



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 7, #3 -- June 2021

NYLA 2021 Conference Libraries: We're ALL In!

This year's NYLA Conference is living up to its theme, Libraries: We're ALL In! NYLA will deliver both a virtual conference as well as an in-person conference in 2021 and your Friends of Libraries Section will be offering programs at both events!

The NYLA Virtual Conference will take place on Thursday, October 28 and Friday, October 29, 2021. This conference will have the same format as last year with a schedule of live broadcast events and a wide selection of On-Demand programs available to watch any time. The virtual conference will be available for "stand-alone" registration at a rate similar to the 2020 pricing.

FLS Programs

Friday, October 29 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (live broadcast)



ABCs of Best Practices for Friends Groups

Looking for some great ideas your Friends can implement? These 26 noteworthy tips will inspire you with their practicality and creativity. Share liberally to help your organization become successful and thrive.

Presented by Lisa C. Wemett

On-Demand Program

Fundraising Without Book Sales

Friends groups are always searching for new ideas that go beyond the book sale. Come discover how our panelists are using new and trusted out-of-the-box thinking and creative ideas to redefine fundraising.

Panelists: Emily Cullings, Friends of the Hampton Bays Library, Mary Giardini, Friends of the Olean Public Library, and Helen Rados, Friends of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library

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Please Vote in the FLS Election

The FLS Executive Board approved the following slate of candidates to be placed on the FLS ballot. The election will be held online from June 15 through July 15 in conjunction with NYLA's annual election.

The candidates are:

First Vice President/President-Elect

Christina Ryan-Linder - Mohegan Lake

Secretary

Lynne Madden* - Forestport

Members At Large

Marie Bindeman* - Lockport

Amy Discenza - Rochester

Erica Freudenberger* - Catskill

Christopher Lund - Cortland

(* denotes incumbent, location is residence)

The terms for Secretary and Members At Large begin at the FLS Annual Membership Meeting in November and run from 2021 through 2023. The Vice President/President-Elect serves from 2021 through 2024.

The candidates' position statements are on page 3 of this newsletter. Full candidate profiles are available at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Board & Officers > Elections.

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

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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 Karen Sperrazza



Dear Friends,

Spring is here, finally, thankfully, and with it many libraries that were closed due to COVID are now able to reopen. Libraries that had limited patron usage are beginning to lift their restrictions.

Throughout the last 14 or 15 months, Friends have carried on many activities, with necessary modifications, despite these constraints, and adapted or altered their projects so that things could be accomplished safely. As more people receive the COVID vaccine more restrictions are being relaxed, loosened, and some are even being removed.

With the coming of summer, many library programs can be resumed, especially if programming can be accomplished outdoors. Of course, this is not always possible because, after all, weather isn't always predictable. Friends groups will want to resume or continue activities, modified if necessary to be safe, to support their library. Communities will be anxious to get back to library activities and programming that feel like a return to normalcy.

To be sure your Friends group is ready for a return to "normal", this would be a good time to review the purpose for your organization. Friends groups have three basic functions which I'll describe, in no particular order of

importance. First, Friends provide monetary support. You may make a monetary donation, pay annual dues, or provide goods or materials for the library. Second, Friends are a volunteer force for whatever needs to be accomplished in your library. Many hands make light the work. Third, you are an advocate for your library. Everything that you do for your library demonstrates your advocacy for your library.

The words advocate and advocacy may suggest going to Albany, either virtually or in person, as happens for NYLA's Library Advocacy Day in February. However, advocacy for your library is much broader than that. Advocacy is part of every library program and activity that you and your Friends group participate in or support. You are an advocate for your library by default. As a library Friend, you would only give your time, energy, and financial support to an entity that you're willing to stand up for, an entity that you're willing to speak up for, or fight for – that entity is your library. Friends work behind the scenes, out in their communities, at city hall, or in Albany to make sure that their library – your library – is strong, relevant, and well funded.

Let's greet this spring and summer with renewed energy, vigor, and can-do spirit to welcome the community into your library. Recent FLS webinars have demonstrated ways to connect with your community, run effective board meetings, and attract new Friends. Webinars are archived on the FLS webpage, www.NYLA.org/Friends, select the "Events" button at the top of the page. Take a step, support your library's summer reading program, plan a new program or fundraiser, and be an active advocate for your library.

FLS Connections - Join the Conversation!

Despite all the hardships the pandemic has brought us, embracing technology to gather and support one another to navigate these difficult times can be seen as a bright spot. Without the ability to bring Friends together in one large community room for our popular regional meet-ups, Zoom has now opened the geographic borders so Friends statewide can assemble virtually—a different, yet exciting, possibility!

On May 12, we held the first **FLS Connections** to talk about resilience and adjusting to today's environment. Nine Friends groups from Western NYS to Long Island shared how their groups are working to support their libraries. Karen Ash, Chair of the Friends of the Angelica Free Library, discussed their use of Facebook (FB) to engage residents of all ages and advocate for the library. Through FB, they held a series of fundraisers, raffling off jigsaw puzzles (a coveted item last year), making \$700 for their group which underwrites Make or Take craft kits for family fun among

other projects. Find them on FB at Friends of the Angelica Free Library. Friends President Mary Ann Marrero of the Moffat Library in Washingtonville shared information about a series of cultural lectures organized by a team of staff and volunteers which were held via Zoom and archived on the library's YouTube channel. At <https://moffatlibrary.org>, on the left sidebar, click on their YouTube link to see these cultural events sponsored by the Friends. The group also expanded their home delivery program for area residents. Fourteen volunteers make "touchless" deliveries of library materials to their neighbors who are unable to come to the library.

Please join with Friends volunteers and members of the FLS Executive Board for the continuation of this series of conversations. Each **FLS Connections** will have a specific topic and invited speakers will share with everyone

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2021 FLS Executive Board Election Candidates

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

First Vice President / President-Elect



Christina Ryan-Linder
Mohegan Lake

Position Statement: The Friends of the Library are one of the most important partners a library organization can have. They help to ensure that libraries are strong, relevant, and well-funded. This success is dependent upon wonderful, community-minded volunteers who donate their time and effort to the library's fundraising and

advocacy endeavors. Not all Friends groups are created equal. Sustainable objectives, goals, and procedures that come from advocacy organizations such as NYLA and FLS can help make local Friends groups grow in numbers and confidence to take on fundraising challenges and initiatives. Effective Friends groups create engaging community connections, drive strong advocacy, and promote good library business. Let's get all of NY libraries Friends groups on that successful and equal footing.

Secretary



Lynne Madden (Incumbent)
Forestport

Position Statement: I am a strong believer that every library, no matter how large or small, should have a Friends group. I have seen firsthand the impact a group can have on a library; through volunteer help, fundraising and financial support, and advocacy. I also think that it is very important that library Friends groups support each other through Friends

councils, meet-ups, and webinars. Over this past year we have seen that libraries have suffered just as much as businesses and other organizations. Friends groups are more important than ever in helping their libraries succeed and flourish, and Friends groups need each other more than ever, too. Having been a part of FLS over the past six years I know that this is the main mission of the Section, to offer help and support Friends groups of all kinds, all over the state. FLS has a lot of exciting plans in the works to accomplish these goals and I am pleased to be asked to continue my role in the organization and to contribute in any way I can.

Members At Large

Marie Bindeman (Incumbent)
Lockport

Position Statement: Friends of Libraries are essential providers of community support to local libraries. The Friends offer opportunities for dedicated volunteers who believe in the mission of libraries to fundraise, advocate, and enhance programs and events. Friends selflessly offer time and



energy to help libraries sustain existing services as well as to help libraries implement new services which will maintain and enhance relevance. The Friends of Libraries Section has an important and growing role to support these community volunteers on a statewide basis by offering such services as helpful resources, continuing education opportunities, scholarships, and information sharing. I would be honored to serve as a Board Member At Large for the Friends of Libraries Section/NYLA. FLS is committed to support the efforts of our library advocates and volunteers. It would be a privilege to assist in the important work of this NYLA Section.

Amy Discenza
Rochester

Position Statement: Over the past ten years, I've been fortunate enough to staff a variety of public libraries and gain experience in many different facets of adult librarianship. I've worked in an understaffed rural library where, depending on the day, you might find me scrubbing toilets or gathering statistics for the annual report; at an urban branch where



books largely served as a backdrop as we struggled to help community members meet their most basic needs; at a busy, vibrant, mid-sized library where the public had high expectations for library services and staff were encouraged to dream big; and, most recently, in a small department within a large and structured organization that delivers services to some of the most vulnerable populations in Monroe County. One constant in my career has been the support of the Friends of the Library and I'm constantly in awe. Over the years I've

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FLS Members At Large

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Amy Discenza, continued:

attended author series funded by the Friends, shopped Friends book sales that are more organized than Marie Kondo's closet, and had several of my own events and summer reading programs funded. I'm grateful to be a member of a Section that offers support and inspiration to library champions.



Erica Freudenberger
(Incumbent)
Catskill

Position Statement: I am delighted to continue my work with NYLA's Friends of Libraries Section and to chair the Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries. I am continually impressed to see the excellent work done by this Section and

the deep engagement of the Board and its members.



Christopher Lund
Cortland

Position Statement: My primary focus is on expanding opportunities and services to Friends groups located in rural and underserved communities, particularly those that experience difficulty with recruiting and maintaining a

consistent membership base. As a member of a community with a small but dedicated group of library volunteers, I have seen first-hand the impact that such a group can make.

Please note: Only the primary contact person of a Friends Group Organizational Member is eligible to cast one ballot on behalf of the organization. Volunteers or elected officers of a Friends Group Organizational Member registered with NYLA are non-voting members of NYLA and are not eligible to take part in the election.

NYLA 2021 Conference

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The NYLA In-Person Conference is planned for Wednesday, November 3 - Saturday, November 6, 2021. This year's in-person event is built on the established NYLA conference format, with adjustments made for COVID-safe operations. The number of breakout sessions in any given program slot has been reduced to five to ensure that they can be held in spaces large enough to allow for social distancing. Please note sessions at the in-person conference will not be available via live streaming/broadcast. Registration for the in-person conference will include "bundled access" to the virtual conference being held in October. Registration rates will be comparable to 2019 pricing.

FLS Programs

Wednesday, November 3 | Half Day CE Session

Financial FAQs for Nonprofits

Presented by John C. Parcell IV, CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner, and accountant Nathan Wray

Friday, November 5 | 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Friendly Relationships, Working Together for the Library

Panelists: Library Director Travis Olivera and Trustee David Hopper from the Hamilton Public Library and Diane Finch, Friends of the Hamilton Public Library

Strengthening the connections between the library administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Friends can have a positive impact on your organization. Learn how to create a rapport that ultimately benefits your community!

What should you do to get ready? Save the dates for the virtual and in-person conferences. NYLA will decide before August about the viability of the in-person conference based on parameters set forth by NYS so watch for updates.

Registration will open for both conferences at the same time for the convenience of attendees. If the in-person conference cannot be held, please note the virtual conference in October will take place no matter what. Stay tuned and start getting ready for the Best Conference(s) Ever!

Fall Webinar: Before Friends Become Frenemies

These are headlines that can give a Friends officer pause:

- Library Friends Group is Fighting County Eviction Threat
- Trustees Vote to Sever the Relationship Between Library and Friends
- Library, Friends Group Split over \$300,000 Bequest

One of these stories happened in NYS, but certainly the other disagreements could have happened anywhere in the Empire State – and might have, just not making it into the newspapers. Conflicts about money, money management, donors' wishes, and other matters outside of the financial realm often cause the once-friendly relationships between

volunteer support organizations and their library's Board of Trustees and library administrators to sour. Are there actions that can be taken to keep everyone "playing nice" together?

Save the date for the fall FLS webinar, "Before Friends Become Frenemies," which will be offered on Thursday, September 30 beginning at two o'clock. This 90-minute webinar will examine conflict behavior and conflict resolution, how to develop a standardized document to guide financial contributions from the Friends, and the basics

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Focus on Friends Finale: Partnerships

Children's librarian Jason Poole of the Webster Public Library (WPL) entitled his part of the FLS webinar "BookBox for Kids & Teens: Underserved Populations in the Suburbs." Since 2014, the summer "BookBox" initiative has brought books to young readers unable to visit the library. This vital project has connected with families and steadily grown community support from the library Friends, churches, schools, and area grant-makers.

How did "BookBox" start? When Jason was giving a talk in a local elementary school, a little girl wanted to borrow a book he was promoting. Tearfully, the girl told Jason that she did not have a library card and her parents could not drive her to the library at the other end of town. Jason wanted to find the means to bring books to this girl and all the other children in her neighborhood.

And when there's a will, there's a way. "BookBox" has appeared once a week under a pop-up tent near Phillips Village. Library staff and Friends volunteers set up tables and crates full of books that the children may borrow without a library card. Nearly 85% of the books offered have been donated by the FWPL. Healthy snacks and drinks are also offered, while supplies last, which are contributed by the local grocery.

With its diverse population, English is not the first language of many of these residents. Because many households only have one car, this neighborhood seems remote and isolated from the rest of this large suburban township and its myriad services like the library and recreation center. Jason's mission was to make books more accessible as well as encouraging the community to come together to help their neighbors.

Cash donations collected at a church's summer concert series and other support have helped to buy books, equipment, and a banner. Some lawn games have also been purchased to help attract the children and teens in the park. Personnel from the local school district helped immeasurably by translating promotional fliers into five different languages, to assist the library staff in explaining the program to the families.

"Friendly Partnerships Strengthen Communities" continued with Helen Rados, member of the Friends of Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library (FOEBCPL), along with youth services librarian Cheryl Jones who is also the Staff Liaison to FOEBCPL. Together they have built powerful partnerships throughout their rural community and established some very creative collaborations that have vastly increased public awareness of the library.

Cheryl and Helen focused on the unique approach their Friends have embraced that goes beyond fundraising, although they do that very successfully, too!** Their creative partnerships have involved gardening organizations, a local bed and breakfast, craft breweries, and the Boy Scouts,



among others. Their advocacy has led to involvement in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Woodstock Festival and the creation of Vera's Story Garden, declared a Literary Landmark™ by United for Libraries.

Quarterly "play dates" such as the "Fall Fun Day" have been wildly popular with families in every season. A "sneak peak" into the new library when construction was nearly finished provided the chance to boost Friends membership numbers, allowing members the first opportunity to see the building. The Friends willingness to restore a Mickey Mouse clock beloved by the community has turned it into a landmark at the new library. The sole goal of these community engagement events and projects is to increase the library's visibility.

In a rural area with few media outlets, the Friends embrace all opportunities to market themselves and the library to the masses at a wide variety of "tabling events." A booth at the Bagel Festival had families making unique bird treats from bagels; a book sale is part of the Holiday Market; storytimes are offered at the Farmers Market. Going where people gather provides name recognition for the Friends along with maximum exposure. As Helen says, the Friends could be the "best kept secret in town," but "we don't want to be a secret!"

A great deal of the FOEBCPL's success is due, in large part, to offering meaningful volunteerism to their members in a limited capacity. Micro-volunteering allows for a short-term commitment, whether staffing a table at a community event, soliciting gift certificates from area businesses for raffle baskets, or baking cookies. Cheryl and Helen reminded us that "not every member will be active," but developing these manageable tasks allows for involvement in the Friends projects by many individuals—a true community partnership.

Both the Webster Public Library and the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library are helping to build community awareness of the library and their Friends organizations. Through carefully planned and thoughtful networking, they have built effective working relationships among library staff, volunteers, and local community groups that has accomplished so much together.

To watch this webinar any time, free of charge, go to www.nyla.org/friends > Events > FLS Webinars.

**Note: If you would like to learn more about the successful fundraisers FOEBCPL has offered, plan to attend "Fundraising Without Book Sales," an on-demand session for the NYLA Annual Conference this November.

Fundraising Beyond the Book Sale

Developing donor relations – one purse at a time, one mural at a time – can serve to be very financial rewarding, without a book in sight! On April 22, the Central New York Library Resources Council (CRLC) offered a wildly popular webinar on creative projects to raise money for the library in a socially distanced way. FLS was pleased to partner with CLRC to create this event.

Rebecca Fuss, Director of Advancement for the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL), shared three primary ways Friends could help to raise funds for their organizations, each focusing on the Friends' mission and stressing the importance of donor recognition and the power of the phrase "thank you."

Rebecca offered a series of tours for donors that had given to FFRPL for ten years or more. The tours of the Central Library had five stops where department staff members served as docents to highlight the results of donors' gifts. The tours lasted 90 minutes, with half an hour to chat with donors and their family members, listening carefully to their impressions and the areas of the library which were of particular interest to them. Of the 40 people who attended the tours, fifteen increased their donation to FFRPL and ten gave at the same level, showing the impact of making these careful personal connections.

The annual campaign should be framed as a letter of invitation to keep connected to an organization and institution the donor supports regularly. Attracting new members is vital, but renewing memberships are the mainstay. The FFRPL appeal included an invitation for the donor to answer the question, "What's the best book you've read in the last six months?" The participation was strong with many titles suggested. The results were turned into an interactive reading list. Posted on the FFRPL webpage, images of the book jackets of the suggested titles were linked directly to the library's catalog. The supporters could click on the book cover and find out immediately if the book was available in their library. The reading list showed the donors yet another way FFRPL was responsive to their interests.

Lastly, Rebecca introduced the concept of peer-to-peer fundraising as something we are all familiar with—walkathons or candy bar sales for youth sports leagues. This type of fundraising empowers everyone who cares about the cause to pitch in and raise funds together, to grow support for the organization as a whole. In this case, FFRPL and the Arnett Branch Library came together to engage patrons, turning them into active contributors for a cause near and dear to them. The emphasis was to indicate "together we are going to beautify Arnett," achieving good feelings about the community library and expanding relationships.

The Arnett Branch is in the 19th Ward of Rochester. When you drive through this ethnically-diverse neighborhood, you

cannot miss the colorful literary murals on the façade of the library. Arnett's Site Supervisor Bruce Tehan approached FFRPL for assistance with this special fundraising project to expand the number of murals. The campaign involved online giving and promotion on Arnett's Facebook page with the goal of raising \$2,250 for additional book murals. The fundraising message stated "Langston Hughes, Harper Lee, Frederick Douglass, and other esteemed authors have room for more 'neighbors' on the outside of the Arnett Branch Library."

Local artist Richmond Futch was able to paint seven additional murals in the summer of 2020 depicting the biographies of Austin Steward and Harriet Tubman, African and Seneca folk tales, a Motown music CD, and the Jackie Robinson Story DVD. Rebecca stressed how Bruce had the capacity to carry out this project: he had the artist willing to continue his previous



work on the building; he had a goal (budget) to work toward; he had the approval of the library administration for the project; and the branch's Facebook page had 733 followers that would be reached with messages about the project. Rebecca encouraged everyone to be aware of the number of followers for both the library's and Friends' Facebook pages; this audience is definitely paying attention to what is happening at your library, day to day. Throughout the campaign, which ran from August 20 through October 7, Bruce posted photos on Facebook of the work in progress, generating more interest.

The project even leveraged additional donations. A local book club saw the Facebook posts and determined to purchase children's books from a local bookstore which were donated to families in the 19th Ward. The library also introduced a new staff member to the community with her posing next to a Langston Hughes quote that resonated with her.

Besides the online giving form, it is important to have in place alternate methods to accept donations, whether cash or check. The staff talked with patrons about the project and had donation envelopes at hand when customers expressed interest to contribute to the project. The fundraising exceeded the goal, raising \$2560 from 30 donors who gave between \$5 and \$500. The extra funds will be used for

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Beyond the Book Sale, continued from previous page

maintenance of the artwork. Pledges have already been received for another mural. It is evident that this project both honored and improved patrons' lives.



Jenny Goodemote, Executive Director of the Wood Library in Canandaigua, explained how the library is tasked each year to raise 30% of its operating budget through fundraising efforts with the aid of a part-time Development Specialist on staff and the fundraising committee of the library's Board of Trustees. A sale of vintage, designer, and

everyday purses and costume jewelry, Pursapalooza, has been Wood's "knock-out" signature event for the "ultimate girls' night out" each fall since 2016, earning on average \$11,000 per year. The library's meeting room is transformed into a boutique showroom where early bird shoppers pay \$30 to have a glass of champagne and first dibs on the remarkable offerings. (General admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.) What to do in 2020?

Library Trustee Kathy Shay, who coordinated the 2019 fundraiser, resolved to lead Pursapalooza's loyal followers to an online event, using Square for an online store and selling tickets through EventBrite for the purse party. Rather than one night, the store was open for an entire week where 100 designer purses were offered, showcased with pictures of each bag taken by a professional photographer using a photo studio light box. Jenny stressed that the showroom photos and accurate descriptions such as the size of the purses were integral to their success. Grab bags of jewelry were not popular, but nearly one-third of the event's revenue came from \$5 raffle chances on design bags full of gift certificates from local businesses.

Although not as financially successful as years past, Pursapalooza still packed a punch. For November 2021, the committee has determined to bring back the in-person element, but also embrace a hybrid model, continuing to offer the online store which expanded the geographic reach of the event. Wood Library has already begun to collect new and used purses to be ready for another successful venture. Time to clean out the Coach, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton, and Gucci bags in your closet for a good cause!

To watch this webinar in full, find the link on the CRLC webinar archive page: <https://clrc.org/events-education/webinars/> You can also view the presenters' slides separately. Thank you to Rebecca Kluberanz, Continuing Education & Emerging Technologies Librarian, for reaching out to FLS to offer this professional development opportunity.

FLS Connections, continued from page 2

informally, followed by open mics where everyone can participate and provide their own groups' experiences and ideas. Days and times are varied to try to reach a wide audience. Each "Connections" will only have 30 seats available so we can keep the dialogue focused and facilitate conversation.

FLS Connections: Fundraising will be held on Thursday, July 15, from 2 - 3:15 p.m. What fundraising has your Friends group tried during the past year? What did you learn? What initiatives and programs are you underwriting now? Members of the Friends of the Onondaga Free Library in Syracuse and the Friends of the Hastings Public Library in Westchester County will give brief presentations on their membership appeals and other fundraising activities. Registration opens on June 17.

On Monday, September 13, we will gather from 4 to 5:15 p.m. for **FLS Connections: Membership Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention**. We look forward to hearing from the Cambria Heights Library Friends, a chapter of the Friends of the Queens Public Library, where some family gardening programs have helped raise awareness and grow the Friends. Nearly a quarter of our members have told us they need assistance with expanding their membership and keeping members engaged in the important work they do. Please come share your successes, so we can all learn together. Registration for this session will open on August 16.

Once registration opens (four weeks prior to each event), please send a message to FLSregister@yahoo.com. Put **FLS Connections** in the subject line. In the message, please include your first and last name and the Friends group or library you are representing. A Friends group may only register for two seats, with no more than two people per login. If a second person will be viewing with you, please include their name also. Groups will need to decide who will attend for their organization. Sessions will not be archived. You will receive a confirmation e-mail. The Zoom access code and any other pertinent information will be sent out a few days before the event. Registration will close whenever capacity is reached for the session.

FLS Webinar, continued from page 4

of operating agreements (also called a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU).

Registration will begin later this summer on the NYLA webpage. Remember: FLS members may attend at no charge. Watch for an FLS member blast to inform you when to sign up.

In the spirit of cooperation, we encourage you to invite your Trustee Liaison to the Friends to participate with you in this professional development opportunity.

FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

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Contact us anytime at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com

Visit the Friends of Libraries Section at

www.NYLA.org/Friends

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

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

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

Bookstore Guidance

During NYLA's Virtual 2020 Annual Conference, Jeff Budge, Manager of The Friends Bookshop at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, presented a pre-recorded session "Best Practices for a Friends-Operated Bookstore." Jeff has now provided FLS with more than two dozen handouts that accompany his talk.

The materials have been combined into three packets: Volunteer Forms; Training Manuals and Job Descriptions; and Store Operations. Any Friends group that operates a bookstore or in-library sales area will be able to use these resources to develop their own personalized materials. The PDF packets, along with a PDF of Jeff's PowerPoint slides, are posted in the FLS conference archive: www.nyla.org/friends > Events > FLS Programs at the NYLA Annual Conference 2020.

For further information, Jeff can be reached at friendsbookshopsspl@gmail.com or (518) 584-7860, ext. 233. Thank you, Jeff, for this goldmine of policies and procedures!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Our Members

FLS is able to work toward its mission and offer benefits like those listed below because of members like you who give freely of your time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for your continued support of this Section. Not a member? Please join us. www.NYLA.org/join

Benefits of Membership in the Friends of Libraries Section

Webinars

All FLS members, regardless of whether they have chosen FLS as their primary or as an added Section, are eligible to take an FLS-sponsored webinar at no charge. As an added benefit for Friends group organizational members of FLS, the volunteers or elected officers who have been registered with NYLA will be eligible for a free reg pass as well. The membership must be in effect on a specified date prior to each webinar and must be in effect through the date of the webinar.

The NYLA username and password associated with your membership is required for online registration to receive a free reg pass for an FLS-sponsored webinar.

Quarterly Newsletters

FLS members receive the print version of this newsletter by mail. Elected officers/Friend Group Leaders of a Friends group organizational member of FLS who have registered with NYLA will receive email notification that the newsletter is available online. www.NYLA.org/Friends > Publications