A Message from the President

Spring is coming and for youth services librarians that means planning summer programs. Yes, I said summer programs! Whether it’s calling programmers in January to check on their availability or finding a way to do all those programs when you have only one person, it’s a race to find ways we can attract youth to our doors for an exciting summer. Librarians and their support staff are currently racking their brains to find creative ways to use this year’s 2018 Summer Reading Club theme “Libraries Rock.”

As I write this letter, Advocacy Day is also coming up. For me, at this moment, it’s next week! By the time you read this newsletter, though, it will be over. I hope many of you took the trek to Albany to talk to our political leaders about the importance of libraries in our communities. As we all know, this year is a tough budget year for libraries. Our communities are using libraries more than ever and requesting even more services. We are an important educator for all individuals in our communities especially in digital literacy. When school is over for the day, the week, or the school year, we become the leaders in educating students and families. In regards to library infrastructure, both on building and technological levels, libraries need more efficient buildings and the ability to bring more technology to those in economically disadvantaged communities.

If you didn’t make it to Advocacy Day, you can still send a pre-drafted letter to voice your support for fully funding NYS Library Aid in the NYS Budget. It takes about two minutes to send this letter – and you can add in a personal anecdote [even just a sentence] of what your library is doing that your legislators may not know about.

Spring also brings our YSS Spring Conference, “New York Libraries are for Everyone.” This conference will be held in Syracuse, NY, on Friday, April 13th. I hope you will join us as we gather at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center for an exciting day of professional development, networking, and engaging speakers. Our keynote speaker will be Rebecca McCorkindale, Hafuboti Blog author and creator of the Libraries are For Everyone artwork. (Hence our conference theme!) Our luncheon speaker will be the bestselling YA author Tamora Pierce.
Our Third Year Director, Jennifer Burke, and her conference planning committee have lined up some great workshops for you. If you missed the CE sessions at the NYLA Annual Conference, there’s even another chance to attend Enhancing Library Services for LGBT with presenter Lyndon Cudlitz during the Spring Conference! (This will be a double session workshop in the afternoon.) If you enjoy to chatting with colleagues to energize yourself with new ideas, there is no better way to do that than to come a day early and attend the Past Presidents’ Dinner on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at Pascale Italian Bistro at Drumlins. Spend time with some of our Past YSS Presidents and bring a group of your library colleagues. Registration for the Spring Conference and the Past Presidents’ Dinner are open until April 1, 2018.

After our busy February Executive Board meeting we were able to approve our 5-Year Long Range Plan. Our initiatives include moving toward identifying underrepresented populations in NYLA and working to encourage those individuals to be a part of our YSS membership; working to promote awareness of our library services to non-users in our communities as well as expanding our involvement in NYLA legislative initiatives; and actively developing new generations of youth services leaders through continuing education, connections with professional educational programs, and section involvement. This also means moving forward with our proposed Leadership Academy sponsored by YSS! There will be 10 courses with a mix of webinars and in-person, day-long institutes. Information will be forthcoming after our YSS Spring Conference. If you are a person who has aspirations for developing your current library position or to enrich yourself for future leadership positions, consider registering for this academy in fall 2018.

I hope everyone has a prosperous and active Spring season!

Laura Panter
YSS President

FYI – It’s not too late to register for the Past Presidents’ Dinner!
The Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association
2018 Spring Conference

Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center
801 University Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210
April 13th, 2018 8:30 am - 4:15 pm

Luncheon Speaker:
Tamora Pierce

Tamora Pierce is a bestselling author of young adult fantasy novels. Her books feature strong, female teenagers as knights, wizards and heroes.

She is a New York Times bestselling author and recipient of the 2013 Margaret A. Edwards Award, given by the Young Adult Library Services Association to an author for significant and lasting contributions to young adult literature.


Tamora resides in Syracuse, New York.

Keynote Speaker:
Rebecca McCorkindale

Rebecca McCorkindale is Gretna Public Library’s Assistant Library Director/Creative Director in Gretna, NE. She blogs (hafuboti.com), does both arts and crafts, loves bad puns, and adores both her husband Bruce and their cats Kitty Momo and The Luminous Mews.

Her Keynote speech is titled Welcome, Friends! Creating and maintaining a place where everyone feels especially welcomed. Welcome, Friends! brings together many important lessons Rebecca learned through her decade of working in bookstores, and seven years in a public library. From starting her career as a wannabe Children’s Librarian to becoming the manager of the Gretna Children’s Library, her insights will help youth service librarians and their teams to feel more confident in their vital roles in their libraries and communities. Welcome! Come on in and maybe learn a thing or two, and make memories to last a lifetime.

Book Sales at the Conference
Titles by Tamora Pierce and other authors will be available for sale at the conference by our book seller, Barnes and Noble. Pick up a title to get signed or to donate to the Golisano Children’s Hospital Upstate Pediatrics and Adolescent Center.
Conference Schedule and Workshops

9 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Welcome by Laura Panter, YSS President and Jennifer Burke, Conference Chair
Keynote Address by Rebecca McCorkindale

10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Workshop Session #1 (Select One)

1-A) 21st Century Tools for Little Coders
Presenter: Madelyn Lombardo, Tully Free Library
Learn all about hands-on technology and how to incorporate it into fun programming for elementary students. Learn how to use these technologies as well as get program and lesson plans on how to incorporate them into your daily activities.

1-B) Using Apps to Support Early Literacy and Kindergarten Readiness Programs
Presenters: Donna DeStefano and Erin Cosyn, Findaway
Work through how to achieve higher outcomes through curated mobile content. We will highlight top apps for early literacy and kindergarten readiness as well as reviewing skills and how they can be applied using specific apps.

1-C) Two Heads Are Better Than One: School and Public Library Partnerships
Presenters: Alyssa Newton, Onondaga Free Library and Penny Feeney, Onondaga Hill Middle School
Learn about the successful MakerClub collaboration between Onondaga Free Library and Onondaga Middle School, now going into its third year. This collaboration between the school and public libraries not only created new learning opportunities for students, but helps them understand that the library is a great place to learn and explore their personal interests. Penny and Alyssa will share tips on how to create successful partnerships, discuss grant opportunities their partnership provided, and highlight the resource sharing network that empowered students to explore their passions year round.

1-D) Breaking Down Barriers By Rethinking Fines
Presenters: Patricia Uttaro, Monroe County Library System, Katie Hayduke, Onondaga County Public Library System, Rebecca Maguire, Onondaga County Public Library System
Learn how libraries in Syracuse and Rochester have worked to bring children and families back to the library by eliminating fines.

1-E) A Natural Fit: Environmental Programs at the Library
Presenter: Nathan Keefe, Syracuse University ischool
Does your library offer nature programming? Libraries are uniquely positioned to link the world of books and media with the natural world, and foster this interest in children, families and teens. Join us to explore fun and exciting ideas to engage youth in your library with do-it-yourself nature programming. Participants will leave with a handout featuring takeaway program ideas for implementation.

11:30 a.m.—12 p.m. Networking, Book Sales, Autographing, Visit the YSS Booth, and Raffle Sales

12 p.m.—1:30 p.m. Luncheon with Speaker Tamora Pierce, Announcements, and Raffles

1:30 p.m.—1:45 p.m. Networking, Book Sales, and Autographing

1:45 p.m.—2:45 p.m. Workshop Session #2 (Select One)

2-F) A Safe Place to Game
Presenter: Daniel Fadden, TCGPlayer.com
Learn about the program Safe Place to Game, which partners with Onondaga County libraries to run a fun and educational program for those passionate about gaming. We donate materials, hold game nights, and teach, promoting a culture where children can have fun and feel safe, while interacting with their peers through tabletop games.

2-G) An Overview of Autism
Presenters: Mardie Ninno and Charisso Taylor, Margaret L. Williams Developmental Evaluation Center, Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital
One in 68 children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This workshop will provide an overview of the characteristics of autism and some strategies librarians can use that will be helpful in providing activities and services to individuals with autism.

2-H) Bring Them All In: Programs That Work for Both Kids and Teens
Presenters: Stephanie Preston and Christina Stenson-Carey, Albany Public Library
Learn about programs that work for early elementary aged children through young teen. We will have lots of winning ideas from pop culture and beyond to enable you to make your library a fun destination for kids and teens. There will be hands-on projects and activities.

2-I) Family Literacy in a Food Pantry
Presenter: Betsy Kennedy, Cazenovia Public Library
Cazenovia Public Library’s outreach program at the local food pantry includes early literacy, high school equivalency tutoring, summer reading programs, parenting workshops and Read Aloud Book Club. This is achieved on a small budget with many volunteers. It started small and continues to grow.

2-J) Enhancing Library Services for LGBT Youth (NOTE: this is a 2-hour double session)
Presenter: Lyndon Cudlitz
With practical advice and tips for library services, learn how your library can be a welcoming and supportive place for LGBTQ young people and their families.

2:45 p.m.—3 p.m. Break, Book Sales, Visit the YSS Booth

3 p.m.—4 p.m. Workshop Session #3 (Select One)

3-K) Table Talks
Roundtable discussions/hands-on activities about programming and services for children and teens. Participants can attend three different Table Talks during this workshop.

3-L) Popup Libraries and Community Partnership
Presenters: Heather Urzt and Leslie Stolins, Mid-York Library System
Have you thought about doing a popup library in your local schools or businesses? We’ll take you through our creation and implementation of a System wide Popup Library, and how that has increased our member libraries’ partnership opportunities.

3-M) Circulating Unique Collections: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
Presenters: Emily Womuth, Community Library of Dewitt & Jamesville and Marc Wildman, Central NY Library Resources Council
Libraries are experimenting with circulating non-traditional items to
Conference Schedule and Workshops Continued

their patrons, such as DeWitt’s Discovery to Go collection of math and science kits. Learn about the experience of several libraries circulating unique collections. What’s worked and what hasn’t?

3-N) South Asia Book Award (Reading Diverse Books)
Presenter: Emera Bridger Wilson, South Asia Center at Syracuse University
This workshop will explore ways to bring aspects of South Asian cultures, religions and histories into the library through children’s and young adult books and activities. Highlighted books will include those which have received recognition from the South Asia Book Award (SABA) as a starting point to explore possible programs and events you could hold at your library.

3-O) Enhancing Library Services for LGBT Youth (NOTE: this is a 2-hour double session)
Presenter: Lyndon Cudlitz
With practical advice and tips for library services, learn how your library can be a welcoming and supportive place for LGBTQ young people.

Register Online
Early Registration by March 1, 2018
$125 Members of NYLA Youth Sections (i.e., YSS, SLMS), students, and members of youth divisions of out-of-state or international library associations.
$143 NYLA Members
$150 Non-members

Standard Registration by April 1, 2018
$135 YSS Members
$153 NYLA Members
$170 Non-members

No Registrations will be accepted after April 1, 2018

Directions and Lodging Information
The Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center is located at 801 University Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210. Over night accommodations can be made by calling 1-888-627-7097. Identify that you’re with the NYLA YSS Conference and the dates you will be staying. You can register online by going to https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1801126467&key=15665A89

Register by March 13th to receive the room at a special rate of $109 per night for Thursday and Friday.

Directions to the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center:
From I-81 South: Take Exit 18 then take E. Adams St. to University Ave.
From I-81 North: Take Exit 18 then take E. Adams St. to University Ave.
From 90 West: Take exit 39 toward I-690 E. Continue onto I-690 E. Take the Interstate 81 S exit toward Binghamton and exit 18 toward Harrison St/Adams St. Take E. Adams St. to University Ave.
From 90 East: Take exit 36 to merge onto I-81 S Take exit 18 toward Harrison St/Adams St. Take E Adams St to University Ave.

YSS Past Presidents’ Dinner
All Are Welcome
Thursday, April 12th at 6:00pm
Pascale Italian Bistro at Drumlins
800 Nottingham Rd, Syracuse, NY 13224
$40 per person

Please join the YSS Executive Board in honoring our Section’s past presidents and enjoy an evening of networking and visiting with friends. Price includes dinner, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverage. There will be a silent auction to benefit the YSS Spring Conference Scholarship.

The restaurant is a short drive from the Sheraton.

Book Donation Service Project

We are requesting donations of new board, picture, chapter, middle grade, and young adult books for the Golisano Children’s Hospital Upstate Pediatrics and Adolescent Center. They give books to patients during their well check visits, beginning at infancy and continuing through teenage years. Their goal is to grow home libraries and encourage a love for literacy.

NEW YORK LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE
YSS Board Member Elections

Though the YSS Elections take place online along with the rest of the NYLA elections between June 15th and July 15th, we are excited to share our candidates with you now!

1st Vice President/President-Elect
running unopposed
Amanda Schiavulli
Member Services Librarian
Fingerlakes Library System

1st Year Director
(2021 Spring Conference Chair)
running unopposed
Chrissie Morrison
Librarian, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library
YS Programmer, Mechanicville District Public Library

Treasurer
Elissa Valente
Youth Services Librarian
Colonie Town Library

Treasurer
Colleen Whittall
Teen Librarian
Saratoga Springs Public Library

Yak Tracks
aka: Where has Yancey been?!?

Yancey Yak was met with much fanfare and adoration at the YSS Booth during the 2017 NYLA Annual Conference. In fact, our limited edition Yancey plushies sold out! But what has Yancey been up to since the conference? Have you brought him to your storytimes? Has he gone on vacation with your family? Inquiring minds would like to know!

We invite you to share your Yancey pictures with the NYLA YSS listserv (nyla-yss@list.nyla.org). Let us know how you use Yancey to strike up conversations about library advocacy, library services, and/or to show your YSS pride! Give your colleagues some fun ideas of how to incorporate Yancey into library programming. If you’re lucky, your picture(s) could be featured in an upcoming YSS Newsletter!
Are You Following the YSS Marketing Committee?

We are on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter... If you haven’t seen all the great content being posted, check us out! Look for interesting articles, tips on professional development, STEAM programming activities, Summer Reading Club ideas, and more!

Please send any content ideas to: Tara Morris at tmorris@rcls.org or Lindsay Jankovitz at jankovitzl@gmail.com.

The Marketing Committee would also like to remind you that the YSS Listserv is a great way to share information and resources. Any topic concerning library services to youth is fair game. There are over 700 YSS members, let’s work together to create useful resources that everyone can use!

To subscribe to the listserv, log into the NYLA Online Membership Center, using your personal login and password. To send a message, use the email account listed in your NYLA profile and send your email to nyla-yss@list.nyla.org.

Get more involved in YSS via the YSS Committees!

Every year we need new passionate youth services people to join and serve on our committees. It’s a great way to meet other youth services folks and grow professionally. Here are the committees that help YSS throughout the year and what they do:

3 Apples Award Committee
The 3 Apples Award is a NYS kids’ choice book award. Members work together [and in collaboration with the SSL 3 Apples Award Committee] to do marketing, collect nominations, and oversee voting for this award.

Conference Planning Committee
Coordinates/plans the YSS events and workshops for the NYLA Annual [fall] Conference.

Empire State Award Committee
Selects the ESA winner from YSS member nominations; plans the ESA luncheon for NYLA [fall] Conference.

Marketing Committee
The Marketing Committee will work to promote YSS as a section and the field of Youth Services in the digital age. The committee will aim to strengthen professional development and give greater networking opportunities among individuals in the field.
Pied Piper Award Committee
Advertises, collects submissions, and selects a winning library from submissions of library programming/marketing excellence.

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

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.
Conference planners look for presenters far in advance of the conference and seek out room monitors closer to conference dates.

The Librarians Who Will Not Be Quiet
A message to the membership, from Chinasa Seyse, 2nd VP/Membership

If you are like me, being a youth services librarian requires speaking up for your library children, especially your teens. Whether you work in a rural, suburban, or urban library setting, the call to advocate for a safe/accepting place rings loud and true. In the current cultural climate, the discourse is on who is permitted to receive services and who should be excluded. I am proud to one of 6,202 members of NYLA and 764 YSS members who, among other roles and responsibilities, take up being the voice of the younger generation in their community. If you are among us but do not see yourself as a spokesperson or advocate, resolve for this to be the year to get your feet wet.

Perhaps you participated in Advocacy Day on February 28th. Perhaps you didn’t/couldn’t personally attend. The beauty of our membership is that we support all library priorities as a single unit. As the year progresses, there will be more opportunities to be present and be heard. Coming up are school and library votes, summer reading programs, conferences, conferences, and more conferences!

As your elected member representative, I ask you to reach out to me with your concerns and ideas. Most importantly, I hope that you contact me to ask, “How can I help my colleagues and my local library efforts so that I can better support and be a role model to the children and families I serve?” If you are thinking that you are too far from the epicenter of action in the Capital Region, or that your contribution will not have an impact, I encourage you to challenge that notion and fill out the YSS online active member form. Together we can continue to support each other through continuing education, advancement in leadership, and unity in mission.
The Savvy Advocate:
Libraries, Drama, and the Importance of Showing Up
by Mary Fellows, YSS Legislative Committee Liaison

Maybe it’s me, but the calls for advocacy on issues across our modern life seem more insistent these days. Gun control, women’s rights, social justice for people of color, and climate change all loom large in my daily thoughts and decisions about where I spend my civic energy and disposable income. Why? In part because these issues are in the news every day.

Library funding is not seen by the media as an issue that deserves daily news coverage. Drama compels and sells, and the direct result of deficient library funding is not dramatic. Or is it? Instead, perhaps it’s that the unexpected or emotional results are not immediate. There are no photo ops. The negative impact of inadequate library service, especially for youth, spins out over a lifetime in sequential defeats and meager opportunities. It’s often hard to dramatize these outcomes to capture the attention of funders and the public.

Yet we know how the library makes people’s lives better every single day. We see it, and we hear the stories. That’s why we need to speak out and show up – with our bodies, our minds, our networks, and our money – for libraries. We need to cut through the clamor with the message that libraries are foundational to addressing all of the problems our society faces.

How can you “show up” and be a savvy advocate for libraries?

- **Learn.** Inform yourself about how library funding works in your community and the State. In any group, if you know about the money, you know about the power.
- **Respond.** When NYLA sends out a call for action, take three minutes to email your legislators. Then encourage your friends to do the same.
- **Show up.** Attend Library Advocacy Day in Albany. The size of the crowd matters.
- **Give money.** The NYS library community has a Political Action Committee (PAC). All of the professionals you most respect are supporters. What helps? $10. $20. $200. Anything.
- **Walk the walk.** Advocacy isn’t only a couple of times a year. It isn’t just emails, or just donations, or just trooping around the Capitol on Advocacy Day. It’s all of those thing and more. It’s word-of-mouth-advertising about the value of library in our society. It’s telling the stories we observe and hear– to our friends, to our families, to acquaintances we find ourselves in conversation with - about how libraries make the world better every single day.

This work probably won’t make you a social media sensation, or be covered on the nightly news. That’s all right. Because there behind the dramatic events of the day is real life. And libraries, changing lives. And you, Savvy Advocate, showing up for them.
Empire State Award

The Empire State Award (ESA) is given annually and was first presented in 1990. It 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 that has made a significant contribution to literature for young people. Youth Services librarians throughout the state submit nominations to an awards committee. The committee makes a decision that is then approved by the YSS Executive Board. The 2018 ESA Luncheon will be held on Friday, November 9, at the NYLA conference in Rochester, NY.

Who will be the next author to join the ranks of past ESA winners, including Maurice Sendak, Madeleine L'Engle, Laurie Halse Andersen, Jacqueline Woodson, Steve Sheinkin, and James Howe? **The winner of the 2018 ESA award will be announced at this year’s YSS Spring Conference on Friday, April 13, in Syracuse, NY!**

Any member of the Youth Services Section is eligible to submit a nomination to the ESA Committee Chair. We are currently preparing to accept nominations for the 2020 Empire State Award. After nominations are received, the Committee members will consider the suggestions and check on the qualifications of the nominees. (The decision for the Empire State Award rests with the ESA Committee and is approved by the YSS Executive Board.) We look forward to involvement from our New York Youth Services community and hope to receive your nominations of worthy authors and illustrators for the 2020 Empire State Award!

To learn more about past winners, visit the ESA page of the YSS website.

**Past Empire State Award Winners:**

- 2017: James Howe  
  (pictured below, left, with his husband, Mark Davis)
- 2016: Steve Sheinkin
- 2015: Vivian Vande Velde
- 2014: Jacqueline Woodson
- 2013: Laurie Halse Andersen
- 2012 - Bruce Coville
- 2011 - Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- 2010 - Cynthia DeFelice
- 2009 - Linda Sue Park
- 2008 - Rafe Martin
- 2007 - Joseph Bruchac
- 2006 - Donald Crews
- 2005 - M. E. Kerr
- 2004 - Alice Provensen
- 2003 - Seymour Simon
- 2002 - Jerry Pinkney
- 2001 - Jean Fritz
- 2000 - Peter Spier
- 1999 - Vera B. Williams
- 1998 - Jean Craighead George
- 1997 - Richard Peck
- 1996 - Nancy Willard
- 1995 - Ed Young
- 1994 - Paula Fox
- 1993 - Russell Freedman
- 1992 - Leo and Diane Dillon
- 1991 - Madeleine L'Engle
- 1990 - Maurice Sendak
Pied Piper Award

Do you have a program you’re proud of? Here is one way you can get some professional credit and share your refreshing and original idea with your colleagues!

The Pied Piper Award recognizes excellence in the creation of an individual program that (1) promotes service to the young people of New York State Libraries and (2) is able to be replicated at other libraries. Submissions are judged on originality, program implementation, program content, and marketing of said program.

The 2018 winner will be announced at the YSS Spring Conference luncheon, and the 2019 award is already open for entries. YOU could be the next Pied Piper Award winner!

Entries for the 2019 Pied Piper Award must be received by December 1, 2018. All you have to do is send in a description of your program [offered between December 1, 2017 and November 30, 2018] with copies of your promotional materials. The winner receives a $200 bookstore gift certificate, an award certificate, and bragging rights.

For more information on how to enter, and/or to download a submission form, visit the Pied Piper Award page on the Youth Services Section of NYLA website.

Make your library organization proud and enter to win the 2019 Pied Piper Award today!

And don’t forget to take advantage of the archives of previous Pied Piper Award Winners like “1000 Books Before Kindergarten and Baby Bugs Reading Program” submitted by Jennifer Priesser of the Greece Public Library.
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 inservice 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.

**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.

**Deadline:** Friday, May 25, 2018

**Notification:** September 1, 2018

**Amount:** $1,000 plus NYLA full conference registration fee (at the student rate)

For more information about award qualifications and judging criteria, and to download an application, see the [Ann Gibson Scholarship page](#) on the NYLA YSS website.

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**Save the Date for the NYLA Annual Conference**

Join us in Rochester, **November 7th-10th**, for the 2018 NYLA Annual Conference, which will be held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Though much of the conference is still being planned, YSS has already locked in our featured speaker for the YSS Membership Meeting – BOB SHEA!

[Hope to see you there!!!](#)