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2014-2015**

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YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

A Message from Your YSS President

In considering a topic for this newsletter article I kept thinking about change. We've just had a changing of the guard on the YSS board and committees. I've welcomed three new board members and nine new committee members and updated the roster of contact information. However, in the short time since the NYLA conference in Saratoga, I've redone the listings no less than 6 times! There have been new email addresses for some, a couple of committee members stepping down because of job demands and new situations including having a baby, former board members stepping up to now serve on committees, and committee members taking new jobs at their own or a different library. I'm sure the board members, liaisons, and committee members who currently help run YSS are getting tired of what have become weekly updates of the contact list – I've started putting the date at the top of the page so everyone can be sure they have the newest version!

All I can do is smile about it because I haven't had a lot of change in my own professional contact information. Those of you who know me have heard me often say that I have a very short resume. I'm still working in my first library job. This might not seem significant to some people until they find out that I've been at that job for 40 years. Yes, I've been at the same library from the time our section was known as the Children's and Young Adult Services Section (CYASS) and NYLA had its office in New York City. And though my contact information hasn't changed, through the years I've seen a lot of changes at my library and in the broader library world. I've said goodbye to the card catalog and welcomed automation. I've seen preschool programming broaden to embrace the very youngest of patrons and their families. Libraries have come to recognize that teens deserve collections, space and programs that are focused on them. I've experienced change to the max as my library moved out of its home while our building was totally gutted, renovated, and expanded. We set up in a temporary location and tried to maintain the status quo for the sake of our patrons. I had to remap the layout of my collection three times in two years and can truthfully state that I've touched and evaluated every book in my collection as I moved them each time. I'm more than ready to be settled for a while.

Certainly change can cause stress, but it also provides an opportunity to adapt, grow, and improve. That's why in spite of my short resume, I know that I am not the same librarian I was back in 1974 (I know, some of you weren't even born then!). I've had the chance to learn from other librarians, to try new program ideas, and to discover how to make what's new and exciting in libraries work in my library. That's been exciting and it's what keeps me always looking for a conference to attend and a colleague to connect with. The conference can be broad in scope like the annual NYLA conference or youth focused like the upcoming YSS Spring Conference. But it can also be a webinar that you participate in without leaving your desk. And meeting other youth services librarians has become as easy as a click of the mouse or a tap on

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A Message from Your YSS President, cont.

the screen to reach them on their blogs or on sharing sites like Pinterest. It’s amazing how much time can pass by when you’re pinning flannelboard story ideas!

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. Make a point of attending and being a part of your section’s Spring Conference on Friday, March 27 in Islandia on Long Island. You’ll discover that change can be a good thing!

Mary Ferris
YSS President

Publications Committee Report

The Publications Committee is starting off strong with the success of the 2015 “League of Extraordinary Librarians”. We sold out all 150 calendars at NYLA! Thank you to everyone who made the calendar so successful, especially those of you who were manning the booth and Chrissie for so diligently promoting the calendars at all the YSS sessions.

There was some talk of doing a second run of the calendars, though being that it is now December, we may not see a lot of return on that investment. I think we may be better off concentrating on printing notecards of the authors who dressed up at the 2014 YSS Spring Conference, as Chrissie suggested, and selling them at the 2015 YSS Spring Conference in Long Island. I can move ahead and contact Bill, if that is something the board is interested in.

We welcome Matt Krieger to the Publications Committee. I have emailed with Matt and am pleased he has agreed to join our team!

Anne Rehor
Committee Chair



YSS Programs at the 2014 NYLA Conference

“You Missed a Lot of Good Stuff”

If you were unable to be in Saratoga for the annual NYLA Conference last month, you missed a lot of good stuff (a phrase used by my 5 year old niece whenever she saw someone leaving my husband’s shop without a bag from the store). Conference Planner Lee Ricci and his committee put together 2 ½ days of stimulating sessions.



Molly Chatt and Ann-Marie Helldorfer shared all kinds of tips for amazing afterschool programs (we’ll be posting a link to their handout on our webpage).

Following the YSS Annual Membership meeting, author, poet, and photographer Charles R. Smith Jr. entranced his audience with the power of words.

Rose Burdick shared lessons learned from working with local teens, community partners, and the media to create a successful science fiction and fantasy event that would bring in new patrons and stir the imagination of regular library users.

Our annual Telling tales program to benefit the Ann Gibson Scholarship Fund featured Sandra Bauchiero. Her program, Aunt Helen’s Closet, took us on an incredible journey from the African Savannah to the Australian Outback through clothing (we got to be the models!) and artifacts from around the world.

A panel of librarians showed how they use social media tools, including Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Twitter, and Weebly, for communication, programming, and sharing with tweens, teens, and each other. How did we manage to come up with program ideas before Pinterest?!

Author Jacqueline Woodson was presented the 2014 Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People. Her acceptance speech let us in on who she is and how she came to write her powerful books for children and young adults.

We learned how much fun it can be for the library to plan, promote and present a literacy-based baby shower that includes games and prizes, storytime, and visits with youth and family services agencies.

And what would the fall conference be without our Table Talks session. This whirlwind approach to programming featured roundtable discussions and hands-on activities about children’s and young adult programming and services such as outreach to schools, helping families find Common Core connections in the public library, making music come alive, spontaneous and book-based programming for teens, gaming using handhelds and ...



YSS Programs at the 2014 NYLA Conference, cont.

StreetPass, how to start a “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program, and getting involved in YSS. As usual, it was hard to choose which tables to sit at – I didn’t want to miss any of them !

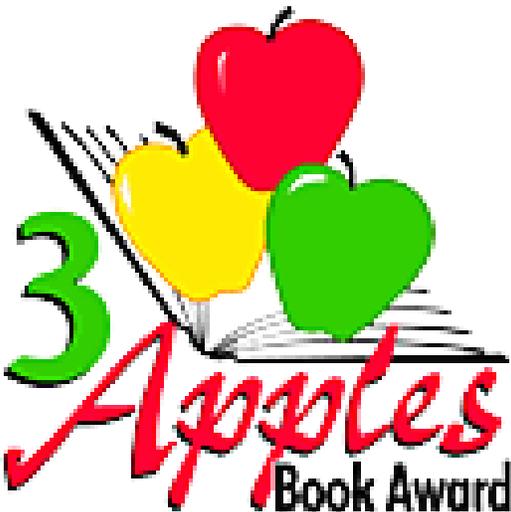
Once again I came home inspired, stimulated and excited to put the new ideas to work in my library. If you can, make it a priority to get to a conference in 2015. Check out the information about the upcoming YS Conference on Long Island in this newsletter – registration is open for this fantastic event. And Chrissie Morrison is well on her way to having all the YSS programs for the 2015 NYLA Conference in Lake Placid planned – you won’t want to miss them!

Mary Ferris
YSS President



The 3 Apples Book Award

The 3 Apples Book Award has been developed to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure, and to give the children of New York State the opportunity to participate in honoring their favorite books. It is co-sponsored by the Youth Services and School Library Media Sections of the New York Library Association, which together represent the public and school libraries of the state.



Information regarding the 2015 award and process will be coming soon!

YSS and FLS: Long-Term Friends

You might have heard that there is a new Section in town (in NYLA): the **Friends of Libraries Section**. After 22 successful years of “Friends helping Friends,” the Empire Friends, the little roundtable-that-could, has become FLS with significant involvement and help from our friends in YSS.

Several past Presidents of YSS and other associates have stepped up to become members of the leadership team for FLS. First and foremost is **Randy Enos**, Youth Services Consultant for Ramapo Catskill Library System, who was YSS President in 1990. Randy has served EFR for the past three years as President, with another three presidential terms here and there for a total of six years. This is

a record for EFR and the group could not have survived without his steady leadership. EFR is incredibly grateful for his involvement and for bringing us to this new phase of growth.



Randy brought YSS past President **Lisa Wemett** (1991) into the fold and then **Marie Orlando** (1997). Lisa retired as Assistant Director of the Webster Public Library in 2009. She has served EFR since 2012 as Vice President, learning the ropes from Randy, and now Lisa has become the first FLS President. Marie is a Member At Large on the FLS Executive Board and became coordinator of the group’s promotion of National Friends of Libraries Week (October 18 -24, 2015). Marie is Chair of the Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Two more Past Presidents of YSS were elected in November: **Sarah Sachs** (2010) is FLS Vice President/President-Elect as well as Conference Programmer for Friends sessions at NYLA’s 125th Anniversary Annual Conference in Lake Placid (Wednesday, October 21 – Saturday, October 24, 2015). Sarah is the Children’s Services Librarian at the Potsdam Public Library. **Ristiina Wigg** (1981), retired director of the Southern Tier Library System, will now begin a two-year term as Member At Large. **Joyce Laiosa** (2012, 2013), recently retired from the Voorheesville Public Library, has agreed to serve as coordinator of FLS’s Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. So you can see, our two Sections are now forever intertwined! Any YSS member is welcome to volunteer for FLS: we’d love to have you!

If your library has a Friends group, they may provide direct support for your youth services. It might be funds for your collections, programs, or other extras like toys or a puppet stage in your children’s area. Friends groups are active partners in their community libraries, representing a loyal fan base of civic-minded volunteers who want to see their local library survive and thrive. Working closely with your Friends reaps many rewards for youth services personnel. Maybe you will see the same grandparent who attends storytime with their family later working behind the scenes at a book sale or other fund-raiser to help to pay for the costume of the next storybook character that visits at a children’s event. Be sure to thank them for their involvement!

FLS hopes you personally will consider adding us as an additional Section to your NYLA membership for just \$7. But we also request that you “do the ask”: please provide information to your library’s Friends and encourage the group to join FLS/NYLA. For \$50, they will receive an organizational membership that provides NYLA memberships (non-voting) for each of the group’s officers at no additional cost. What a bargain! Learn more about the benefits of FLS membership at www.nyla.org/friends. We thank you for your support and friendship!

By Lisa C. Wemett



NYLA YSS 2015 Spring Conference
Inform! – Inspire! - Ignite!
Friday , March 27, 2015
Islandia Marriott Long Island
Registration is Open!

With a theme of Inform - Inspire - Ignite! – this daylong conference promises to inform you about trends and practices in youth services, inspire you with new ideas, and ignite excitement about what's happening in our libraries each and every day. Conference highlights will include:

Keynote Speaker - Pam Sandlian-Smith



As Director of Anythink Libraries, she has worked with a collaborative team to reinvent libraries in Adams County, Colorado. Anythink has been awarded the IMLS 2010 National Medal of Honor for innovating library services and the 2011 John Cotton Dana award and the Library Journal 2011 Landmark Library Award. Pam was awarded the 2012 Charlie Robinson Award for innovation and risk taking in public libraries and was the Colorado Librarian of the year in 2010.

Luncheon Speaker - Matt Phelan



Matt Phelan is the illustrator of many books for young readers, including *Xander's Panda Party* by Linda Sue Park, *Flora's Very Windy Day* by Jeanne Birdsall, and *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron, winner of the 2007 Newbery Medal. He is the author/illustrator of the award-winning graphic novels *The Storm in the Barn*, *Around the World*, and *Bluffton*. His latest books include his first picture book as both author and illustrator, *Druthers* (Sept. 2014), and *Miss Emily* by Burleigh Mutén (March, 2014). Matt lives in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. You can visit www.mattphelan.com to find out more about Matt and his books.

15 program sessions throughout the day focusing on a variety of exciting and pertinent topics of interest to library professionals serving youth of all ages.

Long Island Author Illustrator Garden- where you will have the opportunity to meet, greet, and have books signed by local authors and illustrators including Caroline Bock, Jen Calonita, Selene Castrovilla, Brian Heinz, Matt Phelan, Gae Polisner, Kara Taylor, Todd Strasser, Maryrose Wood and Jane Zalben. The Long Island Author Illustrator Garden is made possible with financial sponsorship by the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, the Children's Librarian Association of Suffolk County and the Young Adult Services Division of Suffolk County Library Association.

Join us to be informed and inspired at the 2015 NYLA YSS Spring Conference - it'll ignite your enthusiasm about youth services at New York libraries! For further details and the full conference brochure with registration information, go to www.nyla.org/yss and click on "Events" or contact Conference Chair Deborah Hempe at hempedeborah@middlecountrypubliclibrary.org

YSS Spring Conference Scholarships

Are you thinking of attending The Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association 2015 YSS Spring Conference? Did you know that there are two **YSS Spring Conference Scholarships** available that may make it possible for you to attend at little or no cost to you?

So go ahead -- apply for one of the scholarships! Attending the annual YSS Spring Conference is your opportunity to be inspired by exciting authors and experts in the areas of youth literature and library services. It is also a great way to connect and share with colleagues in the field and pick up some great programming ideas. Read on for further details about the scholarships.

The purpose of Spring Conference Scholarships is to encourage continuing education in the field of library youth services by participating in the annual YSS Spring Conference. Two awards are given annually. The first is the New Member Spring Conference Scholarship given to a new member of our profession. The second is the Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship given to a highly motivated established librarian who has had a significant impact on youth and youth services in her/his community.

Each of the scholarships 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 candidates need to show strong commitment to the field of youth service librarianship or other related careers.

An applicant must be a member of NYLA/YSS. She/he may not be an employee or relative of an employee of the New York Library association; an officer or relative of an officer of the NYLA Council; or an officer or relative of an officer on the Executive Board of the Youth Services Section of NYLA. Financial need will not be a criterion for the award. The requirements for each of the scholarships follow.

Requirements

New Member Spring Conference Scholarship: The applicant must be a current regular or student member of NYLA/YSS. The applicant may be a graduate library student (full- or part-time) who is matriculated at her/his institution, a practicing librarian or paraprofessional employed in New York State, or involved in a related youth services field (e.g. storytelling, an illustrator, etc.) for less than 10 years.

Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship: The applicant must be a current regular of NYLA/YSS. In addition, the applicant must have at least 10 years of post-graduate experience working in libraries and is currently working in the area of youth services in a public or school library in New York. She/he must be able to demonstrate that she/he has had a significant impact on youth and youth services in her/his community.

For each of the scholarships, the applicant needs to file the following with the YSS scholarship committee chair:

- ⇒ A fully completed application, which is available for downloading (www.nyla.org/yss) or in hard copy.
- ⇒ Two letters of recommendation, which indicate the applicant's interest in youth services.
- ⇒ Evidence of current membership in NYLA/YSS.

SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE for the 2015 YSS Spring Conference: February 2, 2015

Please note: Applications received after the posted deadline will not be honored. The YSS Scholarship Committee will review all eligible applications, and notify applicants of the final results in writing.

For further information contact: Terry Rabideau, Scholarship Committee Chair

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trabideau@whiteplainsny.gov

An Open Letter to the YSS Boards

Dear YSS Executive Boards 2014 and 2015,

I want to thank all of you for the tremendous honor of attaching my name to the YSS Spring Conference Scholarship for a veteran librarian. This gesture is so personal and touching: it combines my love of mentoring and continuing education for library staff at all levels with the imperative of providing recognition to long-term employees who continuously show commitment and dedication to their work. Our profession needs both newbies and veterans; supporting the latter financially so they can continue in their vital work with youth is noteworthy. Tying my name to this annual award is humbling and something I will truly treasure for a very long time.

I think both Immediate Past President Joyce Laiosa and 2014 YSS President Chrissie Morrison were the movers and shakers behind this and the new "NYLA Above & Beyond Award" which I received at the conference awards banquet. But you were all in on it and are very good about keeping a secret: I had no idea either of these accolades were coming! It was awesome and wonderful, yet stupefying: I was speechless two days in a row! Everyone pulled it off and you were pretty gleeful about that. I am very grateful for your personal part in it all. That crystal book handed to me by NYLA President Sara Kelly Johns will remind me each day to continue to give my best to this organization. I hope you will read my Section column for the Friends of Libraries in NYLA's December *e-Bulletin* where I share a few more words about what these awards mean to me.

Both of these presentations cited my contributions, commitment, and dedication by volunteering my time to YSS and NYLA over the past three decades of my career and now into my retirement. I treasure the friendships I have developed with other youth services staff from all over the state. If you are someone new to the profession, my best advice: get involved with this group. The relationship is very much a two-way street and I have always felt I've received as much as I've given. Thank you my friends,

Best regards,

Lisa C. Wemett, YSS President 1991



Chrissie Morrison presented Lisa with the honor at the YSS Membership meeting during the 2014 NYLA Conference.

"Whereas the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association is dedicated to supporting the librarians and library assistants who meet the literacy, information, reading, and recreation needs of youth in public and school libraries, we honor those highly motivated persons who have made substantial contributions to YSS and have made a significant impact on youth and youth services in their communities.

Therefore, in keeping with this tradition, and in honor of her distinguished service to the Youth Services Section of NYLA, the YSS Spring Conference Scholarship for an established librarian will henceforth be known as the 'Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship.'"

Why Be a Mentor?

1. Build the skills and confidence of early career youth librarians and those new to the profession
2. Encourage personal and professional connections
3. Give members the opportunity to acquire peer-taught skills
4. Re-energize and re-invigorate members in their work
5. Create interest and familiarity with YSS committee service and participation
6. Foster the development of a new cohort of leaders

To be successful, one needs to fully understand the role of mentor. Look at a role you are already familiar with. What is it that you do best at your job that could be beneficial to others? How can you communicate what you do best to help others be as successful? Once you identify that one role all other characteristics, as well as aspects of personality, must be taken into consideration. These key factors are what will help to cohesively guide a new member/coworker/student along. Most of us have had a supervisor, a boss or coach who has made a positive difference in our lives. Those people wore many hats. They acted as, delegators, role models, cheerleaders, policy enforcers, advocates, and friends. As a mentor you would need to do the same thing.

Successful mentors share many of the same basic qualities:

- A sincere desire to be involved
- Respect for young people or the audience you work with
- Be an active listener
- Have empathy
- See solutions and opportunities
- Be able to turn negatives into positives
- Be flexible and open

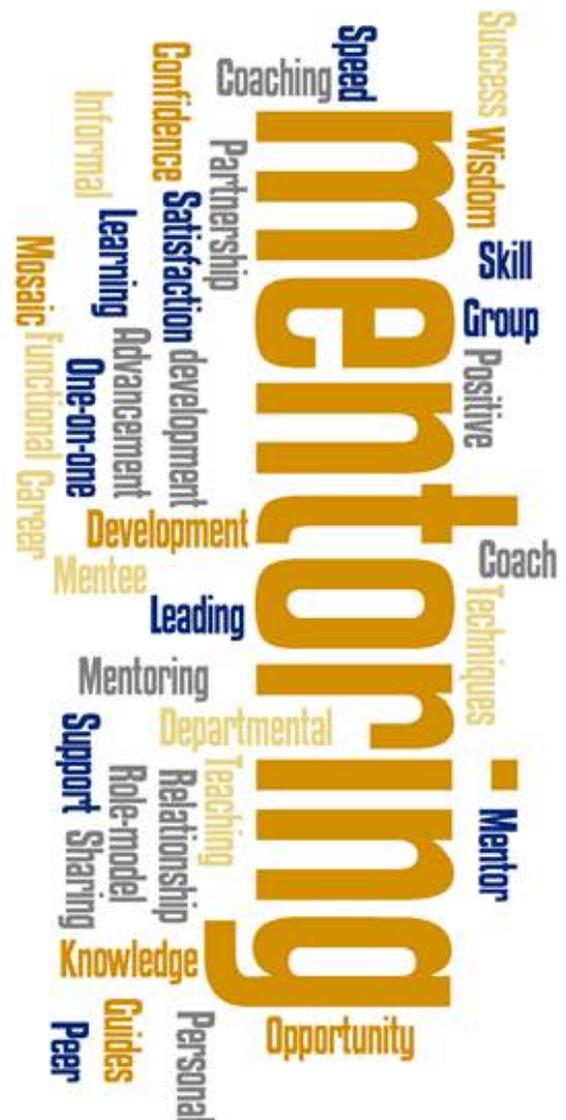
Return on Investment

- improved self-esteem
- improved communication skills
- greater social acceptance
- better academic attitudes
- Witnessing the fruits of your labor and feeling really good about it!

For more information and more information on becoming a mentor:

Mentor: National Mentoring Partnership www.mentoring.org
ALSC Mentoring Program www.ala.org/alsc/mentoring

by Christina Ryan-Linder 2nd Vice President/Membership



Take Your Child to the Library Day

February 7, 2015

Way more than ... 470 Libraries in 3 countries and 2 Caribbean islands!!!, 42 states, 1 province!, 2 school libraries! and counting! Will YOU join us?

Take Your Child to the Library Day is a way to champion youth, as well as offer an opportunity for parents and caregivers to discover library services for our youth. Take advantage of the NYLA advocacy links for publicity, as well as postcards that are available to download and use as a way to present positive library stories about how libraries make a difference to our legislators on **NYLA Advocacy Day, February 25, 2015**, at our State Capital in Albany. This year YSS will be asking everyone to contact their local assembly/state senate representatives and tell them about the day, requesting that they write resolutions supporting NYS's Take Your Child to the Library Day.



A resolution or proclamation is a non-legal declaration designating a given period of time to commemorate an event or cause, or to honor an individual or group. These declarations can be issued by governing bodies at any level, and are a great way of drawing attention to library related issues. More information and instructions can be found on the NYLA webpage (www.nyla.org/advocacy).

And here is a sample proclamation to send to your legislators:

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY in the State of New York

Whereas, libraries serve as a key link to success in learning for children; and

Whereas, children develop essential literacy skills and an enduring love of reading through libraries; and

Whereas, libraries provide free opportunities for children and families to enjoy engaging activities and a wide array of materials and services;

and

Whereas, parents introducing children to libraries give them a lifelong companion for learning, enrichment, and entertainment; now

Therefore I, _____, hereby proclaim _____ as

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY in the State of New York