



# Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 9, #4 -- August 2023

## FLS Awards and Scholarships

### And the 2023 FLS Daniel W. Casey Award goes to...

The Casey Award Committee met in June to review the five nominations for the 2023 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. After careful review, the committee made two recommendations: the award for Marjorie Gascon of the Friends of the Webster Public Library and an honorable mention for Eileen Hall from the Friends of the Rosendale Library. The FLS Executive Board approved the recommendations of the committee at its July 13 meeting.

Sadly, Marjorie Gascon passed away unexpectedly this past April, so the Award will be given posthumously. Marjorie joined the Friends of the Webster Public Library in 2009, bringing a wealth of technical skills which were very appreciated and well used, especially in developing a Friends membership database. She streamlined the process and put the list in the "cloud." Marjorie restarted the Friends newsletter, served as membership chair, treasurer, and Chair of the Friends.

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### 2023 FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Recipient Named

The Friends of Libraries Section Executive Board is honored to award Theresa Schommer, Monroe Free Library Trustee, the 2023 Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (RECS). The FLS RECS pays a maximum of \$750 for an individual to attend the NYLA Annual Conference and to attend an FLS-sponsored Pre-Conference workshop.

Theresa is attempting to re-establish and energize the library's Friends of the Library group as the board liaison. She also chairs the Bylaws and Public Relations Committees of the Monroe Free Library Board. She will be a first-time

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## Friends of Libraries Section: What's Happening?

FLS is hard at work planning new opportunities for our members and those who work to support the New York library community. You'll find detailed information in this newsletter on these and other initiatives. We hope to see you at any and all of these exciting events!

### Getting Started

Monday, September 18, 10 a.m. - noon. FLS is back "on the road" to present this workshop, sponsored by the Four County Library System. The FLS training team will be at the Guernsey Memorial Library in Norwich. See page 3.

### FLS Connections!

#### Membership Engagement

Thursday, October 12, 4 - 5:15 p.m. In this conversation via Zoom, join Audrey Sherman, President, and Angela Calderella, Vice President, from the Friends of the John C. Hart Memorial Library for a discussion on Membership-raising. See page 3.

### FLS Offerings for Friends at the 2023 NYLA Annual Conference

November 1 - 4, at the Saratoga Hilton/City Center in Saratoga Springs. FLS is sponsoring five programs from Wednesday through Saturday: a Pre-Conference Grant Writing workshop and two Friends-themed programs each day, Friday and Saturday. See the Conference Centerfold, pages 5 - 8 for detailed registration and program information.

### Save the Date

#### FLS Annual Membership Meeting

November 15, 7:00 p.m. A call to meeting with details on how to register will be distributed in advance of this meeting. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this virtual event.

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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.

## A Message from FLS President Kerstin Cruger

Hello Friends!

Happy summer everyone! In July the FLS Board met in-person at the Cazenovia Public Library for the FLS Board Meeting followed by a Friends Meet-up. This was our first in-person Friends Meet-up since 2019! We were lucky enough to be joined by Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian accompanied by Tor Loney, Library Development Specialist at the New York State Library to discuss the 2022 RAC Vision Plan. For those of you who may not be familiar with RAC, or the Vision Plan, here is some background for you.

The Regents Advisory Council on Libraries (RAC) advises the Board of Regents regarding Library policy. The 15-member council works with the officers of the State Education Department in developing a comprehensive statewide library and information policy and makes recommendations to the Board of Regents concerning the implementation of the program. In case you didn't know, the Executive Director of NYLA, AnnaLee Dragon, is a member of this council!

The 2022 RAC Vision Plan provides a framework for libraries, reflecting the input of hundreds of library workers and supporters representing academic, public, school, and special libraries statewide. A road map for the future, Vision 2022 aims to inspire, support, and affirm the excellent work being done and to create a shared vision for all types of libraries across New York State. You can view the plan at <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/rac>.

If you have not already, I would highly recommend reading through the RAC Vision Plan. Friends are such an integral part of our library communities and understanding the values, priorities and goals set forth by the RAC Vision Plan will help strengthen your connection to your library.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Elisha Davies, Director of the Cazenovia Public Library, for their generous hospitality and New York State Librarian Lauren Moore for making the trip to Cazenovia to talk with our Friends about the future of libraries. We had an amazing day!



### CONFERENCE TIME

Registration is now open for the 2023 NYLA Conference. We will be back in Saratoga Springs and would love for you to join us for our Friends-focused workshops. You can find a complete listing with descriptions in this issue as well as at [www.NYLA.org/conference](http://www.NYLA.org/conference). If you are at the Conference don't forget to stop by the FLS booth on the trade show floor to mix and mingle with various FLS Board members and fellow Friends from across the state. Whether this is your first NYLA Conference, or you have attended many times before, it is a great opportunity to connect with Friends groups from around New York, get to know your FLS Board members, and gather some fresh ideas or learn some new tips from an incredible group of speakers. Be sure to take advantage of that early bird deadline (ends September 1<sup>st</sup>) to get a discount on the cost of registration.

See you in Saratoga Springs!  
All the best,

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## 2023 FLS Election Results

### The winners are...

Thank you and congratulations to the following FLS members who volunteered to serve on the FLS Executive Board:

**Christopher Lund** is the incoming First Vice President/President Elect, term ending in November 2026. Chris was formerly a Member At Large.

We're happy to welcome **Joyce Maguda**, new to the Executive Board as FLS Secretary, term ends November 2025.

**Erica Freudenberger** and **Mary Giardini** are returning as Members At Large, with terms ending in November 2025.

FLS welcomes **Matthew Corey** and **James Foster** as new Members At Large, with terms ending in November 2025.

The amended FLS By-laws were approved and are now in effect. A new Executive Board position, FLS Councilor to represent the Section at NYLA Council meetings, was approved in these by-laws.

FLS extends its gratitude to all those who have agreed to hold elected and volunteer positions on the Section's Executive Board.

If you are interested in joining the FLS Executive Board, in an elected or volunteer capacity, please send an email to [FLS.nyla@yahoo.com](mailto:FLS.nyla@yahoo.com). Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate FLS board member.

To see the newly updated FLS By-Laws or to browse position descriptions, go to [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends) > Board & Officers > Bylaws. To view the profiles for the newly elected members of the board go to [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends) > Board & Officers > Elections.

## Getting Started Offered in Norwich September 18



Four County Library System

Norwich from 10 a.m. until noon.

FLS is pleased to bring **Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library** to the Four County Library System (4CLS) and its neighbors on Monday, September 18 at the Guernsey Memorial Library in

The training session is appropriate for library managers or directors, library trustees, and community volunteers who want to explore the possibilities of starting a Friends group. The workshop is appropriate for mid-size libraries as well as small and rural libraries. Both active Friends groups and those working to revitalize their organizations have also found this workshop useful as a review of their current practices and to glean ideas for expanding their membership base.

At the workshop, discussion will focus on the benefits of gathering community volunteers to support your library's programs and services. We'll utilize a checklist to develop a Friends of the Library group step-by-step including recruiting helpers to serve on a steering committee. Once the Friends' mission has been determined, the focus will switch to volunteer engagement, expanding the base of supporters for both new and established groups, and ultimately, working with volunteers to develop the leadership corps that will successfully maintain an active organization.

The workshop is free of charge and is open to any interested participants, not just member libraries of the Four County Library System. Registration is limited to 30 people, so sign up soon! Participants may request two hours of continuing education (CE) credit from Four County Library System. Please complete the Google Form to register no later than Monday, September 11 at 5 p.m.:

<https://tinyurl.com/4clsgettingstarted>.

Questions can be directed to Circe McKenney, 4CLS Professional Development Coordinator, at [cmckenney@4cls.org](mailto:cmckenney@4cls.org) or (607) 723-8236, ext. 335. We hope you'll join us!

### Interested in Hosting an FLS Workshop?

FLS has developed two in-person workshops that Friends organizations, libraries, or library systems can sponsor in their region: *Getting Started* or *Keep It Growing*.

For more information, visit [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends) > Events > Host an FLS Regional Workshop. You'll find the handout, "Considering hosting an FLS Workshop at your location?" Check it out!!

## FLS Connections! Membership Engagement October 12

When we asked on the recent FLS survey, "What are some of your Friends group's current challenges?" 78% selected "attracting members and retaining them." Close behind, 63% of our respondents said increasing the involvement and active participation of their members, donors, or supporters was also a difficult task.

If you are looking for some tried and true approaches to grow your Friends in a variety of ways, you'll want to attend the next FLS Connections! when we will tackle the topic of membership engagement. We also felt this subject was timely as a run-up to National Friends of Libraries Week when many Friends choose to hold membership drives.

Membership-raising is a combination of efforts: volunteer engagement; incentives to join and perks for Friends supporters; recruitment of volunteers to sustain the group; and volunteer recognition. The Friends of the John C. Hart Memorial Library in the Westchester Library System have a knack for matching volunteer tasks to their members' skill sets. Join Audrey Sherman, President, and Angela Calderella, Vice President, for our discussion on Thursday, October 12, at 4 p.m.

Please register by sending a message to [FLSregister@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Friday, October 6 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 informally, followed by open mics where everyone can participate and provide their own groups' experiences and ideas. Want to see what we've discussed previously? Head to the FLS webpage, [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends), select Events and then "FLS Connections! Previous Minutes and Resources."

**Save the date:** FLS Connections! on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 4 p.m. when we'll discuss "Making the Most of National Friends of Libraries Week" with Jillian Wentworth, Manager of Marketing and Membership for United for Libraries.

For more on National Friends of Libraries week, see the article on page 4.

## Celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week!

by Jen Allen, FLS Coordinator for NFOLW

Did you know that Friends of Libraries groups have a national week dedicated to them? That's right! The 18<sup>th</sup> annual National Friends of Libraries Week (NFOLW) is scheduled for October 15-21, 2023. This week is the perfect time for your Friends' group to step into the spotlight!

Use this week to promote your group within the community to raise awareness and grow memberships. It's also a wonderful opportunity for your library and the Board of Trustees to recognize the great work you're doing to support your library.

Here is a short list to help you start thinking about the different ways you can celebrate NFOLW this fall:

- Hold a membership drive
- Host a fundraising event to raise awareness and funds for your library
- Have a bookmark contest to get the community involved
- Host a book sale
- Host a volunteer recognition event
- Thank library staff with a celebration—everyone loves a party!
- Utilize social media by posting about all the great work you are doing

To help coordinate our social media efforts, C Romeo, Director of Communications and Member Engagement for NYLA, is developing a social media campaign for the week, #NYFriendsOfLibrariesWeek, with a calendar of themed days to join in the celebration. There will be days to highlight community partnerships, celebrate volunteers, encourage membership in the Friends, and the important advocacy role Friends have. This coordinated effort will be an excellent opportunity to recognize Friends for their support of libraries statewide. Watch for an announcement from NYLA this fall.

FLS will kick off the NFOLW celebration by hosting an FLS Connections! on Thursday, October 12 at 4 p.m. (See the article on page 3.) Members of the leadership team of the Friends of the John C. Hart Memorial Library will lead off our discussion on membership engagement by sharing tips on how they have been successful in encouraging Friends members to become actively involved with their organization. Since NFOLW is such a great opportunity to put Friends front and center, this discussion will give you ideas of how to follow up a membership drive with action steps to immediately involve your new members in the important work of the Friends.

Looking for more resources? Visit the ALA website @ <http://www.ala.org/united/friendsweek> for access to free

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## Craft Supply Fundraiser

by Lisa C. Wemett with Wilma Jozwiak

In March, the Friends of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library held a craft sale that wasn't a sale at all. Their first "Craft Supply Give & Take" (G&T for short) was not a sale of finished craft projects, but rather a swap of craft supplies and what crafters call UFOs—Unfinished Objects! Pitched as "Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle and help the Library—it's a win/win/win," it was a free-will donation event.



Volunteer Diane Madrigal proudly shows off the bonanza of rubber stamping supplies.

People were encouraged to "donate what you no longer need" and buy "with a free-will donation that you think is fair for what you are taking." Donations were received only on Friday afternoon for four hours and tons of craft supplies, fabric, ribbon, crafting tools, rubber stamps, and more

came pouring in. Set up was complicated by the fact that the AARP tax preparation volunteers were using a dozen tables that the Friends might otherwise have used. So many boxes were left on the floor, but that did not deter the shoppers.

The free-will donations ranged from a dollar to \$100. An older woman came up to the table with a handful of items and handed the Friends a \$100 bill. When the volunteer asked what kind of change she would like, the woman said, "Keep it - it's a donation." The event netted over \$3,600 in 9 hours over Saturday and Sunday. Using a hand counter, the tally was about 700 visitors.

A clever element of the G&T involved the public voting on how the proceeds would be utilized. "We set up pretty containers near the cash till labeled for various library programs and let customers vote for their favorite with wooden nickels." Choices were make & take craft kits, museum passes, alternative collections to loan, author visits, items for the sensory room, and book display stands. Not surprisingly, given the interests of the shoppers, make & take crafts and in-library craft events came out on top, followed closely by funding the museum pass program. The Friends will distribute the proceeds to these library programs and services on a percentage basis.

The group's social media volunteer used Facebook extensively to promote the event as well as online calendars in local media outlets including KidsOutAndAbout.com and its sister site for older adults, OutoftheNest.com. At the end of the sale, members of the Kiwanis Club were invited to take the remaining supplies. "They carried off cartloads of leftovers for their summer camp for disadvantaged kids."

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**Reclaim Your Spark @  
NYLA 2023 Annual Conference & Trade Show  
Wednesday, November 1 - Saturday, November 4, 2023  
In-person at the Saratoga Hilton and City Center  
Saratoga Springs, NY**



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
The Voice of the Library Community

Sometimes we just need to stop for a moment, or for the duration of a conference, and ask ourselves, "Why do we do what we do? Why are we so passionate about libraries?" This year's theme for the NYLA Annual Conference is *Revive, Refresh, Rekindle; Reclaim Your Spark!* Not a bad idea for all of us, professionals and volunteers alike, to take this opportunity for a recharge! That comes through networking and exploring topics relevant to our work. Let's make it happen together at the NYLA Annual Conference.

### **Friends Registration Options and Rates:**

NYLA members registered as Friends or as part of a Friends Group Organizational Membership are eligible for reduced rates to attend the conference. Registration provides a badge for entry to all non-ticketed programs and the Trade Show of library-related vendors. (The trade show is open on Thursday and Friday.) Complete conference information may be found at [www.NYLA.org/conference](http://www.NYLA.org/conference). All registrations must be completed online.

NYLA personal members at the Friend, Retired, Trustee, or Student level or individuals registered as part of a NYLA Friends Group Organizational Membership (including the Primary Contact and Friend Group Leaders) are eligible for the reduced registration rates. You will need your NYLA username and password associated with your personal or organizational membership in order to receive these reduced rates. The registration form will populate with the appropriate rates based on your NYLA member type.

### **Full Conference:**

A Full Conference registration for Friends, as noted above, includes entry to the NYLA Membership Meeting, Keynote, Trade Show (Thurs. and Fri.), Program Slots 1 - 8 and the Friday Awards Reception. The Early Bird rate (Aug 1 - Sept. 1) is \$190. From September 2 - October 16 it is \$275 and onsite in November, it increases to \$350.

### **Full Conference with Pre-Conference:**

A secondary Full Conference plus Pre-Conference registration is also available. This includes everything listed above plus one Pre-Conference workshop on Wednesday. Early Bird is \$265 and increases to \$365 and \$465 in the subsequent registration periods. FLS is presenting a Pre-Conference workshop on Wednesday afternoon. See details on page 6.

You may also add ticketed events to your registration. These include the ESLN Luncheon on Thursday (\$45), Scholarship Bash on Thursday evening (\$60), YSS Empire State Award or PLS Author! Author! Luncheons on Friday (\$45), or the Intellectual Freedom Breakfast on Saturday (\$40).

### **Single Day:**

A Single Day registration is \$95 for admission to the conference on just one day; Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. This rate increases to \$100 for an onsite registration in November.

- Thursday Single Day includes the NYLA Membership Meeting, Keynote, Trade Show (10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), and Program Slots 1 & 2. An ESLN Luncheon ticket may be purchased for \$45 and the Scholarship Bash for \$60.
- Friday Single Day includes the Trade Show (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.), Program Slots 3 - 6, and a ticket to the Awards Reception. Luncheon tickets for either the YSS Empire State Award or PLS Author! Author! may be purchased for \$45.
- Saturday Single Day includes Program Slots 7 & 8. The Trade Show is not open on Saturday. An Intellectual Freedom Breakfast ticket may be purchased for \$40.

### **Pre-Conference:**

You may register to attend a Pre-Conference workshop without registering for the rest of the conference. There are morning and afternoon sessions. Each session requires a separate registration. As mentioned earlier, FLS is offering a program on Wednesday afternoon. See page 6.

### **Single Event Tickets only:**

It is also possible to purchase a ticket for only the Friday evening Awards Reception (\$65) or a registration to attend just the Trade Show on Thursday or Friday (\$40). These rates are the same for NYLA members or non-members.

### **Registration Reminders:**

Use the "Special Needs" box on the Order Detail page to indicate any dietary accommodations you require: VG/DF/GF, or any other special needs, or notes necessary for your registration. Be sure to secure your tickets by registering in advance; events often sell out early.

All registrations must be submitted online. Early Bird rates end September 1st. Remember that you will need your NYLA membership login and password in order to register and receive the Friend level rates.

Should you encounter any difficulties or if questions arise while registering, please contact Lauren Hoyt, NYLA's Director of Association Operations at [events@nyla.org](mailto:events@nyla.org) or call 518-432-6952, ext. 104. NYLA does not take credit card payments over the telephone.

FLS looks forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs this November!!

## Conference Programs for Friends - Sponsored by the Friends of Libraries Section

### Wednesday, November 1, Pre-Conference

#### ***Writing Winning Grant Proposals for Library Programming***

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. PM Pre-Conference Workshop



Grant writing has its own vocabulary and requisite planning steps which involve careful attention to detail. Erica Freudenberger (top), Outreach and Engagement Consultant for the Southern Adirondack Library System, and Lisa C. Wemett, FLS Coordinator for Professional Development, will cover the basics of drafting proposals that will secure funds available for nonprofit organizations for arts and humanities programming designed with your community in mind.



Hear how to effectively write about the needs, activities, goals, and outcomes of your programs, starting with a grant profile. Communicate to funders that you have the ability to effectively carry out a project that will have wide impact on your audiences by careful preparation and follow through. Once you have sharpened your proposal writing skills and understand what funders are looking for, you will become successful time and again in the competitive arena of grant writing.

Our panelists have secured grants from Poets & Writers, NYS Council on the Arts Community Arts Grants, the American Library Association, and Humanities NYS. All these agencies provide funds for programs to benefit your library's patrons.

Please note that participants may enroll in this workshop independently from the NYLA Annual Conference (November 1-4). Conference registration is not required to attend, however, a separate fee for this program does apply. Member rates are available. See the registration options on page 5 for more details, or visit [www.nyla.org/conference](http://www.nyla.org/conference).

### Friday, November 3

#### ***Friend-Raising to Revive and Rekindle Growth***

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Program Slot #4



It's time to hear first-hand accounts of success stories about membership-raising! Your Friends group will only survive if you have a continual pool of new recruits. This can only happen with a plan. If your organization is to grow, you need new leaders. Our panelists will help you develop an annual strategy for membership drives. In addition, you will learn the skills to identify and develop potential leaders in your organization. Discover tips from experienced professionals who will share details of the Friend-raising activities they use throughout the year. Energizing and growing your membership will put you on the path to meet the future needs of your Friends organization and Library.

**Speakers:**

Arlene Vaquer, Friends of Beekman Library

Jim Foster, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

### 2023 NYLA Conference App

NYLA will be utilizing a conference app, available via computer or as a download for your mobile device. "All-things-conference" will be accessible within the app including daily schedules, program listings, presenters, and special event details. A trade show map will help you find your favorite vendor and NYLA unit booths - including FLS! After you have registered for the conference you will receive login credentials for the app. You'll be able to bookmark programs and events to keep track of where you want to be and when, and check in for sessions to record your Continuing Education Credits (this information will be available afterwards in your NYLA Personal Record). Information will be added regularly during the lead up to the conference and throughout the event. This comprehensive app will be a helpful resource for conference goers.

**Friday, November 3, continued**

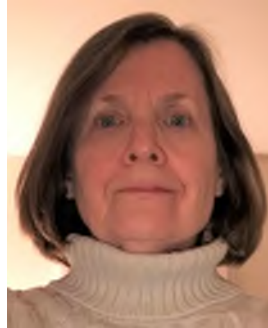
***Fundraising Refresh***

**2:15 – 3:30 p.m. Program Slot #5**

Are you looking for proven fundraising ideas that will add variety to your annual line up? Hear from experienced fundraisers who will give you how-to guides for your next great fundraising event. Refresh your fundraising line up. Learn about new innovative ideas and traditional ones with a twist.

Regardless of whether your challenge is space, storage, or technology skills, our panel will provide you with ideas that will fit the size of your organization and skill set. You will be given step by step instructions that will give you the confidence to embark on a new fundraising project. Get ready to learn about a unique annual appeal, how to harness the wide reach of Giving Tuesday, and more traditional ideas like art auctions and craft supply sales that can be adapted to the interests of your community. Leave with some excellent ideas and concrete plans for your next great fundraiser!

**Speakers (left to right):**



Mary Giardini  
Tom Jacobs  
Friends of Olean  
Public Library  
Carol Kuhr  
Friends of the Argyle  
Free Library  
Judy Grattan  
Friends of Poestenkill  
Library

**Saturday, November 4**

***ABCs of Best Practices for Friends Groups***

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Program Slot #7**



Looking for some great ideas your Friends can implement? Every Friends organization can learn from their peers. Ideas abound, ripe for the picking! Hear some outstanding ways to market your group, keep membership numbers growing, engage your community with your activities, and raise some money, all by borrowing practical tips and creative tricks from Friends groups large and small. Come prepared to add your own "letters" into this alphabet stew. Together we'll highlight noteworthy advice, best habits to adopt, and practical ways to keep Friends thriving and successful in their important work.

**Speaker:** Lisa C. Wemett, Friends of Libraries Section

***Preserving the Voices and Memories***

**11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Program Slot #8**



Are you interested in preserving the history of your library and community through engaging oral histories? Learn how to collect and promote oral histories that represent the rich stories, diversity and experiences of your communities and enhance your library's archives. Queens Public library colleagues will share highlights from their community-engaged oral history projects. You will learn how to identify and recruit members of your community, Friends members, and staff to bring interview-based programs and projects to your library.



Learn how to work closely with staff and volunteers on local history projects that incorporate oral history interviewing and public programs to recruit potential interviewees. In addition, hear how to motivate Friends organizations to preserve their history of community outreach, programming support and advocacy through oral histories and digitalization of supporting photos and records.

**Speakers:**

Jerrie Grantham (left), Meral Agish (right), Queens Public Library

## General Conference Schedule

### Wednesday, November 1

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. AM Pre-Conference Workshop  
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. PM Pre-Conference Workshop<sup>FLS</sup>

### Thursday, November 2

8:00-9:00 a.m. NYLA Networking Breakfast/Annual Membership Meeting  
9:00-10:15 a.m. Keynote Address  
10:30-noon Trade Show Grand Opening  
12:00-1:30 p.m. ESLN Luncheon<sup>T</sup>/Lightning Rounds  
1:45-3:00 p.m. Program Slot #1  
3:00-4:00 p.m. Designated Trade Show Time  
4:00-5:15 p.m. Program Slot #2  
5:30-7:00 p.m. New Members/Past Presidents Meet & Greet

8:00-10:00p.m. Scholarship Bash<sup>T</sup>  
10:00-midnight NYLA After Dark/ULU After Dark

### Friday, November 4th

8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast with the Vendors/Trade Show  
8:30-9:45 a.m. Program Slot #3  
9:45-10:45 a.m. Designated Trade Show Time  
11:00a-12:15 p.m. Program Slot #4<sup>FLS</sup>  
12:30-2:00 p.m. PLS Author! Author! Luncheon<sup>T</sup> or YSS Empire State Award Luncheon<sup>T</sup>  
2:15-3:30 p.m. Program Slot #5<sup>FLS</sup>  
3:45-5:00 p.m. Program Slot #6  
7:00-9:00 p.m. Inaugural Awards Banquet<sup>T</sup>  
9:30-midnight NY4BL PAC Fundraiser (Off-Site)

### Saturday, November 5th

8:00-9:30 a.m. Intellectual Freedom Breakfast<sup>T</sup>  
9:30-10:45 a.m. Program Slot #7<sup>FLS</sup>  
11:00a-12:15 p.m. Program Slot #8<sup>FLS</sup>

<sup>FLS</sup> Indicates time slot with FLS Sponsored Programming

<sup>T</sup> Ticketed event

Don't miss the FLS Booth at the Trade Show!!

## Conference Special Event Details

Special events occur throughout the conference. Some are ticketed, as noted in the schedule above, and others are open to all attendees. Here are some highlights.

### Thursday

**Keynote:** Emily Drabinski, 2023-2024 President of the American Library Association

**ESLN Luncheon:** Alison Macrina, Library Freedom Project  
**Lightning Rounds, Scholarship Bash** and **ULU After Dark**<sup>DTBA</sup>

### Friday

**PLS Author! Author!:** Adriana Herrera, Best-Selling author

**YSS Empire State Award Lunch:** Nina Crews, critically acclaimed children's book author and illustrator

**NYLA Awards Reception**<sup>DTBA</sup>

**NY4BL PAC Fundraiser**<sup>DTBA</sup>

## Coffee and FLS Connections!

### Friendly Café Meet-Up

Friday, November 3, 2023

9 – 10:30 a.m.

The Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library (FSSPL) invite you to start off "Friends Day" at the Friends Coffee Shop, on the first floor of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, 49 Henry Street. The Putnam Street entrance off the library's parking lot is closest to the Shop. Allow 10 minutes to walk from the Saratoga Springs City Center, 522 Broadway.

The Friends Coffee Shop just opened in July. Operated by FSSPL, the shop offers hot and cold beverages, snacks, and baked goods from The Bread Basket. Conference goers may show their NYLA badge to receive a free hot beverage of their choice (or \$1 off a cold beverage) from opening until 10:30 a.m. Snacks and bakery items will be regular price.

Take advantage of this opportunity to drop-in at your convenience, to network with other Friends, exchange best practices, and make new contacts while you enjoy your beverage and snacks. We'll offer some discussion starters so you can talk about topics of interest to both volunteers and staff. Everyone is welcome! Join us for some casual conversation before you head out for the program offerings of "Friends Day" at the NYLA Annual Conference.

FLS meet-ups offer a chance for Friends that support libraries of all types to discuss topics of interest, such as advocacy, membership, energizing volunteers, fundraising ideas, book sales, and programs and services that the Friends offer to their community. What would you like to talk about? See you there!

Not able to join us? Be sure to schedule some time to visit the Friends Coffee Shop and the Friends Book Shop at the Saratoga Springs Public Library during the NYLA Annual Conference. Library hours on Wednesday and Thursday are 9 to 9, Friday 9 to 6, and Saturday 9 to 5. The Coffee Shop is open Wednesday through Friday 10 to 2, but opening early on Friday for the Meet-up and closed on Saturday (hours subject to change). The Book Shop is open Wednesday and Thursday 10 to 6, Friday 10 to 5, and Saturday 10 to 4. <https://friends.sspl.org/friends-book-shop>.

Saturday

**Intellectual Freedom Breakfast:** Christine Emeran, PhD

For the most up-to-date information, locations, and speaker bios check out the NYLA Conference App or [www.nyla.org/conference](http://www.nyla.org/conference).

<sup>DTBA</sup> - Details to be announced



## Supporting Alternative Collections



Library staff members and Friends gathered May 9 for another FLS Connections! Grace Frenzel, Director of the Avon Free Library (OWWL Library System), provided a lively virtual presentation on

alternative collections. What are libraries loaning these days that are not books and media? Everything from seeds to fishing poles!

Much of Grace's experience developing and working with alternative collections stems from her time serving as the Family Services Coordinator at the Livonia Public Library. Many of Livonia's alternative collections are sponsored by the Friends of the Livonia Library. The purpose of most Friends groups is to provide "extras" outside of the library's operating budget and underwriting new collections to loan certainly meets this criterion.

Here are just a few things Livonia and Avon loan out: Wi-Fi hotspots; early literacy kits; toy collections; memory/nostalgia kits; novelty cake pans; pickleball sets; passes for NYS state parks and local museums; jigsaw puzzles; coloring books. The participants in this session offered up some additional ideas from their libraries: board games; power tools; gardening tools; outdoor game sets; photo backdrops. The list of items was lengthy—creativity abounds!

Why should you consider adding alternative collections at your library? To enrich your patrons' lives and to make your library more appealing to non-library users. Loaning non-traditional items creates an undeniable cool factor for the library!

See Grace's slides and detailed minutes of all the sources for these collections on the FLS webpage, [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends). Select Events and then "FLS Connections! Previous Minutes and Resources."

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### NFOLW continued from page 4

public relations and marketing materials to help you promote your group prior and during NFOLW. You will find a sample press release, graphics, letter to the editor, and more. You can also purchase NFOLW assets from the ALA Store @ [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org).

We also hope that you will check out the NFOLW Awards @ [www.ala.org/united/friendsweek](http://www.ala.org/united/friendsweek) (scroll down to Awards) to apply for one of two monetary awards to help Friends groups with their celebrations during the week.

We look forward to hearing about the various celebrations and events that your group executes during this year's NFOLW. Email details and photos to [FLS.nyla@yahoo.com](mailto:FLS.nyla@yahoo.com).

## Friendly Ways to Be Sustainable

by Marie Bindeman

First, with the assistance of Wikipedia, the following definitions of sustainability may clarify the movement. Sustainability consists of fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care, and social well-being.

An integral component of sustainability is the ability to embrace diverse communities and the unique voices they support — with increasing challenges related to climate change, resource scarcity, and population growth, it is more important than ever that we work together to create a more resilient world. Sustainability has three main pillars (or the triple bottom line): economically feasible, environmentally sound, and socially equitable. These three pillars are informally referred to as people, planet, and profits. The American Library Association added sustainability as a core value of librarianship in 2019.

How can Friends of Library organizations and library trustees assist in these efforts? Let's look at a selection of specific programs, resources, and practices.

- ✓ Assist the library in funding improvements to enhance accessibility to library programs and services by sponsoring enhancements such as the creation of sensory spaces. A sensory room is a calming space. It can be useful for everyone but particularly to children and adults with developmental disabilities, PTSD, autism, and sensory issues like harsh, bright lights and loud noises.
- ✓ Honor the cultures and true history of indigenous peoples by helping the library celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day in October.
- ✓ Financially support and sponsor programs for Earth Day in April which could include film showings, panel discussions, recycling initiatives, tree plantings, etc.
- ✓ Work with providers like Better World Books or ThriftBooks to recycle unsold leftovers from book sales.
- ✓ Think about sponsoring a challenge in your local community. Kingston Library offers a monthly sustainability challenge for patrons with lots of resources and program ideas. Check it out at <https://www.kingstonlibrary.org/sustainability-challenge-2023>.
- ✓ Partner with other organizations to collaborate on events like the Ulster County Food Fight, which is a competition to determine which community organization can garner the most donations for use by local food pantries. Be a donation site. Allow people to contribute cash as well as food items so that food pantries can control supplies. Correlate such efforts in celebration of Giving Tuesday, <https://givingtuesday.org>.
- ✓ Create a list of titles and online resources for both children and adults to post on your library's website. Make bookmarks on recyclable paper to hand out to the

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## FLS and Friends Councils: Part 3 in a Series by James Foster

Two years ago, a task force formed with the goal of identifying systems or regions in New York that might be interested in establishing Friends Councils. The committee quickly realized that an inventory of which libraries in a system had Friends groups was an important first step. Having contact information would make it easier to communicate and help get a Friends Council started.

The task force also created a checklist or 'How To' guide about running a Friends Council meeting and a sample cover letter explaining what a Friends Council is and encouraging groups to begin or join one in their area. Lisa Wemett is now working on an expanded toolkit that will be available on the FLS website.

The committee discovered that the following step is crucial: finding someone in the area, preferably someone from the local library system, who can 'champion the cause of Councils' so to speak. Often library systems have a staff member responsible for outreach or community relations. Usually that person is best positioned to contact library directors and/or Friends leaders to find contact information, send cover letters, gauge interest, and so on.

Ultimately, the Task Force was successful in helping a Friends Council begin in the Southern Adirondack Library System where Outreach, Engagement & Marketing Consultant Erica Freudenberger became a driving force. She worked with Carol Kuhr from the Argyle Friends to begin holding virtual meetings about every six months. Erica writes "I've been blown away by the generosity of all who attend the Friends Council. Their willingness to share what works,

and brainstorm about how to overcome obstacles, inspires me every call. I also feel incredibly lucky to have Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee join us for our sessions. To be able to provide access to their level of expertise on all things Friends-related is phenomenal. I don't think our Friends Councils would be as fun, helpful, and interesting if we didn't have such great Friends groups!"

As mentioned in Part 1 of this series (January 2023), Joyce Maguda, a Friends of Eden Library volunteer, helped organize the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Friends Council which has successfully met regularly over the past two years. Part 2 of the series (April 2023) focused on a volunteer-driven Friends Council model used in the Monroe County Library System.

The FLS Friends Council Task Force re-convened this year and is focusing first on completing inventories of Friends groups across the state and getting a Friends Council started in Queens. Jerrie Grantham is the Volunteer Services Manager for the Queens Public Library and she already has a group that meets occasionally. Jerrie is promoting the concept of a Friends Council in Queens, then hoping to encourage systems in Brooklyn and on Long Island to follow suit.

As Erica notes above, the opportunity for Friends to meet together, share knowledge, and encourage each other through challenges can benefit libraries across the state, no matter the size or location. To read Part 1 & 2 of this series, visit [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends) > Publications.

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### FLS Scholarship continued from page 1

attendee of the NYLA Conference. Amanda Primiano, Executive Director of the Monroe Free Library, states the following in her letter of support:

"I have worked with Theresa for the past two years in her official capacity as a long-time Library Board Trustee, but also recently as the person who single-handedly brought our Friends Group back to life. Over the past year she has put in a tremendous amount of work to educate and advocate to our community the importance of a Library Friends Group...I know the knowledge that she will gain at the conference will be immediately applied to her efforts to grow and sustain our Friends group."

Theresa has clearly expressed her purposeful intent in attending the NYLA Conference as follows:

"My interest in attending the conference is to learn more about other Friends groups since I personally don't have much experience with this, and to find ways to encourage our very informal group to organize more fully and become independent. I hope to learn some strategies for setting up this group and launching them on their way."

The FLS Executive Board honored President Emeritus Randy Enos for his successful professional career in support of libraries and library Friends groups by establishing the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship in 2018. The RECS honors his commitment to professional development for volunteers and staff. The scholarship is underwritten through an endowment funded by designated contributions to FLS. Previous recipients of the scholarship have written about their experiences after the conference that they attended. Their reflections include details on the programs and events they attended, takeaways from the event, and what they hoped to accomplish with their Friends group afterwards. Links to these articles are on the RECS webpage.

Whether a community volunteer or a library staff member, applicants must be a member of FLS/NYLA and involved in a local Friends group at any type of library in New York State. Learn more at [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends) > Awards & Scholarships > Enos. Congratulations to Theresa Schommer, an exceptional recipient of this well-deserved honor and opportunity! Theresa's conference reflections will appear in a subsequent issue of *Friends News and Notes*.

The event chair took six boxes of leftover fabric which will hopefully find a good home and the remainder will be donated for fiber. Some items will be posted on Facebook's local Buy Nothing group.

At the Friends debriefing meeting, they already started planning for next year. Here are some of the changes they would make and suggestions for groups considering a similar fundraiser:

- ◆ publicize broadly and early
- ◆ double the number of volunteers for intake and offer curbside drop off if carts are available
- ◆ offer several donation times/days
- ◆ consider setting a minimum price on higher value donations such as sewing machines or set up a silent auction for these items
- ◆ schedule the event when all available tables can be used
- ◆ advertise that shoppers need to bring their own bags
- ◆ gather contacts in the community to notify for distributing the remaining supplies
- ◆ utilize high school students needing service hours to assist with clean-up
- ◆ use the event to solicit new members and active committee volunteers

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**Sustainability** continued from page 9

community.

- ✓ Do the Friends underwrite prizes for the summer reading program? Encourage library staff members to carefully consider their choices of promotional "swag" such as pencils, pens, bags, and bookmarks. Avoid items which are made by companies whose workers are exploited or mistreated, items made of plastic or polystyrene, or single use/landfill-bound products. Think about materials that are ethically sourced, locally produced, made of recycled materials, have a long use period, require low emissions for production, have minimal packaging, and can be easily composted or recycled. In other words, look for suppliers of locally made cloth book bags rather than plastic book bags ordered from an unfamiliar source.
- ✓ Find out more by checking out the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, <https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org> which empowers library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices to intentionally address climate change and co-create thriving communities. The Initiative is designed to offer tools and resources that library leaders need to incorporate sustainability as a core value in their work. The Initiative has a certification program for libraries which the Friends and trustees can support and participate in with staff.

Partner with staff and have fun taking action to help create a more sustainable world!

**NOTE:** Previously published in the LTAS newsletter.

She documented financial policies and procedures and also developed procedures for gifts, honoraria, and reimbursements. She organized book sales and implemented the use of PayPal as a source of reporting income. In addition, Marjorie sat on the by-laws review and update committee. Since she was limited to two two-year terms, she developed an advisory board that helped with succession planning utilizing the expertise of senior Friends members. Marjorie was very community-minded and assisted in many outreach programs through her church. She will definitely be missed in the Webster community.

Eileen Hall will receive an honorable mention. The Friends of the Rosendale Library was re-formed in 2003 with Eileen as its President. Eileen established an annual fundraising appeal to support the Friends. The campaign netted between \$2000 and \$4000 each year from this effort. Eileen has served as Friends president multiple times, including this year. She organized the "raise the roof" campaign to replace the library's aging roof. The library is in an historic building and the original roof was replicated in both style and material. The group raised \$75,000 to match a grant received from NYS. Eileen chaired multiple events: the annual book sale, the garden tour, the annual Frozendale holiday event, as well as the library's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Memory Book and events. She has led the "get out the vote" campaign and represents the Friends at Library Board meetings. She also sat on the Library's Strategic Planning task force from 2019-2020. Also, with Eileen's inspiration, the library became an affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in 2023.

The committee had a very difficult decision as to who was most deserving of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award this year. All the nominees do so much for their Friends groups and their libraries. The committee appreciated all the work that was done by the nominators to highlight the contributions of their nominees. Thank you one and all.

Both Marge and Eileen are excellent examples of inspiration and leadership, demonstrated by their deep passion for their libraries, Friends groups, and communities. Congratulations to the Friends of the Webster Public Library and Friends of the Rosendale Library.

The FLS Executive Board extends its heartfelt gratitude to both the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Committee and the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Committee for their diligence in reviewing the packets and selecting those to be recognized. Not an easy task! Thanks to Casey coordinator Helen Rados and readers Joyce Laiosa and Leslie Riley, and to RECS coordinator Marie Bindeman and readers Rebecca Fuss and Mary Ann Marrero. A job well done.

## FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

### Officers:

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

### Members At Large:

Marie Bindeman  
Mary Giardini  
Jerrie Grantham  
Christopher Lund  
Erica Freudenberger  
Ristiina Wigg  
one position vacant

### NYLA Committee Representatives:

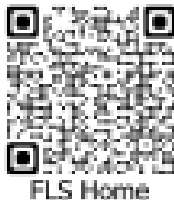
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### FLS Volunteers:

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FLS Scholarship Coordinator - Marie Bindeman, [mariebind1955@gmail.com](mailto: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  
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Visit the Friends of Libraries Section at  
[www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://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.*

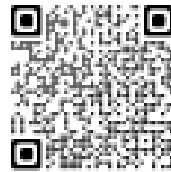
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## FLS Newsletter Going Digital

In preparing for the next FLS Long Range Plan, the Section conducted a survey to determine its future direction. Included in the survey were questions about *Friends News and Notes*. An overwhelming response asked for a digital document instead of a printed and mailed newsletter.

Beginning in January, the FLS newsletter will be issued in alternating months to The NYLA Voice. An email blast will be sent to indicate that the newsletter is available online. The "new" newsletter will remain in a format that is easily printed. This transition may be a little rocky as we roll it out. Please be patient with us as we adjust to an every-other-month format and move from four to six issues each year. The last print issue is due to be mailed in December.

Thanks to all who participated in the survey – and for your continued interest in and support of the Friends of Libraries Section.

## FLS Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting for the membership of FLS will be on Wednesday, November 15 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Registration will be required and will open in mid October. An email blast Call to Meeting will be sent with all the details. Please mark your calendars for this important and informative event for our Section.

The recipients of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award and FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship will be acknowledged. The Annual Report to the Membership will be delivered. The 2023-24 Executive Board will be introduced and installed – and the gavel will be passed from two-year President Kerstin Cruger to Carol Fortier.

A good time will be had by all, as is customary at any FLS event. We hope that you will plan to join us for this evening of Friends and friendship!

## Benefits for FLS Members:

- ✓ receive *Friends News and Notes* quarterly newsletters via USPS (through 2023)
- ✓ 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](http://www.NYLA.org/join) or add FLS to an existing NYLA membership.