

# Teen Talk

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2007

## Best Awards 2007

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The Best Award honors significant contributions by a teenager to library services in Suffolk County. The 2007 award was presented at the May 3rd 2007 Long Island Library Conference to Christian Escudero from the Bayport-Bluepoint Public Library. He was nominated by Kate Riley, the Head of Young Adult Services for his outstanding service both as a volunteer and as a library page. As Kate wrote in her letter, "Christian takes on challenges with no hesitation and with a great deal of planning and enthusiasm." He is a participant in the Youth Advisory Council and he helps to plan and run events such as the Magic Trading Cards tournaments, a chess club, and a murder mystery play. Christian received a plaque and a check for \$150.00.

Also nominated for the Best Award were Laura Cooper from Half Hollow Hills Community Library and Sean Harlow from Riverhead Free Library. They received letters of commendation and gift cards to Borders.



YASD President, Laura Panter; Best Award Winner, Christian Escudero and Bayport-BluePoint Head of Childrens, Kate Riley

## Hail & Farewell

If you or someone you know has moved libraries or has retired, please contact me at either:

Email:  
littlebookworm4@aol.com

or at the

Connetquot Public Library:  
567-5079

# TAB News

## Disney's High School Musical

Middle Country Public Library and Patchogue-Medford Library joined forces this summer to fund a musical production of Disney's High School Musical through a contract with Music Theatre International in New York City. By partnering on the project Martha Mikkleson and I were able to allow teens from both districts to try out for a chance to act, sing, and dance in one of the most popular musicals out today. And try out they did, all 94 of them....

Singing and dancing auditions were held on Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16. The first day of auditions the phones never stopped ringing with parents anxious to have their son or daughter audition for a leading role. We had replenished the stock of audition forms three times over the first two weeks of June, but only had about 40 audition forms total. We figured, great, there would be maybe 50 teens coming to auditions because there are always a few that show up the day of auditions with the form in hand, only this time the teens just kept coming and the pile of audition forms just kept getting higher. I will never forget the moves to the audition dance I taught that weekend. I can still do the moves in my sleep after teaching and dancing it close to 90 times!

The hard part was selecting a cast of 35 from 94 hopeful teens ranging from 11 to 17 years-old.

We decided to choose as many teens as we could fit on the stage, which totaled about 48, and then we called all the other teens to ask if they'd be willing to work on the production in some way from designing sets to selecting the costumes. In total we had 60 teens from both districts working on the production whether they were in the cast or working behind the scenes.

With only 18 three-hour rehearsals over a span of six weeks the teens really worked hard and produced a fantastic show. We had many volunteers from parents to teens willing to help with choreography, painting, and costume changes. Everyone had a lot of fun and many new friendships were formed among the cast members no matter the difference in ages. The performances were maxed out with over 200 people registering for each of the three performances on Friday, August 10 and Saturday, August 11, 2007. Teens and parents visiting the libraries over the past month are still letting the reference desks know what a positive experience this production was for their children and the community. Everyone is already asking what show we're doing next year.

By Laura Panter  
Middle Country Public Library



The Wildcat Cheerleaders



The Jocks



The Brainiacs



We're All In This Together

# Teen Happenings

## Hauppauge Volunteer Opps

Volunteerism is on the rise! Many teens need community service hours in order to fill requirements for schools and/or religion classes, while others want to help out just for the fun of it. Either way, the Hauppauge Library has seen an increased demand for volunteer opportunities over the years. In order to fulfill this demand, we sometimes have to get creative with our offerings. This past summer we offered at least 16 volunteer opportunities for the teens of Hauppauge.

Our volunteer opportunities fall into three categories. The first is supplemental help. The majority of these opportunities enable our teens to help the Library staff run existing children's programs more efficiently. We have them help the younger children with our all day craft festivals, sessions of sidewalk art (drawing with chalk in a sectioned off portion of the parking lot), and our Afternoon of Games program where they play board games with the kids, modeling good behavior and how to play fairly with one another.

We tried something new this year by asking teens to volunteer for two-hour shifts to be our "summer reading club listeners." They were stationed at a table right next to the reference desk and helped give out the weekly prizes. They also interacted with the younger kids by asking them to roll a die which determined what simple question was asked of the child. The questions ranged from, "What was your favorite character?" to "Where were you when you read this book?" It was nice to see the kids and teens talking about books, and see the confidence level of the teens develop in the short amount of time from June to August!

The second category could be considered reading-centered opportunities, the highlight of which was our Teen Collection Development Task Force. All summer long, teens checked out advanced reader copies of young adult titles and advised the Library as to whether or not we should purchase them. They wrote reviews for each book read and then in August we went on a shopping trip to Borders to add

books and music to our collection!

The third category was for opportunities that showcased the expertise of teens. There were two programs in particular that were very successful. One was our Cell Phone Buddies program, which matched up teens with adults who needed help with simple, but specific cell phone issues. It was so successful that we're going to expand this idea into more fields, such as iPods, computers, and cameras.

The other one that went well was our "Don't Buy the Elevator Pass" program. We asked teens to give some advice for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders by filling out a form that completed sentences such as, "One thing I wish I knew...", "Be prepared for..." and "Something you should always do is..." In September, these bits of wisdom will be posted to our website for all the middle and high school students to see.

By Catherine LaStella

## Suffolk County Battle of the Books 2007

The Eleventh Annual Battle of the Books was held August 18 and 20 at the Hilton Long Island/Huntington. This year, thirty three teams and about 240 teens representing Suffolk libraries participated.

Earning bragging rights as the 2007 Battle of the Books champion is Sachem Public Library. Sachem Sleuths Have All the Clues. Competing on Monday night with Sachem Public Library were Hampton Bays Public Library Wuthernow Warriors, Longwood Public Library Low-Budget Superheroes, and Patchogue-Medford Library I Went to Battle of the Books and All I Got Was This T-Shirt.

A highlight of the regional event was the Parade of Teams, where coaches introduced all team members and the audience viewed their creative costumes. The northern region had some very inventive and creative teams apparel: Harborfields Public Library Miss. Harborfields beauty contestants (some hotel visitors thought we were having an early Sweet Sixteen party), the North Babylon Public Library Worst Foot Forward or Outcasts of 815 Deer Park Avenue wearing truly

outrageous hats, and the Wyandanch Public Library Gladiators with their very authentic, carefully researched costumes. Not to be outdone, the southern region team costumes included: Connetquot Public Library Al Capone Did Our Shirts with the coaches as wardens, Rogers Memorial Library Rogers Memorial Library's Book Guards, complete with lifeguard shirts and whistles, and Sayville Library Black Magic with the most impressive hats. (How did they keep them on)?

This year, for the first time, awards were presented to coaches. Receiving a special autographed copy of Things Not Seen was Smithtown Library Commack Branch coach Will Salas and an autographed Advance Reader Copy of Jennifer Choldenko's new title If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period was Bayport-Blue Point Public Library coach Kate Riley.

The high scoring teams were : 1st place: Patchogue- Medford Library with 64 points, 2nd place (tie): Longwood Public Library with 62 points and Sachem Public Library with 62 points, 3rd place: Emma S. Clark Memorial Library with 60 points, 4th place: Smithtown Library Main/

Smithtown Nesconset Branch with 59 points, and 5th place: Harborfields Public Library with 58 points. A complete listing of all scores can be found at the SCLS Battle of the Books website: <http://www.suffolk.lib.ny.us/youth/bb/Participants.html>

Special thanks goes to the judges, ushers, registration clerks, photographers, timer, Hilton Hotel personnel, and Teri Hatred for helping to make this a successful event.

By Barbara Moon SCLS Youth Services

Sachem Sleuths Have All The Clues



# Meet the Author: Jen Calonita

YASD had a very exciting Long Island Library Conference this past May. Our guest speaker was Jen Calonita, former entertainment editor of Teen People turned young adult author, who engaged an audience of almost 100 librarians in her program entitled "Reaching the Teen Market". Jen's enthusiasm kept the program exciting as she discussed how librarians can learn what teens want by knowing what teens read, watch, listen to, and buy. Librarians need to get face time with teens and "think outside the box" to get teens in the door of the library. Maybe a Battle of the Bands or a Talent Show is not a way to get teens to read, but it does get teens to want to spend time in the library and librarians can take it from there. Jen also encouraged librarians in the program to discuss some of their more creative ventures in getting teens involved at the library. It was a wonderful networking experience for all those who attended.

After the morning program, Calonita graciously donated her time to helping YASD staff their vendor table by signing copies of books in her new young adult series "Secrets of My Hollywood Life". She even insisted on spending the day with us and assisted in selling raffles for our Ipod and Pindar Gift Basket to raise money for future YASD events. Anyone who got the chance to meet Jen's acquaintance that day walked away feeling like they knew her for years. Jen is currently doing author programs at many of the local Nassau and Suffolk libraries where she is willing to talk to teens about all her experiences from writing to working with celebrities.

By Laura Panter  
Middle Country Public Library



# Upcoming YASD Events

**YASD Meeting**  
**September 20th, 2007**  
**Harborfields Public Library**

**YASD Annual Luncheon**  
**October 11th, 2007**  
**Mama Lombardi's, Holbrook**

**YASD Meeting**  
**November 8th, 2007**  
**Hampton Bays Library**

**YASD Meeting**  
**December 13th, 2007**  
**Middle Country Public Library**

Visit us at:  
<http://scla.net/yasd/index.html>

Check out our MySpace page at:  
<http://www.myspace.com/sclayasd>

# YASD Officers & Committees

**President:**  
Laura Panter  
Middle Country Public Library

**Vice-President/President Elect:**  
Candace Reeder  
Northport-East Northport Public Library

**Treasurer:**  
Cheryl Conenello  
Sachem Public Library

**Secretary:**  
Michelle Vagner  
Northport-East Northport Public Library

**Membership:**  
Brian Cooper  
Harborfields Public Library  
Brian Schwartz  
Patchogue-Medford Public Library

**Programming/Publicity:**  
Tracy Van Dyne  
Connetquot Public Library

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If you would like to contribute please send submissions to:

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Want to be on the Teen Talk mailing list?  
Want to join YASD? Fill out the application below or go to:  
<http://scla.net/yasd/joinus.html>

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c/o Youth Services Department  
Suffolk Cooperative Library System  
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Bellport, NY 11713

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