries and the librarians who mentor them. Becoming a member of professional organizations such as YSS provides many benefits to reach out to other professionals to increase awareness for services to youth and to network with other librarians to share ideas on how to serve youth better. I look forward to working hard to bring innovative ideas and practices to all of our librarians working with youth in New York State.

If elected, I will serve the needs of our membership promoting the sharing of ideas and services that increase literacy and education to youth as well as working to offer professional development opportunities to librarians looking to expand services to youth in their communities. I will continue to foster increased relationships among professionals working with youth and would consider it an honor to serve the members of YSS.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Laura is alone on this page because she is running unopposed for the position of 1st Vice President/President Elect. The two pages that follow (1st Year Director and Secretary) have been split evenly between both people who are running for those positions.
YSS Candidate Profile: 1st Year Director
Liz Anastasi
Teen Services, Greenburgh Public Library
(Elmsford, NY)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:

- Westchester Library Association
  2014-Present: Vice President, President, Conference Chair
- Westchester Library System Battle of the Books Planning Committee
  2013-Present: Founder, President, Volunteer Chair
- Westchester Library System Youth Services Advisory Board (member 2013-present)
- NYLA/YSS (member 2011-Present)
- American Library Association (member 2011-Present)

Position Statement:
The importance of advocacy for youth in libraries, especially tweens and teens, is hard to exaggerate. As we all know, positive library experiences on the eve of adulthood can lead to life-long library users and advocates. It is the aim of youth services library staff to do just that--foster this relationship by creating and offering welcoming and enriching opportunities where young adults feel supported, safe, and eager to return. NYLA/YSS is an invaluable resource and support system for anyone in youth services, providing continuing education, networking, and an opportunity to share and collaborate with similarly-passionate YS colleagues from across New York. As a part of the YSS Board I will strive to support and expand this essential interchange of ideas and education for which Youth Services Section is so well-known.

YSS Candidate Profile: 1st Year Director
Jacqueline (Jackie) Narkiewicz
Head of Children’s Service, Copiague Memorial Public Library
(Copiague, NY)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:

- New York Library Association/Suffolk County Library Association (member 2007-present)
  Past President 2015, President 2014, Vice President/President Elect 2013, Chair of Community Service Committee 2010-2012, Secretary 2007-09
- American Library Association (member 2004-present)
- Children’s Librarian Association of Suffolk County (member 2004-present)
  Historian 2004-2007

Position Statement:
I absolutely love being a children’s librarian! I was thrilled to find a career that allowed me to combine three things that I adore: working with children and their parents/caregivers, reading, and learning new things. As we all know, the role of public libraries is constantly changing due to a variety of factors and it is imperative that we, as children’s librarians, stay current with new technology, STEAM, Common Core standards, trends in literature and providing outreach to underserved populations in our communities. If elected, I would look forward to working with children’s librarians from all over New York State and sharing ideas about how to better serve our patrons.
YSS Candidate Profile: Secretary
Valle Blair
Youth Services Consultant, Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System (Jamestown, NY)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
- NYLA/YSS (member 2004-present)
- ALA/ALSC (member 2003-2006)
- Inducted into Beta Phi Mu in 2005
- Presenter at YSS Spring Conference 2006
- YSS Pied Piper committee 2008-2010 (served as Chair 2 years, due to committee member illness)
- Council member for the E2CC BOCES School Library System
- Book reviewer for the monthly PG Magazine (Parent Guidance) published by our local newspaper
- Write the Youth Services Corner for our weekly System newsletter, the eCirculator
- Ready to Read at New York Libraries Training Cohort Member

Position Statement:
Serving the youth of our state is a privilege and a great responsibility. As we all know, they are our future, not only in libraries, but in society. By providing opportunities for our young patrons, and those who are not yet our patrons, to grow and develop that love of learning and reading, we are helping them to become the successful, vital members that our society needs. YSS provides a network in which we can all share and encourage one another to excel in providing for the needs of these young people. That is the primary thing I like about our profession and especially YSS – we are all willing to help one another become the best we can be for the kids we serve.

YSS Candidate Profile: Secretary
Kim Hazer
Youth Services Librarian, Guernsey Memorial Library (Norwich, NY)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
- NYLA/YSS (member 2000-present)
- Presenter at 2015 NYLA Annual Conference
- ALA/YALSA (member 2000-present)

Position Statement:
In a society where children and teens are often undervalued, I feel it is more important than ever to stand up and be a voice for youth programs and services in libraries. Youth are the future of all libraries and I feel strongly they will make libraries stand the test of time for many more years to come. I will bring my 14+ years of professional experience working with youth, my enthusiasm and passion for the profession, and my technology expertise to the position of secretary for YSS. I look forward to increasing awareness for services to youth in libraries in New York State and bringing innovative ideas to the YSS librarian community.

If you are interested in being a YSS Committee Member or running for a position on the YSS Board, please take a moment to fill out and return the Active Member Form – available on the YSS website and on the next page of this newsletter:
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