A Message From the President

Happy Spring!

Thank you for making yet another Advocacy Day a roaring success! We once again showed the governor that libraries will not be shushed! If you haven’t done so already, please visit NYLA’s Online Advocacy Center for easy to customize letters to send to your representatives. It only takes minutes to let the governor know how important libraries are!

I’m sure you have all heard by now, Census 2020 is incredibly important. Population statistics gained from the 2020 Census will be used by lawmakers for the next 10 years. Traditionally, families with small children have been an especially hard to count population. Movements around the country, such as this recent event in Ohio for an “Every Child Counts Day,” are helping to spotlight the need for an accurate count of children. An uncounted newborn today will not exist in these counts for the next 10 years. How will our government know where to allocate resources properly if they don’t know where the people are? As trusted community centers, libraries should include information at their storytimes, parent/caregiver trainings and outreach events about why an accurate count of children is important. Some libraries are even hosting Census Day parties on April 1st. What is your library doing?

Speaking of initiatives, it’s time to start thinking about our next Strategic Plan. At the January NYLA Council Meeting, President, Dr. Jen Cannell, got us all thinking about how we can reorganize our plan with our library community in the center. All sections will be working together to answer the following guiding questions about our association:

1. If a competing library organization were to be developed in NYS, what would convince you to be a member?
2. How do you define community engagement?
3. How do you ensure that decisions, programs and services are user centered in your library or system?
4. How do you ensure that underrepresented populations have equal opportunities?

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5. In what ways do you bring your community together?
6. How do you cultivate support for your library or system?

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any input on the Strategic Planning process! It is my goal to assure our membership is heard throughout this process!

Last but certainly not least, did you know that this year will be the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day? NYLA Council has endorsed earthday.org Education Partnership Agreement. It had no costs associated with it and is a great thing for all your library sustainability initiatives! Additionally, the Department of Environmental Conservation has a fantastic School Seedling Program that libraries are eligible to apply for.

Keep up the good work!

Amanda Schiavulli
President

Left and Top Right: Library advocates gather in the “Well” at the Legislative Office Building.

Below Right, from left to right: Jennifer Burke (1st Vice President, President Elect), Yancey Yak (Mascot), Lisa Neuman (Past President), and Amanda Schiavulli (President) represent YSS and advocate for library services.
Executive Board Candidates

NYLA’s Youth Services Section is looking for Executive Board candidates for the following positions beginning in the Fall of 2020. Two of these positions are a three (3) year time commitment, the other is now a two year commitment.

1st Vice President/President-Elect

The 1st VP is in charge of overseeing the work of all the YSS Committees and appoints new people to serve on YSS Committees. During the 2nd year, the 1st VP becomes the President, who represents YSS on NYLA Council and oversees all YSS activities. The 3rd year of the term is served as Past President. S/he plans the YSS Past Presidents’ Dinner (night before YSS Spring Conference), gathers a slate to run for YSS offices, and oversees the YSS sponsored Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership Academy.

2nd Vice President - Membership Chair

The 2nd VP is in charge of membership communications, the annual membership gift purchases and with the help of the marketing committee membership engagement. You are also an active part of the YSS Board and are committing to attend your four annual board meetings.

Spring Conference Director 2022

The YSS Spring Conference Director, with the help of a committee plans and oversees the YSS Spring conference. You plan and organize the Spring Conference over a two year period. You are helped and guided by the current and prior Spring Conference Directors. Individuals who hold this position are also an active part of the YSS Board and are committing to attend the four annual board meetings.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions or have further questions about a particular position, please contact Lisa Neuman at neumanl@albanypubliclibrary.org no later than Friday, May 1, 2020.

Lisa Neuman
Past President

Past Presidents’ Dinner

Are you traveling to the Conference on Thursday?
Join us for an evening of networking and a delicious dinner honoring the Past Presidents of YSS! On May 13, 2020 starting at 6 o’clock, Spring Conference attendees are encouraged to come to Bella’s restaurant, just a six minute walk from the Conference Hotel! Hobnob with Past Presidents while enjoying a scrumptious family style dinner. Bid on baskets* and test your trivia knowledge, too. This fantastic, fun-filled evening costs only $35. We hope to see you there!

*All money raised from the baskets will be used to support the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund.
Call for YSS Committee Members and Liaisons

Have you thought of volunteering in YSS? Why not join a committee? I got started in YSS serving on Empire State Award Committee, and it was a fantastic experience! When you join a committee, you make a three-year time commitment. You will learn and help out during your first year, become committee chair for your second year, and mentor the newer members of the committee during your third year.

Terms for this year’s incoming committee members will run from the NYLA Annual Conference 2020 (November 4-7 in Saratoga Springs) through the 2023 NYLA Annual Conference. Below is a list of committees and their responsibilities, for which we will have positions available:

**Fall Conference Curation Committee**
Coordinates/plans the YSS events and workshops for the NYLA Annual Conference.

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

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

**Marketing Committee**
Explores online and print options of initiatives to support the YSS members and generate revenue. This committee maintains YSS social media and assures YSS is actively communicating with our membership.

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

**Communications Committee Liaison**
The Communications Committee serves to increase communication and ensure the accuracy of all distributed information and to provide for continuity across units. Committee member responsibilities: Participate in one hour-long conference call per month; Participate in email conversations about committee’s work; Contribute input regarding committee’s current project(s)--as an example, reviewing and updating NYLA's Available Communications Avenues page and offering suggestions for improvements. The YSS Liaison provides a link between the committee and the YSS board, communicating pertinent information to both parties.

If you would like more information about a particular committee position, or to be considered for one of these positions, email Jenny Burke at jburke@cldanjd.org by Friday, May 1, 2020. Please include your contact information and the committee(s) in which you are interested.

If you think any of these committees are up your alley, or if you’d like to help in other ways, please fill out the YSS Active Member Form. Please keep in mind: The YSS Board approves committee member nominations annually.

Jennifer Burke
1st Vice President
YSS Newsletter Submissions

Each quarter the YSS Board, Committee Members, and our Liaisons share opportunities for programming, professional development, and advocacy. They put a spotlight on the work YSS members do in our communities and within our profession.

Their articles are important for sharing updates and new state initiatives with our members but this publication isn’t only reserved for YSS business. We also feature articles from our members and would love to share yours!

Upcoming YSS Newsletter Deadlines:

- Articles for the YSS Summer Newsletter are due by Monday, May 18 and the issue will be published at the beginning of June.
- Articles for the Fall Newsletter are due Monday, August 31 and this issue is scheduled to be published in mid-September.

Please submit your articles to nbrown@cldandj.org.

Nan Brown
Newsletter Editor

YSS Marketing Committee

Help us build our Instagram page!

YSS would like to showcase what other YSS members are doing at their libraries around the state! Share with us photos of your programs, displays, and more, and we will feature them on our new Instagram page, yssnyla. Without your help, we cannot make a dynamic, engaging, and fun page!

Email your photos and a brief blurb to marketing chair, Lindsay, at jankovitzl@gmail.com!

Be sure to follow us on Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all YSS news and updates, and for daily inspiration and relevant articles.
YSS Spring Conference

The early bird deadline for the YSS Spring Conference is March 15, so be sure to register today!

The YSS Spring Conference is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow youth service librarians from across the state and share ideas. We’ve got a great line-up planned, including keynote speaker Ellen Oh of We Need Diverse Books and workshop topics ranging from library service to families with babies to helping high school students navigate the transition to college. The schedule and full program line-up can be found here.

The conference will be held on Friday, May 15 at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY. A hot breakfast and buffet lunch will be provided. The hotel is offering a special rate for attendees (ranging from $129-$169/night); call 315-686-1100 by March 31 and mention that you’re with the NYLA YSS Conference. There are also B&B options in Clayton and other hotels in nearby Watertown.

For those of you traveling into town the day before the conference, join us the evening of May 14 for the Past Presidents’ dinner. Your $35 ticket includes dinner, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages at Bella’s on the beautiful St. Lawrence River. This networking event is a chance to honor our section’s past presidents, learn more about serving on the YSS board, and connect with friends old and new.

The service project for 2020 will benefit our local chapter of Project Linus, a non-profit organization that provides handmade blankets to children and teens who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of security, warmth, and comfort. If you knit, quilt, crochet, or can tie a polar fleece, start planning your blanket today! (Not crafty? No worries - bring a book! Each book we donate will be tucked into a corresponding blanket.)

Early bird deadline: March 15
YSS members: $135
NYLA members: $145
Non-members: $170

Regular deadline: April 15
YSS members: $145
NYLA members: $155
Non-members: $180

No conference registrations will be accepted after April 15.

See you all in Clayton!
Angela Newman
2020 Spring Conference Director
YSS SERVICE PROJECT
BENEFITING
THE LINUS PROJECT

SUGGESTED SIZES
Infant = 36” x 36”
Toddler = 36” x 40”
Grade school = 45” x 50”
Teen = 45” x 60”, 50”x 60”
and larger

GUIDELINES
The blankets must be smoke-free, perfume-free, new, handmade, and washable. They should be made from cotton, flannel, polar fleece, or acrylic yarn. Fabrics should be “kid friendly” and appropriate for the size of the quilt.

Not crafty? No worries - bring a book! Each book we donate will be tucked into a corresponding blanket.

QUESTIONS?
Please contact:
Mary Louise Hunt
Sally Ploof Hunter Library
(315) 773-5163
blrlib@nclls.org

The service project for 2020 will benefit our local chapter of Project Linus, a non-profit organization that provides handmade blankets to children and teens who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of security, warmth, and comfort. If you knit, quilt, crochet, or can tie a polar fleece, start planning your blanket today!
YSS Conference 2021 Workshop Submissions

Have you heard that the YSS Spring Conference will be held in Schenectady in 2021?!?

Our conference theme is "May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favor," and we are looking for presenters who can share great ideas for YS programming, displays, behavior management, and more. All ideas are welcome, but our conference committee has even come up with some punny session names you could work with:

- An Ace Up Your Sleeve (backup programs in case of no-show presenters)
- Go All-In on Babies! (early literacy programming, collections, etc.)
- Playing Solitaire (managing when you're a one person YS department)

If you have an idea you would like to share, please fill out our Google form at https://forms.gle/ma7p2D2Zut5oVt8DA

Best,
Chrissie Morrison
2021 YSS Spring Conference Director

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 Story-tellers, 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. Its purpose is 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.

Deadline for applications: Sunday, May 21, 2020
Amount: $1,000

For more information about award qualifications, judging criteria, and applications, please see the Ann Gibson Scholarship page on the NYLA YSS website. If you have any questions, please contact Meghin Roberts at meghinr@bville.lib.ny.us.

Meghin Roberts
YSS Scholarship Committee Chair
Empire State Award

Every year since 1990, the Empire State Award (ESA) has been awarded to a living illustrator or author living in New York State. The awardee is selected from a pool nominated by YSS members and presents at the annual conference. This year’s winner will speak at the award luncheon on Friday, November 6, 2020 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Who will win this year’s award? Take a guess! This year’s winner will join such illustrious past recipients as Maurice Sendak, Richard Peck, Jerry Pinkney, Bruce Coville, Jacqueline Woodson and last year’s winner, Bryan Collier. Waiting to see if you’re right might be tougher than making it through this wild winter: the 2020 Empire State Award winner will be announced at the YSS Conference in Clayton, NY on Friday, May 15, 2020.

We’re almost ready to begin accepting nominations for our 2022 ESA winner. Any active Youth Services Section member is welcome to submit a nomination using this form. We will also accept nominations on paper ballots at upcoming conferences. Your input is invaluable - ensure you have a say in determining our candidate pool by submitting your nominations!

If you’re interested in seeing a list of all ESA winners or are seeking additional information, please visit the ESA page of the NYLA website.

Alexandria Abenshon
Empire State Award Chair 2020

Pied Piper Award Update

Thank you to those who submitted programs for consideration for the 2020 Pied Piper Award. We have a winner, and look forward to announcing them at this year’s Spring Conference luncheon!

It’s not too early to start thinking about the 2021 Pied Piper Award. The committee would love to hear about YOUR excellent youth program presented in a New York State library. Head over to the Pied Piper Award page on the YSS website for all the details. While you’re on the site, why not check out the list of past winners? Whether you work with toddlers, teens, or any age in between, you’ll find some fantastic program ideas and plans to easily replicate in your library!

Lyla Grills
Pied Piper Award Committee Chair
2020 Summer Reading News

Summer Reading 2020 focuses on mythology, folklore and fairy tales and there are many wonderful program possibilities to help “Imagine Your Story.” The New York State Library and CSLP provide multiple resources for libraries hosting Summer Reading programs. To keep up with CSLP news, sign up for their monthly newsletter by subscribing on the CSLP homepage, www.cslpreads.org. Also, when preparing your Summer Reading programs and outreach materials, make sure to use the CSLP online manual in order to make sure you’re using the most current and updated artwork and graphics. Looking for flyers and other materials to help promote Summer Reading? Check out the Summer Reading site at http://www.summerreadingnys.org. Are you looking for programs to book for your library this summer? Don’t forget to access the NYSL Performers and Programs database at https://performersandprograms.com/index.html.

CSLP is again hosting the annual Teen Video Challenge (TVC) in 2020. TVC is open to all teens aged 13-18. Submissions are accepted from June 1-August 7, 2020. Submissions should be under 60 second, public-service-announcement-type videos that show a unique interpretation of the 2020 Summer Reading theme. There will be five national winners chosen, with each receiving a $200 cash prize and $50 worth of summer reading materials for their sponsoring library. For more information about rules and to access submission forms, follow this link: www.cslpreads.org/programs/teen-program/2020-teen-video-challenge.

If you’re looking for more ways your library can impact your community this summer, consider how libraries can get involved with the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP is a federally funded program that enables qualified organizations to serve free meals to kids and teens in low-income areas. Summer Reading Programs provide libraries with the perfect opportunity to collaborate with community partners and the SFSP/Summer Meals program by bringing healthy snacks and meals to their communities. For more information, please watch the webinar, “To Be Well Read, You Must Be Well Fed,” that Hunger Solutions, in collaboration with the New York State Library, hosted on February 5th: the recording is available here. Also find additional information on the Summer Reading site here http://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/.

The New York State Library is once again making Explore NY booklists and downloadable, customizable bookmarks available for Summer Reading and other programs across the state. You can access them here: www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/explore.htm

The New York State Library is interested in photos from your awesome 2020 Summer Reading programs to use on our Summer Reading website or in outreach materials, so please send us your great photos with a brief description – but please remember that we also need signed photo releases to accompany the photos. Thank you!

Questions about Summer Reading at New York Libraries?

Please contact Sharon B. Phillips, Program Manager, at Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov