

# YSS NEWSLETTER

## From the YSS Chair...

I just walked back from lunch in what I consider perfect weather. It is probably in the 70's, the sun is shining, the sky is blue and there are signs of life in the dirt lining Grand Avenue. To me, this is the perfect weather. And for those of you who may be saying "didn't she live in that perfect weather all year when she lived in San Diego?" the answer is yes. But I used to wish for weather all the time in San Diego - -where we didn't have lots of rain and no snow (except for in the mountains). I love rain, I love how green it makes everything, I love thunderstorms (but not tornadoes!), I love how the sun makes everything sparkly after the rain. I also love the snow, how it looks blue in the setting sun, how much it lights up winter days, and how muffled it makes the world sound when it is falling. When my 10-year-old California girl moans for the warmth of a San Diego day in the dead of winter, I just remind her how glorious it is to live in a place where there is weather and where you can be guaranteed that just as you are tiring of a season, the next one is moving in!

And summer is moving in quickly! It is just about 10 weeks until we start summer reading in Des Moines and we still have lots to do to get ready for it. While we are all frantically planning for magicians and clowns and animals to entertain the youth in our communities and trying to find the best prizes at the best prices, there are people who have moved even beyond summer to next fall and next year. Karen Randleman is already hard at work on summer reading for 2011 and 2012, as well as thinking about KidsFirst next spring. Jerri Heid and the rest of the ILA planning committee are already confirming the sessions and speakers for the fall conference. Teacher-Librarians are gearing up for the end of this year and thinking already about the Fall and what's to come. Contrary to the public view of library staff sitting and reading all day, we are always busy, always thinking ahead – at least those of us in Youth Services.

Read the articles inside this issue to find out what's going on around the state, borrow some wonderful program ideas from your colleagues and maybe submit an article about what's happening at your library!

Happy Spring!

Audrey Jones, YSS Chair  
Des Moines Public Library

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## YSS Goal Setting Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2010, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM via Adobe Connect through the State Library

In attendance: Audrey Jones, Des Moines Public Library, chair; Karen Randleman, State Library, chair-elect; Natalie Struecker, newsletter editor; Danielle Day, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, secretary; Dana Schwickerath, Charles City Public Library; Angie Pilkington, Burlington Public Library.

**Introduction** (from each LSA person, YSS officers, others in attendance). In our nervous to get started we forgot to do these! We jumped right in to reviewing last year's goals and setting this year's.

### YSS 2009 Goals Results

- To make efforts to bring national level presenters and provide quality breakout sessions featuring youth service professionals at the 2009 conference.  
**Status:** YSS planned and sponsored four breakout sessions, two with national speakers and two featuring talented Iowa library employees.
- YSS will promote its mission in ILA by having an exhibit booth at the conference, play an active role in Legislative Day or ILA's Leadership Institute, and contribute regular articles to the Catalyst or ILA publications.  
**Status:** YSS co-sponsored an exhibit booth with ISLA, articles were written for Catalyst and YSS created and distributed four electronic newsletters to YSS members. No specific actions were taking re: Legislative Day or the Leadership Institute.
- Supporting the effort to create a resource to share story time and programming ideas for YSS members and youth librarians statewide.  
**Status:** Original interest in this goal was because it was thought it would be beneficial for YSS to have a Wiki to share idea and resources. This is already possible through the YS talk listserv.

### Goals for 2010

- *Goal 1:* YSS will provide funds for a youth services staff member to attend the Leadership Institute in the summer of 2010.
- *Goal 2:* YSS will continue to provide quality programs at the ILA Conference by scheduling and funding a national level speaker; and by staffing its own ILA booth with interactive tools, a YSS handout, a game, giveaway or drawing.
- *Goal 3:* YSS will provide funding for a first time attendee for a day at the State Library's KidsFirst Conference in the Spring of 2011.
- *Goal 4:* YSS will introduce new youth services staff throughout the state to the subdivision by sending welcome letters and describing what YSS is and some of the fun opportunities for Youth Services staff, such as subdivision meetings, Kids First, and the list serve.

**Long Range Planning Worksheet** . This was due to the Strategic Planning Committee on March 1. Dan Boice approved our turning it in as soon as possible. The results of the discussion and brainstorming are in a separate report.

### 2009 Conference and ILA YSS Annual report

Reviewed in December YSS newsletter. No one had any further comments.

**2010 ILA Conference, YSS sessions.** We briefly discussed that YSS will sponsor sessions on Anime and Manga as well as Best Youth Books for 2010, and using therapy dogs in reading programs. We also discussed that our preconference program was not approved by the planning committee as it didn't have enough C.E.U material. We also talked about the suggestion that we submitted for the name of Michele Gorman, the Teen Services Librarian at the Charlotte-Mecklenberg Library as a keynote speaker. We will cover the conference information in more detail in a future issue of the YSS newsletter.

**Call for 2010 YSS Conference Attendance Awards** (Debb). Debb was unable to attend so we decided to ask her to write an article for the next newsletter.

**YSS newsletter issues, assignments, and deadlines** (Natalie). Natalie plans on putting out issues of the newsletter in March, June, September and December. The deadline for the first newsletter is March 27. The others are: May 14, August 27, November 19. Some assignments were made for this issue – Danielle will send a list of upcoming fiction books, the chair will submit minutes from the planning meeting, the state library will write an article, and libraries will submit fun program ideas for an article. Debb will be asked to write an article about awards.

**What's New at the State Library?** Karen didn't have anything to report that pertained to our goals meeting but has been busy with workshops.

**Other ILA and YSS concerns?** The only concerns are getting up-to-date email addresses for youth services staff throughout the state and being alerted as to when a new YS staff member is hired so that we can welcome them aboard.

**Member Library Reports and Happenings.** Lots of things are happening around the state. Some of the events include:

Angie at Burlington PL – Michele Gorman was doing a staff in-service event on March 15, they did a New Moon party, a mad hatter program, a Fancy Nancy party, they are also having author events using Skype.

Danielle at Carnegie-Stout – they moved 60,000 books down to their new children's room on the first floor and are all sore, they are having a Party with the Pigeon program, Margaret Read MacDonald is coming in June, and their summer reading planning deadline was March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dana at Charles City – they had a Laura Ingalls Wilder birthday party, and are showing old movies for National Library Week.

Natalie at Rock Island – they are doing their own summer reading theme of "Scare Up a Good Book" rather than the CSLP theme.

Audrey at Des Moines Public Library – they did a Fun and Freaky Film Festival in October and showed such classics as *Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, and she planned 36 system-wide children's programs for summer reading.

**Closing Remarks.** The chair thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules and for the very productive meeting and positive first experience using Adobe Connect, and especially thanked Jay Peterson at the State Library for staying for the entire meeting to help with any technology glitches.

~Submitted by Audrey Jones  
Des Moines Public Library

## YSS Strategic Planning

On Tuesday, March 9, 2010, the Youth Services Subdivision also took time to make a strategic plan for the Iowa Library Association Strategic Planning Committee.

Some of the questions are as follows:

- Where do we as a committee/subdivision want to be in three years?
- How will we know when we get there?
- What do we have to do to get there?
- What are our membership demographics, including age, education, numbers?
- What are our expectations as a committee/subdivision?
- What changes are there in the profession that affect how we operate?
- How is changing technology affecting us?
- What does the Association do for us now?
- What does the Association NOT do that we'd like it to consider?

Key points that came up as part of our discussion were:

- We need a stronger YSS membership—maybe offer incentives for attending YSS meeting during ILA;
- ILA membership overall is getting younger, mostly female, bachelor's degree at least, but there are still libraries that don't want teens in buildings, yet teen programming and circ have skyrocketed;
- ILA conference provides the opportunity to network, revitalizes staff, helps everyone become informed about what's happening around the state;
- YSS as our voice/liaison to ILA, but we don't have enough opportunities to "sell" ourselves to other members;
- Youth Services is not seen by other library staff as "real" work -- developing crafts, singing at storytimes, reading picture books, visiting classes, etc. is often considered "play" by other staff;
- These days there is MORE of everything -- focus on teens; teaching patrons on the job (demonstrating online research tools); babies, thus more lapsit programs; marketing --we are expected to "sell" the library and its importance to the community; more competition with many other activities;
- We are expected to do our current tasks as well as learn how to communicate more effectively via Facebook, Twitter, text messaging, and learn to use online meeting websites such as Adobe Connect, Wimba Rooms, and ICN.

Want to share your successful library programs or ideas with the Youth Services Librarians in Iowa? We send out our newsletter 4 times a year.

Send your programs, ideas, and pictures to Natalie!

[natalie.struecker@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.struecker@gmail.com)

## From the page, to the screen, to the Library...?

More books are turned into movies these days, and what else can we do but promote the book and movie together?

### Twilight Saga by Stephenie Meyer

Davenport Public Library's New Moon Party was a fun filled two hour event held the night before the movie's nationwide silver screen debut. The event brought in nearly 75 teens, plus a handful of adults and elementary school kids. While originally advertised as a 'teen only' event, no one was turned away. Guests enjoyed a variety of activities and crafts. The crafts involved making colored duct tape roses (very easy and popular), and Twilight themed bookmarks (where we printed quotations taken from the book on cardstock and provided markers, stickers, ribbons, glue, and tiny portraits of popular characters for the teens to go crazy with).



Speaking of going crazy, the highlight of the night was when we did the drawings for all of the prizes. We gave away a life-sized cardboard cutout of Edward, two pairs of tickets to the movie, a Twilight themed board game, the New Moon soundtrack, a set of the Twilight Saga books, and a handful of posters. While we had lots of activities planned we only managed to get through a few. Yet, the ever hilarious howling contest, heated rounds of Twilight trivia, and giving teens the chance to have their picture taken with the life-sized cardboard cutout of Edward seemed to keep everyone plenty happy and satisfied. The New Moon Party, just as the Twilight party we held the year before, was a sure hit with patrons! Some have even said they are already looking forward to the Eclipse Party this summer. Little do they know we are planning to have cardboard cutouts of both Edward AND Jacob this time around. Can't wait!

~Christie Vogt  
Davenport Public Library

Rock Island Public Library's New Moon party also took place the night before the movie premiere. Our program was open to only teens, and they had a blast! Since we couldn't watch *Twilight*, we watched another werewolf movie, *Blood and Chocolate*, based on the novel by Annette Curtis Klause. We made buttons with slogans from the books, like "I am Switzerland" and "Team Edward" or "Team Jacob". There was a trivia game to win New Moon posters, the soundtrack, and the Twilight Scene It game. The teens played "Quote Bingo" where they had to guess which character said each quote to get Bingo. Prizes were roses dipped in red paint to look like the cover of *New Moon*. Teens had the chance to get their picture taken with a cardboard cutout of Edward. Pizza and popcorn were served, and everyone had a great time! We're looking forward to having another premiere party this summer when *Eclipse* comes out.

~Natalie Struecker  
Rock Island Public Library



### Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

I recently had my most popular program to date. Between 50-60 kids showed up to celebrate the release of the movie *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. One of the most exciting parts of the day was realizing how many of the kids were huge Percy fans and being able to share my own love for Percy with them (it isn't very often that I can talk about how I want to go to Camp Half-Blood and not sound crazy).

To start the party, we had kids create name tags for themselves using Greek letters. They then spun a wheel to determine which Greek god claimed them for the day; Ares, Zeus, Poseidon, or Athena. We then had several events for the kids to compete in including "Lightning Bolt, Trident, Helm" (a rendition of Rock, Paper, Scissors), a "Quest" through the library, target practice using foam missile launchers, and a toga relay using toilet paper.

By far the hit of the party was Percy Jackson Jeopardy. The Jeopardy game was made using Power Point and tested kids on their knowledge of both Percy Jackson and Greek mythology. The winner of Jeopardy got movie tickets to the Percy Jackson movie. Thankfully I had a couple of parents to help judge which kid raised their hand first because these kids knew Percy and mythology inside out! We also raffled off goodie bags filled with blue candy and had Nectar and Ambrosia (aka snacks) for everyone. Overall it was a fantastic party. For information about hosting a Percy Jackson Party (including many wonderful games and printables) check-out [http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/percy\\_jackson\\_eventkit.pdf](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/percy_jackson_eventkit.pdf).

~Laura Guth-Hanson  
Adel Public Library

## From the page, to the screen, to the Library...?

### *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan cont.*

#### **Percy Jackson Naming Ceremony**

Rick Riordan's books featuring Percy Jackson have been one of the most checked out series at the Burlington Public Library this year. Young readers find the titles to be very engaging and the protagonist to be a relatable character. Beyond talking about his books with Youth Services staff, checking them out, or placing them on hold, our patrons requested that we host a Percy Jackson program featuring the entire series. As a prelude to the theatrical release of Percy Jackson and the Olympians, the library held a Percy Jackson naming ceremony and toga competition.

As participants entered the ceremony, they were asked to spin a giant wheel containing many major figures of Greek mythology. Just as Percy is the son of Poseidon, each child spun the "Wheel of Fate" to determine their celestial parentage. After their mythological lineage was determined, each participant was given a Greek alphabet handout with which to fill out their name tags. Besides the alphabet, handouts from Riordan's website, as well as information on mythology and ancient Greece were distributed.

Togas filling the library's Youth area was a sight to behold. The Youth Services staff was delighted to see all of the creativity displayed. Several children came wrapped in white sheets, many had painted their garbs in vibrant colors and Greek symbols, and others had fashioned headdresses from artificial vines.

In reference to Sally, Percy Jackson's mother, the Youth Services staff served only blue food, such as blue lightning shaped jelly jigglers, blue rice crispies, blue chips, blue M&Ms, and blue beverages. Attendants snacked, and filled out their Percy Jackson word sheets, while they watched Clash of the Titans. The children enjoyed the viewing, particularly the visual effects of Ray Harryhausen. The movie was a great opportunity to expose a new, younger audience to his work and to recommend other classics available at the library predating computer-generated imagery.

Following the movie, the "Wheel of Fate" became the center of attention again as participants spun it for a game of mythological trivia. If children landed on Zeus, they were asked a trivia question about Zeus, unless they had been named son or daughter of Zeus during the naming ceremony, at which point they could choose to answer the question or spin again. Sons and daughters of the same god were grouped and could work on their answers together. The element of inclusion proved very successful for the younger audience as tweens are naturally preoccupied with peer relationships.

At the completion of the program, every participant was given a prize. Most of the children were walking authorities on all things Riordan and many things Greek mythology; however some children were not as familiar. The Youth Services staff collected trivia at all levels and adopted the component of team work to ensure that every participant stood out for their knowledge and were rewarded for their contribution.



~Angela Pilkington  
Burlington Public Library

## From the page, to the screen, to the Library...?

### Mad Hatter Tea Party

To truly give justice to the spirit of a Mad Hatter Tea Party, one must have flamingo croquet. Inflatable flamingos will do the trick for maneuvering through the poster board wickets of Alice in Wonderland characters. Burlington area teens enjoyed playing along to a favorite scene in classic children's literature coming to life at the library.

The teens followed up their game with refreshing tea and rainbow cupcakes. Accordion hats were placed at each setting to decorate with flowers, foam shapes, and glitter. To conclude tea, library staff posed the infamous riddle: why is a raven like a writing desk, and announced that the cleverest answer would win a free movie ticket to Tim Burton's adaptation. As they considered their answers, the teens were split into little troupes and given photocopies of Alice in Wonderland text for dramatic readings.

Dramatic readings of the original texts are featured when possible in our programs. While offering tons of laughs they also embrace several educational attributes. Reluctant readers were eager to publically participate as the part of the Dormouse or Tweedledee. The informal performance helped to teach teens how to effectively communicate to an array of audiences within the safety of their peers and create a unique literacy experience that not only promotes the title but advertises reading in general.

After this theatrical storytelling, teens gathered together again to play charades. Classic literature prompts had been placed into a hat for teens to draw from. The game was a wonderful opportunity for teens to use non-verbal axioms to communicate concepts or stories. For example, when one teen drew the "William Faulkner" prompt from the hat, she knocked on a table then shook her fist as clues. After several moments of rumination, another teen correctly guessed her choice of book title, *The Sound and the Fury*. Then teens seemed to become as equally engaged in visual storytelling as they had for the verbal and textual storytelling games.



The participants offered many wonderful, funny, insightful answers for the Mad Hatter's riddle. One teen suggested that writing desks and ravens both have legs and when you throw them they fly. Another teen cleverly concluded that Edgar Allen Poe physically wrote on a writing desk, while also writing on the subject of ravens in *The Raven*. The program ended on a humorous note and several teens that had never socialized before the program, attended the movie together and returned to the library to give the Youth Services staff their personal review.

~Angela Pilkington  
Burlington Public Library

## FANCY NANCY SAYS “STUPENDOUS, THAT’S A FANCY WORD FOR GREAT!”



The Kirkendall Public Library hosted its “fanciest” events ever last spring as young ladies attended the Fancy Nancy Soirée, based on the series of children’s books by author Jane O’Connor and illustrator Robin Preiss-Glasser. “Soirée is French for party and everything is fancier in French,” Nancy says. Originally one party was planned and due to an overwhelming public response, the library in the end hosted four Fancy Nancy Parties accommodating 20 girls at each party!

Fancy Nancy thinks more is more, encouraging all to accessorize in tutus, jewelry, tiaras, feather boas, sparkles, pink and purple, butterflies and glitter as she attempts to make things more gorgeous.

Girls ages three to seven were treated to the original Fancy Nancy story, where everyone received their own tiara and pink feather boa. To become even more fancy, each girl was invited to visit different craft stations to make a butterfly fan, colored glasses, decorate a purse and pink barrettes. After their outfits were complete, everyone was treated to parfaits; that’s French for ice cream sundae. Moms in attendance (and a few dads, too) also joined in the fun.



“This series of books, although specifically for little girls, has a heart-warming message about family,” said children’s librarian Sherry Schlundt. “The books also enhance a child’s vocabulary by introducing words like fuchsia, plume and stupendous in a cute and fun way.”

Materials for this event including pink feather boas, tiaras, and Fancy Nancy sticker books were funded by the Kirkendall Library Foundation.

~Kelli Munter  
Kirkendall Public Library, Ankeny





## Sneak Peak Upcoming New Books

### **Necromancer by Michael Scott. ISBN: 0385735316. 5/2010**



The fourth book in the *New York Times* bestselling series *The Secrets of the Nicholas Flamel*. After fleeing to Ojai, then Paris, and escaping to London, Josh and Sophie Newman are finally home. And after everything they've seen and learned in the past week, they're both more confused than ever about their future. Neither of them has mastered the magics they'll need to protect themselves from the Dark Elders, they've lost Scatty, and they're still being pursued by Dr. John Dee. Most disturbing of all, however, is that now they must ask themselves, can they trust Nicholas Flamel? Can they trust anyone? Ages 12-14.

### **Charlie Bone and the Red Knight by Jenny Nimmo. ISBN: 0439846722. 5/2010**

Charlie and his friends take on the most powerful and dangerous magic in Book Eight of this extraordinary series. As wicked forces come to a head at Bloor's Academy, Charlie and his friends must use all their magic and all their might to fight the evil and save Charlie's parents. But are the Children of the Red King strong enough to defeat the darkness to find the answers? Join Charlie and his friends as they race to unlock the mystery of the Red King in this final chapter. Ages 9-12.



### **Magic Thief: Found by Sarah Prineas. ISBN:0061375937. 5/2010**

The third book in the sensational *Magic Thief* series. Prineas once again conjurs up an incredible world — a place where cities are un on living magic, dragons lurk, and heroes come from the most surprising places. Ages 10-17.

### **The Cardturner by Louis Sachar . ISBN: 0385736622. 5/2010**

The summer after junior year of high school looks bleak for Alton Richards. His girlfriend has dumped him to hook up with his best friend. He has no money and no job. His parents insist that he drive his great-uncle Lester to his bridge club four times a week and be his cardturner -- whatever that means.

Alton's uncle is old, blind, very sick, and very rich. But Alton's parents aren't the only ones trying to worm their way into Lester Trapp's good graces. Alton soon finds himself intrigued by his uncle, by the game of bridge, and especially by the pretty and shy Toni Castaneda. Ages 12 and up.



### **Red Pyramid: Kane Chronicles, Book 1. ISBN: 1423113381. 5/2010**

Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Ages 9-12.

### **Molly Moon & the Morphing Mystery by Georgia Byng. ISBN: 0061661600. 5/2010**

Molly Moon is back! Not only can she hypnotize anyone who crosses her path, travel through time and read minds, now she has a new power: morphing! From human to animal and back again, Molly must find her way back to her own body—and save the world while she's at it—before it's too late. In this fifth book in the wildly popular *Molly Moon* series, Molly is braver than ever before. Fans of Molly will once again be mesmerized by her wit, charm and grand adventures. It's no wonder that Publishers Weekly asks, "Can there ever be too many Molly Moons?" Ages. 9-12.



### **Nomansland by Lesley Hauge. ISBN: 0805090649. 6/2010**

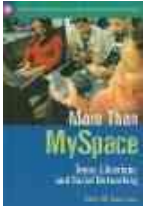


Sometime in the future, a lonely, windswept island in the north is populated solely by women. Among these women is a group of teenaged Trackers—expert equestrians and archers—whose job is to protect their shores from the enemy. The enemy, they've been told, is men. When these girls come upon a partially buried home from the distant past, they are fascinated by the strange objects—high-heeled shoes, teen magazines, and make-up. What are they to make of these mysterious things, which introduce a world they have never known? Reminiscent of *The Giver* but with a feminist twist, *Nomansland* is a powerful, shocking story that will challenge young readers' perspectives and provoke much discussion over the timely and controversial issues presented.

## New Books Available for Checkout at the State Library

Here are some great new books available for you from the State Library!  
Call Rinda at 1-800-248-4483 or email her at [Rinda.Kramme@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:Rinda.Kramme@lib.state.ia.us) if you're interested in checking them out!

### ***More Than MySpace Teens, Librarians, and Social Networking***



Robyn M. Lupa, Editor

This book examines the social networking phenomena and its growing role in young people's lives as well as the classroom. The book also describes specific public libraries that have embraced social networking, and how they are successfully reaching a wider teenage audience.

### ***Green Reads; Best Environmental Resources for Youth, K-12***

Lindsey Patrick Wesson

Organizes and describes some 450 current fiction and nonfiction titles about the environment with some alternative media (DVD's and musical CDs) included, too.



### ***Visual Media for Teens; Creating and Using a Teen-Centered Film Collection***

Jane Halsall/R. William Edminister

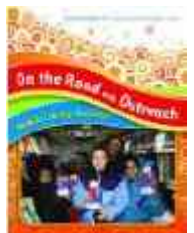


Discusses what's current, available, and popular with teens, providing annotated core filmographies in categories such as heroes, exploring issues of identity, strong emotions, horror, humor, and educational entertainment. In addition, the authors address how popular culture influences teens, technology and format issues, how to get teen input, where to find reliable review sources, programming with films, and promoting and merchandising your collection.

### ***On the Road with Outreach Mobile Library Services***

Jeannie Dilger-Hill and Erica MacCreagh, Editors

Sixty percent of preschool-age children are in some form of out-of-the-home care and many have no access to library books and programs. At the same time, some 21 million people in America speak little or no English and library staff often work across this language barrier. The first book of its kind in more than two decades, this book offers step-by-step guidance for those wishing to initiate or improve outreach services in their communities. Focuses on the practicalities of establishing and maintain service to various populations.



~Karen Randleman  
State Library of Iowa

*Keep your eyes peeled for the next Youth Services Subdivision Newsletter in June!*

*Good luck with your programs, classes, and new ideas!*