

Amy J. Cheney

NATIONAL AWARDS

2008: Carnegie Corporation of New York/ New York Times I Love My Librarian Award. Named 1 of 10 librarians recognized for service to their communities. More than 3,200 librarians nominated nationwide.

2006 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, President's Committee on Arts and Humanities. 1 of 15 outstanding and exemplary programs highlighted serving at-risk youth.

2006 Movers and Shakers Award, American Library Association.

OTHER AWARDS

2005 Public Service Education Award, Alameda County Office of Education.

EXPERIENCE

Alameda County Library, CA

Program Director, Juvenile Hall Write to Read program

2000

Implement and expand a 100k grant into national award winning program for 2,000 + youth a year

- Manage a community-based education program that links 2,000+ youth a year to CBOs, authors, advocates, activists and community programming. See <http://juvwrite2read.aclibrary.org/pdf/4pagesForJuvHall.pdf>
- Pool available and untapped resources of 100+ public, private and community agencies in order to strengthen and inaugurate new services for youth at the JJC.
- Interview, select, supervise and evaluate 200+ service providers and volunteers.
- Manage and coordinate the delivery of services to youth, including needs assessment and evaluation.
- Public speaking, training, outreach and education nationwide. Partner with county residents, staff and leaders for community gatherings.
- Provide leadership and advocacy on behalf of youth in JJC including right to read, college programming, voting rights, and more.
- Provide leadership nationwide to la working with disenfranchised students and reluctant readers.

Program Coordinator, Family Literacy Program

1997 - 2000

Program Coordinator, 'Learn A Lot' School Age Tutoring Program

1994 - 1997

Librarian II, 'Hot Wheels' Preschool Bookmobile Program

1992 - 1995

Library Assistant II, Jail & Prison Services

1992 - 1989

- Implement, develop, evaluate and establish quality programming County wide for 1000's of underserved children including preschoolers in childcare, middle school students in areas with high infant mortality rates, and 1000's of adults in prisons and jails.
- Develop collections that meet the needs of multicultural and underserved communities.
- Outreach, Coordination, Education, Network and build community partnerships, Develop and implement referral systems, Public Speaking, Budget Management and Fundraising

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QUALITY & RESULTS

100% of Reluctant Readers reading more than they ever have and willing to read new and different books at Juvenile Hall

100% students meet an author they can relate to live and in person; 81% had never done so before

91% of students improve their reading by at least two grade levels in school age volunteer tutoring program

3 out of 4 grant programs implemented now fully funded into the system

QUOTES

“Amy is instrumental in implementing Restorative Justice in our County - and in particular for our youth in detention. She is on my lead team.” ~ *Honorable Gail Bereola, Presiding Judge Juvenile Court (Former)*

“Amy is the heart and soul of our Juvenile Justice Center.” ~ *David Muhammad, Alameda County Chief Probation Officer*

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Masters of Library and Information Science San Jose State University.

BA English/Creative Writing San Francisco State University.

Life Skills/Coaching, Senior Associate, Hendricks Institute.

2012: **Motivational Interviewing**, Stephen Malcolm Berg-Smith

2010: **Multicultural Conflict Resolution**, David Anderson Hooker.

2009: **Family Group Conferencing** New Zealand Style Workshop, Allan MacRae.

2009: **Circles of Support and Accountability**, Jack Dison, Sujatha Baliga, Fania Davis.

2008: **Victim Offender Education Training**, Insight Prison Project.

2008: **Peacemaking Circles**, Kay Pranis.

2007: **Foundations Skills for Trainers**, National Juvenile Detention Association.

2007: **Cognitive Behavioral Training**, Center for Research and Professional Development.

2006: **The School for the Work**, Byron Katie International.

2005: **Serving the Underserved** National Training, American Library Association.

2004: **Instructor** Psych-K Center, International.

1993: **Senior Associate, Life Skills & Coaching** Hendricks Institute.

1990: **Reading Recovery**, Reading Recovery National Council

COMMITTEES & MEMBERSHIP

- **Alameda County Juvenile Justice Restorative Task Force**
- **Youth Speaks Poet Laureate Committee**
- **American Library Association (ALA)**
 - Amelia Bloomer Committee
 - We the People Jury Member
 - Outreach Committee
 - Social Responsibilities Round Table
- **Young Adult Library Services Association, division of ALA**
 - Alex Awards Committee
 - Chair, Quick Picks For Reluctant Readers Committee
 - Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers Committee
- Creator and Organizer: YALSA-Lkdown and Library Services for Youth in Custody
- Founder and Chair, In the Margins Book Selection Committee

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QUOTES

“Amy’s leadership is warm, innovative, forthcoming, ethical and effective. She has brought positive youth concepts to our facility through her programming.” ~ *Robert Calvin, Assistant Superintendent, Alameda County Juvenile Hall*

“Beyond being bright and talented, Amy has the leadership skills to be a powerful agent of transformational change of an organizational or institutional culture.” ~ *National Researcher and Trainer, David Roush*

“Amy has inspired our students as well as our teachers with innovative and relevant curriculum.” ~ *Dr. Lauren Bishop, Alameda County Teacher of the Year, 2010*

“The majority of our students dislike reading. When I see a young person reading a book, 4 out of 5 times they say it’s because they’ve met the librarian, Amy Cheney.” ~ *Sherry Drobner, Program Director, LEAP*

PUBLIC SPEAKING, PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP FACILITATION

School Boards

- Developing Excellence for our Youth, 2011 California School Board Conference

Probation, Juvenile Justice & Community

- Reaching Reluctant Readers: Successful Library Services for Youth in Detention, 2012 National Symposium on Juvenile Services
- Literal Justice Series, 2011
- Creating a Continuum of Juvenile Justice Services, 2009 Disproportionate Minority Contact Conference

University Faculty & Students

- Juvenile Justice, Books and Literacy, 2011 Merritt College
- Young Adult Outreach, Serving a Multicultural Population, Partnerships and how to make it all work for the KIDS!, 2009 San Jose State University Colloquia
- Reading & Multicultural Young Children, 2002-2005, UC Berkeley

Teachers, Educators & Librarians

- Nuts and Bolts of Building a Public Library/Jail/Prison Partnership, 2012 American Library Association Pre conference
- Spectacular Services for At-Risk Teens, 2012 American Library Association Conference
- Libraries for Detained and Incarcerated Youth Webinar, 2012 RUSA & ASCLA
- Reaching Reluctant Readers, 2010 California State Paraeducators Conference
- Strategies and Books to reach Reluctant Readers, 2010 Booklist Webinar
- Urban Lit in the Library (DVD), 2009 Bay Area Young Adult Library Association
- Service and Outreach to Multicultural populations, 2008 Bay Area Young Adult Library Association
- Stepping Out & Reaching In: Creating Readers in California’s Juvenile Halls, 2007 California Library Association Annual Conference
- Books and Teens in the Criminal Justice System, 2006 American Library Association Annual Conference
- Literacy 360: Literacy Outreach Programs to At-Risk Populations, 2006 American Library Association Annual Conference
- Learning to Read; Where do Children’s Librarians Fit In, 2000 Bay Area Library and Information Systems Conference

PUBLICATIONS

“YA Underground,” Blog School Library Journal

present

“In the Margins” <http://therumpus.net/2012/08/in-the-margins/>

“Gangs, Drugs and Renewal: Self published Memoirs Offer Hope to Troubled Teens”
<http://www.slj.com/2012/10/literacy/time-after-time-self-published-memoirs-about-gangs-drugs-and-renewal-offer-hope-to-troubled-teens-2/>

RECOGNITION IN THE NEWS

Juvenile Hall Librarian Promotes Write to Read. Payton, Brenda. (August, 2011). San Francisco Chronicle. http://articles.sfgate.com/2011-08-28/opinion/29934394_1_author-series-young-people-julian-sher

Live From New York, It's Librarians Getting Plenty of Love Kniffel, Leonard. (December, 2009). American Libraries Direct.. <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2008/12/09/live-from-new-york-its-librarians-getting-plenty-of-love>

It's All About the Kids: Presenting Options and Opening Doors. Brodart, Joni Richards. (Fall, 2008). YALS. http://libraryservicestoincarceratedyouth.pbworks.com/f/its_all_about_the_kids.pdf

Librarian Protects Voting of Incarcerated Youth Burnett, Linsay Rousseau. (November 2008). (510) Report. <http://510report.org/2008/11/13/librarian-protects-voting-rights-of-incarcerated-youth/>

Between the Lines Girls in Detention Escape Into Books Dittman, Katherine. (April, 2007) Berkeley Monthly. <http://www.themonthly.com/feature-04-07.html>

White House Honors Local Reading Program Melendez, Lyanne. (January, 2007). KGO News. <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/education&id=4960618>

Author tries to Steer Young Offenders onto ‘Write’ Path De Benedetti, Chris. (April, 2004). Daily Review. http://juvwrite2read.aclibrary.org/pdf/dailyreview_article.pdf

Nationally Acclaimed Library Program Brings Voices of Freedom to Incarcerated Youth. Editor. YALSA. <http://www.ala.org/ala//mgrps/divs/yalsa/newsandeventsb/librarynews.cfm>

Has Stanley Williams Left the Gang? Sevcik, Kimberly. (August, 2003). New York Times Magazine. <http://nytontheweb.com/2003/08/10/magazine/has-stanley-williams-left-the-gang.html?src=pm>

Young Blacks Learn Lessons from Author Sanders, Joshunda. (February, 2003). SF Gate. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2003/02/16/LV208775.DTL>

