

# Voices



NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

A Division of the  
American Library Association

Fall/Winter 1996  
Volume 3, Number 2

## EDITOR'S NOTE

By *Jana Fine*

**C**ollaboration with other youth-serving agencies has always been a strong part of YALSA's vision. This issue contains information about a very important YALSA committee—the National Organizations Serving the Young Adult Liaison Committee (NOSYAL), as well as information about Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and their Junior Friends Network. As you will see, the commitment to assisting young adults is something that we as librarians continue to do through our daily work in libraries with cooperative efforts to schools and communicating with other agencies in our area. If you have any special cooperative programming/efforts with youth-serving agencies that you would like to share, please contact me via e-mail at [finej@mail.firn.edu](mailto:finej@mail.firn.edu) or send me a note in care of the Clearwater Public Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave., Clearwater, FL 34615.

## What's It All About? NOSYAL

By *Judy Nelson, Former Chair, NOSYAL*

**N**OSYAL, one more group with an odd acronym, is YALSA's connection with the organizations who work with and for young adults. NOSYAL stands for National Organization Serving Young Adults Liaison, and its charge is to seek out and interact with "them." No, we don't have hundreds of groups on our books. Instead each committee member personally establishes a relationship with several organizations that have been approved by the YALSA Board. Part of the challenge is to determine whether YALSA and the organizations targeted can assist each other through exchanges of information—conference attendance, publications, or program development.

Recently, the committee undertook the task of redefining and reestablishing these links with our organizations. Attrition has claimed some members such as the Center for Early Adoles-

cence, while the National Council of La Raza has increased its visibility. Our relationships with SEICUS and the American Youth Work Center, which publishes *Youth Today*, have also expanded with the current emphasis on healthy youth development and advocacy. Relationships with other educational organizations are also being developed. NOSYAL also works in tandem with the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) committee NOSCL (or National Organizations Serving the Child: Liaison With), our counterparts serving children.

In order to increase the committee's relevance to these organizations, the committee put together an information/introductory package to accompany the letter and follow-ups that are sent by committee members. It has also been a priority to make the Midwinter NOSYAL/NOSCL reception more useful to members by including representatives of the organizations with which we liaise. These representatives are invited to both the business meeting that occurs jointly with ALSC on Monday afternoon and a reception. This year the reception will be held on Thursday, February 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and will serve as a kick-off for ALA President Mary Somerville's campaign, "Kids Can't Wait . . . Library Advocacy Now!" Members will have the opportunity to connect with organizations who may meet a current or future service need in their own communities.

Although not a glamorous committee, NOSYAL's contacts allow all librarians to

*(continued on page 2)*

## UPDATE Teenage Library Association

By *Ma'Lis Wendt, Chair, AASL/YALSA Task Force on Teenage Library Association Models*

**T**he YALSA Board voted at the Annual Conference to work in a liaison relationship with Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA). FOLUSA has already established a Junior Friends Network, which any teenage library group (school, public library, or other association) can join as a group for \$35 a year. They then receive a membership poster and a copy of the FOLUSA newsletter.

FOLUSA will share with YALSA their junior friends membership list so that we will have a master list of youth participation groups throughout the country. The Youth Participation Committee through its chair will be the direct liaison to FOLUSA.

YALSA members can get more information about the Junior Friends Network by writing Friends of Libraries U.S.A., 1700 Walnut Street, Suite 715, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

## What's It All About? NOSYAL

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be more effective advocates for youth and youth-serving agencies. The current chair is Nora Jane Natke at the State Library of Virginia. Questions? Her e-mail address is nnatke@leo.vsla.edu.

### Liaisons with Other National Organizations

AFS International/Intercultural Programs  
American National Red Cross/Red Cross Youth  
American Youth Work Center  
Child Welfare League of America  
Family Resource Coalition  
Future Homemakers of America  
Junior Achievement  
National Center for Youth Law  
National Center on Institutions and Alternatives  
National Commission for Citizens in Education  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council of Teachers of English  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
SIECUS (Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S.)



**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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## WHAT'S HAPPENING in YALSA

To receive materials or further information about the following YALSA services, programs, publications, and committees, contact YALSA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; call 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4390; or send e-mail: YALSA@ala.org.

### ALA to Publish 1997 Lists

The 1997 YALSA annual book lists, Best Books for Young Adults, Popular Reading and Quick Picks, will be published by ALA next spring in a booklet that will also include the Notable Books and Notable Children's Books lists.

Tentatively entitled, *ALA's Guide to Best Reading*, the booklet will contain tips on using the lists to encourage reading; bookmarks for the new Popular Reading lists and for the Top Ten Best Books and Quick Picks; and complete annotated lists in photocopy-ready formats so that libraries can make multiple copies to use with their patrons. A price and publication date will be announced at a later date.

### First Annual Popular Reading Lists to Be Announced

The first annual Popular Reading lists will be announced at the 1997 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington D.C. These lists take the place of the genre lists published earlier by YALSA. The purpose of the Popular Reading lists is to encourage young adults to read for pleasure by presenting them with lists of popular or topical paperback titles that represent a spectrum of accessible themes and genres.

The committee will select up to 25 titles for each of the following five genres for 1997:

- 1) Biographies/Autobiographies/Diaries,
- 2) Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual,
- 3) Inspirational/Spiritual/Cultural,
- 4) Graphic Novels/YA Picture Books/Alternative Formats, and
- 5) Cultural Diversity/Multicultural.

### YALSA Announces Updated Resource Directory

YALSA has updated and revised its "Resource Directory of Speakers and Consultants." The directory, an electronic database, contains 75 YALSA member leaders who are available for

workshops, conferences, and advisory services.

The database can be searched by area, cost, availability, preferred audience, and preferred topic.

A brief biography and e-mail addresses have been added for each speaker/consultant. YALSA "Serving the Underserved" trainers are entered in the resource directory.

### Young Adult Library Services Trainers Available

YALSA member leaders are available to help generalists in public libraries provide better service to young adults ages 12 to 18.

Trained through YALSA's "Serving the Underserved: Customer Service for Young Adults" seminars, trainers use adult learning techniques to provide information about the YALSA vision and philosophy of service to young adults, identify the basic tenets and components of public library service for young adults, provide information about today's young adults and their needs, and identify problems that generalists face when serving young adults.

Workshops are tailored to suit the needs of the audience in terms of length and content. They vary in length from half-day to two days and cover topics such as adolescent development, teen reading interests, youth participation, intellectual freedom, and discipline.

## CORRECTION

Previous issues of *VOICES* have not been labeled consistently with an issue date, a volume number, and an issue number, due to an oversight on our part. Starting with this issue, *VOICES* will be labeled with all three. Past issues should have been labeled as follows:

Spring/Summer 1994,  
Volume 1, Number 1

Fall/Winter 1994,  
Volume 1, Number 2

Spring/Summer 1995,  
Volume 2, Number 1

Fall/Winter 1995,  
Volume 2, Number 2

Spring/Summer 1996,  
Volume 3, Number 1

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

## YALSA Members—Catalysts of Energy, Ideas, and Action

By *Deborah D. Taylor, Young Adult Library Services Association President*

*Deborah D. Taylor, coordinator of school and student services at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, is the new president of YALSA for the 1996–97 term.*

*Taylor has selected the theme “Consider the Possibilities: A Holistic Approach to Work with Young Adults” to emphasize that young adults present more than a set of problems to be solved. Taylor believes that librarians who serve young adults must work with kids, as well as on their behalf, to provide positive experiences that focus on their needs and interests.*

*Taylor has worked in youth services at the Enoch Pratt Free Library since 1974. She has served as chair of Best Books for Young Adults and as a member of the YALSA Board of Directors and the ALA Nominating Committee.*

The great part about being an officer in YALSA is the opportunity to work with some of the most creative and committed librarians in the profession. As I begin my year as president, I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as possible. I am always impressed by how much we accomplish for such a small division and how readily we adapt to new opportunities. That fact is directly related to the hard work of our members, which they accomplish through the division and committee work.

Our publications, our activities, and our programs—all of the things that give YALSA its unique identity—are accomplished through our hard-working committees. We can do nothing without you. You make it happen. Because we depend so heavily on our system of committee chairs and members, YALSA officers and staff need to know what we can do to help you accomplish your goals as a committee chair or member. What do you need from us in order to fulfill your charge? We have set up a new listserv just to address committee concerns, and I hope you will all take advantage of the opportunity. Of course, even as we are on the verge of the 21st century, we still welcome your phone calls and notes.

Sometimes serving on a committee feels a great deal like working with young adults. You wonder if anyone appreciates what you do or whether you are even doing the right things. However, when you reflect back on the successful 1996 ALA Annual Conference in New York, or the great strides libraries are making in the area of Youth Participation, or the many youth-serving librarians reached by the two “Serving the Underserved” seminars, it is obvious just how important each member is to YALSA and how vital our committees are to keeping YALSA alive and well.

During one of our many phone calls this past summer, YALSA Interim Co-Executive Director Linda Waddle brought to my atten-

tion an article entitled “Generators or Batteries?” (*Youth Today*\* [July/Aug. 1996, p.45]), written by Karen Pittman, director of U.S. programs for the International Youth Foundation. In that article, Pittman wrote, “If we think about youth workers as batteries—storers of support for youth to draw upon—then we are likely to conclude that we don’t have the resources to charge them all fully. . . . But if we think of youth workers as generators—catalysts of energy and action—we may reach a different conclusion.”

Our membership has always generated great energy, ideas, and action, and we need that now more than ever. As difficult as it is to be a youth advocate these days, we need to recognize that NOW is a time of great opportunity. We are right in sync with the message of ALA President Mary Somerville, who has taken as her theme, “Kids Can’t Wait . . . Library Advocacy Now!” Throughout the profession, issues of advocacy, collaboration, and equity of access are being brought to the forefront, and they just happen to be our areas of emphasis as well. We are putting in place programs and activities that reflect the most important issues in the profession for the most important users of libraries—young adults preparing to live as adults in the next century.

We need your efforts in order to continue that work. We need and value everything you do, from chairing a meeting to passing out flyers at a program. Whether you are sharing a new YALSA list with a student or teacher or sending e-mail to committee members to stay in touch, you are contributing to our larger efforts to provide quality service to young adults in libraries. Keep up the good work!

\* For more information about the publication *Youth Today*, write *Youth Today*, 1200 17th St. N.W., 4th Fl., Washington, DC 20036-3006; call: (202) 785-0764; fax: (202) 728-0657; or e-mail: HN2759@Handsnet.org

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**February 3**

AASL Award Applications Due

**February 14-20**

ALA Midwinter Meeting  
Washington, D.C.

**April**

School Library Media Month

**April 2-6**

AASL Eighth National  
Conference & Exhibition  
Portland, Oregon

**April 13-19**

National Library Week

**June 26-July 3**

ALA Annual Conference  
San Francisco

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**World Wide Web Home Pages**

**ALA** <http://www.ala.org>

**YALSA** <http://www.ala.org/yalsa.html>

**AASL** <http://www.ala.org/aasl/index.html>