A Message from the President

Happy Spring to our membership! As you read this you may still be feeling the chill in the air as I am, while writing this article. However, as spring rolls in (hopefully with warmer weather) so does our annual conference. Amanda Schiavulli, the 2017 Conference Planner, is hard at work finishing up the final touches on what is sure to be a wonderful occasion in Ithaca on Friday, April 28th at the State Theatre of Ithaca. This year will be unique and “Out of the Box” as we will be using all of downtown Ithaca as our conference playground. There will be events and sessions at several different venues with time enough in between to experience all that Ithaca has to offer.

Some changes are coming down the pipe for the YSS organization and for one committee in particular. Back in the day, YSS used to create many publications. You may remember the cookbook, *Stir Up Some Fun with YSS* or printed volumes detailing the best programming YSS members around the state would offer. Since those days of physical publications, more and more librarians can get their best ideas and recipes from Pinterest and the need for those printed materials may not be in such demand. The current publications committee has decided to rename and repurpose their efforts to what has now become the Marketing Committee. YSS needs to become more proactive when reaching out and communicating with its members. This new group hopes to build from there.

Being a board member of YSS is a collaborative and global process. We are not in the habit of making decisions without prior planning or group input. The entire board comes together four times a year to discuss relevant information, ideas and concerns that can potentially have an effect on all Youth Service Providers across NY State. As a member of YSS you too have that voice. We want to encourage all that are part of this organization to raise their voice and ask for what they want. This could include: the creation of more professional scholarships, the addition of a committee to address local youth concerns in a particular area of the state, or maybe you just want to tell the YSS Board about what a great job they are doing and you wouldn’t change a thing. This last statement is most likely not the case because there is always work to be done and room for improvement. But if we don’t hear from our members we can only assume that we are doing the job you think we should be doing. Any avenue you want to reach out: Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Email, please reach out, even if it is just to say Hello or Happy Spring!

Christina Ryan-Linder, YSS President
Get your hotel today, by calling the **Hotel Ithaca** at (607) 288-2096, 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]. You still have time to reserve your room!

**First time to Ithaca?**

With so much to see and do around town, the 2017 YSS Conference is the perfect excuse to turn work into play. Make a weekend out of it with your family, friends and/or colleagues. The recently renovated Ithaca Commons is ready to welcome YOU with special discounts specifically for YSS Badge Holders.

Visit [www.DowntownIthaca.com](http://www.DowntownIthaca.com) to check out what types of restaurants, activities, and stores are close by to plan your trip.

So far, the following businesses will be offering discounts if you show your YSS Conference Badge over the weekend:

- Cinemapolis
- Life’s So Sweet Chocolates
- Home Green Home
- The Cat’s Pajamas
- Sew Green
- Comics for Collectors
- F. Oliver’s
- The Cat’s Pajamas
- Amuse
- ... and we’re still working on more!

**Can’t stay but want more time to network & wait for rush hour traffic to die down?**

We are having an after-conference event at the **Tompkins County Public Library** from 4:30-6:00pm. More details about this event will be included in your conference bags, so please plan to stay if you can!

**YSS 2017 Books and Backpacks Service Project**

Many member libraries in the Finger Lakes Library System participate in a Backpack Program. This program is designed to provide food-insecure children with hunger relief during the school day, weekends, and extended breaks from school. When kids come to school hungry, they have a hard time concentrating and behaving. These children are given food on Friday so they can come to school ready to learn on Monday. As the 2017 YSS Service Project, we ask that participants bring a contribution of new or gently used children’s books to be included as a supplement to this program. The books will be distributed to participating sites and given to a child in need. Most of the sites provide lunch for grades K-3, however, books for any age would be greatly appreciated. Everyone who makes a donation will receive one free raffle ticket to use during the conference.

For more details about the 2017 YSS Spring Conference, visit the **Spring Conference page of the YSS Website** or email Conference Chair **Amanda Schiavulli**.
Are You Traveling to the Conference on Thursday?

Join us for a delicious dinner honoring the Past Presidents of YSS!

On April 27, 2017, starting at 6 o'clock, Spring Conference attendees are encouraged to come to Coltivare restaurant, located directly across from the conference venue. Hobnob with Past Presidents while enjoying a scrumptious buffet dinner. Bid on baskets and test your trivia knowledge, too. This fantastic, fun-filled evening costs only $40.

We hope to see you there!

* All money raised from the baskets will be used to support the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund.

Ann Gibson Scholarship

Are you a graduate student who has completed a minimum of 18 credit hours toward a Master's Program in Library and Information Studies that will lead to New York State certification as a youth specialist in a public library or school media center? Are you a member of NYLA/YSS? If you answered YES to both of these questions, you may be eligible to apply for the Ann Gibson Scholarship!

The scholarship is worth $1000 and even covers your 2017 NYLA Annual Conference [student rate] registration fee!

This scholarship is given annually to honor the memory of Ann Gibson, a dynamic and dedicated librarian, storyteller, and teacher, in recognition of her many contributions to the field of youth service librarianship.

Ann’s career in Western New York was spent in public libraries and several colleges and universities. As a founding member of the Genesee Storytellers, Gibson provided in-service training in children’s literature for librarians and teachers. She was a guiding force in the University of Rochester’s annual storytelling conference. Ann was also an active volunteer for local charities involving children with special needs. The Ann Gibson scholarship is a memorial to Ann’s passionate abilities to share her love of children’s literature and the art of storytelling with thousands of children and adults.

In order to apply, you must have a minimum of 18 credit hours but not have completed your course work prior to December of the year of the award. You must be a regular or student member of NYLA/YSS at the time of submitting the application. You must be directing your course of study towards youth services.

For more information on the application process, and to download the proper forms, please visit the Ann Gibson Scholarship Award Page on our website.
Empire State Award

The Empire State Award is a one-time award presented to a living author or illustrator currently residing in New York State. The award honors a body of work that represents excellence in children’s and/or young adult literature and has made a significant contribution to literature for young people. The Award is presented to the winning author or illustrator at YSS Empire State Award Luncheon during the NYLA Annual Conference. The 2017 ESA Luncheon will be held in Saratoga Springs on Friday, November 10th.

This year’s winner will be revealed at the YSS Spring Conference on Friday, April 28, 2017 in Ithaca!

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 the 2019 Empire State Award. After nominations are received, the Committee members will consider the suggestions. The decision for the Award rests with the Committee and is approved by the YSS Executive Board.

Are you interested in serving on our Empire State Award committee? Fill out the Active Member Form on the YSS website! The three committee members must have a working knowledge of children’s and young adult literature, and sufficient experience in Youth Services to have developed an understanding of the body of children’s and young adult literature. We look forward to involvement from our New York Youth Services community and hope to receive your nominations of worthy authors and illustrators for the 2019 Empire State Award!

Terry Rabideau, Empire State Award Committee Chair

Previous winners of the Empire State Award:

Vivian Vande Velde (2015)  
Jacqueline Woodson (2014)  
Laurie Halse Anderson (2013)  
Bruce Coville (2012)  
Laura Vaccaro Seeger (2011)  
Cynthia DeFelice (2010)  
Linda Sue Park (2009)  
Rafe Martin (2008)  
Joseph Bruchac (2007)  
Donald Crews (2006)  
M.E. Kerr (2005)  
Alice Provensen (2004)  
Seymour Simon (2003)  
Jerry Pinkney (2002)  
Jean Fritz (2001)  
Peter Spier (2000)  
Vera B. Williams (1999)  
Jean Craighead George (1998)  
Richard Peck (1997)  
Nancy Willard (1996)  
Russell Freedman (1993)  
Leo and Diane Dillon (1992)  
Madeleine L’Engle (1991)  
Maurice Sendak (1990)
Pied Piper Award

Are you ready to start thinking out of the box?

The 2017 Pied Piper Award will be announced at the Annual YSS Spring Conference on Friday, April 28 in Ithaca, NY. The 2017 Pied Piper 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.

This year, the committee received entries from school and public libraries all across the state that showcased youth programming for young children to young adults. We were deeply impressed by the hard work and innovation that our colleagues put into developing rich programming for youth. From early childhood literacy programs to STEM-based programming, to everything in between, your dedication to our youngest library learners was palpable through your entries. Although we are only able to pick one winner, all of the work you do to enrich the lives of New York youth is important.

New details for the 2018 award will be available at the conference. If you can’t make it to the conference, keep an eye on the Pied Piper page of our website for an updated entry form and submission guidelines.

Please direct inquiries to Pied Piper Committee Chair Sarah Russo.

Three Apples Book Award

The Three Apples Book Award is awarded annually by three groups: Young Readers, Children, and Teens.

The award was developed to encourage the joys of reading for pleasure. And what makes this award so unique is that titles are nominated culled entirely by kids, for kids. School and Children’s Librarians from across the state oversee the process, but the titles chosen are generated entirely by participating youth!

Children in PreK - 2nd grade (ages 4-7), grades 3-6 (ages 8-12), and grades 7-12 (ages 13-18) nominate their favorite book title, creating a statewide ballot of the top 15 titles in each category. After reading or listening to at least three of the nominated titles, children and teens vote in April for their top choice. The winning three titles are announced in schools and public libraries across the state in May. Winning titles, and their author, are honored with the presentation of the Three Apples Book Award.

The Three Apples Award is a joint award of the two youth divisions of the NY Library Association: the Section of School Librarians (SSL) and the Youth Services Section (YSS).

For more information about the Three Apples Awards, like previous winners, check out the Three Apples Award website. And remember to keep reading... Voting begins in April!
YSS Member Spotlight: Tammy Sickmon

Interview by Lisa Neuman, 2\textsuperscript{nd} VP/Membership

So Tammy, how long have you been a youth services librarian at the Cortland Free Library?

I have worked almost 2 years as a Youth Services Librarian at the Cortland Free Library.

Have you worked anywhere else?

I received my MLIS in Charlotte, NC, through the University of NC at Greensboro and worked there 13 years before moving back to Central New York. After starting a family, I worked as a part-time Children’s Librarian/Children’s Coordinator for two public libraries – Phillips Free Library and Lamont Memorial Free Library – for 8 years before becoming full-time at Cortland Free Library.

Why did you choose YSS as your section?

I chose YSS because this section values what I value as an individual and as a professional. I am personally and professionally dedicated to providing quality services and information to children whether it is a warm welcoming environment or finding the information and books they desire.

We met at a NYLA conference a few years ago, what do you get out of attending a conference?

I love going to the NYLA Conferences. Not only do I get to meet wonderful people who understand where I’m coming from, but also meet new people who stretch my horizons and how I can look at things.

What’s the best idea you ever brought back and implemented at your library?

I have taken back so much information and so many ideas each year that it’s hard to pick just one. Many of the ideas that I have brought back still await some type of funding and are still just down on paper, such as making a makerspace, other ways to reach out into the community such as food pantries, and, of course, starting a ukulele club. However, I have used many ideas from various workshops that discussed early literacy and the YSS table Talks. One program that I started was Second Saturday Family Fun where families come together the second Saturday of every month to do an activity together – whether it is a storytime and crafts or a Dance Party! This particular idea was based on an idea (1st Saturday for Families) that was presented at an YSS Table Talks from Albany Public Library.

What is your most popular youth or teen programs at CFT?

Our most popular programs at Cortland Free Library are our storytimes which range in age from birth to 5 years old. Specifically, our Babytime and Preschool Storytimes. We hold these programs every week all year round with attendance numbers ranging from 17-30 babies and 20-40 preschoolers each week. Of course it isn’t just about the numbers; many of these children and caregivers form playgroups and friendships outside the library as well. Additionally, many of these families come to our other events.

What is a program you have done that you have been particularly proud of?

A program that I love doing and have done for many years is “Books and Babies” or what we call here at Cortland Free Library “Babytime.” Knowing the statistics and importance of early literacy for children, I feel as though this program is an essential starting point not only for babies, but also their caregivers. Babytime provides a way in which caregivers can stimulate and enhance their baby’s development and start them on the path towards reading using books, music, rhythm instruments, bouncing rhymes, and puppets. By participating in the program, caregivers can see how these tools are used through modeling and hands-on experience. I have watched newborns grow into voracious readers and relationships form over bubble time and toy time.

What is your favorite book to suggest to patrons?

That depends on the age. My all-time favorite story is A Mother For Choco by Keiko Kasza. It’s a wonderful adoption story that celebrates differences.
Keep Moving: All Movement Counts!
Kim Hazen, Youth Services Librarian
Guernsey Memorial Library

Keep Moving: All Movement Counts! (KMAMC) is a game I designed to focus on the problem of childhood obesity. Childhood obesity is on the rise and physical inactivity is the leading cause for obesity in children. Up to one out of every five children in the U. S. is overweight or obese, and this number is continuing to rise. Children become overweight and obese for a variety of reasons. The most common causes are genetic factors, lack of physical activity, unhealthy eating patterns, or a combination of these factors. Only in rare cases is being overweight caused by a medical condition such as a hormonal problem.

KMAMC is a physical activity game that encourages children under the age of twelve to move everyday using reward incentives. The game design I chose was created by researching exercise motivation and the design requirements for games that encourage physical activity. The game was designed to be played in a public library setting but it can be used anywhere including a school setting.

KMAMC was designed as a six week program that ran from July 5, 2016 through August 12, 2016. The object of the game was to complete all seven goals each week. Children had the choice of which goal to complete each day. We encouraged children to complete as much as they were physically able, however, we did not require them to complete all the goals for the week.

Based on motivation research the following goals were determined: music goal; walking goal; gaming goal; social goal; muscle strengthening goal; bone strengthening goal; and the variety is key goal. All the goals included important facts about the exercise goal they were asked to complete. Participants received a journal when they registered. Each player recorded in their journal the activity completed along with the date and the duration of the activity.

Players received a sticker for each goal that was completed. They also received incentives that helped them to reach the goals for that week. Weekly incentives were as follows: pedometers, bubbles, hula hoops, inflatable balls, jump ropes, and frisbees.

The Guernsey Memorial Library also had Kids Movement Activities which helped children to complete some of their goals for that week. These included a walk in the library park, musical exercise activities, jump rope exercises, team building exercises, and Wii Exercise Games. Children could receive their weekly incentives by attending the Kid’s Movement Activities or by picking them up at the library circulation desk.

I wanted to share this game in the YSS Newsletter because the children really enjoyed the game and the parents were happy that children were so excited about exercising. Some of the comments I received from parents were: “My children really look forward to checking off the exercises as they are completed each week!” and “The fact that you thought of this program by yourself is amazing. We all really love the program.”

If you have any questions or want more information please contact me at no.kim@4cls.org.

Do you have some library news or an article you would like to share in the next YSS Newsletter?

Email submissions to YSS Newsletter Editor, Chrissie Morrison!
Become an Active Member!

People who are interested in volunteering in ANY capacity should check out the “Get Involved” page of our website. This page gives more information about the board and committee positions, but not all volunteering requires a long-term commitment... Sometimes, we just need room monitors. Fill out the online Active Member form today!

Call for YSS Committee Members

When you join a YSS committee, you are making a three (3) year time commitment. You will learn and help out during your 1st year, become committee chair for your 2nd year, and mentor the newer members of the committee during your 3rd year.

Terms for this year’s incoming committee members will run from the NYLA Annual Conference 2017 [November 8-11, in Saratoga Springs] through the 2020 NYLA Annual Conference.

Below is a list of committees, and their charges, for which we have positions available:

**Conference Planning Committee**
Coordinates/plans the YSS events and workshops for the NYLA Annual [fall] Conference.

**Empire State Award Committee**
Selects the ESA winner from YSS member nominations; plans the ESA luncheon for NYLA [fall] Conference.

**Pied Piper Award Committee**
Responsible for advertising, collecting submissions, and selecting a winning library from submissions of library programming/marketing excellence.

**Marketing Committee**
Explores online and print options of initiatives to support the YSS members and generate revenue. This committee will be maintaining YSS social media, marketing the YSS Booth at conferences and reworking the mission of the committee for 2018.

**Scholarship Committee**
Responsible for marketing, collecting submissions, and selecting winners for the Spring Conference Scholarships and the Ann Gibson Scholarship.

*If you would like more information about a particular committee position or to be considered for one of these positions, email Laura Panter no later than Friday, March 31, 2017. Please be sure to include your contact information and the committee(s) in which you are interested.*
The Publications Committee is now the Marketing Committee!

In 2007, the YSS Executive Board formed a standing committee to explore the viability of future publications, both online and print versions, to support YSS members and generate revenue for the Section and Association. In recent years, the Publications Committee has produced items such as the superhero calendar and notecards as well as our current 2017 pet calendar.

Early in 2017, the YSS Board voted to shift the focus from publications to marketing. In our new role as the YSS Marketing Committee, we will be focusing on the following areas:

* Working with the 1st year Director, Liz Anastasi, to recruit volunteers to staff the YSS booth at the NYLA annual conference.
* Maintaining existing YSS social media accounts, with a focus on adding STEAM programming ideas to Pinterest.
* Updating the manual for the Publications Committee to reflect our new focus as the Marketing Committee.

Please email me at Amy.Holland@libraryweb.org if you have a great STEAM programming idea you’d like us to share on Pinterest or information relating to YSS that you would like posted on our Facebook or Twitter accounts.

Amy Holland
Chair, YSS Marketing Committee

Are you following YSS on social media yet?

What about our parent organization, NYLA?
Sneak Peek: NYLA Annual Conference 2017
Saratoga Springs, NY ~ November 8th-11th

This year’s conference theme will be “Choose Your Own Adventure” – which surely resonates with those of us who work in Youth Services. We know that every day in libraryland can be an adventure!

Since our original conference planner, Liz Portillo, has been taken out of New York State in her library adventures, I [Chrissie Morrison] have stepped in for my third stint as the YSS Conference Planner and hope to help NYLA put together the #BestConferenceEver!

I don’t want to give everything away right off the bat, but I thought you might be interested in a little sneak peek:

YSS will be hosting a CE Workshop about working with GLBTQ youth,
“Telling Tales” is being reinvented,
After you’ve attended the CE, or as you arrive for conference on Wednesday evening...
Join us for food, fun, and friends!
(stay tuned for more details)

and the YSS Membership Meeting will feature YA author Todd Strasser...

Hope to see you there!