The 2015 FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Goes to...

This year marks the first time that the Friends of Libraries Section will honor a library volunteer with the Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. This recognition has a 22 yearlong history with the Empire Friends Roundtable, now FLS.

The Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award, sponsored by FLS, honors a volunteer member or a group of the library community whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations. We are pleased to announce that this year’s award will be given posthumously to Don Riplinger of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL).

Don began his volunteer career upon retiring from Eastman Kodak in 1998 – he was just shy of 15 years of service with FFRPL at the time of his death. While Don began volunteering with the intention of assisting with clerical duties in the office, he took up several different roles throughout the years. In every corner of the Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County, evidence of Don’s dedicated service is visible.

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New York Library Association
Annual Conference
NYLA 125, 1890-2015

Conference Center at Lake Placid
Lake Placid, NY
Friends Day
Just $30 for the day!

Friday, October 23

9:00 a.m. - noon NYLA Trade Show
Visit the exhibits. Exclusive show time: 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Painting in Plein Air
(co-sponsored with LTA)

12:30 p.m.
YSS Empire State Award Luncheon
We hope you have your ticket for the 25th Award Ceremony – FLS will have tables reserved. This event has sold out!

2:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Friends and Foundations, a Merger
(co-sponsored with LTA and PLS)

3:45 - 5 p.m.
Friends of Libraries Showcase / Membership Meeting
A brief FLS membership meeting will begin the session.

Saturday morning, October 24
($30/day)

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Accounting for Nonprofits
(co-sponsored with LTA and PLS)
Fresh Vision
A Message from FLS President Lisa C. Wemett

We are welcoming new Board members to our group later this fall. It will be an exciting time as Sarah Sachs of the Potsdam Public Library becomes the second President of FLS. The FLS Board has made incredible progress this year, providing a firm foundation for future Section activities. Author Henry Miller put it this way: "Our destination is never a place but rather a new way of looking at things." As our new officers begin their journey with us, their fresh approaches will help us remain focused on our over-arching agenda and mission, to help our members be the best Friends they can be. (Yes, BFFs!)

Be sure to contact the FLS Board with your ideas of new services we should develop and continuing education topics to consider for our return to Saratoga Springs at NYLA's annual conference in November 2016. FLS will continue to grow and wants to assist you as the needs of Friends groups change to meet the roles of 21st century libraries. Way beyond fund-raising, Friends provide social interaction, underwrite special collections, and help library staff purchase new materials and technology as they are integrated into "traditional" library services. Your help and support is always needed and appreciated by your library and community.

I'll be moving on to head the FLS Nominations Committee to search out our next slate of officers and Members At Large. Think about it—you have much to offer us. If you've been working hard in your region of the state, you have many skills to bring to our table, prepared to work on Friends issues statewide. Be ready to say YES when I call! Thank you for a great year!

The Social Library

Does your Friends of the Library group have a Facebook page? Whether you "like" it or not, Facebook allows Friends the opportunity to spread the word about their activities far and wide. But sometimes someone is watching besides your "followers," but in a good way! WebJunction has a weekly feature called "The Social Library" that highlights amazing programs from libraries that WebJunction follows on Facebook. These reports will give you fresh inspiration for library services to your community.

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Head over to the WebJunction website and follow the links to read the current Social Library highlights or its archives. Some examples: in Colorado, patrons can make an appointment to meet with a "Download Coach" for help in getting ebooks, digital magazines, and more on their devices. A series called "Do It Together" (DIT) in Idaho helped patrons learn gardening over several weeks in the spring.

Take a tour of this social media resource – you'll glean tons of ideas for programs Friends could offer at your library! See the June 2015 issue of "Friends News and Notes" (p.7) for further details on WebJunction’s free library-specific courses for staff, Friends, and trustees (www.webjunction.org).

Consultant Hours in Lake Placid
by Lisa C. Wemett

Over the course of my presidency, I have consulted with many NYLA members and non-members about concerns and questions related to Friends. Topics have included NYLA's administrative support services to library Friends groups; how to create or revitalize a Friends group; confidentiality of patron records; merging Friends and Foundations; financial requirements to file annually with the IRS; updating by-laws; the NYS Nonprofit Revitalization Act and "conflict of interest" statements; and the benefits of a Junior Friends group.

I am excited to tell you about an opportunity, "Consultant Give Back: Open Office Hours," at the Lake Placid conference. Along with several FLS Board members, I’ll be offering hours this year to "Focus on Friends of Libraries." When NYLA sends out information on how to choose a time to meet with us (sign up is online only), please select a time to get together with us for a 20-minute consultation. I am confident these "consultant office hours" will be helpful to you and will allow for longer chats about Friends topics. This format will give us a chance to provide more in-depth assistance than we can really offer at our booth during NYLA’s trade show. We want to help—and heh, we're friendly! And of course there is no charge. Hope to see you there!
Friends of Libraries Section Election Results
by Randall Enos, FLS Immediate Past President; Chair, Nominating Committee

Thanks to all FLS members who voted in the June election. Apparently 30% of the membership cast ballots which is exemplary for our first online voting experience. It is gratifying and beneficial to have a good level of support for our FLS officers.

It was helpful to the Nominating Committee to have such enthusiastic candidates, each with a set of sterling qualifications, to volunteer for service on the FLS Executive Board. All of the candidates were goodnatured about the nominating process, submitted their background information in a timely manner and ran good, clean campaigns. I am predicting a productive session in the upcoming year with our new Board of Officers.

And the winners are.....
New to the Board:

Janet E. Kreason, Clifton Park, Vice President/President-Elect (Term: 2015 – 2018). Janet is a librarian with the Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library in the Southern Adirondack Library System. Janet has served on the NYLA Council previously and brings much NYLA experience to the FLS Board.

Lynne Madden, Victor, Secretary (Term: 2015 – 2017). Lynne is a library assistant with the Victor Farmington Library in the Pioneer Library System. She is very active in her local Friends group which is not a requirement to serve on the FLS Executive Board, but is always helpful.

Incumbent officers who ran for re-election (all will be serving in the capacity of Member At Large):
Vicki N. Kosovac, Hudson (Term: 2015-2016). Earlier this year Vicki was appointed to fill out a vacant term as a Member At Large and now has been elected to a one-year term.

Marie Orlando, Valatie; Susan Swanton, Rush; Betsy Sywetz, Richfield Springs; and Frank Van Zanten, Poughkeepsie. Vicki, Marie, Sue, Betsy, and Frank are all very active in their community Friends groups and have served in many capacities locally. We appreciate their willingness to continue service on the FLS Executive Board.

Other board members who will be serving out their term of office are:
Sarah Sachs, Potsdam (President-Elect); Lisa Wemett, Macedon (Immediate Past President); Terry Mulee, Rochester (Second Vice President); Marcia Elwitt, Brighton (Treasurer); Randy Enos, Middletown (President Emeritus); Elizabeth Olesh, Baldwin; and Ristiina Wigg, Corning (both Members At Large). The Executive Board is also assisted by Joyce Laiosa, Slingerlands (Coordinator of the Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award) and by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Hudson (FLS Representative to NYLA’s Legislative Committee).

Leslie Riley, Cornwall, will be leaving the FLS Board after serving as a Member At Large. We are extremely appreciative of her service and hope to have the opportunity to work with her again after her term ends in October. We are also grateful to Betsy Sywetz who has been our intrepid secretary for several years. We are pleased that Betsy, a former President of the Empire Friends Roundtable, is willing to continue in a new role as Member At Large.

Special thanks go to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich who, as the Patron Saint of FLS, could easily rest on past laurels, but readily agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee and always (as per usual with Rebekkah) stepped up to the plate as needed.

I am happy to turn the nominating duties over to Lisa Wemett as she becomes Immediate Past President and steps into the role of Nominating Chair. Lisa is already looking for volunteers to serve on the Board and probably has your name on the list, so when she comes calling just say "yes" to FLS! Serving on the Board can be a life-changing experience.

A Community Celebration

The Friends of the Goshen Public Library and the Historical Society held their annual Big Band Sound Concert and Ice Cream Social in August. A record crowd enjoyed hits from the swing era by Big Band Sound. What's the Scoop owners Betty and Joe Gerasole were on hand to dish out free ice cream that they generously donated. It was an appreciative crowd that gathered on the library lawn for this special event. Five members of the Junior Friends were also there to offer a helping hand.
Saturday, July 11, was a perfect day for a summer festival in Burke, NY! The Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Association were notified earlier this year that the Wilder Homestead had been designated a Literary Landmark™ by United for Libraries in honor of author Laura Ingalls Wilder. The bronze plaque unveiled by the farmhouse notes NYLA, the Empire State Center for the Book, and HarperCollins Publishers as supporters of this national honor.

Among those attending the dedication were FLS President Lisa C. Wemett and FLS Second Vice President Terry Mulee, as well as NYLA Past President Sara Kelly Johns, a North Country native. Wemett submitted the application to United for Libraries on behalf of the Homestead and worked with all eight sections of NYLA to raise funds for the plaque. "It seemed fitting to give northern New York a gift in recognition of NYLA’s 125th anniversary year. FLS was pleased to partner with all these groups to provide this legacy, which brings national recognition to the museum, with its strong connection to literature for young people," said Wemett.

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867 – 1957) first wrote about her childhood growing up on the American frontier in Little House in the Big Woods (1932). She then immortalized the boyhood home of her husband, Almanzo, in Farmer Boy (1933), chronicling one year on the farm where Almanzo lived and worked from his birth in 1857 until 1875, when his family moved to Minnesota. This original homestead is on the New York State Register of Historic Places and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in December 2014.

The Museum planned a day of celebration in conjunction with their annual art event for children. Museum volunteer Jim Lusk, who portrays Almanzo’s father James Mason Wilder, served as master of ceremonies and helped to unveil the plaque. Homestead Vice President Ken Carre had constructed a pedestal of locally quarried stone which holds the plaque, surrounded by the kitchen garden at the farmhouse’s entrance. Historian and award-winning author William Anderson of Lapeer, Michigan, spoke about the "Little House" series and the significance of the Wilder family and Homestead to northern New York.

The Homestead is the first Literary Landmark™ in northern New York and the sixteenth in New York State. It is the only "Little House" site to receive this recognition from United for Libraries.

Visit “Almanzo Wilder Farm” at www.facebook.com to learn more.

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**Hot Topic: Nonprofit Revitalization Act**

New York State's Nonprofit Revitalization Act of 2013 (NPRA) has put “conflict of interest” (COI) policies front and center for 501(c)(3) organizations. Every NYS nonprofit must have a written COI policy that complies with these new statutory requirements. NYLA added the page "Nonprofit Revitalization Act & Libraries" on their website (www.nyla.org) The page includes NYLA’s Whistle Blower Policy, their Conflict of Interest Policy for the NYLA Council (the Association’s Board of Directors), and a link to the Division of Library Development's Web page about the NPRA.

If your Friends group completes an IRS 990 form annually, you have already answered questions on that form about having a written COI policy and the process your group uses to manage conflicts. Often

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Don donated his time, tools, and materials to several carpentry projects for FFRPL; he built customized carts and shelving units from scratch, printed and laminated signs and labels at his own expense, and repaired broken carts, bookshelves, and furniture. He also used his personal vehicle to pick up regularly scheduled discards from another library and deliver them to FFRPL.

Left: FFRPL volunteers run an internet book selling program; several community partners send books to the office for online listing. When the books sell, the profit is split between the Foundation and the partner. Color-coded cards are used to identify each book. Don simplified the process of storing these cards by building the "House of Cards." The tower holds the cards, with each cubby hole labeled with the corresponding partner code.

Right: The "Moby Don" – Don designed this wheeled cart to hold his handmade category signs for the annual used book sales. Each compartment has a specific purpose and the cart even has working lights.

Don often worked behind the scenes, straightening books in the storage area and keeping things in neat and tidy order. He rarely mentioned when he had taken care of something; one would simply notice the finished task after he had slipped away quietly. Wherever he saw a need, he filled it. Don was a private creature that didn't ask for praise for his work, but he was truly worthy of it. Don's true baby at the Central Library was the Doris Carlson Reading Garden. The reading garden is a serene alcove for library-goers, only accessible from inside the building. Patrons and staff alike enjoy the comfort of the reading garden on warm days as a place to read a book, chat with a friend, enjoy a quiet break, take a lunch, or commune with a bit of nature in a downtown setting. Don was an integral player in the upkeep of the garden, from designing the layout and plans for the garden, to ordering the flowers and various plants, planting, weeding and pruning, cleaning the furniture, sweeping the pathways, and even hanging up twinkle lights.

Above and beyond the donation of his time and talents, Don was a devoted annual supporter. He also left a heartfelt bequest of approximately $100,000 to FFRPL in his will. FFRPL intends to use this money for the upkeep of his beloved reading garden and will install a plaque in his memory there later this fall.

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people may be unaware that their activities, business, or personal interests are in conflict with the best interests of the nonprofit. "A goal for many organizations is to simply raise awareness, encourage disclosure, and discussion of anything that may be a conflict, and constantly encourage a 'culture of candor'." ([www.councilofnonprofits.org](http://www.councilofnonprofits.org))

Personal financial gain is the most common conflict of interest we know about. But Jan Masaoka published a thoughtful article, "Nonprofit Conflict of Interest: A 3-Dimensional View," on [www.blueavocado.org](http://www.blueavocado.org). What happens when a board member serves on two nonprofit boards in the same community? Sometimes there may be a "benefit of interest" from personal connections or a "conflict of loyalties." Masaoka's article would be a good discussion starter to get a dialogue going with your board members.

Beyond a COI policy, it may also be time to review your by-laws for language about standing committees, which now should be called "Committees of the Board" (e.g., the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee). Does your Board ever transact any business or motions between meetings by e-mail? If so, the NPRA has stipulations about the use of new technologies and communications. For additional guidance on the provisions of the NPRA, including information on gross revenue thresholds and CPA reviews or adult reports, filing annual financial reports, and more, visit the NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau page, [www.charitiesnys.com/nonprofit_rev_act.jsp](http://www.charitiesnys.com/nonprofit_rev_act.jsp).

Ask a local attorney knowledgeable in nonprofit law to review the NPRA with your group to see what your organization should be doing to be in compliance. Another valuable resource is the Pro Bono Partnership ([www.probonopartner.org](http://www.probonopartner.org)), an organization that specializes in nonprofit law. Their PowerPoint presentation and handouts from the NYLA 2014 Annual Conference can be found at [www.nyla.org/friends](http://www.nyla.org/friends) under "Events."