



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 8, #2 -- April 2022

2022 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Call for Nominations

It's that time of year again, where you have the opportunity to honor an active library supporter, Friend, or Friends of the Library group. The FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award is sponsored by the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS) of NYLA. Given annually since 1993 (through the precursor of FLS, the Empire Friends Roundtable), this prestigious 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.

In addition to a plaque, the recipient receives a one-year organizational membership in FLS for the Friends of the Library group with which the individual or group is associated.

To learn more about Daniel W. Casey and to find the nomination packet, go to www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards and Scholarships. The deadline to submit nominations is Wednesday, June 1, 2022. This year's award recipient will be announced at the FLS Annual Membership Meeting, held virtually, in November.

Nominations must include all relevant information outlined on the nomination form. Make sure to describe the contributions of the nominee (group or individual) to library service in detail. Include positions held, years of service, accomplishments, successful fundraisers, etc.

Please submit the nomination form and all supporting material (clippings of press releases, promotional materials, etc.) electronically to Helen Rados, FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator, via email at hrados@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Rados at hrados@gmail.com or call 845-796-4738 and leave a message.

Please Vote in the FLS Election

The FLS Executive Board approved the following slate of candidates, along with amendments to the FLS By-laws, to be placed on the FLS ballot. The election will be held online from June 1 through June 15 in conjunction with NYLA's annual election. Please note the date change. From now on, voting will be earlier in June and be open for just two weeks. Don't miss your chance to vote in both the FLS and NYLA elections.

- The 2022 candidates are:
- First Vice President/President-Elect**
Carol Fortier - LaGrangeville
 - President**
Kerstin Cruger* - Poughkeepsie
 - Immediate Past President**
Karen Sperrazza* - Sauquoit
 - Second Vice President**
Amy Discenza - Rochester
 - Treasurer**
Terry Mulee - Rochester
 - Members At Large**
Anne Andrianos* - Syracuse
Jerrie Grantham - Corona
Ristiina Wigg* - Corning
Mary Giardini* - Olean

(denotes: • filling an unexpired term due to vacancy, * incumbent; location of residence)

Inside this issue:

FLS Casey Award Call for Nominations	Page 1
Please Vote in the FLS Election	Page 1
Message from the FLS President	page 2
FLS Hopes to Hold In-person Meet-up	page 2
NYLA Council Resolution Honors FLS	page 3
FLS Commitment to Diversity	page 3
FLS Candidate Profiles	page 4
Vote to Amend the FLS By-Laws	page 6
National Friends of Libraries Week	page 7
2022 NYLA Annual Conference	page 7
New on the FLS Website	page 7
FLS Board and Auxiliary Volunteers	page 8
FLS Welcomes New NYLA ED	page 8
FLS Member Information	page 8

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.

The candidates' position statements and terms of office may be found on pages 4 through 6 of this newsletter. Full candidate profiles and the amended by-laws document are available at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Board & Officers > Elections.

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





A Message from FLS President Kerstin Cruger Happy 30th Anniversary FLS!

As FLS celebrates our 30th year, our tireless and creative crew are putting together fun and interesting ideas to help highlight the past of this active organization. This gave me the

opportunity to dig into our archive and learn more about how this amazing group began.

If you visit our webpage, www.NYLA.org/Friends you will find a section entitled *Looking Back at FLS*. It is here you can view the very first Friends Roundtable Newsletter. Published in April 1993, it offers an introduction to the board, a call for program ideas, membership recruitment, conference information, advocacy efforts, and support for new and burgeoning Friends groups. If not for the telltale 1990s typeface and perhaps the use of a fax number instead of an email address this could be a newsletter written today. So, does this mean nothing has changed in 30 years?

I would argue that a great deal has changed but our fundamental purpose remains the same. The dedication and hard work that Friends bring to support and champion their libraries and ultimately the communities those libraries serve has been, is now, and always will be the essence of our work. To accomplish that work we need ideas, people, support, funding and what my grandmother used to call a **can-do attitude**. Our needs haven't really changed over the last 30 years because our mission remains the same. It is simply the way we fulfill those needs that has changed and grown over time.

One of the many perks of being a member of FLS is the opportunity to see the work of many different Friends Groups. No matter the size of the group you can always see that underlying mission and that can-do attitude. We can take inspiration from the smallest group to the largest and we are stronger and more resilient because we work together to support one another by sharing our successes and our failures and using those experiences to help ourselves and our neighboring Friends.



During our 30th Anniversary year we would like to encourage you to share your story! No matter if this is your first, fifteenth or thirtieth year as a Friend, we want to know how this work has impacted you, your library, and the community. We would also encourage you to spread the word about FLS. The more members we bring in the more ideas we have to share and the more support we can offer one another. We are stronger together.

Please feel free to contact any member of our executive board with thoughts, ideas, or concerns and of course do not hesitate to reach out to me directly, fls.kerstin.cruger@gmail.com.

All the best,

Kerstin

FLS Hopes to Hold In-person Meet-up in July

The Friends of Libraries Section held an in-person Executive Board Meeting followed by a Friends Group Meet-up from 2015 - 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, at various locations throughout the state. The pandemic forced FLS to pivot this dual gathering to an online format for 2020. Beginning in 2021 the Section has been hosting online conversations featuring topics of interest for Friends groups called FLS Connections. Being online with colleagues from across the state has been a great way to continue gathering, but we are really missing the personal interactions that happen when we're all in the same room together.

As of this writing, the FLS Executive Board is planning to have an in-person meeting in the morning and to host an afternoon session inviting Friends members to come to Utica and join us for a "Friendly" discussion. The topic has not been finalized. The Friends Meet-up is currently scheduled for Thursday, July 14th at the Utica Public Library. Please save the date.

Further details on this event will be available in the June issue of The NYLA Voice, through direct FLS member email blasts, and at www.NYLA.org/Friends. Registration will open once the final determination has been made to hold this event. FLS will continue to monitor the data on COVID-19 infection rates and the guidelines for gatherings and will **only hold this meeting if it is deemed to be safe for Friends to gather in-person**. Keep your fingers crossed!!



Members from Friends groups and foundations from seventeen public libraries were at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library to "talk shop" during the third Friends Meet-up with the FLS Executive Board in May 2017.

NYLA Council Resolution Honors FLS

RECOGNIZING the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association

WHEREAS, Libraries are the cornerstone of the community, essential to democracy and provide opportunities for all to engage in lifelong learning and connect with others, and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Library groups understand the importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that libraries get the resources they need to provide a comprehensive array of specialized services for all ages, including access to materials in a wide variety of formats, expert guidance in research, and readers' advisory assistance; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Library groups provide volunteers and direct financial assistance to enhance library resources for extra programming, special events, equipment, furnishings, and other items outside the scope of the library's annual operating budget, and

WHEREAS, the Library Friends Roundtable was established in October 1992 at the New York Library Association's Annual Conference in Lake Placid to provide a forum for an exchange of information, to promote cooperative efforts among individuals, and be active in community Friends groups, to encourage and assist in the establishment of new Friends groups across New York, and

WHEREAS, the extraordinarily dedicated members of the Friends of Libraries are exceptional examples of how volunteerism can lead to positive civic engagement and the betterment of local communities, now, therefore,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Council of the New York Library Association recognize the Friends of Libraries Section for 30 years of persistent effort in fulfilling their mission to create a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.

FURTHERMORE, we implore our colleagues throughout the State to observe this anniversary year with appropriate activities and recognitions of their local Friends of the Library organizations, in order to raise awareness and appreciation of volunteer support of libraries.

Passed unanimously by NYLA Council, this third day of February, two thousand and twenty two.



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Voice of the Library Community

FLS Commitment to Diversity

by Lisa C. Wemett

At their March 2021 meeting, the FLS Board adopted the following statement:

The Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association embraces and promotes diversity and inclusion in all their forms. We broadly define diversity to include ability, age, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. FLS is committed to preparing our members to be leaders in a multicultural and global society.

To this end, we strive to:

- ensure that our Section leadership, policies, and practices are inclusive*
- integrate diversity into our professional development opportunities*
- promote and nurture an environment in which diverse perspectives and experiences are respected and valued*
- recruit and retain members and volunteers serving as library civic leaders from traditionally underrepresented groups*
- participate in outreach to under-served communities within New York State*

We are committed to cultivating an environment in the library community that is open, representative, and equitable to all.

The FLS Board hopes that by making this commitment, our members across the state will begin a dialogue on the ways that Friends organizations can support library staff in making their services, collections, and programs inclusive. Has your Friends group discussed strategies to ensure that your organization and steering committee officers are representative of the diversity of the community your library serves?

In your advocacy efforts, tell your elected officials that well-funded libraries can help address structural inequities and strengthen communities. The financial support of the Friends can assist the library in reaching under-served and at-risk populations.

Here are some concrete ways Friends can be allies and support diversity. We encourage you to have a conversation with your Friends leadership about specific ideas your group could adopt.

- establish or expand a home delivery program for area residents, with volunteers delivering library materials to their neighbors who are unable to come to the library for whatever reason*
- underwrite the cost of professionally-produced multi-lingual signage to welcome community members to the library*

~ continued on page 6 ~

2022 FLS Executive Board Election Candidates

Please remember to cast your ballot in the election between June 1 and June 15. FLS members will receive a message from NYLA with the instructions for logging into the Online Membership Center to vote. Be sure to cast ballots in all of the elections that you are entitled to vote in: NYLA, Sections, and Roundtables. Election results will be sent to all NYLA/FLS members once the votes are tallied. The FLS ballot will include nine candidates running for nine openings on the FLS Executive Board plus a vote to amend the FLS by-laws. Thanks for your participation in directing the future of the Section. Your vote counts. (denotes: • filling an unexpired term due to vacancy, * incumbent; location of residence)

First Vice President / President-Elect



Carol Fortier - LaGrangeville
Term: 2022 - 2025

Position Statement: I first became aware of the great work of the Friends of Libraries Section when I went through a rebuilding effort of the Friends of the Beekman Library. I learned firsthand as a Director that Friends groups are a major force for library stability. They not only support the library financially, they are the eyes and ears on the ground in the community. They are the

greatest and most devoted library supporters. As a Director, I have also heard some very difficult stories about Friends groups that were at odds with library administrators or trustees. I hope that during my tenure as First Vice President/President Elect, I can help shine a light on the value of a strong partnership between library staff, trustees, and Friends.

President



Kerstin Cruger• - Poughkeepsie
Term: 2022 - 2024

Position Statement: As current President of the Friends of Libraries Section, it has been a privilege to work with the many dedicated members of this organization. The support and hard work from each of our members is truly inspiring. In the spirit of this can-do attitude, I am

running for a second year as FLS President to fill an unforeseen gap in our succession. In a second year as President, I hope to continue our good work as we move through our Long-Range Plan and expand our organization with new members as well as create a seamless transition for our next President-Elect.

Immediate Past President

Karen Sperrazza• - Sauquoit
Term: 2022 - 2023

Position Statement: Since coming to the FLS Executive Board in 2019 as First Vice President/President Elect my main job was to serve as the FLS Conference Curator for the upcoming 2020 NYLA Annual Conference. Because of the pandemic, we had to pivot from an in-person event with our program proposals to a virtual event. Being flexible while

finding ways to continue to meet the needs of Friends organizations became the goal. The FLS Executive Board is very supportive of each other. Many individuals on the Executive Board not only worked to provide virtual programming for the 2020 NYLA Annual Virtual Conference, but also worked to provide FLS sponsored webinars. The FLS Board operates as a team, especially when it comes to achieving the greater goal of reaching out to connect with Friends groups across the state.

FLS is a very active, energetic, and vibrant Section of NYLA. And we are Friendly! As Immediate Past President, I will continue to work toward building a network of support for Friends groups throughout New York State.



Second Vice President

Amy Discenza - Rochester
Term: 2022 - 2024

Position Statement: Throughout my career as a librarian, 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 a small rural library where, depending on the day, you might find me plunging toilets or teaching technology classes; 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 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



~ continued on next page ~

Candidate Profiles

continued from previous page

Amy Discenza, continued
summer reading programs funded.

I began working with FLS as an auxiliary volunteer in 2018. During my tenure with the Section, I've served as representative to NYLA's Intellectual Freedom (2018-2019) and Continuing Education Committees (2019-2021); helped staff the FLS booth at the 2018 and 2019 NYLA Conferences, also serving as a room monitor; written a few articles for the FLS newsletter *Friends News and Notes*; assisted with the planning and marketing of two FLS webinars; worked with FLS Second Vice President Terry Mulee to distribute membership renewal reminders; and, most recently, served as Member At Large. I'm grateful to be a member of a Section that offers support and inspiration to library champions and appreciate being considered for a new position, FLS Second Vice President, in 2023.

Treasurer



Terry Mulee - Rochester
Term: 2022 - 2024
Position Statement: When I joined the Executive Board of the Empire Friends Roundtable in 2012 to become the Membership Chair, the first order of business for that group was to plan its 20th Anniversary celebration. Now it's time to plan the 30th Anniversary, which means that I've been volunteering with this group for 1/3 of its existence.

Shortly after I came on board back in 2012, the EFR newsletter layout editor needed to step down. As that was something in my wheelhouse, I offered to take on that responsibility. A few months later, the EFR web editor position became open, so I took that on to broaden my skill set. When EFR became FLS in 2014, I became the 2nd VP handling membership duties in an elected position on the FLS Executive Board. I continued as FLS web editor and became the FLS newsletter layout and copy editor. After 4 terms as 2nd VP, and assisting the Treasurer for the last two years, it's now time for me to serve in a new way. When the FLS nominating committee was looking to fill the FLS Treasurer position, I raised my hand. (There's a very capable candidate for FLS 2nd VP!)

I am committed to being a Friend helping Friends -- and to help set the course for the next 30 years for FLS to create a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.

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.

Members At Large (vote for four)

Anne Andrianos* - Syracuse
Term: 2022 - 2024

Position Statement: Libraries need Friends to support their mission and programming. That is why FLS is so important. It brings together other Friends from NYS to learn how, as a larger group, Friends can improve and expand service to libraries. There is also great value in scholarship and award opportunities made available to FLS members.



My MAL interests lie in advocacy, promoting scholarships and awards, and outreach to other Friends groups to inform them of opportunities for growth and success, such as webinars. Thank you for the opportunity to participate and serve.

Jerrie Grantham - Corona
Term: 2022 - 2024

Position Statement: Friends of the Library represent the best of dedicated individuals rallying behind their local libraries. FLS has been instrumental in helping Friends of the Library groups across the state expand beyond their regional ties to network and inspire other groups. It is my hope to continue serving that rich tradition, helping to spread best practices and innovative ideas for every Friends member to realize. I truly believe through collaboration and shared experiences that we can support our local libraries while also fostering a greater sense of community.



Ristiina Wigg* - Corning
Term: 2022 - 2024

Position Statement: As COVID-19 appears to be winding down, libraries are thinking about balancing patron safety while recognizing the desire of many to stop wearing masks or distance socially. Some communities are asking questions about the role of libraries, which books and materials should be available, and which people served. Friends play an important part in supporting the right of community access to many different types of materials. As former executive director of the Southern Tier Library System, I saw first-hand how effective



~ continued on next page ~

Candidate Profiles

continued from previous page

Ristiina Wigg,* continued

Friends of Libraries can be in supporting the growth of their library, connecting the library to its community, and advocating for political and financial support.

Our Friends of Libraries Section continues to experiment with new ways to share information and incorporates new strategies to meet challenges. I am excited to participate in our efforts to connect Friends statewide, share inspiration for new ideas, projects, and activities, and to work with you!



Mary Giardini• - Olean

Term: 2022 - 2023

Position Statement: Reading has always been a hugely influential part of my life. It was a source of learning, an escape, a way to reach out to new and unexplored worlds where my imagination could soar. I would like to extend this opportunity to others. My life experiences have gradually expanded my view of what a

library is. Several years ago, I was recruited for the Olean Friends of the Library Board of Trustees. Just sitting in on the first meeting opened my eyes to the extent of what a library really is and does for a community – and what a Friends group can do to help support the many programs offered to the patrons. Libraries have transitioned over the years from the traditional building where a person could borrow books, to a place where a person can come to use the internet, get help with finding and applying for jobs, meet with tutors, and explore interest groups in a free, nonjudgmental environment. Libraries, and the programs that many offer, are a necessary link for society to a larger community. They also provide a place of temporary respite for those who need a bit of quiet, a safe place to meet with friends after school, a place to go in the summer when it's sweltering hot, a place to get out of the bitter cold. When used appropriately, a library is a home where many of your needs can be met. The broad goal of the Friends of the Library is to connect and inspire others to become active participants in their local library. It is my goal to continue working with libraries by using my experience with communications to broadcast the offerings of the public libraries and, most especially, in fundraising and organization to help fund a variety of programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our society. I could see that my skills would most closely align with helping to organize/host events and meetings, applying my skills with technology and utilizing the connections I have with others who might have the skills I lack to achieve a goal – but I will happily pitch in and help with anything asked of me. I very much look forward to this new chapter in life with the Friends of Libraries Section.

Vote to Amend the FLS By-Laws

In accordance with the FLS long-range plan, President Kerstin Cruger appointed the Ad Hoc Committee on By-Laws Review, chaired by FLS Coordinator for Professional Development Lisa C. Wemett, in December 2021. Committee members included Christopher Lund (Member At Large), Karen Sperrazza (FLS Past President), and Kerstin Cruger (ex officio). The group carefully examined the language and procedures outlined in the 2015 by-laws and have made changes in many governance areas that mirror the Section's current operations. NYLA's Parliamentarian Arthur Friedman thoroughly reviewed the group's work.

The amended document, endorsed by the FLS Executive Board, is being submitted to our members for approval during the FLS election (June 1 through 15). Following the list of candidates' names, you will see a separate question on the ballot about the by-laws. The FLS Executive Board recommends ratification of these amended by-laws. The complete document, with amendments noted, is available for review at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Board & Officers > Elections. Please watch for the announcement from NYLA that polling is open and help FLS by voting in favor of these amendments.

Diversity continued from page 3

- provide funds to add materials about cultures under-represented in the library's collection
- sponsor a series of community conversations to encourage dialogue on social justice issues
- contact area organizations that represent People of Color and develop partnerships as community allies by offering joint programs
- help youth librarians purchase puppets for storytimes that represent different races and ethnic groups
- advocate for universal broadband legislation to strive for equitable internet access, especially in rural and low-income communities
- help staff with outreach activities to inform the community about library services such as adult literacy classes, free summer lunch programs, public access computers, and many more free resources
- seek out and make purchases from minority-owned businesses
- as ideas are implemented, feature the Friends actions that support diversity on the Friends' website and social media accounts

Many thanks to Bert Hurst, Chairman of the Committee for Racial Equity, Friends of Freeman Library (a branch of the Harris County Public Library in Houston, Texas) for sharing the committee's report which contains many of these recommendations.

Celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week October 16-22

Now is the time to start planning a celebration of your Friends group during the 17th annual National Friends of Libraries Week (NFOLW). It's the perfect opportunity to raise awareness in your community about the many ways your group contributes to the library. NFOLW is also a great time to promote membership in the Friends.

This year NYLA Council recognized the achievements of FLS as the Section celebrates 30 years of working to create a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community. Originally the Empire Friends Roundtable, this division of NYLA is a grass-roots volunteer group that supports library civic leaders who provide volunteer and financial assistance to their libraries. Because EFR/FLS was actually founded on October 30, 1992, we've determined to use NFOLW as the centerpiece of our celebration.

A visit to the United for Libraries website at www.ala.org/united/friendsweek will yield a plethora of ideas and resources you can use. It includes samples of marketing materials in MS Word format that can be personalized to your group. There is a customizable press release and letter to the editor. Sample proclamations are offered for public, school, and academic libraries.

There are also promotional materials such as posters, bookmarks, and buttons specifically for Friends groups which you can purchase from the ALA Store. Find them at www.alastore.ala.org.

Follow the links to the National Friends of Libraries Week Awards. United for Libraries sponsors an annual contest recognizing the activities and efforts of its members that celebrate NFOLW. You can review the creative and innovative entries from nearly a decade of contests which may give your group some ideas to plan your own celebration. Congratulations to the Friends of Maxwell Memorial Library in Camillus who were just recognized by United for Libraries for their NFOLW celebration in 2021. Activities involved an art exhibit and events with the library's Junior Friends group, including the family-friendly Halloween-themed "Mischief at Maxwell" and a fall bulb sale.

So please join in NFOLW, especially this year to celebrate 30 years of FLS. We can't wait to hear what your group comes up with!

FLS Newsletter/Web Editor request: Is your Friends Group celebrating a significant anniversary? Have you held a unique event during NFOLW or anytime during the year? Send your captioned photos and/or short articles to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com for possible publication in *Friends News and Notes* or on the FLS website. Thanks.

2022 NYLA Annual Conference

The NYLA Conference Curators are working diligently to bring back NYLA's first fully in-person conference since 2019. Scheduled for November 2 through 5 at the conference center at the Saratoga Hilton/City Center in Saratoga Springs, this year's gathering will be an excellent opportunity for Friends to once again come together to network and participate in many professional development offerings alongside their library colleagues.

First Vice-President Lisa C. Wemett is serving as the FLS Conference Curator, organizing programs on fundraising, best practices to keep Friends groups growing and thriving, building relationships and improving communications between Friends and library staff, and a field trip highlighting management of bookstore and e-commerce operations by volunteers. Mark your calendars to join us!

New on the FLS Website www.NYLA.org/Friends

FLS 2021 Annual Membership Meeting Videos

Now you can watch the video of the 2021 FLS Annual Membership Meeting held last November. The meeting included recognition of the 2021 recipients of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship and the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award plus the installation of the 2021-22 Executive Board, including our auxiliary volunteers. There is a [YouTube video of the entire meeting](#), including the *Friends on Facebook* presentation. The [FLS 2021 Annual Report to the Membership](#) is also available for viewing or download.

Following the business meeting, Karen Ash, Chair of the Friends of the Angelica Free Library, presented *Friends on Facebook: Five Ways Social Media Can Help You Meet Your Goals*. It was a very informative talk. Karen shared her expertise and highlighted the success of her group in their efforts to support the library. [YouTube video of Friends on Facebook](#)

Looking Back at FLS

FLS is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this coming October. Throughout the year we'll be posting news about anniversary celebrations as well as snippets of the history of FLS and EFR. Check back often as the collection grows!



L-R: EFR first newsletter, FLS first newsletter, NYLA Council Resolution for FLS 30th Anniversary

FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

Officers:

President - Kerstin Cruger fls.kerstin.cruger@gmail.com
First Vice President, Conference Curator - Lisa C. Wemett
2nd Vice President (Membership) - Terry Mulee
FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com
Secretary - Lynne Madden
Treasurer - Stephen Hoefler
Immediate Past President - Karen Sperrazza
President Emeritus - Randall Enos

Members At Large:

Anne Andrianos
Marie Bindeman
Amy Discenza
Christopher Lund
Erica Freudenberger
Leslie Riley
Ristiina Wigg

NYLA Committee Representatives:

Awards Committee - Joyce Laiosa
Communications Committee - Danielle Krause
Continuing Education Committee - Lisa C. Wemett
Intellectual Freedom Committee - Christopher Lund
Legislative Committee - Jean Sheviak
Membership Committee - Terry Mulee
Sustainability Committee - Marie Bindeman

FLS Volunteers:

FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator - Helen Rados, hrados@gmail.com
FLS Scholarship Coordinator - Marie Bindeman
Assistant Conference Curator - currently vacant
Marketing Coordinator - Meg Sgombick
Regional Workshop Trainers - Joyce Laiosa, Lisa C. Wemett

Contact us anytime at
FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com

Visit the Friends of Libraries Section at
www.NYLA.org/Friends or scan the QR code



FLS is limiting the email addresses published to eliminate phishing scams. Please use the NYLA Membership Directory to find contact information not listed 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.

Newsletter Editor: Terry Mulee
Contributor and Proofreader: Lisa C. Wemett

Newsletter printed by
1260 Scottsville Road
Rochester, NY 14624



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

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

FLS Extends Warm Welcome to New NYLA Executive Director

AnnaLee Dragon stepped into the position of NYLA Executive Director on February 14, 2022. "AnnaLee comes to NYLA after serving as the Director of the Kinderhook Memorial Library in Kinderhook, NY, since 2012. She has demonstrated a passion for libraries, advocacy, and for NYLA that is contagious and inspiring. AnnaLee is ready to face our current challenges head-on – from taking a fresh look at finances to fostering a positive culture among staff, Council, and membership." (Quoted from NYLA Member Blast on February 14.)



The FLS Executive Board had a chance to welcome the new ED at their meeting on March 30. AnnaLee "stopped in" at the online meeting to say hello and express her gratitude to Friends. We look forward to working with AnnaLee and congratulate her on rapidly filling the staff openings at NYLA. FLS and NYLA have much to look forward to. Thanks AnnaLee - and welcome!!

Save the Date!

June 1-15, FLS/NYLA Elections online at www.NYLA.org (member login required)
July 14, FLS Friends Meet-up - hopefully!
October 16-22, National Friends of Libraries Week - start planning now!
November 2-5, NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY

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 FLS

- ✓ Special rates for NYLA Annual Conference attendance for Friends and Friends group organizational members.
- ✓ FLS members receive a free Reg Pass for FLS sponsored webinars.
- ✓ Quarterly newsletter mailed to FLS members and emailed notice of posting to Friends group organizational member volunteers registered with NYLA. See the archive of FLS newsletters online at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Publications