

Voices

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

A Division of the
American Library Association

Volume 1 Number 2

PROGRAM SHOWCASE

Read 'N Feed Anderson Public Library, Anderson, Indiana

This column is devoted to successful programming for young adults. The past year has brought forth a wealth of successful programs, thanks to immediate past-ALA President Hardy Franklin's focus on YAs and service. This program description was selected from the hundreds of applications that ALA received for the Recognition Grants for Outstanding Customer Service for Youth in Libraries competition. Many more of these successful programs will be highlighted in future editions of VOICES Program Showcase

READ 'N FEED - The Anderson Public Library in Anderson, Indiana, has developed an ongoing program, in cooperation with the local middle schools, that features a book discussion and dinner. The program is called Read 'N Feed and is an annual National Library Week event at the library and a monthly event at two local middle schools.

Each Read 'N Feed features a novel that has been selected by a group of librarians and teachers. Students are loaned paperback copies of the novel and have a month's reading time before the event. Progress checks are made during that time to help keep the students on track for finishing the book. Book distribution and tracking are coordinated through the school media centers. Students come to the Read 'N Feed prepared to discuss the selected title. Small groups of six to ten students get acquainted over a dinner donated by a local restaurant and

then are lead in a discussion by volunteer librarians, teachers, and parents.

The student/leader ratio is kept low; approximately 20 leaders are used at each program. The level of participation for this program has been very good. Each year, 120-150 students register for the library Read 'N Feed. The discussion format varies according to the selected title, but may include games, role-playing, writing or art exercises, interviewing, or guest speakers. This program design allows the exploration of innovative approaches to literature unrestricted by classroom schedules, requirements, or environments.

The success of this program lies in its appeal not only to kids who enjoy reading, but also those kids who are initially "lukewarm" about books but attend for the social opportunity. The outcome of the Read 'N Feed experience is an awareness that reading and talking about books is fun! Students are given a dynamic opportunity to express their ideas and opinions outside a classroom setting. It is also an opportunity for the students to see reading skills advocated and supported by the community.

The program is popular with middle school students and would be adaptable to a younger or older audience. Students considered to be at-risk have participated with success in this program through the assistance of supportive teachers who have read the selected book to them. The resulting discussion has been enhanced by the

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VOICE Your Opinion!

by YALSA President Jennifer Gallant

It has always seemed to me that the goal of Youth Participation is at the heart of what young adult librarians do. Why else do we enthusiastically and energetically build collections of rap music, comics, computer games, and R.L. Stine books? Why else do we wholeheartedly organize programs geared to attract young adults if we didn't want young adults to participate, grow, and develop. We like them. We want to see them. We want to interact with them.

Youth Participation Revisited is the theme I have chosen for YALSA this year. The motivation came from immediate past-ALA President Hardy Franklin's efforts on behalf of youth. We owe Hardy Franklin our collective and singular thanks and respect. The result of one of his projects, *Excellence in Library Services to Young Adults* is a collection of the 50 top national programs. Here are the models we are always seeking in a user-friendly source. This book is a must see and must own. Most recently he donated the royalties from the sale of his tape, "Customer Service: The Heart of the Library" to YALSA to benefit the production of future publications.

In the meantime, we are in the midst of a publications boom. One immedi-

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February 3-9ALA Midwinter Meeting
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**March 29-April 1**

Freedom of Information Day

April

School Library Media Month

April 9-15

National Library Week

April 11

Library Legislative Day

April 12Great American
Read Aloud/Night of a
Thousand Stars**June 22-29**ALA Annual Conference
Chicago, Illinois**September**

Library Card Sign-Up Month

September 24-October 1

Banned Books Week

**YALSA**Young Adult Library
Services Association

The goal of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is to advocate, promote and strengthen service to young adults as part of the continuum of total library services. YALSA is a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

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Intellectual Freedom Institute Planned Around 1996 ALA Midwinter Meeting

A three-day institute, "Collaboration for Change: A Team Approach to Intellectual Freedom," will be held January 21-23, 1996, in conjunction with the ALA's Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The institute, sponsored by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and the AASL, will introduce a team-based management/policy approach to intellectual freedom challenges in the school setting. Topics for the institute will include Principles, Policies & Paradigms, vs. Principals, Practices & Positions, Censorship or Selection: What's My Motivation?, Jettison the Jargon: Communication without Obfuscation and Communicating About Intellectual Freedom: What to Say When the Censor—or the Press—Calls You!

Sixty-five percent of the intellectual freedom challenges reported to the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom come from the K-12 school setting.

"This workshop will offer school administrators and library media spe-

cialists the chance to explore intellectual freedom issues before they have to face an actual challenge," said Judith Krug, Director, OIF. "The training will help them to deal effectively with complaints and controversy, rather than react under pressure."

"Collaboration for Change" is designed for teams of a school administrator and school library media specialist.

The institute will be held in conjunction with ALA's 1996 Midwinter Meeting to attract new members to the Association and to demonstrate the quality continuing education opportunities that ALA offers. "We hope that the opportunity to attend this institute and to visit the ALA Exhibits will encourage more school library media specialists and their administrators to attend the Midwinter Meeting.

Registration materials will be available in the spring of 1995. For more information about Collaboration for Change, contact (800) 545-2433, ext. 4386.

Voice Your Opinion! (continued from page 1)

ate publication will be *Output Measures and More: Planning and Evaluating Young Adult Services in Public Libraries*. It will be published in Spring 1995 and a Preconference will be offered in Chicago on its use. The manual and training will enable you to measure needs and successes in young adult services.

Another publication will be a one volume revision of *Youth Participation in School and Public Libraries*. This revision will be available at the 1995 Chicago Annual Conference. Some of the winners of the top 50 programs mentioned earlier will address the topics of "Youth Participation" and share their success stories in Chicago.

Other Youth Participation projects include the formation of a joint task force with the ALA Chapter Relations Committee to discuss the formation of a Teenage Library Association. Surveys have been sent out to state chapter representatives by this task force. Guidelines are being created for youth involvement in YALSA committee work stemming from multiple committee

requests for youth feedback. Lastly, a Planning Grant of \$25,000 has been awarded to ALA to develop a proposal for YOUTHWORK. This is a national project intended to link libraries and youth services organizations to create out-of-school activities for at-risk youth.

The only part of "Youth Participation" not yet discussed is the first three letters of "youth" - and that is you. YALSA needs you. This newsletter exists because YALSA members asked for it, passed a dues increase which helps to fund it. It has substance because members volunteered to edit and write articles. Our committees function well because of your talents. Please call the YALSA office and ask for a committee volunteer form. We are an organization that thrives on our volunteer membership. If you cannot commit to coming to conference, we still would like to hear from you. We need your comments and suggestions to continue to move forward. And we promise you'll hear back.

★ **Baker & Taylor Award Committee** Susan Meck, Chair: The B&T/YALSA Award Committee receives applications from Public & School Librarians, who serve YAs daily. These librarians are new annual conference attendees: YALSA members; and have one to ten years experience with YA's. Award money is in the sum of \$1000.00. One grant is given to a Public Librarian: one is given to a School Librarian. All applications are welcome and are reviewed individually by each committee member. The deadline is December 14.

★ **Book Wholesalers Inc./YALSA Collection Development Grant** Amy Oxley, Chair: The Book Wholesalers Inc./YALSA Collection Development Grant Committee will meet at Midwinter to select two winners for this new YALSA award. The purpose of this grant is to award \$1000 for collection development to YALSA members who represent a public library and who works directly with young adults ages 12 to 18.

★ **Program Planning Clearinghouse & Evaluation Committee** Jana Fine, Chair: Our committee meets only once during Midwinter and at Annual, but we go over all the program requests that other YALSA committees make to see if the dreaded program forms have been filled out with enough information to recommend them to the YALSA Board. It is interesting to work with the other committees to encourage them to put on programs. Some great ones are going to happen in Chicago, by the way. Several exciting pre-conferences are in the planning stages or are just being hinted at and they include: Output Measures for Young Adults; a Science Fiction/Fantasy program promises to be "out of this world"; and a Reluctant Reader Preconference that sounds quite stimulating!

★ **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Patrick Jones, Chair: The YALSA Publications Committee completed very successful meetings in Miami where we

- Approved the Youth Participation Manual
- Developed a mission statement and goals as part of the Publication Plan and Manual
- Assisted staff in developing the Publication Plan and Manual
- Recommended criteria for selection of *Voices* editor
- Started planning a program to showcase YALSA publications/members

At midwinter 1995, the Publications Committee will be addressing the following issues:

- Reviewing a revision of *Hit List* and new *Output Measures for Young Adults* documents
- Making decisions regarding future of monograph series
- Reviewing the revised Publication Plan and Manual
- Rewriting schedule for revising publications

In addition, the Publications Committee asked committee chairs to look at committee work and programs for possible publication. The Publications Committee is very interested in participation from the membership - either by writing documents for publication or providing ideas for publications which are needed in the field. For any information, contact Patrick Jones at 219-483-8975.

★ **PUBLISHERS LIAISON COMMITTEE:** Juanita Foster, Chair: The YALSA Publishers Liaison Committee has submitted a series of questions to appear in SLJ's "Letters to the

Editor" section beginning with the October issue. The questions have also been submitted to JOYS. The committee is trying to promote communication between publishers and librarians and develop a forum to exchange ideas and concerns. The questions are:

1. What book did you need yesterday to serve your young adult customer?
2. What book would you buy tomorrow if it were available?
3. What has been your biggest "book nightmare"?
4. What curriculum trends/changes have impacted the most on your book selection?
5. I would give an award to _____ (publisher) for _____.

Send replies to YALSA, Publishers Liaison Committee, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795.

★ **RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR THE RELUCTANT YOUNG ADULT READER COMMITTEE:** Peter Butts, Chair: With nominations for the 1995 edition of Quick Picks approaching the 200 mark in early fall, the Recommended Books for the Reluctant Young Adult Reader Committee finds itself in the midst of a reading frenzy. Notable this year is the abundance of graphic novels. The nomination list is available on the ALA Gopher and many nominations are now coming via E-Mail. Still the committee took time to propose a name change, simplifying the current tongue twister that drives publishers crazy to "Quick Picks for Young Adults." The committee proposed a pre-conference in 1997 on serving and selecting books for the reluctant YA reader.

★ **RESEARCH COMMITTEE:** Keith Swigger, Chair: The YALSA Research Committee project for 1995 is to draft a Research Agenda to submit

to the Board. In June 94, the Board approved the "Research and Statistics Policy Statement" drafted for all the divisions' consideration by the Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS). To carry out the provisions of that policy, YALSA needs a written research agenda. The committee welcomes any suggestions about either process or content for development of a YALSA research agenda.

★ **TEACHING YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE DISCUSSION GROUP:** Susan Rosenzweig, interim convenor: The Teaching Young Adult Literature Discussion Groups is for people who teach (or would like to teach) YA Literature to students in library school or schools of education. The group has generated a list of topics to discuss including structuring the course (the curriculum); texts to use; activities and assignments; reading lists/books to teach; grading; instructional techniques, etc. Participants bring multiple copies of pertinent materials (reading lists they have created, copies of their syllabi) to share with others. We are not a formal "committee"; therefore do not have any projects per se, nor will we do any programming. But we will elect a convenor or two co-convenors at Midwinter conference in Philadelphia.

★ **TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUNG ADULTS COMMITTEE:** Kate Birdseye, Chair: The Technology for Young Adults Committee will be presenting a program in New York, 1996, that will focus on success stories of teens using the Internet. We hope to include young adults among the presenters. We also are planning to publish an article for JOYS on PUBYAC, an electronic mailing list concerning young adults and children's services in public libraries, with the assistance of the PUBYAC moderator, Shannon VanHemert.

YALSA Candidates for the 1995 ALA Election

Vice-President/ President-Elect:

Jana Fine, Youth Services Librarian, Clearwater Public Library, Clearwater, Fla.; Deborah Taylor, Coordinator School and Student Services, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.

Councilor:

Audra Caplan, Branch Manager, Woodlawn Branch, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, Md.; Pamela G. Spencer, Library Program Specialist K-12, Fairfax County Public Schools, Annandale, Va.

Board of Directors:

Susan Farber, YA Department Head, Chappaqua Public Library, Chappaqua, NY; Hazel Yliniemi, Director of Instructional Resources, Fargo Public Schools, Fargo, N.D.; Peter Butts, East Middle School, Holland, Mich.; Judy Sasges, Monroe Library, Monroe, Wash.

Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee:

Christine M. Allen, District Librarian K-12, Riverside Unified School District, Riverside, Calif.; Allan Cuseo, Librarian, Greece Arcadia High School, Rochester, N.Y.; Andrew Hunter, Information Specialist, Youth Services, Public Library of Charlott & Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, N.C.; Bonnie Kunzel, Young Adult Librarian, New Brunswick Free Public Library, New Brunswick, N.J.; Betty Lazarus, Ridgewood Preparatory School, Metairie, Lous.; Meg Wolfe, Phoenix Public Library, Phoenix, Ariz.

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Read 'N Feed

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diverse points of view of students at widely varying academic levels and the added benefit of peer acceptance outside established circles.

In its first year Read 'N Feed was funded through a grant from Opening Doors for Middle Grade Readers, a Lilly project of the Indiana Library Federation. The second year, the program was partially funded by Anderson Public Library's "Friends of the Library" organization. The program is evaluated each year by 1) the number of participants and their opinions given on the evaluation forms, 2) the endorsement by teacher, librarians, parents, and community members through their participation and support, and 3) the response of participants to successive Read 'N Feeds.

When participants have been asked whether they would participate in another Read 'N Feed, they have unanimously answered "YES!"

For more information, contact Kathryn Closter, Anderson Public Library, 111 E. 12th Street, Anderson, IN 46016; (317)641-2456.

If you have a successful program for young adults that you wish to share with the YALSA membership, please send a program description to Jana Fine, Editor, VOICES, c/o Clearwater Public Library System, 100 N. Osceola Ave., Clearwater, FL 34615 or e-mail at finej@mail.firn.edu.

YALSA Vision Statement

Editor's Note: *At the 1994 ALA Annual Conference, the YALSA Board approved a vision statement and requested that it be widely disseminated so that members can make suggestions for revising the statement. Please send your comments and/or recommended suggestions for the YALSA Vision Statement to: YALSA Vision Statement, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611. FAX (312) 664-7459.*

In every library in the nation, quality library service to young adults is provided by a staff that understands and respects the unique informational, educational and recreational needs of teenagers. Equal access to information, services and materials is recognized as a right not a privilege. Young adults are actively involved in the library decision-making process. The library staff collaborates and cooperates with other youth-serving agencies to provide a holistic, community-wide network of activities and services that support healthy youth development.

To ensure that this vision becomes a reality, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA):

- advocates extensive and developmentally appropriate library and information services for young adults, ages 12 to 18;

- promotes reading and supports the literacy movement;
- advocates the use of information and communication technologies to provide effective library service;
- supports equality of access to the full range of library materials and services, including existing and emerging information and communications technologies, for young adults;
- provides education and professional development to enable its members to serve as effective advocates for young people;
- fosters collaboration and partnerships among its individual members with the library community and other groups involved in providing library and information services to young adults;
- influences public policy by demonstrating the importance of providing library and information services to young adults;
- encourages research and is in the vanguard of new thinking concerning the provision of library and information services for youth.

(Adopted by the YALSA Board, 1994)