

Voices

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

A Division of the
American Library Association

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PROGRAM SHOWCASE

A MARVELOUS TIME NEAR THE MALL: YALSA PROGRAMS AT THE 1998 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

YALSA's Programs at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C., June 25-July 2 promise to provide marvelous information and enjoyment for all who attend.

★ **Saturday, June 27, 12:30-2 p.m.**

The marvels begin with the Margaret A. Edwards Luncheon honoring this year's recipient, Madeleine L'Engle. One of the foremost creators of fantasy and science fiction as well as realistic family stories, L'Engle's career spans nearly 40 years. L'Engle was cited for two outstanding series: the Austin Family Series, which includes "Meet the Austins" and "A Ring of Endless Light"; and the Time Fantasy Series, which includes "A Wrinkle in Time" and "A Swiftly Tilting Planet." Jeri Baker, Chair of the 1998 Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee, says, "L'Engle tells stories that uniquely blend scientific principles and the quest for higher meaning. She calls on her characters to make individual choices and holds forth hope by recognizing the power of the spiritual dimension."

Join us for this grand occasion where we will be celebrating two events—Madeleine L'Engle's achievements and the Tenth Anniversary of the Margaret A. Edwards Award this year. Tickets are \$45.

★ **Sunday, June 28, 2 - 5:30 p.m.**

The marvels continue with the first of a series of five annual programs, "Teen Readers and Adult Books: A Winning Combination," that will examine the role of adults book in the reading lives of teenagers and highlight an annual list of the top ten "best" adult books for young adults published in the previous year.

This year's top ten books will receive the first Alex Awards. The program and the Alex Awards are a part of the Adult Books for Young Adults project. This project will allow for a systematic examination of the role of adult books in the lives of young adult readers with special attention to publishing, marketing and using adult books with young adults. The Alex Awards are so named because the late Ms. Edwards was fondly called "Alex" by her closest friends.

This first program will feature a lecture by Richard F. Abrahamson, Professor of Literature for Children and Young Adults at the University of Houston, a presentation that connects the work of Margaret Edwards to this program by Betty Carter, Associate Professor at Texas Woman's University, and an introduction to the Alex Award winning books with book-talks and conversation by the task force that selected them. The program is followed by a gala reception for attendees, special guests from the publishing world, and the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trustees, whose funding supports this series, and who are also celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Trust.



★ **Monday, June 29, 1-4 p.m.**

Another marvelous event this year will be the President's Program, "Youth at Risk: Working Together to Make a Difference." Karen Pittman, a widely published author and speaker on youth issues will deliver the keynote address. She is a sociologist and recognized leader in the youth development field in the United States. Her career began at the Urban Institute, where she conducted numerous studies on social services for children and families in the U.S. She spent six years developing adolescent policies for the Children's Defense Fund, and left that position to found the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research and then accepted a

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Collection Development



Award Winners Report on Collection Development

The Book Wholesalers Inc./YALSA Collection Development Grant Award was established to provide \$1000 for collection development to YALSA members who represent a public library and who work directly with young adults ages 12-18. Applicants are judged based on: 1) the need for additional materials; 2) the degree of the current collection's use and the specificity of examples used; 3) the soundness of the rationale for the selection of materials; 4) the quality of the description of the benefits this grant will bring to young adults; and 5) the degree to which the applicant's philosophy reflects the concepts identified in *Directions for Library Service to Young Adults*, (ALA, 1993). Reports from grant recipients will be featured in this and future issues of *VOICES*.

Bedford Public Library System Bedford, Virginia

With the move into a new building in 1995, the Young Adult Department of the Bedford Public Library System grew from one to four units of shelving, chairs, tables, and lots of light and space. With the grant money received from the YALSA/Book Wholesalers Inc. Award, the librarians were able to add a significant number of materials to this department. The collection was primarily used for pleasure reading.

However, student use for research has greatly increased with the addition of nonfiction that expanded and complemented the fiction collection. There is no doubt that paperbacks, magazines, and music cassettes were most popular with teens. The library, within walking distance of a middle school, attracts students when school is out for the day. Magazines were especially helpful in an effort to interest those students among this group who simply "hang" at the library rather than check out materials or do research. This group also gravitated to the music collection. After "Rockin' at the Library", a program that showcased the new music collection, only two cassettes remained on the shelf at the end of the day. The cassettes continue to circulate well. The grant money helped to expand materials in the Young Adult Department from small and inadequate to basic and solid. The librarians intend to continue to add materials that will appeal to and fill the needs of this age group. Dollars make sense when spent this way.

Steve Preston
Associate Director

West Depford Public Library Woodbury, New Jersey

The West Depford Public Library is pleased to report on the positive effect on its young adult collection as a result of having been awarded the YALSA/Book Wholesalers Collection Development Grant for 1996. The library used the grant award to buy in excess of eighty books for the young adults nonfiction collection. The goal was to use the grant to fill in the gaps in this collection, because we did not have the funds to address this need. The library purchased primarily paperback books on many subjects. These subjects include biographies for young adults, social issues such as abortion,

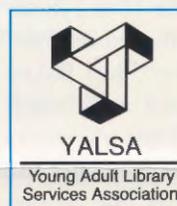
homeless, health issues such as AIDS, drug abuse, and career development in such careers as entertainment and sports. The library also purchased college scholarship books. It was exciting to order, receive the books and see the collection grow. The librarians have seen many of these books circulate and realize what a wonderful addition this has been to the library. The staff at the West Depford Public Library would like to thank both YALSA and Book Wholesalers Inc. for this grant and encourage them to continue offering this much needed support to public libraries.

Jean A. Wipf
Young Adult Coordinator

BWI Grant Information

The 1997 Winners of the BWI Collection Development Grants are Debra L. Adams of the Bethel (C) Public Library and Joy Botts of the Pauline Haas Public Library, Sussex (WI).

To apply for a BWI Collection Grant, obtain an application from from the YALSA section of the ALA web site at www.ala.org/yalsa; call Fax-On-Demand at 800-545-2433 press 8 or contact the YALSA office: telephone: 800-545-2433 x4390 or yalsa@ala.org.



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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Consider... Your Chances: YALSA Offers Revised Criteria for the Frances Henne/VOYA Research Grant

The newly revised Frances Henne/VOYA Research Grant Application is included as an insert in this issue of VOICES to give every YALSA member an opportunity to plan a research project and apply for the grant in 1998.

The Research Committee of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), has revised the criteria and application process for the Frances Henne/VOYA Research Grant. This grant awards a minimum of \$500 to provide seed money for small scale projects that will encourage research that responds to the YALSA Research Agenda (www.ala.org/yalsa/info).

With this revision, some requirements, as well as criteria, have changed. Student members who are doing research leading to a degree are now eligible to apply. The research proposal length has been shortened to one to two pages with one page of biographical information. A detailed budget is no longer required, only some indication in the proposal of how the money will be used is needed.

The sponsors of the grant, Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) and Scarecrow Press will donate \$500 each year. If there is no recipient in a given year, the money will be deposited in a separate account for larger grants in future years.

Competencies for Librarians Serving Young Adults Are Revised

The Young Adult Library Services Association, (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, has completed work on the revision of *Young Adults Deserve The Best Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth*.

The revised competencies reflect the changes in library service to young adults, ages 12 through 18, and include new competencies in the areas of strategic planning, collection development, and the use of technology.

The competencies serve as indicators of quality for library service to young adults. They can be used for staff development activities, to create evaluation instruments, to determine staffing needs and to develop job descriptions.

Although originally developed in 1981 as guidelines for library educators who are

involved in preservice education for librarians, they are also useful to a wider audience including young adult specialists, public library generalists, school library media specialists, library directors, and state or regional agencies.

Individuals who demonstrate the knowledge and skills described in the competencies will be able to provide quality service to teenagers during the next decade when there will be a 13% increase in public high school enrollment, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Copies of the new competencies are available from Fax-On-Demand: 800-545-2433 press 8, and on the YALSA section of the ALA web site: www.ala.org/YALSA.

For more information call the YALSA office: 800-545-2433 ext. 4390 or e-mail: yalsa@ala.org.

Why All The Hoopla?—Librarians and Teens on the Web

Why all the hoopla at YALSA? Because now we have not just one, but two Web sites. A little over 6 months ago the first site, for librarians, premiered at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/>. Librarians looking for information about the work of the Association and its committees, wanting to nominate a title for a booklist or find out what titles have appeared on booklists, wondering who to contact with a question, or looking for models of youth participation in libraries should stop by the YALSA Web site.

Teens, on the other hand, should visit TEENHoopla, <http://www.ala.org/teenhoopla/>. Created especially for teens, by the Teen Hoopla Task Force, it's a place for YAs seeking the best of the best on the Internet, wanting to publish book reviews on the Web, or looking for a forum to discuss topics of interest. Youth participation is key to Teen Hoopla. As the site grows and expands the Task Force plans to provide more and more opportunities for teens, and the librarians who work with them, to interact via the resources available at the site.

New content is constantly appearing on both of these sites. If there is something you would like to see, at either of the sites, send an e-mail message to lbraun@leonline.com.

Linda Braun
Webmaster
Chair, TEENHoopla Task Force

PROGRAM SHOWCASE

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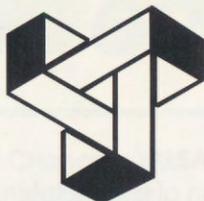
position within the Clinton Administration as Director of the President's Crime Prevention Council.

Pittman is Senior Vice-President of the International Youth Foundation (IYF), which is dedicated to improving conditions and prospects for children and youth worldwide by enabling them to care more responsibly for themselves, their families, communities and the world. IYF's activities are conducted in partnership with indigenous foundations in selected countries. IYF identifies effective programs for inclusion on YouthNet International, a global forum and exchange among successful programs; makes grants to strengthen and expand the impact of programs aimed at holistic development of children and youth ages 5-20; and strengthens the institutional capacity of organizations serving children and youth.

Pittman and the reactor panel that follows her will explore how the needs of teenagers can be met through collaboration among youth serving organizations. The program will be followed by a fair for invited youth serving organizations who will display materials and network with program attendees.

There are other marvelous YALSA programs also planned for this year's annual conference. A complete listing will be available on the web at www.ala.org/yalsa and in the Spring issue of the *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries*.





YALSA

Frances Henne/YALSA/VOYA Research Grant

- I. NAME OF GRANT:** *Frances Henne/YALSA/VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) Research Grant.*

- II. DEFINITION:** This grant of \$500 is to provide seed money for small scale projects which will encourage research that responds to the YALSA Research Agenda, which was adopted by the YALSA Board in June 1995.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be personal members of YALSA, including student members, although the research project may be undertaken by an individual, an institution, or by a group.
2. The proposed research must be a response to the vision, mission, goals, and Research Agenda of YALSA, all available from the office or from the website at www.ala.org/yalsa, and for the general area of library service to young adults.
3. Applicants must submit eight (8) copies of the proposal.

CRITERIA

1. A proposal of 1-2 pages, and one page of biographical information, should be submitted and must include the following:
 - a. Title
 - b. Objectives
 - c. Problem Statement/Questions to be Answered
 - d. Methodology, including how data will be collected and analyzed.
 - e. Significance of the project, in light of previous research.
 - f. Projected time line (Project should be completed within a 12 to 18 month period, and a report filed with YALSA within six months of completion of the study.)
 - g. Indicate the way that the money will be used.
 - h. Brief biographical data on researcher on a separate sheet, with contact information including e-mail, as well as the researcher's ALA membership number.

A TOTAL OF EIGHT (8) COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED.

- III. NUMBER AND FREQUENCY:** This grant will be given annually.
- IV. SELECTION OF JURY TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT:** Selection of the recipient will be made by the YALSA Research Committee and announced at the Midwinter Meeting.
- V. DEADLINE:** Research proposals will be solicited throughout the year following each Midwinter Meeting. Deadline for receipt of proposals will be December 1 prior to the Midwinter Meeting when selection is made.
- VI. SCREENING:** Selection will be based on the criteria indicated in Section II above.
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION:** Announcement of the recipient will be made at the Midwinter Meeting and the grant will be presented at the YALSA Membership Meeting at the Annual Conference.
- VIII. FORM:** Check will be made out to the grant recipient unless otherwise specified.
- IX. DONOR:** Voice of Youth Advocates/Scarecrow Press
- X. PUBLICATION:** ALA/YALSA has the right of first consideration for publication of research results. Co-publication by VOYA is permitted, since VOYA is the donor of the grant money.

Mail all proposals to:

Henne YALSA/VOYA Research Grant
YALSA Office
American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Refer requests for information to:

Phone: 800/545-2433 x 4390
Fax: 312/664-7459
E-mail: YALSA@ala.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1
COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS AND PROPOSALS
MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THIS DATE

OUTSIDE CONNECTIONS PART 1

Did you know that YALSA liaisons with a number of national agencies that connect with even more agencies that impact on teens and their lives? The following three organizations show the depth and diversity of what is available for young people and their families. Look for more agencies in future issues!

● Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement educates and inspires young people to value free enterprise, business, and economics, to improve the quality of their lives. It is the world's largest and fastest-growing non-profit economic education organization. Its programs are taught by classroom volunteers from the business community to nearly 3 million students each year in the U.S. Junior Achievement also reaches over 800,00 students annually in 100 countries. Junior Achievement programs span grades K-12, with age-appropriate curricula designed to teach elementary students about their roles as individuals, workers and consumers and to prepare middle grade and high school students for key economic and workforce issues they will face.

● Child Welfare League of America

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) is a national nonprofit organization that unites almost 800 public and private agencies, which together serve more than two million children and their families every year. CWLA and its agencies are experts in the many areas of child welfare, including adoption, child day care, child protection, family foster care, chemical dependency prevention and treatment, and housing and homelessness. Families break down because of a variety of problems, including poverty, unemployment, mental illness, marital discord, and other kinds of stress. These problems cross geographic, economic, racial, and ethnic lines. When families run into trouble—before trouble escalates into tragedy, CWLA

member agencies are there. They teach young people to make responsible choices, including postponing sex and staying in school. They help parents acquire the skills they need to guide and discipline their children in positive ways. They arrange adoptions, as well as temporary foster care for children whose parents who cannot cope. CWLA backs up its members with guidelines, training, state-of-the-art materials, and gives them opportunities to meet and share knowledge. Advocacy at the national level and support at the local level make CWLA effective for youth.

● Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA)

FOLUSA provides programs and publications to over 2,500 member groups reaching hundreds of thousands of Americans, teaching citizens nationwide how to develop library Friends groups to raise funds, be advocates, and promote libraries which, of course, benefits young people. In particular: FOLUSA publishes Fact Sheets which provides suggestions on the formation of school, junior, and teen Friends groups; FOLUSA coordinates Books for Babies, a program aimed at putting books and library information into the hands of mothers of newborns while they are still in the hospital, thus encouraging early literacy; FOLUSA administers their own Baker & Taylor Awards: annual donations of \$1,000 to six categories of outstanding library Friends groups—including school library/media center Friends; FOLUSA and Libraries for the Future will work together on the Community-Library Advocacy Project, a major national initiative to strengthen library advocacy around the country and assisting public libraries in improving literacy. FOLUSA is glad to be affiliated with YALSA and hope that their services will continue to assist young people in the future.

Young Adult Library Services Association American Library Association

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