

# Arts & Travel

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Jonathan Sanchez, at Blue Bicycle Books is preparing for YALLFest.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

# Growing readers

## Blue Bicycle Books' Sanchez gears up for YALLFest on Saturday

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It's been a slow, steady accumulation: the writing, school appearances, literary magazines, bookshop and now YALLFest, an explosive one-day event celebrating Young Adult fiction.

Jonathan Sanchez' family, too, has grown.

He and his wife, Lauren, an interior designer, have two children, 5-year-old Evelyn and 2-year-old Alexander.

Sanchez is easy going, tall, with curly blond hair and a mild manner that belies his active imagination, successful entrepreneurship and very busy schedule.

He is gearing up for the third YALLFest, set for Saturday, which has seen throngs of attendees clamoring for autographs and a glimpse of their favorite writers.

The Young Adult genre, which these days relies heavily on trilogies and other multi-volume series, fantasy, teen angst and dystopian settings, is booming.

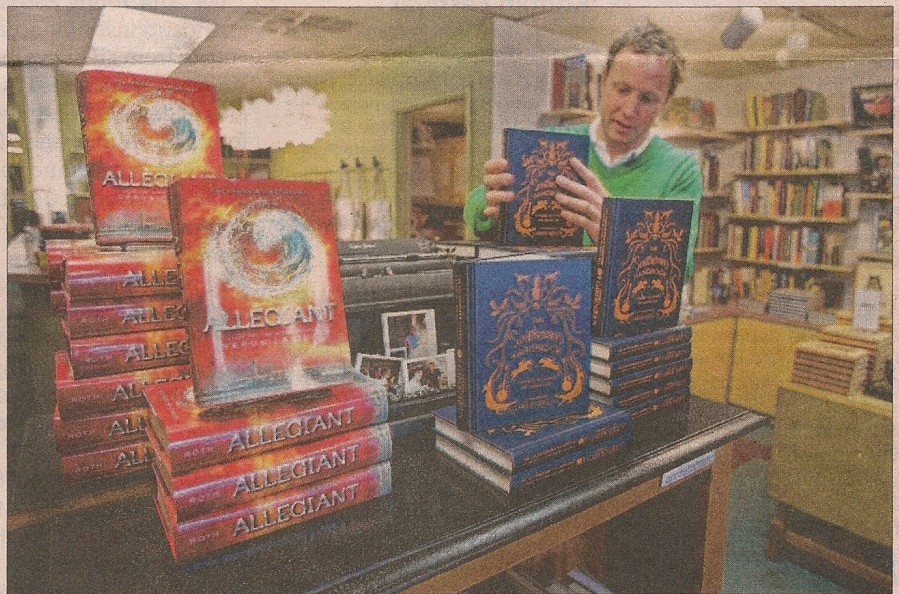
YALLFest has leveraged this enthusiasm to become the de facto No. 1 Young Adult literary event in the country.

The festival, co-organized by authors Margaret Stohl and Melissa De La Cruz, is a one-day extravaganza of readings, seminars, book signings and special events.

About 50 volunteers will manage up to five concurrent book signings, three panel discussions, a keynote presentation and more.

Thousands are expected to attend.

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Veronica Roth author of "Allegiant" will be a featured writer during YALLFest at Blue Bicycle Books.

### If you go

**WHAT:** YALLFest: Charleston Young Adult Book Festival

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** American Theater, 456 King

St.; Blue Bicycle Books, 420 King St.; Charleston Music Hall, 37 John St.

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** <http://yallfest.org>