**FLS Scholarship and Award Recipients Announced!**

**FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship**
In 2018 the Friends of Libraries Section established a scholarship named in honor of longtime Friend Randall Enos recognizing his contributions as a founding member of the Empire Friends Roundtable which became the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS). Under his leadership, FLS has grown and increased its impact across New York State.

On behalf of the Friends of Libraries Section, the Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the first recipients of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. They are Marianne Michaud from the Friends of the Fairport Public Library and Meg Sgombick from the Friends of the Florida Public Library.

In this inaugural year, scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of a personal letter describing their interest in attending the NYLA Annual Conference and a statement of accomplishments. A letter of recommendation from their library director or Friends group officer was also required. The scholarship provides $500 to each of two FLS members to attend the NYLA Annual Conference in odd-numbered years.

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**FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award**
Given annually since 1993 (through the precursor of FLS, the Empire Friends Roundtable), the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award, sponsored by the Friends of Libraries Section of NYLA, honors a volunteer member or a group from the library community whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations.

On behalf of the Friends of Libraries Section, the Casey Award Committee is pleased to present Helen Rados, current President of the Friends of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello, with the 2019 award.

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**The mission of the Friends of Libraries Section is to promote and inspire local Friends groups in libraries of all types for the betterment of New York State’s library community.**

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<td>Editor’s note: Times subject to change based on final schedule. Go to <a href="http://www.nyla.org/conference">www.nyla.org/conference</a> for more information.</td>
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What’s Your Story?
A Message from FLS President Lisa C. Wemett

For the theme of this year’s NYLA Annual Conference, NYLA President Michelle Young selected “All Libraries are Powerful: What’s Your Story?” It made me think that there are many stories out there about Friends groups: Who started your group and why? Are any founding members still active in the Friends? What draws community members to become library civic leaders, whether Friends, library trustees, or directors of library foundations?

What’s my story? I thought I would share that I have been directly involved in NYLA since the early 1980s as a way to give back and invest in my professional organization. I was a volunteer officer in NYLA’s Youth Services Section for nearly 30 years and had a few stints on NYLA’s Board of Directors. Meanwhile, I simultaneously volunteered for the Girl Scouts of the USA, in my local Councils, first as a leader to girls in grades 4-9 and then as a trainer.

Girl Scout trainers teach new and experienced GS volunteers how to operate their troops, with ways to work in partnership with the girls, safety rules for camping trips, or just how to carry a tune while learning silly camp songs. For someone who thought in college that I “never” wanted to be in the front of a classroom as an English teacher, I found I rather liked training and sharing my troop experiences with newbies. I embraced this skill and took it to the national level, investing several years to become a certified instructor of trainers.

Meanwhile, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) of the American Library Association started a program to have experienced teen services librarians like me receive certification to train other library staff across the country in the area of young adult programming and collection development. In workshops, I shared best practices on working with teens from my work in a number of public libraries and spoke at several national library conferences.

After my retirement, my leadership experience and professional background in middle management in libraries caught the eye of Randy Enos, president of the Empire Friends Roundtable, now FLS President Emeritus. Without too much arm-twisting, I came onto the board of EFR in 2012 as Vice President with Terry Mulee stepping in as Membership Chair. As EFR became a Section of NYLA, expanding our educational offerings to include in-person workshops to start and sustain Friends groups was logical, given my background in training. I developed content based on workshops EFR offered in its formative years and incorporated concrete examples from Friends groups currently flourishing across the Empire State. It made perfect sense to help our members on their home turf, taking these workshops on the road and highlighting best practices.

So, what’s your story? How much do you know about your fellow Friends members and officers? I encourage you to get to know the volunteers sitting next to you at your Friends monthly meetings. Marge isn’t just “chair of the book sale.” Was she an educator? Who worked in the legal profession? Who volunteered throughout the community (e.g., Cub Scouts, school board, director of Vacation Bible School) and then landed with the Friends? Who asked them to get involved? (Thank that person!)

The backgrounds, skill sets, vision, and hopes of your Friends colleagues can help drive the Friends to the next level. All groups keep lamenting that “we need more active volunteers.” But maybe the person to your left has wicked skills that you can tap for a new Friends project! They might really like a change of pace. The help you need might be right at that table, ready to be deployed in another way. You’ll never know until you ask!

FLS plays a key part in the education and support of Friends of Libraries groups statewide. It’s part of our mission, “... to promote and inspire local Friends groups in libraries of all types for the betterment of New York State’s library community.” Regional workshops, meet-ups with local Friends representatives, and conference workshops are certainly inspirational to me—we are all doing terrific work on behalf of our libraries. I love shining a spotlight on those ideas!

Just a year ago in this space, Past President Rebecca Fuss shared that a task force had been convened to develop a conference scholarship. We are so excited to have two outstanding FLS members attend the NYLA Annual Conference as the first recipients of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. You'll read more about them in this issue. Please join them from November 13 to 16 in Saratoga Springs to attend our workshops and visit the trade show. You’ll hear stories to inspire you and have stories to tell your fellow Friends when you return home.

Keep it Friendly out there!

What’s your story?
There’s still plenty of time to register for this year’s NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs. FLS is offering an ambitious lineup of sessions to provide professional development topics for Friends volunteers, library staff, and trustees, as well as showcasing Friends activities. Our schedule includes four programs and a three-hour continuing education workshop on strategic planning at the pre-conference. There’s something for everyone involved with Friends of the Library groups to learn how volunteers working together can make a difference in their library and community.

Please remember that NYLA is a membership organization. In order to receive the discounted Friends registration rates for the NYLA Annual Conference, a NYLA membership is required. Elected officers of ‘Friends Group’ organizational member of NYLA are eligible for Friend member rates. Individuals who have personally joined FLS/NYLA plus students, trustees, and retirees are also eligible for a reduced registration rate. Joining FLS will save money over paying the non-member registration fees.

A person who is not an elected officer of a Friends group (e.g., committee member, book sale chair, book sale sorter, dedicated rank-and-file volunteer) may choose to join NYLA as a personal member so they can attend the conference. But the Friends Group organizational membership in NYLA does not extend the privileges of membership to each individual who is a member of your local group.

Register before September 30 to beat the final rate increase for conference attendees. On-site registration will be available at the Saratoga Springs City Center beginning Wednesday, November 13, but many ticketed events will no longer be available at that time. All the information you need for the conference is available online at www.nyla.org/conference. Detailed program information was published in the June 2019 issue of Friends News and Notes. Find that newsletter at www.NYLA.org/Friends Publications.

Track season is over at Saratoga Race Course, but the NYLA Conference is sure to be a winner! Whether it’s a journey straight through the offerings from FLS or a mix and match of many different programs sponsored by the Sections, Roundtables, and Affiliates of NYLA, you will find important networking opportunities at programs, special conference events, and the Trade Show. FLS members should stop by our booth for a special gift.

See “FLS Schedule at a Glance” on page 1 for the list of FLS program and times. We look forward to seeing you in the Spa City this November!

Successful Regional Workshops

Two weeks at the end of May and beginning of June took FLS on the road to Albany and then DeWitt in Onondaga County, as the participants at two workshops went from one end of the spectrum to the other: starting a Friends group and then, keeping an active Friends group vibrant and successful.

One workshop, led by Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee, was “Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library” on Friday, May 31. Sponsored by the Upper Hudson Library System, the gathering was held at the System headquarters in Albany with 24 people in attendance, representing 12 libraries in three systems.

On Friday, June 7, “Keep It Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group” was offered by the Central NY Library Resources Council as a follow-up to “Getting Started” held in Cazenovia last year. The Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville were gracious hosts, providing a team of greeters to welcome and check-in participants. They also offered a sumptuous spread of refreshments and beverages. There were 27 in the audience representing 13 libraries and 8 systems (both public and regional library councils).

Since the inception of these workshops four years ago, over 320 people have been trained in twelve workshops across the state. System staff at Upper Hudson were very pleased to report that community volunteers from Sand Lake Library had been successful in holding their Friends organizational meeting on August 1, based on information they had learned in May. It just shows what can be accomplished in two months’ time with determined volunteers! It was exciting to have a trustee and three new Friends from Sand Lake Library join the conversation at the FLS meet-up in East Greenbush the very next day. Congratulations to all!

Do you have a success story to share about something you learned and implemented after attending an FLS workshop? We’d love to hear from you! Drop us a note at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.
Boost Your Membership Numbers with NFOLW!
October 20-26, 2019

Each year, United for Libraries: the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association, offers awards for outstanding projects by Friends groups around the country. One award to the Friends of the LeClaire (Iowa) Community Library in 2018 pointed out how a concentrated effort in a small community can have a huge impact on a Friends organization.

In the early fall, the group began a multifaceted pre-promotion of National Friends of Libraries Week (NFOLW), starting with a banner on the library’s website announcing "Friends of the LeClaire Library/Celebrate Friends Week Oct. 21-27." Events planned for the week were publicized on the website as well as on Facebook. On the Thursday before NFOLW, a feature article appeared in the local newspaper highlighting all the programs and events that were planned for the following week.

Some of the activities included a formal dedication of the newly redesigned teen area funded by the Friends, a proclamation by the mayor recognizing the Friends and NFOLW at the ribbon-cutting, a book sale, displays, numerous children's programs, and a local author speaking about his most recent title. Here is one key to the success of their membership increases: at every program, the library director introduced a member of the Friends who gave a short talk about the Friends activities. Most importantly, the Friend reminded the audience that the group funds most programs at the library. Friends members also remained at the end of the events to ask people to join the organization. New members who joined during the week received Friends book bags. (This idea could be implemented year-round!)

Because of the close working relationship between the Friends and staff members, the Friends purchased gift certificates to a local deli to present to all staff members during NFOLW. As luck would have it, the town's annual Halloween parade was the Saturday of NFOLW and the Friends participated in the festivities to promote the library.

Overall, this small but mighty group increased their membership rolls by 25% in just one week! An added bonus: a new member made a significant contribution to the library's endowment fund just after NFOLW. FLS hopes you will be able to implement just a few of these great ideas to celebrate and locate some new members for your group.

Join FLS for Watertown Workshop

After a two-year hiatus, FLS has been invited to return to Watertown to present another workshop at the invitation of Angela Newman, Youth Services Coordinator for the North Country Library System. If you are traveling on Columbus Day weekend with other "leaf peepers," think about spending an extra day in Watertown so you can join us to brush up on your Friends skills!

“Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library” will be held on Tuesday, October 15, at the System headquarters (22072 County Road 190 in Watertown) from 10 a.m. until noon. The training session is appropriate for library managers or directors of small and rural libraries, library trustees, and community volunteers who want to explore the possibilities of starting a Friends group. Both active Friends groups and those working to revitalize their organization have also found this workshop useful as a review of their current practices and to glean ideas for expanding their membership base.

At the workshop, discussion will focus on the benefits of gathering community volunteers to support your library’s programs and services. We’ll utilize a checklist to develop a Friends of the Library group including recruiting helpers to serve on a steering committee. Once the Friends’ mission has been determined, the focus will switch to ideas on expanding membership for both new and established groups and then growing the leadership to successfully maintain an active organization.

The workshop is free of charge and is open to participants from across the state, not just NCLS member libraries. Registration has begun. Information is posted under "Classes & Events" under the Education tab at https://web.ncls.org. Questions can be directed to Angela Newman at anewman@ncls.org.

FLS Executive Board

The annual in-person FLS Executive Board Meeting was held August 2 at the East Greenbush Community Library followed by a Friends Meet-up. See that article on page 7.

standing, l-r; Terry Mulee, Jean Sheviak, Lisa Wemett, Lynne Madden, Leslie Riley, Kerstin Cruger, Stephen Hoefer, Terry Morris

seated, l-r; Karen Sperrazza, Anne Andrianos, Joyce Laiosa, Randy Enos, Pat Loughan not pictured; Rebecca Fuss, Marie Orlando, Rusty Wigg, Amy Discenza, Marie Bindeman, Christine Beck, Janet Kreason, and Margaret Pilaroscia
“Dedication” and “hard work” are words that describe Marianne Michaud. For over 40 years Marianne has been involved in some way with libraries. While a resident of Moravia, NY, she was actively involved as a volunteer with the Powers Library. Following her move to Fairport, NY, she became an officer and a lifetime member in the Fairport Friends.

As an elementary school teacher, Marianne was keenly aware of the importance of childhood literacy. During the 70s she assisted in the establishment of a children's story hour at the Powers Library. In her spare time she volunteered at the annual book sale and in the library. As time went on, she became a trustee and then president of the Powers Library Board.

Seven years ago, Marianne moved to Fairport and promptly became involved with the Friends group. She served as vice president for three years and has been president for the past two years.

Expanding the impact of the Friends group was an objective that Marianne identified early in her presidency. Under her leadership a new membership form and distribution channels were developed that resulted in increased membership and new volunteers. The Friends of the Fairport Public Library newsletter, which will be published three times a year, was spearheaded by Marianne. A major activity for the Friends is The Corner Bookstore. With new members and more volunteers the bookstore remains strong and prosperous.

Representing the Fairport Friends in the greater community is another of Marianne’s contributions. She participates in the Monroe County Library System Friends Council and the Fairport Perinton Merchants Association. As a result, she is able to share ideas on how to optimize gifts for the benefit of the library with her Friends group. The library director commended Marianne for her community involvement and outreach.

Marianne attended the NYLA Annual Conference last year and is eager to continue learning and broadening her horizons. "It will be an opportunity for me to meet and have conversations with others. It will give me the chance to bring back more ideas and to expand programs that will inspire us.”

The second recipient of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship is Meg Sgombick from Florida, NY. Meg has been incredibly active with the Friends group at the Florida Public Library. In one year, she has handled all the public relations for the group, created print flyers, bookmarks, display notices, and other promotional materials which are distributed to local media outlets. She also maintains the Friends Facebook page.

Meg is a vital member of her larger community as well. She’s been a Girl Scout leader for the past 12 years and is Unit Coordinator for the Florida Service Unit. She has been reelected to the Florida Union Free School District Board of Education and is a member of the Orange County School Board Association.

For the past three years Meg has attended NYLA’s Library Advocacy Day. She added her voice to those of her colleagues for increased funding and legislation that supports and improves libraries across the state. She served as the designated spokesperson of her group and discussed with legislators the importance of libraries and the need for funding.

In letters of support, the library director and Friends group vice president strongly credited Meg with the vibrancy of the Friends group. Her development of publicity materials and use of social media have increased visibility of the Friends throughout the community. She had a major role in coordinating the 2016-2017 Florida Public Library Door to Door Campaign which was a joint effort of staff, trustees, and Friends. For this effort the Florida Public Library received the Ramapo Catskill Library System Program of the Year Award.

Never having attended a NYLA conference, Meg enthusiastically wrote about what she hopes to experience. She states that, "it will offer me the best opportunity to get inspired, develop new skills, and engage with my peers right in my own backyard." She goes on to mention that "as one of the youngest members of our Friends group, I am looking to uncover some avenues to reach a new audience and help our group grow."

These two individuals exemplify the fine characteristics of Randall Enos. They are enthusiastic about libraries and passionate about the role a Friends group can play in advocating for and supporting libraries.

When you meet Meg and Marianne at the NYLA Annual Conference, please extend your congratulations and thank them for their dedication to Friends groups and their commitment to the library community.
FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award continued from page 1

Helen Rados strongly believes in the mission of public libraries. She is a founding member of the EBCPL Friends group and has, since the beginning of the organization in 2010, served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

This year alone, she organized the biggest Friends fundraiser (a bus trip to Lily Dale), advocated for the library to nearly double its video game collection, secured funding for a new STEM Kit program, assisted with a very successful Star Wars Day event (helping to train over 60 future Jedi), and served as judge for the Sullivan County Battle of the Books. Helen also shares responsibility for the Friends social media accounts, always promoting library events online as well.

Helen works closely with the library director and youth services librarian and regularly drops by to donate items she picked up for a program, craft or event. In 2016 she was chosen as the library's first "Friend of the Year." Helen is a regular at local farmers markets where she helps host outreach tables and pop-up story times. She has led programs in the outdoor story garden, organized fund-raisers for the community Bagel Festival, spearheaded a planning committee for the library's annual Fall Family Fun Day Event, and served as a volunteer coordinator for the first Sullivan County Youth Book Festival.

Helen's service doesn't stop when she leaves the library. She is on the boards of several other community organizations, including the Literacy Volunteers and Professional Women of Sullivan County. She regularly volunteers with the Federation for the Homeless. "She is an inspiration and a testament to how one person can have such a profound impact on a library, and thus, on the community as a whole" notes her nominator Cheryl Shelton Jones.

Helen Rados was elected to the Ramapo Catskill Library System Board of Trustees and is beginning her second term. She takes great pride in serving on various committees, including the Youth Programming Awards Committee. She regularly attends the NYLA Annual Conference, bringing all she's learned back to her positions to share with those who were unable attend. Two new fund-raisers are in the works, ideas brought to the library after Helen was inspired at a conference. Helen regularly attends NYLA Advocacy Day in Albany to speak with legislators on behalf of her library, the system, and libraries as a whole.

In Mary Paige Lang-Clouse's letter of support (one of six such letters), she notes that Helen is "the full package" who is not only a "doer" but is willing to meet, explore ideas, and implement projects in cooperation with others. "She is the very definition of an advocate." Congratulations to Helen Rados and Friends of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library!

Helen will receive the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award during the FLS Annual Membership Meeting at the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs on Friday, November 15.

The following four nominees have received Certificates of Merit in commendation of their dedicated service to libraries.

Ann Hayes of the Big Flats Library Advocates for her commitment to the library at all levels of service from hands-on projects and fund-raisers to her service as a Trustee on the Chemung County Library District Board of Directors.

Friends of the Pleasant Valley Library for their diligent response to a devastating library fire.

Friends of the Maxwell Memorial Library for their exceptionally active and creative service to a library in a smaller community.

Suzanne and Lou Dawes of the Friends of the Newburgh Free Library for their teamwork and creative attention to enhancing communication within the community served.

Friends Can Top Your Holiday Gift List

Heading toward Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, and into the holiday gift-purchasing frenzy of December, here are some ideas for gifts you might want to pass along to your patrons and Friends as they start making their shopping lists:

- Friends tote bags. Suggest the giver include some items in the bag from the book sale corner.
- A Friends membership (obviously!). Promote this idea by outlining what donations and membership dues have allowed the Friends to do for the library over the past year.
- A donation for a new project. Do the Friends have a scholarship fund that benefits local students? Would your group like to build some Little Free Libraries to place around town to get books into the hands of children who might not be able to visit the library? Make the pitch for funds to expand your efforts.
- An engraved paver for the library's walkway or garden path.
- Donate time and talents to the Friends projects.
- Adopt-a-Book program or other donation program that helps the library purchase new materials. A bookplate ("In Honor of Ellen") will recognize the gift recipient every time a reader opens the book!

~ continued on page 7 ~
The Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library hosted the fifth annual Friends Meet-up with the FLS Executive Board. This gathering followed the annual in-person meeting of the board on Friday, August 2. All told, 26 representatives of Friends of the Library groups from 13 public libraries in four public library systems gathered to talk with FLS Board members and each other. Everyone brought varying levels of experience to the table where ideas were shared to help strengthen the work of Friends in libraries large and small.

Before the meeting, Friends suggested topics they were interested to discuss with the FLS Board and other Friends groups. Because every meet-up runs out of time before the group runs out of topics, a new activity was tried this year with great success. Two of the FLS Board members each took a corner of the room with a specific topic to discuss: fund-raising ideas (excluding book sales); book sales; membership recruitment and promotion of the Friends; community outreach and effective uses of social media. The visiting Friends were able to self-select a topic, moving to that corner of the room for a 20-minute discussion. Groups that brought multiple members fared well by sending folks to several discussion corners. Each group was asked to report out the three best tips that were shared. Careful notes were taken and the entire group reassembled to hear the reports. The final order of the day was to ask each group to share at least one community initiative they have been involved in for their libraries. Ideas included supporting Junior Friends of the Library groups, author visits and lecture series, Little Free Libraries, helping with library upkeep with a volunteer cleaning crew, and underwriting a museum pass program where patrons borrow passes to visit local museums and galleries.

Second Vice President Terry Mulee explained the benefits of personal and organizational memberships in NYLA. Details were shared about the upcoming professional development programs FLS is sponsoring this fall, including a webinar in late September, a half-day program on strategic planning for Friends groups on November 13, and conference programs in Saratoga Springs on Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16. The Board also encouraged the visitors to share their abilities outside their local groups by becoming involved in FLS’s work statewide.

The meet-up was a lively exchange of "best practices" and tips to keep Friends groups growing strong to continue their valuable work. The next FLS meet-up will be held in conjunction with the FLS Annual Membership Meeting at the conference in Saratoga Springs. If your Friends group is interested to host a meet-up in your area of New York State, please contact FLS President Lisa Wemett at lisawemett@frontiernet.net. We’d be glad to consider your location for 2020.

Thanks to all of you who came to share and learn. We couldn't have done it without you!

Editor’s note: The minutes from the FLS Meet-up, including the tips and ideas gathered, are available online at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Highlights/News.

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Holiday Gift List
continued from page 6

- Gift certificate to the Friends bookstore.

If you participate in AmazonSmile, remind people how to use the shopping portal. Those small percentages based on purchases made on Amazon when going to their website via the AmazonSmile link on your webpage all add up!

In 2018, The New York Public Library caught the eye of their Friends with an e-mail with this subject line: "Last Chance: Save $10 on a Friends of the Library membership until midnight." With all the e-mails from nonprofits encouraging donations on "Giving Tuesday," this one stood out. Friends memberships, either gifts or renewals, were discounted by $10 for one day. The "Contributing Friends" level memberships with extra perks like tickets to members-only special events and 10% discounts in their bookstore also had the same discount. This clever idea had another advantage: unlike the online "Giving Tuesday" promotion which keeps a percentage of the donation, all membership funds came directly to NYPL.

Community Connection

When the NYS Woodsmen’s Field Days published their schedule of events this August, the Erwin Library and Institute, Boonville’s Public Library, was listed several times in the schedule with their hours followed by "Free Wi-Fi" and the library’s address. Where else would you get connected in the north woods of New York? And as a further enticement, the library’s book sale was held during the festival, giving folks the opportunity to grab something to read before heading to the chainsaw carving competition!
An FLS “Shout-Out” to all the new and renewing members of the Section in the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year. We continually flirt with the 200 member mark. We are thrilled to have over 50 Friends of the Library Groups as members! Let's eclipse those numbers in 2019 - 2020! The more members we have the more we can do! Thanks for all that you do to support FLS and the Library Community across New York State!

Ways to Support FLS:
Advertise your business in this space!
Do you have a business that works with/for Friends? Send an email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com for details.

Donate to the Scholarship Fund
For those wishing to make a donation in Randy’s honor, the form is available at www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships > Enos

FLS Tribute Fund and Honor Roll
Add a name to the FLS Tribute Fund List and honor that special individual or group. Choose Friend, Good Friend, or Best Friend! It’s so easy to do!
Visit www.NYLA.org/Friends > Awards & Scholarships for more information and to download the form.

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