Friends News and Notes

Friends of Libraries Section — A Network of Library Advocates in New York State

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Randall Enos Receives Title of President Emeritus
by Lisa C. Wemett, Immediate Past President

Randall Enos, better known as Randy, has served as President of the Empire Friends Roundtable, now known as FLS, six times over the course of EFR's 22-year existence. A review of our publications in that time period revealed much about Randy's influence on our organization.

Randy first served a year's term on the "Library Friends of New York State" Ad Hoc Committee that brought the roundtable into existence on October 30, 1992, at the NYLA Annual Conference held in Lake Placid. The committee had lobbied NYLA Council to establish the new roundtable and Council gave its nod of approval on May 14, 1992. The Library Friends Roundtable later became known as the Empire Friends Roundtable. Randy continued his service to EFR by serving on the first Board of Directors of the roundtable.

In the fall of 1995, Randy stepped up and became the fourth president of EFR. It was not his first rodeo as president of a NYLA division, having served as President of the Youth Services Section in 1990. Randy continued on as the fifth president of EFR. In his column in the EFR newsletter in the spring of 1997, President Enos said, "I'm not overstating the case when I say that Empire Friends had a sensational year in 1996." On Randy's watch, EFR, as a state friends organization, won the Baker and Taylor/FOLUSA Award from the American Library Association for the production of the video, "How to Form or Revitalize a Library Support Group." That same year, EFR launched a campaign to make every legislator in NYS a member of their hometown Friends group. Also Wegmans ran a message, "Give Your Child the Gift of a Lifetime— A Library Card!" on all of their milk cartons. That marketing campaign came about because of advocacy efforts by the EFR Board.

When he passed the gavel to incoming President Iris Bartkowski in late 1997, Randy stayed on as Vice President of the Board. Randy is not certain, but he thinks he has been continuously involved on the EFR Board since its inception! He can't recall a time that he ever was off the Board.

The mission of the Friends of Libraries Section is to promote and inspire local Friends groups in libraries of all types for the betterment of New York State's library community.

FLS Announces Dewey Fellowship Award
Apply Now!

The FLS Board is pleased to announce the Section's participation in NYLA's 2016 Dewey Fellowship Award program. Each year, three Sections of NYLA are eligible to select a NYLA member to attend the Annual Conference, all expenses paid.

The FLS Dewey Fellow will be chosen on the basis of the following criteria: three or more years of volunteer experience as a member of a Friends of the Library organization (e.g., an officer or committee chair of a Friends group; a board member of NYLA's Friends of Libraries Section); a record of accomplishments as a Friends member; and personal involvement in activities to advance the library community (e.g., activism on the local or state level, service on FLS Executive Board, service on an FLS committee). The applicant must be a personal member of FLS/NYLA or a member of a Friends group that is a current organizational member of FLS/NYLA.

The FLS Dewey Fellowship Award will pay a maximum of $1,000 of the cost to attend the 2016 NYLA Annual Conference scheduled for Saratoga Springs from Wednesday, November 2 through Saturday, November 5. Reimbursements include: registration, a pre-conference continuing education seminar, tickets for various meal functions, lodging, and travel. The award is underwritten by the Lake Placid Foundation and will be awarded by FLS every other year. One nominee will be chosen. The Section nominee

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Quarterly Newsletter of the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association

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A Letter from the FLS President

Dear Friends,

On a recent visit to St. John in the US Virgin Islands, my husband and I toured the national park that makes up over seventy percent of this beautiful island. Enthralled by the amazing rain forests and idyllic beaches, we sought to take home a souvenir of the trip, namely, a pin from the island. I knew just where to look: nestled among the upscale shops was the storefront of the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park. Familiar as I am with the kind of tireless volunteers that support museums and libraries, this was an easy choice and it did not disappoint.

It seems that no matter how large or small, highly or loosely organized, Friends groups are all committed to keeping something good and essential alive and well. I may be biased, but, having lifted my share of books over the years, I think Friends of Libraries are the best of all Friends.

As I think back over the past year or so of preparation for leading FLS for 2015-16, the statewide perspective gained has filled me with gratitude. First, I am thankful for the dedicated folks who make up the FLS Board, many of whom have represented Friends groups in NYLA for years, some even decades. Secondly, I value highly each of you who are volunteering in your own communities to support libraries and appreciate your search to do so with more effectiveness each year. And finally, to my own Friends of the Potsdam Public Library, who recently prepared over 4000 annual appeal letters for mailing, shared about themselves at a statewide conference (see Showcase on page 8), and then hosted their own Holiday Book Sale (see photos at right) - my library would not be the same without your dedication.

Thank you all for saying "yes" over and over again.

Sincerely,
Sarah Sachs

Successful First Year!

The Friends of Libraries Section wrapped up a successful first year on Friends Day at the NYLA Annual Conference in Lake Placid. Lisa Wemett presided at the last FLS Executive Board Meeting of her Presidency in the morning and opened the FLS Annual Membership Meeting in the afternoon before handing off the gavel to incoming President Sarah Sachs.

Both meetings were well attended with nearly 75% of FLS Executive Board Members present. The Section is well positioned with an enthusiastic board and membership to make our second year as a Section even better than the first.

Standing left to right: President Sarah Sachs, Member At Large Susan Swanton, Immediate Past President Lisa C. Wemett, President Emeritus Randall Enos, Dan Casey Award Coordinator Joyce Lalosa, Member At Large Marie Orlando, Member At Large Frank Van Zanten, and Secretary Lynne Madden.

Seated left to right: Vice President and 2016 Conference Programmer Janet Kreason, Treasurer Marcia Elwitt, and 2nd Vice President Terry Mulee (photo credit: David Lalosa)

Celebrations were in evidence throughout the Annual Conference this year as NYLA went back to its roots in Lake Placid. That’s where Melvil Dewey founded the Association 125 years ago. It’s also where the Empire Friends Roundtable, now the Friends of Libraries Section, was established in 1992. In the articles that follow you’ll find a recap of the excellent programming offered by FLS, with co-sponsorship and funding from the Library Trustees Association. You can also find out about the FLS Annual Membership Meeting and the FLS Trade Show booth.

Painting in Plein Air
by Joyce Laiosa

A Plein Air Festival is not a new concept but these events are taking place throughout the country and across New York State as well. The Morristown Public Library has held one as a fund-raiser for the last three years and built it, from the start, into a community-wide arts festival.

The presenters were very honest about the amount of work that goes into the festival (a lot of work!!) but the rewards of funds and community participation lead to new partnerships and excitement for the library. This Plein Air Festival brings in local artists, as well as those from far away, who want to participate in making one, two, or three paintings of the scenic areas surrounding the library.

Morristown Public Library sits near the St. Lawrence River, rural farm country, and lovely small towns. The bucolic scenes produced by the artists are sold at the end of the festival at a silent auction. The Morristown Friends organization has three years of festival experience under its belt and is willing to help other groups considering this type of festival by sharing contracts for artists, photo releases, waivers for using some of the scenic areas that are not public lands, name tags, and even village and county maps. For more information check out their website at www.morristownpubliclibrary.org (the Plein Air button is at the very top in the bar above the logo and library name).

Library Director Bridget Whalen-Nevin was just as enthusiastic as her volunteers Michele Whalen and Connie Martin. The whole community gets involved, from a local winery helping out with a potluck hors d’oeuvres party to residents hosting artists. There are jobs for everyone: local music groups playing on auction day, volunteers running the library book sale that is a part of the weekend, and preparing maps to help patrons watch the artists. Enthusiasm has built this festival and I plan on attending it next year, if at all possible!

Editor's note: This festival arose out of the need to fill a $4,000 budget gap. Where there's a will, there's a way. Also, on the Plein Air tab on the library's website (see URL above) you'll find a link for all of the 2015 paintings. It's worth a look!

Friends and Foundations: A Merger

In this program the panel members discussed the three-year path to the successful blending of the Friends of the Rochester Public Library (formed in 1953) and the Rundel Library Foundation (formed in 1989). Past President of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) Sharon Salluzzo and Vice President Peg Glisson shared the podium with Executive Director Ned Davis, outlining the decision-making that led to a stronger single organization that serves the Central Library and the city branches of the Monroe County Library System. The merged 24-member "super board" that oversees FFRPL manages a large endowment, continues the 60-year tradition of offering outstanding programming such as “Books Sandwiched In” to the community, and underwrites technology upgrades to enhance patrons' experiences.

The community was often confused by annual campaign letters from the library foundation, when the donor thought they had already given to the library by supporting the Friends. In 2010, Peter Pearson, a consultant with Library Strategies (St. Paul, MN), worked with both boards of directors and staff to discuss the pros and cons of a merger. He deemed the merger would be “a very successful venture and result in a more visible and powerful organization."

A transition team with members from each group worked on the issues raised and hammered out consensus. Peg and Sharon stressed that honest, respectful discussions of critical issues, from the naming of the new entity to the number of board meetings, were crucial to their success, not to mention patience, as the lawyers reviewed the paperwork. The local United Way provided a $35,000 grant that helped with the necessary legal costs. While separate Friends groups can become advocates for the passage of library budget votes, foundations cannot use their funds in this way. FFRPL's activities are now limited to underwriting a “thank you" breakfast for legislative representatives in the region. Fund-raising continues and donations have increased. New connections have been forged with other arts and cultural organizations in the Rochester area that see FFRPL as a strong community partner for collaborative projects. The group's bookstore, online book sales, and annual “big” sale provide more than $40,000 in support each year.
The first annual membership meeting of FLS was held on Friday afternoon. President Lisa Wemett introduced the 2014-15 Executive Board and acknowledged their dedicated service, setting a firm foundation for the Section in its first year. Randy Enos was recognized in his new role as President Emeritus. The 2015 Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award was given posthumously to Don Riplinger, a volunteer with the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis and Past President Sharon Salluzzo were on hand to accept the award. Lisa passed the gavel to Sarah Sachs, who introduced the incoming Executive Board.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the first "Friends Showcase" was presented, featuring three public libraries in northern New York. The speakers focused on the volunteer support and projects at their libraries. Peter Benson, director of the Saranac Lake Free Library, led off highlighting the Kollecker Film Collection, the legacy of Saranac Lake's "Kodak Man" William F. Kollecker (1879 - 1962) who opened a photography store in the village in 1905. Motion picture films from the 1920s to 1960s have been digitized and made available to the public. These high definition files have a feature where viewers can contribute comments ("Add to our story") to enhance the experience even more. While this feature has been used before with still images, SLFL is the only place in the USA where it is being done with moving pictures. For example, a descendant of a local resident might post "For several winters, my Uncle Charlie helped build the Winter Carnival ice palaces featured in this movie." The collection continues to grow as the public contributes more commercial and family movies. The library's challenge is to continue fund-raising to underwrite the digitizing of future acquisitions and make the collection available to the public in a variety of settings.

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**Accounting for Nonprofits**

CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner John Parcell IV was ready, willing, and able to answer the barrage of questions from the 38 members of the audience, all anxious to have their accounting questions answered about 501(c)(3) organizations. John specializes in nonprofit accounting and serves as an internal auditor for the Potsdam Public Library.

Presenting with John in this session co-sponsored with the Library Trustees Association and PLS/NYLA was Nathan Wray, Staff Accountant with the John C. Parcell IV Accounting Firm in Canton. Nathan provided an extremely detailed PowerPoint show, "An Overview on Nonprofit Organization." His subtopics included information on contributions, the break down of an auditor's report, reporting requirements to the Charities Bureau and the IRS, and the NYS Nonprofit Revitalization Act of 2013.

John focused initially on the wide variety of issues surrounding contributions: those voluntarily given by...
In 2000, Randy Enos received NYLA's "Outstanding Service to Libraries Award" for his distinguished service and contributions to New York's libraries, based on his nomination from the Youth Services Section. Recipients of this award are granted lifetime membership (honorary member status) in the New York Library Association.

On the occasion of EFR's 10th anniversary, Randy again stepped up to be President. Shepherding the group into its second decade, he saw NYLA President Carolyn Giambra give General Code Publishers a special "President's Award" for the company's support of EFR by printing and distributing the roundtable's newsletter. President Giambra said "No other single business has shown such a sustained commitment to a part of the library community." That commitment has never waivered: General Code continues to print the Friends newsletter to this day.

In Randy's message in the Winter 2003 newsletter, he pointed out the challenge for the next decade to continue with the successful projects and activities EFR had carried out so far. "We will endeavor to keep active members busy without causing burnout and bring new active members into the fold." One of those active members Randy brought to the fold was Susan Swanton, who has now been with EFR continuously since 2003.

The nomination of Randy Enos as President came again in 2011. He then served three consecutive years as President, guiding the group through the steps to change the roundtable's status to that of a Section in NYLA. His work gave us a new and stronger entity, the Friends of Libraries Section. He personally recruited nearly every member of the current Executive Board, including myself. Since I had followed him as YSS President, it certainly seemed fitting that I would follow him as FLS President. Who can say "no" to his charm and wit? In two short years, our Board grew from five members in 2012 to the thirteen folks that serve today. Randy's unwavering support and commitment to EFR/FLS helped it grow and flourish during all of his administrations. We look forward to working with him for many more years to come!

Editor's note: In 1990 Randy passed the YSS Presidency to Lisa. History repeated itself in 2014 when Randy passed the gavel and the FLS Presidency to Lisa.

The application packet should be submitted to: Lisa C. Wemett, Coordinator, FLS Dewey Fellowship Award, 16 Drumlin Drive, Macedon, New York 14502. Alternately, the application packet may be submitted by e-mail to: lisawemett@frontiernet.net. Any questions about the award may be directed to Lisa at this e-mail address.
The Friends of the Hudson Area Library and the Columbia County Photo Club recently partnered for the fourth annual photography exhibit titled The Best of Hudson: A Photographic Exhibition. The exhibit was held at the Hudson Area Library in Hudson, New York, and was on display for nine weeks. Encompassing the work of twenty-six photographers, a total of 63 images were on public view in the library.

An opening reception was held for the artists, friends, patrons, and Friends in August. All works were available for sale, with all twenty-six photographers generously offering a percentage of 30-100% of the sale price to benefit the Friends. The exhibit coincides with Hudson's annual ArtsWalk, an event sponsored by the Columbia County Council on the Arts.

The Columbia County Photo Club, now in its sixth year, began meeting bimonthly at the Hudson Area Library with just a handful of amateur photographers. It has since grown to over 30 members, some of whom are professionals in the field.

Each year the club members vote on the theme for this exhibit. The first, in 2012, was titled Open Book: A Photographic Exhibit and had twelve members participating, with thirty works on display. While not a huge fundraiser that first year, the community outreach alone was significant and the Friends decided to continue the exhibit annually.

Several Friends members volunteer each year to help organize and hang the show with the assistance of several CCPC members. One Friends member (and also CCPC member) owns a local photo gallery and has volunteered to curate the show.

Press releases are sent to all the local media and a special postcard mailing is sent as an invitation to all Lifetime members of the Friends for the opening reception. The cards are also given to all participating artists for their continued on page 7

Friends of Poughkeepsie Public Library
Open Bookstore
by Frank Van Zanten

On October 20 the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce officiated at the formal opening of the new bookstore being operated by the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library. The 4,000 sq. ft. store replaces the Giant Annual Book Sale that the Friends have conducted for almost two decades.

The transition from book sale to bookstore had to happen. The annual sale had become too large to easily and reliably find a temporary location adequate to accommodate its vast expanse of tables and books, one year reaching 50,000 sq. ft. The Friends became lucky when the Poughkeepsie Public Library invited them to establish a store and warehouse in 8,000 sq. ft. attached to a new branch library, converted very successfully from a former IBM power plant. Library shelving and furniture came from the vacated branch library and was reassembled by the library maintenance staff.

Capacity is 20,000 to 25,000 volumes. The store is open three days a week (Tue, Thu, Sat), opening at 10:00 and closing at either 4:00 or 6:00, for a total of 20 hours. The sales desk accommodates two cash registers. Credit cards are accepted. Except for purchases by dealers (a goodly number of whom appear to make regular visits) sales tax is charged over and above the stated prices of the books ($2 hardcover, $1 large paperback, $0.50 for mass market paperback). Staffing consists of a cashier and two floor attendants to assist customers and replenish inventory.

All sorting and storing of donations takes place in the adjacent but separate 4,000 sq. ft. warehouse area. A problem still to be resolved satisfactorily is the ongoing disposal of books not needed or wanted for the store.

Questions which the store managers hope will be answered following more experience include (1) What types of books are customers looking for? (2) How many and which hours should the store be open? (3) Will there continue to be enough volunteers to maintain the current staffing level of 60+ hours per week? and, possibly of greatest interest, (4) Will as much money be made for the support of the library as with the former big sales? We plan to let you know.
optional mailing list and distributed throughout Hudson's shops and galleries. This helps the Friends bring in new community members who may not otherwise visit the library and who then are often inspired to purchase photos and donate to the Friends.

Individual images from the exhibit are posted on the Friends Facebook page (Friends of the Hudson Area Library) each week while the exhibit is on view. These posts are then shared among three community board pages to enable even more viewers to be aware of the exhibit.

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**Accounting**

John stressed that the NYS Nonprofit Revitalization Act is primarily about transparency with new requirements for Boards to adopt Conflict of Interest statements and other necessary actions. For information on the Nonprofit Revitalization Act and libraries, visit [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org); in the search box use "nonprofit revitalization" as your search term. To review frequently asked questions about the Act and libraries, see the New York State Library's webpage: [http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/coi-faq.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/coi-faq.htm).

Regrettably, John ran out of time before the audience ran out of questions. His knowledgeable answers went far in explaining many complicated legal and financial issues for Friends, such as sales tax, valuation of donations, and IRS requirements for charities. Nathan's PowerPoint slides have been posted on the FLS website [www.nyla.org/friends](http://www.nyla.org/friends) under "Events." A link to the handout, "Right From the Start: Responsibilities of Directors of Not-For-Profit Corporations" from the NYS Attorney General's office is also provided. John Parcell may be reached at [jparcellcpa@gmail.com](mailto:jparcellcpa@gmail.com).

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**Limited Run FLS T-Shirts!**

These are a high quality red T-shirt with the FLS logo either front and center or on the left chest of the shirt. There are a limited number of L, XL and 2X shirts available in either option (XL center logo sold out).

Shirts are $20.00 each, (includes shipping). To order, please send your name and address along with a check (payable to Theresa Mulee) to: Terry Mulee, 293 Elmdorf Ave, Rochester, NY 14619. Please contact me if you are interested in ordering more than one shirt (shipping more than one shirt would reduce shipping costs). You may reach me at 585-328-6658 or [terry58@frontiernet.net](mailto:terry58@frontiernet.net) (use “FLS T-shirts” in the subject line).

Don't miss out on these great shirts! Proceeds benefit FLS.

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**Order your FLS T-shirt now!**
Hanneke LaFountain and Marlu Peet of the Friends of the Potsdam Public Library outlined projects their group has undertaken. Starting in 1993, the group has used the interest from an endowment to fund library programs, services, and collections including online resources. With about twelve active volunteers, they operate a used bookstore which opened in 2005 and also hold large-scale book sales four times a year. They sell items on Amazon and work with Library Consignment, a company in Texas that sells books online -- www.libraryconsignment.com (the company covers the postage costs for shipping the books). All these efforts have led to collective sales of $12,000 annually from their donated book stock.

Officers from the Friends of the Plattsburgh Public Library, President Patricia Loughran and Vice President/Treasurer Kim Bailey, discussed some of their group's activities. Despite the "graying of their membership," these Friends have been going strong since 1987 and have about 100 dues-paying supporters. Active members enjoy "fun-raising" together, whether book sales or a "service auction" where donors gave certificates for landscaping, dog grooming, and other professional services to be sold to the highest bidder. The Friends have recently partnered with the area arts council to have local artists hang their work in the library's gallery. The Friends provide an opening reception for each artist's show. A clever twist to the wrap-up of their book sales is the "Boxing Day Sale," where shoppers can fill a box with items of their choice for only $5; more than 70 cartons went out the door! Plattsburgh works with Better World Books (www.betterworldbooks.com) as a solution to their sales' leftovers.

At the conclusion of all the five-minute presentations, the audience was able to talk one-on-one with the speakers about their projects and ideas. The format led to a lively interchange of ideas and FLS looks forward to offering future showcases.