## A Message from the President

Our YSS Spring Conference “New York Libraries are for Everyone” held in Syracuse, NY on Friday, April 13, 2018, was a dynamic day of professional development and engaging speakers. The Past President’s Dinner, the evening before, hosted many presidents who shared their contributions in making YSS what it is today. It was a fun history lesson on how different committees and initiatives have evolved in our section over the past thirty to forty years. The Past President’s Dinner also boasted a silent auction of enticing raffle baskets whose proceeds went to our Ann Gibson Scholarship fund. This second fundraiser for the scholarship was on the heels of a successful fundraiser this past fall at NYLA annual in Saratoga Springs.

May 2018 brought our first YSS webinar entitled *Beyond Bilingual: Making Storytimes ELL-Friendly*. Carol Geary, our CE Liaison, worked to roll out a webinar that was timely to our changing communities and how to engage families of all ethnicities. Participants who attended the webinar learned strategies from Brooklyn Public Library’s Rachel Payne, Jessica Ralli, and Eva Raison on how to make user-friendly storytimes for English Language Learner families. They learned how to incorporate visual schedules, simple props, translated resources and Plain Language into storytimes, and how to use multilingual content to enhance programming. In early fall 2018, we will be hosting our second YSS webinar on a topic for teen and tween librarians. If you have an idea for this webinar or know a good presenter for a topic, please feel free to share this with myself and our CE Liaison.

Registration for our YSS Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership Academy is underway and you can view the course outline online on [NYLA’s Career Resources page](http://www.nyla.org) under Continuing Education. This academy is a 7-month program designed for Youth Service providers who are interested in developing their leadership skills for personal and professional advancement. The academy will consist of three full day in-person workshops, four live webinars, and 24 hours of...
continuing education. There are two (2) scholarships available for the first year. The awarded scholarships will cover the cost of tuition only. Applicants must be members of NYLA/YSS and be a current employee of a school or public library in New York State. For details on how to apply for the scholarships, see the bottom section of the academy outline on the NYLA website. Applications are due no later than June 30, 2018.

Over the course of this summer, YSS will also be putting out a survey to ascertain the interest level of a state-wide Battle of the Books initiative. We will be looking for feedback from both school and public librarians on this joint venture with SSL. If you receive this survey, we encourage you to take part in sharing your thoughts. This would in no way take away from those who already have a Battle fully established, but our hope is that a state-wide sanctioned Battle would allow others who need the support to be able to participate in a Battle competition. The survey will allow us to know if this would be a valuable venture to endorse and create.

In other news, we will be creating a joint Advocacy Task Force to explore avenues for YSS and SSL to collaborate in advocacy for the value of robust library service for youth, which includes supporting and promoting the merit of both school librarians and public youth services librarians. YSS Legislative Liaison, Mary Fellows, and SSL President, Penny Sweeney, are currently working to identify members for this task force, which we hope to have off the ground by the end of summer 2018. Task force members will work on crowd-sourcing membership of relevant sections for collaborative advocacy ideas, interviewing NYLA leadership about collaborative advocacy opportunities they see, creating a list of possible collaborative advocacy activities, and recommending to both boards options for next steps, including the desirability of a joint YSS/SSL Advocacy committee, new task force, or other method to implement joint advocacy initiatives.

As YSS and its committees work hard to bring more professional development and benefits to your membership, we encourage our members to give us feedback and become involved in our initiatives. If you have something to share from your libraries, contact our Marketing Committee, tell us what YSS can be doing for you as a member, and/or fill out an active member form to be a part of making a difference in our profession.

I hope everyone enjoys their Summer season!
Laura Panter
YSS President
The Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership Academy

This seven month professional development course will begin in October 2018 and includes seven workshops and webinars with the final session to be held at next year’s YSS conference.

Course subjects include:

Attendees will come away with advocacy, leadership, financial management and career advancement information along with wonderful networking contacts and will receive 24 hours of CE credit for their involvement. Visit the Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership Academy page of the NYLA website for more information about this exciting opportunity for all Youth Service Professionals.

To kick off the first year of the academy, YSS will be offering two scholarships to cover the price of tuition for two (2) YSS members! The scholarship deadline is June 30, 2018 and all the information you will need to qualify will be found on the NYLA website.

YSS is also pleased to announce that one of the scholarships will be named for the late Stephanie Squicciarini. This scholarship is aptly named, as Stephanie was quite a leader in NY State and in the field of librarianship. Stephanie was the Teen Services Librarian at the Fairport Public Library for 17 years, she was a 2008 Library Journal Mover and Shaker, she was a past YSS Treasurer, and she was most widely known for being the Founder of the Rochester Teen Book Festival. Stephanie was an amazing leader and advocate and embodied the idea of empowerment in a youth service professional. The YSS Board is proud to put forth this Leadership opportunity and this scholarship in honor of Stephanie Squicciarini.

Register Online!
The Leadership of Stephanie Curcio Squicciarini: A Tribute

by Lisa C. Wemett, YSS Past President

Stephanie Squicciarini, MLS, became a shining star in the field of teen services through her involvement in Professional associations and as the Founder and President of the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival (TBF). For seventeen years, Stephanie was the Teen Services Librarian at the Fairport (NY) Public Library. Stephanie’s position was the first fulltime young adult specialist at this suburban library. Her name was at the end of reviews in Kliatt and School Library Journal. She loved her work, sharing the joy of reading with teens, and in turn, inspired her peers to also provide outstanding library services to adolescents.

Stephanie’s vision and tireless dedication brought a teen book festival featuring nationally-recognized authors to the Rochester region. But TBF had a much farther reach, as participants came from across New York State to attend, year after year. In 2017, over 2000 teens and adults got to know 27 authors in small-group breakout sessions.

Before choosing librarianship as her second profession, Stephanie held senior management positions in the retail industry for nine years, for Nine West, Eddie Bauer, and GAP Kids. She considered herself a “recovering retail manager.” So you can imagine she had “mad skills” in supervision of personnel, customer service, and merchandising before she entered “Libraryland!”

People say I brought Stephanie into teen services. But I didn’t “discover” her. She sent me an e-mail wanting to discuss an internship at Webster Public Library while she was in library school at the University of Buffalo. She was leaning toward specializing in teen services and wanted to explore that. We made a great team and I thoroughly relished being her mentor. I was able to guide her to apply for the opening for Teen Services Librarian at Fairport Public Library and prouder still when she got her first professional job in librarianship. And the rest is history.

In the seven years following the receipt of her MLS, Stephanie became totally involved in her profession, volunteering for the Youth Services Section (YSS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) and the Young Adult Library Services Association of the American Library Association (YALSA). She was elected Treasurer for the Youth Services Section (YSS/NYLA) (2005-2007) and also concurrently worked on the YSS Annual Conference Planning Committee (2001-2006).

Her committee work and achievements with YALSA on a national level encompassed scholarship and author awards and ALA’s Emerging Leaders Program. She was elected to the YALSA Board of Directors and chaired the YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium Task Force. First offered in Nashville in 2008, this national Symposium is now in its tenth year. Stephanie became a YALSA certified “Serving the Underserved” trainer in 2005 and shared her expansive knowledge of teen literature and services at the local, state, and national levels, as a presenter at conferences and area workshops for school faculty.
and generalist library staff. Locally, Stephanie was also a member of the Fairport Library Council, a consortium of special, academic, school, and public libraries, which worked to maintain a cooperative environment for all patrons in the community.

Members of the Teen Book Festival Planning Committee called Stephanie a “legend.” Her energy, optimism, “can-do” attitude, and ebullient personality drew teens to the library. Stephanie modeled the behavior that inspires people to rise to the top, leading the TBF team to offer an outstanding annual event for teens and professionals for thirteen years (2006-2018). Her enthusiasm, strength, and determination to succeed led her peers to wholeheartedly embrace this monumental project year after year, committing to do their personal best. The TBF Planning Committee has pledged to continue Stephanie’s legacy, both for the teens she loved and to honor her memory.

Since her death on March 1, tributes have poured in from all over the country from family members, authors, library patrons, colleagues, and TBF families who returned to the Fest every year. She influenced so many people and had an enormous impact on her community because of her dedication to whatever task came her way. Beginning in 1997, Stephanie and her husband Fred called Irondequoit home. Starting in 2003, Stephanie stepped up to volunteer at her hometown library, serving in a variety of capacities on the Board of Trustees of the Irondequoit Public Library, including Board President. She concluded her term in December 2017. If you’d like to read more about Stephanie and yet another legacy, her campaign for fifteen years to bring her town a 21st century library, see this article from the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle on March 9, “Librarian Stephanie Squicciarini was one of a kind”: [http://on.rocne.ws/2tvhFYv](http://on.rocne.ws/2tvhFYv)

Library Journal named Stephanie a “Mover and Shaker” in 2008 for her work as Founder and Director of TBF. In May 2015, Stephanie was recognized by the Italian American Community Center in Rochester with their “Civic Affairs Award” for her work with the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival and the board of trustees of the Irondequoit Public Library. (Stephanie was one of four Rochester area women of Italian descent who were cited as “Women of the Year” for their accomplishments and service to the community.) Other accolades included a Community Service Award from the President of Nazareth College (2015) and the “Big Pencil Award” from Writers & Books of Rochester, honoring Stephanie’s significant contributions to the Rochester literary community (2010). But no recognition was better than basking in the glow of hundreds of teen fans cheering for their favorite authors at TBF, turning those writers into rock stars.

Leading two nonprofit boards, building community partnerships and strengthening those relationships, managing an annual literary event that celebrates and promotes reading by connecting teens and authors: all these are remarkable accomplishments in the eighteen years Stephanie was a librarian. We were so fortunate to know and work with her.

You can tell a lot by a person’s signature line in their e-mails. Stephanie’s proudly listed her professional memberships in NYLA, YSS, ALA, and YALSA. Knowing the power of marketing, she always included “save the date” for the next Teen Book Festival along with the TBF website. (I think she immediately updated that date when the last school bus pulled out of the parking lot from that year’s Fest!) But her signature also had a quote from the character Jenna in Best Foot Forward by Joan Bauer: “When the going gets tough, the tough get a librarian.” Stephanie was that librarian — one we will not soon forget.
2018 YSS Spring Conference Summary
On Friday, April 13, 2018, the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association presented their Annual Spring Conference – New York Libraries Are For Everyone. It was held at Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center and chaired by Jennifer Burke, Children’s Librarian at Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville.

While the weather outside was typical Central New York dreariness (at least it wasn’t snowing!), inside the hotel, it was all about fun. Over 180 conference attendees, vendors, and presenters enjoyed a delicious breakfast (BACON!) followed by a fantastic keynote by a.k.a. Hafuboti, entitled “Welcome Friends! Creating and Maintaining a Place Where Everyone Feels Especially Welcomed.” Attendees also enjoyed informative workshops throughout the day and a yummy lunch with our speaker, Tamora Pierce, award-winning author of multiple fantasy books for teens.

The 2018 Book Donation Service Project was a big success! We received 189 books which were donated to Upstate Pediatrics and Adolescent Center at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital in Syracuse.

Be sure to check out the conference website for [forthcoming] digital copies of presenters’ handouts and presentations and the YSS Facebook page for more photos of the event. Please tag and share on social media!

Rebecca McCorkindale

BACON!

Tamora Pierce
Congratulations to our YSS Conference Scholarship Winners!
The purpose of the Spring Conference Scholarship Awards is to encourage continuing education in the field of library youth services. The scholarship is designed to cover accommodations and transportation costs to attend the Spring Conference and registration fees are waived.

New Member Spring Conference Scholarship

Valerie Scheg is the recipient of our New Member Spring Conference Scholarship! Here is what Valerie has to say about her life as a youth services librarian:

“I have been a librarian for three and a half years now, but I have loved libraries my whole life! I knew this was where I was meant to be. I love my work in Youth Services, especially when I get to work with Tweens and Teens. My favorite part of my job is helping to lead our Teen Friends and Teen Together groups. Outside of the library I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, failing at Pinterest crafts, fan-girling over YA books, and collecting anything that has a unicorn on it.”

The committee was impressed with Valerie’s involvement with developing a teen area in the library and how hard she works to make teens feel welcome. In addition, she created a "Teens Together" program, which was featured in the June 2017 Library Journal article!

Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship

Mary Jo C. Smith is the recipient of the Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship! Here is what Mary Jo has to say about her life as a children’s services librarian:

“I’ve been a Children’s Services Librarian for almost 36 years, which is a long time for us humans, but a blink of the eye in cosmic terms. Upon graduation from library school, my 23 year old self got a job in Connecticut, which was very lucky in that the libraries where I worked were doing some innovative programming. I have a passion for early childhood learning and literacy experiences, and seeing and doing programs for two year olds (which were a novelty at the time) further ignited the belief that this type of service was one libraries should be providing. When I got my current position, I implemented a lot of programming for under threes. I also began a Books to Babies program, which is a bag with a board book, picture frame magnet, a welcome letter, and many other informational items, that is given to new parents. After hearing about early learning centers in other parts of the country, I was able to oversee the conversion of my story hour room to an Early Learning Center, which is equipped with materials that support the Every Child Ready to Read activities of Playing, Writing, Reading, Singing, and Talking. I thank YSS for the opportunity to attend the Spring Conference, learn new stuff, and hobnob with the best people around: Children’s Services Librarians.”

The committee was impressed by Mary Jo’s outreach work in her community and her ability to bring more children and families to the library through her "Books and Babies" program. They were also impressed by her after school program, which she constantly assesses in order to keep providing the best possible services to her community.
Empire State Award Announcement

The Youth Services Section (YSS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) is excited to announce that the winner of the 2018 Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People is Ann M. Martin. Ms. Martin will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, November 9, 2018 during the Association’s annual conference in Rochester, NY.

Ms. Martin lives in the Hudson Valley with her two cats, Simon and Pippin. She is an award winning author of hundreds of books for young readers.

Martin is most known for *The Baby-Sitters Club* books, a series about four girls in the fictional town of Stonybrook who run a babysitting service. The popularity of the original series led to several spinoffs, including *Baby-Sitters Little Sister*, *Baby-Sitters Club Super Special*, and *Baby-Sitters Club Mysteries*. *The Baby-Sitters Club* popularity has continued since it was first published in 1986, and is currently being adapted into graphic novels by Graphix.

Ms. Martin has written many novels and series’ beyond BSC, as well. Among her many novels for middle grade readers are the 2002 Newbery honor book *A Corner of the Universe*, and the New York Times best seller, *Rain Reign*.

Among her many other awards are a 1991 Young Reader’s choice Award for *Ten Kids, No Pets*, the New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association Award for *A Corner of the Universe*, the 2004 Massachusetts Children’s Book Award, Children’s Book Award Honor, and the 2005 Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award, all for *The Doll People*, the 2007 Charlie Simon Children’s Book Award, the 2007 Land of Enchantment Book Award, Young Adult, and the 2008 William Allen White Children’s Book Award, for *A Dog’s Life*, and the Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children, Children’s Book Committee Award, and Schneider Family Book Award, all in 2015 for *Rain Reign*.

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, Jerry Pinkney, Linda Sue Park, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Bruce Coville, Laurie Halse Anderson, Jacqueline Woodson, Vivian Vande Velde, Steve Sheinkin, and last year’s honoree, James Howe. The Empire State Award committee is pleased to welcome Ann M. Martin to this group.

**Seeking 2020 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 2020 Empire State Award. Please send your nominations for the 2020 Empire State Award to ESA Committee Member Mallory Marinaro by December 1, 2018. You may also submit nominations online at: surveymonkey.com/r/NYLA-YSS-ESA
Pied Piper Award

The 2018 Pied Piper Award was presented at the 2018 Annual YSS Spring Conference by committee member Ann-Marie Helldorfer. The winner of the award was Sarah Northshield of the Pearl River Public Library, for her Codergarten program. Sarah was presented with a $200 Barnes and Noble gift card and a certificate of accomplishment.

For more information about Codergarten [and previous Pied Piper Award winners], check out the Pied Piper Award page on the Youth Services Section of NYLA website.

The Pied Piper Award recognizes exceptional Youth Services programming in New York State for the previous year. If you or someone you know has run an outstanding program for the youth in your community this year, you should enter for consideration for the 2019 Pied Piper Award! Candidates must be YSS members to receive this award. Programs must have taken place between December 1, 2017 and November 30, 2018.

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

Jessica Gordon
Pied Piper Committee Chair
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Follow the YSS Marketing Committee!

Get ready for Summer and follow the YSS Marketing Committee on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter. See all the great articles, tips, ideas, and more that are being posted every day. Please send any ideas for content you would like to see to Tara Morris at tmorris@rcls.org, Amy Holland at Amy.Holland@libraryweb.org, or to Lindsay Jankovitz at jankovitzl@gmail.com.

The Marketing Committee would like to remind you that the YSS Listserv is a great way to share information and resources. Share your favorite tip for storytime or the Summer Reading Club, or let everyone know about a great program or webinar coming up! To subscribe to the listserv, log into the Online Membership Center, using your personal login and password.

To send a message to the YSS Listserv, simply send an email to nyla-yss@list.nyla.org (from the email address to which you are subscribed to receive YSS listserv emails).
Here is a sneak peek at the awesome stuff YSS has planned for you:

The Brew House

Table Talks

Hope to see you there!
YSS Member Spotlight: Joelle Adler

What has been the most rewarding part of your job?
I love many things about working at my library (Castleton Public Library), but it's always really rewarding when a program I plan and run gives someone a good memory. I love it when a child recognizes me and is enthusiastic about something we did together, like reading the book Chicken Storytime at a storytime or making emoji pillows. I'm always looking for new activities that will get children excited to visit the library!

What is the craziest/cutest/weirdest response you have received from a child?
So many interesting things happen with children at the library that it's hard to pick out just one example! One of my favorite, sweetest moments was between two toddlers who both come to storytime regularly. One of the boys was already there, and when the other boy arrived just before storytime started and they saw each other, they each had the biggest smiles on their faces. I love to see their friendship develop as they get older. One boy calls the other "baby" even though they are about the same age!

What would you say is a librarian “superpower” you rely on everyday?
My librarian "superpower" is definitely being adaptable. One of the things I like the most about working at a library is that every day is different, but that also means being ready for the unexpected. Having a good attitude about plans changing is key for me. I have also found myself learning skills that I never expected to need, and always being ready to learn more about something new.

What will is your go to book to recommend to a child, a tween or teen?
Some of my favorite books to recommend to tweens are "Awkward" and "Brave," graphic novels by Svetlana Chmakova that are set in the same middle school. These novels show common middle school problems in ways that are relatable, entertaining and frequently thought-provoking. It can be hard to find a book that tweens are really excited to read. "Awkward" and "Brave" are absolutely perfect for tweens, and are engaging for both avid readers and reluctant readers.

If speaking to a new parent about an early literacy class (storytime, play, music), what would be one point you would want them to take away from the interaction?
When talking to new parents at storytime, I always want to make it clear that even coming to storytime is a great step. Some parents who bring their children to my early literacy storytime are concerned when their children want to run around or play, and are not totally focused on the story. I want parents to know that even when babies or toddlers are not looking directly at the book, they are still listening and taking in the information. Children might not participate in a song, fingerplay, or game when they first start attending storytime, but that doesn't mean they aren't absorbing everything. I make sure to tell parents that it's never too early to read to their child and bring them to storytime.

If you could pick an age to focus on, which would you choose?
I really love working with children of all ages, from babies to children to teens, and I'm very lucky to be able to run all kinds of fun activities for a variety of age groups. If I had to pick one age group, I would choose 3-6 year olds. The 3-6 year old age range is a critical time when children are developing their early literacy skills, beginning school, and learning how to read. There is so much a librarian can do to get these children really enthusiastic about learning! Picture books for children this age are so much fun, and frequently very funny too. I'm also endlessly impressed by how imaginative young children are during crafting time. I love to see what they create!
YSS Board Elections

There are three positions in the YSS Board that will be filled in the 2018 election – 1st Vice President/President-Elect, Treasurer, 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.

**Candidate for YSS 1st Vice President/President-Elect:**
**Amanda Schiavulli** *(running unopposed)*

**Present Position:**
2018-Present: Librarian II Coordinator of Children's and Family Services, Liverpool Public Library (Full Time)

**Prior Professional Experience:**
2012-2018 Member Services Librarians/Education and Outreach Librarian, Finger Lakes Library System, Ithaca, NY
2009-2012 West Orange Public Library: YS Librarian, West Orange, NJ
2007-2009 Cumberland Public Library: Interim YA Librarian and Reference Assistant, Cumberland, RI

**Education:**
MS, Simmons College, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Boston, MA
   Certified K-12 School Library Media Specialist
BS, English/Communications, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

**Professional Activities and Affiliations:**
Member NYLA/YSS 2012-present
   (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Director/2017 Conference Chair, 3 Apples Committee Co-Chair)
Training Cohort for Ready to Read at New York State Libraries 2014-Present
Tully Free Library Board of Trustees, Secretary 2014-2016
Garden State Teen Award Reader, 2011-2012
Member ALA/YALSA, 2011-present
School Library Journal, Reviewer of Media 2010-present
Member NJLA 2009-2012, Program Presenter

**Position Statement:**
When I first became a resident of New York, I never knew that I would be part of such an amazing community of library professionals. After planning the very successful 2017 YSS Spring Conference, I can absolutely say that NY has some of the most enthusiastic and forward thinking librarians I have ever met. Becoming 1st VP/President-Elect will allow me to continue connecting with libraries from around the state while reimagining the YS Department at my new position in Liverpool, NY.

Change is never easy, but always necessary. Sometimes to elicit change, you must be the change. Ask the questions no one wants to ask, push for your beliefs and (try to) have fun doing it! As youth services professionals, we must look at the library of the future for our youngest patrons and their caretakers. Educating caretakers on the importance of library services should be a top priority for libraries. Otherwise, they can easily become a barrier for children to access the library. It is my goal to secure a life-long love of reading and libraries, not only to children, but also to families. I look forward to growing and changing with you for 2020!
YSS Board Elections (continued)

**Candidate for YSS 1st Year Director:**
**Chrissie Morrison** *(running unopposed)*

**Present Positions:**
2017-present: Youth Programmer at Mechanicville District Public Library (part time)
2015-present: Substitute & Storytime Librarian, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library (part time)

**Prior Professional Experience:**
2007-2015: Tween & Teen Librarian at East Greenbush Community Library (full time)
2004-2007: YS Librarian at East Greenbush Community Library (part time)

**Education:**
MSIS, UAlbany, School of Information Science & Policy (Library & Information Services Track)
BS in Elementary Education, Plattsburgh State University College (Major Concentration in Elementary Science, Minor in English)

**Professional Activities and Affiliations:**
Member NYLA/YSS – 2007 to present
   YSS Newsletter Chair – 2015 to present
   YSS Conference Planning Chair – 2011, 2015, 2017
   YSS President-Elect/President/Past President – 2013-2015
   NMRT Awards Chair – 2009
Member NYLA/PLS – 2011 to present
Member NYLA/FLS – 2016 to present

**Position Statement:**
Despite leaving a full-time librarian position in 2015, I still keep myself fairly active in “libraryland.” I am the Youth Programmer at my hometown [Mechanicville District Public] library and I work as both a substitute and storytime librarian at the nearby Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library.

Since I began working in Youth Services, more than 13 years ago, I have done toddler storytimes, teen lock-ins, and pretty much everything in between. I’ve been published and had programs featured in VOYA. I’ve been invited to present programs for NYLA Conferences, YSS Conferences, and other conferences put on by library systems and associations around NY State. I was even contracted to present the Teen SRP workshop series for the state of Missouri!

In addition to presenting workshops, I have been involved in NYLA in many capacities through the years. I have really enjoyed getting to know so many amazingly talented people through NYLA and YSS, and I can’t wait to meet even more of you as I work to plan the 2021 YSS Spring Conference!
YSS Board Elections (continued)

Candidate for YSS Treasurer – Elissa Valente

Present Position:
Librarian I Co-Head of Teen and Youth Services, William K Sanford Town Library, Colonie, NY (full time)

Prior Professional Experience:
Librarian I Teen Services Librarian, William K Sanford Town Library, Colonie, NY
Primary Therapist for the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program at Four Winds Hospital, Saratoga Springs, NY

Education:
MSIS, State University of NY at Albany, Graduate School of Information Sciences, Albany, NY
MA Art Therapy, Vermont College of Norwich University, Graduate School, Montpelier, VT
BA Psychology, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo NY
BA Art, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Corresponding Secretary for HMLA (Hudson Mohawk Library Association)
YSS Spring Conference 2018 Presenter
   (Table Talks: Teens Volunteering Inside and Outside Your Library)
YSS Spring Conference 2016 Committee Member
   (YSS Spring Conference 2016 Registrar)
YSS Spring Conference 2016 Presenter
   (Teen Envisioned + Teen Led = More Teens!)
NYLA Fall Conference 2015 Presenter
   (Granting Wishes for your Tweens and Teens)
NYLA Fall Conference 2014 Presenter
   (Table Talks: Hunger Games After Hours)
Awarded Ann Gibson Scholarship 2014
Awarded YSS Spring Conference Scholarship 2013
Member NYLA/YSS 2012-present
Member ALA/YALSA 2012-2016
   (Awarded the YALSA National Summer Reading Grant 2014)

Position Statement:
Throughout my career I have actively sought ways to further the field of youth and teen librarianship. I am a strong advocate for library services to both youth and teens, and those services need to be both protected and applauded. Libraries provide a community safe zone, valuable resources, endless learning opportunities, and a social meeting point. Joining the YSS board would give me the opportunity to continue to promote library services, while also networking with other professionals to ensure high quality services for our youth and teens.
YSS Board Elections (continued)

Candidate for YSS Treasurer – Colleen Whittall

Present Position:
Librarian I, Teen Services, Saratoga Springs Public Library (full time)
Librarian I, Public Services, Bethlehem Public Library (substitute)

Prior Professional Experience:
Public Services Librarian, Maitland Public Library, Maitland, Florida

Education:
M.S.I.S. University at Albany, SUNY
B.F.A. Binghamton University, SUNY

Professional Activities and Affiliations:
Programming Librarian, blogger, 2017- present
Member ALA/YALSA/PLA 2012-present
Member, NYLA/YSS/PLS 2012- present
Member FLA, Committee on Library Career Development, 2014-2017
Presenter, FLA Annual Conference 2016-2017
Member, League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County

Position Statement:
I am excited to accept the nomination to run for Treasurer, and look forward to the opportunity to serve our association section in a meaningful way. After several years in Florida, I have returned to NY and am Teen Services Librarian at Saratoga Springs Public Library. A first timer to youth services as well as teen services, I am grateful to be part of an association like YSS that connects me to other professionals in my area. Serving as treasurer would be a fantastic way to give back to a group that has provided me with so many opportunities to succeed. If selected as treasurer, I promise to uphold the responsibilities with enthusiasm, maintain a great sense of humor, and to brush up on my excel skills! It would be a pleasure to serve with some of the great minds that make up NYLA’s YSS Executive Board.

Now that you’ve studied up on the candidates...

Don’t forget to vote!
(NYLA Elections run June 15th -July 15th)