

**YALSA Board Meeting
2005 Midwinter Meeting
Boston, Massachusetts
January 14-19, 2005**

Topic: Teen Read Week 2004

Background: Teen Read Week is YALSA's national literacy initiative and takes place the third full week of October each year. Registration for Teen Read Week 2004 was 1,300 (it was 1,010 last year). The final press release is included below for your information.

Action Required: None

Thousands of teens celebrate reading
during Teen Read Week 2004, "IT'S ALIVE! @ your library"

CHICAGO - The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has successfully completed its 7th annual Teen Read Week (TRW), "IT'S ALIVE! @ your library." Hundreds of school and public libraries and bookstores celebrated the event October 17 - 23, 2004, by hosting an array of events about mysteries, forensics, science fiction, horror and the world around them. Activities focused on giving teens an opportunity to "read for the fun of it," while celebrating the popularity of the horror genre among teenagers.

Libraries throughout the world offered creative programs that encouraged teens to participate in Teen Read Week events. An international school in Tokyo, Japan, offered a short horror story contest, made a compilation of top horror fiction and created an opportunity for middle and high school students to read scary stories to elementary students.

Crestwood High School Library in Dearborn Heights (Mich.) invited David Sosnowski, author of "Vamped" to speak to classes. Dressed in vampire black, Sosnowski held the students spellbound while he read excerpts and answered questions. Horror novels and posters were on display for two weeks, which increased book circulation.

The Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City/County held a horror make-up workshop with a make-up artist. Participants learned about making perfectly disgusting scabs, scars and pustules, as well as learning how to look like they have zombie skin, creating a vampire face and other horrifying looks.

This year's Teen Read Week also offered an opportunity for teens to speak up! Teens voted on the theme of Teen Read Week 2005, which will be held October 16 - 22. Over 1,100 teens voted, and chose the winning theme of GET REAL! Teens also voted on their favorite book for Teens' Top Ten. Over 2,000 votes were cast, and "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" took the number one spot. To view all 10, please visit www.ala.org/teenstopten.

Teen Read Week is a national literacy initiative aimed at teens, their parents, librarians, educators, booksellers and other concerned adults. It began in 1998 and has been celebrated the third week in October each year ever since.

Teen Read Week supporting organizations include: American Association of School Administrators, American Booksellers Association, Cable in the Classroom, International Reading Association, Kids Care, KIDSNET, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Council of Teachers of English, National Education Association, National School Boards Association, SmartGirl.org, The N/Noggin, Speak Up Press and TeenInk.

HarperCollins was a corporate sponsor of Teen Read Week 2004. Corporate friends were Scholastic, Inc., and Houghton Mifflin. Pamela Spencer Holley was an individual friend of Teen Read Week.

For more information regarding Teen Read Week, and events that took place during "IT'S ALIVE @ your library," please visit www.ala.org/teenread. Information regarding YALSA and future literacy initiatives may be obtained by contacting Nichole Gilbert via e-mail at yalsa@ala.org, or 800-545-2433 ext. 4391.