



NJLA Young Adult Services Section and Children's Services Section Meeting Minutes

10/27/2023

Monroe Township Public Library, 9:45am

YASS Section Leadership:

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

In attendance:

I: Melaina Squicciarini, Katie Salerno, Jenna Ingham-Furlong, Emily Mazzoni, Lynnette Fucci, Jen Apgar, Julie Uccelli, Becca Levin, Jason Weissmann, Rita Post

V: Sharon Rawlins, Jane Sawyer, Ryan Oxild, Rachel Talbert, Ayoola White, Maria Parovini, Teresa Carlton, Cynthia Becker, Matheson Westlake, Maureen Herman, Ellen Ryan, Danielle Pitter, Kristen Churchill, Heather Kristian

Updates from Around the State



NJSL - *An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University*

NJSL Report for Joint CSS/YASS Meeting, October 27, 2023

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

2023 Statewide Summer Reading Program Statistics

The number of individuals of all ages who participated was 107,097, an increase of 10.8% from last year. There was a small decrease (.9%) from last year in the number of individuals of all ages who achieved their goal (56,616). There was a 3.8% increase in the number of themed events offered (23,961) compared to last year. The number of attendees at these events increased 10.8% (515,610) over last year, and an average of 21.5 individuals attended each event. Two hundred libraries responded to the survey, about 40-50 less than last year.

Building Equity-Based Summers Initiative (BEBS) – Libraries Participating

BEBS is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [grant-funded national initiative](#) focused on assisting public library staff to gain the skills needed to implement equitable summer services with systematically marginalized communities. The NJ State Library selected six public libraries to participate in Cohort Year 2 of this three-year initiative. The libraries are Atlantic City Free Public Library, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's North Plainfield, Bound Brook and Somerville branches, Dover Free Public Library, Keyport Free Public Library, New Brunswick Free Public Library, and Livingston Public Library. Learn more [here](#).

State Librarian's Monthly Updates:

October'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.

Palace Project

In partnership with Lyris, 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/>.

Last Chance to Submit Feedback on the Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign

Has your library been using the Life Happens @ Your Library marketing campaign materials? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please take our feedback survey! [Click to take survey](#).

ALA Updates:

Nominations Being Accepted for Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

The Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement (VHALA) nominations are open. Please consider nominating an author/illustrator before the link closes on November 10, 2023. airtable.com/appidcCfnosOyOH5Y/shrRyCGDDY2LzvDfU

Call for Proposals for ALSC's 2024 National Institute

ALSC is excited to open the Call for Proposals for the 2024 National Institute! The 2024 National Institute will convene in Denver, Colorado, from September 19-21, 2024.

The 2024 National Institute theme is "Standing Up for Stories." Submit your proposals on new research, innovative ideas, and best practices regarding literacy, collection development, library

advocacy in youth services, youth programming, and more!

All presenters will receive a discounted registration rate. Learn more and submit your program proposal on the ALSC website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/confevents/institute/ed-programs>. Program proposals are due on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 by 11:59pm CT.

CSLP Updates:

CSLP 2024 Manual Code

Here is a link to a flyer with the CSLP 2024 Manual code.

<https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/New-Jersey-2024-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. I will also send a copy of the code to all libraries through the statewide delivery service with other information soon. The incentives catalog isn't quite ready yet, although you can [shop online](#) now for 2024 CSLP incentives.

SAVE THE DATE: CSLP Summer Symposium: Virtual Dec. 7th 11 am – 4 pm Registration Opens on November 10, 2023

The CSLP Summer Symposium is 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.**

Sessions will include:

- Simplifying the Adventure of Summer Reading: Observations from a Seasoned Storyteller – Jenifer Strauss
- 2024 Manual Highlights: Adventure Begins at Your Library! – Alyssa Graybeal and manual committee chairs.
- Once Upon an Adventure: Practical Tips for Gathering Stories to Promote Your Library – Angela Hursh
- Taking Adventure Outdoors: Programming and Partnerships facilitated by Amanda Raiche

Not able to attend the virtual event live? Recordings will be available after the event. If you expect to only view the recorded sessions, you can sign-up at registration to have an email sent when the recordings are posted.

Awards/Grants from Other Organizations

Carnegie-Whitney Awards up to \$5,000 for Guides to Library Resources

The American Library Association Publishing Committee provides a grant of up to \$5,000 for the preparation of print or electronic reading lists, indexes or other guides to library resources that promote reading or the use of library resources at any type of library. Funded projects have ranged from "A Resource Guide about Disabilities, Disability Theory, and Assistive Technologies" to "A Bibliography for Queer Teens" to "Graphic Novels & the Humanity of Mental Illness" to "Web Accessibility Resources for Libraries".

Applications must be received by November 3, 2023. Recipients will be notified by February 2024. For more information and guidelines, visit

[www.ala.org/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawrds/...](http://www.ala.org/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawrds/) or contact Mary Jo Bolduc, Grant Administrator at mbolduc@ala.org.

Virtual Events:



Join *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal* on **November 9th** for the seventh annual **LibraryCon Live!** virtual event! It's a [day-long celebration](#) of fandom, spotlighting genre fiction for adults and teens with panels devoted to comics and graphic novels.

[Register](#)



Penguin Random House, *Library Journal*, and *School Library Journal* [Winter 2023 virtual book and author festival](#), on Thurs. **Dec. 7, 2023**. It's a free day-long event celebrating reading, authors, and librarians.



Book Fest@ Bank Street

The Bank Street Center for Children's Literature Presents:
Virtual BookFest @ Bank Street in Partnership with KidLit TV

Saturday, November 4, 2023 | 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM | Via Zoom
Keynote, Sonia Manzan

This event, which is designed for adults, features luminaries from the children's literature community. Authors, illustrators, editors, reviewers, and scholars will take part in three panel discussions. **Sonia Manzano**, who played Maria on **Sesame Street** for 44 years, will present the keynote. Bank Street will be partnering once again this year with [KidLit TV](#). Other panelists and moderators will include two-time Caldecott winner, **Sophie Blackall**, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, **Meg Medina**; award winning author of *Wonder* and *White Bird*, **RJ Palacio** and nonfiction authors: **Chelsea Clinton**, **Kekla Magoon**, **Traci Sorell** and **Kelly Starling Lyons**. Use this [link](#) to see the entire program and to register. There is a cost of \$35 to attend.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

This international celebration encourages families to take their children to their local public library, held annually on the first Saturday of February. To celebrate, libraries across the country and around the world welcome families with programs, activities, and special events. Since

2011, more than 1,735 libraries have participated, serving 56.54 million people and drawing attention to the importance of the library in the lives of children.

Last year, the Take Your Child to the Library Day team launched a new public-facing website: takeyourchildtothelibrary.org. The site features information about Take Your Child to the Library Day and the benefits of libraries for children, including an interactive map for families to find a participating library near them. Coming soon is a librarian resource page with information and tools to make participating even easier.

We are asking for libraries across the country to register and participate.

Participation is completely customizable – it can be as simple as handing out bookmarks, or as elaborate as a full day extravaganza. Registration is simple and free through [this form](#). When libraries register, they'll be placed on the [map](#) for their community to find.

Libraries can get information and inspiration from these short videos:

- [How to register](#)
- [Planning your events](#)
- [Making a publicity plan](#)

Take Your Child to the Library Day is coordinated by the [Connecticut Library Consortium](#) along with co-founder Caitlin Augusta of the Stratford (CT) Library. Questions? Contact Amanda Stern, Connecticut Library Consortium, astern@ctlibrarians.org.

TBBC

TBBC will be presenting at the NJASL 2023 Annual Fall Conference. We will have two different presentations: **Accessibility Unbound: Services for students with reading disabilities & print disabilities** and **Living Large: Large print resources for students with reading disabilities**. Liz Burns, TBBC Associate Director, and Dr. Ellen Pozzi, Director, School Library Media Specialist Program William Paterson University, will also be presenting: **Discover ALSC's Notable (Outstanding! Distinguished! Just Plain Great!) Children's Books**. Come say hello if you are at the conference!

TBBC is excited to announce we will be soon expanding our Large Print collection to now include Spanish Language titles! Early next year, 2024, we will be receiving a collection of Spanish Language titles in large print that will be added to our already vast collection of Large Print books for our children and teens throughout NJ. If you'd like more information about how to access TBBC's current and upcoming collection of large print titles for your children or teens with print disabilities, please contact us!

Disability Rights New Jersey holds a weekly Tech Spotlight. Jen Apgar, Youth Services Librarian at NJ State Library's Talking Book & Braille Center will be presenting on Tuesday, November 28th at 12:00pm! The link to register for this virtual session highlighting TBBC's services is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tzMtduChpzkiE9D6rCS6hfPSF07pDpiosyZd#/registration>

NJASL: None

LLNJ

Recordings and resources from the Fall Literacy Conference are now available and will remain online until January 5th. Access them at: [LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace](#), Fall Literacy Conference

Registration is now open for our next Anti-Trafficking Training, brought to you in collaboration with the Global Center on Human Trafficking at Montclair State University. This 1.5 hour webinar is free to attend and explores how library staff can identify human trafficking victims and how to respond in a way that keeps both staff and victims safe. Details and registration on our website: [LLNJ Anti-Trafficking Training](#)

Don't forget to join us for the MentorNJ Youth Services Meetup, the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm, online via Zoom. Zoom links go out each Monday for any MentorNJ Meetups happening that week - no registration required!

If you haven't set up your LibraryLinkNJ online user account, you're missing a lot of great information! A user account is free, as are most of LLNJ's programs and services. Visit our website to sign up today!

CSS: None

NJLA EXEC BOARD: None

BCCLS: The Science Fair Bootcamp was successful.

LMXAC: Children's Section is meeting virtually monthly.

OTHER: PALS PLUS will be having a "Meeting Teens Where They Are" session

On Wednesday, November 15th, the PALS Plus Teen Services Committee will facilitate a virtual workshop called "Meeting Teens Where They Are." This workshop is for PALS Plus members only, but will be recorded for future viewing. The intent of the workshop is to "inspire discussion focused on ways to help us meet the needs of teens wherever they happen to be - whether they're visiting our libraries, or we're visiting them in their own spaces - and to remind us WHY we do what we do as Teen Librarians!" The three topics of discussion will be: "Meeting Teens in Your Community," "Meeting Neurodiverse Teens," and "Meeting Teens When You're Having a Bad Day." YASS members Jenna Ingham-Furlong and Kristen Churchill will be taking part in this workshop.

Essex County Children's Librarian Group -

ECPCL had a workshop on October 20th with Christian Bellissimo and the group recommends him as a presenter if any libraries are looking for professional development opportunities for their staff. This is his website: <https://www.christianbellissimo.com/>

This is a brief summary of his work:

"Christian provides professional development workshops and consulting services to school districts, State and National Early Childhood Organizations (including NAEYC and Head Start), social service agencies, and parent groups. His workshops integrate current early childhood research with his years of experience as a practicing play therapist and preschool intervention specialist with a public school district in New Jersey. The content of Christian's workshops aligns with the social-emotional domains of CLASS PreK, ECERS-3 and TPOT.

In his workshops, Christian uses case anecdotes and video demonstrations of play-based strategies that support children's emotional development, followed by fun and engaging experiential exercises that help generalize the interaction skills into the classroom or home."

Karl Schwartz (Van Buren Branch Library - Branch Manager, Newark Public Library) had this to say about the workshop:

"The strategies Christian taught us can be used to help manage difficult behaviors children may exhibit in the library. Anyone can use the research-based techniques of play therapy to bond with children and help them cope with challenging situations. In the past week alone, I have already started using the techniques Christian shared with us to help manage groups of children in my own library programming."

NJALA - Will have virtual events that are coming up. "Having Your Voice Heard" presentation series (monthly).

Leadership and Education Committee - If you are involved with another section of NJLA, please apply for an intern. Grad students can apply to BE interns!

YASS Business, Important Information, & Reminders

GSTBA:

- New to GSTBA or just need a refresher? We have a FAQ here: <https://tinyurl.com/gstbafaq30>
- Ballots for the 29th annual GSTBA are open! Deadline to vote is 12/31/23. Please encourage your teens to vote!

- Link to all sorts of downloads and annotations are available here:
<https://njlamembers.org/content/voting-information-ballots>
- Please remember: the Canva document is editable, so if you'd like to make edits, please make a copy first. We're all sharing this. :)
- There is still time to sign up to be a reader for the 30th annual GSTBA ballot selections. If you are interested, fill out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/gstba30>
- You don't need to be a member of YASS to read for GSTBA. The only requirement is to be a member of NJLA. All are welcome and encouraged to sign up. If you only want to read a certain number of titles, you can let us know that in the form.
- Shout-out/thanks/eternal gratitude to those of you who helped compiled the titles for the Master List. Your work is super duper appreciated!
- For those of you who have already signed up, we are getting ready to assign titles to readers – those will go out on Monday, October 30th.
- Please be aware of a few changes for readers for this year:
 - You can volunteer to read from just ONE of the three lists. (This is a change from the requirement of reading from at least two lists.)
 - While we encourage all readers to fill out the Reader Feedback form, there will be a much more simplified version for readers who plan to attend deliberations in person.
- As a reminder, deliberations will be IN PERSON only with no virtual or hybrid option. Deliberations will be at East Brunswick Public Library in 2024. Specific details can be found on YASS's meeting list. Those who cannot attend in person are required to fill out the extended Reader Feedback Form. Both forms will be sent out on Monday along with the reader assignments.
- If you have any questions, please email both GSTBA co-chairs:
Jenna heymissjenna@gmail.com and Melaina mxmelaina@gmail.com

NJLA Conference:

Both panels I spoke about at the previous meeting have now found enough co-panelists and are not seeking any more at this time. If anyone else has a panel idea and needs help fleshing it out, or already has a fleshed-out idea and would like help finding other sections to co-sponsor, other people to work on the panel with you, or needs some help putting together the proposal form, please email me at dvocht@ebpl.org. Just a reminder that the proposal form closes earlier than usual this year (December 8th) so don't wait too long!

If you plan on doing a conference proposal and don't need any help, please still send me the information (title, description, people involved, etc.) about the panel. If it involves YA, YASS will sponsor it, and I'd like to promote it at YASS meetings, so others know what cool things their fellow YA librarians are working on!

Youth Services Forum:

It's true, the Youth Services Forum is indeed happening after all. This year's planning team has put together a really innovative and fun Forum together for us this year.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 12th and set your navigation systems for Monroe Township Library. Using the 12/12 date as a prompt for wordplay, the theme is "12 Things I Love About YOUth Services." The format of this year's Forum will be unconference, unscripted, and unforgettable.

We are going to spend the day luxuriating in fabulous youth services bliss. Our main sessions for the day will be a variety of topics ranging from managing teen volunteers, infusing new skills into your storytime, navigating tricky situations with parents, tactics to handle censorship issues in your library, ideas self-care and battling burnout, plus discussion of collection development, community outreach, programs and crafts, and teen spaces. And to top it off, we named every session after a song title. Just because we can!

But wait, there's more! Kicking off the day will be a few words from our very own Past-Presidents of CSS and YASS, Heather Kristian and Katie Salerno. NJLA President, Carina Gonzalez, and Vice President, Jeff Cupo, will be providing the keynote. We'll also have a session from Darby Malvey discussing Mentor NJ. Rounding out the day will be a book buzz panel about upcoming titles from Brodart – PLUS A SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST. Who may or may not be an author, but is most definitely an author. More details coming soon!

And yes, there will be swag. So much swag. Oodles of swag. And raffles. And if you're not a raffle winner, you can always treat yourself at the NJLA Store who will be there all day. We're also going to feed you breakfast and lunch. This is an event you won't want to miss – and by the end of the day, you'll walk away with way more than just 12 things you love about youth services!

NJLA Youth Services Forum 2023 - Workshop XXXI: 12 Things We Love About YOUth Services will be on Tuesday, December 12 from 8:45am to 3:30pm at [Monroe Township Library](#) located at 4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township, NJ 08831.

Cost to attend for NJLA members is \$35. It's \$17.50 for students, and \$52.50 for non-members. There will be no on-site registrations. The deadline to register is December 4th or until we reach capacity. Tickets are limited and going fast, so register soon!

The 2023 NJLA Youth Services Forum is sponsored by LibraryLink NJ, NJ State Library, and NJ Association of School Librarians.

You can register through NJLA by going here: <https://www.njla.org/youth-services-forum>

Social Media: None

Send your updates to John and/or Devon to post on YASS social media!

Member Updates & Hot Topics: None



Young Adult Services Section 2023-2024 Executive Board

Emily Mazzoni, President

(she/her)

Teen Services Librarian

Monroe Township Public Library

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

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Dana Vocht, Vice President

(she/her/Ms.)

Youth Services Librarian

East Brunswick Public Library

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

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Jason Weissmann, Secretary

(he/him/Mr.)

Young Adult Librarian

Livingston Public Library

<https://livingstonlibrary.org/>

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Jenna Ingham-Furlong, Member-at-Large

(she/her/Ms.)

Head of Youth Services

Verona Public Library

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Melaina Squicciarini, Member-at-Large

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Youth Services Librarian

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Katie Salerno, Past President

(She/her/Ms.)

Youth Services Librarian

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