

YSS Board
2014-2015

Mary Ferris, President
mferris@pls-net.org

Chrissie Morrison, Past President
chrissiemorrison@gmail.com

Mary Jo C. Smith, 1st VPres.
mjsmith@libraryweb.org

Christina Ryan-Linder, 2nd VPres.
clinder@rcls.org

Deborah Hempe, 3rd Year Director
hempedeborah@mcpl.lib.ny.us

Liz Liddington, 2nd Year Director
lliddington@sals.edu

Amanda Schiavulli, 1st Year Director
aschiavulli@flls.org

Gail Brown, Secretary
gail.brown@voorhesvillelibrary.org

Lisa Kochik, Treasurer
lkochik@rcls.org

Chrissie Morrison, Conference Chair
chrissiemorrison@gmail.com

Cathy Brenner, Web Liaison
cathy@bplkids.org

Stephanie Kogler, Newsletter Editor
srkogler@gmail.com



A Message from Your YSS President

I recently went to Albany to participate in Library Advocacy Day. The day is always a great opportunity to meet with our local legislators to urge their support for funding and policies that benefit libraries. I don't go every year – in fact, it's been quite a few years since I made the trek to our state capitol. It's always been hard for me as a children's librarian to justify cancelling my programs for a day (I'm the only youth services person in my library) in order to spend the six hours round trip on the road travelling to Albany to have MAYBE a half hour visit with each of my representatives. I'm realistic enough to know that they have visits from different special interest groups every day, each promoting their group's importance to the people in their community. Will my personal participation make any difference? Will libraries get the state financial support because of this one day's focus on what we do? Only time will tell, but I decided that I needed to make the commitment this year to be a voice about the importance of libraries.

The week before Advocacy Day was the February break in our city meaning the kids had a week off from school. Some families were able to take a vacation to escape the cold temps and snow, but we certainly saw a spike in library activity from those who didn't go away. There were people waiting for us to unlock the doors every morning because the library provides them with access to the internet. Seniors came in with their folders full of important documents to have AARP reps help them fill out their taxes. They also attended Intro to the Internet classes offered in partnership with our county's Office for the Aging. People having problems with their computers, phones or hand-held devices dropped in for help from our Tech Tutors. Teens broke out the board games we have. Storytime alums came with their preschool siblings to delightfully re-enjoy the experience of Storytime. Parents relaxed in our Family Lounge while their children played at our train table. Grandparents visited the library with their grandchildren – either proudly showing off the library to their young visitors or looking for materials to share as they spent time together while Mom and Dad worked. Kids used their creativity to make Lego models that are now on display in the Children's Room. Families brought their lunches to our Munchtime at the Movies program where we featured the sing-along version of Frozen – I wish I could include a sound clip of the high-pitched rendition of "Let It Go" that filled the room. And lots of books and movies were borrowed. Preschoolers filled up the mini shopping carts we have at the entrance to our picture book area. Young readers took home their new friends Biscuit, Henry & Mudge, and Amelia Bedelia. Tweens discovered new series and left with a stack of chapter books so high they could barely see over the top of it. In many homes there was going to be a Movie Night because our dvd shelves were looking pretty bare. Lots of people were experiencing the library for the first time since it was recently renovated and expanded.

Inside this Issue

Message from your YSS President	1
Understanding Your Membership	2
YSS Elections—Call for Candidates	3
Empire State Award	4
Pied Piper Award	4
Ann Gibson Scholarship	5
Committee Membership	6
2015 Spring Conference	7
Author / Illustrator Garden	8
Past President's Dinner	9
League of Extraordinary Authors	9
Literary Landmarks™ Update	10

continued on next page...

A Message from Your YSS President, cont.

So all of that was in the back of my mind on way to Albany. I was proud of where I work and what I do. How great is it to work at a place that people love to come to, people of all ages from seniors to preschoolers? How fulfilling is it to work at a place that is valued by those who use it every day? How thrilling is it to welcome someone who is getting a new library card, whether an adult, teen or child? How satisfying is it to help someone fill out an application that results in a job? How fun is it to locate a book that a father remembered so he could share it with his child? How exciting is it to be the one to introduce a child to Dr. Seuss and Harry Potter? How important is it to be the only place around where people can find copies of tax forms? How crucial is it to be sure that people in Albany know all of this? It's VERY important. If you weren't able to meet with your representative on Advocacy Day, it's not too late to get in touch with them. Remind them that libraries are the heart of NY state communities and need their support in the budget and through the policies they adopt.

Mary Ferris
YSS President

Understanding Your NYLA/ YSS Membership

You may be at the point in your career where you have passed the student membership rate, you have passed the first year membership rate and now you are a full-fledged librarian with years underneath your belt. This is the time when you may be wondering "Should I continue my membership with NYLA?" If you are this person and need a bit of a reminder of the importance and helpfulness of this organization, here are some facts:

- Eligibility for conference scholarships: This is an easy application process and two people win every year so your chances are very good at having your YSS conference paid for if you apply.
- Professional Development Opportunities: Conferences are not the only happenings to help increase your professional development. You can join a committee, help out with conference planning and be part of the YSS board. All of these things are great resume builders as well.
- Vendor Partner Discounts: Did you know that NYLA has many vendor partners such as auto and home insurance? You may be eligible for discounts on many of the services you currently use.

These are just a few of the benefits of continuing your NYLA/YSS member. However, the biggest benefit of all, for both the organization as well as the individual, is the wonderful and dedicated people one meets along the way!

Christina Ryan-Linder
2nd Vice President/Membership

YSS Elections—Call for Candidates

I find it hard to believe that I am already nearing the end of my term on the YSS Executive Board. When Rosanne Cerny first asked me to consider running for 1st Vice President/President Elect, the three year commitment seemed daunting. I had just finished a three year term on the YSS Conference Planning Committee, and I wondered whether that committee position had fully prepared me for all I would need to do on the board. I was assured by both [Past President] Rosanne Cerny and [President] Joyce Laiosa that I could count on the support and guidance of other board members if and when I was ever unsure of how to proceed, nevertheless, and decided to take a leap of faith.

When I began my three year term – which cycled from 1st Vice President /President-Elect, to President, and then to Past President – I wondered just how long and agonizing those three years would be. But, just as I sit here trying to figure out how my baby boy can possibly be turning 10 at the end of April, I can't seem to understand how it is that I have only 8 months left of my Past Presidency. While I am sure I could have found something else to do with the “extra” time I would have had if not for this position, it's hard to imagine that I could have found anything quite so fulfilling as working to support and improve libraries and youth services librarians throughout NY State.

If you are new to NYLA and/or YSS, it probably seems scary to think of getting involved. And, even if you've been around for a long time, taking your membership to the next level with an official commitment can be nerve wracking. But becoming a more active YSS member need not be frightening. In addition to the current members of the YSS Board, there are many former board members (soon to include me!) who would be more than happy to mentor you as you learn the ropes.

You can start very simply by being a room monitor or Table Talk presenter for a YSS Spring Conference or NYLA Annual Conference. If you are feeling a little braver, you can volunteer to share your unique knowledge and skills as a full session presenter at one of the conferences. If you want to get involved in a more formal and long-lasting way, I encourage you to volunteer as a member of a YSS Committee. And, if you think you're ready for something even more, I encourage you to put your name forward in consideration for a position on the YSS Executive Board.

The only way YSS can continually evolve to provide the meaningful connections and continuing education opportunities our membership needs is by the addition of people with fresh perspectives and new ideas... and we can't ask you to run if we don't know you're interested! If you have any questions about the positions and their duties, please feel free to contact me or the person who currently holds that position. (You can find a link to Board and Committee Members' contact information at <http://www.nyla.org/yss>)

I am still waiting to hear back from some potential candidates for the 2015 YSS Elections, so I can't share my slate with you now. But stay tuned for the announcement of the slate of candidates at the YSS Spring Conference and in the [next] Summer/Election issue of the YSS Newsletter – and then be sure to take part in the online elections from June 15th-July 15th!

Chrissie Morrison
Past President



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 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 the Annual Conference of the New York Library Association. This year's winner will be speaking on Friday, October 23, 2015 in Lake Placid at the YSS Empire State Award Luncheon. The 2015 winning author will be revealed at the YSS Spring Conference scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2015 in Islandia, NY, New York.

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the Empire State Award so we are preparing an extra special luncheon to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Any member of the Youth Services Section is eligible to submit an author nomination to the Committee Chair. Currently, we are getting ready to begin accepting author nominations for our 2017 Empire State Award. If you plan on attending our YSS Spring Conference, look for our nomination form in your conference packet and send in a nomination for an esteemed New York author. Once nominations are received, the Committee members will consider these suggestions along with their own. 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 an active member form at our YSS Spring Conference expressing your interest to be a part of the committee. 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 have receive your nominations for the 2017 Empire State Award.

Kimberly Zettwoch
Empire State Award Committee Chair

Pied Piper Award

The 2015 Pied Piper Award winner has been chosen, and will be announced at the upcoming YSS Spring Conference luncheon! You too can be recognized for your hard work and dedication, and be rewarded with a \$50 bookstore gift card as well. We invite you to submit your excellent youth programs and / or creative promotional materials for next year's award. Visit the Pied Piper Award page on the YSS web site to download the application and criteria for submission on the YSS website.

The deadline is December 4, 2015 for the 2016 Pied Piper Award.

Beth Zambito
Pied Piper Award Committee Chair



Ann Gibson Scholarship

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. Details of the scholarship follow.



ANN GIBSON

Deadline: May 29, 2015

Notification: by September 1, 2015

Amount: \$1,000

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to a person who has chosen to pursue graduate studies that will lead to New York State certification as a youth specialist in a public library or school media center.

Qualifications:

1. Applicant must be a full-time or part-time graduate library student who has completed a minimum of 18 credit hours in a Master's Program in Library and Information Studies.
2. Applicant must be a regular or student member of NYLA/YSS at the time of submitting the application.
3. Applicant must be directing their course of study towards youth services.
4. Applicant must NOT be an officer or employee, or relative of an officer or employee, of the New York Library Association, New York Library Association Council, or the Executive Board of the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association.
5. Applicant must not have completed their course work prior to December of the year of the award.
6. Applicant must be a resident of (or employed in) New York State at the time of the award.

Criteria to Judge Recipient:

1. Two supporting statements that document the applicant's competence and commitment to youth services librarianship. YSS Board members and Scholarship Committee members are not allowed to supply supporting statements.
2. Involvement (i.e., membership, attendance) in organizations, conferences, and publications related to youth services librarianship.
3. A transcript from an accredited library school that documents the applicant's good academic standing and completion of a minimum of 18 credit hours.
4. The winning applicant must be willing to share her/his educational experience in some form following the YSS Spring Conference. This may be a newsletter article, conference presentation, or similar means of communication completed by September 1, 2016.

continued on next page...

Ann Gibson Scholarship, cont.

Narrative Statement:

Please present a brief statement that cites relevant experience you have had in youth services and your philosophy and/or future goals in terms of youth services librarianship.

To download an application, visit <http://www.nyla.org/yss/> and click on the scholarship information link. For further information, please contact the Scholarship Committee chair.

Send the completed application form, two supporting statements, transcript(s), narrative statement, and verification of your current NYLA membership in print or electronic form to:

Terry Rabideau
YSS Scholarship Committee Chair
White Plains Public Library
100 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
trabideau@whiteplainsny.gov

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED OR POSTMARKED
NO LATER THAN MAY 29, 2015**

Interested in being a part of one of these committees?

You can peruse program brochures on the Pied Piper committee, or embark on choosing an excellent author to be awarded on the Empire State Award committee. You can select students or seasoned librarians for scholarships on the Scholarship committee, or gather barrels of children's choice nominations on the Three Apples committee. You can cook up some colossal programs on the Conference Planning committee.

If you would like to serve on any of these committees,
contact Mary Jo Smith at mjsmith@libraryweb.org or 585-247-6446.

2015 YSS Spring Conference

Inform! – Inspire! - Ignite!
Friday , March 27, 2015
Islandia Marriott Long Island



Registration closed on the NYLA YSS Spring Conference on March 11 and at the time this article was written only limited spaces were available. The conference will feature keynote speaker, Pam Sandlian Smith, Director of Anythink Libraries and luncheon

speaker, author and illustrator, Matt Phelan. Fifteen program sessions throughout the day will focus on a variety of exciting and pertinent topics of interest to library professionals serving youth of all ages. The Long Island Author Illustrator Garden will feature ten local authors and illustrators whose books will be offered for sale by conference bookseller Barnes and Noble.

A raffle of 15 baskets is sure to have something of interest for everyone and conference attendees should be sure to stop by the YSS Booth as well! The booth features information on the section and a variety items available for purchase.

This spring conference is sure to be a success! Informing attendees about trends and practices in youth services, inspiring them with new ideas and igniting enthusiasm about youth services at New York libraries!

Deborah Hempe
Third Year Director / Spring Conference Planner

Attending the YSS Spring Conference?

Please consider participating in our Service Project

Hope For Youth located in Amityville, NY operates an array of services for children, youth and families, which span a continuum of care from out-patient clinical and preventive services to foster care, diagnostic and emergency services and other residential programs including a therapeutic group home program. Hope for Youth is in need of books for foster homes, group homes and outpatient children's services.

Please bring your contribution of new or gently used books ranging from board books to chapter books to the conference on March 27, 2015. Everyone who makes a donation will **receive one raffle ticket to use during the conference.**

Long Island Author Illustrator Garden NYLA YSS Spring 2015 Conference Inform, Inspire, Ignite

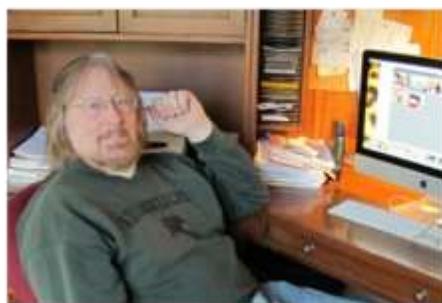
NYLA YSS Spring Conference attendees will have the opportunity to meet and have books signed by several authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books. The conference bookseller, Barnes and Noble, will have a selection of titles from each of the participants for sale at their booth.

March 27, 2015

Islandia Marriott Long Island



Matt Phalen



Brian Heinz



Gae Pollisner



Jen Calonita

**Meet, Greet,
and have
Books Signed!**

**11:30 a.m.-
12:00 p.m.**

**1:30 p.m.-
2:00 p.m.**



Kara Taylor



Selene Castrovilla



Jane Zalben



Maryrose Wood



Todd Strasser



Sean Qualls



Caroline Bock

This portion of the conference sponsored by:
Suffolk Cooperative Library System
CLASC Inc. (Children's Librarian Association of Suffolk County)
Young Adult Services Division of Suffolk County Library Association

Past President's Dinner for All



Thursday, March 26, 2015

6pm-9pm

@

DAVE & BUSTER'S

(1856 Veteran's Memorial Hwy - Islandia, NY 11749)

Please join the YSS Executive Board as we honor our section's past presidents and enjoy a fun evening meeting new colleagues and catching up with old friends. Price includes buffet dinner and game card, dessert, soda, coffee and tea. There will be a silent auction to benefit the YSS Spring Conference Scholarships. A fun time is sure to be had by all!

Registration for this event has been extended and will close on March 19, 2015

Send check for \$38 to Jennifer Rocco at

Brookhaven Free Library, 273 Beaverdam Rd, Brookhaven, NY 11719

The restaurant is a 3-minute drive from the Islandia Marriott Long Island. Carpooling will be available from the hotel (meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30 p.m.) Let us know on the registration form if you need a ride to the event or are willing to provide transportation.

Going to the 2015 YSS Conference in March?
STOP BY THE YSS BOOTH TO GET YOUR:

League of
 Extraordinary
 Authors

George
 O'CONNOR

Note
 Cards

Impress your readers
 with these heroic cards!

\$10 for
 a pack!

Literary Landmarks™ Update

The Friends of Libraries Section (FLS) is working with groups in the North Country, near NYLA's 2015 Annual Conference in Lake Placid, hoping to assist two sites to achieve Literary Landmark™ designation from ALA's United for Libraries.

If our nomination is successful, the Wilder Homestead in Burke plans to have the dedication of their plaque on Saturday, July 11, so please save the date. The Homestead, the setting for Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Farmer Boy* (1933), is where Laura's husband Almanzo grew up from 1857 until his family moved to a farm in Minnesota in 1875. The Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Cottage and Museum in Saranac Lake also hopes to be designated a Literary Landmark™ this year.

FLS President Lisa Wemett speaks for the entire FLS Board and Rocco Staino, Director for the Empire State Center for the Book, to say "thank you" to YSS for being the trend setter for the FLS campaign to raise funds from the NYLA Sections to underwrite the cost of the bronze plaques for these two locations (\$1600 total). YSS's generous pledge on behalf of all its members helped to leverage additional donations from the Section of School Librarians (SSL), the Section on the Management of Resources and Technology (SMART), and the Academic and Special Libraries Section (ASLS). FLS hopes all of the Sections will join with the other divisions of NYLA to celebrate NYLA's 125th anniversary in this way.

The Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Cottage and Wilder Homestead both anticipate joining with other NYS Literary Landmarks™ around the state that have been recognized because of their singular connections to young readers. Keep your fingers crossed and we will keep YSS informed of the outcome of our applications.

Any special location in your community that is tied to a deceased author, a literary work, or an important figure in literature may qualify for recognition as a Literary Landmark™ by United for Libraries. If you have a site that you think is worthy of Literary Landmark™ designation and would like the Empire State Center for the Book to assist in developing your application, please contact Rocco Staino at rocco.staino@gmail.com and place Literary Landmark™ Designation in the subject line. Full details of applying and hosting a dedication event for a Literary Landmark™ can be found on the United for Libraries Web page (www.ala.org/united/products_services/literarylandmarks).

Lisa C. Wemett
Past YSS President

