



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

### **Minutes**

9/29/2023

Matawan Aberdeen Public Library, 9:45am

#### **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

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**In attendance:** Katie Salerno, Kate-Lynn Grim, Dana Vocht, Emily Mazzone, Melaina Squicciarini, Carolyn Aversano, Erica Deb, Jason Weissmann, Jen Apgar, Sloane K., Rita Post, Sara Zato

**Virtual:** Rachel Talbert, Jenna Ingham-Furlong, Maureen Herman, Jen Gheller, Emily Macleod

**Special guest - Kimberly Paone**

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

**NJSL**

#### **NJSL Report for YASS Meeting, Sept. 29, 2023**

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

#### **2023 Summer Reading Program Survey – New Survey Link**

Attention all public library staff who missed completing the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading survey by the September 8, 2023 deadline. Another survey with the same questions was created to collect responses that can be accessed [here](#). If

you need to see the questions beforehand, a PDF is [available](#). Questions? Contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org).

## **Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) Kits Available for Public Libraries To Borrow**

**Two solar eclipses are coming to North America: an Annular Eclipse in 2023 and a Total Solar Eclipse in 2024!**



With funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Space Science Institute, through its **Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) program** has provided the NJ State Library with solar science kits, and information and activities to share with public libraries for their library patrons.

The NJ State Library is circulating two solar eclipse activities for libraries (SEAL) kits. We have 4 kits in total: 2 of each type of kits. Borrowers can have one kit at a time for one week and they must come to the NJ State Library to pick it up in person.

- A **multi-generational kit** that contains a solar telescope and sunoculars, with accompanying science activities. The kit measures 44”X 20”X 17”
- A **younger audience kit** that includes a sunspotter and sunoculars with accompanying science activities. The kit measures 30.5”X20”X17” (can also be used for all age groups)

**Public libraries can borrow one of the kits for one week.** You must come to the NJ State Library in-person to pick up the kit and have a vehicle large enough to fit the kit. The multi-generational kit is 44”X20”X17”. The youth audiences kit is 30.5”X20”X17”. Each kit weighs 40-50 pounds.

[Register](#) to request a kit.

While staff at the State Library will seek to honor requested weeks for programming, we cannot guarantee your week request will be available. The New Jersey State Library will email you more information about using the kits to your library when we confirm your requested week.

The Science Institute’s SEAL team has also developed a [guide](#) for public libraries that contains ideas and resources for solar eclipse science and viewing. STAR Net has a [blog](#) with information for getting started using the solar eclipse resources and a short [How-To-Video](#) on how to set up and operate the solar telescope. They also have a clearinghouse with STEM activities for public libraries. Access more solar eclipse activities [here](#).

Questions regarding the New Jersey State Library’s SEAL kits can be directed to Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org).



**IMLS Funded Project on Implementing Information Literacy Standards**

The State Library State applied and has been informed that IMLS will fund an initiative to implement information literacy curriculum development and professional development training and a national forum for school, public and academic librarians in NJ. Developing the curriculum and training on the appropriate role of information literacy in formal & non-formal educational settings will support staff in the integration of information literacy standards in their approach to providing services & programming. Sharon Rawlins will be the project manager.

### **State Librarian's Monthly Updates:**

September'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.

### **YALSA Updates:**

#### **YALSA's Teen's Top Ten Voting Open until October 15th**

Teen's Top Ten Voting has opened and will remain open until October 15! Use this link to share with your teens, so they can cast their vote: [Teen's Top Ten Voting Form](#) Our committee is hard at work this year to continue to steer the Teen's Top Ten program back on course. Work on this started earlier this year by the previous chair who stepped in at the end of the year, Stephanie Charlefour and the 2022-23 committee members Tamara DePasquale, Emily Harris, Rebecca Leonhard, and Lynn Jacobs.

#### **YALSA Symposium Registration is open!**

The Symposium will be held in St. Louis, MO, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Arch on November 10 -12, 2023. Click on the link for more information.

### **CSLP Updates:**

#### **2025 CSLP Color Our World Slogan Program Contest – Deadline Sept. 30, 2023**

CSLP is interested in your creative and unique program ideas for the 2025 slogan, *Color Our World: Colorea Nuestro Mundo* that ties into the Art theme. One program idea from each category (children, teens, and adults), and one pertaining to early literacy books and songs will be selected that best captures the slogan. Program ideas submitted with photos (that the submitter owns the copyright to or are proven copyright free) are more likely to be considered. The winner in each category will get a coupon for \$50 worth of merchandise in the CSLP store. Submit your program ideas here: <https://www.csllpreads.org/submit-a-programming-idea/>. There is no limit on the number of ideas a public library can submit, but CSLP is looking for high-quality, creative, colorful program concepts over quantity. The contest is open until September 30, 2023.

#### **Join a CSLP Committee! Sign up deadline is October 3, 2023**

Volunteering for a CSLP Committee is a great opportunity to develop professionally while also contributing to the CSLP mission. Our committees are the lifeblood of CSLP. Volunteers play a significant role in the success of our organization and programs.

While the duties vary, committee obligations generally run for one calendar year. All committee work is done virtually, either through email, phone, or online meetings. Attending the CSLP Annual Meeting is not expected for committee volunteers. We are recruiting for all committees, except the Artwork committee -- which is already working on the 2025 artwork.

Most CSLP committees are open to all, however some have limited seats or require previous CSLP experience. Before volunteering, please visit <https://www.cslnreads.org/committees/> to review the committee descriptions. **Apply now!** - [CSLP Committee Application form](#)

**SAVE THE DATE: CSLP Summer Symposium:** Virtual Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 4 pm  
More information will be available soon.

## **Awards/Grants from Other Organizations**

### **ALA I Love My Librarian Award Nominations Open**

Has a librarian made a difference in your life or gone above and beyond to serve your community? ALA's I Love My Librarian Award invites library users like you to recognize the accomplishments of exceptional public, school, college, community college, or university librarians. Each year, up to 10 librarians are honored at a ceremony and receive a \$5,000 cash award. The deadline to submit nominations is September 30, 2023. [Learn more.](#)



Every Child a Reader is inviting libraries to apply to have Meg Medina to come to your public and school library for an author visit as she begins her second year of travel as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

They will begin accepting proposals for 2024 on September 6 and closing on October 5. Because the proposal form is extensive and requires that a school and public library work in partnership for an event, they invite you to review and begin gathering your proposal details now. Visit the website for more information: <https://everychildareader.net/ambassador/events/>

### **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](mailto:mbolduc@ala.org).

## Virtual Events:



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

Whether you're a public or school librarian, an educator, or a superfan, don't miss this chance to meet some of your favorite creators virtually. Save your spot today!  
[Register](#)

And don't forget to register for our **Fall Day of Dialog** virtual event!  
October 12th | [SLJ Day of Dialog](#)



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 Manzano

### **About BookFest**

Each year, the 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 at this year's program. **Sonia Manzano**, who played Maria on the groundbreaking educational children's program **Sesame Street** for 44 years, will present the keynote.

We are thrilled to be partnering once again this year with [KidLit TV](#) for this not to be missed program. 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**. Should you wish to follow the buzz on Twitter use #bookfest23 and tag us @BankStreetLib. Use this [link](#) to see the entire program and to register. There is a cost of \$35 to attend.

## Upcoming NJ Book Festivals (All on October 7<sup>th</sup>!)

**Morristown Festival of Books**, <https://morristownbooks.org/>, October 6 -7, 2023  
The Main Festival and KidFest takes place on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Princeton Public Library's Children's Book Festival**, October 7th  
<https://princetonlibrary.org/childrens-book-festival/>

**Collingswood Book Festival**, October 7th  
Featuring authors for all ages and interests, including a poetry tent. Complete information at <https://www.collingswoodbookfestival.com/>

### [The Latinx KidLit Book Festival](#)

This Festival was created in 2020 during the COVID pandemic by members of [Las Musas Books](#). Their aim was to connect Latinx authors and illustrators with readers and educators in classrooms around the globe. Since then, and with the help of countless volunteers, the festival has continued to foster a love of story and literacy as well as increase empathy and conversation among educators, students, and book lovers while uplifting the voices of Latinx kidlit book creators. Festival Fridays will be held Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. [More information.](#)

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## TBBC

The NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center was recently named the 2023 Regional Library of the Year by the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled.

<https://www.njstatelib.org/news/nj-state-librarys-talking-book-braille-center-awarded-library-of-the-year/>

TBBC has just wrapped up another successful Summer Reading program with 34 participants who each received 4 packets of booklists, activities, prizes, and more throughout the summer sent to them by mail.

TBBC will be participating in the Collingswood Book Fest on October 7.

TBBC will celebrate Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th. Explore reading recommendations in Spanish and English, resources for Hispanic Heritage Month, and more. We will also be hosting our very first Hispanic Heritage Online Event on October 19th at 12:00 p.m. More information can be found here:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/news/attention-tbbc-patrons-get-ready-to-explore-hispanic-and-latinx-culture/>

TBBC is available for in-person and virtual trainings, events, workshops, awareness days, and more. If you have an event, training, or something else coming up that you'd like to see TBBC participant in, please contact us at [tbbc@njstatelib.org](mailto:tbbc@njstatelib.org)

TBBC will be presenting at NJASL

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## **NJASL**

NJASL Conference is Sunday, December 3rd - Tuesday, December 5th at Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City.

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**LLNJ - none**

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**CSS - none**

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**NJLA EXEC BOARD - none**

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## **BCCLS:**

YSC is preparing for Bootcamp Oct 20th, Wyckoff Library, Full STEM Ahead Bootcamp. Science fair style. STEM programming for non STEM people.

## **LMXAC:**

There is a committee formed to rebrand LMxAC. So many libraries have recently joined that aren't Middlesex, so it was time for a rebrand.

Clark just joined LMxAC.

**SCLSNJ** - Any library staff can get a library card by emailing [njlibrarystaffcard@sclibnj.org](mailto:njlibrarystaffcard@sclibnj.org) from

their work email. Mention Sloane sent you :)

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## OTHER:

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## YASS Business, Important Information, & Reminders

### GSTBA:

- New to GSTBA? Need a refresher? Here's a link to a FAQ: <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 are still accepting readers for the 30th annual GSTBA. If you'd like to be a reader, please fill out the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/gstba30>
- The master list of titles is almost complete! Reader assignments will go out on or before 10/31/23 - but since we are ahead of schedule, assignments are likely to go out sooner than anticipated. Here are some things to know about being a reader for GSTBA that is different from last year:
  - You can read for just one list.
  - Reader feedback will be a Google Form again this year. Required for readers who know they will not be able to attend deliberations in person. A shorter form will be recommended for readers who plan to attend (since anything can happen, we still want your votes counted.)
- If you have any questions, please email both GSTBA co-chairs: Jenna [heymissjenna@gmail.com](mailto:heymissjenna@gmail.com) and Melaina [mxmelaina@gmail.com](mailto:mxmelaina@gmail.com)

**NJLA Conference:** If you have contact with a children's author for NJLA Conference let Emily know.

NJLA is asking for proposals really early this year.

If you have an idea, don't be afraid to let Emily know. If you are against presenting, she may be able to find a panel for you, or they may be able to use your idea!

### Social Media:

John and Devin from last year are being kept on for social media!  
If you have anything you want to brag about, let us know. @yassnjla on Instagram

### Member Updates & Hot Topics:



## Youth Services Forum

You may have received an email from a mysterious stranger claiming that the YS Forum wasn't going to happen this year. Just kidding, false alarm! Thanks to Lynnette Fucci and Emily Mazzoni, there will indeed be a YS Forum in 2023. The date is 12/12 and the place is Monroe Library. The format will be unconference, unscripted, and unforgettable. Using the date as a prompt for wordplay, the theme is "12 Things I Love About YOUth Services." Choose from 12 different conversational style youth service topics to engage in throughout the day, along with keynotes from NJLA President and Vice President, sessions from Darby about LLNJ, book talks from Brodart, prizes, and who knows what else we'll throw in.

NJLA Store will be there.

**NJ MAKERS DAY** - Registration is open! Mini Grants max amounts are doubled this year, so now the maximum you can apply for is \$1000. Exclusive merchandise is coming for the 10th year!

**Melaina** - They received a grant to work with the Turning Point Academy. They are doing a book club in a juvenile detention center. It was awesome!

**Erica Deb** - Chair of NJLA newsletter - Newsletter comes out quarterly, so please let her know about personnel celebrations (retirements, promotions, new jobs, etc) (or even grants, etc). or if you want to write about things send an email to [newsletter\\_editor@njlamembers.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org) or [edeb@lmxac.org](mailto:edeb@lmxac.org)

**EBPL** - pick up locker is now operational!

**Carolyn** - Edison PL is having a morning job fair Friday Oct 27th. 2 YA Librarian positions are going to be opened!

She is on YALSA symposium taskforce. There are a lot more authors who want to be at the symposium! Jason Reynolds is going to be there. YALSA Symposium is in St. Louis. Pre-conference on gaming. The Makers of Exploding Kittens are going to be giving out their Loud Librarian game.

Tour of St. Louis Public Library during YALSA.



## 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**

(she/her/Ms.)

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### **Jason Weissmann, Secretary**

(he/him/Mr.)

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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**

(they/them/Mx.)

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### **Katie Salerno, Past President**

(She/her/Ms.)

Youth Services Librarian

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