A Message From the President

When Dreams Come True

I don’t know how I got here, but here I am. It all started with a phone call asking whether I wanted to run for Secretary. When I filled out the Active Member Form, I was pretty sure I marked it all, not quite sure what I wanted to do to help YSS. However, I was pretty sure I didn’t mark the YSS board. “What do I have to do?” I asked. “Well first you have to run for Secretary,” the person on the other end of the line said. Oh, people have to actually know who I am I thought, so I won’t win, or so I thought.

It wasn’t that I didn’t want to be Secretary because I really did want to. I wanted to help YSS and get more involved with NYLA. I just never really thought of running for the YSS board. I emailed the Four County Library System listserv and asked if they would vote for me for YSS Secretary. I figured I would give it a try and see what happened. When I found out I won, I was very shocked but happy. I do tend to remember most of my dreams. I remembered dreaming that I was the YSS President. At the time I woke up and thought, “Well, that would never happen,” but now it seemed like maybe this was the first step to that dream becoming a reality.

I was the Secretary for three years and I enjoyed it. I thought of the dream but thought maybe I was supposed to be Secretary and not the YSS President. Three years went by quickly and I went off the YSS Board. Then COVID happened. I realized I had strengths I didn’t give myself credit for, but also I really enjoyed helping people. So when YSS was looking for someone to run for board. I told them I would run for either 2nd Vice President or YSS Vice President/President Elect depending what they needed. I then left it up to fate.

It took a while for an answer and I wasn’t sure the dream would really come true but it seems it did. As I write this I am your new YSS President. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and I hope all your dreams come true whatever they may be. No matter what, don’t sell yourself short, as we all have talents we can contribute that no one else can. Please consider using your talents to help YSS! Fill out an Active Member Form today!
Pied Piper Award—Deadline January 31

Pied Piper Programming-Palooza! *Try to say that five times fast!*

Activities, events, projects...whatever you call it, we all do programming. Why not be acknowledged for your programming endeavors? Apply for the Pied Piper Award today!

“Past Pied Piper submissions,” says new Committee Chair Emily Forbes-Wood “are a great opportunity to see what worked in other libraries. If you also scroll through Pinterest and the Programming Librarian website for ideas, past submissions are tried and true activities that can work perfectly in your communities. Give the past submissions a look, and apply for the 2023 award to get recognized for all of your hard work!”

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 that 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 January 31, 2023. YSS will present the winner with the award and a $200 gift card from Barnes & Noble at the YSS 2023 Spring Conference.

If you have a program for the calendar year of December 1, 2021 and December 30, 2022, we encourage you to apply. The form is available at [https://www.nyla.org/pied-piper-award](https://www.nyla.org/pied-piper-award), and the deadline is January 31, 2023.

Best,

Emily Forbes-Wood, Pied Piper Award Committee Chair
Anne Nelson, Third Year Committee Member
Stephanie Olson, First Year Committee Member
The World Building Guide for Libraries:
2023 Spring Conference Update

2023 is here, and we’re excited to begin registration for the Spring Conference to be held on **Friday, April 28, 2023**, at the Courtyard Marriott in **Lake George**! Be on the lookout for registration to open in the coming weeks. We hope you’ll join us at the "Queen of American Lakes" for a great line-up of speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities.

Our keynote address will be a conversation with Alex Gino:
**Queer, Quirky, and inQuisitive: Writing Middle Grade**
With wit and sincerity, Alex speaks to the importance and joy of LGBTQIAP+ literature for young people, and how that translates to a better future for all of us. They will chat and answer questions about writing MELISSA, one of the first traditionally-published middle grade books with a transgender main character, as well as their writing process, upcoming projects, and the value of stories written from within community.

Our **breakout sessions** will range from traditional talks and panel discussions to interactive workshops and activities that will give you new ideas for programming and more. Don’t forget Table Talks—we have a great selection in the works! We’ll also play off our gaming theme with some unique interactive networking and idea-sharing activities.

During lunch, hear **Chris Grabenstein** present "SAYING YES ALL THE WAY TO MR. LEMONCELLO’S LIBRARY." Chris talks about how the "Yes, and" rules of improvisational comedy have guided his journey from a kid with a big imagination to a #1 New York Times bestselling author. Be prepared to laugh while you learn the power of saying Yes!

New this year—we invite you to join us for a **pre-conference continuing education opportunity**! The Space Science Institute will present a workshop on using their new Solar Science kits that will circulate within New York State. Get a head start on planning for the 2024 solar eclipse! The workshop will be held the afternoon of April 27 at the Courtyard Marriott, and all are invited to join in the fun at the Pre-Conference Reception to be held that evening (location tba).

We hope you'll take time to **explore Lake George Village**, as the Courtyard is within walking distance of shops and restaurants and features some gorgeous lake views. Plan to leave the conference refreshed and ready to lead youth and teens in your community to build their worlds!

**Julia Farrar, Spring Conference Director**
New York State Library Updates

Planning is currently underway for Transforming Teen Services training sessions to be offered in January, February, or March. Details and dates will be posted here soon and will also be shared with public library system Youth Services Consultants. Three front line Teen/YA library staff have applied to attend the YALSA T3 onboarding training that will take place in Indianapolis in early February. Once they have received the training, they will join the current team of NY state trainers and will be involved in planning and facilitating additional training sessions. We are excited to add some new members to the T3 team from Nassau Public Library System, Mid York Library System, and Four County Library System!

The recording of the December 7 early literacy session entitled “Less Work, More Fun” by Rose Stuart will be available here.

Solar eclipses are happening in 2023 and 2024...make sure your library is ready! Stay tuned for information about the location and registration details for several eclipse programming workshops that will take place in April 2023. Libraries can take advantage of the resources on the Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries website and place orders for official solar eclipse glasses now.

Are you interested in a Supercharged Storytimes training session? The next session will be offered during the spring with dates and registration information posted here when available.

The State Library is coordinating an early literacy webinar on “Exploring Race & Representation in Picture Books” presented by an educator at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. The scheduled date is January 26, and registration information will be available soon.

Be sure to sign up for the NYLINE statewide listserv to stay up to date on library news, events, and professional development and training opportunities around NY state! Subscribe here.

Summer Reading

Summer Reading website update: Plans are underway to move the content of the current site at www.summerreadingnys.org to new pages and formatting on the State Library/Division of Library Development site. The goal of this change is to make all of the Summer Reading content more accessible and support a more successful user environment while making information and materials easier to find. The move is expected to be completed sometime in mid to late January, and a redirect message will be placed on the current site. The State Library will communicate details with library systems and library staff to alert them of the changes and what to expect. This information will be shared with library systems and on the statewide NYLINE library listserv.

Lunch and Learn sessions for Summer Reading 2023 are in the works, including making Summer Reading outreach and promotional materials more accessible, coordinating school visits to promote Summer Reading to students, and Talking Book & Braille Library service updates, to name just a few. Others are being planned on a variety of topics, and suggestions for Lunch and Learn sessions are welcome. Send an email to nyslyouth@nysed.gov if you’d like to suggest a topic.

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The recordings from the Collaborative Summer Library Program’s “All Together Now!” Summer Symposium are now available, including the powerful keynote address from ALA Executive Director, Tracie D. Hall. Along with the recordings are links to the handouts, slides, and chatbox information. For more details, please go to the CSLP Summer Symposium website. There is also a symposium survey, open through January 6, 2023, and an education unit certificate available for printing, for reporting continuing ed hours.

Have you checked out the CSLP Inclusion Resources page? Find it at www.cslpreads.org/inclusion-resources/ to access a recording from an excellent webinar on “Inclusive and Affirming Library Programs for LGBTQIA+ Youth,” as well as additional sessions on services for customers with accessibility adaptations and play, diversity, and inclusion.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) is currently looking to fill the Executive Director position that became vacant when Luke Kralik left the organization at the end of October. Melissa Hooke, CSLP Administrative Assistant, and the CSLP board are currently responding to email questions as they come in, but libraries may experience delays in responses during this transitional period.

Questions?
Contact Sharon B. Phillips, NY State Library Youth Services Program Manager
nyslyouth@nysed.gov

New York State Library Educator Guides

The New York State Library has Educator Guides available for the American Revolution and the 19th Amendment on the Women’s Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage Movements. Primary source documents, document-based questions and activities are in the Educator Guides. Please use the following links to access the items:

- American Revolution
- 19th Amendment: Women’s Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage Movements

If you have questions, please contact Marisa Gitto, Senior Reference Librarian at Marisa.Gitto@nysed.gov
Updates from Hunger Solutions

Libraries are trusted messengers that can help connect many more families to an underserved public health program. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) improves lifetime health for women, infants, and young children by helping with healthy food and other resources. Research shows WIC reduces the risk of adverse birth outcomes, improves cognitive development, reduces development delays, and improves diet quality among families and communities. **NYSWIC's public health services are now reaching just over 400,000 New Yorkers, but that's only ~50% of those eligible, much less throughout upstate New York, and especially among pregnant women and children ages 1-4.**

In the Fall 22 YSS Newsletter Edition, we shared the **updated federal income eligibility guidelines**, monthly boost in the fruits and vegetable portion of a participant’s food package, and outlined a few easy ways how libraries can help connect many more families. Here are the newest updates:

**New Outreach Toolkit to Connect Primary Caregivers**
Many families and communities believe that WIC is just for moms and babies, but that is not the case! Primary caregivers such as grandparents, foster parents, relatives, and fathers can apply for children under 5 in their care. **Help us debunk this myth and connect more families to WIC by using this Social Media Toolkit: Primary Caregivers** (in English and Spanish) on your social media channels and in other communications. The toolkit also provides messaging about the relative ease and simplicity for primary caregivers to use the WIC2Go app, the eWIC card, and how WIC can serve families with busy schedules more conveniently with remote visits. To find more turn-key WIC outreach resources and social media toolkits, visit the **WIC Help New York Resource Center**.

**Help Families Connect with WIC from Home**
Wanda is NYS WIC’s new 24/7 virtual assistant designed to help families quickly learn about WIC services and if they are eligible, and then get an automatic warm referral for their local WIC office to follow-up and complete the enrollment process. Libraries can help spread the word about Wanda by sharing this **rack card** with patrons. It includes a QR code that takes the person directly to the virtual assistant webpage to begin the prescreen. We encourage libraries to **order them in bulk FREE** of charge!

**It is Easier than Ever to Participate**
Due to the public health emergency, WIC remote services have been extended through at least mid-April 2023. That means WIC agencies may continue to enroll and serve participants through virtual appointments!

Misha Marvel
Misha.Marvel@HungerSolutionsNY.org
Manager, Early Childhood Nutrition Policy & Engagement
Hunger Solutions New York
Volunteers Needed for Spring Conference 2024

Happy 2023, YSS!

I am the Conference Chair for the 2024 NYLA YSS Spring Conference in Clayton! We were all so disappointed when COVID changed our plans for a Clayton event in 2020, so we’re excited to finally make it happen!

Pulling off a great event takes a great team, and I’m working on building our conference committee as well as a pool of volunteers. Here are the official committee roles we need to fill:

- **If you’re a talented writer and communicator, have an eye for design, and can keep up a steady flow of informational content,** you might be a great **Publicity Coordinator** (writes press releases, designs save-the-date and conference flyer, sends content to NYLA for the website).

- **If you’re highly organized, persuasive, and a go-getter,** you might be a great **Vendor Coordinator** (recruits vendors to the conference, coordinates contracts, serves as the contact person for vendors the day of the conference).

- **If you’re creative, community-minded, and able to manage a service campaign and recruit participation,** you might be a great **Service Project Coordinator** (coordinates and promotes service project to benefit the community—some examples of past service projects include a book drive, a diaper drive, a backpack project, etc.).

- **If you are personable, professional (and not easily starstruck!),** you might be a great **Keynote Liaison** (serves as the go-to person for our keynote speaker, makes sure they have everything they need and know where they need to be) or **Author Liaison** (serves as the go-to person for our keynote speaker, makes sure they have everything they need and know where they need to be).

- **If you’re great at seeing the big picture, constructing a schedule, matching people’s talents to situational needs,** and communicating with both groups and individuals, you might be a great **Volunteer Coordinator** (ensures that every workshop room is staffed with a room monitor, makes sure the YSS booth is staffed throughout the day).

- **If you’re crafty and creative, enjoy creating attractive displays, and can persuade people to donate merch and to buy tickets,** you might be a great **Raffle Basket Coordinator** (creates raffle baskets, coordinates and announces raffle winners during lunch).

- **If you’re a data nerd and have a keen sense of how to solicit useful feedback,** you might be a great **Survey Coordinator** (develops post-conference feedback survey, decides how to promote during event—graphics, QR Code, flier—and emails data to committee after event).

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A great perk of taking on one of these roles is free conference registration! Plus the satisfaction of meeting colleagues from around the state, advancing youth services in our state and helping build the conference of your dreams!

Volunteer roles include things like: being point person for AV on the day of the event, communicating with The Little Bookstore if they agree to be our conference bookseller, helping make centerpieces, greeting and directing attendees, serving as a room monitor (introducing the presenter, giving them their thank you gift and reminding attendees about surveys), etc.

If you’re interested in serving on the committee, please send me an email at yssconference2024@gmail.com and tell me what role you’d be great at and share a little bit about your experience and talents by January 23. We will begin meeting virtually (although you are always welcome at the NCLS office if you’re local) in late January or early February. If you’re interested in volunteering in smaller ways, please also send me an email so we can stay in touch!

- Katie St. Laurent,
  Youth Services and Outreach Consultant, North Country Library System
  2024 YSS Spring Conference Chair

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**Audio and Braille Library Service**

The New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) lends audio and braille books and magazines to eligible residents of upstate New York State, which includes Westchester County and counties north. Individuals of all ages who have difficulty reading standard print due to blindness, a visual impairment, or a physical or print disability are encouraged to apply.

TBBL’s collection includes a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction titles for all reading levels. Patrons will find everything from classics to brand new titles. Reading materials can be delivered directly to patrons through the US mail or downloaded for instant access.

Organizations such as public libraries and schools are welcome to register for a free TBBL membership to help meet the needs of younger readers with print disabilities. If your organization is interested in registering as a TBBL member, please complete our institution application located on the Apply for TBBL Service webpage. If you have any questions about TBBL service, please do not hesitate to contact our library at tbbl@nysed.gov

Qualifying individuals who live in New York City or Long Island may contact the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library located in Manhattan, NY, talkingbooks@nypl.org.

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If you would like to submit an article for a future YSS Newsletter, please contact Sarah Reid at sreid@4cls.org.