A Message From the President

Happy Spring! Or, more accurately in Central New York, Fool’s Spring. This is when the temperature goes from freezing cold in the single digits or 20 degrees and jumps up to 50-60 degrees. The snow begins to melt, you foolishly put your heavy winter coat towards the back of the closet, and then the next day, back to snow and cold temperatures. As I’m writing this, it’s snowing out. Yesterday, it was raining and 60 degrees. Yes...Fool’s Spring. But, I’m optimistic Spring will be here soon, and with it, a sense of new beginnings.

I wanted to give a warm welcome to AnnaLee Dragon, the new Executive Director of NYLA! We look forward to working with you. You can learn more about AnnaLee here.

Speaking of Spring, the next few months provide excellent opportunities for programming or display ideas. Holi, the Festival of Colors, is celebrated in March. Plan a tie-dye activity or blow painting. Ramadan begins on April 2. Make a crescent moon craft or paper lanterns. April is chock-full of celebrations: Celebrate Diversity Month, School Library Month, and National Library Week is April 3-9. It’s also Math Education Month. What stem activities could you offer?

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Consider highlighting your collections with a booklist or posts on your social media. Offer a Take-and-Make Craft or special storytime. Libraries are for everyone, so make sure your community knows you are an advocate for them.

That transitions perfectly into...Library Advocacy Day! Due to the pandemic, we won’t be meeting in person in Albany, but you can still participate. Join #LibraryAdvocates across the state on March 2 from the comfort of your home or office. Share stories with leaders in the Legislature of why
your library is important in your community. Trustees, friends, students and patrons can also lend their voices! You can find more information on NYLA’s website.

Okay, who is playing Wordle? I mentioned in my last article ways I am utilizing self-care, and who knew that a simple word guess game would be on that list? If you haven’t heard of Wordle, it’s a game where you must guess a five-letter word and you get six tries. If your letter is green, it’s in the correct spot. If your letter is yellow, it’s in the word, but not in the correct spot. And if your letters are grey, they aren’t in the word at all. What I love about this game is everyone around the world is guessing the exact same word, and that your commitment to playing is small. You can only play once a day. Also, you must use a web browser; there’s no app to download, which removes another layer of obligation towards being glued to a screen. Whether you are a Wordle-addict or not, I hope you are finding ways to focus on your mental health and relaxation. It’s the simple joys in life that make such a difference in our outlook.

Speaking of joy, I hope I will see you on April 8 in Schenectady for our Annual YSS Spring Conference “May The Odds Be Ever In Your Favor.” Chrissie Morrison, our Spring Conference Director and her committee have worked hard to make this the #bestyssconferenceever. Make plans to join us at the Pre-Conference Reception (formerly known as the Past Presidents’ Dinner) on Thursday, April 7 at Druthers Brewing Company. All are welcome! We’ll have food, fun, and friendly faces! See you there!

Jenny Burke
YSS President
Call for Executive Board Candidates

NYLA's Youth Services Section is looking for Executive Board candidates for the following positions beginning in the Fall of 2022.

1st Vice President/President-Elect:
The 1st VP is in charge of overseeing the work of all the YSS Committees and appoints new people to serve on YSS Committees. During the second year, the 1st VP becomes the President. The President organizes the YSS Board meetings and represents YSS to SSL. The third year of the term is served as Past President. They plan the YSS Past Presidents’ Dinner (night before YSS Spring Conference), gather a slate of candidates to run for YSS offices, and oversee the reports of the liaisons.

Treasurer:
Prepares quarterly financial reports for review and approval by the YSS Board. Prepares and presents an annual financial report to YSS members at the YSS Membership Meeting. Attention to detail, organizational skills, and ability to meet deadlines are important qualities. Good math skills and familiarity with using Excel are helpful; accounting/finance background not required.

2024 Spring Conference Director
Interested in bringing the YSS Spring Conference to your hometown in Spring 2024? This two year position will nominate a committee of no more than ten people to plan and oversee the conference over the span of two years.

NEW: YSS NYLA Council Representative
This new, elected Executive Board position is responsible for attending all NYLA Council Meetings and reporting back to the Executive Board. Candidate must have served YSS in a prior capacity (board, committee, etc.) to assure institutional knowledge. This is a three year term.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please fill out our Active Member Form today: https://form.jotform.com/62577808080159

Questions? Contact Amanda.Schiavulli@gmail.com.
NYLA Annual Conference 2022

Join us in Saratoga Springs November 2nd-5th for the NYLA 2022 Conference: “Back to the Future.” Did you know that Saratoga Springs used to be known as the Queen of Spas? This is due to the city’s naturally carbonated mineral waters. The spring waters are heavily charged with carbon dioxide gas and many vital minerals. According to my research, there are about 21 springs and each spring has diverse characteristics, healing properties and a distinct taste. The springs are rumored to have magic healing powers! This sounds like a good enough reason to go (besides our awesome conference, of course). ANYWAYS...back to NYLA!

Do you love Table Talks as much as I do? Do you have an idea that can be presented in a table talk format? Send me your ideas! Are you wondering what a Table Talk is? Table Talks are 15 minute presentations on a variety of Youth Services topics—such as programming, Summer Reading activities, and more. They cover a range from Early Literacy to Teens. If you have a presentation or program you think would work well as a Table Talk, please email me with your program and library information at sheukrath@nopl.org.

Hope to see you there!
Sarah Heukrath
2022 Fall Conference Curator

YSS Marketing Committee

Be sure to stay up-to-date on all YSS news, announcements, trends, and inspiring topics by following YSS NYLA on social media. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Twitter!

Have an upcoming program you’d like to share? An interesting display or activity you’ve recently done? Tag @YSSNYLA to be featured on one of our social media pages. Photos can also be emailed to committee chair, Jennifer at huntjennifer25@gmail.com (please be sure to have permissions to share the photo!).

Follow YSS on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
Ann Gibson Scholarship Applications Open!

Full or Part-Time graduate students are encouraged to apply for the Ann Gibson Scholarship! You could earn $1,000 in honor of the memory of Ann Gibson, who was a dynamic and dedicated librarian, storyteller, and teacher, and who has had many contributions to the field of youth service librarianship. For more information and instructions to apply, please go to the Ann Gibson Scholarship webpage, or contact the scholarship committee chair, Rickele Bello, at rbello@sals.edu.

**Deadline is May 31, 2022!**

Empire State Award Nominations

The Empire State Award (ESA) has been awarded annually since 1990 and the committee is excited to announce its 2022 winner! The announcement will be made at the YSS Conference on Friday, April 8. The awardee is selected from a pool of nominees from YSS members and the award is presented at the Empire State Award Luncheon at the annual conference.

Can you guess who will win this year's award? This year's winner will be the latest awardee among literature superstars such as last year's winner, Brian Selznick and past winners like Jerry Pinkney, Laurie Halse Anderson, and Jacqueline Woodson. This year's winner is scheduled to speak at the award luncheon on Friday, November 4, 2022 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Any active YSS member can use this form [YSS ESA Nominating Form Survey](#) to nominate a youth author or illustrator currently living in New York State. We value your input and rely on our members to contribute to building an amazing pool of worthy nominations.

If you are interested in seeing a list of all ESA winners or are seeking additional information, please visit the ESA page of the NYLA website at [Empire State Award Winners](#).

Gail Brown, Empire State Award Committee Chair
Interview with YSS member Heidi Jung

Mary Jo: Hi! Tell us your name, where you work, and your position at your library.

Heidi: My name is Heidi Jung. I’m the Teen Services Librarian at the Gates Public Library.

Mary Jo: What do you do as a Teen Services Librarian? What sort of activities do you do?

Heidi: I’m in charge of the Teen collection, fiction, non-fiction, and audio materials. I run Teen and Tween programs, which are for 8-13 age group. Soon I will start doing programming in the Teen area with the group home folks who come up here at least twice a week.

Mary Jo: Cool! I understand you also run a program called Junior Friends. I’d like to hear about that.

Heidi: The Junior Friends were started back in the day by a Teen Librarian Trainee. It’s a spinoff of the Adult Friends group. We do community service with senior centers and nursing homes, help with the book sales, clean books, decorate the library, and help with the end of Summer Reading parties. Sometimes we just have a fun day, when we eat pizza and play Bingo. We have about eight members.

Mary Jo: That’s awesome, and somewhat unique. How long have you been in your position as a Teen Services Librarian?

Heidi: I graduated from library school in 1992, and scooched right into the position after that. I started my library career as a sophomore in high school.

Mary Jo: Tell us about your journey to becoming a librarian.

Heidi: In high school, I was extremely shy. I wanted a part time job, and I thought, “Oh, the library, that’s a nice quiet place, where I can just do my own thing.” I hated the job. Every day I planned to quit. It wasn’t the quiet job I thought it would be, with a lot more interaction with people than I wanted. My grandfather encouraged me to stick it out. I’m glad I did, because I advanced to desk aide, and then to clerk. I finished my Bachelor's degree in Biology and left the library to get a job in my field, but I found I missed the people.

Mary Jo: Those people you didn’t want to interact with in the first place!

Heidi: I was in the lab with a microscope and a dish, and didn’t talk to anybody. The Director who originally hired me for the library job encouraged me to get my library degree. I did, and here I am.

Mary Jo: Recently, you got an accolade we should mention to the readers out there.

Heidi: I was nominated for the I Love My Librarian award, which is given through ALA. It was from a woman who brings her daughter to my Tween programs, and she explained how excited her daughter gets when she comes home with crafts. It was a nice acknowledgement. I’m trying to get this daughter to come out of her shell, because she’s shy, like I was.

Mary Jo: I think that’s how we can affect kids and teens, and a way we can really make a difference. It’s another adult they have a relationship with, which helps them feel the world isn’t as scary as they thought it would be.

Heidi: Years ago, we had teens from the detention center come in. One young man got started reading graphic novels. Every week he’d get the next in the series, or we would put it on hold for him. I haven’t seen him in years, but I hope I made a difference in his life.
Mary Jo: I’m sure you did. Is there anything you’d like to see YSS do to help you in your career, or to be cognizant of in regards to Teen Services?

Heidi: I don’t know how they would help with this, but what boggles my mind is trying to keep track of all the series! I wish there was some magic bullet to help me keep all those series straight.

Mary Jo: Anything else we should mention?

Heidi: I won the Lisa Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship award in 2017. I have a drawing window that teens can write and draw on with washable window markers.

Mary Jo: You also have a magical closet, that supplies OTC medicine and chocolate to your grateful coworkers.

Mary Jo Smith
2nd Vice President, Membership

Need Some Spring and Summer Program Inspiration?

Planning your 2022 programs? Don’t forget to take advantage of all the free, award-winning program templates at the Pied Piper Award archives. You’ll find program descriptions, lesson plans, ready-made activity handouts, and even marketing materials.

And if you’ve got a program coming up that seems like it would be good to share, enter it in the Pied Piper Award competition. A few minutes could win you professional credit, the chance to present your program at a YSS conference, and a $200 prize. Plus you’ll be helping librarians from everywhere in New York to bring innovative new programs to their patrons. YSS members can enter for free!

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. Applicants must be YSS members working in a public library, school library, or library system anywhere in New York State, and they must have created and implemented the program between December 1, 2021 and November 30, 2022. The deadline for entries is December 1, 2022. Submissions are judged on originality, program implementation, program content, and marketing of said program. If two or more staff members cooperated on the same program, at least one must be a YSS member at the time of application.

Visit the archives for programs your patrons will love. Then submit your own program and make your library proud!

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Nelson, Pied Piper Award Committee Chair
Sarah Brown, Third Year Committee Member
Michelle Waldenmaier, First Year Committee Member

Committee Members Needed!
YSS would love YOUR help! If you would like to be involved, meet new people, and help YSS, please consider joining a committee. When you join a committee, you are making a three-year time commitment. You will learn and help out during your 1st year, become committee chair for your 2nd year, and mentor the newer members of the committee during your 3rd year. Terms for this year’s incoming committee members will run from the NYLA Annual Conference 2022 (November 2-5 in Saratoga Springs) through the 2025 NYLA Annual Conference. We have positions available on these committees:

**Fall Conference Curation Committee**
Coordinates/plans the YSS events and workshops for the NYLA Annual Conference.

**Empire State Award Committee**
Selects the ESA winner from YSS member nominations; plans the ESA luncheon for NYLA Annual Conference.

**Pied Piper Award Committee**
Responsible for advertising, collecting submissions, and selecting a winning library from submissions in library programming excellence.

**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.

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

**Youth Advocacy Committee**
Joint committee between SSL and YSS. To evolve a strong and results-oriented partnership in advocacy for the value of robust library service for youth.

If you would like more information or to be considered for one of these positions, email Kim Hazen at no.kim@4cls.org by April 4, 2022. Please include your contact information and the committee (s) in which you are interested. If you’d like to help in other ways, please fill out the YSS Active Membership Form. Please keep in mind: The YSS Board approves committee member nominations annually.

Kim Hazen
1st Vice President

Active Member Form Link: [http://form.jotform.com/625778080159](http://form.jotform.com/625778080159)
Professional Development

Please plan to join in on these upcoming informative events sponsored by the New York State Library! Webinars and Summer Reading Lunch and Learn sessions are now listed on the LibCal calendar: NYS Library Events - OCE Events - OCE (libcal.com)

Links to current event descriptions and registration can be found at:

- Lunch and Learn with Hunger Solutions New York: New & Updated Resources to Connect Patrons with Healthy Food
- Media Literacy, Tech Mentoring, and Peer Learning: Helping Families Help Themselves
- Summer Reading Resources for Younger Readers with Print Disabilities

Additional sessions to be added include 4-H and Library Collaborations on Oceans of Possibilities (scheduled for March 31), and New York State Museum Online Resources to use with Summer Programming in 2022 (scheduled for April 1). Be sure to check the State Library LibCal regularly to see what new offerings and sessions have been added.

Ready to Read at New York Libraries

- DayByDayNY and the Family Literacy Calendar have some NEW resources for families looking to explore all that New York State has to offer. The museum map has been updated for 2022, and a new page of links to NY state events and sites has been added at https://daybydayny.org/explore-ny/
- Did you know that One More Story, which features two different e-books each day, has some new features to help young children who are emerging readers? My Word List is a feature designed to improve reading fluency and allows young readers to tap on words to hear them pronounced and then add those words to a list for review at the end of each book. The Build a Word feature allows readers to choose from common letter groupings, and then add a letter at the front of the grouping to create new words, which can be read out loud. Try out these new features and be sure to promote this free statewide resource to families, day care centers and preschools within your library communities!
- A reminder that the State Library has discontinued the Spanish version of the DayByDayNY site. Please be sure to remove any links to the Spanish site on your web pages or resource documents. The English version of DayByDayNY is not affected by this change.
- SAVE the DATE and PLAN TO ATTEND! A webinar on Media Literacy, Tech Mentoring and Peer Learning is scheduled for March 30. Registration is now open. Find full information at https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/webinars/index.html
- A recent webinar on the inspiring topic of Story Walks® is available to view at https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/webinars/index.html along with a great resource list for any libraries contemplating a Story Walk® project for their local community.

Summer Reading at New York Libraries

Libraries are in full planning mode for Oceans of Possibilities and Summer Reading 2022! Remember that public libraries are allowed to share the online manual access code with local schools to assist with working together on Summer Reading and Learning. Now is the time for public libraries to reach out to schools and school libraries in their region to pro-
mote Summer Reading to students and encourage them to sign up at their local library.

- Summer Reading information and photos and the 2021 participation graph have been updated at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/information.htm](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/information.htm) Thank you to all systems that submitted 2021 Summer Reading photos and anecdotal information. Despite continuing challenges surrounding the pandemic, libraries provided creative and engaging Summer programs for over 1 million kids and teens!

- Check out the updated Summer Reading flyers for 2022 and download them at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/facts.htm](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/facts.htm) to help promote Summer Reading and Learning.

- READsquared refresher training sessions for NY libraries were offered in February and early March. If you were unable to attend a session, find the recorded sessions at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/](https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/) And remember that libraries using READsquared can always get technical help and support by emailing support@r2stg.zohosupport.com. There is also a searchable support knowledgebase that is very helpful for finding answers to common READsquared questions and issues.

- Need help finding interesting library programs for this summer? Don’t forget to search the Performers and Programs statewide database to locate programs and presenters for 2022 Summer Reading: [https://performersandprograms.com/index.html](https://performersandprograms.com/index.html)

- Find additional Summer Reading resources, including updated Collaborative Summer Library Program tutorials at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/resource.htm](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/resource.htm)

- Remember that libraries can be involved in the Summer Meals program by working with local sponsor organizations to provide meals and snacks, by providing outreach materials to library patrons, or by working with schools to bring library activities to food distribution sites. Learn more at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/](https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/)

- Thank you to all library staff who submitted suggestions recently for the 2025 slogan and 2026 theme for CSLP Summer Reading. CSLP will be coordinating national “listening sessions” to get more feedback from libraries and to put together a short list of slogans and themes to be voted on at the annual meeting this fall. Information about the listening sessions will be sent out on the statewide NYLINE list and library staff are encouraged to participate and make their voices heard. Be sure to sign up for NYLINE at [https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/nyline.htm](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/nyline.htm) to stay informed about library-related news and updates in New York State.

Questions about Youth Services programs at the State Library? Email Sharon Phillips at nyslyouth@nysed.gov
Many More NYS Families Can Count on WIC

Good nutrition during pregnancy and in the first years of a child’s life is very important. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutrition information, help with breastfeeding, referrals to other services, and healthy foods. Research has found WIC leads to healthier births, reduced infant mortality and better infant feeding practices. It has also shown that children on WIC have diets that are more nutritious, which helps them do better in school.

WIC can improve lifetime health for women, their infants, and young children, and many families don’t even know they are eligible! Through local providers such as hospitals, local health departments and community-based organizations NYS WIC serves 370,000 participants each month. This is only half of those eligible to participate. WIC welcomes pregnant women, new moms, infants and children up to age 5. Dads, grandparents, and caregivers of children, working families, and non-US citizens can qualify, too.

The fundamental purpose of the program is to ensure the health and well-being of income eligible families with young children. Families that receive Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF automatically qualify. In 2022 a working family of four can have $49,025 yearly income and qualify. Look here for more income guidelines. And remember... an unborn child can be counted as a member of the household.

Shopping with WIC is easier than ever!

Since 2019, WIC benefits are given electronically on an eWIC card—no more paper checks! Parents and caregivers can use their eWIC card just like a debit card at WIC-approved stores. WIC-approved foods can be purchased in more than one shopping trip, and when it works best for families.

Participants should use all of their benefits before they expire on the last day of their 30-day benefit cycle. WIC participants can also download and use the free WIC2Go app on their smartphone. WIC2Go helps participants find WIC-approved stores and WIC clinics, scan foods at the market to see if they are WIC-approved, check their WIC benefit balance, and view their next appointment.

Also, through September 2022, WIC moms and kids each get a boost in the monthly fruits and vegetables benefit portion of their food package – now $24/month/child and $43 or $47/month/mom on their eWIC card to buy favorites and try new ones.

Applying and Participating in WIC is Easier than Ever!

To learn more or apply, families can use WIC’s new 24/7 virtual assistant, Wanda, for an easy 3 minute screening or call the 24/7 Growing Up Healthy Hotline at 1-800-522-5006 and ask for help with WIC. For WIC information, resources, and outreach materials, please visit WICHelpNY.org.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most WIC offices are taking applications and conducting appointments and nutrition counseling over the phone. Families with questions are encouraged to call their local WIC office. WIC staff are here to help.

Libraries Can Help Spread the Word and Connect More Families to WIC

We have made it easy for community partners to help spread the word about the extended benefit increase and remote services to current and potential WIC participants. Visit the WIC Help New York Resource Center to find short eNews articles, social media posts, and graphics.
Spring 22 YSS Newsletter

Misha Marvel
Misha.Marvel@hungersolutionsny.org
Child Nutrition Programs Specialist
Hunger Solutions New York

More fruits & veggies thru Sept!

With WIC

$24-$47 per month each for moms and kids!