Fall 2020 YSS Newsletter

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Volume 3: Fall

A Message From the President
Words are hard. There is no template, no standard, no handbook for what we are going through right now. We are winging it hard. Leadership is winging it hard. No one really knows what they are doing, but we are all stepping up the best we can. And you’re doing a GREAT JOB!

Personally, I’m trying to pack and sell a house during a pandemic. The hoarding struggle is real. I can’t bring all my random art supplies or rogue magnets or little jars to the library for crafts. Sure, Make and Take is a fantastic work around to craft programs, but it’s not the same as collecting supplies. Patrons have their own toilet paper rolls, coffee cans and baby food jars.

Through all the cat toys, knickknacks and oh so many tote bags (or as I have recently started referring to as “librarian currency”), I found myself hemming and hawing about tossing the centerpiece I saved from 2017’s Outside the Box conference in Ithaca. I had it on top of my hutch for 3 years. Now it’s sitting on my dining room table as I walk strangers through my house with a can of Lysol.

I think we can all agree that we are WAYYYY outside the box right now. We are so far outside of the box right now that it’s empty and very inviting for cats. If I fits, I sits, right?

2017 was also the year of Build a Better World (I did toss my duct tape construction worker hat… it was time). We are building that better world right now together. We are creating history. We are learning from each other and finding
new ways to Imagine Our Stories.

2017 was a big year for me personally too. I was helping my dad sell my childhood home in Cranston, Rhode Island. I lived there for 24 years. While there was no neurotic sanitizing, there were plenty of tote bags to go through! I bring this up because in my moments of “why the heck did I save this?” I found, what is now framed in my dining room, still preserved in its rolled state, a poster from the 2006 RILA Conference I went to.

Libraries Matter. They do. And so do you! Libraries only matter as much as the people who staff them. We care about our communities. Sometimes even more than we care about ourselves. I hope everyone is taking time to find joy in this crazy world. Burnout was real before the pandemic. Now we are literally taking our work home with us. Working odd hours in uncomfortable places surrounded by new needy coworkers constantly worrying if you’re doing enough. YOU ARE DOING ENOUGH!

As we put out this dumpster fire of 2020, remember: We are all thinking outside the box, building a better world and kicking ass! We have become warriors on the front lines. We need to ditch the worrier mindset and Strengthen Our Core. It’s funny how two letters can change everything. We are strong. We are warriors. We are in this together!

In solidarity,
Amanda Schiavulli
YSS Pandemic President

YSS Marketing Committee

Help us build our social media pages!

2020 has been a challenge for us all. It is one we will all surely remember for the rest of our lives. With changes happening every day, this has put new challenges on Library workers, including coming up with creative program and service ideas, while also taking care of ourselves, friends, and family. YSS would love to showcase and share how YSS members have adapted to life during COVID-19. Did you have a virtual program that worked really well? Do you have reopening tips for fellow members? Good ways to stay organized and relieve stress? We’d love to hear them and share these helpful tips with our members! Email your photos and a brief blurb to marketing chair, Lindsay, at jankovitzl@gmail.com!

Be sure to follow us on Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all YSS news and updates, and for daily inspiration and relevant articles.
Remembering Margaret Glisson

The library world lost one of its best and brightest stars with the passing of Margaret “Peg” Glisson on June 19th. Through her involvement in many YSS committees, Peg’s influence was far reaching, and shall continue to serve as a legacy to someone peers described as intelligent, kind, and professional.

One of the first times Peg was in “the room where it happened” was her election to the YSS Board in 1989. She served as YSS Director for 1989-1992, chairing the 1992 YSS Spring Conference that featured Ann Jonas. During that time, a new conference offering began. Known as “YSS Table Talks”, it exists to this day. The Empire State Award was first given in 1990. Its first recipient was Maurice Sendak, and Peg was the one who chauffeured the great man around Rochester. She recalled taking him to the Memorial Art Gallery to see the Winslow Homer exhibit, and his remark, upon seeing a Norman Rockwell painting, that Rockwell was an illustrator, but no artist. Although Sendak had not agreed to sign books, Peg managed to finagle a signature from him on her family’s copy of Where the Wild Things Are. Peg went on to serve on the Empire State Award Committee from 2000-2002.

Another crowning achievement of Peg’s was her involvement in the establishment of the Ann Gibson scholarship, which awards money to a library school student who plans to enter the field of youth services librarianship after graduation. The scholarship was first awarded in 1992. Ann and Peg were close friends and members of the Genesee Storytellers. In 1994, Peg and other storytellers held “Telling Tales” at the NYLA Annual Conference. This program, which was a fundraiser for the Ann Gibson scholarship, was a conference staple for many years.

Peg was the editor for The Key to the Future: Revised Minimum Standards for Youth Services in Public Libraries of New York State (c.1994). Peg pulled together the input of several subcommittees into a unified whole, and produced a publication that served youth librarians for decades.

In recent years, Peg moved beyond her involvement in the Youth Services Section, to provide programming for the Friends of Libraries Section. In her role as president of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, she spoke at the 2015 and 2018 NYLA Annual Conferences.

While her contributions to YSS, FLS, and NYLA are undeniable, those of us who were lucky enough to share books and meals with her will miss her insight, her laugh, and her smile.

Mary Jo C. Smith, with contributions by Lisa C. Wemett
NYLA Annual Conference 2020: “Strengthen Our Core”
Saratoga Springs, NY - November 4 - 7

Have you heard the exciting news? The NYLA 2020 Annual conference is virtual this year! The conference will be held Thursday, November 5th and Friday, November 6th. The theme of the 2020 conference is “Strengthen Our Core”, in reference to ALA’s core values.

YSS is thrilled to have the opportunity to offer four programs at this year’s NYLA Conference. Jessica Espejel, of the New York Public Library, will be presenting “Storytelling Off the Page” where attendees will learn to adapt well-known books into interactive, visual stories and activities for early learners and their caregivers, for both virtual and on-site programming. Jessica’s program will be an OnDemand video allowing attendees to watch anytime during the conference.

Rakisha Kearns-White, of the Brooklyn Public Library, will be presenting “Tackling Sex Ed in the Library”. Kearns-White, an experienced Young Adult public librarian, will share her experiences using library resources & community partnerships to offer judgement-free, unbiased, and inclusive programming about puberty, sex, and sexuality to teens in the library. This program will be presented live on Friday, Nov. 6th.

Mary Gotham, of West Genesee High School, and Alyssa Newton, of Onondaga Free Library, will be discussing their “Teen Mental Health Resource Collaboration”. Learn how a high school and public librarian partnered to create a unique collection of resources & networks to support struggling teens in a multimodal system built for today’s youth. This program will be presented live on Friday, Nov. 6th.

Rita Williams-Garcia, the 2020 recipient of the Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People, will be speaking live at the “ESA Lunch & Learn” on Friday, Nov. 6th. Rita Williams-Garcia encourages aspiring young writers and young readers to follow their dreams, despite adversity. Known for their realistic portrayal of teens of color, Williams-Garcia’s works have been recognized through numerous awards. She is a three-time National Book Award Finalist recipient and a three-time Coretta Scott King Author Award recipient. Her novel, One Crazy Summer, also won the Newbery Medal Honor Award and the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction. She was also the recipient of the Coretta Scott King Honor for her novel Like Sisters on the Homefront. We are excited to hear her presentation and encourage you all to join us in this amazing event.

And never fear, Table Talks are still here, but in a new and improved version! This year we’ve moved the Table talks out from the conference and into their own set of Briefinars. The Table Talk Briefinars will offer each speaker a separate 30 minute presentation with a Q&A at the end. The Briefinars will occur over the course of several weeks, and will be added to the YSS’s NYLA site for an interactive resource page. Stay tuned for more detailed information and event times. Table Talk Briefinar presentations will include:

- For Felt’s Sake, by Jennifer Burke, Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville
- Quirky Programs for Quirky Teens, by Grace Frenzel, Livonia Public Library
- Beethoven, Bach, and Bronx Tweens, by Arian Csonka Kaleta, Tremont Library
- Summer Reading Program Crafts by Chrissie Morrison, Mechanicville District Public Library

2020 Empire State Award Recipient: Rita Williams-Garcia
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- Reach for ‘Hired’ Ground, by Joan Rosen-winner of 2020’s Pied Piper Award, Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library

The YSS Membership Meeting will now be held in October! Join us to hear what YSS has accomplished in the past year, and to learn more about how you can get involved. In addition, we are pleased to welcome Barbara Dee as our speaker. She will be speaking on the importance of addressing “tough topics” in middle grade fiction. Barbara Dee is the author of several middle grade novels including Maybe He Just Likes You, Everything I Know About You, Halfway Normal, and Star-Crossed. Her books have received several starred reviews and been included on many best-of lists, including the ALA Rainbow List’s Top Ten, the Chicago Public Library Best of the Best, and the NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People.

Barbara Dee’s latest novel, Maybe He Just Likes You, explores the subject of #MeToo for the middle grade audience in a heart-wrenching, yet inspiring novel about experiencing harassment and unwanted attention from classmates. This look at consent, guilt, blame, pressure, and obligation will inspire much needed conversations for middle grade readers and the adults in their lives.

Amy Relyaa
YSS Fall Conference Curation Committee Chair

Ann Gibson Award Winner

The Scholarship Committee has selected Kaitlyn Rak as the 2020 Ann Gibson Scholarship winner. Kaitlyn is currently working towards her MLIS in School Librarianship at the University at Buffalo, where she is president of the UB Library and Information Science Graduate Students Association. Kaitlyn is currently working as a Library Media Aide for the Akron Central School District.
Friendly Partnerships Strengthen Communities

The Friends of Libraries Section invites YSS members to participate in “Friendly Partnerships Strengthen Communities,” a webinar on Thursday, March 11, 2021, from 2 – 3 p.m. EST.

Friends are venturing outside the library, undertaking the vital work of networking and partnering with community groups to deliver the library’s message and services to residents. Children’s librarian Jason Poole started the summer “BookBox for Kids and Teens” initiative to bring books to readers unable to visit the library. This vital project has connected with underserved families and steadily grown community support from the library Friends, churches, schools, and grant-makers in Webster. In their community, Helen Rados, member of the Friends of Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library, along with youth librarian Cheryl Jones, have built powerful partnerships and creative collaborations that have increased public awareness of the library, engaged volunteers and increased Friends memberships.

The webinar presenters include children’s librarian Jason Poole, MLS, who has worked with children and families at the Webster Public Library since 2003. He received his B.A. from Houghton College and his graduate degree from the University at Buffalo. In 2019, he completed his Certificate in Public Library Administration with Long Island University. His special interest in comics and graphic novels has made him a frequent speaker at continuing education workshops for public library systems, regional library councils, school districts, and regional and statewide professional organizations for school and public librarians. Jason has presented at national comic-cons in New York City and San Diego and at the Annual Conference of the New York Library Association.

Cheryl Jones, MLIS, is the Youth Services Librarian at Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello, NY, where she also serves as the library’s Staff Liaison to the Friends of the Library. Cheryl received her BS in English from SUNY Oneonta, a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of Arizona, and her MLIS from the University of Buffalo. In 2019, Cheryl was the recipient of the Randall Enos Member Library Children’s Program of the Year from the Ramapo Catskill Library System for her “Star Wars Day: Jedi Training Academy.” She is a foster parent and also volunteers as an ambulance driver for her local EMS squad.

Helen Rados is a founding member of the current Friends of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library and has served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary. In 2016, she was chosen as the library’s first “Friend of the Year.” Helen regularly coordinates outreach tables at community events, has organized library fundraisers, and assists with the Friends’ social media accounts. She helped organize the first Sullivan County Youth Book Festival.

From Left to Right: Jason Poole, Cheryl Jones, and Helen Rados
This professional development opportunity is open to all. As a member benefit, personal members of FLS and the primary contact person and group volunteers of Friends Group organizational members who are listed on the “Friend Group Volunteers Registration Form” on file with the NYLA Finance & Administration Manager may participate at no cost. The FLS/NYLA membership must be current at the time of registration, with the membership expiration date beyond the date of the webinar.

The charge for the webinar is $25 for NYLA personal or organizational members (who are not members of FLS) and $35 for those who are not members of NYLA. Group registrations are also available ($75 member rate /$99 nonmember rate). Interested participants may choose to join NYLA prior to registering for the webinar to receive the NYLA member rate. However, at the time of registration, a NYLA member may not add FLS to their existing membership in order to attend the webinar at no cost. A credit card is required for payment. Checks and purchase orders are not accepted. Registration is open on NYLA’s website: www.nyla.org > Career Resources > Continuing Education > NYLA e-Institute Webinars. Registration closes 48 hours prior to the start time of the webinar.

The Friends of Libraries Section will be presenting a series of one-hour virtual professional development sessions over the course of several months that are relevant to the entire library community. “Engaging Millennials as Friends Volunteers” is the first in the series, scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, at 2 o’clock EDT. On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, beginning at 2 p.m., Judy Siegel, Esq., of the Pro Bono Partnership will present “Effective, Efficient Boards and Board Meetings.” “Friendly Partnerships Strengthen Communities” is the third webinar. Discounted pricing is available until September 21, 2020. Individuals may enroll in all three webinars in the series for a bundled price of $60 for NYLA members and $85 for non-members. See www.nyla.org for details.

FLS is building a catalog of online content that is informative, innovative, and beneficial to Friends organizations of all sizes. All webinar sessions are recorded and posted in the NYLA webinar archive. To watch NYLA e-Institute offerings free of charge, go to www.nyla.org/career-resources. Select Continuing Education > NYLA e-Institute Webinars and follow the link at the bottom of the page to the Webinarary, NYLA’s webinar archive.
Library and Community Resources from the New York State Library

In early July, the NYS 4-H STEM Program Work Team met with NYS Youth Services Consultants and Librarians from across the state and with Sharon Phillips, Summer Reading Program Manager, to see what the partnership would look like this year for the Summer Reading program. One of the outcomes from that meeting is the creation of a brief survey and map on Survey123 to report on 4-H STEM/Library Summer Reading Program activities. This map can help showcase what is happening in libraries and the creative work going on around the state, as well as be a way for youth to tell their story and share with others. Please share this information in your library communities and encourage young library users to complete the survey by September 30. Young people can share information and photos of virtual and other STEM library activities for 2020 Imagine Your Story, as well as help show the partnership between 4-H and NY State libraries. Find the brief survey at https://arcg.is/1qreT4.

You can also find more information on the 4-H partnership with Summer Reading at New York Libraries at: https://www.summerreadingnys.org/librarians-educators/le-resources/#4h and https://nys4-h.org/partnerships/

Want to see what local 4-H programs and resources are available for libraries, kids, and teens in your area? Contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office at https://extension.cornell.edu/localoffices for more information and resources, and listings of program offerings and materials.

In addition, a new project is in the works on a section of the state 4-H website that is dedicated to sharing distance learning opportunities that are open to all youth in NYS. Stay tuned for more information as this exciting resource develops and comes together!

DayByDayNY Family Literacy Calendar

Be sure to visit and promote the free Family Literacy Calendar resource at www.DayByDayNY.org! This website gives families a variety of daily activities and ideas for early literacy, and now TWO NEW audiobooks are provided each day from One More Story.

Find out more about this great FREE early literacy resource provided by the New York State Library at www.DayByDayNY.org. Be sure to promote DayByDayNY in English and Spanish to your library users as well as to the preschools and daycare providers in your community. Downloadable bookmarks and other promotional materials can be found at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/earlylit/download.htm
Our friends at Hunger Solutions New York want to remind your youngest patrons:

WIC is OPEN! WIC is OPEN for new AND current participants! If your income has been affected by recent events, and you are pregnant or have a child younger than 5 years old, WIC can help provide nutritious foods and resources to keep your growing family healthy. Call your local WIC agency to determine what changes have been made in response to COVID-19. Many agencies will set up a phone call to conduct your appointment. WIC benefits are provided electronically on an eWIC card and can be purchased in more than one shopping trip.

Check to see if you're eligible https://bit.ly/3gw1wGu

Find a local WIC Office https://on.ny.gov/2ZKe8E1

Visit WICHelpNY.org’s and its Resource Center to learn more and access outreach materials to promote WIC in your area.

Hunger Solutions New York is a strong partner and supporter of Summer Reading at New York Libraries. See their partner page on the Summer Reading site at https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/
Looking ahead to SRP 2021: Tails and Tales

This summer was one none of us had ever experienced before — a completely online summer reading program. Virtual programming was a new experience for most of us but we learned to navigate Zoom and READsquared. Librarians, and especially youth services librarians, always bring their ‘A’ game. This year was no different. Existing plans were scrapped or reinvented and creative new ideas emerged. Hopefully, we go into next summer on more stable footing!

The 2021 Collaborative Summer Learning Program Slogan is “Tails and Tales” featuring art work by Salina Yoon, author and illustrator of many well known children’s books including Penguin and Pinecone and Be a Friend.

Here is a sneak peek of the awesome 2021 CSLP Poster Images for Tails and Tales for Summer Reading and Learning in 2021!

CSLP has announced that Juana Martinez-Neal will be the artist for the 2024 program! Juana was awarded a 2019 Caldecott Honor for her book "Alma and How She Got Her Name", and was awarded a 2020 Sibert Medal for her work on "Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story" this year!

2022 and 2024: Voting on the 2022 slogan choice and the 2024 proposed theme will be taking place in September and we want input from all libraries! Please take a few minutes to review the choices using the link or QR code, and submit your votes by September 9. The State Library will then tabulate the submissions and send the top 5 2022 slogan and 2024 theme choices to CSLP for our selections from NY state.

What do you think summer will look like for us next year? Are you envisioning a return to the traditional summer programming or are you working under the assumption that virtual programs may be here to stay for the foreseeable future? What did you learn this year that you’ll apply next summer or throughout the next year?

We’d love to hear your answers! Send an email to nbrown@clandj.org or write contribute an article for our Winter Newsletter.

Nancarrow Brown, Newsletter Editor, with Sharon Phillips of the New York State Library