A Message from the President

Recently I had been doing some digging into the history of YSS. I realized that even though I knew a lot about the workings of YSS I knew nothing of the origins. Thanks to our archivist Lisa Wemett, who provided transcribed notes from hand written pieces of paper dating back to 1908, I am now able to share with you a few highlights along the YSS timeline.

Members in 1908 saw the first NYLA conference that included workshops on Children’s Services. In 1932, a more formal group was created called the Children’s Books & Libraries Committee. But it wasn’t until 1951 that the Children’s & Young People’s Librarians became an official section of NYLA.

There were several incarnations of the name after that including Children’s & Young Adult Services Section (CYASS) in 1959 and then finally the Youth Services Section in the early 1980’s. Technically speaking, there have been 66 years of official “sectiondom” and over 100 years of youth service professional development and resources being provided to library staff around New York State.

Along the way, in 1984, the Standards for Youth Services in Public Libraries in New York State was published. The first Empire State Award was given to Maurice Sendak in 1990, and the Ann Gibson Scholarship was created in 1991. These are just a few of the many accomplishments that previous Youth Services leaders have brought forth.

Now it is 2017, and after all of these years and milestones, YSS has one more to add to the list – an official mascot. Yancey the Yak was introduced at the Spring Conference this past April. Yancey’s story begins with YSS treasurer Pat Connor, suggesting to Past President Mary Jo Smith that YSS should have a mascot considering we represent children’s library services and staff. After much discussion the board felt that the yak was an appropriate animal to represent our section and the alliteration only enhanced the idea.

Web Liaison, Cathy Brenner suggested illustrator, Matt Myers to create the artwork. Mr. Myers had created a collection of children’s books revolving around a Musk Ox with an overall design of what we were looking for. He was then contacted by
Mary Jo and asked if he could create the Yak for YSS. Yancey became an immediate favorite of the board and was voted as the new mascot in January of this year. So Yak about Yancey and Youth Services the next time you are on our Facebook page or other media and look for Yancey at the NYLA conference in November!

Christina Ryan-Linder
YSS President

NYLA & YSS Elections

Don’t forget to vote in the upcoming NYLA and YSS Elections at www.nyla.org

Log in to your account, and then select “Voting – Polls/Elections” from the Member Options in the left column menu. (Circled in red on the image below.)

Want to learn more about the candidates before you cast your vote?

Don’t forget to check out the YSS Candidate Profiles at the end of this newsletter!
YSS Marketing Committee Update

The new YSS Marketing Committee has been hard at work writing a set of committee guidelines. Since this is a new committee, we are working to provide guiding principles for the work that the current and future committees will do.

In addition to writing the new guidelines, the other main activity of the Marketing Committee is updating the YSS social media pages. Look for fun and useful content from YSS in your Facebook and Twitter feeds Monday through Friday.

We are also working on generating content for the YSS Pinterest page. If you have a great STEAM programming idea, please send it to Tara Morris: tmorris@rcls.org. She will be collecting ideas to post to Pinterest, with the goal that the YSS Pinterest page will be a one-stop-shop for great STEAM programming ideas.

If you have feedback for the Marketing Committee, don’t hesitate to contact Amy Holland, 2017 Marketing Committee chair: amy.holland@libraryweb.org.

Follow YSS so you won’t have to worry about missing out on great articles like this:

Become an Active Member of YSS!

People who are interested in volunteering in ANY capacity should check out the “Get Involved” page of our website. This page gives more information about the board and committee positions, but not all volunteering requires a long-term commitment... Sometimes – like for the upcoming NYLA Annual Conference – we just need room monitors.

Fill out the online Active Member form today!
Student Member Profiles
by 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair Lisa Neuman

Kristen Thornton-DeStafeno (Hyde Park, NY) joined through the ALA-NYLA joint student membership while studying at the University at Albany. She graduated on May 19th and was planning on pursuing a career in Youth Services, but recently accepted a position at the White Plains Public Library where she’ll be handling marketing and communication for the entire library, providing adult services and programming. Congratulations Kristen!

While at UAlbany Kristen’s favorite class was Young Adult Literature – which was taught by Past YSS President Joyce Laiosa, who gave a diverse reading list and provided students with excellent resources. Kristen said, “I also enjoyed our various opportunities to record and share booktalks.”

While at UAlbany, Kristen taught a workshop on Introduction to Resource Databases at the Dewey Graduate Library and received great feedback from the students who took it. The last book Kristen read for fun was Double Exposure by Bridget Birdsall and her favorite book to recommend to library patrons looking for a good book is Labyrinth Lost by Zoraida Córdova.

Molly Pocrass (New Hempstead, NY) is attending school at Drexel University, through an online program, and plans to finish in June 2018. She chose the ALA-NYLA joint student membership because she lives in NY and selected YSS as her section because she felt we would be helpful in her professional growth as a children’s librarian. Molly says her favorite class so far was Introduction to Reference Services, “because that was always the most ‘mystical’ aspect of librarianship to me. Unpacking it has been fascinating.”

Although she has not done a formal internship yet, as she only started her program in April, Molly did enjoy her two years of undergraduate work-study in the Hedi Steinberg Library of Yeshiva University, her alma mater. The most recent book Molly really had fun reading was Words of Radiance by Brandon Sanderson.

When she is a youth services librarian she can’t wait to recommend The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster. In her opinion, “It has such great wordplay, and many twists and turns.”
Georgina Rivas-Martinez (Freeport, NY) just graduated in May from LIU Post (in Brookville, NY) which houses the Palmer Library School. She enjoyed her time as a student at Palmer, learned much from her professors, and had an “amazing” internship at the Port Washington Public Library. The class she enjoyed the most at Palmer was Serving Diverse Populations. Georgina says, “As a minority, I think that it’s important for librarians to understand the importance of serving diverse populations. It was a great class as my professor really focused on different populations and the services that can be provided for them. I really learned a lot in this class and I think that library school programs should really incorporate this into their core coursework.”

Georgina chose YSS as her section because, as a Librarian Trainee based in Youth Services at the Freeport Memorial and South Huntington Public Libraries, she believed that it was a great way to get informed of trends and to keep up with youth services literature and programing.

Georgina is open to the idea of working in a Youth Services department, but her focus at this point is working with Adults in an ESOL department or in a local history department. As a librarian trainee at two libraries Georgina has a lot of programming experience; she has done STEM storytimes, celebrated Día de Los Niños with kids and teens and developed a bilingual storytime too.

The last book she read for fun was The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon. Georgina says, “This was a fantastic book, as Nicola Yoon is an amazing Young Adult Diverse Author.” Her favorite book to suggest to patrons is Mango Abulela y Yo (Bilingual Edition) by Meg Medina. She loves to suggest this book because it really emphasizes the important of language learning, and it’s such a heartwarming tale.
2017 YSS Spring Conference Summary

On Friday, April 28, 2017, the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association presented their Annual Spring Conference, Out of the Box, chaired by the Finger Lakes Library System’s Member Services Librarian, Amanda Schiavulli, across three locations in Downtown Ithaca: The State Theatre of Ithaca, Cinemapolis and the Tompkins County Public Library.

Over 200 conference attendees, vendors and presenters enjoyed a BEAUTIFUL day of walking through the Ithaca Commons, comfortable theater seating at breakout sessions, and an after-party.

The 2017 Service Project, Books and Backpacks, was a success! We received 204 books to distribute to local Backpack Programs.

The event was catered by GreenStar Catering, who offered a wide selection of breakfast and lunch options.

The Downtown Ithaca Alliance made it possible for the conference committee to connect with the venues and local businesses for the complete Out of the Box experience.

Be sure to check out the conference follow-up website for electronic copies of presenters’ handouts and presentations!

http://www.flls.org/2017-nyla-yss-spring-conference-followup/

2017 YSS Planning Committee
From Left to Right: Kate DeVoe, Sandy Groth, Annette Birdsall, Sarah O’Shea, Tammy Sickmon, Madelyn Lombardo, Lisa Semenza, Tara Montoney, Diane Pamel, Amanda Schiavulli
The 2017 3 Apples Book Award Winners are:

The Young Reader Category: The Book With No Pictures by B.J. Novak
Children’s Category: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
Teen Category: The Fault in our Stars by John Green

The Three Apples Award is a joint award of the two youth divisions of the NY Library Association: the Section of School Librarians (SSL) and the Youth Services Section (YSS).
For more information, including previous winners, check out the Three Apples Award website.

The 2017 Empire State Award Winner is James Howe!

The Youth Services Section (YSS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) is excited to announce that the winner of the 2017 Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People is James Howe.

Mr. Howe will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, November 10, 2017 during the Association’s annual conference in Saratoga Springs, NY.

James Howe is a resident of Yonkers, NY and a multi-award-winning author of over ninety books for children and young adults. He is most known for Bunnicula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery, his humorous book about a vampire rabbit that sucks the juice out of vegetables, published in 1979. He received more than ten Children’s Choice Awards for Bunnicula and went on to write six sequels and several spinoff series. The Misfits, published by Howe in 2001, inspired the creation in 2004 of the anti-bullying initiative No Name-Calling Week by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network). In 2006, Howe was honored with GLSEN’s Respect Award. In 2007, he was awarded the E.B. White
Empire State Award Announcement (continued)

Read Aloud Award for his book *Houndsley and Catina*, which was illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay.

The span of ages for which Howe writes is wide – ranging from preschool-age through teenage years. Though primarily a writer of fiction, Howe is also known for several works of nonfiction, including *The Hospital Book*, which he wrote following the death of his wife, Deborah Howe, due to cancer. *The Hospital Book* was a finalist for the 1982 National Book Award (then called the American Book Award) as well as the recipient of numerous other honors.

His most recent works include the crossover juvenile and young adult fiction book, *Also Known as Elvis* published in 2014 and picture book, *Big Bob, Little Bob*, illustrated by Laura Ellen Anderson and published in 2016. Upcoming in Fall 2017 is a personal essay entitled "How Miracles Begin" in the young adult anthology about music, *Behind the Song* edited by K. M. Walton. Two more *Houndsley and Catina* books are due out in 2018 and 2019. Mr. Howe is currently working on a memoir and a graphic novel version of *Bunnicula*.

The underlying theme of the majority of Howe’s books is celebrating individuality and accepting difference. He feels strongly that his responsibility to those young readers who feel they do not fit in, is to educate their minds and hearts, provide them with hope, and help them find their voices. He often does this through humor.

First awarded in 1990, the Empire State Award is given to an author and/or illustrator currently residing in New York State to honor a significant body of work in the field of literature for young people. Past recipients of this award include Maurice Sendak, Madeleine L’Engle, Vera Williams, Donald Crews, Jean Craighead George, Jerry Pinkney, Joseph Bruchac, Linda Sue Park, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Bruce Coville, Laurie Halse Anderson, Jacqueline Woodson, Vivian Vande Velde and last year’s honoree, Steve Sheinkin. The Empire State Award committee is pleased to welcome James Howe to this group.

Seeking 2019 Empire State Award Nominations

Any member of the Youth Services Section is eligible to submit a nomination to the ESA Committee Chair. The ESA Committee is currently accepting nominations for the 2019 Empire State Award.

Please send your nominations for the 2019 Empire State Award to ESA Committee Member Joanna Goldfarb by December 1, 2017.

You may also submit nominations online at: surveymonkey.com/r/NYLA-YSS-ESA
And, the 2017 Pied Piper Award Winner is...

Margaux Calemmo of Garden City High School Library!

Her program, “Stress Reduction Station” was a makerspace-inspired program created as an outlet for students to unwind and to approach problem-solving through the lens of creativity. Ms. Calemmo’s program was announced at the 2017 YSS Conference.

The Pied Piper Award is updated for 2018!

One winner will now receive a $200 Barnes & Noble gift card in addition to recognition at the 2018 YSS Conference. The award purpose has also been updated and clarified:

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

Programs produced between December 1, 2016, and November 30, 2017, are eligible for the 2018 Pied Piper Award.

Since submissions aren’t due until December 1, 2017, there’s still plenty of time to dream up a program for this year’s award!

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

(Submissions are accepted by mail and email.)

*Please note a correction on the submission forms handed out at the conference:  
Jessica Gordon’s email should be jgordon@rcls.org*
NYLA Annual Conference 2017: “Choose Your Own Adventure”
Saratoga Springs, NY ~ November 8th-11th

WEDNESDAY MORNING:
YSS will be hosting a 9:30am-12:30pm CE about working with GLBTQ youth, presented by Lyndon Cudlitz

WEDNESDAY EVENING:
After you’ve attended the CE, or as you arrive for conference...
Join us in the Wine Room at Jacob & Anthony’s from 8-11pm for food, fun, and friends at the first annual YSS/Ann Gibson Reception!

THURSDAY:
11:30am
YSS Membership Meeting
Featuring Todd Strasser

4:15pm
Beyond Bilingual, Making ELL-Friendly Storytimes
Rachel Payne, Jessica Ralli, & Eva Raison

FRIDAY:
9:00am
YS Sustainability, Growing Our Own
Rebekkah Smith Aldrich & Lisa Kropp

11:00am
NYS Battle of the Books (panel)
Liz Anastasi, Randall Enos, Kathy Galvin, & Derek Ivie

12:30pm
ESA Luncheon
Honoring James Howe

4:15pm
Best Practices for Youth Councils and Teen Leadership
Karen Keys & Erin Shaw

SATURDAY:
10:45am
YSS Table Talks*
Topics will include:
• 2018 SPR Crafts
• ASL Programs for Infants through Teens
• Building Educational Partnerships through Public Library Archives
• New Ways to Look at Summer Reading
• Plays at the Library
• A Read Aloud as a Partnership Building Tool
• SCRAWL Publish Your Teens
• See You at the Prom: Planning a Dance with Your Teens

* Table Talks last about 15 minutes and are repeated so that attendees are able to see three different Table Talks during that session!

We hope you’ll join us for #NYLA2017 — the #BestConferenceEver!
YSS Candidate Profiles

There are three positions in the YSS Board that will be filled in the 2017 election – 1st Vice President/President-Elect, 2nd Vice President/Membership, and 1st Year Director.

Please take a few moments to read the candidate profiles on the following pages so that you can get to know each of the candidates a little better. Included with each profile is a picture, since you’ve probably seen these people around even if you didn’t yet know their names!

YSS Candidate Profile – Rebecca Verhayden Darling

Candidate for 1st VP/President-Elect

Present Position:
Head of Youth Services, Librarian II at the Town of Ballston Community Library (full time) July 2015 - Present

Prior Professional Experience:
Youth Services Librarian, Librarian I at the Town of Ballston Community Library (full time) January 2008 – July 2015

Education:
SUNY Albany, MSIS: Information Studies (December 2007)
Saint Bonaventure University, BA: English (May 2006)
Study Abroad: Summerville College, Oxford University (2005)

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
YSS Conference Planner 2015-2016
Booth Chair NYLA New Members Engagement Subcommittee 2011-2012
Vice President of Student Chapter of ALA/NYLA SUNY Albany Branch 2006-2007
Member NYLA/YSS 2006-2017
Member ALA/YALSA 2006-2013

Position Statement:
I feel so blessed to be able to work every day with children. My position allows me to work with kids of all ages; it’s not unusual to start my day with a baby story time and end it at a teen book club. There’s nothing I love more than finding the right book for the right child. Through the conference planning process I had the opportunity to meet librarians from all over New York State and learn about the wonderful programs and resources they provide. I look forward to working with YSS to share ideas and bring services to children.
YSS Candidate Profile – Lisa Neuman
Candidate for 1st VP/President-Elect

Present Position:
Head of Youth Services – Albany Public Library, Washington Ave Branch, Albany NY

Prior Professional Experience:
Branch Librarian – Albany Public Library, Delaware Ave.
Branch, Albany NY
Youth Services Librarian – STEM Outreach Programing – Albany Public Library (all branches)
Public Service Librarian – Guilderland Public Library, Guilderland NY (Part-time)
Youth Services Librarian – Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar NY (Part-time)
Library Assistant – Albany Public Library – Washington Ave. Branch (Part-time)
Assistant Library Manager – Youth Services – Menands Public Library – Menands, NY

Education:
SUNY University at Albany, Master of Science Information Science
SUNY University at Albany, Bachelors of Arts - History
Columbia Greene Community College, Associates Applied Sciences

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
NYLA YSS – 2nd Vice President Membership 2015 - present
NYLA YSS, LAMS, PLS member 2005 - present
Student Chapter ALA-NYLA joint membership, University at Albany; chapter secretary, webmaster and Graduate Student Organization Representative 2010 to 2012

Other Notable Volunteer Involvement:
Menands School PTA - Past Membership Chairperson: Increased membership 35%, other positions included President of the Association, Chairperson – Family Literacy Nights and By-Law Review Committee

Position Statement:
I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the YSS board; learning how the board functions, how much hard work all the members put in, and reaching out to many members though email to help them become more involved in NYLA and YSS. As the 1st Vice President – President Elect I would bring my creativity, enthusiasm, determination, and sense of fun to continue the board’s work on growing NYLA-YSS, our important advocacy efforts and helping the membership find and attend the professional development they need to succeed in our ever changing field.
YSS Candidate Profile – Chinasa Izeogu Seyse
Candidate for 2nd VP/Membership

Present Position:
Librarian II: Youth Services Librarian, Schenectady Public Library (Full-Time)

Prior Professional Experience:
Librarian I: Branch Librarian (Adult and Youth Services)
Albany Public Library (Full-Time)

Education:
MLS Degree, SUNY Albany, Graduate School of Information Science, Public Librarian Certificate
BA, English Writing; minor in Global Studies and Music, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
2015-2017 Pied Piper Committee
2016 committee chair achievement - updated the Pied Piper artwork
2016 YSS Conference Committee Member - Finding Your Stride, Albany, NY
Conference day social media coverage and photography; other duties as assigned.
2015 Leadership and Management Academy (Admitted)
Member NYLA/YSS (Dec. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2017)
Member NYLA/NMRT (Dec. 1, 2010-Nov. 30, 2011)
Member YSS Member ALA/YALSA (Sept. 2009 - Nov. 30, 2016)

Position Statement:
Serving my community and my colleagues has been a part of who I am since I was a child. From providing tours at my high school and undergraduate college to serving as class reporter, I have always known that keeping active is the best way to establish life-long connections and contribute to a larger purpose. I would like to contribute my energy to YSS and invite, retain and persuade our colleagues to take part in our annual activities. Our voice and our stance as a whole is formidable in the face of challenges facing libraries today. For the greater good of our profession and the constituents we serve in New York State, I promise to work with the Board to reach our membership goals during my term.

Editor’s note:
Though Pete the Cat is featured in this candidate’s picture, Pete the Cat has not officially endorsed any of the NYLA YSS candidates. When asked for comment, Pete the Cat said, “Books and reading are groovy!”
YSS Candidate Profile – Kimberly Zettwoch
Candidate for 2nd VP/Membership

Present Position:
Head of Children’s Services, Port Jefferson Free Library, Port Jefferson, NY

Prior Professional Experience:
Head of Adult and Young Adult Services, Hampton Library in Bridgehampton, Bridgehampton, NY
Project Manager, Jasco/MG Concepts, Central Islip NY
Kindergarten Teacher, William Floyd School District, Mastic Beach, NY

Education:
Public Library Administrators Certificate (Currently Enrolled), Long Island University CW Post Campus
Masters in Library and Information Science with dual concentration in Youth Services and Library & Information Services, Drexel University iSchool, Philadelphia, PA
Masters in Liberal Studies with concentration in Education, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
Bachelors in Child Study with minor in Psychology, St. Joseph’s College, Patchogue, NY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Member of CLASC, Children’s Library Association of Suffolk County, Current Corresponding Secretary in Charge of Membership
Member of NYLA/YSS/LAMS, current
YSS 2014 – 2016 Empire State Award Committee, Chaired the committee for the 25th Anniversary (2016)
YSS 2014 Spring Conference Planning Committee and Presenter
SCLA 2014 Community Services Committee Chair
Previous Member of SCLA/YASD/RASD, previous (VP, President, Past President)
Previous Member of ALA/YALSA, previous

Position Statement:
Since becoming a Librarian, I have always been an active member of Librarian Associations, county, state and country wide. With a background in education, I believe in the importance of remaining a lifelong learner, no matter what field you work in. With the rapidly changing role of the modern librarian, staying educated on current trends and practices in youth services, is more critical than ever. Library organizations like YSS offer many professional development opportunities to its members. If elected to serve on the Executive Board, I look forwarding to sharing my dedication to our profession and education to help provide innovative and informative programming to the members of YSS.
YSS Candidate Profile — Angela Newman
Candidate for 1st Year Director*

Present Position:
Youth Services and Outreach Consultant, North Country Library System, Watertown, NY

Prior Professional Experience:
Children’s Librarian, Tredyffrin Public Library, Strafford, PA
Library Assistant, Haverford Township Free Library, Havertown, PA (Part-time)

Education:
Drexel University, MSLIS, with a concentration in Youth Services, Philadelphia, PA
York College of Pennsylvania, BA in English, York, PA

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Member of the 2015 Sibert Committee (ALSC)
Member of NYLA, YSS since 2013

Position Statement:
By investing in youth services, we are investing in the future of libraries. With every engaging program, every shared resource, every community partnership, librarians who work with children, teens, and families are helping to create an environment that values learning. Knowing that we can rely on the collective experience and moral support of our peers and mentors is critical to our success in doing so. Providing the resources and support that libraries need to build strong youth services programs is a significant part of my role at the public library system, and contributing professionally to an organization with the same goal would be an honor and a joy.

* Angela will be running unopposed in this election because the other candidate for 1st Year Director had to step down at this time.

Now that you’ve studied up on the candidates...
Don’t forget to vote!