

Voices

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

A Division of the
American Library Association

Spring/Summer 1995

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PROGRAM SHOWCASE

The Spotlight Players

Olympia Timberland Library, Olympia, Washington

This column is devoted to successful programming for young adults.

The Spotlight Players originated as a way of introducing children to children's literature. The troupe (age 12 and up) draws its performers from the local area. After submitting an application to participate, teens are interviewed by the Children's librarian and, since 1993, by the interim library director.

The program is a low-budget operation. Performers bring costumes from home, borrow them from friends, sort through the library's meager collection, or adapt the storyline to fit the costumes available. Props and backdrops are acquired in the same way. The Friends of the Olympia Library provides the annual budget of \$150.

From the beginning, teens have been involved in the selection of the materials to be performed. They put together half hour performances and a one hour performance. Each performance consists of several plays, separated by a poem, puppet show or an audience participation piece. To increase the self-esteem of the youth involved, final play selection has always rested on their shoulders. They are encouraged to write their own plays, bring in stories they've previously written, or suggest stories they

would like to do. In several instances, the teens have written, directed and performed in their own version of a popular folktale.

During the summer of 1993, one teen, who had never written anything before, showed particular innovation in her adaptation of several folktales. From her experience, she decided to explore her new interest with college coursework in the fall.

Like other library programs, a criteria of success is the audience size. Performances of the Spotlight Players have an average of 49 audience members and applications for participation in the group has grown from 14 to 32. With the number of plays performed each summer topping 25, Spotlight Players audiences have enjoyed a new, rich exposure to children's literature.

For more information, contact Rosanne Thompson, Olympia Timberland Library, 313 8th Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501; (206) 352-0595.

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.

NOW AVAILABLE
from YALSA

YALSA announces the opportunity to access a resource directory of more than 50 speakers and consultants in the field of young adult services.

A database search based on your needs is available free from: YALSA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: (800) 545-2433, ext. 4390. Individuals who wish to be added to the resource directory should contact: Linda Waddle, Deputy Executive Director, YALSA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: (800) 545-2433, ext. 4391. The directory is designed for those looking for a speaker or consultant to provide continuing education opportunities for school library media specialists, public library generalists or youth workers. The individuals included in the database are from across the country and have expertise in a wide variety of areas, such as at-risk adolescents, youth participation and policy development. All participants have submitted a data form detailing the times of year they are available, experience and publications, references, preferred audiences and fees.

The new **Outstanding Books for the College Bound**, from titles selected by a YALSA committee, is now available. Compiled into one brochure for the first time, the list

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ALA Goal 2000: Vision and reality

by Arthur Curley, President, American Library Association

This is a very exciting time for libraries and for ALA. We have a new executive director, Elizabeth Martinez. We have a bold new vision of our future — ALA Goal 2000. I am writing to invite your support.

ALA Goal 2000 is deceptively simple. It is to have the American Library Association be as closely associated with the public's right to a free and open information society — intellectual participation — as it is with the idea of intellectual freedom. To make ALA Goal 2000 a reality will require the same intense commitment and investment of resources.

The five-year plan has several key elements — the most important and urgent being to make the voice of ALA and libraries heard in the board rooms and back rooms of government and corporations where information policies are now being developed. Policies that will determine who will have access to new information technology — and at what price.

Those sitting at the table have deep pockets and cadres of lawyers and staff to defend their interests. ALA

and the voice of the American people are outnumbered, outspent and — too often — absent. We propose to change that.

ALA Goal 2000 calls for expanding the ALA Washington Office and establishing an Office for Information Technology Policy to increase ALA's ability to influence national information policy and to support

phased in over the next three years (\$10, \$10 and \$5) — our first dues increase in five years. For retirees, students and others who may be experiencing financial hardship, it will be even less. Like most libraries, ALA management has undertaken strict cost-saving measures, including cuts in staff, reorganizing and streamlining departments. ALA will continue

ALA GOAL 2000

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our members in addressing these issues at the local and state levels. Issues of immediate concern include funding for school libraries as authorized but not yet allocated under the revised Elementary and Secondary Action Act (ESEA) and favorable telecommunications access or rates for all types of libraries.

ALA Goal 2000 will focus our energies and resources on positioning our association as a force for the public interest in the new era of electronic information. And it will create an independent, charitable foundation called the Fund for America's Libraries to raise funds from others who wish to invest in ALA Goal 2000 and other association activities.

I cannot say enough about the importance of ALA Goal 2000 for our association, profession, libraries, the children and adults we serve. The cost — an additional one million dollars — is a modest investment in our common future. It will be financed, in part, by a proposed dues increase that will appear on the ALA spring election ballot, but also through more aggressive fundraising from outside sources and through reallocation of current resources.

For most of us, the cost will mean an additional \$25 in dues to be

to seek both cost savings and higher revenue but these are not enough to do the job that must be done.

The ALA Goal 2000 and proposed dues increase have been enthusiastically endorsed by the ALA Executive Board and Council. All funds raised from the dues increase — approximately \$500,000 — will go directly for expansion of the Washington Office and establishment of the Office for Information Technology.

I urge all of you reading this to join me in supporting the dues increase and in renewing your commitment to the mission of the American Library Association. That mission — ensuring the highest-quality library and information services for all people — transcends the 20th and 21st centuries.

Free copies of an ALA Goal 2000 brochure and fact sheet are available from the ALA Library and Information Center, telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 2153, fax: 312-440-9374. Questions or comments may be directed to Gerald Hodges, director of Member Services, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 4285, or e-mail: ALA.Goal.2000@ala.org. TDD: 312-944-7298.



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).

JENNIFER JUNG GALLANT
President

PATRICIA MULLER
Vice-President/President-Elect

ANN CARLSON WEEKS
Executive Director

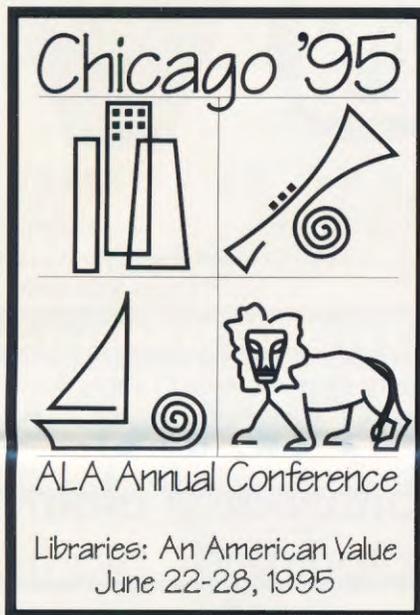
LINDA WADDLE
Deputy Executive Director

JANA FINE
VOICES Editor

LISA WOLFE
Staff Newsletter Coordinator

YALSA, 50 East Huron, Chicago, IL 60611
(800) 545-2433, ext. 4390
FAX: (312) 664-7459

YALSA Preconference 1995 ALA Annual Conference — Chicago



Implementing Output Measures for Library Service to Young Adults

Friday, June 23 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Don't miss this important and timely workshop where participants will learn to:

- Connect output measures for young adults to the Public Library Development Program.
- Manage and train staff to implement output measures for young adults.
- Utilize evaluation results for planning.
- Conduct a needs assessment.
- Integrate qualitative and quantitative data.
- Present results.
- Receive a copy of the new publication, *Output Measures and More!*

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Public Library Association. Registration fees are \$135 for YALSA members, \$175 for ALA members, and \$215 for non-members. Registration is required. For more information, contact YALSA at (800) 545-2433, ext. 4390.

Plan To **ATTEND!**

Margaret A. Edwards Award Luncheon

Saturday, June 24 12:30-2 p.m.

Cynthia Voigt, winner of the 1995 Margaret A. Edwards Award, will present a keynote address at this seventh annual luncheon.

The Margaret A. Edwards Award honors an author's lifetime achievement for writing books that are perennially popular with teenagers. \$40 by advance registration only. Contact YALSA at (800) 545-2433, ext. 4390; FAX: (312) 664-7459; E-mail: esther.murphy@ala.org for registration information.

Take note of these programs!

BYOP: Bring Your Own Popcorn: Selected Films & Videos for Young Adults 1995 Showcase Saturday, June 24, 8-10 p.m.

American Made, Not Born Sunday, June 25, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Youth Participation: It Works! Monday, June 26, 2 - 4 p.m.

YALSA SILENT AUCTION for Fun and Funds!

Proceeds will go to the Special Activity Fund which is used to support YALSA's continuing efforts to improve library service to young adults in schools and public libraries.

- Contribute a young adult-type item for a silent auction to be held at the ALA Annual Conference during the YALSA Membership Reception, Monday, June 26, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan Avenue, Ballroom D.

The young adult-related item could be: Promotional items from your library's young adult programs & services, workshop handouts, policies and procedures for your library's young adult patrons, publications (e.g., book-lists), Library skills and curriculum guides or ?????

Send your donation by June 1 to: YALSA Silent Auction, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611

- Attend the Membership Reception and greet your friends in YALSA.
- Bid on the silent auction items and come away a winner!

Committee Work: What's It All About

by Jana Fine, VOICES Editor

You probably have been involved in many work-related committees dealing with a variety of programs, services and decisions. But when it comes to working on a YALSA committee, you may ask yourself several questions:

- 1) WHAT? YALSA has committees?
- 2) What do these committees do besides select books?

chairs of the process committees and work to resolve problems as they arise. Some members probably feel process committee members are acting as "BIG BROTHER", but in fact, are just doing what they can to make sure all committees are functioning as effectively as possible. Each process committee chair reports to the YALSA Board on problems, requests, and plans. They then, in turn, work with other committee chairs to assist

where members of this committee select outstanding young adult authors to receive the award on an annual basis. Material Selection Committees consist of: Best Books for Young Adults; Popular Reading Committee; Recommended Books for the Reluctant Young Reader; and Selected Films & Videos for Young Adults. Committee members review materials during the year and meet at the Midwinter conference to develop

PRoCEss... SeLEcTION...

- 3) Why should I bother to get involved?

This column will attempt to answer these questions and give a clearer vision so that you will be encouraged to participate in YALSA activities.

- 1) WHAT? YALSA has committees? Indeed they do - more than 41 committees exist within YALSA alone and can be grouped within three areas: **Process, Selection, and Service.**
- 2) What do these committees do besides select books? A good question.

Process Committees work within the boundaries of the YALSA Board and include: Budget & Finance; Organization & Bylaws; Oversight; Program Planning Clearinghouse & Evaluation; and Publications. These committees normally do not present programs but monitor output created by other YALSA committees such as annual conference programs, publications prepared by service committees and by individuals; budget requests; planning and implementing long range goals; and overseeing the smooth operation of the committees as supervised by the YALSA Board. The Oversight Committee consists of

in fulfillment of the vision, long range goals and function statements for each YALSA committee.

Selection Committees fall into two parts: Awards and Materials Selection. The Awards Committee consist of The Margaret A. Edwards Award

a list of recommended titles or media. The Selected Films & Videos for young Adults Policies and Procedures Task Force is developing plans for future activities. This special committee will work within a specified period

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YALSA COMMITTEE NEWS

★ Research Committee

The major item of attention of the Research Committee at ALA Midwinter was development of a YALSA research agenda. The committee agreed the YALSA agenda should focus on research as it relates to practice. The committee listed the following questions as starting point:

1. How should "young adult" be defined?
2. What are young adult information needs?
3. What programs, services and strategies are successful in attracting young adults to libraries?
4. What are the appropriate methods for evaluating effectiveness of library service to young adults?
5. What are the education, training, selection and career paths of young adult specialists?

6. What are the reading behaviors of young adult specialists?
7. What are the consequences of selection for young adult readers?
8. How does technology impact library service to young adults?
9. How do the activities and goals of young adult specialists mesh with the purposes of the larger profession, as exemplified in such programs as Goal 2000?

Are these the proper questions? What questions are missing? Send your suggestions to Keith Swigger, Chair, YALSA Research Committee, School of Library and Information Studies, Texas Women's University, PO Box 22905, Denton, Tex. 76204; FAX: (817) 898-2611; E-mail: a_swigger@twu.edu.

Committee Work: What's It All About

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of time and will be sunsetted (or disbanded) when that work is completed. Most everyone wants to be on a selection committee and with good reason - where else can you read or view materials that will impact a great many people? But with selection committees, all is not "a piece of cake". A great deal of hard work, long hours, and much discussion is a natural condition for these groups. You will almost never see these selection com-

Membership Committee, and the Econo Clad Award for Young Adult Reading or Literature is administered by the Media, Selection & Usage Committee. The Research Committee has the opportunity to select an individual for the Frances Henne/VOYA Research Grant.

YALSA members can participate in interdivisional committees such as the JOYS Editorial Advisory Committee.

SErViCe... YOU...

mittee members around during Midwinter conference because they are closeted away reading, viewing, and discussing the most appropriate materials for their lists.

Service Committees reflect YALSA's goals and vision and contain: Division Promotion; Education; Intellectual Freedom; Legislation; National Organizations Serving the Young Adult Liaison; Outreach; Libraries Serving Young Adults With Special Needs; Technology for Young Adults; and Youth Participation. These committees prepare materials and/or programs on issues of interest to members in not only YALSA, but also throughout ALA. These hard working individuals constantly work on finding new ways to help you in the direct and indirect services to young adults, whether in the form of manuals like HIT LIST or YOUTH PARTICIPATION MANUAL or at programs during annual conferences. These committees rely on participation from each of the committee members throughout the year for planning and implementation of current concerns.

Several special awards/grants are given through the following committees: BWI/YALSA Collection Development Grant is managed by the Publisher's Liaison Committee, the Baker & Taylor Conference Grant is under the auspices of the

Individual members of committees as well as general members can be selected to represent YALSA on ALA committees and to be part of the membership network. Another avenue for participation is the YA Literature Discussion Group in which librarians can discuss literature, and how to use materials in teaching young adults about young adult literature.

3) Why should I bother to get involved? The answer is simple and complex at the same time. By actively joining a committee in YALSA, you have opportunities to:

- Discuss issues relating to you and other who work with teens
- Grow as a professional
- Meet a diverse range of librarians who share the same philosophies as you
- Have an opportunity to be a part of a group that can impact a larger population
- Committee work enhances your resume
- **YALSA NEEDS YOU!**

A Word from the YALSA President-Elect:

Committee work is not just an important part of YALSA. It is YALSA! One of the continuing challenges of incoming Presidents is finding dedicated and hard-working committee members willing to give extra time and effort toward furthering the goals of our organization. If you haven't recently sent in a Committee Volunteer Form, I would like to urge you to do so. Sometimes longtime members assume everyone knows them and what they can do. Yet, interests and expertise change over time. And because YALSA is a small association, new members are valued and can make an immediate contribution. We realize that many people are finding it difficult to attend conferences, and we are exploring new ways for members to participate using electronic formats. We hope to make it possible for some committees to do their work between conferences, as well as at conferences. Committee Volunteer Forms can be requested by calling the YALSA Office or may be accessed on the ALA Gopher. There is no deadline for Committee Volunteer Forms. We are always happy to receive them. Thanks!

*Pat Muller,
YALSA President-Elect*

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1 9 9 5 C A L E N D A R

April
School Library Media Month

April 9-15
National Library Week

April 11
Library Legislative Day

April 12
Great American
Read Aloud/Night of A
Thousand Stars

May 9
Legislative Day

June 22-29
ALA Annual Conference
Chicago, Illinois

September
Library Card Sign-Up Month

September 24-October 1
Banned Books Week

NOW AVAILABLE

from YALSA

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includes five sections—fiction, biography, nonfiction, theater and fine arts, and poetry. Selected titles are evaluated for their ability to strengthen knowledge of literature, past and present, in a variety of subjects and to help prepare students for college entrance examinations and college courses. The 16-page brochure is \$24 for 50. Camera-ready art of the list is available for \$10. To order (prepayment should accompany orders of \$30 or less), contact: ALA Graphics, 155 N. Wacker, Chicago, IL 60606-1719. Telephone: (800) 545-2433, press 7. Fax: (312) 836-9958. For a free sample copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: YALSA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The Top 100 Countdown of Books, a compilation of the best books for teens, is now available from ALA Graphics. The list includes 100 titles that were selected by young adult librarians during the 1994 ALA Annual Conference in Miami Beach. It includes titles from the past 25 years of Best Books for Young Adults, an annual list of fiction and nonfiction for young adults, ages 12-18, compiled by a YALSA committee. Best Books are selected for their long-term appeal to teenagers and cover a variety of subjects and a broad range of reading levels. The brochure, designed in a CD-style format, is \$24 for 100. Camera-ready art of the list is available for \$10. To order (prepayment should accompany orders of \$30 or less), contact: ALA Graphics, 155 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606. Telephone: (800) 545-2433, press 7. Fax: (312) 836-9958. For a free sample copy of the list, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: YALSA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.