



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 9, #3 -- April 2023



FLS Connections! Alternative Collections

Maybe your library loans jigsaw puzzles or board games. Perhaps you have a seed library for budding gardeners. If you're near a body of water, your library might have fishing poles to lend.

According to the Public Library Association, more than half of America's libraries loan nontraditional objects. Learn more about this trend at the next FLS Connections! on Tuesday, May 9, at 4 p.m. when Grace Frenzel, Director of the Avon Free Library, will talk about Alternative Collections.

Some might call this the "Library of Things," lending objects, like popcorn makers, karaoke machines, ukuleles, power tools, and more. Friends can provide financial support for new collections that will reach a wide cross-section of the library's community with materials for early literacy learning, family activities in the out-of-doors, and hands-on science exploration.

Intrigued? Join us by registering. Please send a message to FLSregister@yahoo.com indicating your intention to attend. Put Connections in the subject line. In the body of the message, please give your **first and last name** and the **Friends group or library** you are representing. You will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom access code and any other pertinent information prior to the event. Registration closes on Wednesday, May 3 at 5 p.m. This session runs 75 minutes and will not be archived.

FLS is building an online community across the Empire State. Please join with FLS members and Friends volunteers for the continuation of this series of conversations we started in 2021. Each "FLS Connections" has a specific topic and invited speakers share with everyone informally, followed by open mics where everyone can participate and provide their own groups' experiences and ideas.

Days and times are varied to try to reach a wide audience. Have an idea you want to talk about? Send us a suggestion when you register. Want to see what we've discussed previously? Head to the FLS webpage (www.NYLA.org/Friends), select Events and then "FLS Connections! Previous Minutes and Resources."

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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.

Please Vote in the FLS Election

The FLS Executive Board approved the following slate of candidates, along with amendments to the FLS By-laws, to be placed on the FLS ballot. The election will be held online from June 1 through June 15 in conjunction with NYLA's annual election. Don't miss your chance to vote in both the FLS and NYLA elections.

The 2023 candidates are:

First Vice President/President-Elect
Christopher Lund - Cortland

Secretary
Joyce Maguda - Eden

Members At Large (vote for four)
Matthew Corey - Watertown
James Foster - West Charlton
Erica Freudenberger* - Catskill
Mary Giardini* - Olean

(denotes: * incumbent; location of residence)

The candidates' position statements and terms of office may be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Full candidate profiles and the amended by-laws document are available at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Board & Officers > Elections.

The FLS Board thanks these candidates for their willingness to serve the Section by sharing their time, talent, and expertise.



A Message from FLS President Kerstin Cruger

Hello Friends!

Welcome to spring! As we head into the warmer months it reminds me of all the outdoor library events that begin to crop up in the spring and carry us well into the fall. So many programs, so much planning and oh, so many volunteers!

According to AmeriCorps' 2021 Volunteering and Civic Life in America Report

(<https://www.americorps.gov/about/our-impact/volunteering-civic-life>) more than 23 percent of Americans, or 60.7 million people, formally volunteered, giving more than 4.1 billion hours of service with an estimated economic value of \$122.9 billion. In New York more than 3.3 million residents volunteered through an organization contributing \$7.2 billion in economic value.

The Stanford Center on Longevity (<https://longevity.stanford.edu/>) found that 90% of people say they want to volunteer but only about 1 in 4 choose to. So, what are the obstacles that keep individuals from taking that step to volunteerism? The Stanford Center on Longevity identified the three top reasons:

1. Not enough time and incompatible scheduling
2. Lack of information about where/how to volunteer and scarcity of purposeful positions
3. No one asked!

These may look familiar to some of you but if the answers surprise you perhaps this is a great time to look at your recruitment procedures, how you match volunteers with positions or if you can create a more flexible volunteer schedule. However, out of the three it is the last one that I found the most interesting. Can it be that simple? Are we just not asking? Though it is slightly more complex than saying "Please join us," ultimately if people feel welcomed,

included and valued they will be invested in the group, the work, and the best interest of the organization, but it all starts with the ask.

Friends know better than anyone why someone would choose to volunteer and the importance of who you volunteer for. Offering one of your most precious resources, your time, demonstrates just how much you are in support of an organization. Your commitment as a Friend is the best recruitment tool you have.

Your enthusiasm for what you do will resonate with potential volunteers so don't be reserved about telling people why you spend your time as a Friend. Get out there and inspire your community members with your story and then ask them to join you!

In the spirit of asking, if you are curious about how to become more active in the Friends of Libraries Section please feel free to contact myself, fls.kerstin.cruger@gmail.com, or any member of the FLS Board, FLS.nyla@yahoo.com, to learn how you can become more involved. We have large and small positions, most of which you can do online from the comfort of your favorite armchair, couch, office chair, porch swing, or lounge chair.

All the best,



Friends and Community Outreach

The FLS Connections! last September featured Amy Discenza, Outreach Coordinator for the Monroe County Library System's Extension/Outreach Department. Outreach often focuses on populations that do not have access to library services. Whether it's a micro collection lending program at affordable housing for seniors or re-entry support to incarcerated individuals, these critical services bridge the gap in access to information and provide equitable services to some of the area's most vulnerable populations.

Amy began with a definition:

Outreach means looking outside the walls of the library for ways to serve the community and it will look different for everybody. It might be a mobile services vehicle like a bike, bookmobile, or van; participating in community events like fairs and parades; or doing pop-up programming such as storytimes in the park or community-wide scavenger hunts.

The possibilities are as diverse as the library and community.
source: North Dakota State Library

Getting staff and Friends out of the building helps raise awareness of the library and its services by increasing visibility in the community. Outreach is also an advocacy and fundraising tool, especially when Friends, library staff, and the community collaborate. Friends can provide outreach endeavors large and small including mobile services, community events, and partnerships and collaborations.

With Little Free Libraries, Friends can help by managing and replenishing collections in each box they "adopt," checking for vandalism, and repairing damage if necessary. The Friends of the Webster Public Library stock nearly a dozen sites with "not quite perfect" donations that might not make

~ continued on page 7 ~

FLS Meet-up for Friends Groups in Cazenovia

The Friends of Libraries Section Executive Board invites representatives of Friends groups, library staff, and trustees to “talk shop” in Cazenovia on Thursday, July 13. FLS meet-ups offer a chance for representatives of area Friends of the Library groups to get together and discuss topics of interest for Friends.

The meet-up will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Betsy Kennedy Community Room of the Cazenovia Public Library, 100 Albany Street, Cazenovia NY 13035. Please note that the public parking lot entrance is off Riverside Drive, behind the library (www.cazenoviapubliclibrary.org > About Us, see Directions and Parking for a map).

This year, special guest Lauren Moore, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian, will join us to discuss the Regents Advisory Council’s Vision 2022 Plan (www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/rac/vision22.htm), which will chart a course for public libraries in 2023 and beyond. She will share an overview of the process and the outcome of discussions with hundreds of librarians, library staff, and others -- and then invite attendees to participate in interactive exercises to identify what Friends groups are doing, or planning to do, that support Vision 2022.

This will be a great opportunity for Friends from your library to meet with other Friends, exchange ideas, and make new contacts, all within a short distance from your home! Groups may wish to bring copies of membership brochures, program fliers, promotional pieces for their bookstore or book sales, and newsletters to share. FLS Board members will serve as mentors and moderators for this informal in-person discussion, sharing advice from their experience with Friends organizations from all across New York State. Any pearls of wisdom gathered will be shared in the FLS quarterly newsletter, Friends News and Notes.

This event is open at no charge to both FLS/NYLA members and non-members. However, advanced registration is required. No walk-ins, please. Send a message to FLSregister@yahoo.com indicating your intention to attend. Put Cazenovia in the subject line. In the body of the message, please provide names of those attending, Friends group/library affiliation, position (e.g., Friends officer, trustee, committee chair), and email addresses for all who plan to participate. If there is a specific topic you’d like to discuss with the Friends who are attending, please provide that information.

Registration closes on Wednesday, July 5 at 5 p.m. This session runs 2 hours and will not be archived. There will not be a way to attend this meeting remotely.

Thank you to our hosts, the Friends of the Cazenovia Public Library! We look forward to seeing you on July 13 and sharing great ideas.

15 Tips for Using Email Marketing

Lisa C. Wemett’s first listicle*

The March 9th FLS Connections welcomed Tony Iovino, Assistant Director at Oceanside Library (Nassau Library System), to share his insights on using email marketing and e-newsletters to reach Friends members and the library’s community. We had 41 people in attendance, representing 26 Friends groups, to hear this important topic. Here’s a sampling of Tony’s tips.

Reasons to embrace e-newsletters and email marketing

1. It’s a good way to reach a younger or mail-averse demographic (and less expensive than USPS postage)
2. It’s more immediate; you can get your message out quicker
3. People are more likely to click a link to donate than put a check in the mail
4. It’s easier to conduct surveys and get feedback
5. More interactions equals better retention of your members

Uses for Email

1. Distribute newsletters
2. Promote interesting (and sometimes under-used) library collections or services
3. Send fundraising appeals and reminders of annual dues
4. Issue event invitations and follow-ups (e.g., what did you like about the event?)
5. Provide thank you messages and recognition of volunteers, including new members

Why Professional Tools (i.e., Canva and Mailchimp) are Worth It

1. Improved email deliverability (your messages won’t end up in spam)
2. Easily manage your contact list
3. Customizable templates
4. High quality tutorials and support
5. Built in analytics – data on opening, clicking, sharing, including when and where

So, gather your email addresses, grab a template you like, and get online! You’re going to want to read the complete set of minutes, deemed “fabulous!” by one of our loyal followers! Tony gave us much to think about and act upon. Head to the FLS webpage (www.nyla.org/friends), select Events and then “FLS Connections! Previous Minutes and Resources” to see Tony’s slides and read the minutes, including information on how nonprofits qualify for complimentary accounts on Constant Contact® and Canva.

*In journalism and blogging, a listicle is an article structured as a list, consisting of an introduction, three or more list items, and a call to action. It typically features a number in its title. No qualitative judgment here: the order of these tips were Tony’s as captured so ably by FLS Second Vice President Amy Discenza. Thanks to everyone who participated!

2023 FLS Executive Board Election Candidates

Please remember to cast your ballot in the election between June 1 and June 15. FLS members will receive a message from NYLA with the instructions for logging into the Online Membership Center to vote. Be sure to cast ballots in all of the elections that you are entitled to vote in: NYLA, Sections, and Roundtables. Election results will be sent to all NYLA/FLS members once the votes are tallied.

The FLS ballot will include six candidates running for six openings on the Executive Board, plus a vote to amend the by-laws. The Executive Board recommends ratification of the amended By-laws. See more information about the FLS By-laws amendments on page 5. Thanks for your participation in directing the future of the Section. Your vote counts. (denotes: * incumbent; location of residence)



First Vice President / President-Elect

Christopher Lund - Cortland
Term: 2023 - 2026

Position Statement: As the leader of a relatively small, relatively young Friends group, I've experienced first-hand the challenges and difficulties that face many Friends groups across the State, such as recruiting and retaining members, coming up with new

fundraising ideas, and navigating the legal formalities required to run a nonprofit organization. My membership in NYLA's Friends of Libraries Section ("FLS") over the last few years has proven immensely beneficial in all these areas (and more) through perks like webinars, insightful and informative newsletter articles, networking opportunities, trainings conducted by subject matter experts, and other content that would be difficult or impossible to find elsewhere. Since November of 2021, I've had the pleasure of serving on the FLS Board as a Member At Large, working to bring these benefits to our members and constantly striving to expand and improve our services and offerings, so I was quite honored and humbled when I was nominated to serve as First Vice President / President Elect for the upcoming term. If elected to this position, my first priority would be to assure that FLS continues the great work it's been doing in recent years, including presenting an array of high-quality programming at the NYLA annual conference. In addition to these goals, I'd also like to work on building a dynamic centralized database of useful documents like sample forms, topical subject summaries, presentation recaps, and similar resources (akin to the current FLS Resources page for Small and Rural Libraries, but with a broader scope). And of course, I would strive to provide as many opportunities as possible for networking and information sharing, as ultimately, we have no better resource than each other.

Secretary

Joyce Maguda - Eden
Term: 2023 - 2025

Position Statement: During my career, I was able to witness the positive impact of Friends Groups on libraries of all sizes, and the communities that they serve. Besides financial support at the local level, their strong presence was effective in keeping rural libraries open throughout the county during a budget crisis.



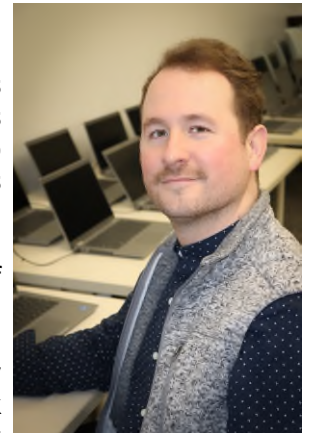
While serving on the Task Force for Friends Councils in 2021, I admired the dedication of committee members from across the state. It was a rewarding and successful experience. I look forward serving on the FLS Executive Board.

Members At Large (vote for four)

Term: 2023 - 2025

Matthew Corey - Watertown

Position Statement: Libraries are a crucial asset to the communities they support. However, libraries themselves need support to endure their own challenges. This is especially true in our rural and economically challenged communities. In my 12 years of working with our 65 libraries in the North Country Library System and in the greater library community across New York State, I've come to know how crucial Friends groups are in supporting libraries that support their communities. I've worked with Friends groups on advocacy initiatives when their library was pursuing ballot funding, education about roles, registration, and other best practices. I believe this experience and understanding of the importance of libraries and the Friends groups that support them will make me a strong candidate for FLS. Thank you for your consideration.



James Foster - West Charlton

Position Statement: My job description includes the title "Library Liaison to the Friends" a role that I enjoy and find critically important to the success of the Friends, and more importantly the success of our Library and community.



~ continued on next page ~

Candidate Profiles, continued from previous page

James Foster, continued

In nearly eight years as Assistant Director of the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library, I have found that working with the Friends is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of my job. The Friends of the Library are active, and they play a vital role in promoting the Library. Not only do they provide financial support, but, more importantly, they also represent the Library positively in the community. Being a liaison between two excellent organizations allows me to keep open channels of communication, provide news and information, and help both groups continue working together smoothly.

I look forward to bringing my positive experiences with our local Library and Friends group to the Friends of Libraries Section, sharing ideas, and helping support Friends organizations around the state. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the statewide library community and further the goals of NYLA by working with FLS.



Erica Freudenberger
(Incumbent) - Catskill

Position Statement: Serving on the Friends of Libraries Section Board provides an opportunity to do a deep dive into the tremendous work done by Friends groups across the state and get a sneak peek at new products, services, research, and opportunities developed by the Friends of Libraries

Section. There are endless possibilities to contribute to and support the work of Friends of the Library groups across the state. It's also a chance to work with the most incredible, brilliant, and committed people you will ever meet.

Mary Giardini (Incumbent) - Olean

Position Statement: For the past year, I have been a member of the Friends of Libraries Section of NYLA. During that time, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the most passionate people and they have challenged me to take on new roles and responsibilities. I have been a presenter and a president at the NYLA annual conference, worked on committees and attended in-person and virtual board meetings.



Last July, I was asked to be a member of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Committee. I took an active role where I used my nearly 15 years of fundraising experience to help the committee establish

solicitation guidelines.

In November, I attended the NYLA Conference where I was a room presider and I had the opportunity to meet so many people with the same interests as I have – a love for libraries and all a library should stand for. From the trade show and making valuable contacts, to speakers on topics such as intellectual freedom and freedom of speech, and workshops on how to grow a local friends group, all were very worthwhile and let me bring back invaluable information to my corner of New York State.

Reading has always been a passion of mine and I would love to continue to have the opportunity to bring that passion to others with the help of local libraries. I feel that Friends groups are there to help support the library and all of the very important services (and fun!) that they supply to their patrons.

The broad goal of the Friends of Libraries Section is to connect and inspire others to become active participants in their local library. It is my goal to continue working with libraries by using my experience with communications to broadcast the offerings of the public libraries and, most especially, in fundraising and organization to help fund a variety of programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our society. I could see that my skills would most closely align with helping to organize/host events and meetings and applying my skills with technology where needed – but I will happily pitch in and help with anything asked of me. I very much look forward to continuing to help others as a Member at Large for the Friends of Libraries Section.

By-Laws Vote in June

At the NYLA Council meeting on November 2, 2022, a motion was unanimously approved to have all NYLA Section representatives serve on NYLA's board of directors for three year terms. (Currently the FLS President serves on NYLA Council for one year.) It is hoped that this change will provide deeper institutional knowledge on NYLA Council and afford increased momentum for initiatives and long-term projects helping the Association function more effectively.

Sections can determine how to choose their representative from their membership. The FLS Executive Board has asked that the FLS Councilor be elected and sit as an officer on the FLS Board. To that end, a revision to the FLS by-laws must be made. At their March 22 meeting, the Board reviewed and endorsed the amended document. The complete document, with amendments noted, is available for review on either the FLS homepage or Elections page. Go to www.NYLA.org/Friends. A "yes" vote will allow for a future election of an FLS Councilor to represent the Friends of Libraries Section on NYLA Council. Please take part in directing the future of FLS and vote in June!

Friends Councils Offer Networking

Part 2 in a series by Lisa C. Wemett

The Friends Council of the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) in Rochester has been in existence for more than 30 years. When it was founded, it mirrored the model of the system's Trustees' Council, which is no longer in existence. But the Friends are still here!

The Monroe County Library System has 20 member libraries (plus additional branches). Of those, 85% have Friends groups. There are currently 16 active groups, including a group that supports an academic library. There are also Friends in the surrounding counties in the OWWL Library System that occasionally join us. We average ten groups at the meeting, with more than 30 people in attendance. Volunteers and library staff are all encouraged to participate.

The Council is 100% volunteer driven and meets two times a year, spring and fall. Friends offer to host the meeting at their library and provide refreshments. The dates are set at the convenience of the host group. We try very hard to alternate east and west sides of the county for the location. By moving the meetings around, we definitely reach volunteers who might not participate otherwise if they had to drive across the county to attend. During the pandemic, we had our first virtual gatherings, but have returned to in-person.

Meetings are usually held in the evening, 7 o'clock until 8:30 p.m. The hosts generally offer a tour of their building, prior to the start of the meeting. These tours are especially popular when the host library has had recent renovations or even have a new library building.

The structure of the meetings is not formal. There are no officers—only a recording secretary (me). Any Friends members who share their email addresses receive copies of the minutes of the meeting and sometimes supplemental handouts that were provided.

For our agendas, we generally focus on a topic that is important to the host group. It is an opportunity for that organization to shine and highlight their activities. We sometimes have a speaker, often a library staff member, to address a specific subject. We've heard about web applications for online donations, early childhood literacy, alternative collections to loan, and annual fund drives. Presentations are usually about 30 minutes long.

The last third of each Council meeting is generally "round-the-table" reports where the groups share information about their current activities, fundraisers, and other membership initiatives. Members often bring "burning questions" to ask their peers, such as "who accepts credit cards for membership dues?" All of us are always looking for best practices.

Local members of the FLS Executive Board attend the meetings. We make reports on our statewide activities,

including continuing education opportunities. We promote programs at the NYLA Annual Conference, scholarships, FLS awards, suggestions of ways to celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week each October, and other items.

The Council receives support services from the Monroe County Library System at no cost. A staff member of the library's automation services department manages a listserv of the groups' key volunteers. We have more than 140 people registered from 25 different libraries. Additions or deletions are quick maintenance. As the secretary, I send the staff member updates twice a year or more frequently if I am notified that new officers have been elected, someone has moved, changed email addresses, etc. We encourage groups to post questions to this listserv, but it is not very active. It is primarily used to keep folks informed of the Council meetings and continuing education opportunities.

Participants find the meetings very energizing! When I asked members about benefits their group have received by participating in the meetings, I heard the following:

- ◆ Our Friends are now developing a bookmark that showcases specific ways our organization helps our library, based on an idea shared by another Friends group. We plan to distribute the bookmark to our bookstore customers and library patrons.
- ◆ By using the listserv, we were able to benchmark prices at other Friends book sales. Sharing this data across all groups is truly invaluable!

We hope that you may persuade the Friends groups in your library system to develop a volunteer support group like ours. FLS continues its work to encourage more of these Councils to form around the state. If your public library system doesn't have a Council, we'd like you to advocate for the establishment of one to provide support to your volunteers and your neighboring Friends.

Please reach out to Jim Foster, Chair of the Task Force on Friends Councils at jfoster@sals.edu or contact FLS at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com for help. Groups learn so much from one another—the networking is invaluable. But more broadly, library civic leaders, whether library trustees or Friends officers, also have great potential to expand and strengthen citizen advocacy on behalf of the entire library community.

Editor's note: Would you like to see more information on Friends Council events in this newsletter or on the FLS webpage? Please share your thoughts, or information about your area Friends Council by emailing FLS.nyla@yahoo.com. We can include a calendar and/or highlights from gatherings in print and online if you send in the information! Thanks.

Community Outreach, continued from page 2

the cut for their book sales. On each Little Free Library (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>) you'll find a sticker: "Stocked by the Friends of the Webster Public Library" with their logo, email, and web address. Friends can underwrite literary trails (i.e., StoryWalks®), popular with families, adjacent to the library or in park settings with nature trails.

Community bookshelves may appear in laundromats, food pantries, or waiting rooms. The Friends of the Livonia Public Library held a mobile lending library at the food pantry expanding an existing partnership, where staff hold monthly library card signup at the pantry. At their local pantry, the Friends of the Clifton Park–Halfmoon Public Library (FCPHL) donate books placed in each bag that is distributed.

Since 2014, the "BookBox" project organized by the Webster Public Library has been a weekly summer "pop-up" library to serve children in an apartment complex on the opposite end of town. Volunteers and staff bring books to be signed out; snacks are provided by a local supermarket; staff from the Town's Recreation Department also lead games. (See more about the "BookBox" initiative in "Focus on Friends Finale: Partnerships" in the June 2021 issue of the FLS newsletter.)

The Friends Readers Outreach Service Team (FROST) of the Friends of the Fairport Public Library (FFPL) provides home delivery service to community members who are unable to visit the library on their own. Interested patrons complete an application with their reading preferences and formats, genres, subject areas, and even favorite authors. Materials are selected by the staff liaison librarian. A Friends volunteer contacts the patron and delivers the items.

Staffing an information table at a community festival can both recruit new Friends members and spread the word about library services. "Dex," the library's mouse mascot purchased by the FFPL, now participates in numerous library and community events. Amy's department attends a "Salute to Seniors" which includes music, dancing, and a picnic style lunch for older adults. She said, "We bring the library system's book bike to distribute large print books and books on CD and chat with folks about library services."

The Friends of the Ballston Community Public Library (<https://toblibrary.sals.edu/friends/>) participated in the summer reading program, both with a parade float and a kick-off event at a local park. They also are involved in the annual tree lighting ceremony and host a school district art show at the library in the spring. The Friends of the Argyle Free Library participated in Thistle Day, the town's annual celebration of their Scottish heritage. The Friends helped library staff with children's craft tables. The group has also participated in the town-wide garage sale, to both raise money and awareness of the Friends.

The Friends of the Webster Public Library share a table with library staff at their local farmers market every Saturday. Library staff bring brochures about programs and services,

stickers and pencils; the Friends, identified by their cobblers' aprons embroidered with the Friends logo, bring membership brochures and books to giveaway. (As Amy says, "Library T-shirts are always ill-fitting. Branded aprons are the way to go!")



In 2022, Queens Borough libraries provided food bank distribution sites twice a month at some of their branches with the help of Friends volunteers. Teen volunteers are also invaluable in this project and gain wonderful experience as they are mentored by the adult Friends members. Other projects include giveaways of new books at street fairs and contributing school-specific materials to round out student backpacks and school supplies.

Another great way to build partnerships and to address important community issues is to host a donation drive or simply serve as a collection point for another agency. Donation drives allow individuals to donate new or sometimes gently used items to those who really need them, such as eyeglasses, pet supplies, socks, winter jackets, hygiene products, and toys. The Cicero Branch of the Northern Onondaga Public Library has been a donation site for the Central New York Diaper Bank for several years. Webster Public Library has the "Donation Station" where they collect non-perishable foods, toiletry items, cleaning supplies, and other items for local charities and community organizations on a short-term basis.

During their used book sales, the FCPHL give the community an opportunity to make donations to other agencies, including used jeans, food, household goods, and children's books. Shoppers could buy children's books at the sale and immediately donate them to this local nonprofit. The bookstore operated by the Friends of the Cornwall Library is a collection site for "Backpacks for Food," helping to provide nourishing food for weekend meals to elementary students who are enrolled in the Federal free lunch program.

The FFPL operate a retail shop, The Corner Bookstore. Store volunteers participate as active members of the local merchants association. Sidewalk sales put the store out into the community. It's in the heart of the village, in a shopping plaza upstairs from the library, and backs up to the Erie Canal. All summer long, visitors arrive in town by boat. To welcome them, the merchants' group gives out "Boater Bags" including a paperback book, a bookmark, and a store coupon supplied by the Friends. This project puts "outreach" in a whole new realm, as the boats sail out of town!

Want to see what we've discussed previously? Head to the FLS webpage (www.NYLA.org/Friends), select Events and then "FLS Connections! Previous Minutes and Resources."

FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

Officers:

President - Kerstin Cruger fls.kerstin.cruger@gmail.com

First Vice President, Conference Curator - Carol Fortier

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Mary Giardini

Jerrie Grantham

Christopher Lund

Erica Freudenberger

Ristiina Wigg

NYLA Committee Representatives:

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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

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FLS Scholarship Coordinator - Marie Bindeman,

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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 Home

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.

FLS is a member of United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association www.ala.org/united

FLS Awards and Scholarships



It's that time of year again, where you have the opportunity to honor an active library supporter, Friend, or Friends of the Library group. **The FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award** is sponsored

by the Friends of Libraries Section of NYLA. This prestigious award has been given annually since 1993 through the precursor of FLS, the Empire Friends Roundtable. The award honors a volunteer member or group from the library community whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations.

Are you a member of a Friends of the Library group? Do you serve as the Staff Liaison to your library's Friends group? Do you have a stellar Friends group at your library? Could you or one of the Friends volunteers benefit from a professional development opportunity at the NYLA Annual Conference?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please consider applying for the **FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship** (RECS) to attend the 2023 NYLA Annual Conference. The award pays up to a maximum of \$750 for an individual to attend the conference. Reimbursements may include registration, tickets for events and meal functions, lodging, and travel expenses.

Learn more about FLS Awards and Scholarships at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships. Select the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award, the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship, or both! The application form and supporting documentation must be submitted to the appropriate coordinator by 5 p.m., Thursday, June 1, 2023.



FLS Awards

Benefits for FLS Members:

- ✓ receive *Friends News and Notes* quarterly newsletters via USPS
- ✓ apply for the annual FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (available for FLS members only)
- ✓ attend FLS-sponsored webinars at no charge (registration required)

Not a member? Please join us at www.NYLA.org/join or add FLS to an existing NYLA membership.