Autumn is my favorite season. I love the idea of a new beginning with both a school year and the regular routines of the library. The summer reading program has ended, the reports are almost done, and the statistics for the NYS Library have been compiled. Some may think of this as the end of the summer, but I’m more inclined towards a renewal and opportunity to evaluate my job performance. I have goals, from cleaning off the top of my desk to incorporating more early literacy skills into storytimes, booklists, and new signage around the children’s area.

Then reality sinks in and I realize I don’t have time to be creative; under that pile on my desk is an old list of goals and chores – which looks so similar it could have been written 10 years ago, or yesterday. Before I become disappointed, I toss them all away and start again, with something new. New ideas, new challenges come from opportunities where I meet friends and colleagues, such as NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls. “Libraries Spark Imagination” is this year’s theme; a perfect response to my dilemma. I am looking forward to hearing Adam Gidwitz speak at the YSS Membership meeting about how libraries made a nonreader into a writer. Laurie Halse Anderson will be honored with the Empire State Award; I can’t wait to hear her ‘speak.’ Need ideas about teens and technology? Look no further than a program titled YOUmedia. If you want ideas for incorporating play into your library space for our youngest patrons, come to “Create Active Learning Centers Anywhere.” Don’t forget the Tabletalks, always a highlight for me. I never leave without one or two brand new ideas that I DO put into practice. Lastly, is the Telling Tales program with the Genesee Storytellers. This program supports our library school scholarship 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. Please stop by Thursday night; you won’t be disappointed.

It would be wonderful to see you all at Niagara Falls, but many librarians can’t make that trip. Those of you that do go, please share your favorite ideas, your handouts, and your enthusiasm for sparking the imagination of our young patrons. YSS has been very important to me in my career as a youth services librarian. It has helped me with technology problems (made me look a whole lot smarter and astute!), empowered me with new ideas for storytimes, given me so many program ideas, helped build relationships throughout the state and been a partner in my career. I hope you will take the opportunity to write a new set of goals this fall that includes typical chores, and challenges the status quo in your job. YSS continues to build our network of helpful workshops and programs, with willing librarian-presenters. In this newsletter (as in all) there is the “YSS Active Member Form.” Fill it out every time you see it! We’ll contact you to help with the work of our section, the spring conference, and NYLA conference. We are all YSS.
Save the Date!

YSS Spring Conference 2014
“Everything is New Every Minute: Full of Opportunities”

April 4, 2014
Crowne Plaza
White Plains, NY

Come early on April 3 for...
Multi-Language Book Fair
(A Westchester Library System event)
&
Dinner For All
In Honor of Past YSS Presidents
@ The Edge
(New Teen Space of The White Plains Public Library)
Stay after for...
New Library Spaces
An At-Your-Own-Pace Tour

PLEASE WELCOME...

First Vice President/President-Elect: Mary Ferris of the Wood Library
Second Vice President/Membership: Christina Ryan-Linder of the Pearl River Public Library
First Year Director: Liz Liddington of the Waterford Public Library
Treasurer: Lisa Kochik of the Newburgh Free Library

2013 YSS EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION WINNERS!
NYLA CONFERENCE 2013

Does your imagination feel tired and worn-out after a bout of Summer Reading? Is there no pep in your step? We have the antidote...the NYLA conference, being held September 25-28 in Niagara Falls! Become a Common Core expert with the Continuing Education workshop on Wednesday! Geek out with the YOUmedia presentation on Thursday! Laugh and be thrilled by Adam Gidwitz's telling of a VERY Grimm tale, and the Genesee Storytellers’ presentation at Telling Tales, both on Thursday! Learn exciting techniques to manage your story time participants, and how to transform your children's space into an early literacy center, on Friday! On Saturday, Table Talks will entice you with talks on using IPads in story times, crafts for Summer Reading, Read it Forward information, and much more! Rekindle your imagination’s spark. See you there!

Submitted by Mary Jo C. Smith, YSS Conference Planning Chair

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ADVOCATE

Advocacy: Stand up! Speak out! Ask for support.
Advocate: Someone who does this for a cause they believe.

How to be a successful Advocate

- Have a deep understanding of the benefits (and drawbacks) of your cause.
- Be able to clearly and succinctly articulate the benefits of your cause while helping to turn any negatives into opportunities.
- Be a storyteller and a story collector to tell your tale to different groups in different ways but still getting the same solid message across.
- Be familiar with the tools available (ex. social media) to communicate your message on multiple levels to a wider audience.
- Be flexible and spontaneous. If you are set on “controlling the message” you may not be prepared for what responses your audience may give. If you engage in a flexible and spontaneous conversation the value of your ideas will be perceived as less threatening and more clearly conveyed.
- Don’t be afraid! Understand that advocacy and marketing go hand in hand.
  “Marketing” and “branding” may be buzz words from the business world but embracing these ideas can help further your cause.

We are all advocates in some form or fashion. Raise your voice YSS members and be heard!

Some excerpts and information taken from; “Being a Teen Library Services Advocate” by Linda W. Braun
Take advantage of the opportunity to hear Roger Sutton and Steve Sheinkin, two award-winning and respected individuals in the field of children’s and young adult literature, at the 2014 YSS Spring Conference. The conference is scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza in downtown White Plains, NY. Save the date and make plans to attend!

Roger Sutton, Editor in Chief of The Horn Book, Inc., will kick off the daylong conference with the keynote presentation, “Kids Literature Blog World.” A librarian by training, he is widely recognized as being among the country’s leading experts on children’s literature. He has taught at the University of Chicago, Columbia University and the University of Illinois and has served on virtually every major American children’s book award committee. Currently editor of The Horn Book Magazine and second editor of its sister publication The Horn Book Guide, he blogs regularly at Read Roger and can be found on Twitter at @Roger Reads.

Sutton’s books include Hearing Us Out: Voices from the Gay and Lesbian Community, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults; Evaluating Children’s Books: A Critical Look (coedited with Betsy Hearne); The Best in Children’s Books 1985-1990: The University of Chicago Guide to Children’s Literature (edited with Betsy Hearne and Zena Sutherland); and A Family of Readers: The Book Lover’s Guide to Children’s and Young Adult Literature (coauthored with Martha V. Parravano).

Steve Sheinkin, award-winning author of nonfiction books for children and teens, will follow the morning workshop session with the luncheon presentation, “Real Stuff Makes Great Reading.” He is a former history textbooks writer, having written one-page biographies, skills lessons, and entire chapters. In 2009 he wrote his last textbook and walked away never to return. This experience gave him great practice at writing and allowed him to collect hundreds of stories he can’t wait to tell. He now writes nonfiction books that kids and teens actually want to read.

Sheinkin’s 2012 book, Bomb, was a Newbery Honor book, National Book Award Finalist, and winner of both the Sibert Medal and the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. Other recent titles include The Notorious Benedict Arnold, which also won the YALSA nonfiction award in 2011 and Lincoln’s Grave Robbers. His upcoming title, due for release in January 2014, is The Port Chicago Fifty. Check out Sheinkin’s website at http://www.stevesheinkin.com to learn more.

For further details about the 2014 YSS Spring Conference, go to the YSS website and click on “Events” or contact Conference Chair Terry Rabideau at trabideau@whiteplainslibrary.org.
“Thanks” just does not seem enough to express my appreciation to everyone who helped make our 38th annual conference, “Among the Readers and Beyond!,” so successful! Pat Connor, Rochester Public Library, coordinated all registration details for our 170 attendees. Ellen Glena, Henrietta Public Library, kept the committee connected and on track by providing minutes of all of our monthly planning meetings for more than a year! Anne Rehor, Ontario Public Library, served as Workshop Coordinator for our fifteen sessions. Amy Joyn, Fairport Public Library, handled our book sale and autographing sessions with Barnes and Noble — Pittsford as well as assisting Anne Rehor. Meghan Klaus, Phillips Wheatley Community Library, worked on our service project which collected over 150 new children’s and teen books which were donated to the Marie Callahan Reading Clinic of Nazareth College. Terry Mulee volunteered to design everything from our “Among the Readers and Beyond!” logo to our certificates of attendance. Deborah Hempe, Middle Country Public Library, worked with Lisa Wemett to design fourteen outstanding gift baskets for our annual raffle basket fund-raiser. Deborah also managed the YSS Booth in her capacity as YSS First Year Director. Lisa handled all publicity and marketing of the conference along with chairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2013 Arbuthnott Honor Lecture with Michael Morpurgo. Terry Rabideau, White Plains Public Library presented a workshop and ably served the committee from a distance, preparing for her role as 2014 Spring Conference Chair. Claret Bob-Duru, formerly of the Lincoln Branch of the Rochester Public Library, coordinated our vendors and displays including Guildcraft Arts & Crafts, the New York State Library, VisiRochester, and My Favorite Toy Box.

But the planning committee could not do this alone! YSS keeps it costs to a minimum for our conferences by asking our members to volunteer their time and talents to offer our workshops. I would like to thank our speakers: Dina Sherman; Disney Book Group; Jason Wells; Abrams Books for Young Readers; Victoria Stapleton; Little, Brown and Company; Patricia Gingras, Do-Re-Me-Kids; Brian Mayer, School Library System of Genesee Valley Educational Partnership; Victoria Shimmons, Farmingdale Public Library; Judith Wines, Altamont Free Library; Holly S. Hart, Onondaga Free Library; Laura Panter and Deborah Hempe, Middle Country Public Library; Deb Willsea, Rochester Public Library Toy Library/Lincoln Branch; Shamika Ledesmas, Rochester Public Library; Michelle Costello and Dr. Sharon Peck, SUNY Geneseo; Terry Rabideau, White Plains Public Library; Robin Benoit, Fairport Public Library; Beth Totten, Canastota Public Library; Julie Baxter, Newburgh Free Library; Adrienne Furness and Anne Hicks, Henrietta Public Library; Heather Matzel and Margaret Portier, Fayetteville Free Library; Mary Fellows, Upper Hudson Library System; Jim Belair, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES; Melissa Iamonico, R.J. Bailey School; Michael Morpurgo, 2013 Arbuthnott Lecturer.

The day of the conference, two honorary YSS members, David Laiosa (husband of YSS President Joyce Laiosa) and Ed Sachs (husband of Past President Sarah Sachs) were our “go-to” audiovisual troubleshooters. All conference sessions run on computers, and David and Ed did a fantastic job assisting all our presenters with their technical needs. Joining the ranks of our presenters, 30 more attendees said “yes” when I asked them to serve as room monitors and presiders to make sure our sessions ran smoothly. YSS Past President Marie Orlando was pleased to volunteer as a presider at Michael Morpurgo’s workshop. Add in our raffle basket makers and helpers with the YSS Booth and registration table and you’ll soon realize that more than 30% of our entire number of conference participants contributed to the success of the day. It is truly a team effort.

YSS was very pleased to host NYLA President Carol Anne Germain and NYLA’s Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen to share the day with us. About one-third of our participants were attending their first YSS Spring Conference. Six graduate students in MLIS programs joined us. Nearly 75% of our attendees focus their work on children’s services in public libraries, while 44% indicated their work responsibilities include services for tweens and teens.

Our evaluations said it all: “Fantastic workshops!” “Everything was great!” “The highlight was Michael Morpurgo.” And of course, the committee loved this one: “Great conference—very organized!” Our featured speakers, Amy Dickinson and Margaret Peterson Haddix, received outstanding ratings for their talks. Our highest rated sessions that received a rating of Excellent included Music and Children’s Literature with Patricia Gingras. A Story-Maker’s Journey with British author Michael Morpurgo. Unplugging Games in the Library presented by Brian Mayer, and our panelists who spoke about Thematic Arrangements of Materials for Youth.

Every year, spring and fall, YSS’s conference planners need speakers and helpers. We know you have a great program to share or skills that could help a colleague with their job in youth services. Look for the YSS Active Member Form elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you to fill it out and send it in to let us know how you would like to volunteer to help YSS at future events.

Again, thank you for a wildly successful conference! It was a pleasure for all of us to bring it to you.

by Cathy Henderson, Third Year Director and Conference Chair
Photo credit: Photos by Terry Mulee
FALL 2013 Arbuthnot Honor Lecture

Only three months have passed since the 2013 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture was delivered by British author Michael Morpurgo. His presentation is still fresh in audience members’ minds, but anyone who was there would love to relive that special hour. And if you were not able to attend, all the more reason to watch the video of the Lecture. It can be accessed here:


In the “search” box, just enter “Morpurgo” and the video will be retrieved. Many thanks to the Nazareth College Media Department for such a high quality video and to the Marketing & Communications Department for posting it up for all to enjoy.

On May 16, YSS/NYLA hosted the Arbuthnot Honor Lecture with their partner, the School of Education of Nazareth College in Rochester. In “War Boy to War Horse,” the celebrated children’s author talked about his life writing, the journey from being a Second World War baby to becoming Britain’s Children’s Laureate, and ultimately the success of War Horse on stage and screen. The novel was adapted for Broadway and won the 2011 Tony Award for Best Play. It was a 2011 award-winning movie directed by Steven Spielberg. More than 325 people attended the 44th annual Lecture, which is presented annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) of the American Library Association, including several NYS librarians active in ALSC and Incoming ALSC President, Starr LaTronica, from Four County Library System in Binghamton.

Work on the application to host the Arbuthnot Honor Lecture began in July 2011. Dr. Laura Jones, Professor in Language, Literacy, and Technology, and Lisa C. Wemett, chair of the Arbuthnot Local Arrangements Committee, were successful in bringing Michael Morpurgo to Rochester for three days during Children’s Book Week, May 13 through 19. Morpurgo was a special guest at the eighth Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival (TBF) and the 38th annual Youth Services Section Spring Conference.

This project was Nazareth College’s first cooperative venture with state and national professional library associations. The Lecture previously had come to New York State only once in its existence. Travelers attended from all over New York State as well as Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Illinois, and Ontario, Canada.

Local partnerships were crucial in securing Nazareth as the academic partner and official site of the 2013 Arbuthnot lecture. Lisa advocated for this trifecta of events by working with Stephanie Squicciarini, founder and director of TBF, and Dr. Jones, Nazareth’s liaison to TBF. Lisa pointed out, “We had academic institutions, state associations, local non-profits, and others that readily stepped up to add their voice and support to our application for a visit by the former British Children’s Laureate.”

“The Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival set the bar in our region for collaboration between schools, libraries, and the Nazareth College School of Education,” she says. “If it had not been for this atmosphere of collegiality and community collaboration, YSS/NYLA would not have been able to bring an internationally known author such as Michael Morpurgo to upstate New York.”

This annual lecture celebrates May Hill Arbuthnot (1884-1969), distinguished writer, editor, educator, and children’s literature scholar who devoted her career to bringing children and books together. Along with educator William Scott Gray, she created and wrote the Curriculum Foundation Readers, better known as the “Dick and Jane” series.
Save the Date! Start Planning Today!

Take Your Child to the Library Day

An annual event, created by Connecticut, launching in New York State on Saturday, February 1, 2014

How to join the fun:

View a programming manual

Access more great event ideas at http://takeyourchildtothelibrary.blogspot.com/

Post your library’s name, town, and state in the comment section on the Take Your Child to the Library Facebook page http://takeyourchildtothelibrary.blogspot.com/. The Stratford Library in Connecticut will add you to their list of participants!

Download and use the Nancy Elizabeth Wallace graphic to spice up your marketing (see above): http://www.ctlibrarians.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=59

Use the YSS-designed postcard template (to come) for families to describe what they did at the library and how the library is important to their lives. Bring or send these postcards to Albany for Library Advocacy Day, February 27, 2014, to show legislators how libraries make a difference for families!

Look for more information at NYLA Annual Conference in Niagara Falls from YSS about this statewide launch from YSS member Chrissie Morrison! (Not making it the Falls? We’ll have it available on the NYLA website too! www.nyla.org/yss)
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:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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