

# YASF Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

## Attendance

### *Managers*

Krista Hutley, Wilmette – YASF Manager

Kylie Peters, Geneva – Outgoing YASF Manager

Andrea Johnson, Mount Prospect – Incoming YASF Manager

### *YASF Board*

Kara Thorstensen, Chicago Public Schools – ILA Board Liaison

Jennie Stevens, Thomas Ford Mem. Library – Tournament of Books

Sonya Hill, Ela Area Library – Social Media Manager

### *Members*

Lisa Barefield, Wheaton; Rachael Bild, Skokie; Mary Black, Evergreen Park; Heather Colby, Homer; Yvette Garcia, Chicago; Maisie Iven, Naperville; Amanda Klenk, Downers Grove; Evan Mather, Evanston; Grace Menary-Winefield, Skokie; Katie Parfitt, Naperville (iREAD); Abbey Pignatari, Schaumburg; Abby Weaver, Mount Prospect

### *ILA Staff*

Becca Boland

Kristin Pekoll

## Board Updates

- YA Library Professional of the Year Award – Heather Colby
  - Nominations due May 15
  - Please help spread the word. You can nominate yourself!
  - Nomination link: <https://www.ila.org/about/awards-and-scholarships>
- Social Media – Sonya Hill
- Tournament of Books – Jennie Stevens
  - Thanks to all who participated as reviewers!
  - 4<sup>th</sup> round posts are currently going up
- Member at Large – Erin – not present

## YASF Updates

- iREAD – Katie Parfitt
  - This year's Find Your Voice (2023) Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/477386141153919> has lots of ideas & brainstorming going on. Join us!
  - 2025 iREAD theme will be Level Up At Your Library. Our own Maisie Iven is chair!
- IYSI (Illinois Youth Services Institute) committee – Lisa Barefield

- Conference was March 16-17
- There were some great teen presentations
- It's a great conference for first-time presenters
- Teen topics always welcome
- YASF RA Meeting – May 11
  - Any ideas for discussion topics/questions? Email Krista [khutley@wilmettelibrary.info](mailto:khutley@wilmettelibrary.info)
  - Tournament of Books winner will be announced
  - Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqd-uvqz8rG9fu0kCrVEsSIF6Wd6NFz3ui>
- YASF August 10 Meeting – suggestions for in-person locations?
  - Helen Plum (Lombard) has had a recent remodel
  - Skokie (remodeled in 2020)
  - Geneva
  - Lisle? (renovating, not sure if teen space is included)

## Conferences

- Reaching Forward – May 5
  - Abby Weaver will be presenting on teen volunteers  
<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/EVEMMZNXAALLN/schedule/SESME8U936MJHSCM4>
- ALA Annual – June 22-27
  - Call for panelists and volunteers – Contact Yvette Garcia - [yleigh@chipublib.org](mailto:yleigh@chipublib.org)
    - Seeking teen-serving library staff who have been through a book challenge and are willing to share their experiences
    - Volunteers needed to assist at YALSA 101 and other sessions (welcoming people, handling raffle tickets, etc.). For this, you do not need to be a YALSA member.
  - Any other member presentations?
    - Rachael Bild is part of a panel: An Introduction to Organizing and Collective Bargaining in Libraries (Saturday, June 24, 1pm)
    - Jennie Stevens is presenting about the Emerging Leaders program and New Members Round Table
    - Stop by to see Becca and Maisie at the iREAD booth in the exhibit hall
- ILA Annual
  - Call for panelist volunteers: Unconference (with Youth Services Forum) and Dear Teen Librarian
  - We are hoping to have a booth space again and will need volunteers to staff it
  - Contact Krista at [khutley@wilmettelibrary.info](mailto:khutley@wilmettelibrary.info) if interested

## Changes to YASF Forum Bylaws

- Updated Forum Year – July 1 to June 30
  - ILA is requiring all forums to change their Board member terms of office to the July 1-June 30 calendar for consistency across forums.
  - Individual committee responsibilities (such as Tournament of Books and YA Library Staff Member of the Year) can start and end at different times as needed.
  - In light of this change, we need to begin recruiting for our next YASF Co-Manager. Sign up here! [YASF Co-Manager interest form](#)
  - Updated YASF Bylaws: <https://www.ila.org/forums/young-adult-services-forum-yasf/bylaws-of-the-young-adult-services-forum>
  - Jennie Stevens moved to adopt the amended Bylaws.
  - Heather Colby seconded.
  - Motion passes with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes

## Discussion

### *Programs*

- Rachael Bild (Skokie) shared they have hired some local teens for a “Henna Party” in honor of Eid
- Wilmette is also doing an Eid program
- Grace Menary-Winefield (also Skokie) shared they’re doing a Magic the Gathering program. <https://skokielibRARY.info/events/16875/magic-the-gathering-learn-the-basics>
- Sonya Hill is doing a big “through the decades” end of summer celebration to wrap up summer and celebrate the library’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Krista is doing a Dungeon Academy program (how to role play, how to DM, etc.) and alongside will be someone running 30-minute adventures. Sort of a D&D Fair. Also running a “Find Your Game” program to get teens to try new games.
- Jennie Stevens: giving out magnetic poetry sets as a teen prize for “Find Your Voice” after the success of magnet scrabble tiles as a passive activity in the teen room
- Kylie Peters shared a Teen Queer Prom going on in Batavia on April 21, open to teens ages 13-18 from all over. <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/0abe78b8-842c-4ad1-b7fc-a6f2b34a52cf>
- Sonya Hill had a great idea for Find Your Voice to do a sign-along movie with an ASL interpreter as a new way to find your voice. She shared the resources <https://www.signupcaptions.com/> (a free-of-charge Google Chrome Extension that provides sign language captioning over Disney+ videos) and <https://idhhc.illinois.gov/> for finding interpreters.
- Evergreen Park is holding a PRIDE dance for PRIDE month

- Heather Colby is looking for ideas on programs for teens with disabilities. Mary Black at Evergreen Park shared that her library has an accessibility hour where they open an hour early on Sunday for people to use the library in a lower-sensory environment. Rachael Bild shared some things Skokie is working on.

### *Ideas for Teen Volunteers*

- Kylie Peters is running volunteer squads this summer for volunteers to sign up for different types of projects, since teens are no longer allowed to staff the summer reading desk.
- Kristin Pekoll shared this book (by our own Becca Boland): [\*Making the Most of Teen Library Volunteers\*](#)
  - Sonya shared that she picked up bags and coffee sleeves from Starbucks. Teens decorate them and she returns them to Starbucks to distribute to customers.
  - Becca Boland shared: There is a place in Skokie called Complimentary Cafe and all of the sleeves/napkins have compliments that other folks/staff write - and it's really lovely
  - Abbey Pignatari shared
    - <https://www.lettersagainstisolation.com>- I really like bringing Letters Against Isolation to our volunteer sessions. We have Teen Volunteer Hours (2 hour sessions).
    - <http://www.liberationlib.org/donate.html> - Liberation Library is another one we use
    - <https://www.confettifoundation.org/make-birthday-cards> - Confetti Foundation
    - <https://colorasmile.org/> - Color a Smile
    - <https://www.operationgratitude.com/volunteer/anywhere/paracords/> - Our teens have had fun with paracord bracelets for Operation Gratitude, as well.
  - Abby Weaver shared: Maybe more Northwest suburbs, and you have to check in with the volunteer coordinator at the organization but I got permission for my teen volunteers to participate in making the encouraging art tiles for Wings - <https://wingsprogram.com/volunteer-domestic-violence-service-provider-illinois/>
  - Becca Boland shared: I have a Pinterest board for places that I've used for when I used to do a monthly volunteer drop in program - <https://pin.it/2yLOjbX>
  - Rachael Bild shared, for scheduling volunteer squads: I would try to offer a variety of times and days including weekends. Some of our squads meet for an hour, some an hour and a half, and some meet for 2 hours. We have a STEAM team doing stem projects with kids, we have a group that will make well-being calls to local seniors in partnership with the Village, we have a group monitoring a tiny patch of milkweed for monarch activity and reporting the findings to the Field Museum ... And Grace has an awesome plan for independent service to help folks who want to volunteer but can't come to programs ...

- Krista: Institute for Positive Mental Health - I can also send you our instructions if you're interested - <https://www.ipositive.org/>
- Abby Weaver: I did teen intern groups one summer with each group coming in for 2 hour shifts a week -the first hour to plan a craft or STEM activity, and then the second hour they ran the activity as a drop-in program with kids (with the first meeting being them planning their ideas for the summer). Work intensive but they seemed to get a lot out of it.
- Andrea shared that a former colleague ran a squad of volunteers who planted & maintained a plot in the community garden. Veggies were donated to the food pantry.
- Rachael Bild shared: We use <https://www.signupgenius.com/> to handle signups for lots of stuff when communico won't work ... there are automated reminders and stuff to keep folks on track

### *Mental Health Month*

- Sonya Hill shared a display & mentioned she has “tough topics” bookmarks and is looking for other ideas [shill@eapl.org](mailto:shill@eapl.org)
- Grace Menary-Winefield shared that Skokie is doing a “\_/Discover/Do” that will feature different topics, but the pilot one is on mental health [gmenary-winefield@skokiellibrary.info](mailto:gmenary-winefield@skokiellibrary.info) Grace has done an amazing job talking to organizations that we can connect to for the projects, and researching a variety of articles.
- Mary Black is thinking about doing a book discussion centered around gun violence and the book *Numb to This* & is looking for ideas/resources
- Sonya: Reach out for a medical care person who deals with trauma, maybe someone from the schools, allow anonymous questions, have some fake questions to get it going
- Rachael: Maybe there is grant funding to work with an agency that does therapy

### **Future Professional Development**

- [Reaching Forward](#) – May 5, Rosemont
- [ALA Annual](#) - June 22-27, Chicago
- [ILA Annual](#) - October 24-26, 2023, Springfield
- [YALSA Symposium](#) - November 10-12, 2022, St. Louis, MO
- [ILA Noon Network](#) - ongoing

### **Upcoming YASF Meetings**

- [RA Meeting](#) | Thursday, May 11, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. | Virtual
- Open Meeting | Thursday, August 10, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. | TBD
- [Open Meeting](#) | Thursday, September 14, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. | Virtual
- Open Meeting at ILA Annual Conference | Date and Time TBD