New Workshop Offerings from FLS

This spring, FLS is partnering with groups in three public library systems to offer workshops to help volunteers and library staff create a Friends of the Library or grow an established group to continue their work for the library in their community.

The Friends of the Plattsburgh Public Library are hosting a free workshop, "Getting It Started: Creating and Sustaining a Friends Group for Your Library," at the Plattsburgh Public Library, 19 Oak Street in Plattsburgh, on Saturday morning, April 23, 2016, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. This workshop is open to all interested volunteers, library staff, library trustees, and community members who would like to learn more about establishing and sustaining a Friends group for their public library. Registration is required by sending an e-mail to Pat Loughan, President of the Friends of the Plattsburgh Public Library, at friendsoflib12901@yahoo.com. Reservations should be made by Monday, April 18 and attendance is limited to 50 people. Following the workshop, the Friends are offering an optional luncheon at a cost of $10 per person with further opportunities for networking on Friends topics. Please indicate your interest in the luncheon when registering.

The two-hour workshop was developed by the Friends of Libraries Section to assist libraries in planning and starting Friends of the Library groups. The session will help participants see the benefits of gathering community volunteers to support a library's programs and services. Content includes recruiting helpers for a steering committee, determining the Friends' mission, expanding the group's membership, and growing the volunteer leadership to sustain an active organization.

An abridged version of this "Getting It Started" workshop will be sponsored by the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) on Wednesday evening, May 25, at the Newburgh Free Library, 124 Grand Street, Newburgh, from 5 to 7 p.m. The workshop will be one hour in length, followed by an additional hour for Q/A, networking, and sharing among the participants. This free workshop is being co-sponsored by the Orange

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A Letter from the FLS President

Dear Friends,

I am frequently blessed by the wonderful variety of services that libraries offer to the communities they serve, often tailoring really imaginative collections. Library Friends are integral to this creativity. The building in which I work is perfect for our specialization in digital literacy classes and support — there is not a lot of open space for large groups of people. My friend Rebecca Donnelly, three miles down the road, loans canning equipment at the Norwood Public Library. The folks at Ogdensburg Public Library loan cake pans and garden seeds at their city park setting on the St. Lawrence River. Canton Free Library Director and new homeowner Emily Owen turned her thoughts about loaning home improvement tools, gardening equipment, and kitchenware into a reality (see article in next column).

These thinking-outside-of-the-box projects are those that are also outside of common budget lines, yet add amazing richness and individual community flavor. Whether through direct funding or matching funds for a grant, providing the community connections to gather cast-off items into a useful collection, or even contributing an original idea to the mix, this is valuable work that Friends of Libraries can do. You can probably think of a few projects right off the bat and the rest of us would love to hear about them. Just shoot me an email — ssachs@potsdamlibrary.org.

Sincerely, Sarah Sachs

P.S. I heard once that someone even bar-coded a dog to teach children about pet responsibility. Let me know if you find out the truth to that tale.

Candidates Sought for FLS Election

The FLS Nominating Committee nominates candidates from among FLS members for the position of president-elect (annually), the positions of 2nd vice president and treasurer (every two years), and for Members At Large of the Executive Board (annually). Individuals who are not selected by the Nominating Committee may run for office by petition. Article VII, Nominations and Elections, Section B of the FLS By-Laws states that additional nominations of Section members may be added to the slate of candidates by petition signed by ten members. The petition must be submitted by May 31, prior to the scheduled issuing of the ballot by NYLA on June 15.

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Strong. Strategic. Sustainable.

NYLA and Friends of Libraries are embracing this goal for libraries throughout the state. The 2016 NYLA Annual Conference, to be held November 2-5 in Saratoga Springs, features workshops to aid attendees in achieving this vital objective.

Four FLS conference sessions are in the works:

**Friends Grow Friends Online**: Boost your marketing value! Polly-Alida Farrington will share best practices for inspiring Friends membership, library advocacy and program involvement through your library's website and social media.

**Book Sale Bonanza**: What motivates customers to camp out overnight to be among the first to get into your book sale? Learn the secrets of Tompkins County's legendary success.

**Friends of Academic Libraries**: Interested in establishing an academic library Friends group? Librarians from SUNY Brockport and the Sage Colleges will show how to involve members to the benefit of both students and the library.

**Friends of Libraries Showcase/Annual Membership Meeting**: Following a brief FLS membership meeting, Friends will spotlight community reads, multicultural teas, and more.

Watch for details in the forthcoming conference bulletin, the News and Notes June issue and on the FLS webpage. See you in Saratoga Springs!

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**Get Set for National Friends of Libraries Week October 16-22, 2016**

It's not too early to start planning a National Friends of Libraries Week campaign to draw attention to the contributions of your Friends group. Launch a membership drive, host a special fall event, work with your County, Town or Village legislators to issue a resolution. All of these and many more possibilities can mark your celebration of this nationwide initiative, sponsored by the American Library Association affiliate United for Libraries. We'll be highlighting this celebration in each upcoming FLS newsletter, but in the meanwhile, find more resources at [www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek](http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek) to get you started.

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**FLS Introduces Tribute Fund**

Do you have a friend or a group that you'd like to honor, thank, or to just give a "shout out?" Here's your chance to do just that and help out FLS at the same time.

See the flyer at the end of this newsletter or visit the "Awards and Scholarships" page at [www.NYLA.org/Friends](http://www.NYLA.org/Friends)

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**Friends and Festivals: A Great Combination!**

by Lisa C. Wemett

Quick! Name a festival! Cherry Blossom Festival, Apple Festival, Garlic Festival, Sauerkraut Festival (yes, there is!). And beyond produce, we have arts festivals—at historic homes, along the waterfront, at art galleries, and in vineyards. Throw in some music festivals (bluegrass, fiddlers, jazz), some farmers' markets, community-wide garage sales, and BBQ. The list is endless. Any given weekend, nearly year round, there seems to be no shortage of festivals to select from. And at many of them, you'll find Friends of the Library setting up their own pop-up tents to tell their library's story and maybe sell a membership (or book) or two.

Now's the time to plan ahead to get involved in your community's festivals this year. Locate the planning committee in your area and find out what it takes for a nonprofit like the Friends to participate.

Not quite a festival, but is your library a polling place? The Red Jacket Community Library is part of a school building and the Friends offered a chicken BBQ, encouraging voters to stop by after they voted on the school district budget. Other Friends have had bake sales, tempting early morning voters at the polls with coffee and baked goods—who needs a drive through?

The Lowville Free Library (North Country Library System) offers their own Fairytale Festival fund-raiser with crafts, games, visits with characters like Cinderella, and lots of photo ops for kids and parents in February. (I'm confident they have a booth at the Lowville Cream Cheese Festival in September, home of Kraft's Philadelphia brand cream cheese!)

April 2016 marks the 7th annual Edible Books Festival and Competition offered by the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. Contest entrants exhibit their edible 3-D sculptures based on book titles or themes. With prize categories for all ages and abilities (both amateur bakers and professional chefs take part), cooking demonstrations and tastings, and a family-friendly scavenger hunt, the Friends have created their own indoor festival right about the time everyone has cabin fever!

Just in time for garage sale season, the Friends of the Irondequoit Public Library created their own Fun Fest. 2016 continued on next page
will see the third annual fund-raiser, with raffle baskets and a "Trunk Sale" where vendors pay for a parking space to display their own secondhand goods out of their car trunks. Kids can have a great time with face-painting and other activities planned just for them while their caregivers look for bargains. Beats driving around the neighborhood looking for garage sale street addresses!

Last July, the Friends of the Hudson Area Library participated in their local farmers market, offering a cookbook sale on a Saturday morning right at the market. Vintage, new, and gently used cookbooks were offered under the "Book Tent." Cookbooks are perennially popular—the Friends offered a similar sale at a chili cook-off event in town. These Friends are also an exhibitor every May at the Hudson Children's Book Festival to get the word out about the services the library offers to families.

Friends of Cornwall Library has tied book sales to the annual Ice Cream Social in August. (Watch out for sticky fingers!) The library staff are able to do storytime outreach to families at the farmers market with a shiny red wagon donated by the Friends. Last year, the Arnett Branch Library (Rochester Public Library) debuted their new bicycle-pulled "Books by Bike" trailer at several local festivals and the farmers market in their neighborhood. (The bicycle was donated by Rochester Community Bikes, Inc., a local nonprofit.)

The Friends of the Avon Free Library had a booth at two of the monthly food truck rodeos sponsored by the local posts of the American Legion and VFW on Sunday afternoons last summer. In June, they promoted summer reading club and in September, the Friends educated visitors about their organization and the services of the Pioneer Library System. One tip to share: bring weights for your handouts when you're in a breezy location!

In September, the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library held a Garden Party in the Central Library's reading garden. Master Gardeners from the Cornell Cooperative Extension program were on hand to offer expert advice on plant identification and garden management. With refreshments, new gardening books to borrow, and music performed by a classical guitarist, both novice and experienced gardeners enjoyed one of the library's signature spaces.

Later in the fall, the Daniel Pierce Library in Grahamsville (Sullivan County) offers their Giant Pumpkin Party. The library organizes a community-wide fair, including a parade to the fairgrounds, games, and carnival rides. Their website is awesome: http://giantpumpkinparty.org/ Over time, this group has successfully raised enough money to add a 23,500 sq.ft. addition to their library.

So put on your creative "thinking caps"—can you tie a sale of art books to an arts festival, help promote a vote for a library renovation project at the town's July 4th celebration, or enter a float in a parade? Be visible, be Friendly, and engage your community outside the library's doors. It's truly as much fun to be involved in a festival as to attend one. Have a great time!

Impact of Volunteerism by Lisa C. Wemett

When I was first starting out as a librarian in the late 1970s, the suburban library where I worked still used many volunteers at the Circulation Desk. One of the volunteers, when she was being praised for handling a complicated task or providing exceptional customer service, would rejoinder: "Great! Are you going to double my pay? Two times zero is still zero!" This quote became a running joke for years, so much so that I still remember it more than three decades later!

But do you know how much your volunteer time really impacts your community? Independent Sector is an advocacy group (www.independentsector.org) based in Washington, DC, that tracks statistics about volunteerism. The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is currently $23.07 per hour. (That’s up 50 cents per hour in one year!) With 25% of the adult population volunteering 7.7 billion hours of service, that is a value of $173 billion. Yes, that's quite the economic impact! You can see that giving your time and talent is hardly worth "nothing!"

Now is the perfect time to acknowledge the volunteers who support the library. April is National Volunteer Month, established to honor the people who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in our communities. April 10 through 16 this year is National Volunteer Week, which also runs concurrently with National Library Week (NLW). "National Library Workers Day" is celebrated on the Tuesday of NLW, a day for library staff, patrons, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. So how about a continental breakfast for everyone to celebrate together? Use these national designations as an opportunity to recognize those who give so much of their time and talent to help the library. Thank you for your service!
Soup-er Bowl Winner!

Last March, Meg Henry represented the Friends of the Bloomfield Public Library in the 6th annual "Soup-er Bowl Tasting" held by the Bloomfield Rotary Club. This all-you-can-eat fund-raiser features some amazing soups. With their paid admission to the soup tasting, participants receive six tickets to vote for their favorites from all the entries. Meg won second place! Congratulations, Meg! What wonderful PR for your Friends group. Thanks for sharing your recipe with FLS.

We hope you'll enjoy it! Also, this fund-raiser sounds like a great idea Friends groups could easily duplicate.

Philly Cheese Steak Soup

2 9 oz. pkgs. Steak-umm® sliced sandwich steaks, cooked
4-6 TBLS olive oil or butter
1 large onion, chopped
2-3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 large green pepper, finely diced
½ to ¾ cup flour (use cornstarch for gluten-free soup)
1 qt. beef broth
12-16 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
16 oz. Half & Half or 2% milk (depending on how rich you like it)

Cook the beef sandwich steaks as directed on package and drain well. Shred the beef and set aside. In a large heavy soup pot, place olive oil, onion, garlic, and green pepper, cooking until tender. Mix in the flour to make a roux. Then add the beef broth and whisk until heated and thickened. Lower heat and add shredded beef, cheese, and milk. Serve with a crusty bread and salad. Serves 4-6.

FLS Workshops continued from page 1

Library Association (OLA) and the Library Association of Rockland County (LARC). Anyone interested may attend, including participants from outside RCLS. Register using RCLS's online calendar: http://rcls.evanced.info/signup. Any questions may be directed to Randy Enos at (845) 243-3747 ext. 240.

The following evening, FLS will present "Keep It Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group." The workshop is sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Library System and will be held at their headquarters, 103 Market Street, Poughkeepsie. Registration is through the MHLS's online calendar: http://calendar.mihudson.org. Staff and volunteers associated with member libraries of the Mid-Hudson and Ramapo Catskill Library Systems may attend at no cost. All other participants may attend at a cost of $25 each, payable to the Mid-Hudson Library System. Questions may be directed to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich at (845) 471-6060, ext. 239. This one-hour presentation will focus on ways that participants can develop their library's Friends group, working to sustain the organization long-term. Discussion will center on continuous membership recruitment, engaging volunteers, and revitalizing the core members of the group to continue their crucial advocacy work for their community libraries.

Inquiries about hosting a workshop may be directed to Lisa C. Wemett at lisawemett@frontiernet.net or by mail at 16 Drumlin Drive, Macedon, New York 14502.

Candidates continued from page 2

Individuals wishing to appear on the 2016 ballot as a petition candidate for the office of FLS President-Elect, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, or Member At Large must complete a petition along with a candidate profile sheet and submit both to Lisa C. Wemett, Chair, FLS Nominating Committee, 16 Drumlin Drive, Macedon, NY 14502 no later than Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Job descriptions for these elected positions and a candidate profile sheet can be found under "Board & Officers," then "Elections" at www.NYLA.org/Friends.

In 2015, FLS began holding its election for the Executive Board exclusively online. Those members without Internet access at home or at work can access NYLA's election process by visiting their local public library. In June, notification of the election is sent to all NYLA members eligible to vote via an e-mail blast, detailing the log in process for casting ballots through the NYLA Online Membership Center. To be eligible to vote, individuals must be members in good standing as of June 14. Only the primary contact person is eligible to vote on behalf of Friends Group organizational members. (Elected officers registered with NYLA through a Friends group's organizational membership are not eligible to take part in the election.) Thank you for your interest.
Bridging the Gap with a Salute to our Staff
by Terri Dalton, President, Friends of the Irondequoit Public Library

The Town of Irondequoit recently celebrated the Grand Opening of our new central library in the heart of our community. Beautiful, modern, and multi-purposed it was more than any of our staff, residents, and champions could have imagined.

Prior to the opening at the new site, our library was divided into two smaller branches on opposite sides of our community. As Friends of the Irondequoit Library, we have long championed the idea of consolidating our branches into one space with one staff to centrally serve our community. Until that time, we worked to bridge the gap between these sites, with community walks from one site to the other and information exchanges between the two branches.

One of these collaborative activities was the Staff Highlight Program. Our Friends had the valuable opportunity of interviewing staff members once a month to learn more about their hobbies, favorite books and sources of inspiration. Complete with an individual picture, the displays would be posted in opposite branches, bridging the gap for staff and patrons. The practice helped us to learn more about one another before we came together.

Our new library is staffed with 44 members who formerly served our two individual branches. These bright and friendly people run our community programs, serve our community, and bring this incredible resource to life. We are proud to continue this tradition today to honor each of their unique contributions.

Editor’s note: Besides “bridging the gap” between the two branches, this is also a great example of a creative way to recognize the staff who work so hard and do so much to make our libraries the vibrant community centers that we all know and love. Can you replicate this idea or come up with just the right plan to honor the staff in your library?
The Friends of Libraries Section
Tribute Fund

Do you have a friend or a group that you’d like to honor, thank, or to just give a “shout out?” Here’s your chance to do just that and help out FLS at the same time.

Add a name to the FLS Tribute Fund List with your donation and honor that special individual or group.

It’s so easy to do! Look over the list of available options below, make your selection, and complete the donor form.

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<th>FLS Tribute Fund</th>
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<td>for a donation of:</td>
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<td>$10 - $24.99 Friend</td>
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* You may design your own 2 x 3.5 inch ad (portrait or landscape) or you may submit the text and photo or graphic and the ad will be designed for you. You will have an opportunity to see the ad before it is published. FLS reserves the right to refuse any ad deemed to be inappropriate.

The FLS Tribute Fund will be used to further the educational and outreach efforts of FLS in keeping with its mission:

*To promote and inspire local Friends groups in libraries of all types for the betterment of New York State's library community*

For more information about the FLS Tribute Fund please send an email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com or visit the FLS website at www.NYLA.org/Friends and click on the “Awards and Scholarships” button on the left hand side of the page.

Thank you for your support of the Friends of Libraries Section, a network of library advocates in New York State - Friends helping Friends!
FLS Tribute Fund Donation Form
Please print clearly or type all information requested.

Donor Information:

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________

Organization, if applicable __________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip _____________________________________________________________________________

Phone ____________________________________________________________________________________

Email _____________________________________________________________________________________

Send acknowledgment to:

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________

Organization, if applicable __________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip _____________________________________________________________________________

Please select your tribute level:

☐ Friend, $10.00 - $24.99
☐ Good Friend, $25.00 - $50.00
☐ Best Friend, Over $50.00

Please indicate the amount of your donation

$ __________ check enclosed (payable to NYLA - FLS)

Mail your check and this form to: Terry Mulee, 293 Elmdorf Ave,
Rochester, NY 14619

Please indicate the name or group that will be added to the FLS Tribute Fund List

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Please indicate the text for your ad. (2 x 2 inch - approximately 200 characters including spaces. 2 x 3.5 inch - approximately 400 characters including spaces w/o graphic or 200 with graphic)

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For large ad only:

☐ I will send my ad via email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com
☐ Please use text above and I will send my graphic / photo via email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com
☐ I will send my text and graphic / photo via email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com

Please indicate FLS Tribute Ad in the subject line.