



## **NJLA Young Adult Services Section Meeting Minutes**

Friday, January 20, 2023  
GSTBA Nonfiction 6-12 Deliberations

### **Section Leadership:**

Katie Salerno, President  
Emily Mazzoni, Vice President  
Dana Vocht, Secretary  
Melissa Nemitz, Social Media Manager  
Jenna Ingham, Member at Large  
Moirra Miller, Member at Large  
Kate-Lynn Brown, Past President

---

**In attendance:** Emily Mazzoni, Katie Salerno, David McMahon, Melissa Nemitz, Jen Apgar, Josh Cohen, Melaina Squicciarini, Kate-Lynn Brown, Jenna Ingham, Allison Ryan, Sharon Rawlins, John Campbell, Devon Boyer, Sloane Kazim, Erica Deb, Jason Weissman, Janis Werner, Ann-Marie Aymer, Emily Macleod, Heather Kristian

---

### **YASS Updates from Around the State**

#### **NJSL Report for YASS Meeting, January 20, 2023**

Submitted by Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist for Lifelong Learning, NJ State Library,  
[srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org)

#### **Please take the NJ State Library's Website Survey**

At the New Jersey State Library, we are working on redesigning our website and we'd love to have your input! Would you please take a few moments to complete our [4 minute survey](#)? All responses will be kept anonymous. Your feedback will be helpful to our redesign process. We appreciate your time. The survey will close **January 31st, 2023**

#### **Register Now for Communicating About Climate Change Webinar**

Please join the New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey Library Association, and the New York Sustainable Libraries Initiative for a webinar on Communicating About Climate Change on **January 25th, 2023 at 2PM**. [Click here to learn more and register](#).

#### **CSLP Informational Packet for 2023 Summer Reading Program**

There has been a delay in sending out the usual packet through the statewide delivery service to public libraries containing a cover letter explaining the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading incentives your library will receive for 2023, a printed CSLP catalog and the online manual code link. CSLP had a delay in getting their catalog printed and they were only sent out recently. State Representative Sharon Rawlins and the Statewide Summer Reading Committee is working on getting the packets out to all libraries. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Rawlins at [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org) or 609-278-2640 x 116.

### **Summer Reading Workshops-Registration Opens Feb. 13, 2023**

The Statewide Summer Reading Committee is looking forward to having youth and adult services public library staff attend the annual summer reading workshops this year. Two of the workshops will be in-person and the third will be virtual. All workshops will be from 10 am – 1:30 pm. The dates for the workshops are:

- Friday, March 3, 2023 - Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill (in-person)
- Friday, March 10, 2023 - Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library Main Library (in-person)
- Friday, March 24 - Virtual workshop

**Registration will open February 13, 2023** on the NJ Summer Reading [website](#). You must be subscribed to the website to access the workshop registration page.

For the in-person workshops, you're invited to bring a program idea, especially one for adults, an example of your reading logs and instructions, and/or craft sample to share with the group.

Questions? Email [njlasummerreading@gmail.com](mailto:njlasummerreading@gmail.com).

### **2023 CSLP Manual Available Now & Here is the Code to Access It**

Here's the code for NJ public library staff to access the 2023 Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) Summer Reading manuals:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/New-Jersey-2023-CSLP-Manual-Access-Code.pdf>

Please don't share this code with the public. School libraries don't have access to the code but are encouraged to reach out and partner with their local public libraries on the summer library program. The theme is kindness and the slogan is "All Together Now."

### **Events/Campaigns from Other Organizations**

#### **School Library Journal's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle Grade Magic Virtual Event, Thursday, March 9, 2023**

Join *School Library Journal* for their fifth annual Middle Grade Magic virtual event, a day-long celebration of authors and creators dedicated to crafting literature for children ages eight through 12. Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at some of the most anticipated new titles for kids and tweens, from modern coming-of-age tales to eye-popping graphic novels to immersive fantasy.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to check out the virtual exhibit hall, chat directly with authors, download educational resources, and enter to win prizes and giveaways.

For [more information and to register](#)

### **Be There Certificate**

The Born This Way Foundation is a nonprofit started by Lady Gaga and her mother that's dedicated to supporting youth mental health. The course is a free, self-paced online mental health course called the [Be There Certificate](#), a comprehensive and engaging online course for young people and youth advocates to learn how to support each other through a mental health struggle. The course is available in English, Spanish, and French. Here are PDFs of two-pagers of the Be There Certificate and the educators guide with more information.

[https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022\\_BeThereCertificate\\_SocialTwoPage-r-1.pdf](https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022_BeThereCertificate_SocialTwoPage-r-1.pdf) and

<https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EN-Be-There-Certificate-Educators-Guide-FY23.pdf>

Here are additional video testimonials if you're interested from Lady Gaga and members of the most recent Advisory Board class regarding the Certificate:

- Lady Gaga ([#1](#), [#2](#), [#3](#))
- Advisory Board alum Salsa Utariani (she/her) ([link](#))
- Advisory Board alum Samuel Lee (he/him) ([link](#))
- Advisory Board alum Roman Sidig (he/him) ([link](#))
- Advisory Board alum Laurens-Jan (he/him) ([link](#))
- Advisory Board alum Sophie Szew (she/they) ([link](#))
- Advisory Board alum Saloni Khushal (she/her) ([link](#))
- BONUS! Barney the Dog ([link](#)) and Simba the Cat ([link](#))

Should you have questions, contact Shadille Estepan, [shadille@bornthisway.foundation](mailto:shadille@bornthisway.foundation)

### **Participate in Take Your Child to the Library Day – Saturday, Feb. 4th**

[Take Your Child to the Library Day](#) originated in CT but has grown to be an international initiative that encourages families everywhere to take their children to their local library. TYCLD is officially held on the first Saturday in February but the date is flexible. TYCLD celebrations can happen at any time in February, and libraries can participate in whatever way they want.

[Click here for marketing resources](#)

[Click here to sign up and have your library added to the map](#)

### **Grants from Other Organizations**

#### **ALA Annual Grant Opportunities – Both Due Feb. 1, 2023**

- The [Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant](#) will provide two libraries with \$2,000 to expand their community engagement efforts.

- The [Peggy Barber Tribute Grant](#) aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

---

## TBBC

Liz Burns and Jen Apgar from the Talking Book & Braille Center will be presenting two different sessions at ALA's LibLearnX (formerly Mid-Winter) in New Orleans at the end of the month. The sessions are:

### **That All May Read: Resources for your print disabled community**

Saturday January 28, 2023

2:10 PM – 2:30 PM

### **Exploring Accessible Materials and Library Partnerships to Serve the Print Disabled Community**

Sunday January 29, 2023

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

---

## NJASL

1. The Governor signed the "Information Literacy Bill" on January 4th!
  - a. Work will begin shortly on drafting the standards themselves
2. Book challenges and concerns about School Boards continue
  - a. NJASL has been partnering with NJEA to track areas of concern
    - i. Report any concerns to the NJEA Center for Honesty in Education: <https://www.njea.org/center-for-honesty-in-education-reporting-tool/>
    - ii. This goes beyond just materials challenges and can also be used to report Board members acting inappropriately, anti-inclusion activity, organized political groups, etc.
  - b. Make sure to report any materials challenges to the Rapid Response Team: [rrt@njasl.org](mailto:rrt@njasl.org)
3. Spring Meeting
  - a. Saturday, April 22, 2023
  - b. Usually contains some virtual PD opportunities as well as a membership meeting

4. Conference 2023
  - a. *A World of Stories: A Celebration of Diversity in School Libraries*
  - b. Hard Rock Hotel Atlantic City; 12/3/23-12/5/23

NJLA/NJASL Liaison, Darby Malvey ([njla@njasl.org](mailto:njla@njasl.org))

---

## LLNJ

1. We're hiring!
  - a. Join our team as a Full Team Online Learning & Digital Content Specialist - position closes 1/27
    - i. <https://librarylinknj.org/forum/librarylinknj-online-learning-digital-content-specialist>
2. Reminder that the MentorLIB Mentors' Directory profiles were all deleted on January 11th in an effort to bring the Directory up to date.
  - a. You can create your new profile NOW by visiting <https://librarylinknj.org/MentorNJ/mentors> and clicking "Be a Mentor!"
3. Save the Date for the following winter/spring events:
  - b. *Virtual Event with Cookbook Authors Erin Jeanne McDowell and Rick Martinez; **Thursday, February 23rd***
  - c. *Library Staff Show & Share: Youth Crafts; In person at Piscataway Public Library, **Thursday, March 2nd*** ([Registration now open](#))
  - d. *MentorNJ March Mega Meetup; In person at Monroe Public Library, **Wednesday, March 15th***
  - e. *Super Library Supervisors Series; Virtual Training Series for New & Novice Supervisors*
    - i. **March 29th; April 5th, 12th, 20th**
  - f. *LibraryLinkNJ's TechFest; In person tech talks, tech speed dating, and more!*
    - i. **Wednesday, April 19th @** Morris County Library
    - ii. **Thursday, April 27th @** Cherry Hill Public Library

Launching next month: LLNJ's On-Demand Learning Platform!

Reach out to Programming & Outreach Coordinator, Darby Malvey ([darby@librarylinknj.org](mailto:darby@librarylinknj.org)) with questions, suggestions, or ideas!

---

## CSS

- Upcoming Meetings
  - 2/24, 3/31, 4/28, 5/26 all using recurring zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86267707759>

---

## BCCLS

- Mock awards happening for Printz today (1/20)! Keep an eye out for the results.

## LMXAC:

- There is a new LMX executive director! Eric Lozauskas, who currently holds the position of Director of Information Technology at BCCLS. Eric will be starting at LMxAC on February 1, 2023. The search committee was very impressed with Eric's tech background, experience in negotiating contracts, and project management skills, and his enthusiastic approach to the new role he will be taking on. We on the Executive Board look forward to working with him.
- Highland Park is doing Dungeons and Dragons monthly, they had 12 people!

---

## OTHER

- Proposals for NJLA Newsletter are due February 20th. Please send in any job changes or announcements to [newletter\\_editor@njlamembers.org](mailto:newletter_editor@njlamembers.org). You can also send directly to Kate-Lynn directly!

---

## YASS Business, Important Information, & Reminders

### GSTBA:

- Unfortunately Moira has resigned her position as Member at Large due to a move. Jenna will be handling GSTBA with the help of Emily
- Thank you to everyone who sent in proxy forms for today's deliberation!
- Next month we will be switching to a Google Form for an easier layout and less paper! [Here's the link for the 6-8 form](#), and [here is the link for 9-12](#).
- We will be rediscussing Jason Reynolds' book *Ain't Burned All the Bright* to decide whether it should be included in fiction or nonfiction. It's very short, so if you feel so inclined, you can read it and then give your feedback on where it belongs [here](#), and we'll discuss more at the next meeting.

### NJLA Conference:

- Slowly getting notified about presentations that got accepted. If you submitted a proposal on your own and heard back, please share with Emily! She's not getting all of emails, so if your panels
  - Jenna, Melaina, and Saleena will be doing a pre conference workshop on advocating for teens in the library

- YASS sponsored program on teen entrepreneurship in makerspaces with Sharon and Andrea got accepted
- Laverne, Janis, and another partner will be doing a great graphic novels panel on Friday afternoon
- Emily, Aaron, and Nicole will be doing a panel about cooking classes in the library
- TBBC Fabulous Fun Facts about New Jersey State TBBC has been accepted
- Melaina and Kaley will be doing a presentation on empathy “Creating Sustainable Relationships Through Empathetic Librarianship”
- CSS is cosponsoring Darby and Lynette from LLNJ and CSS and Mary from NJSL for School Collaboration from the Inside Out. They are still looking for a member from YASS to serve on the panel
- Sharon’s panel about multigenerational book clubs for adults and teens based on adult books that have teen versions or crossover appeal with Heather and Rachel has been accepted
- GSBA Luncheon with special guest Kosoko Jackson

### **Social Media:**

- Will start promoting YASS conference session
- Promoted the luncheon and will continue to do so

### **Member Updates & Hot Topics:**

- NJLA Scholarships are now open! Go to [njla.org/scholarship](http://njla.org/scholarship) to apply. Students who live or work in New Jersey are eligible to apply. Students who have been accepted are eligible to apply even if they haven’t started school yet. Applications are due Friday, March 17th. Please forward the information to anyone who may be interested. Send any questions to [scholarshipnjla@gmail.com](mailto:scholarshipnjla@gmail.com)
- MAPL has started teen volunteer days and at the next meeting there are 16 people signed up! They also do “Operation Gratitude” which gives them the opportunity
- Hillsborough’s Kindness Club does volunteer opportunities for teens like holiday cards, etc. This helps offset the few other opportunities for teens.
- Cape May CourtHouse got a Glow Forge! Josh has been using it to make custom items for the Dungeons and Dragons program. David has been doing mug cooking! They made pizza for the first one.
- Janis is doing air fryer cupcakes next month!
- [NJ Makers Day T-shirts are on sale!](#) This is the only time they will be on sale until February 9th. They are a different design this year. T-Shirts help fund mini-grants and professional development
- You can get an NJMD zip up hoodie and other items on their [permanent store](#)
- Emily and a librarian from Los Angeles county library participated in the Great Stories club centered around diversity in Sci Fi.
- Starting in February Emily will be the administrative assistant to the committee for the Printz award

---

### **GSTBA Deliberations:**

Voting on nonfiction 6-12 took place. [Check the spreadsheet for results.](#)

**Upcoming YASS Meeting:**

Friday, February 17th at 9:45am. YASS business meeting will start at 10am. GSTBA grades 6-8 fiction deliberations will follow. The deliberations will be in-person only at the East Brunswick Public Library.

[Click here for the snack sign up sheet!](#)





## **Young Adult Services Section 2022-2023 Executive Board**

### **Katie Salerno, President**

Youth Services Librarian  
SCLSNJ Watchung Library Branch  
<https://sclsnj.org/>  
908-458-8455, [ksalerno@sclibnj.org](mailto:ksalerno@sclibnj.org)

### **Emily Mazzoni, Vice President**

Teen Services Librarian  
Monroe Township Public Library  
<http://www.monroetwplibrary.org/>  
(732) 521-5000, [emazzoni@monroetwplibrary.org](mailto:emazzoni@monroetwplibrary.org)

### **Dana Vocht, Secretary**

Youth Services Librarian  
East Brunswick Public Library  
<https://www.ebpl.org/main/index.cfm>  
(732) 390-6789, [dvocht@ebpl.org](mailto:dvocht@ebpl.org)

### **Melissa Nemitz, Social Media Manager**

Head of Youth Services  
Hunterdon County Library  
<https://www.hclibrary.us/>  
(908) 788-1444, [mnemitz@hclibrary.us](mailto:mnemitz@hclibrary.us)

### **Jenna Ingham, Member-at-Large**

Head of Youth Services  
Verona Public Library  
<https://www.veronalibrary.org/>  
(973) 857-4848, [jennakingham@gmail.com](mailto:jennakingham@gmail.com)

### **Moira Miller, Member-at-Large**

Young Adult Services  
East Brunswick Public Library  
<https://www.ebpl.org/main/index.cfm>  
(732) 390-6789, [mwhittington@ebpl.org](mailto:mwhittington@ebpl.org)

### **Kate-Lynn Brown, Past-President**

Teen Services Librarian  
Piscataway Public Library, John F. Kennedy Memorial Library  
<https://piscatawaylibrary.org/>  
732-463-1633 ext. 6573, [kbrown@piscatawaylibrary.org](mailto:kbrown@piscatawaylibrary.org)