



The Library YNOTS (Youth Network Of Two States): WI and NY
Discussion meeting for the [South Central \(WI\)](#) & [Upper Hudson \(NY\)](#) Library Systems

December 12, 2023

1:00 - 2:00 pm Central Time (WI) / 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (NY)

Attendance: UHLS: ZOOM Mary Fellows (UHLS), Amy DuBrey (UHLS), Laurie Buckley (APLD), Laurie Dreyer (TROL), Suzanne Cardinal (NASS), Carol Roberts (TROY), Sarah Stanwicks (APLM), Amy Caccia (VAFL), Gail Brown (VOOR) + 12 WI colleagues.

After introductions, the group moved to discussion:

On the topic of book clubs - what was a favorite youth book that you read/used with kids and teens in 2023?

Jess SCLS: Katy the Catsitter (graphic novel) for 8-11 year olds. We do simple crafts like [Cubeecrafts](#), paint by stickers while they talk to cut down on side conversations. I also have a transition book group for: 5-7 year olds. The group reads along with me (with an early reader). And we usually do a small craft to do at the end.

Gail Brown: Moo by Sharon Creech held at a cow barn, had 4-H participants show their cows and what it takes to enter the fair show 4th- 7th grade (family)

Bethany: The Pearl Hunter, Iggy Peck and the Mysterious Mansion

Sarah: online book club (10-14) Flight of the Puffin, Amal Unbound. We try to save the last 10-15 minutes of our book group for the kids/teens to go around and recommend titles to the rest of the kids, almost doing short book talks for each other. It's definitely one of their favorite parts of the program.

Nicole: A program called Literally Amazing Reads. We read Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library. The kit included an activity booklet (was related to parts of the book, which takes place in a library with all sorts of puzzles,) and took place over 2 months. It ended with a celebration event. During the program participants could spin a wheel at the library, which landed on a Dewey # range, and we'd help them to find a good book from that section to check out. (This related to events in the book) Then they filled out an entry for a prize drawing.

Tell us about your most successful program during 2023

Bethany: Animal program from zoo. Animals are always a big draw. Bluey Party!

Andrea: The Bubble Bash: we started the Bash with our bubble machine ON ;-). We spent about 10 min popping bubbles and singing & chanting bubble rhymes/songs as a group while people arrived. Then we turned off the bubbles and told the participants about our four bubble stations (with a slide & table signage for each):

- Bubble wrap stomping
- Foam bubble exploration
- The Human Bubble (just had the baby pool and hula hoop)
- Sharing Bubble Stories (with the bubble machine back on!)

Everyone was welcomed to move in and out of the stations as they wished for the remaining event time. We gave a small party favor to kids as people left. Almost 80 people came!

Katy: The Middle School Volunteer Group came to the library and chalked our sidewalks with messages of kindness in spring.

Catherine: One of my best storytimes was a Firefighter visit, with a fire engine visit with our local fire chief. Very popular and fun.

Helen: Our most popular was Family Pizza and Board Game Night! Second Friday evening event from 6-8pm. We offer pizza so families don't have to worry about prepping dinner beforehand. We take turns making desserts!

Brian: Bicycle Safety: Rodeo Helmet safety checks, given new one if needed, checked tires, handles and seat. Different stations (rules of the road, obstacle course, etc)

Sarah: Drag Queen Storytime, Period Party where we partnered with the local Planned Parenthood and Health Department. Appealed to a mix of genders; moms were asking librarians questions afterwards.

Brooke: We just started a Lego Club this fall for 1st graders and up. It's been a hit! Every week there's a new challenge that they have to complete. Once they're done building their challenge, I take their picture, and then they have to take their creation apart (we reuse the Legos for the following week) and they can free build. I print the pictures and post it on our Lego Club bulletin board for a week (and also on FB) then the following week they get to take that picture home. I also serve a snack, which seems to help bring in that after-school hungry crowd. ;)

Andrea: We had a LEGO Challenge night for family/teams. Every table had an assortment of legos. Before building, teams generated ideas of simple things to build (on slips of paper). I drew out an idea and gave the teams 5 min to build it. Then the teams voted for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for earning points. Round two was 4 minutes to build, round 3 was 3min, etc. Top 3 teams won lego paraphernalia

Suzanne: Teen Bake Off (knockoff of GBBO): gave them basic ingredients, they can add 2 other ingredients and make whatever they want. Bring back to taste test. Also did watercolor painting for teens; resource was Andrea Nelson, an artist on Instagram.

NicoleL Mario themed giant floor game. Lit Loot (like owl crate) subscription bag, themed every month. Teens register with reading preferences and they get a bag with book and themed items

Laurie: Our biggest program this past year was Big Truck Day. We partnered with local police, fire, and public works departments as well as a local construction company who brought a giant crane. The kids get to climb on the vehicles and meet the folks who work with the vehicles. We also had painting with cars as a station, summer reading station, bingo/scavenger hunt. We had 80ish folks attend.

Carol: Our biggest programs are always our animal rescue organization visits. We have live birds of prey and reptiles and they are always standing room only.

Krystal: We had a special alien themed storytime for UFO day.

Laurie (APLD) I'm excited to do another [Miracle Berry](#) tasting. And a psychic has always been a big hit.

What type of program outline or other planning method do you use for your programs?

- Basic outlines (mix of books for younger to older participants) Keep the opening song the same. Use a puppet when kids are coming in.
- Jess: Planning sheet, list materials needed. Use a timeline, place for notes, saved to a shared drive.
- Shawn: <https://www.scls.info/files/ys/earlyliteracy/handouts/PlanningSheetBabies.pdf>
- Mary: [Program Proposal](#)

What are your go-to sources for programs/ ideas?

Please share them here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BJO1mM6etrstqcuGaBTryE6YZ9coVX1yHsvik-uLlIY/edit?usp=sharing>

Don't forget to fill out the [Survey](#): What do you want to know from each other? So far topics include, school age/tween program ideas, summer library programs, early literacy, baby and preschool ideas. Keep sending us ideas!

Break into individual system discussions:

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Programs: We will revisit this topic next year!

System Calendars:

[South Central \(WI\)](#)

[Upper Hudson \(NY\)](#)

Recent archived Continuing Education recordings

[CCBC Shorts webinar recordings archive](#)

SCLS continuing education webinar [recordings archive](#)

Upcoming Events:

Jan 31

10 am

CCBC ALA Award Winners

April 17	10 am	Great New Books for Older Children and Teens
March 20	10 am	Great new books for Children
March 21	10 am	YNOTS

Participants volunteering to share their contact information:

Laurie Dreyer - Troy Public Library
Laurie Dreyer, dreyerl@thetroylibrary.org

Jess O - VER
Jess Ormonde - Verona Public Library - jormonde@veronapubliclibrary.org

Bethany-PDS
Bethany-bhultgren@pdslibrary.org

Sarah Stanwicks-Albany Public Library.
Sarah Stanwicks, Albany Public Library (NY), stanwickss@albanypubliclibrary.org

Carol Roberts TROY
croberts@thetroylibrary.org

blvlib
Krystal Watkins- Belleville Public Library
kwatkins@blvpl.org

Katy POY
Katy Hanousek - Poynette Area Public Library WI khanousek@poynettelibrary.com

Brooke - NGL
Brooke Mathews - New Glarus Public Library - brooke@ngpl.org

Helen -COL LIB
Helen Wirka, Columbus Public Library, helen@columbuspubliclibrary.info
I'd love to follow more people on Pinterest! My account is Helen WI <https://pin.it/s8Ynbdq>

Andrea - Monroe WI
Andrea Schmitz - Monroe Public Library, WI aschmitz@monroepubliclibrary.org

Patty Hoggatt in Cambridge, WI youthservices@cambridgelib.org

Suzanne Cardinal- UHLS
Suzanne Cardinal, Nassau Free Library, Suzanne@nassaufreelibrary.org

Nicole Ozanich - Portage County Public Library (Stevens Point, WI) - nozanich@pocolibrary.org