**FLS Long-Range Plan Member Survey**

FLS is embarking on the process to write its second long-range plan and our task force wants to hear from YOU! We want to learn how FLS can better assist its members and where we should be putting our efforts going forward. What FLS member benefits and services are most important to you?

The survey is fifteen questions (mainly multiple choice) and should take less than 10 minutes of your time. To encourage your participation, you will have the option to have your name included in a drawing for a $30 voucher towards a registration for the NYLA Annual Conference, either in Saratoga Springs (November 2020) or Syracuse (November 2021). You'll find the survey link on the FLS homepage: www.NYLA.org/Friends.

It's YOUR Section. Please help to shape its future and respond by Thursday, April 30. We appreciate your time and your support of the Section!

**Apply Now for the FLS Dewey Fellowship Award**

The FLS Board is pleased to announce the Section's participation in NYLA's 2020 Dewey Fellowship Award program. Each year, half of the Sections of NYLA are eligible to select a member of their Section to attend the Annual Conference, all expenses paid.

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

The applicant must be a personal member of FLS/NYLA or a member of a Friends group that is a current organizational member of FLS/NYLA. Individuals may only receive one FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship or FLS Dewey Fellowship in their lifetime.

~ continued on page 7 ~

**FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Call for Nominations**

Would you like an opportunity to honor an active library supporter, Friend or Friends of the Library? The FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award is sponsored by the Friends of Libraries Section of NYLA. 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.

To learn more about Daniel W. Casey and to find the nomination form, go to www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships. The deadline to submit nominations for this prestigious award is Monday, June 1, 2020. This year’s award recipient will be announced at the FLS annual membership meeting in Saratoga Springs on Friday, November 6th at the NYLA Annual Conference.

Nominations must include all relevant information outlined on the application form. Please submit the nomination form and all supporting materials electronically to Marie Bindeman, Award Coordinator, via email at mariebind1955@gmail.com, or mail three copies to Marie Bindeman, 5498 Hartford Drive, Lockport, NY 14094. Paper copies sent by mail will not be returned. Please submit your nomination in one format only (electronic or paper).

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Bindeman at mariebind1955@gmail.com or call 716-433-0548. Thank you for your interest.
How’s Your Membership Engagement Going?  
A Message from FLS President Lisa C. Wemett

What nonprofits aren’t struggling to increase and maintain their memberships? ZOOS! Well, at least the Seneca Park Zoo Society in Rochester. In a recent column, their president indicated that the Zoo’s membership was up more than 15% over a year ago. Not only do these members want an annual pass to visit the animals, but many folks are joining to provide support to the zoo’s conservation and education mission.

What can we learn from our fellow nonprofit? Do you share the Friends mission statement far and wide? Can your neighbor tell you what the Friends of the Library are about?

Motivation to join zoos and museums primarily falls into two categories: transactional and meaningfulness. In the case of Friends organizations, transactional motivators could be free admission to the members-only night before the annual book sale is open to the public and member discounts on photocopying services or tote bag purchases. (Think: WIIFM—what’s in it for me?)

Meaningfulness motivators are when the Friends member joins to have a sense of belonging to a community of like-minded individuals who support the library and literacy. They want to “do good” by being part of an organization that is doing important work in their town or neighborhood, helping to make a difference through the group’s fund-raising efforts and outreach initiatives.

Always remember there are two types of Friends members:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Changes to FLS Board Personnel</th>
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<td>Early this year, Terry Morris of the Northern Onondaga Public Library resigned his position as Member At Large. FLS was grateful for his three years of service representing Central NY.</td>
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At the March Executive Board meeting, we will appoint Erica Freudenberger as Member at Large through November 2020. Erica is Outreach and Engagement Consultant for the Southern Adirondack Library System in Saratoga Springs.

Erica has been a loyal supporter of Friends for many years. In 2011, her nomination secured the Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award for the Friends of the Red Hook Public Library, where she was the library manager at the time. Erica said in her nomination “As a library manager with limited resources, I know I can rely on the Friends to make magic happen and to fund the extras that would exceed our $170,000 yearly budget.” Look for Erica’s name on the FLS ballot this June to complete the remainder of the vacancy, working with the Section through November 2021.

We still have an opening for an FLS Representative to the NYLA Communications Committee. If you would like to become more involved in the work of FLS, please consider submitting an Active Member form to President Lisa Wemett to let us know of your interests. The form may be found at www.NYLA.org/Friends. Scroll down the homepage to the Active Member Form.

<table>
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<th>From the FLS Inbox</th>
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<td>FLS is often contacted through our Yahoo mailbox for advice related to the operation of Friends organizations. By-laws and financial requirements for nonprofits are frequent topics of concern. One topic that has cropped up a few times is reserve funds. Is there a recommended amount that the Friends should set aside for a rainy day? Is there an upper limit on the size of that nest egg?</td>
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United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association, briefly discusses reserve funds in their Fact Sheet #22, Guidelines for Giving. The key phrase on this topic is “the group might consider holding back 20% of one year’s typical budget to cover the costs of operations for a year or two…”

~ continued on page 6 ~
New Webinar: Engaging Millennials as Friends Volunteers

Save the date for another exciting webinar from FLS! Engaging Millennials as Friends Volunteers will be offered on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. Reaching across generations to recruit younger volunteers to actively participate in the work of Friends organizations is challenging. But it is doable and vital to the continued success of volunteer support groups for libraries.

Our webinar presenters are Tess Wilson and Madeline Jarvis. Tess is Community Engagement Coordinator for the Health Sciences Library System at the University of Pittsburgh. Madeline is the Adult and Information Services Manager at the Marion (Iowa) Public Library. As part of the American Library Association’s Emerging Leaders cohort of 2018, both Tess and Madeline have been recognized as new leaders in librarianship.

With two other young professionals, Tess and Madeline worked on a project sponsored by United for Libraries entitled “Beyond Using the Library: Engaging Millennials as Advocates and Civic Library Leaders.” The team members presented the results of their project at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans and at ALA Mid-Winter in Philadelphia in January 2020. Future presentations will be at the Public Library Association’s conference in February in Nashville and this summer’s ALA Annual Conference. Their book, All Ages Welcome, published by ALA Editions, is planned for release in June 2020.

There is no cost to attend for existing personal and organizational members of the Friends of Libraries Section of NYLA. The NYLA/FLS membership must be active on August 1, 2020 and the membership expiration date must be after the date of the webinar. Elected officers of Friends Group organizational members of NYLA are also eligible for this benefit, as long as these individuals are included on the “Elected Officer Registration Form” on file with NYLA’s Director of Membership Services. When registering, FLS members need their assigned user name and password to qualify for an “FLS Member Reg Pass” that will waive the webinar registration fee.

The charge for the webinar is $25 for NYLA personal or organizational members (who are not members of FLS) and $35 for those who are not members of NYLA. Group registrations are also available ($75 member rate /$99 nonmember rate). Interested participants may choose to join NYLA prior to registering for the webinar to receive the NYLA member rate. However, at the time of registration, a NYLA member may not add FLS to their existing membership in order to attend the webinar at no cost. Registration opens in mid-August and closes 48 hours prior to the start time of the webinar.

Getting Started Workshop in Ithaca

FLS is pleased to bring “Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library” to the Finger Lakes region on Wednesday, March 25, at the headquarters of the Finger Lakes Library System (1300 Dryden Road, Ithaca, NY 14850) from 10 a.m. until noon. The training session is appropriate for library managers or directors of small and rural libraries, library trustees, and community volunteers who want to explore the possibilities of starting a Friends group. Both active Friends groups and those working to revitalize their organization 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 including recruiting helpers to serve on a steering committee. Once the Friends’ mission has been determined, the focus will switch to ideas on expanding membership for both new and established groups and then growing the leadership to successfully maintain an active organization.

The workshop is free of charge and is open to participants from across the state, not just member libraries of the Finger Lakes Library System. Registration information is posted under About > Upcoming Events at www.flls.org. Questions can be directed to Sarah Glogowski, Executive Director, at sglogowski@flls.org or (607) 273-4074, ext. 222.
Cornwall Public Library - Good Idea Fund
by Leslie Riley

The Friends of the Library, over the years, accumulated money that was just sitting in Certificate of Deposit and savings accounts. An endowment fund was rejected; but replaced by distributing $25,000 to the library in February of 2018. This large donation would provide the Library Board some additional funding for their discretionary use as well as reduce the accounts of the Friends.

The result: a project that consists of awarding a small grant allowing the staff an opportunity to expedite programs beyond budget and increase the breadth of library services to the community. It is called The Good Idea Fund.

The grant is awarded at the end of each quarter. Staff are encouraged to submit a proposal to the Director for consideration and approval by the Board of Trustees. Grants are issued for a minimum of $500 and should be for one-time expenses outside the parameters of the annual operating budget and "enhance the programming or services of the library."

Staff can submit proposals for technology, products, furniture, equipment, or services. A specific audience must be identified as well as another source of funding. As of July 2019, four projects have been awarded.

An upgrade to furniture in the YA section of the library. Seating at two café style tables and a rolling 42" book case to hold the Manga collection. Many youths are sitting at the café tables to either do homework or play chess. They seem to love the higher chairs!

An audio and a video recorder for use in collecting interviews from residents of Cornwall to increase our knowledge of Local History, and also to involve young people in collecting local history and community stories.

An audio and a video recorder for use in collecting interviews from residents of Cornwall to increase our knowledge of Local History, and also to involve young people in collecting local history and community stories.

The most recent request is for an outdoor weatherproof bulletin board. This will allow us to advertise programs to patrons while the building is closed. It will be updated with current flyers on a weekly basis.

Staff is happy to have their ideas come to fruition and see the positive impact they can have on the library with their "Good Ideas!" One surprising result is staff and patrons are beginning to see things here in a new light. Sometimes just changing one small thing can make a huge impact!

For the future, the Library plans to continue with this program, in the hopes that we can bring more good things to the library and our patrons.

Director Charlotte Duniaief says "It has been wonderful to be able to realize some of the staff's good ideas, to see concrete evidence of them happen. I hope seeing things happen will encourage more staff to step forward and share their own good ideas."

And the Friends are very pleased that this funding project has enabled staff the opportunity to reach out to the community with programs and services not realized within the current budget restraints. President Jane Harkinson says "The Good Idea Fund makes it possible for staff wishes to be fulfilled and library services evolve."

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Book Sale Ideas Roundup

Here are a few new "variations on a theme" that might pump up your next book sale:

The Friends of the Columbus (OH) Metropolitan Library sells books "and other library materials no longer suitable for the Library's collection." Sounds a little better than "library discards," doesn't it?

Friends of the Thousand Oaks (CA) Library held a pop-up sale from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the Saturday during the summer reading program sign-up. Lots of families! Shoppers were encouraged to stock up on their summer reading needs by filling up a bag with paperbacks for only $5.

The "members only" pre-sale for the Friends of the Chapel Hill (NC) Public Library included a "Sip & Shop" event. Think beer, cider, and wine tastings while browsing the sale!

The Friends of the Chattanooga (TN) Public Library has a surefire countdown to no remainders after their two-week-long sale: on the second Saturday of the sale, everything is half price; on Sunday, $5 buys a bag of books and items are free for teachers and nonprofits; Monday, a bag of books is only $1; and Tuesday, the last day, all items left are free to all patrons.

(source: June 2019 issue of The Voice for America's Libraries, from United for Libraries)
Looking for an alternative to the traditional leadership model for the Friends of the Library? One year after FLS presented the webinar, "Administrative Teams: A New Approach to Friends Leadership," the new TriPresidential Team of the Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville (FCLDJ) reflected on their adoption of the shared leadership option outlined in the webinar by The Friends of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library (FCPHL).

Seven members of FCLDJ attended the FLS regional workshop "Keep It Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group" held in DeWitt in June 2019, sponsored by the Central NY Library Resources Council. The TriPresidential Team includes Linda Cook, Carole Marmillo, and Kay Keough. The team offered these comments about their experience where they modeled their new approach after "The Quads" of FCPHL.

In our situation, the Friends formerly had one president. When that term expired, we were faced with finding a replacement. No one person on the Friends Board was able to step forward to hold the position for a full year. Through surveying each other's commitments outside of the Library Board, we were able to nominate three people who could serve at various months throughout the year.

Communication could have been a problem, but texting, e-mailing, and phoning are great assets. We are able to stay up-to-date with Friends group happenings. An advantage of the TriPresidential team is that each President has a variety of interests and strengths to share within the workings of the group.

The three of us meet prior to each Friends Board meeting as an Executive Committee along with the Treasurer and Secretary. Together we plan the agenda for each month's meeting. Then according to our designated monthly assignment, one of us conducts the meeting while the others attend the meeting as active participants of the Board.

Recognizing the needs of the Friends Board which is discussed during the monthly executive meeting, each of us has been able to take on responsibility for follow through on that particular need. Flexibility and camaraderie have been important to our TriPresidential Team functioning smoothly. The diverse leadership of monthly Board meetings suits our lifestyle outside the group as well as providing leadership of the Friends organization.

The TriPresidential Team approach is probably not for every organization. However, we have found that three people who work well together can function as a leadership team while also meeting the responsibilities of outside commitments.

Thank you to Linda, Carole, and Kay for sharing your experience. FLS wishes you all continued success with your co-presidential model! Remember that "Administrative Teams" and all other FLS-sponsored webinars are available 24/7 on the NYLA webinar archive: from www.nyla.org, select Career Resources > Continuing Education > NYLA e-Institute Webinars.

The Great Give Back

In 2019, just over 20% of New York State's public libraries participated in a day offering patrons an opportunity to provide service to their communities. The partnership of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, the Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO), and the Sustainable Thinking and Action Round Table of NYLA (START) helped spearhead the initiative, The Great Give Back. (https://thegreatgiveback.org) This year The Great Give Back is slated for Saturday, October 17. Ask your library director how the Friends might become involved in this service-oriented experience. If your library is having a collection drive for a cause, ask if the Friends can have a membership table there to let the public learn how the Friends help the library year-round.

Here are just a few ideas from last year that might work for your library: collect underwear and bras for a women's shelter; hold a costumes and accessories swap for children and pets; collect worn American flags to be retired by a veterans' group; collect new pajamas and books for children; have a drive for a humane society shelter, collecting food, bedding, treats, and toys; collect socks for a homeless shelter; before winter sets in, gather donations of winter weather gear (hats, gloves, mittens, coats, sweaters); assemble care packages for chemo patients; agencies serving young families would welcome diapers, wipes, bibs, and board books.

The Cornwall Public Library hosted a community service fair with nonprofit organizations offering participatory activities for their agency at their table (e.g., making greeting cards for nursing home residents) and providing information on how to volunteer. And here's a sunny idea that you could adopt this spring: the Newburgh Free Library had participants of all ages paint garden stakes with affirmative messages which were then placed throughout the city to bring a message of love, hope, and community. So, gather up your Friends and join in The Great Give Back this year!
**IRS Changes**

**Mandatory Electronic Filing**

A new law affects tax-exempt organizations in tax years beginning after July 1, 2019. IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, is included in the mandate. Those who previously filed paper forms will receive a letter from the IRS informing them of the change. Filing deadlines vary by form type. Forms 990 with tax years ending July 31, 2020, and later MUST be filed electronically. Forms 990 filings for tax years ending on or before June 30, 2020, may still be on paper.

Generally, Form 990-EZ is for small exempt organizations with annual gross receipts less than $200,000 and total assets at tax year-end less than $500,000. The IRS will accept either paper or electronic filing of Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, for tax years ending on or before July 31, 2020. For tax years ending Aug. 31, 2020, and later, Forms 990-EZ must be filed electronically.


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**Summer Connections**

Summer's coming eventually – don't rush it! Enjoy the spring flowers. But here are some summertime ideas from Friends. Plan ahead accordingly!

The Friends of the Fairport Public Library regularly participate in promotions with the Fairport Perinton Merchants Association. Every summer, the Merchants Association provides a swag bag to boaters docking in the village along the Erie Canal. Each bag includes information about Fairport and coupons for local businesses. One of the boaters' favorite items is the free book in the bag and a coupon for The Corner Bookstore, operated by Friends volunteers, just a few steps from the canal.

Having a booth at a county fair, outdoor festival, farmers' market, or a float in a parade? How about handing out sunscreen lotion packets? The Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library attached the individual packets to a note stating “Whatever you need, the Rochester Public Library has got you covered!” Oh so clever—and practical, too! Don't forget to put the library's and Friends' web addresses on the note. (FFRPL bought ½ oz. packets of sunscreen from Safetec of America out of Buffalo: [www.safetec.com](http://www.safetec.com)).

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**Cautionary note:** This information must not be relied upon as an alternative to legal advice. Turn to your local professionals (e.g., attorney, accountant) knowledgeable in nonprofit law when you have questions about your group's finances.

For general questions about Friends operations, contact the FLS Board at [FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com](mailto:FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com). We are here to help!
Legislative Thank You Breakfast

Every fall, the Rochester Regional Library Council sponsors a breakfast to say thank you to the area’s state legislators who have been supportive of libraries throughout the year, especially during the budget process. RRLC Executive Director Laura Osterhout emceed the 2019 event hosted at the newly constructed Henrietta Public Library. Several local library programs were highlighted as well as the Library Construction Aid that helped fund the new Henrietta Public Library. State senators, assemblymembers, or their representatives, had the opportunity to offer brief remarks and each was recognized with a certificate of gratitude.

Local FLS members attending included Rebecca Fuss, Terry Mulee, and Lisa Wemett. (Photo by Cassie Guthrie)

More About Advocacy

In a recent email to the NYLA membership, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy Briana N. McNamee recounted the success of NYLA’s recent Advocacy Day in Albany and called all of us to further action.

From that email: "Over 800 advocates traveled to Albany from each area of our great state. THANK YOU for making Library Advocacy Day 2020 so very special. Collectively we held meetings with nearly 80% of the members of the New York State Legislature!

Next Steps
If you have not already done so - NOW is the time for YOU to SPEAK UP and let your legislators know that state library aid MUST be treated fairly and equitably in this year’s state budget!

Take Action
With less than 30 seconds of your time, you can send a letter to your elected officials and legislative leaders. Without your voice, we won’t be able to reverse Governor Cuomo’s proposed cuts in this year’s budget.”

Use this link to send your pre-drafted message in support of library funding to your elected representatives!

http://cqrcengage.com/alany/app/write-a-letter?5&engagementId=505815

FLS Dewey Fellowship continued from page 1

The FLS Dewey Fellowship Award will pay a maximum of $1,000 of the cost to attend the 2020 NYLA Annual Conference scheduled for Saratoga Springs from Wednesday, November 4 through Saturday, November 7. Reimbursements include: registration, a pre-conference continuing education seminar, tickets for various meal functions, lodging, and travel. The award is underwritten by the Lake Placid Foundation and is awarded by FLS in even-numbered years. One nominee will be chosen. The Section nominee is ultimately reviewed by the NYLA Awards Committee and approved by NYLA Council.

The applicant needs to file a completed application by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020. Please see the FLS website to download an application, www.nyla.org/friends > Awards & Scholarships. The FLS Scholarship Awards Committee will review all eligible applications and notify applicants of the final results in August 2020.

To submit an application please complete the form and email it, along with all accompanying documentation, to Anne Andrianos, FLS Scholarship Coordinator, at anne.andrianos@gmail.com. As an alternate option, you may submit three copies of the completed form along with three sets of any supporting materials by mail to Anne Andrianos, 4340 Young Road, Syracuse, NY 13215. Please submit your nomination in one format only (electronic or paper).

Hotspots for Loan!

Last September, the Friends of the Livonia Public Library purchased the first of five mobile hotspots which patrons could borrow. To acknowledge the donation, each hotspot container was clearly labeled “Provided by the Friends of the Livonia Public Library.”

More than 13% of the households in Livingston County do not have any form of Internet access. With the start of the new school year, the hotspots were in constant use by students, families, and many others needing access to the Internet at home. Now with a generous donation, the Mobile Hotspot Lending Library has expanded to ten hotspots, providing many in the community this necessary access to the digital world.

View Livonia PL’s hotspot lending guidelines here: https://livonialibrary.org/mobile-hotspot-lending-program

For more on hotspot lending, see “Bridging the Tech Gap” about the program at the Wood Library in Canandaigua in the March 2019 issue of Friends News and Notes on page 4.
FLS Dates to Remember

March 6 - April 30: participate in the FLS Long Range Plan Member Survey
March 25: FLS Regional Workshop - Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library, co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Library System, Ithaca
June 1: deadline to submit FLS Dewey Fellowship applications and FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award nominations
June 15 - July 15: vote in the NYLA and FLS online elections
July 10: FLS Meet-up for Friends Groups, Utica (more information in the June newsletter)
September 23: FLS Sponsored Webinar - Engaging Millennials as Friends Volunteers
November 4 - 7: NYLA Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs

Ways to Support FLS:

Advertise your business in this space!
Do you have a business that works with/for Friends?
Send an email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com for details.

FLS Tribute Fund and Honor Roll
Add a name to the FLS Tribute Fund Honor Roll and honor that special individual or group.
Choose Friend, Good Friend, or Best Friend!
Visit www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships for more information and to download the form.