



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 7, #2 -- March 2021

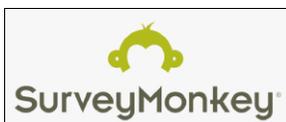
New FLS Survey on Rural Friends

Does your Friends group support a rural or small public library? FLS is requesting your participation in a survey to gather information that will help FLS better assist these Friends groups in their growth, development, and long-term success.

In May 2020, Past President Lisa C. Wemett appointed the Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries to study issues that are unique to small, rural Friends groups. The task force initially contacted several successful groups serving rural libraries, asking for input on their activities, membership, and needs. The responses from these organizations helped in the development of this survey for Friends organizations in NYS.

The Task Force is now seeking additional information from small and rural Friends groups. Rather than "small" referring to Friends groups with a small number of members on their roster, the FLS Task Force on Friends and Rural Libraries is defining "small" in relation to the population of the library's potential service area, generally less than 10,000 residents. The task force considers a library

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Apply Now for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholaship

The Friends of Libraries Section is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. The scholarship will provide \$750 each for two FLS members to attend the NYLA Annual Conference this year. One will be awarded to a first time conference attendee and the second award will go to someone who may or may not have previously attended.

The FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship was named in recognition of Randy Enos for his outstanding efforts on behalf of Friends in New York State. Not only was Randy a founding member of the Empire Friends Roundtable of NYLA (now FLS) in 1992, but he has been a continuous member of this organization and its Executive Board. He has also served as president for at least six terms. His steady hand in the leadership of FLS is more than worthy of this honor. The FLS Executive Board established the scholarship in December 2018.

Applicants for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship must be personal members of FLS/NYLA or registered with NYLA as a primary contact or an elected officer/Friend group leader of a Friends group that is

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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 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 the Library Section of NYLA. This prestigious award has been 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.

New this Year:

The award recipient will receive a one-year organizational membership in FLS for the Friends of the Library group with which the individual or group is associated. If the Friends group is currently a member of FLS, their organizational membership will be extended for one year.

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 is Tuesday, June 1, 2021. This year's award recipient will be acknowledged at the FLS annual membership meeting in November.

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

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A Message from FLS President Karen Sperrazza



Dear Friends,

It has now been more than a year of living with the COVID-19 pandemic. The way we conduct our everyday lives has changed. Library operations have changed. The way we manage meetings has

changed. And the way Friends groups support their libraries has changed. Some things have been lost, but some things have been gained along the way. We've learned that meetings no longer have to be conducted with everyone in the same room. Even conferences and exhibits can be virtual. Geography is less of an issue with electronic access, provided that access is available to everyone.

Libraries felt the impact of the pandemic as they were ordered to close their doors in 2020. While following state guidelines for reopening, they quickly adapted to new ways of conducting library business and programs safely. Library programs and even story time for children have now become virtual. What this means is that anyone with access to the technology can participate in these and other virtual library events. The audiences may be larger than for in-person events because it is no longer necessary to be present at the library. Distance from the library is now less of a roadblock

to attendance.

What changes has your Friends group undergone? It's likely that you now conduct your meetings via Zoom or a similar online service. Virtual meetings can be an advantage with adequate technology and access. This could be a good time to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), bylaws, policies, and other documents by which your organization operates.

Has your Friends group reimagined any of their events as stay-at-home or virtual fundraisers? Consider launching an event or fundraiser to coincide with a national day or month of importance. Poetry Month (April), Pet Month (May) Pride Month or Dairy Month (both in June) might suggest a theme for a virtual event. Authors' birthdays can be a reason to celebrate with a library Friends author-themed fundraiser. (August is the birth month for both Danielle Steel and David Baldacci). Check out United for Libraries "Fact Sheet #32" for these and other fundraising ideas and events that can be conducted virtually. (www.ala.org/united)

Remember, even if you don't raise as much as you would have through a traditional book sale or other fundraiser, virtual events are great for visibility due to the potential to reach an audience that isn't accessible for a traditional live event. In this case, events of this type can also present the possibility for membership growth.

Libraries and Friends of libraries will always be ready to pivot and meet the changes and challenges, whatever they may be. I wish you all to stay safe and healthy.

Fundraising in 2021 – A Free Webinar

Looking for some best practices for fundraising that can be implemented within safety guidelines during the pandemic? When you cannot gather crowds at large-scale book sales, are there other creative projects and tactics your Friends and foundation can undertake? FLS is pleased to be co-sponsoring a free one-hour webinar with the Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 4 o'clock. "Fundraising Beyond the Book Sale" will feature ideas that are viable in today's environment.

Rebecca Fuss, Director of Advancement for the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, will discuss annual appeals, donor relations, peer-to-peer fundraising, and other community-wide donation efforts that provide good return on the investment of your time. Executive Director Jenny Goodemote and trustee Kathy Shay of Wood Library in Canandaigua will share the details of their "knock-out" fundraiser, Pursapalooza, a sale of purses, jewelry, artwork, and more. Organized by a committee of trustees, this in-person annual event morphed into an online store of designer handbags in November 2020.

Our panelists will help you craft a case for support, identify best practices for connecting with your community, and convey your library's needs to your audience. We will evaluate online platforms for virtual, in-person, and hybrid fundraising events for the library, so you can begin planning your next effective fundraiser.

Until large-scale book sales can resume once more, Friends will need to shift strategies and expand their ability to reframe and organize their campaigns that support the library. Strengthening connections and building relationships with long-time supporters is vital. Adapting the library's profitable fundraisers to fit today's environment is the name of the (socially distant) game!

Registration is now open on CLRC's webpage: <https://clrc.org/event/webinar-with-fls-fundraising/>. Don't delay; seating is limited. If you are interested in other events from CLRC or the Empire State Library Network, visit <https://clrc.org/event-listing>.



Good, Better, Best Practices for Minutes

by Lisa C. Wemett

Have a little extra time on your hands as you stay socially distant? If you are officers of a Friends group, most especially the Secretary, a pandemic might afford the time to get your affairs in order. No, not THAT plan!! Your Friends "board book" and minutes! With fewer meetings and events, use this opportunity to organize, save, and even digitize the important papers from your Friends.

During her January webinar "Effective Boards and Board Meetings," attorney Judy Siegel of the Pro Bono Partnership shared handouts about compiling a board book and the minutes of nonprofit boards. Some of the key documents the organization needs to access are its mission statement, articles of incorporation, copy of the group's application to the IRS for tax-exempt status, and the exemption determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service. Additional items to include are the current by-laws and policy statements (e.g., conflict of interest, donations/gifts). There are many more items to collect and save, but the minutes and resolutions from board meetings must be kept permanently to be in compliance with the IRS.

Siegel pointed out that minutes provide information about when the meetings occurred and what action was taken (motions, votes, and abstentions). Minutes are an official and legal record of a board meeting. They need to be taken at each meeting and reviewed for accuracy by those present.

Do your minutes cover these basic elements? They should include the name of the organization, the date of the meeting, the times the meeting began and ended, the names of the board members present and any guests who attended (noting also names of those absent or excused), and whether a quorum was present. Rather than summarizing reports, the written reports and supporting documents should be attached.

The minutes are not a transcript, but should include a brief, objective summary of any discussions, any motions (including who made the motion and who seconded it), and results of the voting. The decisions made and any further action items should be noted. After a meeting, the draft minutes should be circulated to the board prior to the next board meeting. Members should review the minutes for mistakes or missing information. Corrections can be addressed at the next meeting and the edited minutes voted upon by the board.

The approved minutes should be signed by the Secretary and filed in the Friends board book. (A secondary signature from another officer may also be required according to the group's by-laws.) Any minutes kept as electronic files should be stored in a location easily accessed by more than one person. The "secretary's flash drive" could easily be lost.

For further tips, consult a current edition of **Robert's Rules**

of Order Simplified and Applied which includes a detailed section on "Meeting Minutes" in the duties of the Secretary, outlining the structure of the minutes, their content, and approval and corrections. See the appendices for examples of model minutes.

FLS is building a catalog of online content that is informative, innovative, and beneficial to Friends organizations of all sizes. All webinar sessions are recorded and posted on the FLS webpage to watch any time, free of charge. To view "Effective Boards and Board Meetings" in its entirety, go to www.nyla.org/friends > Events > FLS Webinars.

FLS Enos Scholarship continued from page 1

a current organizational member of FLS/NYLA. Whether a community volunteer or library staff member, applicants must be currently and actively involved in a local Friends group of any type of library in New York State. Individuals may only receive one scholarship or Dewey Fellowship from FLS in their lifetime. Members of the FLS Executive Board or student members of NYLA are not eligible to apply.

Each scholarship will provide a maximum of \$750 of the cost for each recipient to attend the 2021 NYLA Annual Conference scheduled for Syracuse from Wednesday, November 3 through Saturday, November 6. Reimbursements may include registration, tickets for events and meal functions, lodging, and travel. The recipients will also be entitled to attend the half day pre-conference continuing education seminar sponsored by FLS on Wednesday, November 3 at no charge.

Completed scholarship applications must be received before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. You may download the application packet at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships. The Enos Conference Scholarship committee will review all eligible applications and notify recipients and applicants during the summer.

To submit an application please complete the form and email it along with any 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 Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215. Please submit your nomination in one format only (electronic or paper).

The scholarship is underwritten through an endowment funded by contributions to FLS on the occasion of Randy's retirement from the Ramapo Catskill Library System on February 1, 2019. For those wishing to make a donation in Randy's or anyone else's honor, the donation link is available at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships.

Analyzing Volunteer Jobs

by Lisa C. Wemett



FLS is often contacted through our Yahoo mailbox for advice related to the operation of Friends organizations. We've received several inquiries about succession planning, revitalizing a Friends group, and what to do when a key officer wants to step down, but no one will step up.

Leadership transition is a crucial moment in an organization's life. The group can be especially vulnerable if multiple volunteers determine to end their service at the same time. How can you prepare the Friends group for a smooth transition?

Even if your Friends have a full complement of officers and are working well together, the group still should be prepared for unexpected interruptions—an officer moves away or must step down to take care of a family crisis. A healthy group should take some time to analyze what positions are most vital to the organization's success and which would be most vulnerable if there wasn't an efficient transition from one volunteer to the next.

A good first step is to carry out a task analysis, looking for positions that may be over-burdened. How can a job be made more "bite size" and manageable? Ask your Friends leaders to make a list of all the tasks that are involved in their individual positions. What are their key responsibilities? Whether it is conducting meetings, developing the meeting agendas, keeping records, writing a newsletter, or handling mailings to members, the act of identifying the components of the work is a good step to seeing the division of labor. The burden of work may be far from even. There are probably significantly more responsibilities than one person should realistically handle. In relation to this position, what accomplishments have been achieved during the past year? What projects are current and ongoing? What work could be diverted to other helpers?

Take one task and consider the basic skills or qualifications needed to accomplish the job. What about the conditions for the task? How much time is needed to complete the task? Does it have to be done at a particular place? The person who manages the newsletter needs writing and editing skills. But the editor can work on her computer at home. A bulk mailing could need several helpers to accomplish the task in a timely manner and might be best carried out in a large room with lots of table space for folding, sorting, and handling the newsletters.

Make a list of specific people or even groups who have the needed skills and can meet the conditions of the task. A newsletter editor could be a college student, a retired teacher, or someone with a journalism background. Could

the student get college credit? Could a volunteer re-entering the work force use the newsletter as an example of her organizational skills? Once the skills have been itemized, identify key benefits of this job that will motivate someone to take the position. Outline the time commitment and the training and mentoring support that is available to help the volunteer carry out the work.

The time to act is now. Put succession planning on the next meeting agenda for the Friends. The process can seem less daunting if the current volunteers individually begin a series of small steps that will help potential recruits. Show prospective volunteers that the Friends are on solid ground by having carefully crafted, manageable job descriptions so new leaders are aware of the expectations people will have for them when they raise their hand to volunteer.

Library Giving Day – Timing is Everything!



Lots of great things start in the Pacific Northwest, like Starbucks and Library Giving Day. What? You haven't heard of this one-day fundraising event created by the Seattle (WA) Public Library Foundation?

This is only the third year of a national day of giving for public libraries. It's time to embrace this movement, held on the Wednesday of National Library Week (4/7/21), which is now promoted by United for Libraries, the Public Library Association, and the American Library Association.

See www.librarygivingday.org to download the free *The Complete Library Giving Day Campaign Toolkit*. The publication includes graphics and publicity ideas such as sample Facebook and Twitter posts, public service announcements, and a press release to encourage online gifts and direct donations which will help you make #LibraryGivingDay a success. The toolkit states "The Library Giving Day campaign is a concept dedicated to growing philanthropic support for libraries across the nation."

The toolkit goes on to say, "Libraries that embrace fundraising have the potential to create a powerful public/private partnership that has lasting impact and untold benefits. Library Giving Day benefits libraries of all sizes...using a special day to create momentum for a fundraising campaign. This campaign activates new and existing bases of support and provides opportunities for media and corporate partnerships. Participating libraries can leverage this initiative to help diversify their funding streams, build awareness while acquiring new donors, and elevate their advocacy efforts."

Use this campaign to attract new donors and provide an opportunity for the media to highlight the benefits residents derive from their local library.

When Book Sales Just Aren't Enough, Part 2

As noted in the June 2020 newsletter, Friends are constantly on the lookout for community-based fundraising ideas that work, now more than ever. Here are some additional suggestions of tried and true projects. We would welcome your feedback on ones you try or other suggestions you are willing to share with your fellow Friends organizations.

Inclusion in this listing does not imply an endorsement of any of these companies and their services. The list is for information purposes only.

Close to Home

Donations and dues are one area to consider. Assess your organization's membership categories. Could an increase in your categories of membership dues bring in extra funds? You could create new membership levels or make suggestions of donation amounts that are greater than your current fees. Always have an "other" line on your donation form. Donors may surprise you with contributions at a higher level of giving. Hold a membership drive during National Friends of Libraries Week in October.

Round up your sales – it works for Goodwill Stores. Buyers are asked if they would like to "round up" their purchase totals to the next even dollar amount to assist with the nonprofit's activities and mission. Friends of the Library in Montgomery County (MD) raised \$1200 with a month-long campaign of rounding up in their bookstore.

Consider offering an incentive for higher levels of donations. The Wood Library in Canandaigua extends one year of fine-free borrowing to any individual who makes a gift of at least \$50 to the annual fund drive. If the donation is \$100 or more, the benefit is extended to the entire family living at the same address. In the circulation database, patron status is noted as "donor" so the system cancels fines on items that belong to Wood Library. Exclusions include materials borrowed from other libraries, holds that are not picked up, and materials that are lost or damaged.



The Friends of the Stirling Branch Library in Hollywood FL have raised more than \$15,000 through their Dedicate-A-Shelf program. A 3" by 5" framed plaque is attached to a shelf of the donor's choice for one year at the Bronze (\$50), Silver (\$100), or Gold (\$150) levels. Each donor may indicate one of 18 subject areas. A donation of \$500 (the Lifetime Platinum level) is acknowledged on a display in the library's entry

way, along with a letter-size framed plaque on the shelf of the donor's choice. The donation may be made by check or

PayPal. The project has honored birthdays, anniversaries, and other special moments, as well as memorializing many community members. Photos and a carefully worded invitation to donate are on their website. (<https://stirlingfriends.org/dedicate-a-shelf>)

If your community has an Elks Lodge, ask their leaders about Gratitude Grants. If the Lodge has reached or exceeded the National President's per-member goal for giving to the Elks National Foundation, the Lodge may apply for the Community Investments Program. Grants fall into six broad charitable categories including assisting underprivileged communities, advancing education, and combating juvenile delinquency among others. Amounts range from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Applications are accepted April 1 through December 31. For further information go to <https://www.elks.org/cip/grants/GratitudeGrants.cfm>.

Take advantage of a national promotion annually in April, "Library Giving Day" (article on page 4).

Online

Although festivals and events attracting large crowds are being cancelled or postponed right and left, we think some of the following have potential to become virtual events by moving to a videoconferencing platform like Zoom. Ask for pre-registration and only share the Zoom link with those who sign up in advance. Corporate sponsorships from local area businesses can still be solicited to underwrite the event. Consider giving top-level sponsors an engraved leaf to be placed on the library donors' Giving Tree or other recognition wall.

At an antiques appraisal event, professional appraisers review individuals' possessions for a nominal fee per item to find out their potential value in today's market. Participants may be limited to 3 items. The Friends of the Chili Public Library and the Friends of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello offered these in the past. With limited appointments, this event might still be viable. Ask if the appraiser would be willing to appear via Zoom for interested observers.

The Cedar Rapids (IA) Public Library Foundation moved their fundraiser, "Literary Vines," to an at-home event. Donors could purchase a "faux ticket" for a \$50 donation. Donations received by the end of the month were given a coupon for 10% off libations from two locally-owned beverage distributors. The "menu" for the event was suggested beer and wine "pairings" with librarian-curated suggestions of audiobooks, soundtracks, and movies that could be accessed through the library's various online platforms (e.g., Overdrive). Sponsors from their previous events (e.g., insurance agents, dentists, contractors, architects) continued

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Fundraising Ideas continued from previous page

their underwriting commitments, even with the “change in venue” from an in-person to an at-home event.

Gather Friends in Your Bubble

Families looking for a different outdoor activity might be attracted to some “Wicket” Fun Croquet. Bellingham (MA) Friends of the Library hosted croquet on a Sunday in April from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. They asked the members of the community to loan mallets from those sets collecting dust in the garage! \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Drawings were held for donated gift certificates and other prizes during the event.

Take advantage of the resurgence in bike ridership. “The Library Ride” encouraged bike riders to visit three historic branches of the Somerville (MA) Public Library, a 6-mile ride. Adults paid \$5; kids were free. Prizes were awarded for best dressed man/woman/child (and bicycle!). A grocery store donated snacks. Family activities were held at each stop along the route. Today’s variation might be to have take-home packets families could pick up and enjoy later. Proceeds were used to install a permanent bike pump outside the Central Library.

With an adult spelling bee, local teams are challenged to “bee” the best spellers! Teams pay an entrance fee and “bee watchers” buy a ticket to cheer on their team. Library-themed raffle baskets could raise more money. Friends of Queen Anne’s County (MD) Library raised \$1,900. (United for Libraries, The Voice, Dec. 2016, p.12, had an extensive article.) Friends of the Webster (NY) Public Library also had a “Bee for Books” with a local TV personality as the Master of Ceremonies. Area book clubs, town employees, a dental clinic, and churches fielded teams with clever names: “The Mighty Molars,” “The Church Ladies,” and “The Bee Gees.” A virtual competition could be the “bees’ knees”!

Pop-Up Book Sales



Have a lot of book sale items accumulating? How about a “Buy the Box” book sale? Books are pre-packed in boxes by genre (e.g., romance, children’s, nonfiction, cookbooks). The whole box is sold; no peeking! The price per box ranges from \$3 to \$25.

Friends of the Metropolitan (OK) Library System hold this 4-hour sale annually at their book donation sorting site on a Saturday in September (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. only).

And here is an idea from the Olathe Public Library in Kansas: the Friends are selling a “Grab Bag of Books” for \$5. Volunteers prepare a bag of 6-8 adult titles or 10 children’s book in broad categories (chapter books, picture books,

nonfiction). Orders are ready within one week and the customer receives an e-mail to arrange a pick-up time. By publicizing this sale with the library’s Facebook page (5,000 followers) and the city’s social media pages (20,000 followers), in the first ten days, they sold 338 grab bags! They set up the online sale with their Square account. See their webpage: <https://friends-olathe-library-square.site>.

Out and About, Safely!

Be green! Empty toner cartridges from printers, office copiers, and fax machines can be donated, depending on the company you work with. Staples takes both inkjet and laser cartridges from individuals and offices. You’ll receive a rewards check which can be spent on any Staples merchandise.

As small businesses reopen and practice social distancing with fewer customers, a night devoted to Friends might be something a company would consider. The Land O’ Lakes Library (FL) held an event at a local winery. A portion of the entrance fee for the event and wine sale were donated to the library. Activities included a tour of the winery, a presentation on wine making, tastings, food, craft tables, and live music.

Friends of the Charleston (SC) County Public Library hosted “Books for Beer” at a local biergarten. Participants brought a gently used book and received one free beer. Any child bringing a children’s book received a root beer. Limit one beverage per person. The Friends had a “pop-up” book sale and some silent auction items up for bid. Admission was free. (United for Libraries, The Voice, April 2017).

“Brats & Brews for Books” was sponsored by the Friends of the Loveland (CO) Public Library. A \$25 donation bought a grilled bratwurst, a simple side dish, and a flight of microbrews (six 4-oz. samples of beer). Draft root beer was a choice and vegetarian options for dinner were offered. Consider approaching a food truck operator for this type of event.



Does a local restaurant have a signature dessert? A signature drink? \$1 donated for each item sold can eventually add up! The “Signature Dish Campaign” at Nosh in Rochester raised \$963 in 3 months for the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester.

At Chili’s, Applebee’s, Uno’s, and other chain restaurants, customers bring a coupon to the restaurant and 10% of their bill is donated to the library. Sometimes the promotion is limited to only one evening; sometimes it is good over the

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course of a month. Check with your local ice cream or frozen yogurt shop. There are lots of hot days to look forward to! One business held a 3-hour fundraiser at the ice cream shop, allowing the Friends to earn 20% of the evening's sales. Other fundraisers included hosting the ice cream vendor at a public event to receive 10% of the proceeds or selling "pint cards" good for one pint of ice cream at 30% off the usual retail cost.

Consider tying a fundraiser to National Friends of Libraries Week (NFOLW) in October. The celebration in 2021 is slated for October 17-23. A local restaurant in Elgin, Iowa, donated 10% of all sales to the Friends to commemorate NFOLW. A florist had a special on a particular arrangement and donated a percentage of the proceeds.

"Clear the Board" was an initiative of the McCloud (OK) Friends of the Library. They kicked off the fundraising campaign during NFOLW in October and dubbed it "Clear the Board by Christmas." A board was covered with 50 tags, each with a dollar amount from \$1 through \$50. Supporters took a tag off the board and made a donation. The Friends raised \$1,275. Various promotions were held: the board appeared at the city-wide Chili Cook-Off; was displayed at the library surrounded by photos of Friends activities and donations, along with a book display on friendship and libraries; the board traveled to local civic meetings (Chamber of Commerce; Kiwanis); and it was displayed at various library events.

Any references to "Friends News and Notes" see www.NYLA.org/Friends > Publications.

Issues of "The Voice for America's Libraries," the newsletter of United for Libraries: Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association, are available to United for Libraries members in full text. www.ala.org/united.

Making Friends Photogenic!

Professional photographer Peter Blackwood, Treasurer for the Friends of Wood Library in Canandaigua, was the subject of a feature article in the September/October issue of *Life in the Finger Lakes Magazine* (p.58-61). You can read "Turning the Focus on Nature Photographer Peter Blackwood" at www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/past-issues. Peter volunteers to coordinate the rotating art exhibits in the library's community room. He also photographs Wood's events pro bono such as the ribbon cutting of Canandaigua's StoryWalk®, the library's Earth Day event, and their popular 5K Fun Run. View his work at <https://www.blackwoodphoto.com>.

Congratulations, Peter!

distant from an urbanized area as rural. However, any library or Friends group that identifies their library as rural and/or small is welcome to complete the survey, whatever the population of the library's service area.

All Friends groups that respond to the survey will be entered into a drawing for a free one-year organizational membership for their group, a \$50 value. (If the winning group is already an FLS/NYLA member, their organizational membership will be extended by one year.) In the event of multiple survey responses from a group, only a single entry will be placed in the drawing.

The survey can be completed online by either a representative of the library or a representative of the library's Friends group. Multiple replies from group members are acceptable and would be appreciated. Take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHL389H>. A copy of the survey is also available in MS Word or PDF formats at www.NYLA.org/Friends and can be submitted in print to Lisa C. Wemett, 16 Drumlin Drive, Macedon NY 14502. A copy of the survey can be mailed to anyone who requests one by contacting Lisa C. Wemett by mail, by telephone (315) 986-3949, or by e-mail at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com. Responses are being accepted through Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

The survey asks for details on the group including contact information, nonprofit status, financial support to the library, number of members, and typical activities. The task force is also interested to learn about specific challenges faced by Friends organizations that support rural and small libraries.

The Task Force is chaired by Erica Freudenberger, Outreach and Engagement Consultant for the Southern Adirondack Library System in Saratoga Springs. Members of the task force include FLS Board members Lisa Wemett, Lynne Madden, and Karen Sperrazza (ex officio), and former Board member Betsy Sywetz of the Friends of the Richfield Springs Public Library. Carole Kupelian of Constantia and Vincent Sperrazza of Sauquoit, members of FLS and NYLA's Rural Libraries Roundtable, www.nyla.org/rlrt, are also working on the task force. Any questions about the group's work can be directed to Erica or Karen at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.

FLS Casey Award continued from page 1

Please submit the nomination form and all supporting material (clippings of press releases, promotional materials, etc.) electronically to Helen Rados, Coordinator, via email at hrados@gmail.com or mail three (3) copies to Helen Rados, 33 Goldfarb Rd. Harris, NY 12742. Paper copies sent by mail will not be returned. (Please submit in one format only, electronic or paper.) If you have any questions, please contact Helen Rados at hrados@gmail.com or leave a message at 845-796-4738. Thank you for your interest in the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award.

FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

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Intellectual Freedom Committee - Annabeth Hayes

Legislative Committee - Jean Sheviak

Membership Committee - Terry Mulee

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FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator -

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Assistant Conference Curator - Christine Beck

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Contact us anytime at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com

Visit the Friends of Libraries Section at www.NYLA.org/Friends

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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 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

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