

YALS 2018 Annual Report

Meetings & Membership

Currently there are 107 YALS members. In 2018 YALS meet five times for their bi-monthly meetings, which occur in January, March, May, August and November on the last Thursday of the Month at 10:00 am in the HealthTrust building located at 25 Triangle Park in Concord, NH. YALS meetings are a wonderful way for Teen Librarians to network, learn about upcoming NHLA events, share programming ideas, and hear recommendations and reviews for collection development. Meetings usually last an hour and attendance is usually between 5-10 people (we would love this number to increase). Our January meeting in 2018 was off-site at the Concord Escape Room where members received hands on training on how to create your own Escape Room. We wish to further this type of hands on training in 2019 with a STEAM “Teach the Teachers” course presented by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in addition to our regular Fall Conference.

Isinglass & Flume Awards

Since 2017 YALS has been the home of two New Hampshire teen book awards, the Isinglass Award and the Flume Award. The Isinglass Award is intended for a tween audience in grades 7 and 8. The Flume Award for High Schoolers in grades 9 -12. Nominations for both awards are provided by teen readers and voted on by our joint Flume and Isinglass committee in March where 10 nominees for the upcoming year are selected. In April, teens across the state are invited to vote for the current year’s Isinglass and Flume Award winners. The winners are announced at the Spring Conference. If no Spring Conference is scheduled, the winners will be announced in May. In 2018 the two winners were *Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier for the Isinglass Award and *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becki Albertini for the Flume Award.

In the Spring of 2018 a new website was created (<https://flumeisinglass.wordpress.com/>) for nominating titles for both awards. Nominations are accepted all year long. Nominated titles must be published within the last two years. The deadline for librarians to submit teen votes for either the Isinglass or Flume Award is April 30th. If anyone is interested in joining our joint Isinglass and Flume Committees, please contact the committee chairs, Katherine Bollenbach (Isinglass) and Justine Farfara (Flume). Justine took over for our previous Flume Chair, Tanya Ricker in March of 2018. Thank you Justine and Katherine for your commitment to our New Hampshire Teen Book Awards.

Conference

Our annual conference was held on September 27, 2018. Our featured speaker was Kwame Alexander, the author of 2015’s Newbery Medal- winning book in verse, *The Crossover*. We also had panels on Sexual Assault and Teens, Safety in the Library and Steam programming ideas for teens. During the business meeting at this conference, our Vice-President Julia Lanter became our new President and Tanya Ricker became Past President. We elected our new officer: Vice President: Kat Paiva.

YALS currently has the following open liaison and committee chair positions:

Flume Teen Readers’ Choice Award Committee

Isinglass Teen Readers’ Choice Award Committee

Programming Committee

New England Round Table of Teen and Children’s Librarians (NERTCL),

New Hampshire Educational Media Association (NHEMA)

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Lanter, YALS President