



NJLA Young Adult Services Section Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 2023

Hunterdon County Library, 10am

Section Leadership:

Emily Mazzoni, President
Dana Vocht, Vice President
Jason Weissmann, Secretary
Jenna Ingham, Member at Large
Melaina Squicciarini, Member at Large
Devon Boyer, Social Media Manager
John Campbell, Social Media Manager
Katie Salerno, Past President

In attendance: Jason Weissmann, Emily Mazzoni, Erica Deb, Melaina Squicciarini, Katie Salerno, Jordan Hutchins, Erica Deb, Kate-Lynn Grimm, Dana Vocht, Emily Macleod, Sloane Kazim

Virtual - Carolyn Aversano, David McMahon, Devon Boyer, Jen Gheller, Julie Ucelli, Danielle Pitter, Karen Bilton, Maryjean Riou,

YASS Updates from Around the State

NJSL



NJSL Report for YASS Meeting, Dec. 15, 2023

Submitted by Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist for Lifelong Learning, NJ State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org

State Librarian's Monthly Updates

November's update is posted, along with previous monthly updates on the NJ State Library's website under the *About the State Library* tab, then under the *New Jersey State Library Publications* tab, then under State Librarian's Updates. December will be posted very soon.

Ready Now: Supporting Youth and Families During a Crisis Project

The NJ State Library has been accepted as one of five state agencies participating in this national IMLS funded project, to focus on the training and resources for the successful implementation of the [Field Guide](#) principles that were part of Phase 1 of this multi-year project. I will be working with Kellyanne Healy, the children's librarian from the Lake Hiawatha branch of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library and her Youth Services Supervisor, Lizzie Latham, to participate in the research study phase on serving immigrants, refugees, and those trying to become citizens with resources to assist them in language learning and language affirmation. This project will take place over a 10-12-month time period in 2024 and involve attending community of practice meetings, providing evaluative input and supporting the development of tools for this national project. We hope this will be a model for other libraries.

Palace Project

In partnership with Lyrisis, NJSL rolled out a statewide virtual barcode for the Palace Project, providing access to eBooks and digital audiobooks for every New Jersey resident who chooses to sign up. This content includes the Digital Public Library of America-curated Palace Bookshelf of approximately 17,000 items, perpetually-licensed Boundless (formerly Axis 360) titles in the New Jersey State Library's eRead New Jersey collection, and items purchased through the Palace Marketplace by the State Library. New Jersey residents can create a virtual barcode in the Palace app, with just an email address and authentication through geolocation (anywhere in NJ). Read more at <https://www.njstatelib.org/thepalaceproject>, and download the app at: <https://thepalaceproject.org/>.

JerseyClicks Webinars in January 2024

Learn more about JerseyClicks databases, available to all New Jersey residents, at [these informative webinars](#) scheduled for January.

First one scheduled is:

Peterson's Test and Career Prep – Resources for Junior and High Schoolers

January 11th, 2pm

Join us for a brief overview of the resources aimed specifically at junior and high schoolers, including SAT/ACT practice exams, college and scholarship searches, and career assessments.

[Click here to register.](#)

🕶️ The **CSLP Summer Symposium** was held on December 7th. It was a half-day virtual offering for public library staff to connect, learn, and collaborate as we plan for summer library programming around the 2024 theme of **Adventure Begins at your Library**. If you couldn't make it, but wanted to get a reminder of when the recordings of the sessions are available, register [here](#). Questions? Sharon Rawlins, srawlins@njstatelib.org

Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge

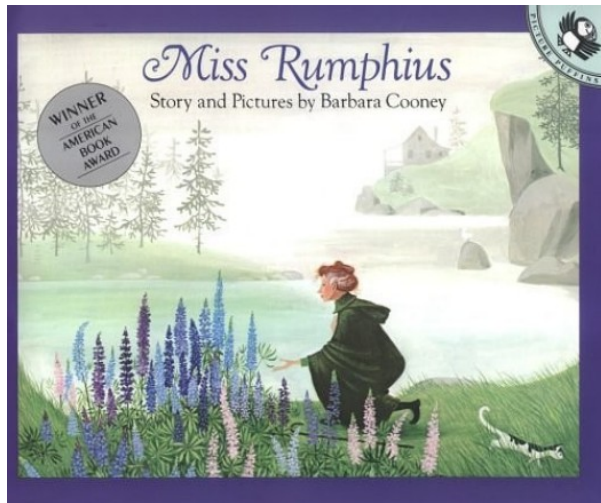
The US Forest Service has offered to provide materials for a reading challenge to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday in 2024. The challenge (and accompanying materials) will be available January - December of 2024 and will be sent to the State Library for me to distribute to libraries in early 2024. The materials each library will get includes 1 roll of 500 Smokey stickers,

1 pack of 50 Smokey cards, and 1 Smokey stamp. This is a great tie-in to the CSLP Summer Reading adventure theme for 2024 and the slogan “Adventure Begins At Your Library”, connecting families to outdoor activities and state/national parks. This is an optional program and you don’t have to participate, but I will still send your library the packet of information just in case. The US Forest Services has created a digital toolkit for you as well. Here’s the link:

<https://smokeybear.com/library-toolkit-reading-challenge>.

The US Forest Services is working with Beanstack and (hopefully) READSquared to make this challenge available electronically to all paid account holders as well. I will be surveying all the libraries at the end of December 2024 to see if you participated and to ask for some basic statistics. If you have questions, just let me know.

Awards/Grants from Other Organizations



Miss Rumphius Award – Deadline to Apply March 15, 2024

This is open to YA folks as well as children’s library staff.

The New Jersey Center for the Book proudly presents the annual *Miss Rumphius Award*, based upon the title character of the National Book Award winner by Barbara Cooney.

In the spirit of Miss Rumphius, we seek to amplify the work of exemplary librarians, library

staff, library students, and school librarians who implement creative and engaging programs to improve their environments. We hope the *Miss Rumphius Award* inspires other librarians to plant the seeds of these ideas to enhance literacy in their own communities!

Eligibility: The candidate must be employed in New Jersey as a professional librarian, library staff member, library student, certified educator or teacher assistant, and must have developed a creative activity or program to enhance learning and literacy. The activity or program should be collaborative, innovative, and able to be replicated by other librarians and educators. Candidates may be nominated by colleagues or community members or self-nominate.

Application: A link to directions for completing and submitting your application can be found [here](#). The *Miss Rumphius Award* will be presented to the winner(s) at an upcoming library association meeting. A \$300 honorarium is offered to the winner(s). For additional information or clarification, **please contact Sharon Rawlins at srawlins@njstatelib.org**. Check out our [previous award winners](#).

News from Other Organizations

Congratulations to ALA's Emerging Leaders from New Jersey!

ALA has selected 50 participants for its 2024 class of Emerging Leaders (EL). The EL program allows library staff and information workers to participate in project planning work groups, network with peers, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers. Congratulations to Children's Librarian Kellyanne Healey from Lake Hiawatha branch of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library and Adult Librarian Ashley Mitchell from the Camden County Library System, M. Allan Vogelson Regional Branch! [Click here for full list of Emerging Leaders.](#)

Best Books Lists (More to come soon)

- [Booklist Editors' Choice](#)
- [Horn Book Fanfare](#)
- [Kirkus' Best of 2023](#)
- [Publisher's Weekly Best Books](#)
- [School Library Journal Best Books](#)
- [American Indians in Children's Literature \(AICL\) – Year in review 2023](#)

NJ Stem Pathways Network: STEM Month Applications Available

Applications for our NJ STEM Month Mini Grants, STEM Showcase, and STEM Month Awards Nomination are now open and available for submission on their website:

www.njstempathways.org/njstemmonth. These opportunities are designed to support and celebrate the remarkable work and innovation within the STEM community. Public libraries who have participated in NJ MakersDay events are eligible to apply.

Thanks to the generosity of the **Overdeck Family Foundation**, 2024 NJ STEM Month mini-grants are available in amounts of **up to \$500 for event/program enhancements**.

Event/program enhancements can include hosting costs such as snacks, meals, transportation, materials, etc.

Apply Now:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp6K7E5NgmgBxReqx7dI9abAufp-xFCLXyWYdrII4ISY3rYg/viewform>

Check Out the 2023 Mini-Grant STEM Stories: https://njstempathways.org/mini-grant_stories/

TBBC

TBBC has submitted three presentation proposals for the 2024 NJLA Conference:

“A Week in the Life of an Accessible Library” presented by TBBC staff

“Literacy for All: Supporting Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Children and Teens in the Library” presented by Jen Apgar from TBBC and Brie Mintz from Springfield Free Public Library.

“ALSC's Notable (Outstanding! Distinguished! Just Plain Great!) Children's Books” presented by Liz Burns and Dr. Ellen Pozzi

TBBC has recently received Spanish language print/braille picture books to be added to our collection.

As a reminder, TBBC is available for trainings and presentations to your staff and/or patrons about TBBC services, as well as being available for awareness days, fairs and expos, story times, and more. If you are hosting something that you think may be of value to have TBBC involved with or attending, please contact us and we can talk! 800-792-8322 or TBBC@njstatelib.org

NJASL - Working with NJLA and intellectual freedom section on a bill to block book bans in NJ.

LLNJ - Join MentorNJ!

CSS - None

NJLA EXEC BOARD - Having special election for Member at Large (Deadline Dec. 31st)

BCCLS: South Orange just joined! West Orange just reopened.

LMXAC: None

OTHER: NJALA is having a presentation about serving community members with empathy Tuesday the 19th (virtual). Here's a link to Register!

PLEASE NOTE: Free professional development sessions are only available to registered New Jersey Makers Day sites! If your Library is not registered, it's not too late! It is free to register, and registration is still open. [Register here](#). **If you are not registered for New Jersey Makers Day, you are not eligible to attend these workshops.**

New Jersey Makers Day / LibraryLinkNJ Supply Swap | January 9, 2024 | 10am-1pm

Join New Jersey Makers Day and Library Link NJ on January 9th at the Cherry Hill Public Library, located at 1100 Kings Hwy N, Cherry Hill, NJ for an exciting day of professional development! Come hear about projects your colleagues are making, and swap supplies you are no longer using for something fresh!! This event will be most successful if our attendees participate by showing off the crafts that have been a hit in their libraries and bringing leftover, unused crafting materials to share in our swap shop. In the second section of this form, please add what you will be sharing and bringing. While sharing is not required, we encourage you to try! Register [here](#)

"Introduction to Laser Cutting with Glowforge" presented by Bergen Makerspace | February 15, 2024 (2 sessions available - 10am to 12pm and 2pm-4pm)

Join us for an in-person hands-on workshop, Introduction to Laser Cutting with the Glowforge with Bergen Makerspace (Bergen County Technical Schools Adult & Continuing Education Building, 284 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack, NJ)

The Glowforge is a lower cost, desktop laser cutter and engraver that has become very popular amongst schools and libraries for its ease of use hardware and software, smaller footprint, and well-supported community.

PLEASE NOTE : There are two sessions (10a-12p, and 2-4p) being offered for this workshop. Each session is 2 hours in length and are independent of each other (i.e. the afternoon session is a repeat of the morning session). You should only register for ONE of the session choices. Register [here](#).

"Tinkering with Purpose : How to Develop a More Intentional Tinkering Practice" with Exploratorium | Tuesday, February 27, 2024 @ 1pm

Join the Exploratorium's Tinkering Studio in an interactive virtual workshop! How do you develop a tinkering practice that intentionally sets up explorations of phenomena, concepts, and ideas? How do you refine those investigations over time while still allowing learners to stay in the driver's seat?

We will explore “balance” by tinkering with familiar objects, then leverage that experience to introduce a tool we developed to iterate the design of our activities in focused and intentional ways. We will also share direct experiences from educators using this tool in their own practice, and have space for reflection and conversation. Register [here](#).

NJLA Newsletter - Next issue is out Monday 12/18, Spring issue proposals due Jan 29th. Tell them all the fun stuff that happens at your library (retirements, promotions etc).

YASS Business, Important Information, & Reminders

GSTBA: Updates for YASS Meeting: December 15, 2023

- The deadline to vote in the 29th annual GSTBA is coming up on 12/31/23. Please keep encouraging your teens to vote! TWO WEEKS!!!
 - Link to ballots: <https://njlamembers.org/content/voting-information-ballots>
- We plan to announce the winners to the GSTBA readers at each deliberation meeting in 2024. The nonfiction winner will be announced at the start of the nonfiction deliberation meeting in January, the grades 6 to 8 fiction will be announced in February, and the grades 9 to 12 fiction winner will be announced in March. All winners will be announced widely at the GSBA luncheon at NJLA in 2024.
- Deliberations for nonfiction grades 6 to 12 will be NEXT MEETING on January 19th, following the YASS business meeting. If you're a reader and cannot attend in person, please fill out a Reader Feedback Form. If you plan to attend, we highly encourage you to fill out the short version of the form JUST IN CASE. You never know!
 - Deliberations are in person only and will NOT! be held hybrid or virtually, though the YASS business meeting will be virtual.
 - Deliberations are open meetings and non-readers may sit in. This is a great opportunity if you're curious about being a reader next year and want to know what the heck goes on.
- If you have any questions, please email the GSTBA co-chair Dream Team: Jenna heymissjenna@gmail.com and Melaina mxmelaina@gmail.com

NJLA Conference:

David McMahon, Vicki Wright, Aaron Pickett, Myah Vanderbilt: YASS, Admin & Management

Policy-ing Teens: The Process of Policy-Making

A one-size-fits all conduct policy doesn't always work for our teen patrons. Learn from three library systems how they crafted policies to meet the needs of their teens and how they got the rest of their staff on board. Bring your own policy wins to share and all of your thorny questions about teen use of the library.

Jenise Sileo – Awaiting on more information and official description

It was a project that I worked on with Valerie Arnold, Teen Librarian, for Mt. Tabor Library re-opening. It had been closed during Covid-19 and was not going to be re-opened. The residences voiced their disappointment during the town hall meetings and wrote letters. This presentation will focus on the libraries role during this ordeal and examine the three elements used to earn their trust: vision, development, and implementation. The library worked hard to listen and respond to the voices of the community. One aspect, Valerie Arnold built a new YA department for this space. She worked with me as we envisioned a new space for the teens and curated a new collection of books. Basically, built a new area for the teens.

Ellen Ryan, Lauren Antolino, Heather Kristian YASS & CSS

Programming with Garden State Book Award Nominees

Learn about some great books that are likely already on your shelves! The Garden State Book Awards are an annual award created to draw attention to titles that may have fallen through the cracks. Representatives from the Garden State Children's and Teen Book Awards will highlight some of their favorite titles from the ballot along with practical ways to use them in the library.

Rachel Talbert – Waiting on more information and official description

Collaborative Writing

Jen Apgar, Brie Mintz YASS, CSS, D&O

Literacy for All: Supporting Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Children and Teens in the Library

Did you know that 1 in 5 people are dyslexic? Yet, it's still one of the most misunderstood learning disabilities, continuing to mystify librarians and educators alike? Join youth services librarians Brie Mintz and Jen Apgar for a session covering various ways to break barriers in supporting neurodivergent and dyslexic children and teens throughout the library and schools. We will discuss programming ideas, outreach opportunities, resources to support your patrons and students, and inclusive collaboration!

Ang Coxen YASS, Admin & Management

Diverse Applications of Healing Circles in the Library Setting: A Pause to Listen & Share

Join the discussion of how Healing Circles can occur throughout the day in your Library with staff

and your patrons. Come prepared to practice the Art of Hosting these Circles. This is a deep dive.

Ang Coxen, a recognized Global Healing Circle Facilitator / Host / Trainer, offers an opportunity to share, discuss, and learn with an open heart and mind. Ang will host a Healing Circle to check in on how you are feeling and offer you an opportunity to detox from this extremely stressful time.

Laura Curry, Jasmine Riel, Jeff Cupo, Ally from Hoboken?

Title: Empowering Hygiene Initiatives around the Garden State

Libraries across New Jersey are integrating health and wellness stations and menstruation kits into their library's services to make sure young patrons have what they need to maintain proper hygiene and keep their dignity. Join librarians from Bound Brook, Hoboken, Cherry Hill and Elizabeth to learn about each public library's hygiene initiatives and find out how to get services like these off the ground and implemented into your library.

The presentation would specifically focus on GRL PWR. period kits at Bound Brook Public Library, the Community Care kits station at Hoboken Public Library, the period pantry at Cherry Hill Public Library, and the Teen Health & Wellness station at Elizabeth Public Library.

Stephanie Smith, Sloane Kazim, Rachael Trotter, Enola Romano, Sharon Rawlins, Dana Vocht

Diversify Your Reader's Advisory from Picture Books to Young Adult

Library staff have the potential to hand patrons books that better make them understand themselves, their fellow community members, and the world. Knowing what books exist is the first step to getting them in patrons' hands. Come to learn from six youth services professionals about diverse nonfiction books and books featuring transgender characters, characters with mental and physical disabilities, gender non-conforming kids, and U.S. American Indians and Alaskan Natives characters.

Social Media: None

Member Updates & Hot Topics:



Young Adult Services Section 2023-2024 Executive Board

Emily Mazzoni, President

(she/her)

Teen Services Librarian

Monroe Township Public Library

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Dana Vocht, Vice President

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Youth Services Librarian

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Jason Weissmann, Secretary

(he/him/Mr.)

Young Adult Librarian

Livingston Public Library

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Jenna Ingham-Furlong, Member-at-Large

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Head of Youth Services

Verona Public Library

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Melaina Squicciarini, Member-at-Large

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