

Annual Report of the Young Adult and Children's Section, BCLA, 2009-2010

By Susan Redmond

This has been a very busy, challenging year for the Young Adult and Children's Services section.

At the Board Spring Retreat following last year's conference, the BCLA board determined that the board needed to refocus and re-channel their energies into public and academic libraries. In order to do this, it was decided that there needed to be broader representation on the board. Since both the YAACS and ALPS seats on the board are seen to represent specific rather than general segments of these populations, it was decided that these two seats should represent broader mandates. After an initial meeting with Ken Cooley and Mari Martin, it was determined that the executive needed to hear from the membership to decide how to deal with this issue. A survey was posted on Survey Monkey asking the membership for direction in this matter. The response was very clear. The membership responded (90%) that the YAACS executive should continue to assert the position that YAACS continue to be a BCLA section with representation at the board level. This message was taken to Ken Cooley and Marjorie Mitchell in a follow-up meeting after the survey. It was during this meeting that Ken Cooley assured the executive that a resolution about this issue would not be brought forth at this year's AGM. As of the final BCLA board meeting in March, 2010, it would appear that the executive has heard from both YAACS and ALPS and has decided that the board must now bring this matter forward to the general BCLA membership for direction on this issue. For the time being, it would appear that YAACS has done all that needs to be done. This issue occupied much of the time and energy of the executive this year.

The celebration of the Olympics in Vancouver made it difficult for YAACS to offer our usual slate of continuing education programs here in the Lower Mainland. However, Tracy Kendrick, head of Children's at GVPL and the Island Continuing Education coordinator, carried on business as usual and was able to offer two programs for the Island's children's and youth librarians.

On March 23rd, 2009, Kathy Reid Naiman, the renowned "musician, teacher, and inspiration," came from Ontario to Vancouver Island to offer her fabulous "Songs for Babies and Toddlers" workshop. Tracy Kendrick, head of Children's from Victoria, hosted the session. Then on January 16th, 2010, Tracy hosted another workshop with the renowned storyteller and teacher Margaret Read MacDonald, who brought her fabulous skills and stories to a "Playing with Story" workshop. Both workshops were well attended.

While there were not the usual workshop offerings in the Lower Mainland, Janet Mumford hosted two joint YAACS/SLAIS salons, one in August, 2009 and one in early February, 2010. In August, visiting California author and former Vancouver school teacher, Ann Stalcup, shared stories of writing the biography of Caldecott winning author/illustrator from Southern California, Leo Politti whose books made famous the migration of the swallows to the missions of California and who was one of the first author/illustrators to celebrate the lives of immigrant children and their families in his books and murals. Politti's books have recently been reissued by the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The salon was well attended and was a wonderful success.

In early February, 2010, the 2nd salon featured the librarian from the Family Resource Library at Children's Hospital. She talked about the challenges and satisfaction of running the Family Resource Library and a Bookstore, among other duties, using lots of volunteers and working closely with the community. About 20 people attended and were graciously hosted by Janet. A big thank you to Janet for organizing these salons and for her support of YAACS over the years. Janet has attended many events over the years such as Literature Roundtable breakfasts, selling YAACS cards to raise money for the Sheila Egoff book prize and generally raising awareness about children's services with many people. Janet's energy and enthusiasm will be missed on the executive.

Another success for YAACS this year was our social activities. A Games Night on May 23rd, 2009 was a

Rousing Success. A crowd of library folk gathered together to socialize and get their game on! Chocolate and raspberry cheesecake was a feature favourite and the competition was fierce on the virtual bowling scene as newbies and pros bowled Wii-style. Many games and gaming platforms were available for play, and fun was had by all.

Then as we were getting ready for the conference in April 2010, a group met at Liz Hunter's house to make buttons. Again great food, great chat and we even got some very cute buttons created. A big thank you to Liz for hosting, to Susan for organizing the button maker and to our graphics designer extraordinaire, April Ens, who created the images we used. Watch for these great buttons at the YAACs table at the conference in Penticton.

This year also saw the 25th anniversary of the publication of YAACING. YAACING, the professional journal of the Young Adults and Children's Services Section of the BC Library Association is read throughout and beyond BC by library employees who serve youth such as children's and youth librarians, teacher librarians, community librarians, library technicians and clerks, library and information science students and professors, researchers, authors, illustrators and publishers interested in children's literature, and professionals interested in literacy for the young and older.

While initially recruitment for vacant board positions was slow, as the drive moved forward, the executive was overwhelmed by the number of people willing to come forward and stand for seats on the executive. The number of volunteers was so plentiful that the executive decided to have a number of joint positions on the board to accommodate all the volunteers. To that end, the following positions were filled with new faces:

We have two new people who will be sharing the job of secretary this year, Kate Lowe (VPL) and Meghan Radomske (MLIS Candidate). April Ens (VPL) will be joining Francesca de Freitas (MLIS candidate) as our new co-web administrator. April and Pam Fairfield (VPL) will be working with Joanne Canow and Phillippa Brown, learning the ropes as a new YAACING co-editors. Ellen Wu (MLIS candidate) and Sara Hathaway (MLIS candidate) will be co-liaisons for SLAIS at UBC. Christine Conroy (PMPL and CPL) will be our new continuing education coordinator.

For Vice Chair this year we had a number of people interested in the position, but in the end we were

able to offer the position to Darby Love (NVDPL and BPL). We are very excited to have Darby join our group. Like all incoming Vice Chairs, Darby will be involved in the coordination of YAACS-sponsored sessions at the annual BCLA conference, as well as representing YAACS at conference planning meetings and generally organizing our presence at the conference in Victoria next year.

Any members who are interested in getting involved on the executive should either contact the current executive members (see the executive listings on the website) or watch for notices for nominations, which will be sent out in advance of the AGM in April, 2011. We are also looking for members who might like to be involved in committees. The executive is hoping this year to form a committee to look at the YAACS constitution, as well as a working group to examine procedures and processes within the executive, along with job descriptions.

The executive found it challenging this year to focus on other priorities, such as continuing education. As a result, Vicki Donoghue and Schula Leonard have volunteered to form a working group to look at future continuing education workshops offered by YAACS, as well as looking at ways to make material from these workshops available to the membership through the YAACS website. They will be working closely with Chris Conroy, the new Continuing Education Chair.

And this report would not be complete without a huge thank you to Vicki Donoghue who will be moving on from the executive this year after 4 years of serving the YAACS community. Vicki started out as Vice Chair in 2006 and has willingly extended her original three terms to four years, to be Co-Chair with Chris Kevlahan in 2009. Vicki's professionalism, hard work and strong experience with YAACS has made her a valuable resource this year through all the turmoil and a strong and steady support to have on the executive. She will be sadly missed, but we know that she can be relied upon for advice and support for the section in the years to come. Thank you, Vicki!

Susan Redmond is Past Chair of the Young Adult and Children's Section.