



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 8, #4 -- October 30, 2022

Friends of Libraries Section - 30 Years and Counting...



FLS used National Friends of Libraries Week in mid-October as an opportunity to recall the history of the organization which formed as a result of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1991. Meg Sgombick, FLS Marketing Coordinator, posted daily Facebook messages throughout the week celebrating the 30 year history — first as EFR and now as FLS, but always a vital and thriving voice for Friends of

Libraries across New York State. We've also taken this opportunity to pay a debt of gratitude to FLS President Emeritus Randall Enos, one of the founding members of the group. Randy has served on the EFR/FLS Board continuously and has had a hand, directly or indirectly, recruiting for EFR/FLS that entire time. Raise your hand if you are one of Randy's recruits, or if you were recruited by someone that Randy recruited! To add a little fun to the Facebook campaign the Wednesday post was "Dress like Randy Enos Day!" Check it all out at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067022419825>. (Your newsletter editor's entry for the day is on page 2.)

And speaking of the newsletter editor, I asked President Emeritus Randall Enos to write a recollection of his 30 years in EFR and FLS. You'll find that essay beginning on page 3. It will also be available on the FLS 30th anniversary webpage. Whether you are new to FLS or a 30 year member like Randy, I truly hope that you will enjoy this 30th Anniversary Edition newsletter and find inspiration for the future as well!



FLS 30th

right: Lisa C. Wemett presents **President Emeritus** title to Randall Enos in 2015.



Friends of Libraries Section: What's Happening?

#FLS30

Want some cake??

Will you be in Saratoga Springs this year for NYLA's Annual Conference? Stop by the Dutcher Community Room on the main floor of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, 49 Henry Street, at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 4, for a piece of cake to celebrate FLS's 30th Anniversary!

Save the Date

FLS Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS) of the New York Library Association will be held virtually, on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Please join us for a review of the activities, projects, and accomplishments of FLS in 2022 and the announcement of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. Meet the members of the Executive Board, officers, Members At Large, and auxiliary volunteers for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 FLS Boards.

All current personal and organizational members of FLS and interested NYLA members are invited to participate. Please register in advance by sending an email to FLSregister@yahoo.com. Use Annual Meeting in the subject line and include your first and last name and your Friends group or library. You will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom access code and any other pertinent information prior to the event. Registration will close on Monday, November 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Visit www.NYLA.org/Friends for the full Call to Meeting and to read over the minutes from the 2021 FLS Annual Membership Meeting. We will be voting to approve those minutes. Hope you'll join us!

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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.

#FLS30 on Facebook, Day 3

Editor's Note: In its First Year, EFR was on the National Stage! Thanks to the excellent sleuthing work of Lisa C. Wemett and Olivia Durant, we can share this moment in the history of EFR.



"GOVERNMENT, FRIENDS, LIBRARIES—NEW ALLIANCES IN THE NINETIES," an Apr. 19 seminar sponsored by Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA, an ALA affiliate) constituted the group's first foray into day-long advocacy workshops. Panelists who wrestled with a variety of issues included (from left) Iowa State Senator Richard Varn; correspondent for ABC News and NPR Cokie Roberts, who moderated; Rep. James Moran (D-Va.); Hardy Franklin, ALA president-elect; Librarian of Congress James Billington; and Charlotte O'Dea, president of Friends of Libraries of New York State. U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley also participated in the seminar, held in Washington, D.C.

In good company: The first president of the Empire Friends Roundtable of the New York Library Association, Charlotte O'Dea, at right, participated in a seminar

in April 1993 held in Washington, DC. The occasion offered a photo op with none other than NPR journalist Cokie Roberts along with other notable librarians of the era, Librarian of Congress James Billington and President of the American Library Association Hardy Franklin. The event was documented in *American Libraries* in June 1993 (EBSCOhost.com).

What an auspicious gathering to discuss "Government, Friends, Libraries: New Alliances in the Nineties," a topic that is just as important today as then. We encourage you to become a "Library Champion." By simply providing your contact information, you will automatically receive Library Advocacy Action Alerts via email from the New York Library Association. Keep up-to-date on NYLA's ongoing advocacy efforts and learn about this year's legislative priorities. NYLA's advocacy tools are easy to use. You can make a huge difference by responding to alerts and sending emails to your representatives in less than three minutes—so quick and easy! www.NYLA.org/advocacy

Day 4 - Dress Like Randy Challenge:

The post for October 19 implores people to share their connection to Randy. Was he the one that recruited them for NYLA, or Youth Services, or Friends, or all of the above? Like so many, your newsletter editor **WAS** recruited to FLS by Randy. There's a photo of him on his Vespa that is included on the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship webpage. I thought I'd have some fun with it. Here's my offering.



Terry Mulee,
FLS Newsletter Editor
on Dress Like Randy Day!
10/19/2022
#FLS30

A Message from FLS President Kerstin Cruger

It's finally here! The official 30th Anniversary of the Empire Friends Roundtable (EFR) and the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS) takes place on October 30, 2022. The Friends of Libraries Section started as the *Library Friends of New York State Roundtable*, later renamed EFR, on October 30th 1992, and the *Friends of Libraries Section* was formed at the Annual Membership Meeting of the New York Library Association on November 6th 2014, in a unanimous vote to approve a change in status from Roundtable to Section, which also included a name change from EFR to FLS.



Susan Cushman author of the 2019 collection of short stories, *Friends of the Library* put together this brief history about the beginning of Friends Groups in the United States. "The first group that named itself 'Friends of the Library' in the United States was founded in 1922 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and that same year a second group was founded in Syracuse, New York. In 1979, the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) affiliated with ALA (American Library Association) was founded to help develop more Friends groups around the country. By the time of the formation of FOLUSA, there were 2,000 Friends groups and around half a million members of these groups."

<https://susancushman.com/friends-of-the-library-the-history/>

The history of Friends Groups goes back a bit further than our own triumphant 30 years, but our dedication and vigor have made for a vibrant, active, and unforgettable history of our own. By bringing together Friends Groups across NYS we are stronger and more resilient because we work collectively to support one another by sharing our successes and our failures and using those experiences to help our own groups as well as our neighboring Friends.

Congratulations FLS on these first 30 years and thank you all for your commitment and hard work throughout our past, through our present, and hopefully well into our future!

All the best, *Kerstin*



Final EFR President Randall Enos, named as the FLS President Emeritus, and first four FLS Presidents: Lisa C. Wemett Sarah Sachs Janet Kreason Rebecca Fuss

A 30-year Trip With Friends Reminisces from Our President Emeritus

Let me take you back to 1992. Bill Clinton is elected President of the US - defeating George H.W. Bush; the average price of a gallon of gas is \$1.13; Americans are paying an average of \$16,950 for a new car; AT&T introduces the video phone - priced at \$1,499; Microsoft releases Windows 3.1; the average life expectancy at birth in the United States is 75.8 years; bread machines - first introduced in Japan in 1986 - make their way into the American kitchen; for the first time, CDs are more popular than cassette tapes for recorded music; by the end of the year, there are about 25 websites (in January 2019, there will be 1.94 billion web destinations); Prince Charles and Princess Diana announce that they were separating after 11 years of marriage; *All Around the Town* by Mary Higgins Clark is the best-selling book; popular TV shows are "60 Minutes," "Roseanne," and "Murder, She Wrote;" favorite video games are Mortal Kombat, Night Trap, Wolfenstein 3D, Dune II and Sonic the Hedgehog 2; America's largest corporations are General Motors, Exxon Mobil, Ford Motor, IBM and General Electric (Source: HobbyLark.com) and the Empire Friends (EFR), the predecessor of FLS, was established as a Roundtable in NYLA by a group of stalwart supporters of New York libraries.

Some things have lasting power and others not so much. However, through thick and thin, EFR and FLS have managed to not only survive, but to thrive. I am happy to say that FLS, in the 30th year of these two organizations, is in a very good place.

Back in the Dark Ages of 1992, somehow I became part of the original EFR Board and had the fortune to continue to serve on the Roundtable Board throughout its 22-year existence and then on the FLS Board for its 8 years. It's been an interesting journey. There have been many highlights and a only a few lowlights. Most of the time, thanks to so many dedicated individuals and generally friendly people, it has been smooth sailing.

The problems did not come from animosity or power issues, but from trying to bring a group of **volunteers** from all parts of the state together in the same place. Conference calling was not widely used in the early years and there was no Zoom with which to convene in the lean years. Thankfully there were dedicated individuals who would commit to making the trek (very long for some) to a central meeting place to address the business at hand. Baldwinsville in the Syracuse area and Vestal, near Binghamton, were two of the more popular places to meet in those days. The Vestal Public Library was chosen, not only because of its central-ish location, but because of the early involvement in EFR of library director Jim Holley.

I can't think of those places without thinking of Ross Kitt and

~ continued on next page ~

EFR/FLS Family Album Photos Through the Years



above: Robert Manning receives EFR Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award in 2010
right: EFR Board members in 2013; EFR becomes FLS in 2014



Left: "Sitting on the floor room only" for FLS at 2018 NYLA Conference; First recipients of 2019 FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship; 2021 Pandemic presentation of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award to the Friends of the Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library; below: Passing the gavel at 2021 virtual FLS Annual Membership Meeting



right: FLS uses video conference to meet – but in spring of 2020, people started turning on their webcams!!



FLS Webinar
10/2022

Why should Friends be Partners in Planning?

- ✓ Enables Friends organizations to fulfill their purpose and mission
- ✓ Supports the Library's efforts to create a community-focused plan
- ✓ Facilitates ongoing alignment between the Library and Friends
- ✓ Helps build awareness and membership for Friends

Friends' involvement in Library planning is mutually beneficial!

Happy 30th
Anniversary
EFR & FLS!

