Hello to YSS Members and any other folks whom you’ve chosen to share this newsletter with. Inside you’ll find information about NYLA Annual Conference 2018, Take Your Child to the Library Day, and the upcoming Spring YSS Conference.

When first thinking about what to write to you all, I was somewhat stumped. I’ve known some past presidents of our group and in my mind they are amazing librarians! I really never thought I’d be sitting where they sat, metaphorically speaking that is. So, I did what any self respecting information professional would do: I researched what other new YSS presidents had to say!

Most of them had some pretty good advice. Joyce Laoisa imparted “Sharing, helping, learning, mentors, friends, laughter, and support are many words that I associate with YSS. I love this organization and the work we all do. I hope that you will realize that YSS is here to help you.” These words spoke to me because I feel the same way. My involvement with NYLA and YSS started when I was a library assistant and I have been learning, growing, and making new friends ever since. You can do the same by attending webinars, or better yet, conferences, or even by interacting with our online presence on social media.

Mary Ferris spoke about putting change in a positive light. “So with the start of the new year, try to put change in a positive light. Set goals for yourself to see what you can do to grow professionally. See what’s needed in your community and find a way for your library to help provide it. Reach out to other librarians to get help or provide support.” These words are always relevant at the turning of the year, to me even more so. I have a new supervisor, had an employee transfer, have a new co-leader in my branch and
two new projects at work that are geared toward improving our community. I’m also taking two online classes to try and improve myself professionally and my library’s programming and planning capabilities. You too can get involved with one of the classes, “Supercharged Storytimes for All” through NYS DLD, or if the scheduling of these classes doesn’t work for you, you can take self paced classes on WebJunction. Plus, my last kid in the nest has taken up rowing, a six day a week sport that involves travel and standing on breezy riverbanks. Lastly, the ROBOTICS build season starts the second week of January!

Mary Jo Smith said “I’ve been president of YSS for a little over a month, and no one’s tried to impeach me yet, so I’d say things are going well.” This keeps bringing a smile to my face. I don’t honestly think Mary Jo set the bar that low, she just has a wicked sense of humor. From this I take the advice of keeping things in perspective and not sweating the small stuff. If you are facing something difficult, or a job that’s overwhelming (like writing a newsletter article for example), look for small things that can make you smile and break the job down into manageable parts. If an upsetting email comes to your inbox, walk away from your computer for a few minutes, talk to a coworker, and think twice before replying with a negative or annoyed response. Lastly, do your best to plan ahead when you can, but remember Murphy's Law; know that all anyone can ask is that you try your best, no matter what happens.

I look forward to seeing any and all who can make the trek to Albany for Advocacy Day Wednesday, February 27, 2019. Last year, I helped chaperone the Albany High Book Club (see pictures below). It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of these young people for the vital resources we provide.

Lisa Neuman
YSS President
A Look Back at the 2018 NYLA Annual Conference

**Wednesday – Ann Gibson Scholarship Reception:**

This was the 2nd year of our new format, which has replaced Telling Tales with an informal meet and greet style reception. This year, the reception was held at The Genesee Brew House. Guests of the reception munched on appetizers and desserts, sampled the wares of the Brew House, and made bids on several raffles, which further benefited the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund.

**Thursday – YSS Workshops/Speakers:**

We kicked things off with a session about Storytimes for the Early Literacy Newcomer. Angela Newman and Rebecca Donnelly (picture below, left) even shared tips and tricks that the most seasoned of storytime presenters can add to their repertoire. Later that afternoon, we held our annual YSS Membership Meeting, which featured Bob Shea (picture below, right) and his comical presentation of his “rejected” book ideas!
Friday – YSS Workshops/Speakers:

Friday morning kicked off with Amy Holland and Matt Kreuger’s (picture below, left) presentation on their United Stories of America project – with the goal of “creating a kinder world through the inclusion of diverse and underrepresented individuals and communities in storytimes.”

Carly Dennis taught us that Teen Volunteers Make Great Tech Tutors (picture below, right) and also handed over her presentation for the 2018 NYLA Annual Conference Presentation Archive! Matt Kreuger presented again later in the day, along with Deena Viviani and Craig Marasco, about Attracting Award-Winning Authors for Teens – based on their work with nationally recognized Rochester Teen Book Fest, which just turned 13!

Saturday – YSS Table Talks:

As per tradition, we wrapped up the conference with our YSS Table Talks. We were all so busy, though, that we forgot to take any pictures... Sorry about that!

**Working With Tweens**

*Jenny Abbott, Victor Farmington Library*

[jabbott@pls-net.org](mailto:jabbott@pls-net.org) / 585-924-2637

Tweens are future teens! Learn how to attract tweens to your programs and keep them coming in the years ahead through book clubs, special Tween Time programs, and tween volunteer opportunities.

**Raising a Reader**

*Tonia Burton, Monroe County Library System*

[tonia.burton@libraryweb.org](mailto:tonia.burton@libraryweb.org) / 585-428-8151

The Rochester Public Library was looking for a research based program that would help address the literacy crisis our families are facing. Raising A Reader is an evidence-based early literacy and parent engagement program engages caregivers in a routine of daily book cuddling with their children from birth through eight to foster healthy brain development, healthy relationships, a love of reading, and the literacy skills critical for school success.
DIY I Spy Books
Mary Ferris, Wood Library
mferris@pls-net.org / 585-394-1381 x 304
We all know how popular the I Spy and Look-and-Find books are with kids, but have you ever considered having them try making one themselves? That's just what Mary Ferris from the Wood Library in Canandaigua did. At this session, see the book made at the program and learn how much fun it can be to create a picture collage using materials you already have on hand. All it takes is a little imagination!

Taking Time with Teens
Julia Koberlein, Macedon Public Library
jkoberlein@pls-net.org / @jks_library_moments (Instagram) / @JuliaKoberlein (Twitter)
Library programming for teens doesn't have to be overwhelming or overly complicated. We'll talk about some examples of simplifying summer reading engagement for teens while having fun, as well as some hands-on/hands-off ideas for teen lock-ins.

Blast Off with Crafts!
Chrissie Morrison, Mechanicville District Public Library
chrissiemorrison@gmail.com / 518-664-4646
The 2019 CSLP SRP theme is "A Universe of Stories," so get yourself ready for lots of crafts and activities to celebrate space. This table talk will be a hands-on session with a couple of sample activities. Chrissie will also provide a handout with a link to more ideas you can use for the 2019 SRP.

VolunTEENS Service Learning for Teens
Laura Panter, Sachem Library
laura.panter@sachemlibrary.org / 631-588-5024 x 252
Discover ways to offer community service opportunities to your community no matter the size of your library. Structured activities, passive and drop-in programming, and collaborative ways to offer service hours both at the library and out in the community will be discussed.
Congratulations to Ann M. Martin Winner of the NYLA/YSS 2018 Empire State Award

The Youth Services Section was thrilled to present the 2018 Empire State Award for Literature for Young People (ESA) to children’s book author Ann M. Martin on November 9, 2018 during the NYLA Annual Conference in Rochester, NY. The award is presented annually to a living author and/or illustrator living in New York State, to honor their achievements in the field of literature for young people. This award is one of several received by Ms. Martin, a resident of Ulster County, who has received a Newbery Honor, a Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award, and a Schneider Family Book Award, among many others.

The sold out luncheon was attended by over 100 people, and there was a palpable sense of excitement in the air, as many attendees had grown up reading the works of Ms. Martin, such as The Babysitters Club, and had fallen in love with her work again as professionals. Committee chair Joanna Goldfarb presented the award medallion to Ms. Martin, who then took the stage with her longtime editor Liz Szabla, for a candid conversation about her career, her writing process, and, yes: The Babysitters Club.

Attendees heard about the breakout success of The Babysitters Club, which catapulted Ms. Martin, who considers herself quite shy, to a level of literary celebrity that saw her appearing on The Today Show. The series, which includes hundreds of titles and several spinoff series, was originally planned to be a four-volume series—with one book for each of the original babysitters. When book sales soared, the series order was extended and, at the height of the books’ popularity, Ms. Martin was writing one book a month. She shared that her favorite character to write for was Karen, Kristy’s stepsister, and that she saw Kristy, brash and outspoken, as her alter ego.

Ms. Szabla, who realized that this year marks the 20th she and Ms. Martin had been working together, asked Ms. Martin to describe her writing process and shared that all of her books begin with an exceptionally detailed outline—some topping 50 pages. It was when she read one of these outlines for the story that became Rain Reign, one of Ms. Martin’s best-selling and most acclaimed works, that she realized there was a very special story waiting to be told. The tale of Rose, a girl diagnosed with high-functioning autism, her dog Rain, and a horrifying hurricane was inspired by the impact Hurricane Irene had on New York State; the destructive storm led Ms. Martin to wonder what happened to the pets who were separated from their owners after the storm.

It is Rain Reign that inspired a quote from Ms. Martin that the ESA Committee was quite moved by; she wrote: “In Rain Reign, Rose’s uncle helps her to look inside herself and appreciate what she finds there. It’s taken me years—63 of them—to become comfortable in my skin, but it was worth the wait.”
The Youth Services Section thanks Ann M. Martin and her editor for an engaging and inspirational presentation. We thank Ms. Martin for decades of writing compelling, insightful, and emotional books for children, and we congratulate her on winning the 2018 NYLA/YSS Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People.

Finally, thanks go to Macmillan Publishing and the Disney Book Group for donating multiple copies of Ann M. Martin’s books. The books were given away during the luncheon. Giveaway winners had the opportunity to have their books signed and personalized by Ms. Martin after the luncheon. In addition, YSS thanks Macmillan for covering Ms. Martin’s travel expenses.

From left to right: ESA third year member Terry Rabideau, 2018 chairperson Joanna Goldfarb, 2018 ESA recipient Ann M. Martin, incoming chairperson Mallory Marinaro (photo from YSS Facebook page)

YSS Committee Updates

Marketing Committee Report

Looking to revamp and add spice to your programs in the New Year? Checkout YSS on social media!

Follow YSS on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter! Have an idea or would like to share a program that had a positive response at your library? Send content to Lindsay Jankovitz at jankovitzl@gmail.com.

Don’t forget to subscribe to the YSS Listserv. Share your favorite programming tips and tricks, and pick up something new!

To subscribe to the listserv, log into the NYLA Online Membership Center using your personal login and password. Click on “Personal Record Details” from the menu on the left, and then select the “Email Discussion Lists” link from the top of that page.

To send a message once you’ve subscribed, send an email to nyla-yss@list.nyla.org – but be sure to send that email from the email address to which you are subscribed to receive listserv emails.
Intellectual Freedom Committee Liaison Report

The Intellectual Freedom Committee met at the NYLA conference in Rochester on November 9. Sara Dallas is the chairperson, and she led the meeting by talking about our charge as a NYLA Council committee. Our to-do list includes: developing the Intellectual Freedom Committee’s (IFC) goals, objectives, and activities; keeping current on intellectual freedom issues and developments; investigating and sharing with NYLA Council academic issues, including students reporting teachers; and sending out links to national discussions and issues. We spoke about the Intellectual Freedom Award as well, and getting out the word about nominating.

The Intellectual Freedom Roundtable is a separate entity, and is headed by Frank McKenna. The IFC hopes to help them develop programming for the next NYLA conference. There was discussion about the well-received programs (Nazis in the Library, for one) at the conference.

Sara participates in the ALA State of the States conference call. The Office of Intellectual Freedom is about to start the search for a new director, and they hope to have someone in place by ALA Annual.

Other challenges (EBSCO access, Drag Queen Story Time, etc.) were brought up. Please send any challenges you experience, or know about, to me for the committee’s input and support. If you have anything having to do with Intellectual Freedom you would like our committee to address, please let me know. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo C. Smith

YSS Continuing Education

In the past year, YSS has sponsored two webinars, “Building a Diverse and Inclusive YA Collection” and “Beyond Bilingual, Making Storytimes ELL Friendly.” Both of these webinars were free to YSS section members and accessible to others for a small fee.

In the upcoming year, YSS will offer additional webinars, and we are interested in your input. Please share your ideas for topics of interest and/or potential presenters to cgeary@sals.edu.

Carol Geary
YSS Continuing Education Liaison
Take Your Child to the Library Day
Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 2!

Take Your Child to the Library Day (TYCttLD) is the first Saturday in February. It was started in Connecticut, but New York librarians know a good idea when we see one and have adopted it!

TYCttLD is in essence a slogan we can use in marketing our library programs. Like National Library Week, it’s an opportunity to amp up attention to libraries and visitors. Entice families out of their homes and into your library for special programs, activities, or guests. Bring in a performer, plan a multi-age storytime program, host a games afternoon, set out self-directed art activities – the possibilities are only limited by your imagination. This year, you can pair it with Groundhog Day festivities!

Find helpful information at www.nyla.org/advocacy under the Take Your Child to the Library Day tab. Downloadable fliers, posters, and postcards you can send on to legislators are all there. Make the most of Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Yak Tracks!

It’s been a year since Yancey Yak made his big debut at the 2017 NYLA Conference. Since then he’s been off traveling across New York and around the country.

Currently, Yancey is doing a little “yakking around” with YSS Newsletter Editor Nan Brown at the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville. He’s exploring the board game collection and making some new friends!

Where else has Yancey been? You can share your stories to the NYLA YSS Listserv by emailing them to nyla-yss@list.nyla.org or to Nan at nbrown@onlib.org
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS  REFLECTING AND RESPONDING TO AN EVER CHANGING WORLD

NYLA YSS SPRING 2019 CONFERENCE

FRIDAY
APRIL 26, 2019
DOUBLETREE HOTEL
TARRYTOWN, NY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. KIM PARKER
LITERACY ACTIVIST

LUNCHEON SPEAKER
SUSAN KUKLIN
AUTHOR OF WE ARE HERE TO STAY AND BEYOND MAGENTA

NYLA.org/YSS
Save the Date for the YSS Past Presidents’ Dinner!

We hope you will join us on Thursday, April 25, 2019 when we celebrate the contributions of past YSS Presidents. Stay tuned for more information on YSS Social Media and newsletters in 2019!

Spring Conference Scholarships

The purpose of Spring Conference Scholarship Award is to encourage continuing education in the field of library youth services. Two awards are given annually: one to a veteran librarian and the other to a newer member of our profession. The scholarship is designed to cover registration fees and up to $250 reimbursement for hotel charges, meals, and transportation costs for attending the Youth Services Section’s Spring Conference.

The candidate needs to show a strong commitment to the field of youth service librarianship or other related careers.

YSS Spring Conference

Through The Looking Glass: Reflecting & Responding To An Ever Changing World
April 26, 2019 at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown, NY

YSS Spring Conference Featured Speakers:

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kimberly Parker
Literacy Advocate

Author Luncheon Speaker: Susan Kuklin
We Are Here To Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults (2019 Publication)
Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out
... and many more Children's and Teen titles
Exclusive Workshop Preview:

Empowering Teens Through Civil Engagement
Learn how to use the Five Stages of Social Action to facilitate civic engagement in the young people at your library. Examples of real life projects, as they developed step by step, will be shared, along with tips for handling sensitive and potentially controversial discussions.

Readers' Advisory Guide to Teen Literature
Speaker: Angela Carstensen, Author, Director of Library & Information Services at Sacred Heart Greenwich, Chaired: YALSA’s Michael L. Printz Award and Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults

Libraries Can Self Publish
Presenters: Jessica Gordon, Teen Services Librarian, Finkelstein Memorial Library; Joanna Goldfarb, Head of Young Adult Services, Valley Cottage Library; self-published authors, and more.
Discover how your library can employ self publishing for all kinds of programming.

Identifying Stereotypes and Tropes in Children's Literature
Presenter: Kiera Parrott, Reviews Director for School Library Journal and Library Journal
A deep dive into specific problematic areas that librarians, book selectors, and anyone engaging in readers’ advisory or book promotion should be aware of and be able to identify. Participants will put their newfound knowledge to use, analyzing and evaluating a selection of picture books.

Disability in Youth Library Spaces: A Panel of Perspectives
This moderated panel will offer four perspectives on how we can best serve disabled people in youth spaces in the public library: disabled self-advocate, YS librarian, parent, and non-profit agency.

Mindfulness in Children's Programming
Presenter: Nicole Guenkel, Children's Services Librarian, Greenburgh Public Library
Inspiring ways to incorporate mindfulness into your programming.

LGBTQ & You: Making your Library Safe and Inclusive
Presenter: GLSEN
Look for more information about this workshop session in the upcoming Spring Conference Guide.

Apps & Robotics
Presenter: Austin Olney, Digital Media Specialist, White Plains Public Library
Look for more information about this workshop session in the upcoming Spring Conference Guide.

Fantasy Stock Market Table Talk
Presenter: Kevin Robinson, Children's Services Librarian, Ossining Public Library
A fantasy stock market is a fun way to bring the world of finance to children and teens. The long term and passive nature of investing brings unique opportunities and challenges to running this type of program in a public library. Discussion on how to make a successful fantasy stock market will include ideas on how to present and explain finance concepts, track the participants portfolios, and keep participants engaged over the long term.