



NJLA Young Adult Services Section Meeting Minutes

March 15th, 2024

East Brunswick Public Library, 10am

Section Leadership:

Emily Mazzone, 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:

In Person: Katie Salerno, Dana Vocht, Emily Mazzone, Jason Weissmann, Liz Begonis, Becca Levin, Sharon Rawlins, Emily Lail, Melaina Squicciarini, Heather Kristian, Julie Ucelli, Janis Werner, Jen Apgar, Katie Yingst, Sloane Kazim

Virtual: Emily McCloud, Josh Cohen, Karen Bilton, Ayoola White, Jen Gheller

YASS Updates from Around the State



NJ State Library report for YASS Meeting March 15, 2024

Submitted by Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist & Statewide Summer Reading Coordinator, NJ State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org

CSLP Updates

The latest **Collaborative Summer Library Program newsletter** features stories on citizen science, the Summer Food Service Program, PLA's Inclusive Teen Internship toolkit, and a preview of product improvements for 2025 – specifically, a realignment of the posters aimed toward different age groups, in response to librarian feedback over the years.

[Read the CSLP newsletter here](#) or [subscribe](#) and receive it in your inbox each month.

JerseyClicks Upcoming Training Sessions

These sessions are being offered at 2pm:

- ProQuest Presents: HeritageQuest Online Introduction - **March 19th**
- Data Axle Presents: Reference Solutions - For Business Expansion - **April 4th**

[Click to learn more and register](#)

NJLA Conference Program: Building Equity Based Summers (BEBS):

Rethinking Summer Library Services Programming, Thursday, May 30 from 4:40 – 5:30

Discover how your library can reconsider the WHY of summer programming to center summer library services on equity to better meet the needs of youth and families from systemically marginalized communities. Library staff participating in the IMLS funded Building Equity Based Summers (BEBS) Project will discuss strategies for redesigning summer services that honor diversity and inclusion in equity-based library initiatives by giving systemically marginalized community members a voice and leadership role in implementing these services. Gina Marie Vaccaro, Head of Youth Services, Livingston Public Library, and Beverly Rowan, Librarian, Dover Free Public Library are participating in the BEBS training and will be on the panel with me for this State Library sponsored session.

News From Other Organizations

ALA Cancels LibLearnX 2026

ALA announced March 11 that its Executive Board has decided not to hold LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience in 2026, citing financial reasons and other factors. LibLearnX will be held January 24–27, 2025, in Phoenix as scheduled. ALA is determining how best to celebrate events traditionally held at the January conference, including the I Love My Librarian Awards, the Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration, and the Youth Media Awards. ALA President Emily Drabinski, the Executive Board, and Interim Executive Director Leslie Burger will hold a **town hall meeting** at 1 p.m. Central on March 19 to answer member questions about the state of the Association. To ensure as many questions are answered as possible, please **submit questions by March 15.... AL: The Scoop, Mar. 11**

Trans and Gender Diverse Voices in Libraries

Friday, March 22, 2024

1:30-3pm ET

Register here:

https://unc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5slq7FLOTdygfVwlzhKGIA#/registration

More details can be found here: <https://heellife.unc.edu/event/9882568>

ALSC 2024 Children's Literature Lecture Featuring Rita Williams-Garcia – April 17, 2024, 7:00-8:00 pm

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, together with the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information, is honored to welcome the Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) 2024 Children's Literature Lecture presented by bestselling and award-winning author Rita Williams-Garcia. Last held in Pittsburgh in 1989, the ALSC Children's Literature Lecture is an

annual event geared toward adults who work with children and/or who have an interest in children's literature. This prestigious honor features an author, critic, librarian, historian or educator presenting a paper considered to be a significant contribution to the field of children's literature.

The 2024 lecture is being hosted in cooperation with Allegheny County Library Association, August Wilson African American Cultural Center and United Black Book Clubs of Pittsburgh. Recommended for adults and students in grades 6 – 12. This free virtual event will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/event/alsc-2024-childrens-literature-lecture-rita-williams-garcia/>

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey Needs Your Help!

The League of Historical Societies is working to bring history to life for New Jersey's young people by helping its members find ways to bring Makerspaces, Maker culture, and Maker programming to historical societies statewide. With the support of LibraryLinkNJ, the League is seeking to compile a directory of libraries across the state that would be willing to share their Maker expertise with local Historical Societies. All libraries who have engaged with Maker programming are encouraged to participate; a high-tech tools or dedicated Makerspaces are not required. [Click here to learn more and sign up](#) by **April 12th**.

Questions? Contact [Cristen Piatnochka](#), Director of Strategic Initiatives, League of Historical Societies of NJ



SLJ Day of Dialog returns May 23rd! [Join us](#) for another day-long virtual program of author panels, in-depth conversations, and keynote talks — your TBR list will thank you!

You'll hear about the hottest forthcoming titles for children, tweens, and teens, from nonfiction and romance to picture books and graphic novels. You can also visit the virtual exhibit hall to network with leading publishers, enjoy intimate author chats, and download digital galleys and other free resources. Save your spot today, and stay tuned for updates! [REGISTER](#)

Invitation for NJ Librarians to Teen Services Meetup in East Greenbush, NY, Tues. April 30, 2024

Join your teen-serving library colleagues from surrounding states for this FREE day of energizing ideas, problem hacks, and go-to colleagues! If your library job includes a focus on teens, you're invited!

We'll meet from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30 at East Greenbush Community Library at 10 Community Way in East Greenbush, NY.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wyuRBVtdv2qJ92gC9>

To keep it free, please BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch). We'll provide drinks, dessert, thoughtful content, fun surprises, and CE credit!

5 CEU hours

To register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxc92OYj7F0wjdhPNjjKQBTVKq3ZRtQynme0Nr1kmywmNpCQ/viewform>

The New Jersey Center for the Book Will Present Its Literary Landmark Award to the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank, New Jersey

The New Jersey Center for the Book (NJCB), an affiliate of the United States Library of Congress, will bestow its coveted Literary Landmark Award upon the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank, New Jersey on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The ceremony will commence at 1:30 PM and will run concurrent with a second event called 'The Black Press Expanding Exhibit: Shaping Black Identity and Black Influence'. Attendees on behalf of the NJCB will include its chairman, New Jersey author Wil Mara, as well as its vice chair, Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist at the New Jersey State Library.

The T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center recognizes and continues the work of Timothy Thomas Fortune, an American orator, civil rights leader, journalist, writer, editor and publisher. He was the editor of the nation's leading black newspaper *The New York Age* and the leading economist in the black community. He was also a long-time adviser to Booker T. Washington as well as the editor for Washington's first autobiography, *The Story of My Life and Work*. Fortune's philosophy of militant agitation on behalf of the rights of black people laid one of the foundations of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

The New Jersey Center for the Book's Literary Landmark Award designates places or monuments across the state that represent New Jersey's literary, scientific, or artistic heritage and legacy. Previous recipients include the Newark Public Library, the Walt Whitman House, and the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies.

Following a brief speech by the NJCB Chair, a plaque will be presented to commemorate the occasion, and light refreshments will be served. To learn more about the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, please visit

<https://www.tthomasfortuneculturalcenter.org/>. For more about the New Jersey Center for the Book, visit <https://njcenterforthebook.org/>.

Miss Rumphius Award – Deadline to Apply Today - March 15, 2024

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 for youth 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!

Directions for completing and submitting your application can be found [here](#). Check out our [previous award winners](#). 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.

TBBC - TBBC will attending the following upcoming events:

Thursday, March 21st, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - 14th Annual Transition Fair/Special Education Resources Fair, Brick Township High School Library

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 am - 1:00pm - BCSSSD Spring Resource Fair, Burlington County Special Services School, 20 Pioneer Blvd, Westhampton, NJ 08060

NJASL - Saturday May 4th Spring Meeting at TCNJ 25\$ to attend, talking about info literacy. Dept. of Ed. are going to be there, talking about writing standards of info literacy. Lots of swag to be given away!

Limited to 200 participants.



EDUCATORS FOR
EQUALITY

Saturday March 23rd, 2024
2-3:30pm

Authors Panel
& book signing

Westfield Memorial Library
550 E Broad St, Westfield, NJ 07090



Robyn Gigl
By Way of Sorrow, Survivor's
Guilt and Remain Silent



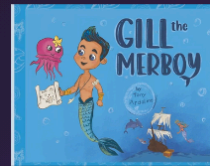
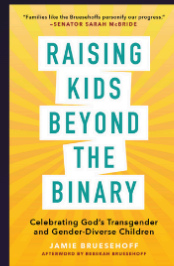
Jamie Bruesehoff
Raising Kids Beyond the
Binary



Julio Roman
Out of Space:
Creating Safe Spaces in Unlikely
Places



Tony Ardolino
Mr. Gay World 2022
Gill the Merboy



GARDEN STATE
EQUALITY



NJASL

New Jersey Association
of School Librarians



LLNJ

- [Library Staff Show & Share: Youth Crafts](#), 4/17, 10am-1pm at Ocean County Library, Toms River Branch. *Programming library staff who serve youth patrons are invited to join us for a Show & Share event! Show off your successful kids and teen crafting ideas, get inspired by your colleagues from around the state, and even share or swap your leftover craft materials!*
- Live, Local MentorNJ Meetups. [Library Staff Trauma Support Group](#), 3/26, 2pm-4pm, Springfield Free Public Library. [Community Engagement](#), 4/9, 2pm-4pm, Burlington County Library Westampton.
- Save the Date: LibraryLinkNJ In-Person Membership Meeting. June 20, 2024 at Middlesex County College in Edison. Featuring a keynote address on the power of libraries from YA author Eric Smith.
- League of Historical Societies of New Jersey: *The League of Historical Societies*

is working to bring history to life for New Jersey's young people by helping its members find ways to bring Makerspaces, Maker culture, and Maker programming to historical societies statewide, with the goal of making history education more exciting and impactful through hands-on, creative activities. With the support of LibraryLinkNJ, the League is seeking to compile a directory of libraries across the state that would be willing to share their Maker expertise with local Historical Societies. [Click here to learn more and sign up to be part of the Directory!](#)

CSS - Here is the info for CSS' next meeting, which is happening a week earlier than originally announced due to the original date being a closed holiday for a lot of libraries. Thank you for including this in the YASS minutes.

**CSS March general membership meeting
Zoom meeting Friday, 3/22/24 @ 10am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86758573935>
Contact: Jenise Sileo, 1st Vice President/Acting President - jenise.sileo@parsippanylibrary.org**

NJLA EXEC BOARD: Vote for Executive Board positions!

BCCLS: Transitioning to VEGA!

LMXAC: none

OTHER:

YASS Business, Important Information, & Reminders

NJLA Conference:

Sharon has worked and is working with trainers from California with the goal of building equity based summers. See their presentation at the NJLA conference.

Social Media: none

Member Updates & Hot Topics:

Melaina's Poster session was approved for ALA!

Liz B. connected with a librarian in DE to make a Library Pen Pal program. World Wide Library Pen Pals Connection on facebook ([Here](#) is a direct link to the group)

[Here](#) is a spreadsheet of alternate organizations that may accept teen volunteers!

YASS EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS - Please submit applications by March 31st to Dana (dvocht@ebpl.org) and Emily (emazzoni@monroetwplibrary.org) with the following:

- Name
- Title
- Library/Organization
- Position on the Section Exec Board
- Brief bio/statement

Vice President/President Elect (3 year term. VP/President/Past President. Must have served on the executive board within the last three years)

Attends NJLA Leadership meeting. Arrange and submit program proposals for all conferences (including pre-conference arrangements). Solicit volunteers to be go-to point people for conference program proposals. Assigns moderators and/or facilitators for conference programs. Submit list of books for author signings at conferences. Submit any NJLA conference honorarium request forms to the NJLA office. Picks up duties as needed in coordination with Section President.

Secretary (1 year term)

Take minutes at Section meetings and send to Executive Board for edits and approval. Post approved minutes to the website. Circulate attendance sheet; note names of members present in minutes. Circulate snack sign-up sheet; nudge members to commit to contributions. Provide information to President for inclusion on upcoming meeting agendas. Send letters to publishers of titles selected for the ballot, informing them their books have been selected for ballot. When possible, use NJLA letterhead in print or in email. On even years, send press releases notifying local and national press about winners of GSBA. Contact GSCBA Committee to coordinate.

Member-at-Large (2 year term)

Assign GSTBA readers. Be the YS Forum Liaison. Collect and collate annotations of ballot titles. Work with members of Exec Board to proofread. Post ballot to website and create electronic ballots. Update and order copies of GSTBA past winners – send to

Exec Board members for proofreading and post to website. Prepare awards for GSBA Luncheon (includes matting for those to be shipped; matting & framing for those to be presented in person). Prepare YA Section interest table at annual conference

Social Media Manager (1 year term)

Keep track of login information for any and all YASS social media accounts. Build, connect and engage library audiences with pertinent teen or YA information as it relates to libraries and information. Update each account at a frequency as determined by the YASS executive board with emphasis on special events. Promote YASS-sponsored programs for annual conference once they are accepted. Promote other YASS-sponsored initiatives as determined by the executive board. Solicit content from members to highlight YA activities and events throughout the state. Take photographs at the NJLA annual conference. Post to section website and other social media accounts. If the Social Media Manager cannot attend, he/she will recruit a volunteer.

Next Meeting April 19th - Montgomery Branch of SCLSNJ



Young Adult Services Section 2023-2024 Executive Board

Emily Mazzoni, President

(she/her)

Teen Services Librarian

Monroe Township Public Library

<http://www.monroetwplibrary.org/>

(732) 521-5000, emazzoni@monroetwplibrary.org

Dana Vocht, Vice President

(she/her/Ms.)

Youth Services Librarian

East Brunswick Public Library

<https://www.ebpl.org/main/index.cfm>

(732) 390-6789, dvocht@ebpl.org

Jason Weissmann, Secretary

(he/him/Mr.)

Young Adult Librarian

Livingston Public Library

<https://livingstonlibrary.org/>

(973) 992-4600, jason.weissmann@livingston.bccls.org

Jenna Ingham-Furlong, Member-at-Large

(she/her/Ms.)

Head of Youth Services

Verona Public Library

<https://www.veronalibrary.org/>

(973) 857-4848, heymissjenna@gmail.com

Melaina Squicciarini, Member-at-Large

(they/them/Mx.)

Youth Services Librarian

Highland Park Public Library

<https://www.hpplnj.org>

(732) 572-2750, msquicciarini@hpplnj.org

Katie Salerno, Past President

(She/her/Ms.)

Youth Services Librarian

SCLSNJ Watchung Library Branch

<https://sclsnj.org/>

908-458-8455, ksalerno@sclibnj.org

John Campbell, YASS Intern & Social Media Manager

(he/him)

Teen Library Assistant

Fort Lee Public Library

[\(201\) 592-3614](tel:2015923614), john.campbell@fortlee.bccls.org

Devon Boyer, YASS Intern & Social Media Manager

(she/her)

Library Associate

Atlantic County Library System, Galloway Branch

[\(609\) 652-2352](tel:6096522352), dboyer@aclsys.org