



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 9, #1 -- November 2022

And the Award Goes To...

The secret is out! Finally, **Jane Harkinson** of the Friends of the Cornwall Public Library is the 2022 recipient of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. Although almost everyone at the library was aware of Jane's honor, they all kept it a secret. Jane was very surprised on Oct. 16. She thought the Library was honoring the Friends as part of National Friends of Libraries Week. Helen Rados, FLS Casey Award Coordinator, says that she wishes that she had captured the look on Jane's face as the award was announced. Randy Enos and Leslie Riley also represented the FLS board at the award ceremony.



Given annually since 1993, the Casey Award originated with the Empire Friends Roundtable, the predecessor of FLS and honors a volunteer member or a group from the library community whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations. The award acknowledges not simply good work on behalf of libraries, but recognizes the people who go above and beyond what is asked of them. They see a need, focus on a challenge, share goals, and commit to exceptional community service.

Jane became the accidental President of the Friends back in 1995 when she accepted the position when no one else would. Since then, as Library Director (and Jane's nominator) Charlotte Dunaief says "She has filled the position with grace and aplomb." She works closely with the library staff to establish the annual Friends budget and other fundraising activities. Also as the public relations coordinator, Jane engages with library staff and local newspapers. Jane runs the bookstore, trains the volunteers who staff it, and arranges several large book sales each year. She is a great advocate of the library with

~ continued on page 4 ~

An Annual Scholarship

The FLS Executive Board is pleased to announce that the **FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (RECS)** will be awarded annually, beginning in 2023. Previously, it was only available in odd-numbered years. Now, each year, one FLS member will be awarded up to \$750 to attend the NYLA conference. The funds may be for registration, lodging, and travel expenses.

The FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship was named in recognition of Randy Enos, FLS President Emeritus, for his outstanding efforts on behalf of Friends in New York State. Not only was Randy a founding member of the Empire Friends Roundtable of NYLA (now FLS) in 1992, but he has been a continuous member of this organization and its Executive Board. He has served at least six terms as president. His steady hand in the leadership of EFR and FLS is more than worthy of this honor.

The FLS Executive Board established the scholarship in December 2018. The initial funding for the RECS came through donations honoring Randy's service as the Youth Consultant for the Ramapo Catskill Library System when he retired in 2019.

It's really not too soon to be thinking about applying for this scholarship to attend the 2023 NYLA Annual Conference to be held in Saratoga Springs from November 1st through the 4th.

You'll find the reflections of previous recipients along with the scholarship criteria and the application form at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards and Scholarships. You must be an FLS member to apply. Join now if you're not already a member!

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FLS creates a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.

FLS, a unit of NYLA, embraces and promotes diversity and inclusion in all their forms.



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Library Community

**New York Library Association Friends of Libraries Section
Annual Report to the Membership
November 16, 2022, A Virtual Meeting**



FLS Year in Review

2022 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award



Jane Harkinson, President, Friends of the Cornwall Public Library
Many thanks to Helen Rados for her continued work in the role of Coordinator for the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award.
L-R: Randall Enos, Leslie Riley, Jane Harkinson, Helen Rados, Charlotte Dunaief

New Frontiers for Friends - FLS Long Range Plan Initiatives for 2022:

Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries

- ★ Members of the Friends of Libraries Section's Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries, Lisa C. Wemett and Lynne Madden (task force chair) presented "Beyond Younger Volunteers: Helping Friends Groups Survive and Thrive" at the OWWL Library System's Small Libraries Summer Symposium on July 8. The session showcased the new section of the FLS webpage, *Resources for Friends Groups Supporting Small and Rural Libraries*.
- ★ On June 30, Erica Freudenberger, Outreach and Engagement Consultant for the Southern Adirondack Library System and FLS Member at Large, and Lisa C. Wemett, Coordinator for Professional Development and Past President of the Friends of Libraries Section, released *Beyond Younger Volunteers: White Paper on What Rural Friends Groups Need to Thrive*. The report covers the FLS 2021 survey of Friends volunteers that support rural and small libraries and the multiple initiatives FLS is implementing to assist these organizations for long-term success. Authors Lisa C. Wemett and Erica Freudenberger first shared the survey results at a virtual session presented at the 2021 conference of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries in October. The American Library Association (ALA) has featured it on the United for Libraries page and in their August 2022 newsletter.

Praise for *Beyond Younger Volunteers*:

- ★ From former FLS President Rebecca Fuss: WOW Lisa, this is exceptionally well done! So thoroughly researched and summarized, with next steps for small Friends groups to survive and thrive. What a great addition to the already-comprehensive list of supports that FLS provides. Congratulations to you and Erica on completing and sharing the report. I can only imagine how big a project it was.
- ★ From a local library director: This is fantastic work. I can't wait to meet with our Friends.

30th Anniversary:

- ★ NYLA Council unanimously passed a resolution to honor FLS during its 30th anniversary year at the February 3 Council meeting. Thank you to Joyce Laiosa, Karen Sperrazza, and Lisa Wemett for writing the resolution.
- ★ American Library Association (ALA) passed a resolution honoring FLS for its 30th anniversary at the June ALA Council meeting. Mover: Cassie Guthrie, New York Chapter Councilor; Seconders: Councilors at Large Erica Freudenberger, Sara Dallas, and Sara Kelly Johns.
- ★ Visit <https://www.nyla.org/fls30th/?menukey=fls> to check out all the anniversary celebration materials including #FLS30 - 2022 National Friends of Libraries Week Facebook posts, press releases, and archival photos.



Webinars:

- ★ *Fishing for Friends: How to Reel in Midlife Adults with Programs* - April 6, 2022
67 viewers, including 19 FLS members
Presenter: Dr. Reneé K. Bennett-Kapusniak, author of *Public Library Programs and Services for Midlife and Beyond*
- ★ *Partners in Planning: A Strategic Planning Approach for Friends Groups* - October 6, 2022
22 viewers
Presenter: Joy L. Fuller, author of *Strategic Planning for Public Libraries* (Public Library Association, 2021)

FLS Connections:

These virtual gatherings have taken the place of our in-person regional FLS Meet-ups allowing groups across the state to network and share on various topics. Three online gatherings took place in 2022.

- ★ *Book Sale Remainders* was the topic for the February 16 session with 48 participants representing 26 Friends groups.
- ★ *Organizing a Book Sale Crew* was the topic for the June 16 session with 24 participants representing 17 Friends groups.
- ★ *Community Outreach Supported by Friends* was the topic for the September 15 session with 24 participants representing 15 Friends groups.

Membership:

June 30, 2021: 171
August 15, 2022: 186 (no report available for June 30, 2022)
FLS values your membership and is proud to represent Friends volunteers and staff who work together to benefit libraries. Your continued support makes it possible for FLS to offer tried-and-true and new services. The more Friends we have the more we can do. Thanks for your membership!

Financial Report:

Opening fund balance July 1, 2021: \$13,363
Closing fund balance June 30, 2022: \$12,053

General Fund	Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/21	Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/22
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 7,514	\$ 9,099
Income	3,649	1,162
Expenses	(2,064)	(2,206)
Net Activity	1,585	(1,044)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 9,099	\$ 8,055

Enos Scholarship Fund	Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/21	Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/22
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 4,019	\$ 4,264
Donations	245	250
Expenses	-	(516)
Net Activity	245	(266)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 4,264	\$ 3,998

#NYLA2022 Annual Conference:

- ★ Helping Rural Friends Survive and Thrive, co-sponsor
- ★ Trivia, Literati, and Wildly Successful Community Fundraising
- ★ Keeping It Friendly: Connecting Staff & Friends
- ★ Field Trip to a Friends Operated Bookstore
- ★ Keep It Growing! Strengthening Friends Groups Part 1 & 2 (double session)
- ★ FLS Trade Show Booth - collected 56 "quick surveys"
- ★ Attendance at FLS programs, including the FLS Board Meeting held during the conference, was 158.

Website - www.NYLA.org/Friends:

Refinements to the FLS webpages, a subset of [NYLA.org](http://www.NYLA.org), are made continuously throughout the year. There were two very exciting new pages developed this year (see previous page).

Resources for Friends Groups Supporting Small and Rural Libraries at <https://www.nyla.org/flsrural/?menukey=fls>
FLS 30th Anniversary at

<https://www.nyla.org/fls30th/?menukey=fls>

Be on the lookout for big improvements on the FLS Events page at <https://www.nyla.org/fls-events/?menukey=fls>

Newsletters:

Friends News and Notes Vol 8 #1-4 sent by mail (608) and Vol 8 #3 sent electronically (150). The 2021 FLS Annual Report to the Membership was included in Vol 8 #1, the December 2021 issue. An additional 175 newsletters were distributed at regional Friends meetings and the NYLA conference. A complete newsletter archive may be found at <https://www.nyla.org/fls-newsletters/?menukey=fls>.

FLS Executive Board 2021-2022 - Thank You

- President: Kerstin Cruger+
 - Vice President/President-Elect: Lisa C. Wemett*
 - 2nd Vice President: Terry Mulee^
 - Secretary: Lynne Madden
 - Treasurer: Stephen Hoefler*
 - Immediate Past President: Karen Sperrazza+
 - Board Member At Large: Anne Andrianos+
 - Board Member At Large: Marie Bindeman
 - Board Member At Large: Amy Discenza^
 - Board Member At Large: Erica Freudenberger
 - Board Member At Large: Christopher Lund
 - Board Member At Large: Leslie S. W. Riley*
 - Board Member At Large: Ristiina (Rusty) Wigg+
 - President Emeritus: Randall Enos
 - FLS Marketing Coordinator, Meg Sgombick
 - FLS Coordinator for Professional Development: Lisa C. Wemett
 - FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator: Helen Rados
 - FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Readers: Joyce Laiosa and Leslie S. W. Riley
 - FLS Scholarships Coordinator: Marie Bindeman
 - FLS Scholarship Readers: Rebecca Fuss and Diane Finch*
 - FLS Newsletter and Web Editor: Terry Mulee
- NYLA Committee Representatives:
- Awards Committee: Joyce Laiosa
 - Communications Committee: Danielle Krause
 - Conference Curator: Lisa C. Wemett*
 - Continuing Education Committee: Lisa C. Wemett
 - Intellectual Freedom Committee: Christopher Lund
 - Legislative Committee: Jean Sheviak
 - Membership Committee: Terry Mulee*
 - Sustainability Committee: Marie Bindeman

New to the Board for 2023:

First Vice President/President Elect: Carol Fortier+
Second Vice President Amy Discenza^
Treasurer Terry Mulee^

Members At Large: Jerrie Grantham+, Mary Giardini+

*Leaving this position, +newly elected or re-elected

^Changing positions

Thank you to all current and incoming FLS Board members and volunteers. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

FLS 2021-22 and 22-23 Board Members at the conference



FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

Officers:

President - Kerstin Cruger fls.kerstin.cruger@gmail.com
First Vice President, Conference Curator - Carol Fortier
2nd Vice President (Membership) - Amy Discenza
Secretary - Lynne Madden
Treasurer - Terry Mulee
Immediate Past President - Karen Sperrazza
President Emeritus - Randall Enos

Members At Large:

Anne Andrianos
Marie Bindeman
Mary Giardini
Jerrie Grantham
Christopher Lund
Erica Freudenberger
Ristiina Wigg

NYLA Committee Representatives:

Awards Committee - Joyce Laiosa
Communications Committee - Danielle Krause
Continuing Education Committee - Lisa C. Wemett
Intellectual Freedom Committee - Christopher Lund
Legislative Committee - Jean Sheviak
Membership Committee - Amy Discenza
Sustainability Committee - Marie Bindeman

FLS Volunteers:

FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator - Helen Rados, hrados@gmail.com
FLS Scholarship Coordinator - Marie Bindeman, mariebind1955@gmail.com
Coordinator for Professional Development: Lisa C. Wemett
Marketing Coordinator - Meg Sgombick
Regional Workshop Trainers - Joyce Laiosa, Lisa C. Wemett

Contact us anytime at
FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com

Visit the Friends of Libraries Section at
www.NYLA.org/Friends or scan the QR code

FLS is limiting the email addresses published to eliminate phishing scams. Please use the NYLA Membership Directory to find contact information not listed above or use the FLS email. We apologize for any inconvenience.

This newsletter is a publication of the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association.

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NYLA leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community.

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Casey ~ continued from page 1

both state and local legislators and the community – and has attended almost every NYLA Advocacy Day since 1995. Jane is very aware of the history of the library as she also volunteers at the Cornwall Historical Society and is able to facilitate the exchange of information between the two organizations. During book sales, Jane has organized ice cream socials and cider and donuts events.

The Casey Award Committee received letters of recommendation from the CPL Board of Trustees - past and present, the Friends of the Cornwall Library, the editor of the local newspaper, the former library director, and the former Town Supervisor. The nomination also included many articles highlighting Jane's accomplishments. The committee members were very impressed with the support Jane gives to the library, the Friends, and the community.

Like Dan Casey, Jane is a similar model of dedication, hard work, and creativity. Congratulations Jane! As a result of this award, the Friends of Cornwall Public Library will receive a one-year *NYLA/FLS Friends Group Organizational Membership*.

Do you know of an individual or a group that is worthy of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award? It's never too early to send in a nomination! The submission deadline is June 1. Find all the details and the application at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards.



FLS Awards

FLS Tribute Fund Honor Roll

Jane Harkinson - Best Friend

The Cornwall Public Library is grateful to Jane Harkinson for her tireless and excellent leadership of the Friends of Cornwall Public Library. She has dedicated herself for countless years to the library's mission, strengthening its services and programs, and thereby improving the whole Cornwall community in the process. Humbled by her many selfless acts of generosity, we cherish her as our **Best Friend!**

This tribute to Jane is a gift from the Board of Trustees and the Staff of the Cornwall Public Library. Their donation benefits the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Fund.

In the Next Issue:

Did you go to the NYLA Annual Conference or do you wish you had? The next newsletter, coming out in late January, will have a full recap of all the FLS conference programs. You'll also find the FLS webinar, Partners in Planning: A Strategic Planning Approach for Friends Groups from October. Be sure to check out upcoming dates, like NYLA Advocacy Day. It's a jam-packed issue.