YALSA 2012 Election Slate

YALSA’s 2012 Nominating Committee has finalized the 2012 Election Slate. Elections will take place March 19 to April 27 as part of the annual ALA Election. To vote in the YALSA election, your membership must be current as of Jan. 31, 2012. Coming to ALA’s Midwinter Meeting? Bring your election questions to Coffee with the Candidates, 10:30 a.m. to noon, on Sunday, Jan. 22. Election results will be announced May 4.

After the jump, see the full slate

**President-Elect**
Mary Hastler
Shannon Peterson

**Board of Directors**
Sarah Sogigian
Candice A. Wing-Yee Mack
Matthew Moffett
Priscille Dando

**Councilor**
Steve Matthews
Vicki Morris Emery

**Edwards**
Sarah Ludwig
Barbara Moon
Melissa McBride
Julie Roach
Lynn Rutan
Kate Toebbe

**Nonfiction**
Jamison Hedin
Scott Robins
Molly Collins
Karen Keys
Renee McGrath
Maria Gentle
Dorcas Hand
Shauna Yusko

**Printz**
Mia-Cabana
Emily Dagg
Jennifer Lawson
Gregory Lum
Rachel McDonald
Elizabeth Schneider
Patti Tjomsland
Sarah Wethern
Emily Williams

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Article printed from YALSA: [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog](http://yalsa.ala.org/blog)

Happy New Year! Have you made some resolutions? Well, I want to challenge each and every one of you to add one more resolution to your list. Here it is:

As a member of YALSA, one of the 5,300 members who have put their money where their mouth is in support of teens across the world, I challenge you to be a role model to your teens.

But you say you already are?

Each of us believes in the work we do, we believe that our teens are the future and we work very hard to provide them with great reading selections, fun and excellent opportunities to try new things, safe places to come and hang out, opportunities to give back through their libraries and communities, and we provide positive role models.

Well, that role model thing is a problem because only 18% of our members vote in our association election each year. That means that 82% are missing the opportunity to model for teens the importance of participating in an election process.

YALSA is a democracy and is built to serve members by including members in the work of the association. If we/members don't participate in this one easy (yet extremely important) way, by voting, how can we expect our teens to grow up to be voting, participating adults in their world?

So, here's your challenge, let's aim high and bring that percentage up to say 60%! We can do this, the process isn't even that hard. Your colleagues have committed their time and energy to being on the ballot, now you need to take the time and energy to vote. Find out who is running, read their bios and mark that online ballot. (A sample ballot will be available on the YALSA website in the next few weeks.) Elections run from March 19th through April 27, 2012. And if you are coming to Midwinter in Dallas meet the candidates at the Coffee with Candidates. It's on Sunday, January 22nd from 10:30 to noon in the Dallas Convention Center, room C146. I'll be there. Will you?

Take my challenge and just do it!
Election Season Begins: A Report from YALSA’s Coffee with the Candidates

Posted By Linda W Braun On January 27, 2012 @ 10:17 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

For the second year during Midwinter YALSA sponsored a Coffee with the Candidates. This event gives members of the association the chance to meet with those running for governance positions (on the 2012 slate) to ask questions about why each candidate is interested in running, what they think they bring to YALSA, and so on. Last year and this year I was impressed both with the questions being asked and with the thoughtfulness of the candidates in answering member questions. The small group speed networking format of the Coffee is perfect for getting to know each other.

At the beginning of the program all of the candidates agreed to be interviewed by members of YALSA’s 2012 Nominating Committee. You can listen to these informal interviews by selecting the links below. (You will also get a sense of the atmosphere of the Coffee via the background noise – including shouts of excitement and laughter.)

**Vicki Emery and Steve Matthews** running for ALA Councillor interviewed by Franklin Escobedo

Audio clip: Adobe Flash Player (version 9 or above) is required to play this audio clip. Download the latest version [here](#). You also need to have JavaScript enabled in your browser.

**Priscille Dando, Sarah Soggigian, Matthew Moffett, and Candice Mack** running for YALSA Board – interviewed by Judy Nelson

Audio clip: Adobe Flash Player (version 9 or above) is required to play this audio clip. Download the latest version [here](#). You also need to have JavaScript enabled in your browser.

**Mary Hastler and Shannon Peterson** running for YALSA President-Elect/President – interviewed by Franklin Escobedo

Audio clip: Adobe Flash Player (version 9 or above) is required to play this audio clip. Download the latest version [here](#). You also need to have JavaScript enabled in your browser.

Over the next several weeks there will be more posts on the YALSA Blog about the election and voting. Don’t forget that the **polls open March 19 and close April 27**. All YALSA members want to take the opportunity to vote when the polls are open. It’s your opportunity to make sure YALSA is the association that you want it to be.

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Article printed from YALSA: [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog](http://yalsa.ala.org/blog)

Why Aren’t YALSA Members Voting? Tell Me Why

I’m back, both literally and figuratively. I just attended ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas and with a great group of hard working YALSA members we taped interviews with the YALSA candidates. They have been posted for you to listen to. This is just one more way to give you the information you need to make an informed decision about our potential officers and award committee members.

I followed up Midwinter with a visit to my mom in Washington DC. Now, going to Washington always makes me think about our system of government and the fact that it requires individuals to take action. In fact I think about what Winston Churchill said about our form of government. He said “It is said that democracy is the worst form of government, except all the others that have been tried.”

And how does this apply to YALSA you are asking? Well, in my last post I shared with you that only about 18% of YALSA members actually vote in our annual elections. Democracy requires that individuals vote, yet we don’t. Now, I personally love to vote and I think I can confidently say over the past many years since I became a eligible to vote, I probably haven’t missed an opportunity to vote whether it be locally, nationally, or in our division. I also recognize that because so many of you don’t vote my vote is really valuable, I really count.

So here I was in Washington DC and as I looked at all those monuments to democracy I kept asking myself why questions?

- Why do so few of us take that small amount of time and vote?
- Is it too hard?
- Are there barriers YALSA hasn’t considered to voting?
- Do our members just not care about what YALSA does for them and who does it?

Well I don’t have those answers, so I’m writing this post to everyone who will not be voting. Please tell me why. Help me understand why you choose not to vote. If you don’t want to comment on the blog, send me an email. My address is jnelson@piercecountylibrary.org.

I would like to understand and if there is something YALSA can do to make it even easier, then I’ll share the information, not the names.

Help me understand why.

And don’t forget, polls for ALA and YALSA elections open March 19 and close April 27.

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YALSA Election 2012: The Governance Slate

Posted By Linda W Braun On February 7, 2012 @ 2:10 pm In Election,YALSA Info. | No Comments

As you know, the ALA/YALSA election season has started. Polls are open March 19 through April 27 and YALSA has candidates on the association’s slate running for governance positions and candidates running for awards positions. In this post I’ll talk about the governance positions and provide information on resources you can access to learn more about the positions. The information should also help you think about what you want to consider when you cast your ballot. (Next week 2012 YALSA Nominating Committee member Dawn Rutherford will post on the awards slate with information on those positions.)

This year the positions open on the YALSA governance slate are (the full slate is available on the YALSA blog):

- President-elect/President
- Board of Directors
- YALSA Councilor

You may have heard of all of these positions but aren’t really sure what the people in them actually do. Here’s a brief run-down:

- **President-elect/President**: The person serving as YALSA President-elect and then President is as a member of YALSA’s Executive Committee as well as a member of YALSA’s Board. As President-Elect this YALSA leader participates fully in all Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings. She is responsible, during the President-Elect year, for appointing members to YALSA member groups including process and selection committees. And, during this elect year she works closely with the President and Past President on association planning. During the Presidential year the elected candidate runs all YALSA meetings including Board and Executive Committee meetings. She is responsible for representing YALSA at official events at Midwinter Meeting and Conference. She works closely with the Executive Director, President-Elect, and Past President on planning leadership and governance activities including drafting agendas and Board documents.

- **YALSA Councilor**: The YALSA Councilor is a full member of the YALSA Executive Committee and the YALSA Board. He or she is required to attend all Executive Committee meetings, all association Board meetings, and all ALA Council meetings. As YALSA’s representative to ALA Council, the Councilor is expected to speak up for issues that have an impact on teens at Council meetings. He or she is expected to bring topics of concern from Council to the YALSA Board as well as bring similar topics from the YALSA Board to Council. He or she is also expected to actively participate in the Youth Council Caucus, which is made up of all of those on ALA Council that are involved in serving youth. You can read more about the Councilor position on the YALSA website.

- **Board of Directors**: Each person elected to a YALSA Board of Director position is expected to participate fully in the governance activities of the association 12 months a year. These members are required to attend face-to-face meetings at Annual Conference and Midwinter as well as a series of virtual and phone meetings held throughout the year. Board members serve as liaisons to all YALSA member groups including process and selection committees, task forces, and juries. Often Board members are asked to take on work as a part of an ad hoc committee that is investigating a particular activity in which YALSA is or might be involved. More information on the duties and responsibilities of YALSA Board members is available on the YALSA website.

For each of these positions strong leadership skills are required. These include big picture planning and thinking, organizational skills, time management skills, and political and interpersonal skills.
Those who serve on the YALSA Board need to be strong leaders they also need to be able to dedicate the time required to successfully plan and lead for the association so that members are served successfully.

As you determine who you will vote for in 2012, keep these roles, duties, and skills in mind. You can read more about each position in the Governance section of the YALSA website.

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/07/yalsa-election-2012-the-governance-slate/
YALSA Election 2012: The Award Slate

Are you excited about the YALSA elections? They are coming up soon (March 19th-April 27th), and your participation is vital! This is your chance to help determine the who will be deciding on those books featured in our wonderful awards in the next few years. Many positions are appointed, but three lists rely on elections to fully populate them. This year the positions open on the YALSA awards slate are (the full slate with candidates is available on the YALSAblog):

- **Margaret A Edwards**
- **Excellence in Nonfiction**
- **Michael L. Printz**

While you are no doubt very familiar with the awards themselves, you might be less familiar with what is expected of the folks serving on those committees.

- **Margaret A. Edwards**: The five year member selection committee will serve an 18 month term. The committee will be responsible for the final selection of the recipient of the Award. The committee making its selection of nominees must be aware of the entire range of books for young adults and will take into account the following:
  - Does the book(s) help adolescents to become aware of themselves and to answer their questions about their role and importance in relationships, society and in the world?
  - Is the book(s) of acceptable literary quality?
  - Does the book(s) satisfy the curiosity of young adults and yet help them thoughtfully to build a philosophy of life?
  - Is the book(s) currently popular with a wide range of young adults in many different parts of the country?
  - Do the book(s) serve as a “window to the world” for young adults?

Committee members are expected to attend three conferences (two for meetings, one for the award luncheon celebrating their chosen author).

- **Excellence in Nonfiction**: The Committee shall consist of a chair, eight members, a Booklist consultant, and an administrative assistant if the Chair requests. Members serve a fifteen month term with a possible extension depending on the timing of the award ceremony. Committee members will begin reading titles to be published beginning November 1 of that year. The announcement of winners will take place at the Midwinter fifteen months from that point. All members are required to attend all Award Committee meetings held during the selection process.

- **Michael L. Printz**: The Committee shall consist of a chair, eight members, a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if the Chair requests. Members serve 17-month terms beginning February 1 and ending June 30 of the following year. All members are required to attend all Printz Committee meetings held during the selection process.

For each of these positions experience with book evaluation and committee experience are required. Award committee members should have strong critical thinking skills, be good at time management, be able to communicate effectively, and have high ethical standards.

As you determine who you will vote for in 2012, keep these roles, duties, and skills in mind. You can read more about each position in the Committees section of the YALSA website.
Get Ready to Vote in the YALSA 2012 Election

We’re getting into the home stretch before the YALSA elections. Here’s a quick guide to getting ready for voting day. In the spirit of librarians everywhere, now is when you do the research to make an informed decision.

First off, if you haven’t already done so, refresh your memory on the requirements and descriptions for each elected position. YALSA President-Elect, Fiscal Officer, Secretary, YALSA Board of Directors and YALSA award committees are all decided in this election. Linda Braun explains the expectations for those on the Governance Slate here and our colleague Dawn Rutherford has posted a helpful summary of the Award slate here.

The full slate of YALSA Election candidates is listed here. Each candidate has been interviewed by members of the 2012 Nominating Committee to help voting members to virtually meet each one and understand how they plan to tackle their work for each position. If you were unable to attend ALA Midwinter, you can listen to the interviews conducted at the Coffee with the Candidate event including those running for ALA Councilor, the YALSA Board, and YALSA President-Elect/President. The official podcast interviews with the Governance candidates are forthcoming, so keep an eye out for those on this blog.

Members of the Nominating committee are publishing text interviews with all of those running for the Excellent in Nonfiction Award Committee, the Margaret Edwards Award Committee, and the Michael L. Printz Award Committee.

All of these interviews are a great way to find information beyond the more standard biographies always included in the official ballot. Each will give you a solid picture of each candidate’s intentions and previous qualifying work. With five weeks until the election, you can pick two categories a week to read up on or listen to before voting starts. If you keep it simple and consider one category of candidate per week, you’ll still have two whole weeks to vote!

When the time comes for voting starting March 19th (and running through April 27, 2012) the ballot is set up to be straightforward. The ballot includes candidate information to remind the voter of each person’s past experience and qualifications. Candidate information includes: their current position; their previous positions; degrees and honors; ALA, state and regional activities; major accomplishments; publications; and in the case of Governance candidates, statements of professional concern. It’s a lot of information to weed through as you’re considering who to vote for during voting itself. I encourage everyone to start with the above resources to feel prepared when voting begins.

From there, all that’s required is sending in your vote before April 27th. Every YALSA member will be emailed a link to the ballot from ALA when voting begins, so all you have to do is click, sign in, and make your choices. Make them count!

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/21/get-ready-to-vote-in-the-yalsa-2012-election/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Molly Collins

Posted By Linda W Braun On February 6, 2012 @ 7:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on the Excellence in Non-fiction Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Excellence in Nonfiction Award Committee honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during a November 1 – October 31 publishing year. The Committee is made up of eight members, including the chair. You can read the Committee policies and procedures on the YALSA website.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Don’t forget, polls are open March 19 through April 27.

Today we have an interview with Molly Collins.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
In my 14 years of working as a professional librarian, I have had the joy of selecting high-quality nonfiction for young adults. I have also reviewed books for the New York Public Library’s Books for the Teen Age, as well as for School Library Journal. I believe I have a strong grasp on high-quality selection criteria, as well as teen appeal, in young adult nonfiction literature.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I have a strong passion for nonfiction! There are so many stellar nonfiction titles available to young adults for their educational and recreational reading needs. Serving on this committee would allow me the opportunity to establish awareness of titles that otherwise might not be as well known. One of the highlights of my job is putting great books in teens’ hands.

In addition, I have highly enjoyed YALSA committee work since 1998. Being selected to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Award committee would be a great accomplishment in my career.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
I am thrilled at the prospect of the discussion and selection of titles with other members serving on this committee. The discussion and friendly debate over titles sound so exciting to me, and I hope to be a part of it!

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
Key factors in choosing a well-crafted, distinguished title would include subject accuracy and literary merit with the young adult audience in mind. The goal would be to always look for books that stand out in excellence in their own right without comparison to other titles.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
I wholeheartedly embrace the reading load that I would be honored to manage for this committee. I have allotted time in my schedule to read daily and plan to implement a solid reading time management plan. Luckily, I have a long public transit commute to and from my job which allows for a lot of fun reading time!

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA
committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
I have learned to consistently question content, audience appeal and quality standards more and more as I evaluate a title. I have learned to strike a balance in keeping an open mind when listening to my fellow committee members’ input while also voicing my own opinions.

In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?
These lists have proved to be very valuable in my selection process. I have the highest regard for the opinions and expertise in colleagues of my field. I believe in my fellow librarians’ perspective and their respect for literature and for the young adults they serve. YALSA Awards and Selected Lists committees are comprised of the best experts in the field and I would love to be a part of such an esteemed group!

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/06/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-excellence-in-non-fiction-award-candidate-molly-collins/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Maria Gentle

Posted By Linda W Braun On February 7, 2012 @ 7:00 am In Election,YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on the Excellence in Non-fiction Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Excellence in Nonfiction Award Committee honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during a November 1 – October 31 publishing year. The Committee is made up of eight members, including the chair. You can read the Committee policies and procedures on the YALSA website.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Don’t forget the polls are open March 19 through April 27.

Today we have an interview with Maria Gentle.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?**
I was very fortunate to be part of the first Printz Award committee (2000) and the Newbery Award committee of 2010 among others. Being part of these committees taught me much about cooperation, time management, and sound literary judgment among other things.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**
I love reading nonfiction. The above mentioned award committees emphasize fiction over nonfiction, so I would love to be part of a group that would select outstanding nonfiction. I think a good part of our youth population enjoys reading nonfiction and to be able to recommend well-written nonfiction books is important for librarians.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**
I look forward to working with like-minded librarians who believe nonfiction is as important as fiction for young people. There is a lot of fabulous nonfiction materials out there that needs to be brought forward, noticed, recognized.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?**
Key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award for me are: accuracy, timeliness, and appropriateness of treatment among others.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**
For Printz and Newbery I managed to keep up with the reading load by waking up at 5:00 am every morning and reading for two hours every day of the week. I also read during the day, but my first two hours of the day were sacred, devoted to reading in order to keep up. I knew I would have to give up other things such as going to movies, etc. but I knew it was only for one year which kept everything in perspective.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**
I learned from both Printz and Newbery that we do not work in a vacuum but as part of the committee. We each are important but it is a committee decision, which means that in the end your number one choice may not be everyone’s choice. It is great to see how each person defends
his/her choice but in the end there is compromising to be done in order to reach the ultimate objective.

In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected? YALSA Award and Selected Lists are so dependable. They are not one person’s opinions but a group of well-read, thoughtful and caring librarians that read vastly that year and came to a consensus in their choices. I always depend on them whenever patrons ask for recommendations which makes my job much easier.

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/07/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-excellence-in-non-fiction-award-candidate-maria-gentle/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Dorcas Hand

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Dorcas Hand.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?

I read reviews and many, many books each year – realizing I don’t always agree with those reviews and read the book myself whenever possible. I have worked every year for 20+ on the HAISLN Recommended Reading List to update one level or another of this K-12 list, a process which has me reading and discussing the relative merits of a variety of books for our purpose. Many years ago, I chaired SLJs “Adult Books for Young Adults”, an experience that taught me much about book evaluation. I have reviewed for The Horn Book (1982, when I lived in Boston) and SLJ for many years. This combination of experiences leaves me well trained for this committee.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?

I especially love nonfiction as it is published these days, and recognize the wealth of good writing that is included in the genre. I organize an annual program at AOS to bring in a nonfiction author for four days of master classes with students in 4-8th grades who have research projects in process. I have been able to work with Susan Bartoletti Campbell, Jennifer Armstrong and Marc Aronson among others in the 8 years of the project; Tanya Stone will be coming in 2012. I look forward to reading high quality nonfiction to find the most exceptional this year.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?

I look forward to meeting new people in my colleagues on the committee, to learning more about book evaluation in the course of the discussions, and to reading many wonderful books to share with my students and faculty colleagues. Of course, at the end of the process, I look forward to meeting the authors!

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?

Interesting content and a unique perspective on content would be at the top of the list. There are many adequate nonfiction titles available; excellence implies a more insightful treatment and an approach that welcomes readers to the discovery process and the excitement of the new knowledge.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
The good news is that several other commitments are ending as I head off the AASL Board, the TLA Conference Planning Committee and the local dance group board. I look forward to lots of reading!

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

I have been very active in ALA/AASL/ISS for 30 years, as well as in the local library community. This consistency of involvement has provided a wealth of variety in dealings with people and assignments. I meet every challenge with an excitement for the new learning that will come with a different project.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Reading reviews in journals is helpful, but I am always aware that the review offers only a single voice. From my experience writing reviews and being that single voice, I especially value the awards lists because they reflect a collective voice that relies on careful reading and rereading of the winning titles. Awareness of the focus of the award in combination with the group voice gives me confidence to include these books in my collection.

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. The polls are open March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Jamison Hedin.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?**

I have been a high school library media specialist since 2008. I work extensively with subject area teachers to evaluate and select nonfiction materials for academic, personal interest, and recreational reading for students between the ages of 14 and 18. I have also served for two terms as a member of YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**

Nonfiction for young adults is a growing genre, but it is still challenging to find truly engaging and well-written titles targeted specifically for the YA market. I would love to help promote the genre and help other librarians identify excellent books.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**

I am eager to participate in the discussion of nominated titles with my colleagues. In my previous selection committee experience, the discussion and debate among committee members was really thought-provoking.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?**

The quality of the writing, authority of information, and accessibility of the presentation are the three most important factors to me. A book on a fascinating topic can end up being useless if the writing and presentation are weak, while excellent writing and an engaging format can elevate a topic that might not be initially appealing.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

In my experience, the key is to integrate the work of the committee into your daily routine as much as possible. While I was on Quick Picks, I used many of the nominations in regularly scheduled book talks or found other ways to incorporate them into my daily work. When preparing for classes or programs is synonymous with your committee work, it makes the reading load more manageable.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

The most important lesson I have taken from my selection committee experience is to remember
that your library and your patrons are not the only potential settings and readers for a title. It’s so important to take other populations into consideration – just because something doesn’t work in your setting doesn’t mean it won’t work elsewhere.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Like many librarians, I use the YALSA award and honor books and selected lists as collection development tools. They are invaluable resources, especially in genres and formats that might not be my personal favorites. I also use them to guide my own reading – the strength of the committee model lies in the ability of a group to discover titles that you might miss on your own.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Karen Keys

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on the Excellence in Non-fiction Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Excellence in Nonfiction Award Committee honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during a November 1 – October 31 publishing year. The Committee is made up of eight members, including the chair. You can read the Committee policies and procedures on the YALSA website.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Polls are open March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Karen Keys.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
I’m about to celebrate five years as a librarian, and I want to focus my time and energy on work that will allow me to give back to the division that supported me as a new librarian.

I’ve followed a typical trajectory for participation in YALSA. I started out on a process committee (Technology for Teens), and I’ve been serving on the Alex Awards committee for the last three years. Reading adult books for the committee has been incredibly worthwhile, but I’m really looking forward to getting back to YA. Being on an award committee has helped fine-tune my critical reading skills.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I think some librarians and educators have the misconception that only a certain type of teen reader likes to read non-fiction or teens only like to read a certain type of non-fiction. Teens reading tastes are just as varied as adults, and it’s up to us to help them discover their next read.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
The simple stuff: the reading, the discussion, and that feeling of excitement once the decision has been made.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
Many of the award charges are written in a way that is deliberately vague, and each committee interprets it in a different way. It’s important to select books that are going to promote a wider readership of nonfiction, but also ones that are outstanding examples of what the genre can be. Strong writing, impeccable research, and teen appeal are all factors to judge a nonfiction book’s merit.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
It’s necessary to start with a realistic expectation of the workload, an estimate of the total number of titles to be read. As the Alex Awards committee chair, I outlined this for members by explicitly stating that they should expect to read at least 100 titles over 11 months. From there, you aim for nine books a month and monitor whether you’re hitting your targets. If a committee reads 300 books, you work back from there.
Also, you just accept that at certain points, your life belongs to the books. I spent a recent week in Vermont reading by the fire as my friends skied, ice skated, and stomped in the snow.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

It’s important to select books that teens want to read and not just pick the books we want them to want them to read. I always try to imagine how I would book talk a title, and think about what type of reader would choose this selection.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Librarians don’t always have as much time as they would like to spend collection evaluation/development. YALSA Awards and Selected Lists are additional aids that can be used in selection. When I started out as a young adult librarian, I used lists like PPYA and Quick Picks to discover possible “holes” in my collection.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Renee McGrath

Posted By Linda W Braun On February 11, 2012 @ 7:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

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This is your chance to get to know this year's candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Renee McGrath.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
I have served on Popular Paperbacks for YAs (2 years) and just finished my term on the 2012 Newbery Award Selection Committee. Both of these committees gave me the experience of working with a big group of people on how to come to a decision about a book and whether or not it should either be included on a list or was worthy of an award. I also learned a lot about critically evaluating titles for an award. It is a different kind of reading. You must set aside your personal beliefs and interests and only look at the book for what it offers the reader in regards to the criteria of the award.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I have always had a special place in my heart for nonfiction geared for younger people. I think part of that is professional and most of it is personal. When my son was young, nonfiction books would make him come alive! As he got older, it was sometimes the only thing I could get him to read. So, I came to really appreciate having excellent nonfiction available at my public library. It was not something I could afford to purchase on my own. I know what a good nonfiction book can mean to a parent who is struggling to get a child to read. When I became a librarian serving youth, I also realized the value of an excellent nonfiction book. It was something I could rely on when doing readers' advisory. I would also use them in class visits. Many times, it was the nonfiction titles that went out first.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
Everything! Getting the books, reading them, critically evaluating them, and ultimately working with the committee to select the winner.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
I will have to study the policies and procedures a bit before being completely knowledgeable on how the committee comes to their decision. However, I do know that we will look at the writing, making sure it is written in an engaging manner. We will also make sure that the information presented is accurate and organized in such a way that it is clear to the young adult reader.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
I was able to manage the reading load for both Popular Paperbacks and Newbery, so I don’t think I will have a problem with this one. I have become very good at using my iPad to organize my notes and schedules.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

To always keep an open mind and listen to everyone.

**In your experience, how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Anytime a subject list of titles is made available or a book receives an award by YALSA, it helps highlight them and make them known to a wider audience. This is always a good thing and helps bring attention to books that may not have had much readership beforehand.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Scott Robins

Posted By Linda W Braun On February 12, 2012 @ 7:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Don’t forget polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Scott Robins.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?

I have experience on award and selection committees: last year I had the joy of being a judge for the Joe Shuster Comics for Kids award and for the past three years I have been part of the selection committee for the Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s Best Books for Kids and Teens. The assigned material categories change from year to year but this year I’m reviewing graphic novels and non-fiction titles. I am also currently a Youth Services Specialist at Toronto Public Library and have a good understanding of the reading needs of teens. I also have experience evaluating books, writing reviews but also from my previous career in children’s publishing as a buyer for Scholastic Book Clubs.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?

I’ve always admired the passionate work that YALSA has done for youth in libraries and want to be part of that community. Even since I became a librarian, I’ve felt strongly towards connecting teens to books they actually want to read. Non-fiction for teens is an area that I have some familiarity but I want to learn more. This is an amazing opportunity to increase my breadth of knowledge in this category.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?

I think we’re always looking for excuses to discuss books with people and being on an award jury definitely fulfills that compulsion that librarians all seem to possess. I’m also looking forward to meeting like minded librarians, as well as having a good reason to attend ALA conferences. I used to attend ALA conference in a publisher capacity but I’ve yet to attend one as a librarian.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?

I would say the big ones are accuracy, clarity and presentation. But also, it is important to try and live in the mind of a teen reader and think of questions like: is this book relevant to me?; or does the topic and the design/format/delivery of that topic speak to me?

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?

Like I said, I’ve been on committees before that require a lot of reading and I’ve learned through
trial and error the importance of staying on top of it. I think sticking to a weekly schedule, setting goals and adjusting that schedule and goals at the end of each week is crucial.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**
From my past experiences, I definitely bring a “plays well with others” mentality that includes respect, active listening, flexibility and enthusiasm. In this kind of volunteer work, the importance of fun is always on my mind. In regards to the selection process, I like to encourage other members to look at a book from all perspectives while keeping in mind the target audience, in this case, teens.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**
There really isn’t a Canadian equivalent of YALSA so I find the awards and selected lists to be a very useful tool in increasing my knowledge of books for teens. The lists keep me informed of the best books for teens and help to identify titles I may have missed. Since YALSA takes selecting committee and jury members seriously, I know these lists are developed by a passionate group of librarians that I can trust.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Candidate Shauna Yusko

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates nominated to serve on the Excellence in Nonfiction Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have the final interview with the Candidates for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award. An interview with Shauna Yusko.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
In addition to reviewing both non-fiction and fiction for Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin, I have served YALSA on a number of selection committees over the years. I also work directly with young adults every day and I always appreciate their feedback on the books that they read.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
If you ask anyone who knows me, I have always had a passion for non-fiction. Perhaps this is due to being a science major, which is sort of unusual in this profession, but these were always my favorite books growing up. I love finding great non-fiction titles for my students/teens, and encouraging them to explore the amazing TRUE stories about people, places, and the world we live in. I was thrilled when YALSA created this award, and this is the award announcement that I am most excited about each year.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
I am most looking forward to the opportunity to recognize the outstanding non-fiction titles being published and promoting this genre to teens “far and wide.”

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award?
I feel that it is important to look at a variety of titles when making an award decision to get an idea of what is being published. It is also important to follow the committee’s charge and judge a book based on the guidelines. It is important to look at writing style, format, research, layout, and definitely readability for the young adult audience.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
I love this question! Having spent the past two amazing years on Best Fiction for Young Adults (BFYA), I know all about needing to do volumes of reading. Over the course of the past two years, I have discovered what works, and what doesn’t, for me to manage the reading load.

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
I have so enjoyed my time on BFYA, PPYA, and other YALSA and AASL award/process committees I
have served on. I think that it is invaluable to meet with other librarians working with young adults from around the country. It is important to listen to other people’s thoughts and ideas, and also not to be afraid to offer your own opinions. It is the discussion that makes the committee process work so well.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian, or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

I am so grateful for the YALSA Awards and Selected lists because these have helped me with my collection development each year. With a VERY limited budget, these lists serve as a nice starting place for what I should be looking to purchase for my teens. These lists help me find gems that I might have overlooked!

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Edwards Candidate Sarah Ludwig

Posted By Robin Brenner On February 14, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Edwards Committee is charged with honoring an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. The annual award recognizes an author whose book or books, over a period of time, have been accepted by young adults as an authentic voice that continues to illuminate their experiences and emotions, giving insight into their lives. The book or books should enable them to understand themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationship with others and with society. To see more about this committee, please see their policies and procedures here. Committee size: 5, three to be elected, plus two appointed by the YALSA President-Elect.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Edwards Committee.

Sarah Ludwig is a candidate for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?
I am an avid reader of young adult literature — it’s pretty much all I read, in fact. I go through brief periods of reading adult books, but I always come back to young adult lit. I find YA books so compelling, not necessarily because they “bring me back” (though some do that), but because they’re so often about transformation, change, and overcoming great challenges. I also love how great teen novels can serve both as a boon to teens who are struggling and as an inspiration, with lots of strong characters of all backgrounds. Putting the right book in the hands of a teen is one of the most satisfying things I can do as a librarian.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I like committee work. I’ve served on several YALSA committees and I find it satisfying and professionally uplifting. I also love the idea of being a part of the legacy of the Edwards award. To be connected in such a meaningful way to the literature that I love would be, frankly, pretty cool. I have the background and perspective to serve as an open-minded and thoughtful member of the committee, and I would take my task very seriously.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
I look forward to the prospect of discussing — and maybe even debating — teen literature with a group of my peers. I also very much look forward to revisiting the books that I’ve read over the years, and to hearing the perspectives of fellow readers of young adult books. The feeling of connection over a book — whether a similar response or a new perspective — is an intellectually and often emotionally fulfilling one.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?
I do think that the criteria for the Edwards award are objective, though there are a few factors that would lead me to considering one author over another for the award. The literature itself must be well-crafted. The author’s books should have advanced the genre — that is, challenged the notion of the type of literature available to young adults. I am especially interested in stories that expose the reader to new perspectives, cultures, ways of life, or situations. As teens are
constantly learning about themselves and their world, we must acknowledge the books that help them do so.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
I read several books a week as it is, so I don’t anticipate that this will be an issue for me. If I am appointed to the committee, I would make it a high priority to set aside time for reading.

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
The most important thing I’ve learned is how to collaborate remotely. I’ve also gotten a LOT better at delegating tasks, which mostly applies to chairing committees, but still applies to membership in general. I’ve become adept at using a whole host of online tools to communicate with committee members all over the country, and I’ve also learned how to organize my own personal tasks and stay on track.

In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?
Having now worked in three libraries that have needed to develop young adult collections from scratch, I have used YALSA’s lists and awards extensively. They’ve proved invaluable to me as I’ve tried to build up core collections of materials for teens. In addition, I love the varied perspectives these lists can give me, from Quick Picks to Popular Paperbacks to BFYA. I love YALSA’s commitment to providing librarians with selection tools that can support a wide audience of readers.

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Article printed from YALSA: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog

URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/14/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-edwards-candidate-sarah-ludwig/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Edwards Candidate Melissa McBride

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This is your chance to get to know this year's candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Edwards Committee.

Melissa McBride is a candidate for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?
My time as a school and public librarian has exposed me to a wide range of writing for young adults. I read constantly, both because I love YA literature and because it is part of my job. As part of my job as a school librarian, I have run Mock Newbery and Mock Caldecott awards, had students create book trailers for Newbery & Printz winners, led discussion groups about various award winners, and created presentations for students about the awards and current winners. I feel that these experiences have prepared me for my work as a member of the Edwards Award Committee.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I want to be a member of the Edwards Committee because I find the charge to be challenging. I love the idea of being able to recognize an author for their body of work, not just one book that they wrote. To be considered for this award an author has to consistently write quality literature that teens identify with over a long period of time. I think that is a hard thing to do given the way society changes over time. I like the challenge of finding authors that meet the criteria for this award.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
I think this ties into why I want to be a member of the committee. I am looking forward to working with a group of people that love YA literature as much as I do and who want to reward an author for their contribution to the YA canon. The Edwards Committee must look at so many different factors in deciding the award, the discussions must be heart-felt and lively – I can’t wait to, hopefully, be a part of them!

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?
Fortunately, YALSA has a very clear set of criteria for this award. Picking a winner would be very difficult without those terms. I think in some ways the narrow focus of the award makes it easier to choose a winner. There are only so many authors who will meet the criteria, compared to who is eligible to win the Printz Award. I think that one factor will be finding someone that the whole
committee can agree on. There are quite a few authors who meet the basic criteria for the award, but finding that one person that we can all agree on will be the biggest factor.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

I am fortunate that I am a school librarian; this gives me ample time over vacations and summer, as well as time at night to be able to devote to reading. I will also make sure to schedule time for reading in my calendar. Reading the titles is also considered part of my day job – I need to stay on top of the newest titles to be able to recommend to students and staff. I think if I make sure I set aside time each day to read for the committee that I will be able to manage that with my other work.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

I have learned so much from my work with YALSA committees, that it is hard to list it all here. I gained insight into how committees work from Organization & Bylaws, I gained invaluable experience during my time as a member and Chairperson of Division Marketing & Promotion, and my current position as Chairperson of the 2012 Awards & Booklist Marketing Taskforce is helping me to understand how these awards can best be marketed to the general public and YALSA members. I think that my work on these three process committees will be very helpful to me as a member of the Edwards Award Committee.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

The Awards & Lists have made my life infinitely easier! I have a trusted resource that I can guide staff, students and parents to for book recommendations. I use the lists and reviews to help build my collection as well. I can use the lists to build book displays or make bibliographies. They are a useful asset to my program.

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Edwards Committee.

Barbara Moon is a candidate for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?
I have had the honor of serving as a member of the Odyssey Award Committee and the Great Graphic Novels for Teens Selection Committee. In my current position as a Youth Services Consultant, I regularly read and review young adult literature.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I look forward to the Margaret A. Edwards Award announcement each year and have been excited about each committee’s selection. I have had the opportunity to hear many of the award winners speak, both at the annual conference and in other venues. These authors’ works reflect many of the qualities of fine YA literature.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
Literature for young adults is vibrant and exciting. It would be an honor to meet with other professionals who share an appreciation for the outstanding contributions that have been made to this field.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?
From my experience, the key factors in the decision-making process are: a focus on the purpose and criteria for the award as outline by YALSA, a committee chair who is skillfully oversees the process, and committee members who are willing to work together and remain open to additional points of view.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
My past experiences have been that it is best to stay on top of the reading, and if possible front-load the work. Extenuating circumstances often arise, but if I stay current on reading, when unexpected emergencies come up, they can be overcome.

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA
committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
I have learned to evaluate literature according to a specific set of guidelines. I have become more focused in my reading and use of time in order to accomplish the tasks of the committee. I have enjoyed meeting so many interesting and diverse individuals, who offer me fresh perspectives.

In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?
I have learned so much! I am continually amazed at the incredible people who work in this field. They have been kind enough to offer me advice and support long after the committee work is complete. I treasure those professional as well as personal relationships.

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/16/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-edwards-candidate-barbara-moon/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Edwards Candidate Julie Roach

Posted By Robin Brenner On February 17, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Edwards Committee.

Julie Roach is a candidate for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?**
I have had three incredible and extremely varied experiences on award committees (Boston Globe/Horn Book; Caldecott; and Geisel, chair). I also teach a graduate course in children’s and young adult literature where we do author studies and I truly enjoy considering and discussing an author’s body of work with a group.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**
I love this idea of honoring an author in this way. I think this award is very special for young adult literature and for YALSA. Young adult literature evolves so quickly, but this award really helps define and pay tribute to a meaningful canon.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**
I think that is what I am looking forward to most—being a part of it! Also I am excited by the prospect of considering outside the focus of the current year and really thinking about what has made a lasting impact.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?**
History and longevity and how these play with the present. What authors and books have continued to reach teen readers over the course of time? Who do we recognize as having had and continuing to have an important place on the shelf?

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**
It’s important to stay organized and not procrastinate... and plan to sleep less! I think preparing for and expecting this to own a big piece of one’s life is an important part of it too.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**
I have learned that each experience is both incredibly different and amazing! But the things I’ve
found to be consistently important are listening, keeping an open mind, and working as a team. Also, aside from good notes, I think the most important thing to bring is a solid sense of humor!

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Serving youth in a busy public library, I think what the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists do for me is give leverage. It supports and champions literature for young adults on a grander scale—this body of work is important, it is valuable, and it is honored.

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Article printed from YALSA: [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog](http://yalsa.ala.org/blog)

YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Edwards Candidate Lynn Rutan

Posted By Robin Brenner On February 18, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election,YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Edwards Committee is charged with honoring an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. The annual award recognizes an author whose book or books, over a period of time, have been accepted by young adults as an authentic voice that continues to illuminate their experiences and emotions, giving insight into their lives. The book or books should enable them to understand themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationship with others and with society. To see more about this committee, please see their policies and procedures here. Committee size: 5, three to be elected, plus two appointed by the YALSA President-Elect.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Edwards Committee.

Lynn Rutan is a candidate for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?**
I have been fortunate in being able to serve on several selection and awards committees with YALSA and with ALSC. I served on Popular Paperpacks, had a three-year term on Best Books for Young Adults and also chaired that committee. I served on the Michael Printz Award and chaired that committee as well. I am currently serving on the Newbery Committee. The experiences on these committees were very enriching and I had what felt like a post-doctoral course in literary analysis, organizational methods and how to work collaboratively with a group. I was a school librarian for many years and reader's advisory and booktalking was a big part of my job so I have a long and happy experience with the wealth of YA literature. I think I have a solid understanding as well as a love of the body of literature for teens.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**
I have enormous respect for the gifted people who write for teens. Their work enriches and even saves young lives. Most YA authors are seldom as appreciated by the greater world, as they should be. The Edwards is such a special award and one small way to recognize the authors who give their careers to writing for young people. I would very much like to be a part of this process.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**
Two things really jump to mind. First is the opportunity to work with a YALSA committee again and with only 5 members, it is a committee that will be able to get to know each other really well. Secondly, my current job as a reviewer and blogger requires me to be reading the newest releases and I seldom get a chance to go back and read some of the wonderful books in the canon. I am excited by the idea of being to read back in time too.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?**
I think it is important to assess the enduring quality of the body of work as well as the impact on young people and their experience of the world. As with any award committee, the charge is what guides the committee.
The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
Having served three years on BBYA in the days when we considered nonfiction, graphic novels and adult books, I’ve learned how to organize my time in order to manage the work load. I’m currently serving on Newbery where I’ve had to put those lessons into practice again. I’m a dedicated compulsive reader and I’ve learned how to balance the demands of my “regular” life with the reading load required with committee service.

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
Committee work has taught me so much! I gained organizational skills and learned how to manage my time to handle the reading requirements and the administrative tasks when I chaired committees. By serving with so many exceptional people, I improved my literary analysis skills. I learned the art of collaboration and how to work with a group to come to consensus. I think I also learned that every single committee member has something important to bring to the work and any committee benefits from the input of all of its members.

In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?
The YALSA lists and awards have been invaluable to me as a working librarian. The vetted lists help me so much to be aware of what is valuable for collections, what is of high interest for teens and what stands out for a very crowded field. I use them all constantly and always referring back to past lists and awards.

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Article printed from YALSA: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog

URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/18/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-edwards-candidate-lynn-rutan/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Edwards Candidate Kate Toebbe

Posted By Robin Brenner On February 19, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election,YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Edwards Committee is charged with honoring an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. The annual award recognizes an author whose book or books, over a period of time, have been accepted by young adults as an authentic voice that continues to illuminate their experiences and emotions, giving insight into their lives. The book or books should enable them to understand themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationship with others and with society. To see more about this committee, please see their policies and procedures here. Committee size: 5, three to be elected, plus two appointed by the YALSA President-Elect.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Edwards Committee.

Kate Toebbe is a candidate for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?
I have been on several committees that have prepared me for this position. Locally, I am a member of two Southwest Ohio and Neighboring Libraries committees: Reviewers of Young Adult Literature (ROYAL) and the Cincinnati Area Reading Group for Youth Services. I have been on YALSA’s Wrestlemania Committee, Baker & Taylor Award Jury and I am currently a member of the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults selection committee. I received the 2009 Baker & Taylor/YALSA Award, I presented at YALSA’s Teen Services Mashup Table Talk at the 2011 Annual Conference and I presented at the Ohio Library Council’s 2011 Southwest Chapter Conference. I have a diverse knowledge of teen literature and I make every effort to stay current and seek out learning opportunities.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
I have spent my career as a teen librarian working with inner city teens. I have seen first hand how literature has helped shape the lives of the teens in my library’s community. Whether the literature is helping to give a teen confidence or distracting them from tough times, it can really make a difference. I would really love the opportunity to help celebrate authors who do so much for so many people.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?
Teens must be able to connect to the winner’s body of work in a real way. The voices in the books need to be genuine and realistic. Whether the books are set in a fantasy world or a future society or in the past, teens need to be able to take something from each book that will stick with them. The winner’s work must be accessible, enjoyable and thought provoking.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
For the last two years, I have been on the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee and a member ROYAL. These commitments having given me a lot of experience managing a high reading
load. Over time, I have come up with a system to pace myself that has served me well and I utilize audio books and e-books when possible. Sometimes I even find time left over for non-required reading!

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

Being on YALSA committees has taught me so much. I have been a member of a variety of different groups and I have taken something away from each one. My time management skills, reader’s advisory skills and communication skills have all improved. A few years ago, I would have sat quietly in a group setting. Now, I speak up in meetings and give my opinions freely. I’ve learned about books, authors, resources, programming ideas and even apps from other committee members that I never would have known about otherwise. Being around people who have similar jobs and interests but totally different experiences has been invaluable to my career.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Not a work day goes by where I don’t use YALSA’s resources. I use the Awards and Lists to recommend books to my teens, make displays, put together teacher collections, select book club books and integrate literature into programming. These lists have exposed me to teen literature that I may not have found on my own, and I have been able to pass those books on to the teens in my library. No matter how much reading I do, I cannot read everything. I depend on YALSA’s recommendations to help me do the best job I can.

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URL to article: [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/19/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-edwards-candidate-kate-toebbe/](http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/19/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-edwards-candidate-kate-toebbe/)
In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on Michael L. Printz Award Committee. Each day this week we'll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate's last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year's election. The Printz Committee is charged with selecting from the previous year's publications the best young adult book ("best" being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books. The Committee will also have the opportunity for input into the oversight and planning of the Printz Awards Program. Committee size: 9, four to be elected, plus a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if requested.

This is your chance to get to know this year's candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Award Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Emily Dagg.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?**

I've been reading YA literature almost exclusively for about 15 years, and I have been tracking my YA reading on Goodreads since 2009. I am also the YA fiction and graphic novel selector for my library system, and I do reader's advisory and booktalking for teens on a regular basis. I have a lot of experience working on teams and committees, and I served on YALSA's Popular Paperbacks from 2001-2004, and chaired the 2003 "Flights of Fantasy" Popular Paperbacks sub-committee. My interests and experience are a good fit for the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature committee.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**

I took a break from YALSA committees due to a demanding work schedule at my previous job, then having a baby in 2007. I've missed attending ALA and Midwinter on a regular basis and networking with librarians from all over the country. Now that life has settled down, I look forward to attending conferences again as a committee member. Being on a selection list or book award committee would be the best fit for my interests and current recreational reading habits.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**

I'm most looking forward to being part of a team of people who love YA literature as much as I do, building professional relationships, and expanding my network of library colleagues. I've keep in touch with several people I served with on Popular Paperbacks; serving on a committee together can be a great bonding experience. I always returned from conferences energized and excited by all the new ideas I learned about from my fellow committee members, it's a great way to maintain enthusiasm for the profession. In addition, I would be very proud to have participated in bestowing such a prestigious literary award.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?**

The Printz criteria is clearly outlined by YALSA, and stresses literary excellence. While popularity isn't officially a consideration, the criterion does mention that the winning titles should have a wide audience. So the challenge is finding award winner and honor books that ideally have both: high literary quality and the potential for finding a fairly wide audience over time. Another key factor is that this is a group process. Ideally, the winner is a book that the entire group is passionate about,
and everyone on the committee is proud to have their names listed as serving on the award committee for that year.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

Before accepting the nomination, I made sure I had the support of both my library director and my husband, because serving on an award committee is a big time commitment. Luckily, I have their wholehearted support. Also, now that my son is turning 5, I’m finding myself with more free time to read books for myself.

I already read so much YA fiction that doing the reading for Printz will be a pleasure. It will be more reading than I normally do, but the reading will serve multiple purposes. It will support my work as YA selector for my library, give me many new books to choose from when I do booktalking in schools, and improve my ability to do reader’s advisory with teens in the library.

While serving on Popular Paperbacks, I read hundreds of books a year for that committee. Once I got into the habit of reading in every spare moment, it became my lifestyle for four years, and a lifestyle I enjoyed very much. I found there was no better excuse for not doing housework than “I must finish reading this book for the committee I’m on!”

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

I’ve learned that while it’s important to bring your own point of view to the table and advocate for your favorite books, it’s equally important to sit back and listen to other people’s points of view, really hear what they have to say, and look at the books again from a different perspective. It’s a group process, and everyone in the group has valuable insights and deserves to be heard, even if you don’t agree with them. Sometimes, I learn the most from the people I initially disagree with the most. When on an award or selection committee, it’s vital to put aside what you want, and think about how the selected titles will benefit the genre and the profession.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

The YALSA lists make my work easier in several ways. Popular Paperbacks does some great genre and theme lists, so my youth services department doesn’t need to create as many lists ourselves from scratch. We refer to these lists frequently when doing reader’s advisory. Also, we use the older YALSA lists as tools for maintaining our core collection of YA literature. Books on these lists are ones we try to keep ample quantities of, and replace as needed, to make them easily available to teens.

There are several schools in our area that use various YALSA lists as suggesting reading for their students, especially BBYA. Many students forget to bring the list with them to the library, or what the name of the list is, so the more tech savvy teachers simply post a link to the YALSA book they’re use on their school or class website. When the students come to the library, we can look up their reading list online, right at the reference desk.

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/20/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-michael-l-printz-candidate-emily-dagg/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Jennifer Lawson

Posted By Franklin Escobedo On February 21, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on Michael L. Printz Award Committee. Each day this week we'll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate's last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year's election. The Printz Committee is charged with selecting from the previous year's publications the best young adult book ("best" being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books. The Committee will also have the opportunity for input into the oversight and planning of the Printz Awards Program. Committee size: 9, four to be elected, plus a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if requested.

This is your chance to get to know this year's candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Jennifer Lawson

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?

I think my best preparation for the Printz Award Committee is in having read 1000+ books written for teens in my years as a librarian. In addition, I keep current with the literature by participating in YALSA-bk and reading blogs, professional journals, and publisher communications.

On the professional front, I've been a librarian with the San Diego County Library for more than 10 years. For the first four years, I was the Youth Services Librarian at the Santee Branch. I was able to focus more of my time on teen services here, because much of the children's programming was done by volunteers. I also re-discovered teen literature in this position and have been reading it almost exclusively ever since. I've been at our library headquarters for the past 6 years, first as the Teen Services Coordinator and now as Program Services Librarian.

Since 2008, I have served on several YALSA committees. My first committee was the 2008-09 Odyssey Award Committee. I feel lucky to have served under an excellent and experienced chair (Pam Spencer-Holley), who kept things running smoothly and made it easy to participate and learn along the way. Currently, I am finishing up a two year term on Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults, the last of which I was chair. I also served on two task forces: the Young Adult Literature Symposium Task Force, 2009-11 and YALSA's Midwinter Pre-Conference Task Force, 2011.

I'm a hard worker and I like to get involved, so I also participate on committees at the State level and present at conferences. Some of my accomplishments include:

Served on the California Summer Reading Advisory Council since 2008, as chair 2010-11.

Represented California as a voting member to Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), 2010-11.

Presented on the latest and greatest teen literature at the 2009, 2010 and 2011 California Library Association conferences with Courtney Saldana (Upland Public Library) and Joann Jonas (San Diego County Library). This is definitely my favorite presentation. We always have a good audience and
have fun talking about books.

Presented Teen Programs in a Box at PLA 2008.

Locally, I volunteer on the Board of Directors for the Juvenile Court Book Club (JCBC) and chair their book selection committee. The JCBC is a volunteer run organization that leads monthly book clubs at five different juvenile detention sites. I lead one of the book club sessions most months. It’s something I really look forward to as the discussions are always lively and full of opinions!

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**

Every year, I eagerly await the award announcements – none so much as the Printz. For someone who is immersed in the world of teen literature it would be an honor to serve on the committee and help choose the winner for an award that’s so meaningful to myself and my profession.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**

My favorite part of participating on a committee is the collaborative decision making process at conference. Being holed up in a small room, hashing out differences and finally coming to a decision that everyone can stand by is intense, but also very exciting.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?**

The main thing to consider is that the Printz is based on literary excellence. So while you may have really loved a specific title – it may have even been your favorite book of the year – that doesn’t mean it should win the award. Because literary excellence can be exemplified in different books in different ways, it’s hard to say that one factor is more important versus another.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

I managed a heavy work load when I was on both the Odyssey and Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults. For me, managing this is all about choices. When you’re on a committee, there are times when you just want to go home and watch a movie or play mindless games on the computer. But...you’ve made a commitment to the committee and so you open a book or turn on an audiobook instead. That said, it's also important to give yourself a night off every once in a while, so you don’t burn out. I also try to maximize my time throughout the day. So I’ll read not only at the usual times, like on my lunch break, but also for 15 minutes of down time here and there. Then again, I think we all do that! Ok and I’ll admit, several years ago I started reading while walking the 1/8-1/4 mile to and from lunch, because when you’re in the middle of a good book, who wants to waste that time just walking?

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

Being on previous committees has given me a greater understanding of how the process works and what to expect through the different stages of the committee. I’ve learned how to manage my time to complete the work, pay attention to my kid (Gabriel, age 7 – but I promise not to show you pictures at conference...unless you ask) and still manage to find some down time to relax. Having now chaired a selection committee, I think I’m also better able to see how my position as a member of a committee functions as part of the whole.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

YALSA’s Awards and Selection Lists have been an invaluable resource to me in my work with teens. When I was at the branch, I used the monthly nominations lists from the different Selected Lists, plus the final lists themselves to help me make collection development decisions. They were/are also great as reader’s advisory tools. Not every teen will love the award winner, but
most every teen will find something interesting on the Selected Lists. Now that I’m at our library headquarters, I mainly use the Awards and Selected Lists when I’m working on bibliographies or looking for good books for my online book club (join us at http://sdclteenbooks.ning.com!). Quick Picks is also a great resource when I’m looking for high interest books for the teens at the juvenile detention sites. I use Best Fiction for this too, however, because the girls especially have really branched out to more than just the high interest titles.

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/21/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-michael-l-printz-award-candidate-jennifer-lawson/
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Gregory Lum

Posted By Jerene Battisti On February 22, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on Michael L. Printz Award Committee. Each day this week we’ll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Gregory Lum.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?
I served on many selection committees, including BBYA, Quick Picks as chair and the Printz Committee as Administrative Assistant. Besides YALSA, I participated in many AASL committees and the Oregon Association of School Librarians board. I also presented YA literature and reading at state and national conferences.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
After participating on the 2012 Printz committee as the admin, I want to participate on the printz committee as a voting member. It would be an honor to evaluate the many, many young adult titles, discuss potential titles with other librarians, and select the 2014 Printz Award and honor book(s).

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
Ultimately, I enjoy reading the various genres in YA literature, but working with other library personnel is professionally rewarding. Plus I enjoy volunteering for YALSA!

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?
I believe that three factors are important for this award; first, a committed group of librarians who are open to reading all genres; second, a solid discussion process via email as well as at the meetings; and finally, excellent YA authors who are willing to reach out to teens through writing.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
After serving on other selection committees as well as being past president of OASL, I have learned to prioritize my commitments with family time, my work, and other commitments. When serving on BBYA, at times, I read books while watching my son’s soccer games!

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
From my past experiences on YALSA taskforces and committees, I have learned to be organized, to commit to the work, and to serve with a humble heart.
In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?

YALSA Awards and selection lists have helped me tremendously for book selection for my library as well as personal reading for my teen-aged children. I will continue to support and to volunteer for YALSA regardless if I am elected or not.

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URL to article: http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2012/02/22/yalsa-election-2012-an-interview-with-michael-l-printz-award-candidate-gregory-lum/
YALSA 2012 Election: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Rachel McDonald

Posted By Jerene Battisti On February 23, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

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This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Award Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Rachel McDonald.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?
Since becoming a teen librarian in 2007, I have served on multiple YALSA book selection committees, including Best Books for Young Adults, Morris, and beginning in 2012, the Alex Awards committee. In addition to my YALSA commitments, I have been active in the Washington State Young Adult Review Group (WASHYARG), which meets quarterly to review both fiction and nonfiction titles for young adults. My participation in WASHYARG has exposed me to a wide variety of title beyond what I might normally read, as has my involvement in my library system’s Mock Printz Award.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?
The Youth Media Awards have been described as the “Oscars” of the children’s and teen literature community, and since its inception in 2000, the Printz Award has stood at the pinnacle of those honors. As a teen librarian who each year is consistently impressed and amazed by the quality of teen literature and its willingness to tackle life’s difficult questions, I would be honored to help choose the next Printz Award winner and honor books, and, more importantly, learn from other committee members about how they determine literary excellence in a young adult novel.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?
I’m excited to work with advocates for teen literature across the country to choose the winner of the Printz Award. My favorite moments from previous committees have been when one person believes very strongly in the attributes of a particular book that s/he has fallen in love with. The debates that result are eyeopening and often reveal people’s assumptions about what makes a good book.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?
When considering titles for the Printz Award, I feel that the committee must come to a consensus on how it will define excellence in young adult literature. I feel it’s helpful to have a discussion as a group before getting too focused on the nominations process, as we did during my tenure on the Morris Award committee. Since the parameters for the award are narrower that many other selection committees (literary excellence and not popularity), I would expect myself and other committee members to read and re-read carefully, keeping in mind our discussions about our
charge. Because our face time is minimal, using email and ALA Connect to discuss nominations is a must.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

Since I’ve already served on the Best Books for Young Adults and Morris committees, I’m aware that committee work often requires sacrificing time that would normally be spent doing other activities (sleeping, for instance!). For me, this means establishing a regular reading schedule so that I spend some time read for committee every day. It also means being aware of other work and home commitments and giving myself enough time to complete projects without feeling stressed out. I’m lucky to have a supportive spouse who understands that our house will be filled with books and he’ll likely see me reading every spare moment – not that I don’t already!

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

I think one of the most important lessons I’ve taken away from past committee work is that while I may have a strong feelings about a book, careful note taking and analysis are what is needed to help me present an argument for or against a particular title. I’ve had the experience of being the only person or one of the few people in love with a certain book, only to see my nomination go down in flames as my fellow committee members find discrepancies in the character’s voice, flaws in the setting, holes in the plot, or issues with pacing. I’m sure I’m not the only one this has happened to, and I’ve learned not to take this personally – the books we’re discussing should be examined in great detail, and it’s fascinating to see what each reader takes away from a book and how that changes over multiple readings.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

While I love the serendipity of pulling a book off my bookshelves and falling in love with it, my time is often at a premium (whose isn’t these days?). I count on the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists to point out books and other materials that will likely be a hit with different groups of teens. Occasionally, I like to present booktalks or create displays around a theme, so the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults list is a favorite of mine. As the quantity of books for teens published each year continues to grow, I increasingly rely on the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists to highlight high quality books that might otherwise fly under my and my colleagues’ radar.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Elizabeth Schneider

Posted By Franklin Escobedo On February 24, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on Michael L. Printz Award Committee. Each day this week we'll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate's last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year's election. The Printz Committee is charged with selecting from the previous year's publications the best young adult book ("best" being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books. The Committee will also have the opportunity for input into the oversight and planning of the Printz Awards Program. Committee size: 9, four to be elected, plus a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if requested.

This is your chance to get to know this year's candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Elizabeth Schneider.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?**

For the last three and a half years, I have served on the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee as a member and twice as a subcommittee chair. Through this experience, I have honed my reviewing skills of young adult materials, most importantly evaluating books for both literary merit and popularity by their audience. One of the fundamentals of working with teens in a library is learning to listen to what they have to say, and making your services, programming and materials reflect their interests. Taking that philosophy to heart, I asked my vibrant Teen Advisory Board to participate in reading the titles nominated for PPYA. They filled out forms, giving their feedback on the books, which helped PPYA members choose the best books for the list. I believe I will be an asset to the Printz Committee because I work so closely with teens, discussing what types of books they like to read and how teen literature affects their lives.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**

It would be an honor to serve on the Printz Awards Committee, and be a part of choosing the most notable literature written for young adults in a given year. I have a great passion for young adult literature, and helping teens discover books that speak to them personally. Others before me serving on this committee have helped me in so many regards, from collection development to being able to confidently recommend a wide array of well written literature for teens. Serving my professional community in this capacity would be a great privilege.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**

I have a great desire to contribute to my professional community. Being able to work with a team and decide on the paramount young adult literature for a given year would help libraries spend their book budget money effectively on high quality titles for their collection and serve as a recommendation list for teen readers. It would also be a pleasure to be a part of a forum that recognizes young adult authors.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?**
Quality literature can be very subjective. So when choosing the winner of the Printz Award, I believe literary merit, longstanding value and thought-provoking content are key factors. A winner of this prestigious award should be able to stand the test of time and not fade into the woodwork by the next year or become quickly outdated from frequent pop culture references. The work should generate discussion and allow teens to discover different walks of life through literature.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

My past experience of serving on an awards committee with a heavy reading load has helped me in creating an organized plan of attack for completing the reading. As each book arrives at my house, I put the title into an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of the books I have ready access to. These books are placed in bookcases in a specific room in the house. When a book is nominated, I add the title to another spreadsheet. As each book is completed, I add notes to the spreadsheet, and fill out a form to be added to my reading binder highlighting the pros and concerns of the book. In February I will be starting a term serving on Best Fiction for Young Adults. During my term, my goal is to read one book a day or five books a week.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

Working well as a team is one of the most important attributes to bring to an awards committee. When a group of people read the same well-written book, it is hoped that it will spur a discussion. Many readers will have different points of view, and it is very important to listen to all of those sides because something may come up that never crossed your mind. Creating a space where all committee members feel comfortable and respected sharing their views is key when working on a committee to producing a high quality project with everyone’s valued input.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

Serving on a YALSA selection committee has encouraged me to read outside my usual interests, increasing my knowledge for recommending all genres of young adult literature to my diverse community of teens. My experience has helped me to be a leader in my own public library, encouraging colleagues to read outside their comfort zone to better serve our clientele and be active in the professional library community volunteering on national library committees.

“Giving a teen the right book at the right time”
YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Patti Tjomsland

Posted By Jerene Battisti On February 25, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election,YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on Michael L. Printz Award Committee. Each day this week we'll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate's last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year's election. The Printz Committee is charged with selecting from the previous year's publications the best young adult book (“best“ being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books. The Committee will also have the opportunity for input into the oversight and planning of the Printz Awards Program. Committee size: 9, four to be elected, plus a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if requested.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Patti Tjomsland.

**What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?**
I've always read numerous YA books, however I've been reading over 350 teen books a year since 2006 for a seminar, What's New in Young Adult Literature that I present for the Bureau of Education and Research. I present this six hour seminar in about 40 places around the country annually, discussing about 100 of the best teen books from the current copyright year. One of the great things about working for BER is the opportunity to talk with teachers and librarians around the country. I hear about new books other people have found, and get a broad range of opinions from those who work with teens in all parts of the United States.

I just finished two years on Best Fiction for Young Adults, with year two as Chair. I have extended experience reviewing, writing, reading and working with groups of people. For the past three years, I've had over 30 students participating in a lunch-time review group. They have ignited an interest in reading and discussing books in our school. I've been a high school librarian for over 25 years and before that I taught high school English. Most of the English classes I taught focused on writing. I'm still in the trenches, working with teens and talking to them about books on a daily basis.

**Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?**
I think it will be a demanding and unique experience to select a book based on the quality of the writing without worrying about the title's popularity.

**What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?**
The whole process is exciting! I am most looking forward to the discussions with committee members. It is energizing to talk with other people who are passionate and enthusiastic about books and reading and committee works provides this opportunity. I think the fact that the award is secretive will be delightful! I must admit coming home and finding a box or envelope with brand new books inside is incredibly smile inducing.

**What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?**
I think being ready for anything is important. Over the past few years, we've seen authors experimenting with format, presentation, voice and more. It is important to be non-biased. Of
course there are all of the suggested items listed in the award criteria and I do like books with strong characters and a great voice. I think those books where you have the “Wow!” reaction are the ones I’m hoping the committee finds.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?
I’ve just completed two years on Best Fiction for Young Adults which demands extensive reading. In addition, I’m used to reading about 350 books a year for my Bureau of Education and Research [BER] seminar on current young adult literature. I’m accustomed to reading anywhere and everywhere. I’ve learned procrastinating doesn’t work and that reading frequently has to trump other activities. I have a supportive family who make sure I have the time to read. I am comfortable with technology and use it to help organize both my notes and books read information. I have a Kindle and an iPad to use for galley copies so I always have a book with me.

What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?
After being on Best Fiction for Young Adults, I’ve learned to keep detailed, concrete-specific notes including page numbers with passages and quotes either written down or marked in an organized and easy to reference manner that make sense months later. I’ve learned to put aside any preconceptions of what I might like because of format or genre. After working with 14 other committee members on Best Fiction for Young Adults, I’ve learned that listening carefully while keeping your own ideas in mind helps make strong choices. I’ve learned I can change my mind and it is okay.

In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?
The lists and awards from YALSA are invaluable as they provide suggested titles for teens from experts in the field. The books are selected after a lengthy process and have input from a variety of people giving the lists authenticity, authority and reliability for selecting great books for teens. The YALSA label gives the lists weight with teachers and administration. The lists never fail to bring books to my attention that I may have missed otherwise. Best Fiction for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers are tools I use frequently to find books for both teachers and students. It is difficult to stay up-to-date with the enormous number of books being published and these lists help find the best to order for my collection.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Sarah Wethern

Posted By Franklin Escobedo On February 26, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

In February we are posting interviews with each of the 2012 Candidates for YALSA Award Committees. This week we are focusing on Michael L. Printz Award Committee. Each day this week we'll post an interview with one of the candidates for that committee. We are posting alphabetically by candidate’s last names.

The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Printz Committee is charged with selecting from the previous year’s publications the best young adult book (“best” being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books. The Committee will also have the opportunity for input into the oversight and planning of the Printz Awards Program. Committee size: 9, four to be elected, plus a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if requested.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Award Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Sarah Wethern.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?

Well, this is perhaps a tad clichéd coming from a librarian, but I love to read and I read voraciously. I have served on Minnesota’s Maud Hart Lovelace award committee, reading a plethora of both YA and middle grade books to narrow down the nominations which are then voted on by kids across the state. I served on the Cybils committee in 2009 in the Young Adult Fiction category as a round one judge, reading the many books that were nominated in order to create a list of seven finalists. As of February 2012, I am starting my tenure on YALSA’s Popular Paperbacks Committee which will give me better exposure to working within a YALSA governed media list and prepare me for the rigorous work that could potentially follow if I am elected to the Printz Committee.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?

There is something special in knowing that by participating in the Printz Committee, I am helping to leave an indelible imprint on the field of young adult literature. I work hard to match readers to new and interesting books every day in my job and I love being exposed to the various opinions that come out of those discussions and conversations. I believe that serving on the Printz Committee will help elevate my local library work to a new level.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?

The discussion amongst my fellow committee members. Reading alone is wonderful but I have found that as I have become more critical about the books I read, I want people to discuss those books with. I enjoy the give and take that comes with talking amongst dedicated book aficionados. There is nothing better than digging in with a pen and a group of dedicated readers ready to dissect the text, to uncover its secrets and to ultimately make an exciting decision. And I am also looking forward to the speeches that come after from the winners. That is a special moment!

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?

Literary excellence is a key factor in this book. The beauty, ingenuity and freshness of the writing
are qualities all Printz books need. These are books that have to stand the test of time, that feature themes that should be part of the reader conscious for years to come. Additionally, these books should have high teen appeal. After all, they were written with teens in mind. The Printz Award is leaving a literary mark on history and it needs to be a mark that will continue to evolve as new readers discover the stories and characters within.

**The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?**

If you want something bad enough, you will make it work. That’s something that holds true for me. The reward for being on this committee will be rich and interesting. This committee will be my priority and will take precedence in all aspects of my life. I can both read and listen to books, making for different exposure to the stories and hopefully allowing even more critical context to be part of the reading process. I am someone who works well under pressure. I like reaching a goal and the end result of being part of this committee will be a goal like no other for me. My friends and family know of my love for reading and my commitment to YALSA and will allow me the time and energy to fully participate in the Printz Committee.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

I have learned to better appreciate and critically analyze books that have been outside my reading comfort zone. When I am not totally familiar with a genre, with its famous predecessors, I can be hesitant in expressing my thoughts but being part of the Cybils and the Maud Hart Lovelace Award have encouraged me to stand up for books I love but also to look at a book that I didn’t quite enjoy with new eyes, finding new ways to understand the quality of the writing and the plotting itself. Working on a committee of readers with a definite goal is also very different than just sitting down to discuss a book with readers themselves. I always have the goal of the committee in mind as I am discussing and analyzing my own thoughts and those of others. And perhaps best of all, I have learned how to become a better reader myself due to working with a variety of readers from different backgrounds.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

The lists have enabled me to develop a collection of both breadth and depth. The various lists have also helped me to see the holes in my collection because yes, there have been holes. I am not nearly as knowledgeable when it comes to graphic novels as I am about teen fiction and having the Great Graphic Novels list has been eye-opening and encouraging for me in developing my skills at readers’ advisory for myself and my community.

I don’t think the lists make my work easier however. They are a great tool but if I am not willing to put in the time to become familiar with teen lit myself, to read widely and broadly, then the lists are nothing but useless tools. My patrons do not want to be handed a list of book suggestions. They want me to know what, from that list, may fill their reading needs. The lists have helped me better work with my library patrons to find just the right book for them but only because I have knowledge of teen literature myself. Librarians and the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists can make for a complementary partnership if the librarian is willing to put in his or her own reading time in the process.

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YALSA Election 2012: An Interview with Michael L. Printz Award Candidate Emily Williams

Posted By Franklin Escobedo On February 27, 2012 @ 8:00 am In Election, YALSA Info. | No Comments

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The YALSA Nominating Committee for 2012 has been working hard to select candidates for this year’s election. The Printz Committee is charged with selecting from the previous year’s publications the best young adult book (“best” being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books. The Committee will also have the opportunity for input into the oversight and planning of the Printz Awards Program. Committee size: 9, four to be elected, plus a consultant from the staff of Booklist, and an administrative assistant if requested.

This is your chance to get to know this year’s candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Printz Award Committee. Polls are open from March 19 to April 27.

Today we have an interview with Emily Williams.

What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for the award position for which you are running?

I’ve worked pretty extensively with our statewide book award for the last six years. I served on the Sequoyah Book Award’s Intermediate master list selection committee from 2005-08, and was chair from 2007-08. During that time I helped advocate for a high school master list, which successfully launched in 2008. I’ve been on the Sequoyah High School committee since 2009, currently as their faculty advisor.

Why do you want to be a member of this awards committee?

I have been an advocate for YALSA since I started working in libraries in 1997. I teach a graduate-level YA literature class at the University of Oklahoma, and according to students’ comments in my class evaluations, my love of young adult literature and my passion about the field is evident. Having promoted the Printz since the first award was named in 2000, I would be deeply honored to serve on this committee. I feel like my entire career up to this point has been preparing me for this.

What are you most looking forward to in being a part of this award decision process?

I am most excited about working with other librarians that are as passionate about this award as I am, and creating something of which we are immensely proud.

What do you feel are the key factors for decision-making for this award?

The Printz is an award for literary excellence. I think key factors of that are books that grip you, make you feel something, and leave a lasting impression. Maybe even change you.

The reading load for awards committees is very high, how do you plan on managing the work load of award committee life?

I fully understand that the reading load will be insane. I am organized, focused, detail-oriented,
and I thrive on the challenge of an extensive reading list. I am used to reading hundreds of books a year from my state award committee experience and I am ready to live and breathe for the Printz. You will never catch me without a book.

**What have you learned from past experiences on awards, juries, or other YALSA committees that you will bring with you to this committee?**

Colleagues on past committees have found me to be an effective and valuable team member. You have to be flexible, open-minded, and willing to re-read titles.

**In your experience how has the YALSA Awards and Selected Lists helped you as a librarian or made your work better or easier or different than expected?**

I coordinate our library system’s YA Services for a large area that includes Oklahoma City as well as many small rural communities. I do a lot of outreach to local schools, hospital facilities, community groups, and the detention center. YALSA’s awards and lists are easy tools to use when working with these widely varying populations. Their variety and scope are invaluable in helping me kick start pull lists and book talks.

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Ballots must be received by April 27, 2012, 11:59 pm (CST) to be included in the tabulation of votes.

**VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT**
(VOTE FOR ONE)

01. □ HASTLER, MARY L. **MD**

02. □ PETERSON, SHANNON **WA**

**DIVISION COUNCILOR**
(VOTE FOR ONE)

03. □ EMERY, VICKI MORRIS **VA**

04. □ MATTHEWS, STEPHEN L. **VA**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
(FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM, VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE)

05. □ DANDO, PRISCILLE **VA**

06. □ MACK, CANDICE A. WING-YEE **CA**

07. □ MOFFETT, MATTHEW L. **VA**

08. □ SOGIGIAN, SARAH **MA**

**MICHAEL L. PRINTZ COMMITTEE**
(FOUR TO BE ELECTED, VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN FOUR)

09. □ DAGG, EMILY ELIZABETH **WA**

10. □ LAWSON, JENNIFER M. **CA**

11. □ LUM, GREGORY DAVID **OR**

12. □ MCDONALD, RACHEL MARIE **WA**

13. □ SCHNEIDER, ELIZABETH ANNE **CA**

14. □ TJOMSLAND, PATTI **WA**

15. □ WETHERN, SARAH ELIZABETH **MN**

16. □ WILLIAMS, EMILY REBECCA **OK**

**NONFICTION AWARD COMMITTEE**
(FOUR TO BE ELECTED, VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN FOUR)

17. □ COLLINS, MOLLY M. **MA**

18. □ GENTLE, MARIA E. **VA**

19. □ HAND, DORCAS **TX**

20. □ HEDIN, JAMISON BETH **MA**

21. □ KEYS, KAREN **NY**

22. □ RENEE C. MCGRATH **NY**

23. □ ROBINS, SCOTT A. **ON**

24. □ YUSKO, SHAUNA **WA**
MARGARET A. EDWARDS COMMITTEE
(THREE TO BE ELECTED, VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE)

25. □ LUDWIG, SARAH  CT
26. □ MCBRIDE, MELISSA  NY
27. □ MOON, BARBARA  NY
28. □ ROACH JULIE F.  MA
29. □ RUTAN, LYNN  MI
30. □ TOEBBE, KATE  OH

These nominations have been made in accordance with the Division’s Bylaws.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Linda W. Braun, Chairperson
Robin Elizabeth Brenner
Franklin Escobedo
Judy T. Nelson
Dawn M. Rutherford
01. Mary L. Hastler

**Current Position**
Director, 2010, Harford County Public Library, Belcamp, MD

**Previous Positions:**
- Associate Director, Harford County Public Library, 2008-2010
- Assistant Director for Support Services, Baltimore County Public Library, 2006-2008
- Public Services Administrator, Harford County Public Library, 2002-2006

**Degrees and Certificates:**
- University of Maryland, College Park, MLS, 2002
- Central Michigan University, MSA, Health Care Administration, 1992
- Towson University, BS, Business, 1988.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
- Maryland Library Association Legislation Panel State Officer, 2009-Present; Maryland Library Association Advisory Council, 2009-present; Harford County Chamber of Commerce Board, 2010-Present; Bel Air Rotary, 2011-Present; Local Management Advisory Board, 2010-Present; Maryland Library Association Public Services Division, President 2001-02; Harford Leadership Academy Board 2009-2011; Harford Leadership Academy 2003-Present; Maryland Library Association; Learning Libraries III, 2006-08; Citizens for Maryland Public Libraries, 2005-Present; Maryland Library Association 1999-Present; Maryland Library Association Maryland Author Award, 2006-07; Margaret Alexander Edwards Day Books for the Beast, 2000-05.
Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
Roenna Fahrney Award of Excellence, Harford County Public Library, 2002.

Major Accomplishments:
Director of a Library Journal 4-star rated, 11 branch public library system recognized for its innovative services and community commitment. Provided oversight and direction for numerous grant-funded projects including the successful development and implementation of a research-based needs assessment for educators. Project Director for Storyville, BCPL’s award-winning interactive early literacy center. As YALSA Fiscal Officer, provide direction and oversight for financial policy. Established YALSA’s Midwinter Gaming Event for the purpose of introducing librarians and administrators to the value of gaming programming for teens. I was instrumental in developing the current YALSA Strategic Plan. As the Assistant Legislative Officer for the Maryland Library Association, I provide statewide Advocacy Training. I serve on many county-wide committees and boards including Economic and Development Advisory Board, Local Management Board, Healthy Harford Advisory Board, and the Susquehanna Workforce Business Advisory Board. I advocate for teen services both on a local and national level and enjoyed being an Adult Workforce Advisor for BRIDGE, the Youth Job Readiness Component for Choice Jobs Program for teens.

Publications:
Author, "Lois Lowry Receives 2007 Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement," Young Adult Library Services 5, no 3, Spring 2007
Author, "Greetings from the Fiscal Officer," Friends of YALSA Newsletter, December 2009

Statement of Professional Concerns:
YALSA members are leaders in developing excellent teen services and resources at the local and national levels. Our vision and message is clear – adequate funding for teen services is vital to the growth and economic support of our communities. Priorities include repositioning and building on YALSA’s reputation as the voice of authority for teen services and resources; building sustainable partnerships beneficial to YALSA and members; supporting creative and innovative member initiatives; and ensuring a fiscally sound division. Experience as an active YALSA member, committee chair and member, Fiscal Officer, Board member and Executive Board member has been instrumental in providing the knowledge and support to be an effective YALSA President. I believe that as President, it is essential that YALSA continues its role advocating and supporting the development of tools, resources and innovative services that benefit our members.

Member of ALA since:
2000
02. Shannon Peterson

**Current Position**
Youth Services Librarian, 2006, Kitsap Regional Library, Port Orchard WA

**Previous Positions:**
Branch Manager/Youth Services Librarian, Live Oak Public Libraries, Savannah GA
2004-2006

**Degrees and Certificates:**
University of Arizona, MSLIS, 2004
Arizona State University, BA English Literature, 2002

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
Director at Large, YALSA Board of Directors 2010-current
Board Liaison to various YALSA selection, award, and process committees 2009-2012
Taskforce Member, YALSA Selected List and Awards Evaluation Taskforce 2011-2012
Chair, YALSA Board Ad-hoc Committee on STEM Resources 2011
Committee Member, YALSA Ad-hoc Committees on Revenues and Seal Guidelines 2011
Ex Officio Board Member, YALSA Board of Directors 2009-2010
Chair, YALSA Organization and Bylaws 2009-2010
Jury Member, Greenwood Publishing Group Service to Young Adults Jury 2009-2010
Chair, YALSA Division and Membership Promotion 2008-2009
Committee Member, YALSA Outstanding Books for the College Bound 2008-2009
Committee Member, YALSA Division and Membership Promotion Committee, 2006-2010

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**

**Major Accomplishments:**
As a front-line Youth Services Librarian, I have achieved record breaking participation and attendance each year while managing youth volunteers, mentoring new staff members, serving on committees, and implementing youth-focused system-wide initiatives. I have fostered a strong partnership with my school district and have worked on projects that have resulted in over 2,000 third graders visiting my branch each year, library participation and programming at school summer lunch camps, free brown bag lunches for youth at library programs, and regular outreach initiatives to over ten elementary schools, three junior highs, and the largest three year high school east of the Mississippi. I have served as a strong advocate in my library system for teen programs and services, which in part, has resulted in the creation of our first official teen librarian positions.
I have also served YALSA in multiple capacities, helping to: plan board leadership trainings, present programs at conference, streamline selected list and award policies and procedures, and create excellent booklists, among many other endeavors.

Publications:
"Sowing the Seeds of STEM", YALS 2012
reviewer, SLJ's "Adult Books for High School Students" 2006-2010
"Giving Due Respect to Graphic Novels" Kitsap Sun, June 29, 2007

Statement of Professional Concerns:
Partly because I have often worked in isolation as a teen library service provider and advocate, YALSA has greatly contributed to the level of service that I have been able to achieve in my community. I am passionate about increasing our ranks and further strengthening our organization by engaging members at the local and regional level, reaching out to school media professionals in meaningful ways, and recognizing the important work of library support staff. I also believe that in the current economy and culture, YALSA must continue to operate as an organization known for its ability to innovate. We must look for new ways to reach out to other youth serving library organizations, to adopt and incorporate new technologies, and to ensure that teen programs and services continue to grow and flourish in every library in the country.

Member of ALA since:
2005
DIVISION COUNCILORS

03. Vicki Morris Emery

Current Position
  Media Coordinator, 1999-present, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Fairfax County, Virginia

Previous Positions:
  Librarian, Belle View Elementary School, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1995-99

Degrees and Certificates:
  Emporia State University, Bachelor of Science in Education
  Virginia Tech, Master of Urban Affairs
  Catholic University, Master of Science in Library Science
  University of Virginia, completed course work for Ed.D. and administrative endorsement

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
  ALA Councilor-at-Large, 2009-2012
  ALA Committee on Education, Member, 2010-2012
  ALA Scholarships and Study Grants Committee, Member, 2007-2010
  ALA Annual Program Coordinating Team 2005, representing AASL, 2003-2005
  ALA Annual Conference Ambassador, 2007-2011
  ALA/National Endowment for the Arts We the People Bookshelf on Freedom Grants, Reviewer, 2005
  YALSA Mentoring Task Force, Member 2010
  YALSA Alex Awards Committee, Administrative Assistant, 2008-2009
  YALSA Continuing Education Task Force, Member, 2007-2008
  YALSA WrestleMania Reading Task Force, Member, 2007-2008
  YALSA Michael L. Printz Award Committee, Member, 2006-2007
  AASL Distinguished Service Award Committee, Member, 2009-2010
  AASL Frances Henne Award Committee, Member, 2008-2009
  AASL ICONnect: Online Course Committee, Member, 2005-2006
  AASL 1998 ALA Annual Conference Committee, Member, 1997-1998

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):
  YALSA Great Book Giveaway Award Jury, Chair, 2008-2009
  AASL 2005 ALA Annual Conference Planning Committee, Chair, 2003-2005
  Virginia Association of School Librarians (formerly VEMA), Member, 1995-present

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
  Alumni Board, Emporia State University, Elected Member, 2010-2013
  Beta Phi Mu, Iota Chapter, Member, 1995-present; Secretary, 2000-2004
  Virginia PTA, Honorary Life Member, 1996
  Catholic University of America, SLIS Outstanding Graduate Student Award, 1995
Major Accomplishments:
Lake Braddock Secondary School, Instrumental in influencing the design of the library addition during a major whole-school renovation, 2002-2005
Fairfax County Public Schools Great Beginnings Program, Mentor for First-Year Librarian, 2009-2010
YALSA Pre-Conference, Presenter, "Serving Today's Diverse Teens, the School Library Perspective,"
ALA Midwinter, Denver, 2009
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, VA, Presenter at Inservice for College Librarians, 2002
Fairfax County Public Schools, Challenged Materials Committee, Member, 1996

Publications:

Statement of Professional Concerns:
YALSA needs to be a steadying and unifying force in the world of library services to teens. In order to do that, YALSA needs to be visible and well-connected in the library world. Council is, by definition, the big picture where ALA is concerned. In the past two years of my term as Councilor-at-Large, the Youth Council Caucus, which includes YALSA, AASL, and ALSC, has energized to spread the message of the importance of library services to children and young adults. The YALSA Councilor has been and should continue to be a valued and effective force in the Caucus. Getting information from Council to YALSA for discussion and timely action is an important part of the job as is bringing YALSA's views to the larger forum that Council affords.

Member of ALA since:
1995
04. Stephen L. Matthews

**Current Position**

Librarian, Currier Library, Foxcroft School, Middleburg, VA 1977-

**Degrees and Certificates:**

Graduate work and C.E. work at George Mason University, Kent State University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Connecticut, Penn State University, and Mountain Empire Com. College; Connecticut College, MAT, 1977; The University of Michigan School of Information, AMLS, 1973; Hiram College, BA, 1971.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**

ALA Executive Board, 2009-2012; Councilor-at-large 1997-2007, 2008-11. Chair, ALA Conference Committee, 2010-12; Chair, ALA Committee on Organization, 2008-09; Chair, ALA Policy Monitoring Committee, 2002-06; ALA Core Values Task Force, 2002-04; ALA Committee on Accreditation, 1998-2002; ALA Grolier Foundation Award Committee, 1999. YALSA Excellence in Non-fiction for Young Adults Committee, 2008-10; YALSA/RUSA Joint Taskforce on Guidelines for Library Service to Teens, 2004-06; AASL/ISS Special Data Committee, 2005-07; AASL Information Technology Pathfinder Award Com., Chair, 1996-97. AASL Board of Directors, 1989-91. AASL/ISS Chair, 1983-84.

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

Virginia Library Association, President, 1991-92; Secretary, 1986-88. Chair, School Libraries Section, 2000-02; Chair, Nominating Com., 1993;

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**

Cum Laude Society, 1998-

**Major Accomplishments:**

**Publications:**

Author, "I Can Stand a Little Pain" or Why You Should Get Going in ALA," Young Adult Library Services, (YALSA), Volume 9, Number 1, 2010

Author, "Stopping the Slow Train to Disaster! or How to Talk Up, Trick Out and Establish Beyond a Doubt That School Libraries are Vital for Kids (and that means TEENS!)," Young Adult Library Services, (YALSA), Volume 10, Number 1, 2011

**Statement of Professional Concerns:**

I have spent my library career working day-to-day, face-to-face with teens, and I continue to be amazed how professionally satisfying and just plain fun it is. YALSA is my real center of professional connection, although I have experience working in ALA. I have always felt that it is
important to support our profession and our shared mission as we protect intellectual freedom, and advocate in new virtual ways for libraries and the people who need them. As a current member of the Executive Board of ALA, I have a clear understanding of the great things that ALA does as well as the things that need to improve in order to expand member participation and advance the cause of libraries. I want to use my knowledge of the association to help YALSA, be ever stronger as we plan the future and continue to improve service to teens.

**Member of ALA since:**

1977
05. Priscille Dando

**Current Position**
Head Librarian, 1998, Robert E. Lee High School, Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia

**Previous Positions:**

**Degrees and Certificates:**

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Although I am a member and participate in my local and state associations and conferences, I have focused my service activities on YALSA.

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**

**Major Accomplishments:**
Became the first secondary school librarian in Fairfax County Public Schools, VA to achieve the highest credential for K-12 teachers, National Board Teacher Certification, Library Media Early Childhood through Adult. Presented at 2011 AASL National Conference on Outstanding Books for the College Bound and school library programs. Presented at 2009 and 2007 AASL National Conferences on integrating assessment, collaboration, and advocacy for most effective high school library programs. Presented at 2009 Virginia Educational Media Association regional conference on adult books for young adults. Presented at Virginia Library Association regional conference on providing dynamic library service to teens who are non-native English speakers. Instructor, professional development course, "Librarians As Learning Specialists: Making a

**Publications:**


**Statement of Professional Concerns:**

Having served as an ex-officio YALSA Board member for the past two years as Strategic Planning Chair, I have had direct experience with the issues and concerns of members and understand the great responsibility of serving on the Board. I find the most pressing issues facing YALSA to be member engagement, advocacy, and capacity building. YALSA must be a nimble organization, able to conduct an interactive dialogue with members in order to advocate and provide resources, services, and continuing education that members need and want now, no matter the library setting. I believe in increasing opportunities for member participation, and raising awareness of the value and concerns of librarians working with teens in public and school libraries. YALSA must continue to strengthen its brand to be recognized both in and outside of the library community as the expert organization for teens, libraries, and YA literature.

**Member of ALA since:**

1994
06. Candice A. Wing-Yee Mack

Current Position
Interim Branch Manager/Teen Services Librarian, 2011, Studio City Branch, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA

Previous Positions:
Reviewer, Booklist, 2011-2012
Young Adult Librarian II, Encino-Tarzana Branch, Los Angeles Public Library, 2007-2011
Student Intern, Central Library - Teen'Scape, Los Angeles Public Library, 2007-2007
Library Specialist, Cedars-Sinai Medical Library, 2001-2007

Degrees and Certificates:
University of California - Los Angeles, MLIS, 2007; University of California - Riverside, BA Psychology, 1999

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
ALA Emerging Leaders Cohort, Member, 2012
ALA Diversity Council, Member, 2011-2013
ALA Future Perfect Presidential Taskforce, Member, 2011-2012
YALSA Appointments Taskforce, 2011-2012
YALSA Graphic Novel Selection Committee, Chair, 2010-2011; Member, 2009-2013
YALSA Division & Membership Promotion Committee, Chair, 2009-2010; Member, 2008-2010
YALSA Diversity Campaign Taskforce, Member, 2008-2009

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):
APALA Executive Board, Member-At-Large, 2011-2013
APALA Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Committee, Member, 2008-2012
CLA, Edna Yelland Scholarship Committee, 2007-2009
CALA, Local Arrangements Committee, Chair, 2007-2008
Young Adult Reviewers of Southern California, Member, 2007-2012

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
ALA Emerging Leader, 2012
ALA NMRT Shirley Olofson Memorial Award, 2009
UCLA Horn Award, 2007
CALA C.C. Seetoo Scholarship, 2006
SLA Affirmative Action Scholarship, 2006
MLGSCA Scholarship, 2006
ALA Spectrum Scholarship, 2005
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Spot Bonus Award, 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2005
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Standing Ovation Award, 2002, 2004 & 2005
**Major Accomplishments:**

- Guest speaker, "YALSA 201" program, ALA Midwinter Conference, 2012
- Creator & Administrator, Save the Los Angeles Public Library Facebook page (which currently has 15,498 fans) & Twitter feed (1,248 followers), 2010
- Guest speaker, "Making the Life-Work Balance," Spectrum Leadership Institute, ALA Annual Conference, 2010
- Moderator & coordinator, "YALSA 201" program, ALA Midwinter Conference, 2010
- Guest speaker, "Millenial Librarianship" program, ALA Annual Conference 2008
- Guest speaker, "The First Year Librarian Experience," Spectrum Leadership Institute, ALA Annual Conference, 2007

**Publications:**

- Author, "YALSA Membership Engagement Survey Results," Young Adult Library Services, Volume 8, Number 1, 2009; profiled in "Spectrum Scholars Celebrate Ten Years," Young Adult Library Services, Volume 5, Number 4, 2007.

**Links for further information:**

http://www.twitter.com/tinylibrarian

**Statement of Professional Concerns:**

Last year, I became heavily involved in the Save the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) and Yes on Measure L campaigns to combat unprecedented cuts to my library's budget and staffing. I also served as a member of LAPL's Student Success Taskforce. The Student Success Taskforce was charged with designing goals, programs, and outcome measures to assist the library with its strategic goal of “helping students succeed.”

In these challenging economic times, as youth advocates and as library advocates, we must stand together to ensure the survival of our libraries and communities.

As a member of YALSA’s Board of Directors, I hope to explore more ways in which the association and our membership can help each other not only survive, but thrive. I look forward to using my skills in frontline library advocacy, student advocacy and diversity advocacy to help achieve this goal.

**Member of ALA since:**

2005
07. Matthew L. Moffett

**Current Position**
Assistant Branch Manager, Fairfax County Public Libraries, Burke Centre Branch, Burke, Virginia.

**Previous Positions:**
Librarian I, Fairfax County Public Libraries, Pohick Regional Branch, Burke, Virginia. 08/2009-09/2011.


**Degrees and Certificates:**
Catholic University of America, MLS, 2008; Johns Hopkins University, MA Writing, 2003; James Madison University, BA Art History and English Literature, 1995.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee, member. 02/2011-present.
YALSA Organization and Bylaws Committee, member. 06/2009-present.
YALSA Blog Advisory Board, member. 10/2011-present.
YALSA 2011 Annual Conference Table Talk Taskforce, Chairperson. 06/2010-06/2011.
YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee, administrative assistant 03/2010-01/2011.

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Metro Area Young Adult Librarians Interest Group, Treasurer, 12/2011-present.

**Major Accomplishments:**

**Publications:**

**Links for further information:**

**Statement of Professional Concerns:**
I have strong hopes about the future of libraries and librarianship, yet it is important to remember that the next few years will likely continue the recent trends of difficult change brought on by developments in technology and drops in the economy. ALA in general and YALSA in particular can and should continue to inform the general public about the good works we do every day and to help us continually improve libraries across the country.

As a member of YALSA's Board of Directors I plan to work with and advocate for students, recent graduates, new librarians, long-term professionals and paraprofessionals that are interested in and
dedicated to providing thoughtful, superior service to young adults. The future of both YALSA and our profession rests on pulling from these varying points of view to bring the best ideas forward and make them possible.

Member of ALA since:

2007
08. Sarah Sogigian

**Current Position**
Advisor for Youth Services, 2010, Massachusetts Library System, Marlborough, MA

**Previous Positions:**
- Trainer/Consultant for Youth Services, Metrowest MA and Boston Regional Library Systems, 2007-2010
- Young Adult Librarian/Volunteer Coordinator, Shrewsbury (MA) Public Library, 2003-2007
- Electronic Resources Librarian, Shrewsbury (MA) Public Library, 2001-2003

**Degrees and Certificates:**
- University of Rhode Island, MLIS, 2005
- Assumption College, BA English, 2000

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
- YALSA Fabulous Films for Young Adults, Chair 2012
- YALSA Fabulous Films for Young Adults, Committee Member, 2008-2010
- ACRL Pop Culture in Libraries Discussion Group Leader, 2008-2011

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
- Massachusetts Library Association, Chair, Conference Committee, 2011-present
- Massachusetts Library Association, Conference Committee liaison to Youth Services Section, 2008-2011
- Massachusetts Library Association, Youth Services Section member, 2008-2011
- Collaborative Summer Library Program, Massachusetts State Rep, 2010-present

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
- Massachusetts School Library Association, Special Recognition, 2010
- Library Journal Mover and Shaker, 2010
- YS Lead Institute Graduate, 2003
- Disney University, Doctorate Degree, 1998

**Major Accomplishments:**
I deliver youth services and technology services to over 1300 libraries across Massachusetts. Through my work and professional assignments, I have gained experience with libraries on the local level, as well as on the state and national level. I have also been invited to present workshops at other state association conferences, including Rhode Island and New York.

I have worked with many noted speakers and authors, bringing them to MA to lead classes and present at our state association's conference. Mo Willems, Cory Doctorow, Kim Bollan, and Mitali Perkins have all been recent guests at conferences. I am also part of a team who creates and leads
the Teen Summit, a one day, intensive workshop for librarians planned by their peers and focusing on the needs of teens in the library.

I am a trendsetter in Youth Services utilizing my knowledge of Young Adult culture including extended experience, social media, popular culture, technology, customer service, and program planning to promote the importance of services for Young Adults in all types of libraries.

Publications:

Links for further information:
   Twitter: www.twitter.com/sarahatmls

Statement of Professional Concerns:
   I believe that YALSA provides much needed services, support and advocacy for librarians working with Young Adults. I am proud to not only be a member of the organization but happy to have the opportunity to share my time and energies with such an important group.

I feel that my professional experiences, ability to look to the future and think broadly about services to help libraries big and small make me a valuable candidate for serving on the YALSA Board.

Member of ALA since:
   2004
09. Emily Elizabeth Dagg

**Current Position**
Manager of Youth Services and Outreach, 2008, Everett Public Library, Everett WA

**Previous Positions:**
Senior Children's/YA Librarian, Denver Public Library, 2002-2008.
Young Adult/Adult Librarian, Seattle Public Library, 1998-2002.
Student Librarian (Children's Services), Seattle Public Library, 1996-1997.

**Degrees and Certificates:**
University of Washington Graduate School of Library and Information Science (now the iSchool), MLS, 1997;
Western Washington University, BA Art (Fiber Arts), 1993.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, 2001-2004.
YALSA Pre-Conference Planning Committee "Get Graphic @your library," 2002

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
C'YAAL (Colorado Young Adult Advocates in Libraries), Vice-President, 2003-2007

**Major Accomplishments:**
Co-Presenter, ALA Pre-Conference, Get Graphic @your Library, 2002
Presenter, Colorado Teen Literature Conference, 2003
Presenter, Mountains and Plains Paraprofessionals Conference, 2003
Co-Presenter, "Reader's Advisory with Teens," Colorado Association of Libraries Conference, 2005

**Publications:**
Dagg, Emily, "Middle School Volunteers with Special Needs at the Denver Public Library," Young Adult Library Services, Summer 2006.

**Links for further information:**
http://www.goodreads.com/e_dagg

**Member of ALA since:**
1996
10. Jennifer M. Lawson

Current Position
Program Services Librarian, 2010-present, San Diego County Library, San Diego, CA

Previous Positions:
Teen Services Coordinator, 2005-2010, San Diego County Library, San Diego, CA.
Youth Services Librarian, 2001-2005, San Diego County Library, Santee Branch, Santee, CA.

Degrees and Certificates:
San Jose State University, MLIS, 2001; San Diego State University, BA Linguistics and Anthropology, 1995.

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults, 2012, Chair.
Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults, 2010-12, Member.
YALSA Midwinter Preconference Task Force, 2010-11, Member.
YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium Task Force, 2009-11, Member.
Odyssey Award Committee, 2009, Member.

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):
California Summer Reading Advisory Council, 2007-present, Member.
California Summer Reading Advisory Council, 2010-11, Chair.

Major Accomplishments:
Teen librarianship and literature is not just a job for me, but something that permeates my personal life as well. I love working with teens and continue to advocate them as my position has expanded to include all ages. I feel lucky to be in a profession with so much camaraderie!

Some of my favorite accomplishments include: create teen spaces at many of our branches with local teens, organizing three annual Battle of the Bands competitions, coordinating many author events and planning a Midnight Release Party for Harry Potter, book 7. I also serve on the Board of a non-profit called the “Juvenile Court Book Club,” which leads book clubs in our county’s juvenile detention facilities.

I have presented at the state and national level on several topics, including:


Co-Presenter - From Angst to Zombie: 2011 Must-Read Titles for Teens, CLA, 2011.

Co-Presenter - Extreme Makeover: Summer Reading Program, ALA Annual, 2010.
Presenter - Teen Programs in a Box, PLA, 2008.

Member of ALA since:

2002
11. Gregory David Lum

Current Position
Librarian, 2003, Jesuit High School, Portland, Oregon

Previous Positions:
Librarian, Elk Meadow Elementary School, Bend, OR, 1993-1996.
6th grade Classroom Teacher, Pilot Butte Middle School, Bend, OR, 1991-1993.

Degrees and Certificates:
Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, MLS, 1985.
Oregon State University, BS, Elementary Education, 1982.
Also, attended the University of Delaware, Fall 1980, on the National Student Exchange Program.

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
YALSA Appointments Taskforce, 2011-present.
H.W. Wilson Senior High Core Collection Advisory Committee, 2010-present.
AASL Distinguished Service Award Committee, 2010-2011.
YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium Pre-conference Taskforce, 2008.

YALSA Best Books for Young Adults selection committee, 2007.
YALSA Michael L. Printz Award committee, administrative assistant, 2012.
YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers selection committee, chair, 2011.

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):
Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA) Western Regional Representative for school libraries, 2010-present.
OASL president, 2008.
OASL president-elect, 2007.
JSEA national conference host, 2006.

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
- Picturing America/National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient, 2009.
- National School Library Media Specialist of the Year Award, 2003.
- Oregon Reading Association grant recipient, 2003.
- Oregon Secondary Library Media Teacher of the Year Award, 2002.
- Carl Perkins grant recipient, 2000.
- Carl Perkins grant recipient, 1999.
- Equity AWARE grant recipient, 1998.

**Major Accomplishments:**
- Currently, I am one of five librarians nationwide selected to serve on H.W. Wilson Senior High Core Collection Advisory Committee.
- In 2009-2010, I was one of ten school librarians selected from over 430 applications to serve on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Library Media Standards Committee.

**Publications:**
- Lum, Gregory. The New Kid on the Block: Building Influence as the New Librarian in the School, Interchange, Spring 2004.
- Lum, Gregory. Raising Your Own Professional Bar, Interchange, Spring 2003.

**Member of ALA since:**
- 2002
12. Rachel Marie McDonald

**Current Position**
Teen Services Librarian, 2007, King County Library System, Issaquah, WA

**Previous Positions:**
Children's Services Librarian, King County Library System, 2006-2007
Youth Paraprofessional, Kent District Library, 2003-2006

**Degrees and Certificates:**
Wayne State University, MLIS, 2006
Grand Valley State University, BA French, 2001
Grand Valley State University, BA Journalism, 2001

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
Alex Awards Chair, 2013
William C. Morris Award, 2012
Baker and Taylor Award Jury, 2011
Best Books for Young Adults, 2010
ALA Student-to-Staff Program, 2006

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Washington State Young Adult Review Group (WASHYARG), 2007-present
Member of Thumbs Up! book award committee, Michigan Library Association's Teen Services Division, 2005-2006

**Major Accomplishments:**
Not only am I an avid reader, I have served on multiple YALSA committees, the first was acting as the administrative assistant for the 2010 BBYA committee. When a BBYA committee member was chosen to fill a vacancy on the Printz committee, I was faced with the prospect of playing catch-up as I was offered the opportunity to fill her spot. I quickly brought myself up to speed, learning how to read with a critical eye, defend my nominations, build consensus, and work collaboratively with other committee members to choose the books that best fit our charge. As part of my work with the King County Library System, I helped design, pilot and implement services on a mobile technology van (Digital Discovery Zone) intended to facilitate teens’ access to software to develop digital literacy. I also wrote several successful grants to provide funding for a monthly book club that I ran in partnership with a local alternative high school, and coordinated and hosted visits from over 15 locally and nationally known authors.

**Publications:**
Member of ALA since:
2004
13. Elizabeth Anne Schneider

**Current Position**
Youth Services Librarian II, 2011, Monrovia Public Library, Monrovia, CA

**Previous Positions:**
Youth Services Librarian I, Monrovia Public Library, 2010-2011
Teen Librarian, Moorpark City Library, 2009-2010
Youth Services Librarian, Ann Arbor District Library, 2006-2009

**Degrees and Certificates:**
University of Michigan, MSI, 2006
Washington State University, BA Chemistry, 2003

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee: Member, Feb. 2012 - Jan. 2013
YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee: Sub-Committee Chair, Feb. 2011 - Jan. 2012
YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee: Member, Feb. 2010 - Jan. 2011
YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee: Sub-Committee Chair, Feb. 2009 - Jan. 2010
YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee: Member, Jun. 2008 - Jan. 2009

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Michigan Library Association, Member, Conference Planning Committee, 2007-2008

**Major Accomplishments:**
In the period of one year, I have increased my Teen Advisory Board membership from 75 to more than 200 members with at least 50 dedicated and active teens volunteering for the library at any given time. Two to three times a year, I go to our two local middle schools and promote books with a different interactive game each time. Because of this outreach, the library teen program participation and circulation has increased tremendously, warranting the addition of a very successful after school program for teens once a week. While serving on Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, I challenged my TAB group to reading and reviewing the nominated titles, giving the committee valuable feedback for selecting popular materials. I am currently working with the group to create a teen-directed book/writing club. I have presented on Teen and Tween Services at various conferences and library staff development days, demonstrating ideas for using popular culture to inspire programming, which culminated in publishing a book on the topic last year.

**Publications:**
Member of ALA since:
2006
14. Patti Tjomsland

**Current Position**
Librarian, 1982-current, Longview School District, Mark Morris High School, Longview, WA

**Previous Positions:**
Presenter/Consultant, What's New in Young Adult Literature, Bureau of Education and Research (BER), 1998-current.
Presenter/Consultant, Classroom Connect, 1996-1999


**Degrees and Certificates:**
- Portland State University, Library Endorsement, 1985
- Washington State University, MA, English, 1980
- Central Washington University, BA English, 1974

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
Best Fiction for Young Adults, 2012, Chair
Best Fiction for Young Adults, 2011, member

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Major Accomplishments:**
I read about 400 young adult books a year so I can share the best new books with teachers and librarians in a six-hour seminar sponsored by The Bureau of Education and Research (BER). I’ve presented the seminar in countless locations across the country and I am continually updating the books discussed during the course of a season to keep the content fresh. In addition, I’m still the Librarian at Mark Morris High School. I love both of these jobs! Serving on Best Fiction for Young Adults, both as a member and as chair, has been one of the highlights of my career working with teens. I believe working on this committee helped with my success establishing a popular teen book review group at my high school. Close to thirty enthusiastic teen reader-reviewers keep me on my toes. This has also led to an increase in circulation and more traffic in the library. I’ve accomplished the goal of making our school library an active and welcoming place for teens.

**Publications:**
Member of ALA since:
2005
Sarah Elizabeth Wethern

**Current Position**
Youth Librarian, 2011, Douglas County Library, Alexandria, Minnesota

**Previous Positions:**
Teen Librarian, Pueblo City-County Library District, 2009-2011.

**Degrees and Certificates:**
St. Catherine University, MLIS, 2008, 2011; Winona State University, BA History, BA English, 2006.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
YALSA Popular Paperbacks 2012-2013, member.
BWI/YALSA Collection Development Grant, 2011-2012, chair.
YALSA Readers' Choice List, 2010-2011, member.
Blogger at YALSA's Hub: http://yalsa.ala.org/thehub

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
YALSA/Baker and Taylor Conference Grant winner, 2011.

**Major Accomplishments:**
Maud Hart Lovelace Award committee, Minnesota, 2011.
Presenter, ALA Annual, YA Contemporary Lit, YALSA Roundtable Mashup, 2011.
Children's and Young Adults Bloggers' Literary Awards, round I judge, Young Adult Fiction, 2009.

I started a circulating video game collection at the Pueblo City-County Library District, offering games for Wii, Xbox 360, and PlayStation 3. Working along with the other teen librarians in Pueblo, we put together an anime/manga day for the teens in Pueblo, offering games, food, fun and all things Japanese. I have worked with the teens and adults in pregnancy prevention events. I have been an advocate for teens from the very moment I started my library school education and that advocacy continues today.
Publications:

Links for further information:
YA Librarian Tales: http://yalibrariantales.blogspot.com/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/#!/whtabtpineapple (username: whtabtpineapple)

Member of ALA since:
2006
16. Emily Rebecca Williams

**Current Position**
Young Adult Services Coordinator, 2006, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, OK

**Previous Positions:**
Adjunct Instructor at School of Library and Information Studies - Books and Materials for Young Adults, University of Oklahoma, 2006 and 2010
Young Adult Librarian, Metropolitan Library System, 2003-2006
Library Technical Assistant, Oklahoma State University, 2001-2003

**Degrees and Certificates:**
University of Oklahoma, MLIS, 2003
Oklahoma State University, BA Art History, 2001

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
YALSA member, 2008-present
PLA member, 2006-present

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Oklahoma Teaching Artist Network, Co-Chair, 2011-present
Oklahoma Library Association, Faculty Advisor, Sequoyah Book Award - High School Committee, 2010-present
Oklahoma Library Association, Member, Sequoyah Book Award - High School Committee, 2009
Oklahoma Library Association, Chair, Sequoyah Book Award - Intermediate Committee, 2007-2008
Oklahoma Library Association, Member, Sequoyah Book Award - Intermediate Committee, 2005-2007

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
Leadership Arts, Oklahoma Arts Council, 2011
Linking Oklahoma City's Young Adult Leaders (LOYAL) Class V, 2009-2010
Leadership Metropolitan Library System Class I, 2007
Metropolitan Library System Outstanding Service Award, 2005
Oklahoma State University Library Employee of the Year, 2003

**Major Accomplishments:**
For the last five years, I have successfully coordinated the annual county-wide Teen Summer Reading program and events for our library system. Last year I fulfilled a long-term goal by designing and obtaining funding for an ongoing series of after school art programs at multiple library locations. In addition to other outreach to school book clubs and teens in treatment facilities, I evaluated and redeveloped Oklahoma City's juvenile detention center library and continue to support their facility with regular visits. I have also planned and implemented author
visits to libraries and schools in Oklahoma County from YA authors, including Lisa Yee, David Lubar, John Green, and Maureen Johnson. I work with four other librarians on a bi-weekly podcast about children and young adult literature. I have served on our statewide children and teen book award committees in various capacities since 2005.

**Publications:**

**Links for further information:**
Children & Young Adult Book Review Podcast http://yalitlovers.oklibshare.org/
http://www.twitter.com/librainiac

**Member of ALA since:**
2006
NONFICTION AWARD COMMITTEE

17. Molly M. Collins

Current Position
Head of Youth Services, 2011, Burlington Public Library, Burlington, MA

Previous Positions:
Young Adult Services/Adult Reference Librarian, Malden Public Library, Malden, MA 2007 – 2011

Children's Services Librarian, Irondequoit Public Library
Rochester, NY 2001 – 2005

Young Adult Services Librarian, New York Public Library
New York, NY 1998 – 1999

Degrees and Certificates:
State University of New York at Buffalo, MLS, 1998
State University of New York at Oswego, BA Theatre, Art Minor 1997

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
YALSA, Fabulous Films for Young Adults Committee, Committee Member, January 2011 – present
YALSA, Teen Read Week Committee, Committee Member, May 2010 – present
YALSA, Nominating Committee, Committee member, June 2009 – July 2010
YALSA, Great Book Giveaway Jury, Committee member, June 2009 – July 2010
YALSA, Outreach for Teens with Special Needs Committee, Committee member, July 2003 – January 2005
YALSA, Division and Membership Promotion Committee, Committee member, January 1999 – July 2004
ALSC, Notable Children's Videos Committee, Committee member January 2005 – January 2009
ALSC, Liaisons with National Organizations Serving Children & Youth Committee, Committee member, July 2003 – July 2005

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):
New England Roundtable of Teen and Children's Librarians, Member, 2011 - present
New England Library Association, Member, 2011 - present
Massachusetts Library Association, Youth Services Section Chair, 2010 - present
Massachusetts Library Association, Youth Services Section Secretary, 2009 - 2010
Massachusetts Library Association, Youth Services Section Member-At-Large, 2008 - 2009
Massachusetts Library Association, Member, 2008 - present

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society - Member since 1996
Major Accomplishments:

I have had the joy of almost 14 years of professional librarianship connecting young people with engaging literature and library programming. This has been my most crowning day-to-day achievement as a public librarian. I am proud to serve young people in this way, every day!

I have run a very successful Teen Advisory Board, offering many opportunities for teens to participate in the collection development and programming at their community library.

I have revitalized many Young Adult print collections in various public libraries.

I am currently a reviewer for the School Library Journal.

I spoke about school/public library collaboration at the Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference in 2011.

I have compiled and contributed to several book lists used both in-house and in Monroe County, NY including "Growing Up is Hard to Do", "Books for Fifth and Sixth Graders", and "Homeschooling in Libraries".

I have contributed to the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age annual publication.

Publications:

Links for further information:

Member of ALA since:

1998
18. Maria E. Gentle

**Current Position**
Youth Services Librarian; Arlington Public Library, Arlington, Virginia

**Previous Positions:**
Young Adult Librarian, Arlington Public Library, 1992-2008
Acquisitions Assistant, Houston Baptist University, 1987-1992
Branch Librarian, Harris County Public Library, 1979-1982

**Degrees and Certificates:**
University of Texas, M. L. S., Library Science, 1974
University of Missouri, B. A. Library Science and Romance Languages, 1970

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
YALSA -Michael A. Printz Committee, 2000; Margaret A. Edwards Committee, 2002;
YALSA Board of Directors, 2006-2008; ALSC - Newbery Award Committee, 2010; Pura Belpre Award Committee, 2006.

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
LIBER (Book Fair in Spain) invitee, 2006-2011; FIL (Feria Internacional del Libro in Mexico) 2005-2011; Arlington County Department of Libraries Merit Award, 2007;
Outstanding Latin American Scholarship Student Award, 1970; Mortar Board, 1970;
Outstanding Angel Flight member, 1970; Dean's List

**Major Accomplishments:**
I have devoted my adult life to books and information. I have conducted seminars on Youth
and Programming for the U. S. State Department in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia and Greece. I
belong to Capitol Choices, a group of librarians, booksellers, children's literature specialists and
reviewers who identify and select a yearly list of outstanding titles for children and teens. I am
also a member of MAYALIG (Metropolitan Area Young Adult Librarians Interest Group) an
association whose purpose is to inspire and energize librarians committed to serving young adults
through the sharing of ideas.

**Publications:**
The Printz Award for Young Adult Literature in THE BOOK REPORT, May/June, 2001.

**Links for further information:**
My email is mgentl@arlingtonva.us
Member of ALA since:
1993
19. Dorcas Hand

**Current Position**
Director of Libraries, Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston TX 1990-present

**Previous Positions:**
Episcopal High School, Houston TX 1984-1989
Looscan Branch, Houston Public Library TX 1983-1984
Central library Young Adult room, Boston Public Library, 1982-1983

**Degrees and Certificates:**
MLS, SUNY Albany NY, 1978
BA, Wellesley College, Wellesley MA, 1973

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
ISS Rep to the AASL Board, 2010-2012; AASL Advocacy Committee, 2011-2013; ISS Chair, 2005; member YALSA, 1978-present; member ALSC, 1978-present; various other committees over the years

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Texas Library Assn/Texas Assn of School Librarians member, 1978-present; TLA Children's Roundtable, member 1978-present; member, TLA Young Adult Round Table 1978-present; founding chair, TASL Private School Discussion Group, 2010-present; Texas Bluebonnet Award program Committee, 2005-2009

**Major Accomplishments:**

**Publications:**
Editor, School Library Journal Adult Books for Young Adults 1986-1989

**Links for further information:**
Consultant and School Library Advocate: www.strongschoollibraries.com

**Member of ALA since:**
1978
20. Jamison Beth Hedin

**Current Position**
Library Media Specialist, 2008, Ludlow High School, Ludlow, MA

**Previous Positions:**

**Degrees and Certificates:**
- University of Connecticut, Master of Education, Educational Technology, 2010;
- Simmons College Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Master of Library Science, 2008;
- Mount Holyoke College, Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, 1999.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
- 2012 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Member;
- 2011 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Member;
- YALSA Web Advisory Committee, Member, 2009-2011;
- YALSA Great Books Giveaway Award Jury, Member, 2010.

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
- Ludlow Education Association, Webmaster, 2009-present;
- Massachusetts School Library Association, Manager, Jobs Blog, 2010-present.

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
- Pioneer Valley Excellence in Education Award, 2009.

**Major Accomplishments:**

**Publications:**

**Links for further information:**
http://www.ludlowhighschool.org/lmc/

**Member of ALA since:**
2008

**Current Position**
   Outreach Librarian, 2011-Present, Queens Library, Long Island City, NY.

**Previous Positions:**

**Degrees and Certificates:**
   Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University, Advanced Certificate in Public Library Administration, 2012 (Expected); Pratt Institute, MSLIS, 2007; University of Maryland, Baltimore County, BA American Studies, 1998.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
   YALSA, Chair, 2012 Alex Awards Committee, 2011-2012; YALSA, Member, 2011 and 2010 Alex Awards Committee, 2009-2011; YALSA, Chair and Member, Technology for Young Adults Committee, 2009-2010; ALA NMRT, Member, YALSA 2010 Midwinter Social Committee, 2009-2010.

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
   ALA Emerging Leader, 2009; YALSA Teen Tech Week Grant Recipient, 2008.

**Major Accomplishments:**


**Publications:**

**Links for further information:**
   http://twitter.com/hood_and_hat
Member of ALA since:
2006
22. Renee C. McGrath

Current Position:
Manager of Youth Services, Nassau Library System, 900 Jerusalem Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553

Previous Positions:
Youth Services Librarian, Lynbrook Public Library, Lynbrook, NY

Degrees and Certificates:

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
Served on the 2012 John Newbery Award Selection Committee, ALSC.
Served on ALSC’s School Age Programs and Services Committee 2007-2010 (Chaired 2009-2010).
Served on YALSA’s Popular Paperbacks for YAs 2009-2011.
Served on YALSA’s Evaluation Task Force that developed YALSA’s Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth: Young Adults Deserve the Best (2010)
Presenter at 2001 Annual Conference & 2011 Midwinter Conference.

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
Penguin Putnam Books For Young Readers Award, 1998,
Laurie M. Fisher Memorial Award for Academic Excellence, 1994,

Major Accomplishments:

Publications:
Co-author, Tune In @ Your Library, NY State Summer Reading Manual (NY State Division of Library Development), 2005.

Member of ALA since:
2005
23. Scott A. Robins

**Current Position**
Youth Services Specialist, 2011, Toronto Public Library, Toronto, Ontario

**Previous Positions:**

**Degrees and Certificates:**
University of Western Ontario, MLIS Children & Youth Services/Public Librarianship, 2010; York University, BA Creative Writing/Humanities, 1999

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Major Accomplishments:**
After nearly ten years in children’s publishing, I pursued a career in librarianship began working as a librarian with Toronto Public Library in 2010. In less than a year, I obtained a senior librarian position in youth services. During my time at Toronto Public Library I have contributed to various committees including Young Voices, an annual teen writing conference, Youth Materials Selection and TPL’s Online Editorial Team. I also write about and review children’s and teen materials and graphic novels in various venues including TPL’s Growing a Reader blog, Canadian Children’s Book News, and Good Comics For Kids, a blog hosted by School Library Journal. My first book on kids’ comics, A Parent’s Guide to the Best Kids’ Comics will be published this year from Krause Publications. Since 2003 I have been the Kids Programming Director for the Toronto Comic Arts Festival. I have experience working on selection and award committees including the CCBC’s Best Books for Kids and Teens from 2010 to 2012 and the Joe Shuster Comics for Kids award in 2011.

**Publications:**

**Member of ALA since:**
2011
24. Shauna Yusko

Current Position
Teacher-Librarian, 2007-current, Evergreen Junior High, Redmond, WA

Previous Positions:
Children's Librarian, King County Library System, 1999-2004.
Professor, Children's Lit, Shoreline CC, 2000-2001.

Degrees and Certificates:
City University, Masters in Teaching, 2002.
University of Washington, MLS, 1999.
Seattle University, BS, 1997.

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults, 2010-2012, member
YALSA Popular Paperback for Young Adults, 2008-2010, member
AASL School Library Media Research Editorial Board, 2009-2010, member
AASL ABC-CLIO Award, chair
AASL/ALSC/YALSA Joint Committee on School/Public Library Cooperation, member
YALSA Fabulous Films (Selected DVDs), chair and member

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
ING Unsung Heroes Award, 2011
Golden Acorn Award, 2011
Best Buy TEACH Award, 2009/2010
Golden Apple Award nominee, 2010
Outstanding Educator Award, 2009

Major Accomplishments:
Major accomplishments in my professional career include my recent two-year service on BFYA for YALSA, as well as numerous other selection and process committees for YALSA and AASL. This year, I won a national ING “Unsung Heroes” award for an innovative reading/writing/publishing program that I implemented at my school (and throughout the school district). This program has also received local, state, and national attention, and was selected to receive a Best Buy TEACH award as well.
I appreciate being recognized as an Outstanding Educator by students/staff/parents at my school, as well as receiving school district honors for my contributions to the school community.
I am always most proud of the work that I do with my students, and other students throughout the community. Though it is not library-related, last year I started a non-profit organization to keep
hungry kids in my school/community fed over weekends when they do not have access to free and reduced lunch/breakfast. We currently serve 250 students in 15 schools each week.

Publications:
- Bibel, Barbara; Yusko, Shauna. "Encyclopedia Update: 2010," The Booklist, Volume 107, Number 2 (Sep 15, 2010).
- Ostergard, Maren; Yusko, Shauna. "What's Missing in Reference Collections for Young Adults," The Booklist, Volume 103, Number 1 (Sep 1, 2006).

Links for further information:
- http://evergreenjuniorhighlibrary.blogspot.com/

Member of ALA since:
1999
25. Sarah Ludwig

**Current Position**
Academic Technology Coordinator, appointed 2010, Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hamden, CT

**Previous Positions:**
Head of Teen & Technology Services
Head of Knowledge & Learning Services
Darien Library, Darien, CT
2008-2010

Director of Library Services
Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Wilbraham, MA
2005-2008

**Degrees and Certificates:**
Simmons College
MLS, 2005

Mount Holyoke College
BA, 2000

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
Chair, Teen Tech Week Committee, appointed July 2011 (member since July 2010)
Chair, YALSA Advocacy Resources Update Task Force, appointed July 2010
Member, ALA Committee on Library Advocacy, appointed July 2010
Chair, YALSA Readers’ Choice Task Force, August 2009-June 2010
Member, YALSA Editorial Advisory Board, July 2008-June 2010
Member, YALSA Technology for Young Adults Committee, July 2008-June 2010

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
YALSA Writing Award, 2012
ALA Emerging Leader, class of 2010

**Major Accomplishments:**
Among my proudest achievements are my speaking engagements at various national conferences, including Computers in Libraries and ALA; an invitation to guest lecture at a course on school librarianship at Catholic University; leading a webinar on passive programming for YALSA; acting as one of two technology coordinators for the 2011 School Library Journal.
Leadership Summit; and leading online courses in Simmons College's Graduate School of Library and Information Science continuing education program.

**Publications:**


Contributor, Young Adult Library Services blog, June 2008-present. [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/author/sludwig/](http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/author/sludwig/)

Author, Starting from Scratch: Building a Teen Library Program, published by ABC-Clio in June 2011

**Links for further information:**

My professional blog can be found at sarahludwig.wordpress.com.

**Member of ALA since:**

2005
26. Melissa McBride

**Current Position**
School Librarian, 2007 - Present, Southold UFSD, Southold, NY

**Previous Positions:**
Young Adult Librarian I, Patchogue-Medford Public Library, 2004-2009
School Librarian, Longwood High School, 2005-2007

**Degrees and Certificates:**
Long Island University, C.W. Post, MSLIS, 2005
Binghamton University, BA English, 2000

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
Co-Chair ALSC Organization & Bylaws Committee, July 2011-June 2013
Chair, YALSA 2012 Award & Booklist Marketing Taskforce, July 2011-December 2012
Chair, YALSA Division & Membership Promotion Committee, July 2010 - June 2011
Member, ALSC Organization & Bylaws Committee, July 2010-July 2011
Member, AASL Collaborative School Library Media Award Committee, June 2010 - June 2011
Member, YALSA Division & Membership Promotion Committee, July 2008 - June 2010
Member, YALSA Organization & Bylaws, February 2010 - June 2010

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
Member, Suffolk County Library Cooperative, Author's Unlimited Planning Committee, 2011 - Present

**Major Accomplishments:**

**Publications:**
Co-Author, "YALSA Membership Engagement Survey Results," Young Adult Library Services Journal (YALSA), Volume 8, Number 1, Fall 2009

**Links for further information:**

**Statement of Professional Concerns:**

**Member of ALA since:**
2003
27.  Barbara Moon

Current Position  
Youth Services Consultant, 2010 to present, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, New York

Previous Positions:  
Young Adult Specialist, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, 2006-2010; 
Reference Librarian, Dowling College, 2005-2006;  
School Library Media Specialist, Georgetown Independent School District, 2001-2005

Degrees and Certificates:  
State of New York, Public Librarian Certificate, 2006;  
State of Texas, School Library Media Specialist Certificate, 2002;  
University of Texas at Austin, MA Library and Information Science, 2002;  
Brigham Young University, BS Education, 1972

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:  
Odyssey Award Committee, 2011-2012;  
Great Graphic Novels for Teens Selection Committee, 2008-2011

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):  
New York Library Association, Youth Services Section, Conference Planning Committee, 2007

Major Accomplishments:  
Organized Unconference for Suffolk County Young Adult Librarians, 2009;  
Organized Authors Unlimited, a Book Festival for Suffolk County teens, 2011 and 2012;  
BEA panelist "Hot Graphic Novels for Libraries", 2009 and 2010

Publications:  

Links for further information:  
Organized Authors Unlimited, http://www.authorsunlimited.org/

Member of ALA since:  
2006
28.  Julie F. Roach

**Current Position**
Manager, Main Library Youth Services; 2005-present; Cambridge Public Library; Cambridge, MA

**Previous Positions:**
- Adjunct Faculty, Lesley University, School of Education, 2008-present;
- Children's Librarian, Watertown Public Library, 2004-05;
- Children's Librarian, Malden Public Library, 2002-04

**Degrees and Certificates:**
- Simmons College, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, MLS, 2002;
- Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism, BS Journalism, Minor Literature, Concentration Art Theory and Practice, 1997

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
- YALSA: Member, 2004-present;
- ALSC: Priority Group Consultant (II), 2011-2013;
- ALSC: Chair, Theodor (Seuss) Geisel Committee, 2011;
- ALSC: Member, Caldecott Committee, 2010;
- ALSC: Co-Chair, Liaison with National Organizations Serving Children and Youth, 2007-2009;
- ALSC: Committee Member, Liaisons with National Organizations Serving Children and Youth, 2005-07;
- ALSC: Committee Member, Children and Technology, 2004-05

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
- Summer Institute Scholarship, Children's Literature New England, 2005;
- Beta Phi Mu, 2002

**Major Accomplishments:**
- ALSC Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation Training, Panelist and Discussion Leader, January 2012;
- Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards: Judge, 2006-07

**Publications:**
- Monthly reviewer, School Library Journal, 2003-present;
Member of ALA since:
2001
29. Lynn Rutan

**Current Position**
Reviewer/Blogger

**Previous Positions:**
Librarian, West Ottawa Public Schools, 1994-2007
Librarian, Dubuque Community Schools, 1272-1974

**Degrees and Certificates:**
Grand Valley State University, School Library/Media Endorsement, 2004
Clarke College, BA, Elementary Education, 1972
Purdue University, BA, English/Library Science, 1970.

**ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:**
ALSC, John Newbery Award Committee, 2012
YALSA, Strategic Planning, 2008-2010
YALSA, Michael L. Printz Award Committee Chair, 2008
YALSA, Best Books for Young Adults Committee, 2005-2007 (Chair and Member)
YALSA, Partnerships Advocating for Teens, 2004-2007
YALSA, Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, 2002-2004

**Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):**
MAME, Board of Directors, Intellectual Freedom, 2000-2001

**Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):**
Michigan Association for Media in Education - President's Award, 2004
Michigan Association for Media in Education - Library Media Public Relations Award, 1998.

**Major Accomplishments:**
Co-author of Bookends - Booklist Online Youth Blog since 2009.

**Publications:**

**Links for further information:**
Co-Author, Bookends - Booklist Online Youth Blog
http://bookends.booklistonline.com/
Member of ALA since:
1996
30. Kate Toebbe

Current Position
Branch Manager, 2011, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Cincinnati, OH

Previous Positions:
Teen Librarian, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, 2006-2011.

Degrees and Certificates:
University of Denver, MLIS, 2006; Xavier University, BA English, 2004.

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:
Member, YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, 2010-2014.
Member, YALSA Baker & Taylor Award Jury, 2011-2012.
Member, YALSA WrestleMania Reading Challenge Jury, 2009-2010.

Offices held in the ALA-APA, state, & regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES):
2009 Baker & Taylor/YALSA Conference Grant

Major Accomplishments:
I am a member of two Southwest Ohio and Neighboring Libraries groups: Reviewers of Young Adult Literature and Cincinnati Area Reading Group for Youth Services. I have had the highest teen programming statistics of all branches in our system for several years in a row, including a successful teen book club and monthly class visits to local schools for book talks and library instruction. I was on the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County’s Teen Services Council from 2008-2010. This council was responsible for running teen services in our system of 41 libraries. I have served several times as a peer reviewer for ALA’s Great Stories Club. I presented at YALSA’s Teen Services Mashup Table Talk Session during the 2011 Annual Conference. The presentation was entitled, “More Bang for Your Buck: How To Collaborate with your Children’s Librarian to Achieve Success in your Urban Branch.” I also presented at the Ohio Library Council’s 2011 Southwest Chapter Conference. The presentation discussed teen literature-related social networking sites.

Member of ALA since:
2005