



New York Library Association Youth Services Section 2025 Spring Conference

All on the Same Page

Connecting Ideas, Inspiring Minds and Empowering Communities

Hotel MTK

One Pat Reilly Way, Mt Kisco, NY 10549

Friday, April 4, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Maulik Pancholy, Author



Maulik Pancholy is an award-winning actor, author, and activist. He is best known for his comedic turns on television playing Jonathan on NBC's critically acclaimed *30 Rock*, Sanjay on Showtime's *Weeds*, and Neal on NBC's *Whitney*. He is the voice of Baljeet on Disney's *Phineas and Ferb* and the title voice of Sanjay on Nickelodeon's *Sanjay and Craig*. On Broadway, Maulik starred in Terrence McNally's *It's Only A Play* and in the Tony-nominated production of Bess Wohl's *Grand Horizons*.

Maulik's debut novel, *The Best at It* (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins), about a gay, Indian American boy coming into his own, was named a 2020 Stonewall Honor Book. His second novel, *Nikhil Out Loud* (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins), won a 2023 Lambda Literary Award and was named one of *Kirkus*' Best Books of the Year. His debut YA rom-com, *Will They, Won't They* (Kokila / Penguin), is slated for a Summer 2026 release.

A longtime advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and LGBTQIA+ communities, Maulik was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs. He is also a cofounder of the AAPI anti-bullying nonprofit ActToChange.org, which works to end bullying for AAPI youth and to foster a world where all young people can celebrate their identities.

Conference Schedule & Workshops

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. ♦ Hotel Ballroom
Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ♦ Hotel Ballroom
Welcome by
Julia Farrar, YSS President and
Dana Hysell, Conference Chair

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Workshop Session #1 (SELECT ONE)

1-A: Empowering Young Minds: A Library
Tutoring Initiative staffed by Future Educators
 ♦ **Kisco Room**

Anne Messley, Youth Services Librarian, Teen,
 Poughkeepsie Public Library District

This workshop outlines a new library tutoring program to support students in grades 1-12. The program will be staffed by local college students enrolled in education classes, providing them with valuable practical experience while enhancing the academic success of young learners in our community.

1-B: Toddler Tornadoes & Preschool
Free-For-Alls ♦ Cisca East

Sarah Northshield, Children's Librarian,
 Greenburgh Public Library

Are you new to Storytime or things have gotten a little out of control? Learn tips and tricks to help get your Storytime under control and back on track.

1-C: Smells Like Teen Spirit: Promoting
Adolescent Hygiene ♦ Cisca West

Stephanie Markham, Teen Services Librarian,
 Jervis Public Library

It shouldn't be our job to talk to teens about wearing deodorant, but sometimes it is! Here's how to do that in the least humiliating way possible for all parties involved.

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Workshop Session #2 (SELECT ONE)

2-D: Stop, Collaborate, and Listen: Bringing
Storytime into Your Community. ♦ Cisca West
 Sara Alfaro, Children's Librarian II ,
 Onondaga County Public Library, Mundy Branch

Working with Universal Pre-K, family centers and community organizations to bring Pre-K story time to your patrons.

2-E: Anything But College Fair: Connecting
Teens with Direct to Career Education

♦ **Kisco Room**

Nicole Wright, Teen Librarian,
 Onondaga County Public Library, Mundy Branch

College isn't for everyone and finding information about non-traditional options can be hard for teens and their parents. Learn about how to put on a college fair style event to connect organizations that provide apprenticeships and direct to career programs with teens who are looking to pursue "anything but college".

2-F: Let's Talk About Sex: SRH Materials &
Programming for Youth ♦ Cisca East

Sarah Stanwicks, Youth Services Librarian,
 Albany Public Library - Washington Avenue Branch

Mary Fellows, Manager, Youth and Family Services,
 Upper Hudson Library System

Alexandra Bernat Cardinal, Branch Manager,
 Albany Public Library - Pine Hills Branch

When we say "sex in the library," your mind goes right to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, yes? If not, reroute that path by learning how libraries can and should support children and teens through access to robust and accurate information about their bodies, consent, puberty, sexual identity and expression, and more.

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Networking and Raffle Sales

12:00 p.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Book Sales in the café area

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. ♦ Hotel Ballroom

Luncheon, Announcements and Raffle Drawings

1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Networking and Book Sales

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Workshop Session #3 (SELECT ONE)

3-G : Libraries are for Everyone: How to Support Your Rainbow Families, Staff and Community ♦ Cisca West

James Gryzbowski, Children's Librarian, Uniondale Public Library, Representing the Long Island Library Pride Alliance (LILPA) as one of the 4 current co-chairs

Alex Giresi, Head of Teen Services, Hampton Bays Public Library, Co-Chair of LILPA

Join two current co-chairs of the Long Island Library Pride Alliance (LILPA) to learn how to celebrate and support your LGBTQIA+ families, patrons, staff, and more. This presentation/panel will leave you with information on collection development, programming ideas, community outreach and more!

3-H: Table Talks ♦ Cisca East

Roundtable discussions and hands-on activities focusing on a range of programs and services. Highlights include the **Pied Piper Winner Presentation, Using Discord to Connect with Teens, Programming that Works**, and a fun **Zombie Doll Hunt**. Participants will have the opportunity to attend multiple table discussions, exploring a variety of engaging topics and learning new strategies.

3—I : Book Signing

♦ Kisco Room

Books will be available for purchase from The Village Bookstore in the café.

Due to time restraints and fairness, Maulik will only be signing books.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

♦ Hotel Ballroom

Keynote Speaker

Join Terry Kirchner for an insightful "fireside chat" with Maulik Pancholy.

In this engaging conversation, Terry will sit down with Maulik Pancholy to discuss his experiences, his career journey, and his perspectives on various topics.

