

# YSS NEWSLETTER

June 2011

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## *From the Chair...*

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Dear Fellow Summer Reading Adventurers:

Has anyone started counting the days until summer reading is over yet? Yes, I know – most you aren't even starting until sometime in June. I have been frantically scheduling volunteers to count, sort, and distribute the incentives, posters, reading logs, etc. for our six library locations. Our YS staff is busy visiting schools this month. We are handing out about 20,000 flyers to the children and teens in schools we visit! An uncle recently asked me how work was going and I told him not to ask that question in May as it is my most hectic time of the year. I love my job but, as you all know, getting ready for summer reading takes an extraordinary amount of planning, coordinating, shopping, decorating and the list goes on.

I don't mean to exhaust all of you just thinking about summer reading though, so let me share a very exciting opportunity I have next week. Our Marketing Manager, Jan Kaiser, goes every year to the BookExpo America convention in New York City. Someone usually goes along with her and this year, it's me! It is four full days of meeting authors and hearing about all of the new books coming out this year. There are over 700 authors in attendance during the convention. I understand that lots of free copies of books are given away and I know that is how Jan finds out about authors to bring out for our Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AViD) series every year. I am hoping to find some possible children's and teen authors to come out to Des Moines next year. My fantasy is having Jeff Kinney come out but he doesn't do library and school visits as he still works full time as a graphic artist.

It was great seeing so many youth services staff at Kids First this year. It was an awesome event. We were able to send all of our youth services staff this year since the event was in Des Moines. They came back refreshed and energized to try new things this summer and fall. Right now we have quite a few weekly programs in our branches so we are hoping that the upcoming budget cuts won't mean a cut in programming for us.

I am not sure how Jerri Heid manages to give workshops, coordinate ILA sessions and get ready for summer reading all at the same time, but she has been busy as a member of the ILA Conference planning committee organizing our sessions for this fall. I can't wait to tell you more about them in the next issue of the YSS newsletter. In the meantime, Happy Summer Reading—try not to pull all of your hair out of your head in the zaniness that is summer at the library.

Audrey Jones  
YSS Chair

## YSS Goals 2011

At one point, we discussed choosing goals for the 2011 year. We did get some goal ideas from a brief goal setting meeting with Audrey Jones, Karen Neal (from the Drake Community Library in Grinnell), Kayla Williams and Sarah Beth Beaver (from the Spencer Public Library, and Merri Monks from the State Library. Zach Stier also had some ideas. These ideas were sent out to the YSS membership in May to get input and votes on the goals for the current year.

Here are the ideas for goals at the meeting:

Goal 1: To collaborate with Youth Librarians across the State to think about why professionals should join the group. This can support young professionals to participate in leadership roles. How can we connect with librarians via Web 2.0 or other forms of Social Networking?)

Goal 2: To create a video that displays successful programs from Youth Librarians across the state to showcase at ILA booth, YSS subdivision meeting or other conferences.

Goal 3: To rethink how to communicate about YSS goals and programs at ILA by reaching professionals at the time of the current ILA conference. This will be after the YSS session at ILA to collect ideas for next year's ILA conference and goals. This will be an informal meeting however, it will provide direction for the annual conference planning meeting in November and goal setting the next year.

Goal 4: To talk to LSA's about having monthly or bimonthly meetings for their youth services staff.

Goal 5: To set up mentoring programs so that new staff will have a go-to person in the YSS who can talk them through story times, programs, their first ILA conference, etc. The mentor can be nearby or long-distance.

Goal 6: To increase membership by 10% with the 2013 registrations.

Goal 7: To raise money for the subdivision by selling t-shirts at ILA.

Goal 4 was removed as the LSAs will be eliminated by the bill working through the Iowa Legislature and this would conflict with the State Library.

**After a mass email and vote, these are the goals we decided on:**

Goal 1: To rethink how to communicate about YSS goals and programs at ILA by reaching professionals at the time of the current ILA conference. This will be after the YSS session at ILA to collect ideas for next year's ILA conference and goals. This will be an informal meeting that will provide direction for the annual conference planning meeting in November and goal setting for the next year.

Goal 2: To set up mentoring programs so that new staff will have a go-to person in YSS who can talk them through story times, programs, their first ILA conference, etc. The mentor can be nearby or long-distance.

Goal 3: To increase membership by 10% with the 2012 registrations.

## E-Books in Iowa Schools

Though electronic books read on reading devices have been around for more than a decade, improved presentation of digital books has resulted in a boom in their popularity. Another element for their increased popularity may be the comfort that young adults and children feel in dealing with all things electronic. Whatever the reason, the e-book landscape is flooded with change and development. Never satisfied to sit back and watch others jump in, Keystone AEA 1 and the state of Iowa, have launched programs to ensure that Iowa K-12, northeast Iowa and Ed-Co students have access to a growing bank of e-books. Here are examples of how that's happening.

The Iowa Education Consortium has purchased Scholastic's *Bookflix* product for all PK-3 students in Iowa. The 180+ books are arranged by subject matter and partner fiction with nonfiction titles. Students can choose to read the books themselves or have the program read the books to them with words highlighted as the text is read. There is also a read aloud, built-in dictionary. Some titles have a Spanish version and all have supplementary tools to build vocabulary and comprehension. At a recent story time, Ed-Co's pre-k and kindergarten students were totally engaged with the e-books on butterflies.

Keystone AEA 1 has begun building a collection of e-books for its 5-12 grade patrons. Students in these grades have been issued Login IDs and passwords, which allow them to access the 250+ ebooks currently in their Follett e-shelf collection. High school students are permitted to check out books from either the elementary or high school shelves, but elementary students may only check out from the elementary shelf.

Ed-Co Jr/Sr High School's IMC is also in the process of building its e-book collection. With the 1:1 initiative in the 11-12 school year, students will be able to read the books on either their laptops or other reading devices. The titles for the Iowa Teen Award, Iowa High School Award and Iowa Battle of the books will be available as e-books whenever possible. In addition, nonfiction books that support the curriculum will be purchased.

It's important to note that some books used in the classroom are available as e-books for free. Books by authors like Shakespeare and Twain are in the public domain, so there's no fee or subscription cost for accessing them. However, a book like Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* must still be purchased or checked out from a library whether print or digital.

These are dynamic times in libraries! I sometimes wonder what our libraries will look like in five years. Still there's no stopping change, so why sit on the sidelines? We learn how to swim by jumping in the water. I just hope it's not too cold. ;-)

Marsha Hauser, K-12 Teacher Librarian  
Edgewood-Colesburg CSD

## *Kids First Silent Auction Results*

I don't think I'm the first to say that the Kids First Conference was so much fun!

We would like thank both the buyers and donors of the silent auction.

Buyers: Dorothy Jacobs, Mary Johnson, Sherry Schlundt, Lisa Ellers, Rachel Loutsch, Elaine Kelsey, Kelly Fischbach, Lisa Vander Sluis and Jessica Young.

Donors: Jean Hampson, Susan Mast, Tami Finley, Debb Green, Danielle Day, Katie Dreyer, Toni Blair, Fran Fessler and Embassy Suites.

If we forgot a donor or buyer we apologize. Because of the generosity of others the YSS subdivision was able to raise a total of \$479 dollars. The money that is raised is used to fund speakers for the ILA annual conference every fall. Again, thank you for all who participated in the auction. If you would like to donate next Kids First to the silent auction, please contact Katie Dreyer at [kdreyer@cityofpella.com](mailto:kdreyer@cityofpella.com).

Zach Stier  
YSS Chair Elect  
Bondurant Public Library

## *Changes in Summer Reading in Council Bluffs*

Summer Reading Club in Council Bluffs is off to a great start despite our worries about local flooding threats and the summertime resurfacing of our library's parking lot!

The teens are loving this year's theme and have already enjoyed an Amazing Race program and one on Shibori, Japanese tie-dye techniques. But we all know it's not all about the programs; it's about the reading, too! This year marks my third summer here in Council Bluffs, so I decided to take the plunge and do a major overhaul of how the Teen Summer Reading Club is structured.

In the past, the children's and teen programs have worked exactly the same way—we just offered different prizes to the different age groups. By making changes this year, I'm hoping to further separate teen activities from children's activities and to be able offer more exciting incentive prizes. The biggest change for participants is that this year they are allowed to set their own goals for how much they want to try to read throughout the summer. There are minimum goals of course—otherwise there would be no way to make prize and raffle ticket distribution fair. All that said about the minimums though, I have been pleasantly surprised at how many teens I have who are striving to read more, and in many cases much more, than I'm asking them to. I'm watching my shelves empty while teens walk out of the library with piles of books in an effort to meet goals to read as much as 25 books, 50 hours, and even one teen who's trying to read 100 hours! It's been rewarding to see them getting so into the goal setting, figuring out how much they'd have to read each day and week to meet their goals. Of course we won't really know how well it's working until we're looking back on it, but so far, so good!

Anna Hartmann  
YSS Secretary  
Council Bluffs Public Library

## HANDS-ON BOOK FEST FOR KIDS

The Rotary Club of Des Moines is celebrating its centennial this year. They wanted to do something extra special for children and worked with the Des Moines Public Library staff to develop what we hope will become an annual event.

The Hands-On Book Fest for Kids was held on May 4, during Children's Book Week. Iowa author Dori Hillestad Butler (*Do You Know the Monkey Man?*) was invited to make presentations throughout the day on the writing process and Iowa artist/illustrator Paul Micich (*The Littlest Angel*) demonstrated how he creates his art.

Both Dori and Paul allowed time for the kids to create their own stories in words and pictures. Children then walked around tents set up outside. These tents housed the Iowa Center for the Book and State Library staff showing examples of Braille books and rubbings; an old-fashioned printing press run by a gentleman who demonstrated how books used to be printed; a local publisher talking about how to market and publish a book; and lastly, bookworm treats – wrapped Twinkies with eyes and a pipe-cleaner antenna.

From 9:00 AM - noon, 180 school children attended the event. From 1:00-4:00 PM, the event was open to home school families and the public since it was an early out day in the Des Moines Public Schools. Evening events included a reception for Rotary members, complete with a string quartet, a ceremony renaming a one-block stretch of 12th Street to Honorary Rotary Way; and presentations by Dori and Paul.

All in all, it was a very long day but a wonderful success. The kids and teachers loved it, the families had a great time, and there were over 40 Rotary volunteers so there wasn't a lot of pressure on the library staff. We just had a meeting to begin planning next year's event!

Audrey Jones  
YSS Chair  
Des Moines Public Library

## IOWA AUTHOR DORI HILLESTAD BUTLER WINS AWARD

As a side note to the Hands-On Book Fest for Kids, author Dori Butler announced that she had just won the 2011 Edgar Award for best juvenile mystery the previous week.

She won the award for *The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy* (Book #1 in a new series. Ms. Butler told the audience that she first saw stickers for this award on books when she was a child and she dreamed of someday winning that award herself! How exciting to have her dream come true!

Audrey Jones  
YSS Chair  
Des Moines Public Library

## State Library Update

Our 2011 Kids First is now a memory, but from the comments we've received, attendees liked the conference, for the most part, and enjoyed the experience of gathering together. I'm working on getting speakers and a location for our 2013 Kids First (the Embassy Suites will be considered, along with some other hotels in Des Moines and surrounding communities).

Youth services continuing education will be on hold until after our summer reading programs end, but we're developing some programming and collection development CE sessions, and of course, are working on our 2012 Summer Library Program Workshops, which will be held the last week in October and the first week in November of 2011.

I've been holding off on setting up our Youth Services Advisory Committee until the six new library service districts are created, so that we can have geographic representation, as well as size of library representation. The Youth Services Advisory Committee will work with the State Library on identifying continuing education needs (including sessions for Kids First), suggestions for possible group purchases, and other issues of interest to youth services librarians.

I'll be around all summer (unless the state government shuts down), so call or email if I can be of any assistance. And the very best to you all as you welcome children and teens into your summer reading programs, with our "One World, Many Stories" and "You Are Here" themes. For those of you who can, please send pictures! We can post a collage of them at the end of the summer.

Best wishes,

Merri M. Monks  
Youth Services Consultant  
State Library of Iowa  
[Merri.monks@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:Merri.monks@lib.state.ia.us)

## PROGRAM IDEAS WANTED!

Is there a program you can't wait to share? Something you had a great time planning, coordinating, or putting together? Want to share?

Please email Natalie at [natalie.struecker@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.struecker@gmail.com) and let her know! Don't worry about writing something up, I have questions you can answer which will write it for you.

We want to hear from you!

## First Kids First Conference Award

Greetings to all in the midst of a very busy summer reading program! My name is Jenna Ehler, and I am the new Children's Librarian at the West Des Moines Public Library. I began work here in mid-March, just in time to attend Kids First with the rest of our youth services staff. The Youth Services Subdivision was kind enough to grant me the Kids First Conference award, and I have been asked to introduce myself and talk about my favorite moments of the conference.

I grew up in central Iowa and have been a patron at many of our local libraries. One of my earliest jobs was working as a page at the Ericson Public Library in Boone. I spent most of high school and college in the children's department there and then worked at Parks Library at Iowa State University while studying for my bachelor's in linguistics. After graduation from Iowa State, I enrolled in the LEEP online program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and focused my studies on youth services. As I studied for my library degree, I worked at the Clive Public Library and was fortunate to have many opportunities to build my skills and experience. I worked at Clive for three years, and now I am thrilled to have joined the staff at the West Des Moines Public Library.

This year was my first opportunity to attend Kids First, and I really enjoyed the sessions. I was particularly impressed by Linda Urban. Her passion for children's literature was remarkable, and I noticed she stayed for the afternoon sessions and the reception that evening. She talked to everyone and seemed genuinely interested in learning more about our profession and the issues we face as librarians. She seems like a great ally!

Overall, I thought the conference was a great success, and I want to thank Merri Monks and the staff at the State Library for all their hard work. Kids First is an excellent learning experience, and it was wonderful to meet so many youth services librarians across the state. I look forward to working with and learning from all of you in the future.

Jenna Ehler  
Children's Librarian  
West Des Moines Public Library

## This Is Teen Tour

I had the privilege of hearing esteemed authors Meg Cabot, Libba Bray, and Maggie Stiefvater this past week in Naperville, Illinois, on their tour called 'This is Teen'.

Each woman took some time talking about their current and upcoming works, their beginnings, and what teen literature has meant for them. They talked for almost an hour before opening the floor up to questions. Meg Cabot told us about her rejection letters, and the one editor who told her *The Princess Diaries* would never be good enough to be published. Maggie Stiefvater talked of her fear of werewolves. Libba Bray asked the audience to help her create a description of her newest book, *Beauty Queens*, by putting together a Mad Lib.



Then came the signings. I was in awe as all three ladies took time to chat with every single person there, get pictures, and share their thanks. And the amount of books those women signed in one and a half hours; it was inspiring. I even went back to my library the next day and checked out Meg Cabot's newest book *Abandon*. I can't wait to read it!

Natalie Struecker  
YSS Newsletter Editor

## Native American Dance at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library

This year's Summer Reading theme "One World, Many Stories" brings endless possibilities in programming ideas. The event we are most looking forward to is Larry Yazzie, a Native American dancer and founder of Native Pride Arts. Larry is an International Lecturer, Educator, Performer, and a World Champion Fancy Dancer. Raised on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement in Central Iowa, he began dancing at the age of 7. Throughout his childhood Larry was instructed on the traditions of the Meskwaki People, including the flamboyant and energetic fancy dance and the northern Plains style of singing.

"Through my dancing and singing, I experience a zone of free spirit, where everyday problems and worries are left behind. As a performer, it makes me feel good to share this positive energy with other people"

As a dancer and singer, Larry has performed throughout North America as well as South America and Europe. His current solo show, "Native Pride Dancer," balances entertainment with education and features the high-energy Fancy Dance. Larry performs this show for a variety of audiences from K-12 to colleges and universities, to corporate gatherings and community festivals. Notable performances include the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic Games and the 1999 Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia. Larry and his seven year-old son Jessup were also seen performing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Join us on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. as Larry honors Native American elders through many beautiful forms of music, dance, and storytelling. Share in the history passed down from generation to generation through bravery, fortitude, generosity and wisdom. Keeping traditions alive, Larry will educate, inspire, motivate and empower communities to bridge cultural gaps while feeling the beat of the drums and experiencing the hypnotizing power of dance.

You can find more information about Larry at [www.nativepridearts.org](http://www.nativepridearts.org).

Submitted by Danielle Day, Youth Service Manager

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