

## **Young Adult Round Table: Chair-Elect Candidates**

### **Lorraine Roussin, *Northside ISD***

A critical issue facing the association and the Texas library community is the need for more diverse collections featuring BIPOC authors and characters, and neurodiverse authors and characters. It is important for children to see themselves reflected in novels just as it is important for children to learn about others, which brings about an increase in empathy and compassion.

As a Chair-Elect of YART, I would work closely with the YART reading lists to continue to include more BIPOC authors and diverse books on the lists. When reading lists are published, those books find a wider audience and more dollars are spent to include those books in collections. In this way, we can influence publishers to increase the number of diverse books by BIPOC authors.

### **Chari Kauffman, *Galena Park ISD***

Texas Librarians face an ongoing and unprecedented battle to protect Intellectual Freedom in our libraries and schools. We must remain vigilant in providing diverse offerings to our constituents, pursue equity for all, and be inclusive in all of our offerings to the public. Groups that are pursuing book bans in our state are organized and vocal. Texas Librarians need to be proactive and prepared to stand up against this vocal minority in order to protect the rights of all. As the state legislature convenes this year, we will see additional attempts to limit reading material and to force a book rating system on publishers and schools. Texas librarians, we must prevent this from happening so we must prepare now. Let's get ready to rumble!