



Friends News and Notes

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

Volume 7, #4 -- August, September 2021

FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Recipient

Randall Enos and Friends of Libraries are synonymous. He was a founding member of the Empire Friends Roundtable which later became the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS). Throughout his many terms as EFR President, Friends groups grew in number and increased their impact throughout the state. In 2018, to recognize his many contributions, the Friends of Libraries Section established a scholarship in Randy's honor.



On behalf of the Friends of Libraries Section, the Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2021 recipient of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. Christopher Lund of the Friends of Cortland Free Library was selected on the basis of a personal letter describing his interest in attending the NYLA Annual Conference, a statement of accomplishments, and a letter of recommendation from the Director of the Cortland Free Library. The scholarship provides \$750.00 to attend the NYLA In-Person Conference in Syracuse this November 3rd through 6th.

Chris grew up on Long Island and was a regular visitor to his local library where his mother was a part-time employee. He was not drawn to information studies as a young person, but instead pursued a degree in philosophy followed by attaining a law degree from Cornell University (where fell in love with the Finger Lakes region). Chris realized that his true interest was law research and obtained a degree in Library and Information Studies, becoming a Law Librarian.

Fortunately, Chris took a position in the New York Unified Court System - 6th Judicial District and relocated to Cortland. Every county in New York has a

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FLS Annual Membership Meeting Our Second Virtual Meeting!

The FLS Annual Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, November 18, 2021, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. The 2020 virtual meeting was so successful that we're doing it again. Participants will be able to sign in to the meeting via Zoom using their favorite device.

Please join us for this important business meeting, which will include recognition of the 2021 recipients of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship and the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. Members of the Executive Board, including our auxiliary volunteers, for this year and next will be introduced.

"New Frontiers for Friends," the FLS Long-Range Plan for 2021-2023 outlines our goals. The many activities, projects, and accomplishments of FLS in 2021 will be highlighted to show the progress thus far.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Karen Ash, Chair of the Friends of Angelica Free Library, will share their use of Facebook to engage residents of all ages. They advocated for their library and promoted a series of fundraisers and "family fun" projects.

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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.

All personal and organizational members of FLS as well as interested NYLA members are invited to participate. There is no charge to attend. Registration begins Monday, October 11 through Friday, November 12, at 5 p.m. To register please send an email to FLSregister@yahoo.com with "Annual Meeting" in the subject line. Registrants will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link and any other pertinent information prior to the event. Hope to see you there!



A Message from FLS President Karen Sperrazza "New Frontiers for Friends" Friends Councils

Dear Friends,

The work of FLS is guided by our 2021-2023 long-range plan "New Frontiers for Friends" which the Executive Board approved

in July 2020. Since becoming President of FLS last November, I have been taking actions outlined in this plan.

The plan's first Guiding Principle is to educate and support our FLS members. One of the goals is to host regional events in geographically diverse areas around the state. Each goal has action steps and for this goal one of the actions is to encourage and support the efforts of public library systems to establish Friends Councils.

A Friends Council is a group of Friends organizations, within the same library system who meet, virtually or in person, to share information, successful ventures, challenges, and ways to overcome challenges. A Council can be as structured, or unstructured, as the groups of Friends want or need it to be.

Establishing a task force to begin the work of developing Friends Councils in public library systems was among the items on my first agenda. The FLS Executive Board approved that task force in December and the members began their work in January 2021. After identifying libraries within each system that have a Friends group, we then contacted each Friends group. The task force could then begin to assess the interest among the Friends groups in forming a Friends Council in their public library system.

There are currently active Friends Councils in the Monroe County (MCLS), Ramapo Catskill (RCLS) and Mid-Hudson (MHLS) public library systems. The task force invited Lisa C. Wemett, Immediate Past President of FLS and current coordinator of the MCLS Friends Council, and Randall Enos, President Emeritus of FLS and RCLS retiree, to explain how the Friends Councils work in their respective systems. Lisa described how these meetings can be conducted virtually. This can also overcome geographic barriers for Friends groups that want to form a Council. The task force is now using these models as a guide for forming Friends Councils in other library systems.

The MCLS Friends Council, which is totally volunteer driven, met virtually in October 2020. Friends groups shared the ways that they pivoted and coped with COVID restrictions while supporting their respective libraries. The members of the FLS task force were invited to be guests at the April

2021 meeting of the MCLS Friends Council, their second gathering during the pandemic, also conducted virtually. The April meeting was energizing as participating Friends groups shared their accomplishments and methods for overcoming obstacles caused by the pandemic.

The task force members have been making progress with this project while also compiling an invaluable inventory of Friends groups across the state. The task force members are: Jim Foster, Task Force Chairperson and Assistant Director of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; Alyssa Ali, Director, Maxwell Memorial Library in Camillus; Natalie Hurteau, Manager, Adult & Outreach Services at Upper Hudson Library System, Joyce Maguda, former Director (retired), Eden Library; Kathy Zipkin, President, Friends of Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia; and Karen Sperrazza, FLS President, ex officio.

As I conclude my year as serving as your President, I want to thank those leaders who have preceded me for providing a firm foundation for FLS to build upon. I especially thank Lisa C. Wemett for her vision and tireless work for FLS. This first year of our long-range plan "New Frontiers for Friends" has been very active with committees and task forces working to reach our goals. I thank all the people who said "YES" when I asked them to serve on a committee or task force for FLS. All our accomplishments are made possible thanks to the FLS Board members, officers, and auxiliary volunteers who freely give their time for FLS.

It has been a privilege to have served as your President this year. Looking forward, please join me in welcoming Kerstin Cruger and Christina Ryan-Linder, incoming FLS Presidents for 2022 and 2023, respectively. They are both capable leaders who will carry on the work and direction of FLS.

I wish you all the best as you enjoy these remaining summer days, rain or shine. And remember to keep it Friendly out there!

Karen

2021 FLS Executive Board Newly Elected

Thanks, and congratulations, to everyone who agreed to run and fill all of the available slots on the FLS Executive Board!

First Vice President/President Elect, term ends 2024
Christina Ryan-Linder
Secretary, term ends 2023
Lynne Madden
Member At Large, term ends 2023
Marie Bindeman, Amy Discenza, Erica Freudenberger,
Christopher Lund



Libraries: We're All In
NYLA 2021 Conference & Trade Show
Virtual - Thursday and Friday, October 28 and 29
In-Person at the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY
Wednesday through Saturday, November 3 - 6



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Library Community

BOTH is better! NYLA's 2021 Conference & Trade Show will be held BOTH **virtually** in October and **in-person** in November. Making it even sweeter, registration for the in-person conference includes access to the virtual conference!

There are several registration options ranging from a **Package Plan Registration** that includes everything at the in-person and virtual events to a **Single Day Registration** (for either Thursday or Friday at the in-person conference) that gives you access to non-ticketed events, programs, trade show, and the virtual conference.

NYLA is offering a significantly reduced registration rate for NYLA individual members of the following types: *Friend, Retired, Trustee, and Student*. This discounted rate also applies to individuals registered with NYLA through an organizational member Friends group, including the primary contact for the group and the Friend Group Leaders/elected officers of that Friends group. You will need your NYLA username and password that is associated with your membership in order to receive these reduced rates. If applicable, an individual or Friends group may join NYLA to receive these discounted rates.

Individuals who meet the aforementioned membership criteria who want to attend just the virtual event should select the **Single Day Registration** option (\$30 before 9/30 with slight increases after that), choosing either Thursday or Friday. This will give you full access to the virtual conference.

Those wishing to attend the in-person conference in Syracuse will need to decide on a Single Day option or one of the more inclusive plans. Any of these options will also allow you to access the virtual conference. Selecting the Conference Registration-Early Bird for \$99 (until 9/30) gets you a badge good for entry to all non-ticketed programs, access to the Trade Show, and one ticket to the Inaugural Banquet. The Package Plan Registration includes a badge, entry to all non-ticketed programs, Trade Show, ESLN Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser on Thursday, Choice of PLS or YSS Luncheon and Inaugural Celebration on Friday, and Intellectual Freedom Breakfast on Saturday for \$234 prior to 9/30 with slight increases after that date. Please note that the Continuing Education offerings on Wednesday, November 3rd, require a separate registration and fee. CEs are not included in any conference registration plan.

Details on the virtual and in-person conferences and the link for online registration are at www.NYLA.org/Conference. FLS will also post specific information for Friends and Friends groups at www.NYLA.org/Friends. Please take advantage of these excellent educational and networking opportunities.

FLS Sponsored Programs

NYLA In-Person Conference & Trade Show
Friendly Relationships, Working Together for the Library

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

Sponsor: FLS; Co-Sponsors: RLRT, LTAS, SCLA, LAMS
 Friends of the Library can be valuable members of the library team. Trustees provide governance, library directors manage the operations of the library, and a Friends group provides an opportunity for citizen volunteers to give support and financial assistance. All parties in this alliance need to understand their well-defined responsibilities and the limits of their roles. Frequent, clear, and open communication is the key to a successful partnership, along with joint planning sessions and establishing an operating agreement to address the needs and expectations of all. Robust, positive relationships between these key players will impact customer satisfaction and achieve long-term goals, helping libraries to be strong and resilient. Our panelists from the Hamilton Public Library will share ways their Friends, director, and trustees work together successfully.



Left to right: Travis Olivera, Hamilton Public Library, Diane Finch, Friends of the Hamilton Public Library, David Hopper, Hamilton Public Library

NYLA 2021 Virtual Conference & Trade Show
ABCs of Best Practices for Friends Groups

Live Virtual Presentation

Friday, October 29 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sponsor: FLS; Co-Sponsor: LTAS



Every Friends of the Library group can learn from their peers. Ideas ripe for the picking abound in successful, thriving Friends organizations! Learn some outstanding ways to market your group, keep membership numbers growing, engage your community with your activities, and raise some money, all by borrowing tips and creative tricks from Friends groups large and small. Come prepared to add your own "letters" into this alphabet stew. Together we'll highlight noteworthy advice, best habits to adopt, and practical ways to keep Friends successful in their important work.
 Lisa C. Wemett, FLS Professional Development Coordinator

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FLS Offers CE Workshop

NYLA In-Person Pre-Conference

Financial FAQs for Nonprofits

Wednesday, November 3 | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

FLS will host a half-day continuing education workshop as part of the pre-conference offerings in advance of NYLA's Annual Conference in Syracuse. Participants may enroll in this workshop independently from the NYLA Annual Conference (November 3-6). Conference registration is not required to attend; fees are reduced for NYLA personal and organizational members.

Financial FAQs for Nonprofits

- ★ What forms must be filed with the IRS?
- ★ What are the restrictions for fundraisers?
- ★ How should the organization handle sales tax?
- ★ What are the rules concerning audits?

Looking for those elusive answers to nonprofit financial questions? Accountants from the John C. Parcell IV Accounting Firm will explain these and other accounting concerns relevant to Friends organizations and public libraries, including the fiduciary duties of board members.

Some Friends have nearly jeopardized their nonprofit status by failing to meet regulations that govern charity operations. If you are unsure of how to be compliant and properly manage the assets of your group or library, our speakers will provide advice on how to implement policies needed by the NYS Nonprofit Revitalization Act of 2013, develop procedures for acknowledging donations, and handle reporting practices for 501(c)(3) organizations.

Registration is required online. For those members registering between August 1 and September 30, the charge is \$65 at the early bird rate for the 3-hour session. Those not yet members of NYLA pay \$90 during this early bird period. After October 1, the fees increase to \$80 and \$105 for members and non-members, respectively.

Target audience: Officers/Treasurers of Friends of Libraries groups or other nonprofit organizations, library administrators, library trustees of public and association libraries, and treasurers of library boards of trustees.



John C. Parcell IV is a Certified Public Accountant and owner of John C. Parcell IV Accounting in Canton, which provides a wide range of accounting services, assisting nonprofits as well as commercial businesses and healthcare organizations. John serves as an internal auditor for the Potsdam Public Library. He received his Associate's degree in Accounting from SUNY College of

Technology at Canton in 1992 and his BS in Accounting from Clarkson University in 1994. John has been licensed as a Certified Fraud Examiner since December 2004.

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FLS Sponsored Programs

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NYLA 2021 Virtual Conference & Trade Show

Fundraising Without Book Sales

OnDemand

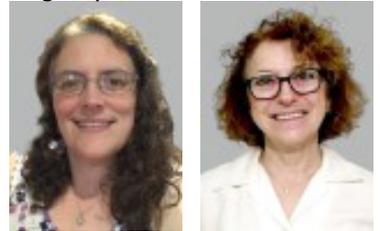
Sponsor: FLS; Co-Sponsor: LTAS

2020 challenged Friends groups to take a fresh look at raising funds to support their libraries' needs. This involved reimagining current programs as well as developing new ideas, but the mission of the Friends always remained the same. From Hampton Bays near the tip of Long Island to Monticello in Sullivan County to Olean in Western NY these groups have all created successful projects that challenge the typical fundraiser. Learn how three unique Friends groups have redefined fundraising through partnerships and creative collaborations that support the library, benefit their community, and create lasting, beneficial relationships. Please join us to consider one of these projects that may provide better returns on your group's time and efforts.

Mary Giardini, Friends of the Olean Public Library (left)

Helen Rados, Friends of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library (right)

Emily Cullings, Friends of the Hampton Bays Library



FLS Co-Sponsored Programs

FLS has co-sponsored several programs offered by other NYLA Units that are of particular interest to Friends and Friends groups. These programs are listed here. Full descriptions of these opportunities may be found at www.NYLA.org/Friends.

In-Person Conference:

Library Trustees [Not In] Legal Jeopardy!

Friday, November 5 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Sponsors: LTAS, FLS

Presenter: Stephanie Cole Adams, The Law Office of Stephanie Adams, PLLC

Live Virtual Presentations:

How to Hire and Inspire (and Occasionally Fire) Library Employees, Legally!

Thursday, October 28 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Sponsors: LTAS, FLS, LAMS

Presenters: Ellen M. Bach and Robert T. Schofield, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP

How to Run an Effective Meeting

Thursday, October 28 | 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Sponsors: LAMS, FLS, LTA, NMN, ESLN

Presenters: Jen Park and Joanna Goldfarb, Ramapo Catskill Library System; Carolyn Bennett Glauda, Southeastern NY Library Resources Council

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Before Friends Become Frenemies

You might be asking, "What's a Frenemy?" If you missed it in English class way back when, it's an oxymoron, combining the words "friend" with "enemy." You generally would be friendly toward a "frenemy," but deep down, you have a fundamental dislike of that person, or you might be in competition with that individual. Sorry to say, some library directors and Boards of Trustees see the Friends of the Library more as adversaries, rather than supporters. Why is this and what can be done to keep relationships friendly, accommodating, and cooperative?

Join us on Thursday, September 30, starting at 2 o'clock for a 90-minute webinar that will examine the basics of conflict behavior and conflict resolution. We'll look at how to develop a standardized document to guide financial contributions from the Friends and the basics of an operating agreement (also called a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU). The presenters are Lisa C. Wemett, Immediate Past President of FLS/NYLA, and Melissa Tacke (right), MLS, the Director of the Castleton Public Library in the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS).



Nominated by her library's Board of Trustees, Melissa was the recipient of the 2020 Mary Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award from NYLA. A leader in her public library system, she has chaired the UHLS's Directors' Association for the past four years. As a member of the inaugural cohort for NYLA's 2019-2020 Developing Leaders Program, Melissa and her team members created their leadership project entitled "Conflict for the Conflict-Averse."

The webinar will concentrate on practical strategies to facilitate positive and productive discussions, working together to avoid potential conflict between the library administration, library trustees, and community volunteers. Understanding styles of conflict and approaches to conflict resolution can help maintain good relationships. Careful planning, development of a well-crafted Memorandum of Understanding, and drafting thoughtful guidelines for dispersing funds raised by the Friends can help to avoid disputes before they start. Improving your communication skills will help build collaboration and consensus for all parties in a constructive partnership for mutually-beneficial outcomes for the library.

There is no cost to attend the webinar for current FLS members and for officers or volunteers of Friends Group organizational members who are registered with NYLA's Finance and Administration Manager. The membership must be active on July 30 and the expiration date must be after September 30. When registering, members need their assigned username and password to qualify for an "FLS Member Reg Pass" that will waive the registration fee for an FLS-sponsored webinar.

Go to www.NYLA.org/Friends to register and other details on costs for non-members to attend. Registration requires a credit card for payment. Checks and purchase orders are not accepted. 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.

CE Workshop, continued from page 4



Nathan B. Wray, EA, received his Associate's degree in Accounting from SUNY Canton College in 2010 and his BS in Finance from SUNY Canton in 2013. He became an enrolled agent with the IRS in January 2021. Nathan is a federally licensed tax practitioner with the right to represent taxpayers, trusts, estates, and corporations when dealing with issues with the IRS, such

as tax appeals, collections, and audits. He has been practicing accounting with John C. Parcell IV, CPA, CFE since 2013. Currently, Nathan is a not-for-profit audit manager who manages all the firm's attestation engagements.

FLS Co-Sponsored Programs

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Live Virtual Presentations:

Supporting Local Businesses During/After COVID

Thursday, October 28 | 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Sponsors: NYBLC, FLS, LAMS, NMN

Presenters: Elizabeth Malafi and Alex Blend, Middle Country Public Library

Understanding the Basics of Accessible Virtual Programs

Friday, October 29 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sponsors: LAR, FLS, NMN, SMART, SRRT

Presenter: Valerie Lewis, Suffolk Cooperative Library System



Bulbs for Books The Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library in Massachusetts has successfully raised funds with their "Bulbs for Books" sales. Working with Dutch Mill Bulbs in Hershey, PA, the Friends held a very profitable fall flower bulb sale in 2020, raising \$1300. This company has worked with schools, bands, youth groups, and many others who have earned a 50% profit by selling flower bulbs and plants online. Bulbs have no shipping and handling fees. Every plant and bulb is guaranteed to bloom or the customer gets a replacement. Reach Friends President Heather DiPaolo at JBPLFriends@gmail.com for questions. Learn more at <https://www.dutchmillbulbs.com/fundraising-programs/> or call (800) 533-8824. We see astilbe, lilies, and hosta in your future!

National Friends of Libraries Week

by Marie Orlando

Friends of Libraries groups across the country are enthusiastically looking forward to the 16th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week, October 17-23, 2021. It will be a two-fold opportunity to raise awareness in the community and promote membership, as well as to encourage the library's Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their advocacy and support throughout the year.

While the pandemic may have curtailed a robust celebration last year, some Friends groups still managed to acknowledge the event in 2020. The Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library partnered with some members of their local garden club to create and sell fall table arrangements ideal for Thanksgiving. Orders were taken during National Friends of Libraries Week, both online and by placing a request in the library's book drop. The cost was \$20 each. The 10-inch-tall floral centerpieces, assembled by members of the garden club and the Friends, were available for pick-up outside the library two days before the holiday.



The response was overwhelming and offered both a profitable fundraising opportunity and a great community collaboration between the Friends Council and the Kinderhook Garden Club. Kristina Lang and Stephanie Lally are members of both groups and spearheaded this joint project. The sale was a creative opportunity to help offset the loss of revenue from cancelled book sales.

For other ideas and inspiration for this year's event, visit the United for Libraries website: https://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek. There are links to the National Friends of Libraries Week Award Winners from previous years which will get you excited about special projects your Friends can tackle.

Membership in a Minute!

We know memberships are the lifeblood of Friends groups. We also know you are incredibly busy and if you had time to read a book on how to grow your Friends group, you'd do it. (Although, truthfully, there aren't many books out there on Friends groups today.) So we're going to bring the membership tips to you, straight to your inbox.

All you need to do to subscribe is to send a message to the FLS mailbox, FLSregister@yahoo.com, with the subject line "Sign me up!" In the body of the message, please tell us your full name and what Friends group you are associated with. Then once a week, right in your inbox, you'll find a Membership in a Minute message. Messages will be under 200 words in length; we guarantee you'll be able to read it in a minute or less.

Tips will rotate through a series of topics, with week #1 giving a suggestion specific to membership and volunteer engagement. Week #2 will cover incentives to join and perks for Friends supporters. Week #3 will provide help on volunteer recruitment and week #4, volunteer recognition and donor relations. You can see, there's a lot to learn about membership! We think you'll find lots of ways to apply these ideas to your organization.

We'll introduce you to archived articles in the "Friends News and Notes" newsletter, the archive of FLS-sponsored webinars, the NYLA Conference program archive, and sections of the FLS webpage for further reading. We'll cite examples from Friends groups that are doing great work, with links to their websites or Facebook pages.

You've got a Friendly researcher and champion who is ready to send you messages with great nuggets your group can use right away. Don't miss out! Sign up by Friday, September 10. This subscription series will run through December 1. Currently, anyone can sign up for this service, but after January 1, 2022, this subscription will become a member benefit, only available to FLS personal or organizational members.

FLS Member Spotlight: Jerrie Grantham

We'd like you to meet Jerrie Grantham, an FLS member with the Queens Public Library, the library system that serves the borough of Queens in New York City.

What is your staff position with the Queens Public Library? How do the 28 chapters of the Friends of the Library fit into your responsibilities?

I am the Community Affairs Manager. In addition to managing all of Queens Public Library's Friends chapters, I help oversee special events and street fairs. A majority of my time is spent helping the Friends and their respective branch managers work on their goals and events.

the diverse populations served across so many neighborhoods in Queens?

Queens is such a diverse place, and the beauty of our Friends chapters is how they each represent their respective communities. A great example of this is our Kew Gardens Hills Friends chapter. The neighborhood



How do the volunteers and their activities support

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Member Spotlight, continued from page 6

is predominantly Jewish, so the Friends often sponsor various cultural event programs to take place on Sundays at the branch.

What are some of the biggest challenges Friends groups face in Queens?

The biggest challenge facing a lot of our Friends group right now is re-engaging with lapsed members. The pandemic really caused a strain on overall membership. We were able to launch a new Friends website and payment portal last fall, but without our "normal" in-person events to show off the great work our Friends do, it has proven difficult to attract new members.

What is the oldest chapter of the Friends of the Queens Public Library? The youngest?

The oldest active chapter of the Friends of Queens Public Library is Ridgewood. They have been active for nearly 30 years! The youngest is our Fresh Meadows chapter that was chartered in a virtual ceremony last August!

If some Friends leadership volunteers from Upstate NY visited Queens, which Queens Friends leaders would you like them to meet? Where would you all have lunch together?

All of our Friends leaders are so dynamic, I could not pick just a few. My recommendation would be for our Upstate NY Friends to attend one of our Annual Friends Conferences. Members from every chapter attend and it is the perfect networking opportunity. We spend the day doing workshops and always have our President and CEO present, as well as a special keynote speaker. It is truly the best way to get a true sense of the Friends of Queens Public Library. We also provide a catered breakfast and lunch, so we have everything covered in one place!

FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

~ continued from page 1 ~

public access legal library that provides support for court staff, the bar community, and the public. Professionally, Chris has the goal of building and expanding relationships between public libraries and public access legal libraries. He has presented a "crash course" on how to use the legal library system for Tompkins County reference librarians.

When Chris came to Cortland he wanted to get involved with his community as quickly as possible and used the library to do this. He joined the book club and the Friends, a small informal group who met monthly. He assumed the Social Media position in 2018 and quickly developed a Twitter account and Facebook page where you can meet his cats, Smokey and Jake. They love to read books, too! Chris became president in January 2020 but his tenure was slowed by COVID and the Friends were unable to meet until

the library reopened in 2021.

"Keeping it alive and lively" is Chris' motto for the Friends of Cortland Free Library. In an effort to raise visibility, the Friends have created a themed book recommendation table near the circulation desk complete with information sheets and meeting schedules. He has been involved in fundraising via the Book Fair program at the local Barnes & Noble store.

Chris recently participated in the FLS Friends and Rural Libraries survey. He will join the FLS Executive Board as a Member At Large in November.

Chris' interest in attending the NYLA Conference is to meet Friends from small and rural libraries and learn how they have developed their membership structure and grown as a group. Finding like-minded individuals will enable him to gather information and ideas for setting goals. Chris' plan for disseminating information is to take copious notes and condense them into a report to share with his Friends group at their November meeting.

Randall Enos, FLS President Emeritus, has said, "My hope is that someone who might not have attended NYLA will take advantage of the scholarship and not only get inspired about their work with their local Friends, but also be inspired to get involved in FLS and NYLA advocacy activities." Chris is already on his way to fulfilling Randy's wish.

Congratulations to Christopher Lund, the 2021 FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship recipient.

Rambling Down the Road

The Friends of the Staatsburg Library (Mid-Hudson Library System) hold the "Road Ramble" fundraiser every other year. In this enjoyable escapade, the competitors are challenged to answer trivia questions from scavenger hunt-like clues as they drive their own vehicles around the Hyde Park and Staatsburg area, with an eye toward discovering hidden gem locations in their community. Winners are not necessarily those who finish first—it is not a race.

Just one of several community fundraising activities (the Friends also host "The Great Staatsburg Baking Competition"), the Road Ramble is on schedule to be held in 2021. In order to safely and effectively facilitate the event, there is a cap on the number of participants. A maximum of four people are allowed per car with a \$50 registration fee.

Designing and executing this fun event involves a substantial amount of work from location scouting and route planning to question development and other details. It is a "labor of love" all done by a small and dedicated group of people, raising about \$1500. Library Director Lorraine Rothman says "We like to hold events that have a deep connection to the community even though they may require more work and humble returns."

FLS Executive Board and Volunteers

Officers:

President - Karen Sperrazza

krnsprzz@gmail.com

First Vice President, Conference Curator - Kerstin Cruger

kcruger@midhudson.org

2nd Vice President (Membership) - Terry Mulee

FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com

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Treasurer - Stephen Hoefler

Past President - Lisa C. Wemett

President Emeritus - Randall Enos

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Anne Andrianos

Christine Beck

Marie Bindeman

Erica Freudenberger

Marie Orlando

Leslie Riley

Ristiina Wigg

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Awards Committee - Joyce Laiosa

Communications Committee - Danielle Krause

Continuing Education Committee - Amy Discenza

Intellectual Freedom Committee - Annabeth Hayes

Legislative Committee - Jean Sheviak

Membership Committee - Terry Mulee

FLS Volunteers:

FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Coordinator -

Helen Rados, hrados@gmail.com

FLS Scholarship Coordinator -

Anne Andrianos, anne.andrianos@gmail.com

Assistant Conference Curator - Christine Beck

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

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.

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 Connections

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, opportunity!

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.

To attend, please send an email 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.

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. See details on page 3.
- ✓ FLS members receive a free Reg Pass for FLS sponsored webinars. See details about our upcoming webinar and registration information on page 5.
- ✓ **NEW! Membership in a Minute!** FLS members can receive great tips right in their inbox. See page 6 to signup.
- ✓ Quarterly newsletter mailed to FLS members and emailed to Friends group organizational member volunteers registered with NYLA. See the archive of newsletters online at www.NYLA.org/Friends . Publications