A Message from the President

As I step into yet another role as your new YSS President I am thinking about all the jobs, tasks and duties I have performed as a Youth Services professional over the years. My other new role as Assistant Director at Greenburgh Public Library has me taking an introspective look at how I do my job, how I constantly draw on past experiences and how this affects others around me. There have been many wonderful professional and personal opportunities that have led me to where I am today and have only made me a better librarian, reaching for the goals I have set for myself. As a Youth Service professional those experiences with children, parents, families, literacy, advocacy, etc. have been invaluable. YS providers are a really versatile bunch! We all need to take a moment and truly understand what that means. I am encouraging everyone who reads this to take a look at your own professional journey and consider all of the roles you have played in your career, in your library, in your life and see if what you have accomplished is in alignment with your goals.

And now I am asking for more. As Youth Services staff, we are constantly stepping outside of our comfort zone. This is how we get new ideas into play, how we connect with the youth we serve, how we make our departments, our libraries and our lives better. I am asking all of you to take the next step. Become more involved! It doesn’t have to be just NYLA or YSS (although that would be great!) It could be anything that you are really passionate about. Enroll in a foreign language course, attend that workshop on healthy eating, learn how to play the piano and take a leap for the New Year! And let’s not worry too much about the outside forces (politics, climate change, etc.) that we feel we have no control over. If we do our part for our part of the world surely the impact will create a ripple effect that will move us toward great change, together.

I hope some of you were able to attend this past NYLA conference at Saratoga Springs. There were many wonderful workshops brought to you by YSS and all of the other NYLA sections. Every year I go I think I can’t possibly learn something new, but then it happens, and I bring back some idea, workshop or contact that will help me improve my daily activities. If you missed this past NYLA conference, no worries! We have a wonderful Spring Conference coming up in Ithaca on April 28, 2017 with more wonderful programs and professional development. Registration is now open for what is sure to be our best conference yet. Join us!

Christina Ryan-Linder
YSS President
A look back at the NYLA Annual Conference

NYLA 2016 was another great conference, or according to Jeremy, “The Best Conference Ever.” YSS offered six sessions covering everything from pop culture to food pantries. If you missed any of the sessions, please visit the 2016 NYLA Conference archive to see contact information for presenters and to download available handouts. In addition to the professional development and opportunities for catching up with old friends YSS offered a few special events; the Telling Tales Fundraiser for the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund and the ESA Luncheon honoring Saratoga author Steve Sheinkin.

STEAM Crafting for SRP 2017 @ YSS Tabletalks:

Steve Sheinkin signing books after the ESA Luncheon:

Jeremy singing at Karaoke Night:

A heart-warming slide from the Literacy in a Food Pantry session:

To continue the momentum and build an even better NYLA Conference in 2017, please consider getting involved and presenting.

NYLA has put out an open call for program proposals. Please consider presenting a great idea, a special collection, or a great program in 2017. (The program proposal deadline is December 31, 2016.)

You can either submit your program proposal online, or email Elizabeth Portillo, YSS Conference Planning Chair for NYLA 2017.
3 Ways to Become a Better Librarian in 2017
by Lisa Neuman, 2nd VP (Membership)

1. Give back to your profession
You chose to become a librarian for a pretty good reason I'm sure. Show why you care by becoming involved in your state, local, regional or national associations, or other literacy efforts. Your contribution can be as small or large as you have time for; volunteer for a committee, host an unofficial event, or help a younger colleague with a project.

2. Be Involved in your Community
Get out of the library! Go to community events, school sporting events, PTA meetings/events, or local fundraisers. You don't have to table – although it's cool if you can! :) Just get out there and tell potential new library users what a great place your library is and what it can do for them.

3. Find a Mentor or Be a Mentor
Struggling with a work issue? Find a trusted adviser who can give you their sage advice. Younger colleagues coming to you for advice? Give them the benefit of your experience and guide them on the road to success.

This is adapted from https://librarylostfound.com/2016/01/05/9-ways-to-become-an-even-awesomer-library-leader-in-2016

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 celebration.
   Are you doing your own event? Hiring a performer? Both?
3. Arrange for goodies!
4. Advertise:
   Send out press releases, post pictures and events on social media, make announcements at YS programs, put an announcement in your newsletter, and make in-house posters!
5. Register with the official TYCttLD blog.
6. Download promotional materials from the TYCttLD page on the NYLA website!
Spring Conference 2017

OUT OF THE BOX

Friday, April 28, 2017
State Theatre of Ithaca
Ithaca, NY

ONLINE REGISTRATION!

Register TODAY!
www.nyla.org/yss

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/yssnyla

Morning Keynote:
Advocacy through Action with 2015 Library Journal Mover and Shaker, Sue Kowalski

Collaborative Visual Luncheon
With Dragons Love Tacos and Robo-Sauce Author/Illustrator duo Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri.

Book Your Hotel Now and Save!
The Hotel Ithaca has a special rate of $124/night for the conference. Call and request NYLA-YSS 2017 (607) 288-2096

Bonus: It's directly across the street from our venue for the Past President's Dinner.
Annual YSS Spring Conference
Friday, April 28, 2017
8:30am-4:15pm

State Theatre:
8:30 am – 9:00 am
Registration, Breakfast, Book and Booth Sales, Donation Drop off
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Welcome by Christina Ryan-Linder, YSS President and Amanda Schiavulli, Conference Chair,
Keynote Address by Sue Kowalski
10:15 am – 10:45 am
Networking/Vendors/Booth sales/ Walk to Cinemapolis

Workshop Session #1: 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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<tr>
<th>Session/ Focus</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-A</td>
<td><strong>Sparkling Teen Creativity with New Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus: Teen</td>
<td><strong>Presenters:</strong> Kristie Revicki, Morristown and Morris Township Library</td>
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<td>Sick of making duct tape wallets year after year? Want art programming that is more</td>
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<td>stimulating for your teens (and you)? Hear about the Spark Creativity Camp, which</td>
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<td>features programs that encourage teens to think outside of the box, bubble wrap, or</td>
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<td>any sort of packaging they might encounter. Learn how you can collaborate with local</td>
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<td>teachers and community organizations to infuse creativity coaching methods into your</td>
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<td>summer programming and beyond.</td>
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<td>1-B</td>
<td><strong>Program: Yoga Storytime</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus: 0-5</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Diane Hamilton, Om Child Yoga</td>
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<td>An introduction to teaching yoga, breath and mindfulness to children through stories</td>
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<td>plus developing a family yoga story hour.</td>
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<td>1-C</td>
<td><strong>The Innovation of Making</strong></td>
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<td>Focus: All</td>
<td><strong>Presenters:</strong> Heather Turner, Teacher Librarian, Fabius Pompey MS/HS Library</td>
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<td>This workshop will talk about getting more out of a makerspace. How do you get</td>
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<td>students to get beyond crafts and into deeper levels of thinking? We will also talk</td>
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<td>about how to setup a makerspace in your library with large and small budgets.</td>
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<td>1-D</td>
<td>**Creating Community Partnerships to Encourage Families with Babies to Frequent Our</td>
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<td>Focus: Admin</td>
<td><strong>Presenters:</strong> Bridget Hubberman, Building Community with Books President</td>
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<td>Bridig Hubberman, founder of Family Reading Partnership, will share models and best</td>
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<td>practices for community partnerships that promote and support families with babies</td>
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<td>developing the habit of taking their babies to the library early and often.</td>
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<td>1-E</td>
<td><strong>How Tweens Roll</strong></td>
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<td>Focus: Tweens</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Shannon O’Connor, Edith B. Ford Memorial Library</td>
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<td>Creating engaging tween programs and keeping order are only half of the fun; getting</td>
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<td>kids to a rural library is the real challenge. Learn the steps the Ovid Library used</td>
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<td>to create the LIFT (Libraries for T(w)eens) Afterschool Program which provides bussing</td>
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<td>for all attendees.</td>
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11:30 am – 12:15 pm
Networking/Vendors/Booth sales/ Autographs/Walk back to State Theater

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Luncheon with speaker Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri, Announcements and Raffles

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Networking/Vendors/Booth sales/ Autographs/Walk back to Cinemapolis

**Workshop Session #2: 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm**

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<th>Session/Focus</th>
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| 2-F Focus: Tween | MineCraft Basics: Starting a Program in Your Library  
**Presenter:** Drew Montreuil, Groton Free Library  
Learn the basics of the hit gaming craze, Minecraft! By the end of this workshop, you will know what a Creeper is, understand why Minecraft fits perfectly in libraries and have all the tools you need to tap into this great resource to attract youth! |
| 2-G Focus: Teen | Teens My Life  
**Presenters:** Jessica Gordon, Teen Librarian Finkelstein Memorial Library  
Make your library programs relevant to the real life pressures and experiences your teens are living. The Teen My Life series uses three to five programs to present teens with college and life skills that are useful for the future. |
| 2-H Focus: Admin | Supporting Homeschoolers Panel  
**Presenters:** Gina Varrichio, Homeschooling Parent, Diane Pamell, Southworth Library, Anna Chappell, Port Byron Library.  
Do you have many homeschooling families at your library and are not sure what they need? In this panel, learn about some of the resources homeschooling families need and how to reach out to these underserved patrons. |
| 2-I Focus: Elementary | Program Planning for All  
**Presenter:** Madelyn Lombardo, Phillips Library and Tully Free Library  
Learn how to develop programs in a snap! You will learn many resources to help you in getting program ideas and then learn how to take these ideas and make a tremendous program. You will also learn how to plan your programs so that years down the line you can look back at your previous programs and put one into action in a flash. |
| 2-J Focus: 0-5 | Sensory-Friendly Libraries: How Libraries of All Sizes and Budgets Can “Adapt and Include”  
**Presenter:** Kate DeVo, Tompkins County Public Library  
This course will provide information and resources for libraries of all sizes and budgets looking to design their own sensory-friendly programming for children with autism and other sensory processing challenges. Presented by 2016 ASCLA/KLAS/NOD award winner Kate DeVo, this informative training session will introduce participants to Tompkins County Public Library’s “Adapt and Include” programs—Sensory Storytime, Sensory Films and the ever-popular Sensory Station. Participants will learn how to leverage the expertise of community partners to develop and strengthen inclusion-based program offerings and how to make all library programs more inclusive. |
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm
Networking/Vendors/Booth sales/Autographs/Walk to TCPL (if applicable)

Workshop Session #3: 3:15pm – 4:00pm

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<th>Session/Focus</th>
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| **3-K**      | **Unboxing Your Ideas!**  
Focus: All  
We have a great round up of Table Talks for you this session from Literary Legos to serving queer youth to how to market yourself. This session is sure to inspire you to think outside the box and share ideas. |
| **3-L**      | **Summer STEAM Camps**  
Focus: Elementary  
**Presenter:** Stephanie Prato  
In addition to the regular summer reading program schedule, the Fayetteville Free Library piloted FFL Geek Girl Camp and a STEAM Camp for boys, both week long day camps designed to promote interest in STEM learning and careers. Participants in this session will learn strategies for how to plan and execute their own summer camps and leave with ideas for individual STEAM and coding programs they can use throughout the year. |
| **3-M**      | **Grant Writing that Gets Results**  
Focus: Admin  
**Presenter:** Janet Cotraccia, Community Foundation of Tompkins County  
Whether you are new to grant writing or have some experience under your belt, this workshop will offer practical tips on how to sharpen your skills. Examples of library-related applications will show you what words and what might need a little tweaking to put your proposal on the top of the list. |
| **3-N**      | **Retail Your Space**  
Focus: All  
**Presenter:** Margo Gustina, Southern Tier Library System  
Design your space for use and warmth! Highlight that collection and remove barriers to enjoyment! In this workshop we’ll take the best from the world of retail, combine it with the best in library service and try our skills out on the book floor |
| **3-O**      | **Guerilla Storytimes**  
Focus: Early Lit  
**Presenter:** Lorie Brown, Southern Tier Library System  
Guerilla Storytime: the part-training, part-advocacy storyline event, in which training is directed by the attendees! Bring your storyline questions, problems, and examples of your favorite songs and finger plays to share with your colleagues! |

**Conference Cost:**
(includes breakfast & lunch)

**Early Bird Registration – by 3/1/2017**
$125 – members of NYLA Youth Sections (i.e., YSS, SLMS), students in MLS programs and members of youth divisions of out-of-state or international library associations  
$143 – NYLA Members  
$160 – Non-Members

**Standard Registration – after 3/1/2017**
$135 – YSS members  
$153 – NYLA Members  
$170 – Non-Members

**Past President’s Dinner – $40/person**
Thursday, April 27, 2017 at Coltivare Ithaca  

No registrations accepted after April 1st

**Lunch Options** (Box Lunches):
- Wraps:  
  - Vegan Club  
  - Raspberry Chicken  
  - Grilled Vegetable  
- Sandwiches:  
  - Vegan Banh Mi  
  - Smoked Turkey  
  - Grilled Portabella
YSS Spring Conference Scholarships

If you’re hoping to attend the spring conference but aren’t sure how you will be able to pay for it, you should apply for one of the YSS Spring Conference Scholarships. Not only do they earn you a FREE conference registration, but they also provide you with a stipend to cover your travel and lodging expenses.

**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:**
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.

Get the full details – and the scholarship application – on the **Spring Conference Scholarship page** of the YSS website!

Want to Get More Active with YSS?

Check out our “Get Involved” page to learn more about the positions on the YSS Executive Board and in the YSS Committees and then fill out an “Active Member Form” – now online!

**Have questions?**
Contact the 2nd Vice President for more membership information!
Lisa Marie Neuman
Albany Public Library
161 Washington Ave
Albany NY 12210
518-469-7127
neumanl@albanypubliclibrary.org