YALSA
Young Adult Library Services Association

YALSA'S
YOUNG ADULT SERVICES
SYMPOSIUM

BALTIMORE, MD • NOVEMBER 4–6, 2022

ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium • **#YALSA22**

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WELCOME TO BALTIMORE AND YALSA'S 12TH SYMPOSIUM!

Thank you for your support for YALSA's signature fall event—the annual Symposium! If this is your first Symposium we're happy to meet you. If you have been before welcome back! The theme; *Rediscovering our Charm: Supporting Teens and Each other in our Libraries* encapsulates our reemergence from the pandemic and coming together to support each other and the teens we serve. We welcome YALSA members, non-members, students, administrators, librarians, library workers and anyone who has an interest in bettering the lives of teens! The Symposium is our time to focus without distractions on how we can help the teens in our community, bringing together experts in our field and future experts, including yourself. We share a passion for developing the resources and skills our teens will need to develop and grow and to cherish reading and Libraries. It's our space to come together and help one another through networking with other teen librarians who may share similar experiences, so we can support each other.

Franklin Escobedo
(he/him/his)
YALSA President
2022–2023

This year's lineup of programs covers a widespread of issues that all of are facing as well as insight from our favorite authors. In Baltimore we have gathered our colleagues from the various libraries we work in, from urban to rural library. Discover the resources that will help encourage our teens to be advocates and how we can bridge the gap with adults who are not familiar with the wonders of teen literature and how book banning hurts our democracy. Join Colleen Seisser President-Elect and myself with some of our colleagues to talk about how you can get involved with YALSA. The opening session and author panel on Friday will take us into the world of dark fantasy, a tour of the Enoch Pratt Free Library followed by a reception on Saturday as well as the Edwards Award luncheon, and the closing author session on Sunday are not to be missed!

I'd like to give a huge thank you to this year's tiny but mighty Symposium Planning and Marketing Taskforce who volunteered their time to comb through program application submissions, develop the slate, come up with a spot-on theme, and helped connect attendees with local information from afar in Baltimore. Chair, Amy Ojserkis, Atlantic County Institute of Technology in Mays Landing, NJ; Heather Love Beverley, Cook Memorial Public Library District, Vernon Hills, IL; and Scot Smith, Robertsville Middle School Library in Oak Ridge, TN.

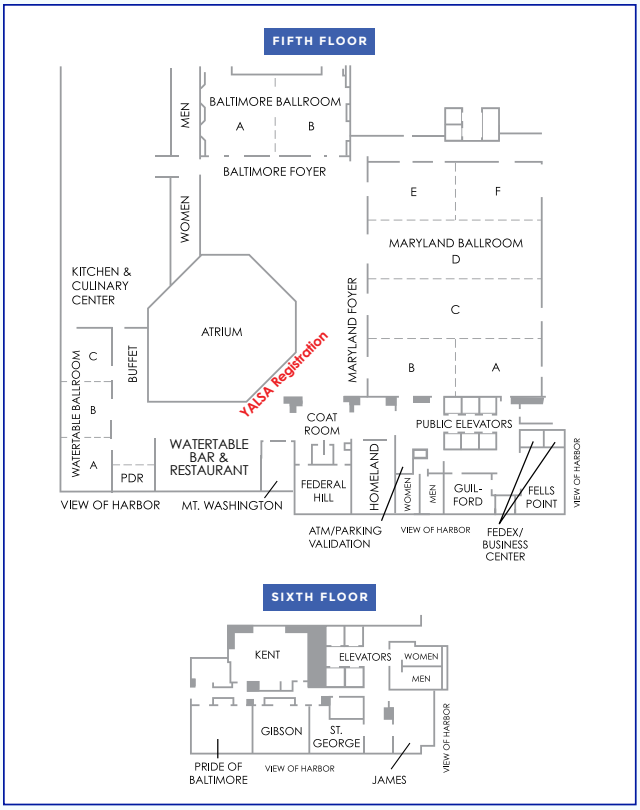
I'd also like to congratulate the two Symposium stipend winners: Jillian Rudes, Q167 Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School, Forest Hills, NY and Amy Dickson, Montrose Regional Library District, Montrose, CO.

Thank you for showing up and giving your support to YALSA. I am excited to be here with you in person. While you are here make sure you take time to network with your colleagues, catch up with old friends and make some new ones. I'm excited to see what the future will bring from this gathering here in Baltimore.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting Space/Symposium Location

The 2022 YA Services Symposium will be held in the Maryland Ballroom space on the 5th floor of the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, MD.



Health & Safety

The Renaissance Harborplace Hotel is committed to keeping our meeting space safe through extensive cleaning methods. Please take precautions as you see fit throughout your stay. If you need additional information, visit the YALSA registration table.

Certificates of Participation

An electronic Symposium Certificate of Participation will be available with the Google folder with the slides and handouts. You will be able to complete the number of hours that you participate on your own. We will provide a guide.

Author Book Signings

Each attendee will receive a total 4 tickets for book signings on Friday evening and during Saturday's Book Blitz.

Lost and Found

Please check with YALSA staff at the registration area if you have lost or found articles.

Presentations and Handouts

Symposium presentations and handouts can be accessed through a Google Folder at bit.ly/yalsa22-resources.

Complimentary Internet

Complimentary wireless internet access is available in the hotel guest and meeting rooms. In the meeting space, use wireless network "Renaissance_CONF". The access code is "YALSA".

Symposium Evaluation

You will be emailed a link to complete the Symposium Evaluation. YALSA and the Symposium faculty would appreciate your feedback.

Persons with Disabilities

Visit the registration area or seek out YALSA staff to get assistance on site. You may also email cjamison@ala.org in advance to discuss.

Social Media at the Symposium

Photos and updates will be posted on the YALSA blog at yalsa.ala.org/blog. If you are using Twitter or posting photos to Social Media, please tag your posts with #yalsa22.

YALSA Optional Events/Tours

- **Friday Evening Dine-Arounds:** Sign up at the YALSA registration table for a dinner at a restaurant of your choosing; it's a perfect way to meet new attendees.
- **Saturday Edwards Award Luncheon:** Honoring A. S. King. Pre-registration is required.
- **Saturday Evening Tour and Reception of the Enoch Pratt Free Library:** Sold out event.

Photography Consent

Registration for, attendance at, or participation in YALSA's YA Symposium and other activities constitutes an agreement by the participant to allow YALSA to use and distribute (both now and in the future) the registrant's or attendee's image or voice in photographs, video, electronic reproductions, and audio of such events and activities.

Food and Beverage

YALSA will provide beverages at the scheduled coffee breaks. We suggest that you might bring snacks if you get hungry throughout the day. There are many options close to the hotel for breakfast and lunch as well as onsite options.

Not a Member of YALSA?
Join today! Visit ala.org/yalsa/join. Adding YALSA to your ALA membership costs only $62 a year.

Thank you!
YALSA would like to thank the Symposium Task Force for their work on the Symposium Education Program. The Task Force include Chair **Amy Ojserkis,** Media Specialist at Atlantic Co. Institute of Technology; **Heather Beverly,** Assistant Manager of Youth Services at Cook Memorial Public Library; and **Scot Smith,** Librarian at Robertsville Middle School.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

A full schedule with room locations and descriptions can be found on page 16.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

8:00 am – 6:30 pm
- **Registration** (Maryland Ballroom Foyer)

9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Transforming Teen Services: The Magic Charm** (ticketed)

9:00 am – Noon
- **Manga in the Library** (ticketed)

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- **Anime Boot Camp** (sold out)

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- **Tour of the American Visionary Arts Museum** (ticketed)
  Meet in the hotel lobby by 1:00 pm if you would like to take the approximately 20-minute walk to the museum. Address: 800 Key Hwy, Baltimore, MD.

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
- **YASLA Welcome** and **Opening Authors Panel – In the Shadow of Poe: Dark Fantasy & Mystery.**

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- **Opening Reception** (appetizers and cash bar)
- **Author Book Signing** (ticket required)
  With Lamar Giles, Aiden Thomas, and Alex Aster.

7:00 pm
- **Dine-Arounds** (optional)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7:00 am – 5:00 pm
- **Registration** (Maryland Foyer)

8:00 am – 9:00 am
- **Teen Think Tank: Inspire, Collaborate, and Connect**
- **The STAFF Social Justice Book Club – Why We Need to Get YA Books into Adult Readers' Hands**
- **Not Your Typical Summer Camp: Engaging Teens in Responsible and Responsive Activism**

9:00 am – 9:30 am
- **Refreshment Break** (Maryland Ballroom Foyer)

9:30 am – 10:30 am
- **Opening the Door to YALSA**
- **Together to Support Teen Leadership**
- **Reimagine the Canon: Bringing the Classics to 21st Century Teens**

10:45 am – 11:45 am
- **Baby Chicks and Musical Instruments: The Roles of Teen Volunteers in Rural STEM Radio Programs**
- **How to Talk to Youth About Human Trafficking**
- **"We build ourselves out of that story": Collaborative Storytelling in the Library**

Noon – 1:30 pm
- **Edwards Award Luncheon** (ticketed)
  The 2022 Margaret A. Edwards Award luncheon will honor A.S. King for her novels "Ask the Passengers," "Glory O'Brien's History of the Future," and "Please Ignore Vera Dietz".

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
- **School & Public Library Partnerships – Engaging with Educators to Support Student Success**
- **Morris Author Panel**
- **Passive Interactive Programming: Designing Programming So They Can Come to You**

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
- **Coffee and Networking Break**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- **Two Places at Once: A Hybrid Approach to Teen Services**
- **Reconnecting with Your Teen Advisors**
- **Tik-Tik O'Clock**

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm
- **Author Book Blitz**
  With Vincent Tirado, Jas Hammonds, Camille Gomera-Tavarez, Kyrie McCauley, Rex Ogle, Nic Stone, Ray Stoeve, Lillie Lainoff, Axie Oh and Francesca Flores

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- **Tour and Reception at the Enoch Pratt Free Library** (sold out)
  Meet in the lobby to board the bus to the library.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

A full schedule with room locations and descriptions can be found on page 16.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:30 am – 9:30 am

- Protecting Pride: Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth in the Age of Book Banning
- We'll See You Online: Supporting Postsecondary Readiness for Teens on Virtual Platforms

9:30 am – 10:00 am

- Coffee and Networking Break

10:00 am – 11:00 am

- Happy Together: How to Bring Everyone Together for Teen Success
- Under Scrutiny: Helping Staff Feel Safe in the Midst of Book Challenges
- Publishers Book Buzz

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

- Let's Rediscover Volunteering: Connecting Our Youth with the Community
- Building Diverse Social Justice Collections and Programming That Builds Bridges Between Teens and Their Communities
- The Work Smarter Boot Camp: Wellness and Executive Function in the School Library

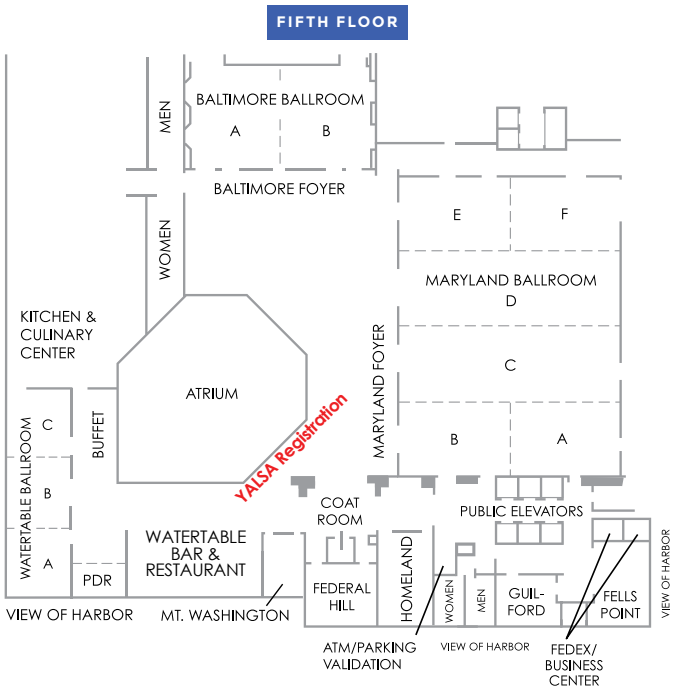
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

- Closing Author Panel: Courageous Storytellers: Sharing Stories of Mental Health & Wellness / Mental Health

1:30 pm

- Symposium Conclusion

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel Meeting Spaces



FEATURED AUTHORS

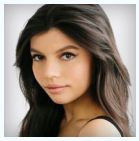
MARGARET A. EDWARDS AWARD RECIPIENT

A.S. King has been called "One of the best Y.A. writers working today" by the New York Times Book Review. King is the author of highly-acclaimed novels including 2021's SW/TCH, 2020 Michael L. Printz Award winner, and LA Times Book Prize finalist *Dig*; 2016's *Still Life with Tornado*; 2015's surrealist *I Crawl Through It*; *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*; *Reality Boy*; the 2012 Los Angeles Times Book Prize winner *Ask the Passengers*; *Everybody Sees the Ants*; 2011 Michael L. Printz Honor Book *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*; among others. She also writes Middle Grade fiction as Amy Sarig King, including *Attack of the Black Rectangles*. In 2022, King received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for her significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature.

She is a faculty member of the Writing for Children and Young Adults MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts and spends many months of the year traveling the country speaking to high school and university students, educators, and humans who care about the mental health of young people. After a decade living self-sufficiently and teaching literacy to adults in Ireland, she now lives in Pennsylvania.

OPENING SESSION AUTHOR PANEL

In the Shadow of Poe: Dark Fantasy & Mystery



Alex Aster is an author of YA fiction as well as award-winning middle grade fiction, including the Emblem Island series, which was published to critical acclaim. Alex graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied creative writing. Find out more on TikTok (@alex.aster) or Instagram (@byalexaster).

Leigh Bardugo is the New York Times-bestselling author of *Ninth House* and the creator of the Grishaverse (coming to Netflix in April 2021) which spans the Shadow and Bone trilogy, the Six of Crows duology, the King of Scars duology, The Language of Thorns, and The Lives of Saints—with more to come. Her short stories can be found in multiple anthologies, including Best American Science Fiction & Fantasy. Leigh grew up in Southern California and graduated from Yale University. These days she lives and writes in Los Angeles.

Lamar Giles is the author of *The Getaway*; *Spin*, which was a New York Times Editors' Choice and a YALSA Quick Pick; *Overturned*, which was also a YALSA Quick Pick; *Not So Pure and Simple*; *Fake ID*, which was an Edgar Award finalist and a YALSA Quick Pick; and *Endangered*, which was also an Edgar Award finalist. He the editor of the anthology *Fresh Ink* and has contributed to many other anthologies as well. Lamar is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books. He resides in Virginia with his family.

Dani Pendergast is a cartoonist and illustrator from Parkland, Florida, with a BFA and MFA from the Illustration program at Syracuse University. She's done work for Apple, Boom! Studios, Mondo Tees, and Wizards of the Coast, among others. She is the illustrator of Leigh Bardugo's *Demon in the Wood* Graphic Novel. She is currently based in Boston, Massachusetts.

Aiden Thomas is a trans, Latinx, New York Times Bestselling Author with an MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College. Their works include *Cemetery Boys* and *Lost in the Never Woods*. Originally from Oakland, California, they now make their home in Portland, OR. Aiden is notorious for not being able to guess the endings of books and movies, and organizes their bookshelves by color.

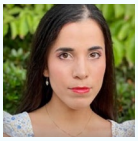
Photo credits: Krista Schumow Photography (photo of A.S. King); Jennifer Trahan (photo of Alex Aster); Adrienne Giles (photo of Lamar Giles

FEATURED AUTHORS

REIMAGINE THE CANON

Francesca Flores is a writer, traveler, and linguist. Raised in Pittsburgh, she read every fantasy book she could get her hands on and started writing her own stories at a young age. When she's not writing or reading, Francesca enjoys traveling, dancing ballet and jazz, practicing trapeze and contortion, and visiting parks and trails around San Francisco, where she currently resides.

Lillie Lainoff is the author of *One for All* and received her B.A. in English from Yale University where she was a varsity fencer and one of the first physically disabled athletes to individually qualify for any NCAA Championship event. She has also won the 2019 LA Review Literary Award for Short Fiction, was a featured Rooted in Rights disability activist, and is the founder of Disabled Kidlit Writers on Facebook. She is currently an MA candidate in Creative Writing Prose Fiction at the University of East Anglia, and lives in Washington, D.C.



Anna-Marie McLemore was born in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and taught by their family to hear la llorona in the Santa Ana winds. They are the author of *The Weight of Feathers*, *Wild Beauty*, *Blanca & Roja*, *Dark and Deepest Red*, *The Mirror Season*, *Lakelore*, and *Self-Made Boys: A Great Gatsby Remix*, which was also just longlisted for the 2022 National Book Award in Young Adult Literature. Their books include two previous titles longlisted for the National Book Award and recognition from both the William C. Morris Debut Award and Stonewall Book Award.

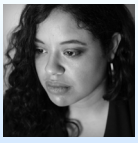
Axie Oh is a first-generation Korean American, born in New York City and raised in New Jersey. She studied Korean history and creative writing as an undergrad at the University of California San Diego and holds an MFA in Writing for Young People from Lesley University. Her passions include K-pop, anime, stationery supplies, and milk tea, and she currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her dog, Toro (named after Totoro). She is the author of multiple books for teens, including *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea*.

WILLIAM C. MORRIS AUTHOR PANEL

Moderator **Kyrie McCauley** spent her childhood climbing tress in dresses and reading books during class. She is the author of *If These Wings Could Fly*, recipient of the 2021 William C. Morris Award; *We Can Be Heroes;* and the forthcoming *All the Dead Lie Down*. Kyrie holds a Master of Science in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and has worked in advocacy and development for non-profit organizations. She lives near Philadelphia, PA with her family, three rescue cats and a dog that eats books and is never sorry.

Camille Gomera-Tavarez is an Afro-Dominican writer, designer, and creative from New Jersey. She has a BFA in Graphic Design & Creative Writing from the Maryland Institute College of Art and is currently based in Philadelphia, PA. Her debut, *High Spirits*, received three starred reviews and was hailed as "a magical and unflinching look at the Dominican Diaspora" by the Dominican Writers Association. She was recently named as a Publishers Weekly 2022 Flying Start.

Jas Hammonds was raised in many cities and in-between the pages of many books. They have received support for their writing from Lambda Literary, Sundress Academy of the Arts, and the Highlights Foundation. They are also a grateful recipient of a MacDowell James Baldwin Fellowship. *We Deserve Monuments* is their debut novel.



Francesca Padilla is a Dominican-American fiction writer born and raised in New York City. She is the recipient of a Walter Dean Myers Grant from We Need Diverse Books and holds a BA in Creative Writing from the State University of New York at Purchase College. She lives with her family in Rochester, New York.

Vincent Tirado is a non-binary Afro-Latine Bronx native. They ventured out to Pennsylvania and Ohio to get their Bachelor's degree in Biology and Master's degree in Bioethics. They have had short stories published in Desert Rose Lit Mag and FIYAH! Magazine.

Photo credits: Elliott McLemore (photo of Anna-Marie McLemore); Camille Oh (photo of Axie Oh); Adalena Kavanagh (photo of Francesca Padilla); Astrid Photography (photo of Lillie Lainoff)

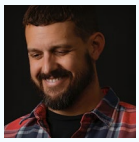
FEATURED AUTHORS

CLOSING AUTHOR PANEL

Courageous Storytellers: Sharing Stories of Mental Health & Wellness / Mental Health

Rocky Callen is the author of the YA novel *A Breath Too Late*, which was named a Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of the Year and a Chicago Public Library Best Book and was featured in The Mujerista's 2020 list of the ten best young adult books by Latinx authors. A former behavioral coach and a passionate mental health advocate, she founded the HoldOn2Hope Project, which unites creatives in suicide prevention. Rocky Callen lives outside of Washington, DC.

Nora Shalaway Carpenter is the author of *The Edge of Anything*, a Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of the Year and Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year. She is the contributing editor of the acclaimed anthology *Rural Voices: 15 Authors Challenge Assumptions About Small-Town America*, which was named an NPR Best Book of the Year and a YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection, among numerous other honors. Nora Shalaway Carpenter lives in North Carolina.



Rex Ogle was born and raised mostly in Texas. He is the author of the memoirs *Free Lunch*, which won the 2020 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Award, and *Punching Bag*. A former children's book editor in New York City, Rex and his partner now live in the Los Angeles area.

Erin Stewart grew up in Virginia and now makes her home in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains with her husband and their three children. Erin loves using her background in journalism to research and write fiction based on real life. A heart failure survivor and adoptive mother, she believes life throws plot twists and people in our path for a reason--always. She is the author of the acclaimed YA novel *Scars Like Wings*. Visit her at erinstewartbooks.com or on Twitter and Instagram @Erin_N_Stewart.

Ray Stoeve is the author of the young adult novel *Between Perfect and Real*, which was a 2021 Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. They also contributed to the young adult anthology *Take the Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance*. They received a 2016–2017 Made at Hugo House Fellowship and created the YA/MG Trans and Nonbinary Voices Masterlist, a database that tracks all books in those age categories written by trans authors about trans characters. When they're not writing, they can be found gardening, making art in other mediums, or hiking their beloved Pacific Northwest.

Sabaa Tahir is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Ember in the Ashes series, which has been translated into over thirty-five languages. She grew up in California's Mojave Desert at her family's eighteen-room motel. There, she spent her time devouring fantasy novels, raiding her brother's comic book stash, and playing guitar badly. She began writing books while working nights as a newspaper editor. She likes thunderous indie rock, garish socks, and all things nerd. Visit Sabaa online at SabaaTahir.com and follow her on Instagram @SabaaTa.

Photo credits: JP Martin (photo of Ray Stoeve); Alvaro Masa (photo of Rex Ogle)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

▸ 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

SOLD OUT

Full Day Preconference
Transforming Teen Services: The Magic Charm *(ticketed event)*

This all-day pre-conference gives library staff the chance to engage with learning and activities designed as a part of the IMLS-funded *Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach (T3)* initiative. Through activities and conversation, participants will learn how to center equity in teen services and create a teen services foundation built on connected learning and youth development principles. Sub-topics of the training include: why the concepts covered are important to teen services, community asset mapping, and how to design programs and services that are equity- and community-based. Following this pre-conference, participants will be able to put all the pieces together to further their services for and with teens in the community and through the library.

PRESENTERS: Carrie Sanders, Youth Services Coordinator for the Maryland State Library Agency; **Kelsey Hughes,** Librarian III, Prince George's Country Memorial Library System, MD; **Rachel West,** Youth Services Librarian, Appooquinimink Library, DE; and **Leah Larson,** Library YOur Services Consultant, MN

Maryland A

▸ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

SOLD OUT

Pre-Conference Course
Manga in Libraries *(ticketed event)*

The demand for Manga is at an all-time high! Yet, many librarians fear collecting Manga because of the misconceptions that surround this format. This workshop will demystify Manga, inform librarians about the value of Manga, help librarians build their Manga collection, and support librarians with the development of Manga programs.

PRESENTER: Jillian Rudes, New York City Public School Librarian and Japanese Culture and Manga Librarian for the New York City Dept. Of Education

Maryland B

▸ 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

SOLD OUT

Pre-Conference Course
Anime Boot Camp *(ticketed event)*

Anime Boot Camp will provide an introduction about anime to participants, breaking down what it is, why it is popular, and what different genres it has. The presentation will then cover how to use anime specifically in library programming and interactions, and various tools to use for reader's advisory.

PRESENTERS: Jacob Ciarapica and **Kevin Jayce**, Co-Chairs of the Maryland Library Association's Teen Interest Group

Maryland B

▸ 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Opening Author Panel
In the Shadow of Poe: Dark Fantasy & Mystery *(ticketed event)*

In honor of author Edgar Allen Poe who lived and died in Baltimore, the symposium's opening panel will feature Lamar Giles (The Getaway), Aiden Thomas (The Sunbearer Trials), Leigh Bardugo and illustrator Dani Pendergast (Demon in the Wood), and Alex Aster (Lightlark) and an thoughtful exploration of the genres of fantasy and mystery. Join these fabulous authors and other members of YALSA for a fast-paced, entertaining, and perhaps even a little frightening panel discussion of YA literature in the shadow of Poe.

CONFIRMED AUTHORS: Alex Aster, Leigh Bardugo, Dani Pendergast, Lamar Giles, and **Aiden Thomas**

MODERATOR: Scot Smith, Symposium Task Force Committee and Librarian Media Specialist, Robertsville Middle School

Maryland C/D

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 *(continued)*

▸ *5:30 pm – 6:30 pm*

Opening Reception

With appetizers and cash bar.

Maryland Foyer

▸ *7:00 pm*

Optional Dine Arounds

Advanced sign-up recommended.

Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:00 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

▸ *8:00 am – 9:00 am*

Teen Think Tank
Inspire, Collaborate, and Connect

Teen Think Tank is a grassroots effort by teen librarians for teen librarians to encourage inspiration, collaboration, and connections through professional development opportunities and constant communication. Meeting for workshops twice each year, virtually and in-person, at different libraries in Ohio, the goal is for each attendee to leave with new contacts and new ideas for programs, decorations, crafts, books, and more. Each presentation throughout the day is carefully planned to keep everyone actively involved. In this session we will be sharing methods so others can duplicate this work in other states and/or participate in what is established.

PRESENTERS: Steve Moser, MLIS, MEd Teen Services Librarian, Trotwood Branch; **Sarah Amazing,** Teen Services Supervisor, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library; and **Rachel Rausch,** Youth Services Librarian, Delaware County District Library

Maryland C/D

The STAFF Social Justice Book Club
Why We Need to Get YA Books into Adult Readers' Hands

Somewhere along the way, young adult literature got a bad reputation, and it's not getting any better. With incoming book challenges where the book wasn't even read, and legislation designed to oppress educators, librarians need to speak up and preserve our students' right to read. What better way to do that than by introducing adults to the very books our kids want to read? We will discuss our own struggles and victories and share strategies and resources for getting YA books into our staff's hands.

PRESENTER: Victoria Finney, Public High School Librarian

Maryland A

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 *(continued)*

▸ 8:00 am – 9:00 am *(continued)*

Not Your Typical Summer Camp
Engaging Teens in Responsible and Responsive Activism

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System's Social Justice Camp teaches teens how to engage their activism, make connections in their community, and develop their passions into a product to ignite change. Teens hear from experts in human rights, technology, and other fields throughout this week-long camp while working alongside other budding activists to create a pitch for a project to help their community. We will walk through the process of creating a similar camp tailored to your community and talk about the importance of providing a platform for your teen's passions.

PRESENTERS: Isaiah West, Teen Services Specialist; **Kelsey Hughes,** Librarian III; and **Kathryn Herberger,** Commons Program Associate all for the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (MD)

Maryland B

▸ 9:00 am – 9:30 am

Coffee and Networking Break

Maryland Foyer

▸ 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Opening the Door to YALSA

The 2022 YA Services Symposium is all about celebrating the community of librarians and lifting one another up. YALSA's mission is to empower those in the profession to provide equitable, diverse, and inclusive teen services. YALSA's leadership will share how you can become involved to help meet that mission. There are so many opportunities to get involved and give back and share with the YALSA community. You'll have the chance to ask questions and give feedback on how YALSA can best serve you.

PRESENTERS: Franklin Escobedo, YALSA's Board President and **Colleen Seisser**, YALSA's Incoming Board President

Maryland B

Teen Led, Adult Guided
When the Library and Community Work Together to Support Teen Leadership

When teens act as leaders, the entire community benefits. However, creating meaningful leadership and civic engagement opportunities that support teen agency can be difficult. Using examples from the Cecil County Public Library's Youth Board and Teens Give Back programs, this session will provide a framework for those looking to involve youth voices in meaningful ways and inspire attendees to create youth leadership and civic engagement programs in their libraries.

PRESENTERS: Katelyn McLimans, Youth Services & Outreach Manager for Cecil County Public Library; **Alysia Van Looy,** Young Adult Librarian at the Elkton Branch Library; and **Anita Delp,** Young Adult Librarian at the North East Branch Library

Maryland A

Reimagine the Canon
Bringing the Classics to 21st Century Teens

Reimagine the canon with four award-winning and critically acclaimed authors. Anna-Marie McLemore, Axie Oh, Lillie Lainoff, and Francesca Flores take works considered classic and canonical—*The Great Gatsby, The Take of Shim Cheong, The Three Musketeers*, and *Rapunzel*—and reimagine them through their own unique lens to make them reluctant and accessible to teens. This dialog will provoke conversations about how we promote inclusivity in library collections and how we define the classics of young adult literature.

CONFIRMED AUTHORS: Francesca Flores, Lillie Lainoff, Anna Marie McLemore, and **Axie Oh**; moderated by **Genive Purchase,** Deputy Chief State Library Resource Center/ Central at the Enoch Pratt Free Library

Maryland C/D

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 *(continued)*

10:45 am – 11:45 am

Baby Chicks and Musical Instruments
The Roles of Teen Volunteers in Rural STEM Radio Programs

While "teens only" programs can benefit adolescents, it is also important for young people to interact with people of all ages. Small and rural libraries are a natural place for intergenerational activities. How can we design library activities where each participant has an affirming experience, regardless of age? In this session, we will share how two very different rural-serving libraries tapped into community resources to co-design a series of STEM podcast episodes to be broadcast on local radio. Library staff were able to build upon teen interests to create valuable roles within a work team that included children and adults.

PRESENTERS: Sarah Evans, Assistant Professor in the College of Information at University of North Texas; **Lance Simpson,** Assessment Librarian for The University of Alabama Libraries; **Kaitlyn Lynch,** Tuscaloosa Public Library; and **Tori Dodd,** Pottsboro Area Library

Maryland C/D

How to Talk to Youth About Human Trafficking

Our session will give participants information on what human trafficking is, how to recognize it among youth, tips for talking about exploitation, reporting options for suspected trafficking, and available resources for adults and youth.

PRESENTER: Diego Luque, Campaign Specialist at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Blue Campaign

Maryland B

"We build ourselves out of that story"
Collaborative Storytelling in the Library

This session will be a Power Point presentation that describes how collaborative storytelling can be a tool for library staff and teens to connect with and creatively engage with each other. Collaborative storytelling offers opportunities for literacy, social/emotional, and mental development. It also builds bridges—allowing teens to see that the library can be a safe place for them to express themselves freely and imaginatively. This session will discuss different ways to include collaborative storytelling in your programs, such as, for example, through RPG programs, writing clubs, audio/video recordings, passive programming, and use of the teen space.

PRESENTER: Esther Sorg, Teen Librarian at Wilmington Public Library in Clinton County, Ohio

Maryland A

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Margaret A. Edwards Award Luncheon *(ticketed event)*

The 2022 Margaret A. Edwards Award luncheon will honor A.S. King for her novels *Ask the Passengers*, *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*, and *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*. The 2022 Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee noted that "King has continually crafted stories about the daily struggles and obstacles faced by teens on a regular basis through discuss of tough topics." Attendees will have lunch and then hear A.S. King deliver her acceptance speech for the award.

Maryland E

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 *(continued)*

▸ *1:30 pm – 2:30 pm*

School & Public Library Partnerships
Engaging with Educators to Support Student Success

In this session, Education Initiatives Librarian Rachel Icaza will help you kindle a spark in your relationships with educators. Get ready for real talk about the barriers that libraries hold in place between the school community and public library services. Learn how to engage meaningfully with teens through their teachers. Hear about best practices to better prepare your library to serve students on and off campus. This session will give you strategies to remove barriers to learning and library access. By focusing effort on educators, your library can fundamentally shift the way your entire community values library services.

PRESENTER: Rachel Icaza, Education Initiatives Librarian for Sonoma County Library

Maryland A

Morris Panel

The Morris Panel gives debut YA authors the opportunity to share and discuss their first publications and has been traditionally moderated by an author whose debut work received recognition from the Morris Jury. This panel celebrates new voices in YA literature and allows YALSA members to hear the stories behind the authors' first books.

CONFIRMED AUTHORS: Jas Hammonds, Francesca Padilla, Camille Gomera-Tavarez, and **Vincent Tirado. Kyrie McCauley** will moderate the panel; she was the 2021 Morris Award Winner.

Maryland C/D

Passive Interactive Programming
Designing Programming So They Can Come to You

This session will describe several successful programs at the Indian Prairie Public Library as case studies to teach attendees how to re-think traditional passive programming to encourage more teen patron/staff interaction, less prize-giving, and more meaningful library engagement.

Case Study Programs will include: Sticker Collage Challenges; Teen Post; May 'Breaking the Silence on Mental Health' display; Re-thought Scavenger Hunt

PRESENTER: Sarah Zagotta, Teen Programming Outreach Librarian at the Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien, IL

Maryland B

▸ *2:30 pm – 3:00 pm*

Coffee and Networking Break

Maryland Foyer

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 *(continued)*

▸ 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Two Places at Once
A Hybrid Approach to Teen Services

In-person programming is once again becoming an option in many locales. We will share how we successfully rolled out a hybrid approach to programming that utilizes both virtual and in-person opportunities to engage with teen patrons. We began our hybrid programming efforts in 2021 with outdoor-focused activities, mainly through scavenger hunts directing patrons to visit community locales. Restrictions were further relaxed in 2022, and we began offering in-branch programs. Through all this, we maintained robust virtual programming options utilizing Google Classroom and Forms. You'll learn more about programs we offered, lessons we learned, and what did/didn't work well.

PRESENTERS: Katharine Russell, Teen Services Librarian, and **Sarah Martin,** Youth Services Specialist. Both are at the Gwinnett County Public Library

Maryland A

Reconnecting with your Teen Advisors

After such a lengthy period of social distancing, virtual learning, and a general feeling of disconnection, a return to library teen advisory programs not only fulfills volunteer hour needs, but also provides a place where teens can reconnect in hybrid environments and engage with their community. Participants in this session will learn how to design need-based programming and teen led community projects, paving the way for increased teen engagement. To close, participants will have the opportunity to discuss their own teen advisory issues and collaborate solutions with fellow library workers.

PRESENTERS: Julie Crisafulli, Youth Services Librarian at the Mansfield Public Library; **Kendra Fitzpatrick,** Teen Librarian at the Valencia Library; and **Beatris Bautista,** Teen Librarian at the Old Town Newhall Library

Maryland C/D

TikTok O'Clock!

Learn how to market your library using Tik Tok, become familiar with trends, and how to find other libraries to watch and support. Learn about our social media time management and organization without it being time consuming. See our ever-evolving goals, how we received director approval, and see some examples of ours that went "viral." Come and join the fun!

PRESENTER: Sara Day, Woodland Public Library Teen Services Librarian and Sara Vickers, Woodland Public Library Children's Librarian

Maryland B

▸ 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Author Book Blitz

Attendees receive tickets for book signings. Confirmed authors are **Vincent Tirado, Jas Hammonds, Camille Gomera-Tavarez, Kyrie McCauley, Rex Ogle, Ray Stoeve, Lillie Lainoff, Axie Oh,** and **Francesca Flores**.

▸ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

SOLD OUT

Enoch Pratt Free Library Tour and Reception
(free ticketed event, pre-registration required)

Join us for a tour and reception at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Meet in the lobby at 5:45 pm to board the buses.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

▸ 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Protecting Pride
Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth in the Age of Book Banning

Did you know that the three most challenged books of 2021 were challenged for LGBTQIA+ content? In fact, five of 2021's Top 10 Most Challenged Books were challenged due to LGBTQIA+ characters and content. Find out why LGBTQIA+ representation in youth literature is important, and how you can identify great LGBTQIA+ books for your school or public library collection. Learn how you can support LGBTQIA+ youth in your community through collaborative partnerships, including supporting the rights of young library users to access print, non-print, and digital materials.

PRESENTERS: Erin Snell, Library Associate in Carroll County Public Library; **TJ Finecey,** Carroll County Public Library; **Anna Johns,** Carroll County Public Library; and **Joy Fisher,** PFLAG Westminster-Carroll County

Maryland C/D

We'll See You Online
Supporting Postsecondary Readiness for Teens on Virtual Platforms

The pandemic caused a great upheaval to the college application process—disrupting many students who suddenly saw requirements and due dates thrown to the wayside. This session will discuss how the New York Public Library's College and Career Pathways program supported hundreds of NYC teens in their postsecondary readiness stages through the height of the pandemic and how we continue to reassess our process to meet them where they are.

PRESENTERS: Katrina Ortega, Susen Shi, and **Elizabeth Paldino,** Librarians at the New York Public Library

Maryland A

▸ 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Coffee and Networking Break

Maryland Foyer

▸ 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Happy Together
How to Bring Everyone Together for Teen Success

In the year that shall not be named, everyone felt the isolation that settled due to maintaining safe practices at the height of the pandemic. While school and public library partnerships were plentiful in the years before Covid, in the years to come, relationships must be rebuilt and reimagined to support the needs of our teens. From storytelling research units with virtual reality to writing contests and virtual speakers, learn from two librarians from school and public settings on how they brought their respective counterparts together in two different communities in Oklahoma all in the name of supporting teens

PRESENTERS: Molly Dettmann, High School Teacher Librarian in Norman, OK; **Leah Weyand,** Teen Services Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library

Maryland B

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 *(continued)*

▸ *10:00 am – 11:00 am (continued)*

Under Scrutiny
Helping Staff Feel Safe in the Midst of Book Challenges

Key to helping teens enjoy the benefits of teen spaces in libraries is making sure teen staff feel safe in their jobs. However, in the midst of book challenges and sometimes threatening political climates, this may not be the case. Darcy Acord shares strategies for helping teen staff cope with hostile patrons who question not only the books in collections, but the professionalism of library staff.

PRESENTER: Darcy Acord, Youth Services Librarian at Campbell County Public Library in Gillette, WY

Maryland A

Publishers Book Buzz

YA publishers will share their upcoming releases. Confirmed publishers include Sourcebooks, Levine Querido, Norton Young Readers, ABRAMS Books and Scholastic.

Maryland C/D

▸ *11:15 am – 12:15 pm*

Let's Rediscover Volunteering
Connecting Our Youth with the Community

Even before COVID, teens found it nearly impossible to find time to volunteer in their busy schedules, and now many community organizations are still limiting volunteering within their walls. Discover how collaboration and innovation can allow the library to support teens in their efforts to obtain community service hours from the comfort of their home using creativity and digital resources. Teen Community of Service is a self-paced volunteer program connecting teens to local organizations and empowering them to help their community on their own time.

PRESENTER: Lacey Latour-Goodine, Teen Specialist for the Martin County Library System in Florida

Maryland A

Building Diverse Social Justice Collections and Programming That Builds Bridges Between Teens and Their Communities

In this session, Shauntee Burns-Simpson and Elisa Garcia will discuss how building strong social justice collections and programming for teens in libraries encourages teens to become leaders within their communities and gather an understanding of solutions for the social justice issues within their communities and faced by their peers.

PRESENTERS: Elisa Garcia, Supervising Librarian of Educator collections at The New York Public Library; and **Shauntee Burns-Simpson**

Maryland B

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 *(continued)*

▸ *11:15 am – 12:15 pm (continued)*

The Work Smarter Boot Camp
Wellness and Executive Function in the School Library

Learn how to fill a post-pandemic niche for your patrons. This new curriculum, the Work Smarter Boot Camp, was launched during the pandemic and has grown into a popular school library curriculum that has reinvigorated and redefined the role of the library to support students as Whole Learners through programming on nuts-and-bolts organizational and executive skills. This session will share how to achieve student and staff buy-in through empathy-based, whole-learner library services focused on teaching healthy work habits, brain hacks, and stress management. Learn how to help patrons gain confidence as learners through proven methods of personal organization delivered in a safe and trauma-informed learning environment. You will leave with ideas of how to personalize these principles for your community.

PRESENTER: Grace Hammond, Winner of the 2022 YALSA Innovation in Teen Services Award

Maryland C/D

▸ *12:30 pm – 1:30 pm*

Closing Author Panel
Courageous Storytellers: Sharing Stories of Mental Health & Wellness

In keeping with the symposium's theme of supporting teens and each other, the closing panel will showcase authors whose most recent books highlight mental health and wellness. Authors Frederick and Porsche Joseph (*Better than We Found It*), Nic Stone (*Chaos Theory*), Ray Stoeve (*Arden Grey*), Sabaa Tahir (*All My Rage*), and Rex Ogle (*Abuela, Don't Forget Me*) will discuss their most recent books and the issues related to well-being during these difficult times. This diverse panel of award-winning storytellers will motivate librarians to discover the best books to support their teen patrons and to better empathize with the challenges presented by mental health.

CONFIRMED AUTHORS: Rocky Callen, Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Rex Ogle, Erin Stewart, Ray Stoeve, and **Sabaa Tahir**

MODERATOR: Amy Ojserkis, Symposium Task Force Chair and Media Specialist, Atlantic County Institute of Technology

Maryland C/D

▸ *1:30 pm*

Symposium Concludes

EDWARDS AWARD

2022 Winner, A.S. King

A.S. King is the recipient of the 2022 Margaret A. Edwards Award honoring her significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens for *Ask the Passengers*, *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*, and *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*. YALSA announced the award during the ALA Youth Media Awards at LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience on January 24.

A.S. King portrays diverse characters in her books; among those is Astrid from *Ask the Passengers*. Readers can connect with her struggles to love herself and others. In *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*, readers can understand the struggles of loss where Glory wonders if she will meet the same fate as her mother or if she is in control of her own future. Lastly, in *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*, Vera struggles with the loss of her best friend Charlie. Teens can relate to Vera and her relationship with Charlie, who faced both domestic and physical abuse in his life. King understands what it is like to be a teen and listens to her readers. Through portrayls of tough topics, her stories depict the struggles and obstacles faced by teens.

2022 Edwards Award Committee Members

Craig Santiago (Chair), Stephanie Burdic, Lynn Carpenter, Carol Edwards, Jessica Smith, Kim Dare (Liason)

The Edwards Award is supported by the School Library Journal Sponsorship

Previous Winners

1988 **S.E. Hinton**
1990 **Richard Peck**
1991 **Robert Cormier**
1992 **Lois Duncan**
1993 **M.E. Kerr**
1994 **Walter Dean Myers**
1995 **Cynthia Voigt**
1996 **Judy Blume**
1997 **Gary Paulsen**
1998 **Madeleine L'Engle**
1999 **Anne McCaffrey**
2000 **Chris Crutcher**
2001 **Robert Lipsyte**
2002 **Paul Zindel**
2003 **Nancy Garden**
2004 **Ursula K. Le Guin**
2005 **Francesca Lia Block**
2006 **Jacqueline Woodson**
2007 **Lois Lowry**
2008 **Orson Scott Card**
2009 **Laurie Halse Anderson**
2010 **Jim Murphy**
2011 **Sir Terry Pratchett**
2012 **Susan Cooper**
2013 **Tamora Pierce**
2014 **Markus Zusak**
2015 **Sharon M. Draper**
2016 **David Levithan**
2017 **Sarah Dessen**
2018 **Angela Johnson**
2019 **M.T. Anderson**
2020 **Steve Sheinken**
2021 **Kekla Magoon**

Photo credit: Krista Schumow Photography (photo of A.S. King)

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COMING SOON…

Virtual Silent Auction

YALSA's Financial Advancement Committee is busy collecting Silent Auction items with a launch date of Friday, November 25 (aka Black Friday!)

You will have one week to bid on exciting items to support Friends of YALSA in 2023 so we can continue to offer grants, stipends, and scholarships.

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