



## NJLA Young Adult Services Section Meeting Minutes

April 19th, 2024

SCLSNJ - Montgomery Branch, 10am

### Section Leadership:

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

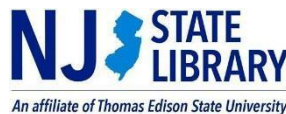
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**In attendance:** Julie Ucelli, Sharon Rawlins, Sloane Kazim, Emily Mazzoni, Melaina Squicciarini, Jason Weissmann, Jen Apgar, Rita Post, V - Ella Tucker, Heather Kristian, Emily Macleod, Maureen Herman, Jen Gheller

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### YASS Updates from Around the State

NJSL



#### NJ State Library report for YASS Meeting April 19, 2024

Submitted by Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist & Statewide Summer Reading Coordinator, NJ State Library, [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org)

#### NJ Library Personnel Invited to Participate in E-Resources Survey

Please participate in this survey about the JerseyClicks suite of databases, available to all New Jersey residents at [www.jerseyclicks.org](http://www.jerseyclicks.org). Your feedback is important to the New Jersey State Library, as we consider the needs of the library community in selecting future statewide resources.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJSL24JC> (should only take about five minutes to complete). This survey was created through the volunteer work and

participation of the E-Resources Advisory Committee, a group comprised of representatives from New Jersey academic, public and school libraries. The deadline to respond is May 13, 2024.

JerseyClicks is made possible in part with funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the New Jersey State Library. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [jerseyclicks@njstatelib.org](mailto:jerseyclicks@njstatelib.org) or in the contact form within the Library Resources section of the JerseyClicks webpage:

[www.jerseyclicks.org](http://www.jerseyclicks.org)

### **CSLP Updates:**

#### **Listening Sessions for 2027 Slogan and 2028 Theme**

All CSLP member public library staff are invited to contribute thoughts about future summer themes and slogans. This month, you will have two virtual opportunities to give feedback on a slogan for 2027's theme (Mystery/Detective/Suspense) and a theme for 2028. Register for one of our two listening sessions in April by clicking on the links below. We want to hear your voice! Ahead of the meeting, we compiled the top 25 options for 2027 slogans and 2028 themes. Help us narrow it down to the ten that will be voted on by State Reps at the annual CSLP meeting! You can see the [themes and slogans](#) we'll be discussing by clicking on this link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bsKZ90rp0AWRFtwMOqXcRUxdGNEpMQ9WAL8\\_qH3zecE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bsKZ90rp0AWRFtwMOqXcRUxdGNEpMQ9WAL8_qH3zecE/edit?usp=sharing)

#### **Slogan/Theme Listening Session Option #1:**

Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 p.m. PDT/2:00 p.m. MDT/3:00 p.m. CDT/4:00 p.m. EDT

[Register Here](#)

#### **Slogan/Theme Listening Session Option #2:**

Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>: 11:00 a.m. PDT/12:00 p.m. MDT/1:00 p.m. CDT/2:00 p.m. EDT

[Register Here](#)

#### **Recording of Spanish Language CSLP manual content now available**

Want to promote Summer Reading and Learning to Spanish speakers in your library community? The CSLP online manual has an entire section of Spanish Language program content that is available and ready to use for outreach and promotion for "Adventure Begins at Your Library" this summer!

View the recently added recording of "How to Incorporate Spanish Language Content into Your Summer Reading Program" on the NY State Library [archived Youth Services webinars](#) page. This March 8 Summer Reading Lunch and Learn session was presented by Deborah Kinirons, Bilingual Community Outreach Librarian at Uniondale Public Library, and Amy Olson, Youth Services Consultant at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Deborah is also the chair of the CSLP Spanish Language manual committee.

You can also view additional Summer Reading Lunch and Learn sessions from this year and previous years on the [archived Youth Services webinars](#) page. Feel free to reach out to Sharon Phillips, NY State Library Youth Services Program Manager at [nyslyouth@nysed.gov](mailto:nyslyouth@nysed.gov) if you have any questions.

### **JerseyClicks Upcoming Training Sessions**

This spring, brush up on these databases offered through JerseyClicks! The below sessions are being offered at 2pm on the following dates:

- EBSCO Presents: EBSCO's Resources for Academic Research - **April 25th**
- Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep: Basic Skills and ESL Resources - **May 7th**

[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**

#### **Freeman Book Awards for 2023 Announced**

Announcing the [Freeman Book Awards](#) for 2023 – Just in time for the upcoming Asia American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May!

The awards are presented annually by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, the Committee on Teaching about Asia of the Association for Asian Studies, and Asia for Educators at Columbia University to recognize quality books for young adults and children that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of East and Southeast Asia.

Winners for 2021 are: "*An Echo in the City*" by K. X. Song (high school); "*The Boy from Clearwater: Book 1*" written by Pei-Yun Yu; illustrated by Zhou Jian-Xin; translated by Lin King (graphic); "*The Cricket War*" by Thọ Phạm and Sandra McTavish (middle school) and "*My Grandfather's Song*" by Phùng Nguyễn Quang and Huỳnh Kim Liên (children's). For more info, including Honorable Mention and Of Note titles, visit the [Freeman Book Award](#) page.

Also check out these FREE book talks for teachers and librarians on graphic novels for young adults that have won Freeman Book Awards this year:

1. Wednesday, April 17, 6:30pm (ET) on "Lost in Taiwan" with author and illustrator Mark Crilley. See [www.nctasia.org/course/lost-in-taiwan-book-club](http://www.nctasia.org/course/lost-in-taiwan-book-club)
2. Tuesday, May 7, 7:00pm (ET) on "Banned Book Club" with authors Kim Hyun Sook and Ryan Estrada.  
See [www.nctasia.org/course/banned-book-club-with-authors](http://www.nctasia.org/course/banned-book-club-with-authors)
3. Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm (ET) on "The Boy from Clearwater" with translator Lin King. See [www.nctasia.org/course/the-boy-from-clearwater-webinar](http://www.nctasia.org/course/the-boy-from-clearwater-webinar)

### **Books for All writing contest names winners**

New York Public Library's (NYPL) Books for All campaign has announced winners of its National Teen Writing Contest, which asked participants across the country, "Why is the freedom to read important to you?" The grand prize-winning entry, "**The Luminosity of Reading**" by Tara Isabel Lago, was published by *Teen Vogue* April 8. All 21 winning entries, selected from nearly 500 submissions, will be published in a special edition of NYPL's *Teen Voices magazine* in June. ALA is a partner in the Books for All campaign, which aims to celebrate and protect the freedom to read.... *New York Public Library, Apr. 8; Teen Vogue, Apr. 8* (From ALA Connect)

### **Brooklyn PL and Seattle PL release new report - "In Their Own Words" details the impact of censorship on young readers**

In the two years since Brooklyn Public Library launched Books Unbanned, thousands of teens and young adults from across the country have written to the library to request a free eCard, granting access to BPL's entire digital collection. Seattle Public Library joined Books Unbanned in April 2023, followed by Boston Public Library, San Diego Public Library, and LA County Public Library. Learn more here: [www.booksunbanned.com](http://www.booksunbanned.com)

Both BPL and SPL have been flooded with stories from young readers requesting a Books Unbanned card and increased access to books. To date this collection numbers over eight thousand stories. A wonderful team of MLIS students from the University of Washington Information School helped us to create a fully tagged and classified collection. Now, BPL and SPL have joined forces to release a report detailing the key themes found in the voices from young readers across the country. This is the first step in a larger effort to collect and amplify the stories shared with the wider network of Books Unbanned libraries.

The report, "[In Their Own Words: Youth Voices on Books Unbanned](#)", gives new insight into the impact of censorship on teen and young adults across the United States

and how restrictions and other barriers to access build upon and reinforce each other. It's an important contribution to the effort to protect and advance the freedom to read.



**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>

**Publishers Weekly Children's Bookshelf  
Annual Summer Reads List**

[https://best-books.publishersweekly.com/children/summer-reads-2024/?oly\\_enc\\_id=1805B1423578E8V#book/book-1](https://best-books.publishersweekly.com/children/summer-reads-2024/?oly_enc_id=1805B1423578E8V#book/book-1)

(Includes picture books, middle grade and YA titles)

**ALA's State of Libraries Report: Libraries Take Action**

<https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/state-of-americas-libraries-report-2024.pdf>

### **Star Net Post Eclipse Survey**

Here's a survey that is being sent to all libraries that received solar eclipse glasses:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CS73M8F>.

### **What to do with your used solar eclipse glasses?**

Star Net's suggestions: [What to do with extra and gently used eclipse glasses?? – STAR Net Community \(starnetlibraries.org\)](https://www.starnetlibraries.org/what-to-do-with-extra-and-gently-used-eclipse-glasses)

Books of Wonder - Children's book store in NY - Indie Booksellers Day April 27th, 35+ authors going to be in store. Amazing opportunity!

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### **TBBC**

Once again, the NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center will be offering a Summer Reading Program for TBBC children and teen patrons. Following the CSLP theme, Adventure Begins at Your Library, we will be sending out packets by mail that include activities, booklists, crafts, and more. We will also include these items in braille if requested by participants. Interested TBBC patrons can email [TBBCYouth@njstatelib.org](mailto:TBBCYouth@njstatelib.org) to sign up!

As a reminder, patrons all across the state, at any age, who may have a reading disability, have a physical disability prohibiting them from holding a book or turning the pages, have vision loss, or may be blind, may be eligible for library services from TBBC. We are also available throughout the year for in-person or virtual trainings (to both staff and patrons), meetings, events, etc. Contact TBBC at 800-792-8322 or <https://www.njstatelib.org/tbbc> with any questions or more information.

If you or someone you know loves to golf, register now for **TBBC's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic** taking place Tuesday, June 18 at Makefield Highlands Golf Club in Yardley, PA. More information can be found here:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/13th-annual-tbbc-golf-classic/>

Staff from TBBC will be involved with the following sessions at the upcoming NJLA Conference or visit us at the New Jersey State Library Booth in the exhibit hall:

**Thursday, May 30, 9:00 – 9:50: The Week in the Life of an Accessible Library.** Experience a week with the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center. Discover the unique ways TBBC provides reader's advisory, circulation, collection development, outreach, and programming to those with low vision, blindness, or a physical, perceptual, or reading disability that prevents them from using regular print materials. Learn about the diverse range of services and resources available, including success stories from TBBC's efforts to break down barriers to ensure that all may read.

Elizabeth Burns, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center; Jen Apgar, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center; Stephen Felle; New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center; Liz Kelly, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center; Luisa Martucci, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center

**Thursday, May 30, 11:00 – 11:50: 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! Brianne Mintz, Children's Librarian, Springfield Free Public Library; Jennifer Apgar, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center

**Thursday, May 30, 4:40 -5:30: Talking the Talk: Supporting & Valuing Bilingual Staff.** Bilingual staff are integral to libraries, but bilingual tasks and translation work are difficult and time consuming endeavors. Many libraries may be taking advantage (often without even realizing it). Join us to learn how to avoid asking too much of your bilingual team members. Plus, explore the avenues available for providing additional pay, as well as crafting job titles and job descriptions, that acknowledge and compensate for the hard work these staff members do every day. Rachel Montanez, Ocean County Library; Luisa Martucci, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center; Tanya Finney Estrada, Pennsauken Free Public Library; Jennie Pu, Hoboken Public Library; Moderator Darby Malvey, LibraryLinkNJ

**Friday, May 31, 11:00 – 12:00: Poster Sessions: Delivering the NJSL Pizza Challenge Hot and Fresh,** NJSL and TBBC staff: Regina Fitzpatrick, Michael Maziekien, Andrea Levandowski, Jen Apgar, and Liz Kelly

**Friday, May 31, 11:40 – 12:30: ALSC's Notable (Outstanding! Distinguished! Just Plain Great!) Children's Books.** Every year the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) selects notable books of “especially commendable quality” which “exhibit venturesome creativity.” This list includes fiction and nonfiction titles for birth through 14. This program will describe the process of developing the list and introduce our favorites on the 2024 list. Elizabeth Burns, New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center; Dr. Ellen Pozzi, William Paterson University

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## NJASL

Spring Meeting - UnConference at TCNJ May 4th 9 -1pm ? Sharon will be there! IMLS Info literacy grant. More info [here](#).

Joint Conference in 2026

North Hunterdon / Voorhees School District meeting - May 7th...there is *another* book challenge there, if you'd like to support.

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CSS

- Next meeting is Friday, 4/26 9:45am introductions / 10am business meeting
- Recurring CSS Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86758573935>
- No official May meeting, but please join us at the NJLA Conference for a CSS Mixer on Thursday, 5/30 5:30pm-6:30pm, which will include trivia games, cocktail hour, and a raffle drawing for gift card to the NJLA store

The next meeting for CSS members will be Friday, April 26 at 10:00 AM. The ZOOM link is now easily accessed right off of the NJLA calendar page. This month, we will talk about the conference schedule, including the details for the CSS Social Mixer, and Ellen Ryan will give us updates on the Garden State Book Awards Luncheon.

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NJLA EXEC BOARD -

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**BCCLS: Playlist with different member services chats - [here](#).** There is a video on Manga collection development and today there is a session on running TABs.

Sept 27th BCCLS bootcamp - Collab with DUP. Location TBD. Early planning stages.

**LMXAC: June switch to Polaris.**

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**OTHER: Make sure to vote for YASS leadership.**

NJALA -

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_wiP8Ov-M4He875UjVbJLALP5vUKQ1MAxRFsDnB C-OA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_wiP8Ov-M4He875UjVbJLALP5vUKQ1MAxRFsDnB C-OA/edit?usp=sharing)

**Highlights:**

- Registration for the 35th Annual Conference is open! The conference will be Tuesday, 6/4/24 at Mercer County Community College from 9am-4:30pm
  - NJALA will be hosting a virtual meet-up focused on Teen services on Thursday, 5/9/24 at 2pm
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## **YASS Business, Important Information, & Reminders**

**GSTBA:** Come to the luncheon at NJLA Conference. Author is Stacy Nockowitz - The Prince of Steel Pier.

**NJLA Conference: Registration is open!**

**Social Media:**

**Member Updates & Hot Topics:**



## Young Adult Services Section 2023-2024 Executive Board

### **Emily Mazzoni, President**

(she/her)

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### **Dana Vocht, Vice President**

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