



Friends News and Notes

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

www.NYLA.org/Friends

Volume 10, #2 -- May 2024

Last Call for FLS Awards and Scholarships Nomination/Application Deadline – June 1

FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award

Would you like an opportunity to recognize an active library supporter, a community volunteer, or a Friends of the Library organization? The **FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award** honors the efforts of a volunteer member or group within the library community who have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations.

With this award, FLS annually acknowledges not simply good work on behalf of libraries but recognizes the people who go above and beyond what is asked of them. These library civic leaders see a need, focus on a challenge, share goals, and commit to exceptional community service. The recipient receives a plaque and the Friends of the Library group with which the individual or group is associated will be given a one-year organizational membership in FLS/NYLA.

~ [continued on page 4](#) ~

FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

Are you a member of a Friends of the Library group? Do you serve as the Staff Liaison to your library's Friends group? Do you have a stellar Friends group at your library? Could you or one of the Friends volunteers benefit from a professional development opportunity at the NYLA Annual Conference?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please consider applying for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (RECS) to attend the 2024 NYLA Annual Conference. The award pays up to a maximum of \$1,000 for an individual to attend the conference. Reimbursements may include registration, tickets for events and meal functions, lodging, and travel expenses.

~ [continued on page 4](#) ~

Please Vote in the FLS Election

The FLS Executive Board approved the following slate of candidates to be placed on the FLS ballot. The election will be held online from June 1 through June 15 in conjunction with NYLA's annual election. Don't miss your chance to vote in both the FLS and NYLA elections. **Please note:** In order to vote in these elections you will need to be registered in the new NYLA membership system by May 31.

The 2024 candidates are:

First Vice President/President-Elect

Meg Van Patten[†] - Syracuse
Term Expires November 2027

Treasurer

Terry Mulee* - Rochester
Term Expires November 2026

Members At Large (vote for two)

Jen Allen - Saratoga Springs
Meg Sgombick[†] - Florida

(denotes: * incumbent, † appointed, currently in this position filling a vacancy; location of residence)

Candidate Position Statements are on [page 3](#) of this newsletter and full candidate profiles are available [online](#).

The FLS Board thanks these candidates for their willingness to serve the Section by sharing their time, talent, and expertise.



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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.



A Message from FLS President Chris Lund

As some of you may have already heard, FLS President Carol Fortier resigned from office last month, triggering my move into that role a few months earlier than originally planned. For starters, I want to kick off my term by extending my thanks

to Carol for all she did in her roles last year as Vice President and Conference Curator (now known as Conference Ambassador), and during the first half of this year as President. With the help of the rest of the Executive Board we've been able to assure a fast and smooth transition, which has helped me to quickly adapt to this change.

And speaking of change, you've likely noticed quite a few other changes taking place recently with NYLA and FLS, including a new website and new membership structure. While a lot of change at once can certainly be stressful, I've always been one to embrace change and the new opportunities it can bring, which, incidentally, I'm also experiencing in my personal life at the moment, having just moved to a new county, where I became a first time homeowner a few months ago. As with any big change, there's only so much you can plan for at once, and no matter how hard you try, there will always be some (often unpleasant) surprises along the way, like the garage door that was working perfectly fine at your walk-through breaking down out of nowhere a few weeks after you move in, or the link to that guidance document that your Friends group has

always relied on suddenly being removed, cutting off your access without warning. But rest assured that when I'm not spending my time replacing lighting fixtures and faucets, I'm working closely with our Executive Board to make sure all issues are addressed as quickly and efficiently as possible. Some of them will be easy to figure out and correct (like when you realize that the reason your recessed lighting is not dimming correctly is because your predecessor decided to install a fixture with the words "NOT FOR USE WITH DIMMERS" printed in giant letters on the label). Others might take some more work (like when you try to change your bathroom faucets and discover that whoever originally installed them decided to super glue them to the countertop). But either way, we'll get there.

And on that note, one thing I would urge you all to do immediately, if you have not yet done so, is to make sure you enroll in the new NYLA membership system. This is a critical step in this process, and shouldn't take more than a few minutes. For more details on how to do this, please see the notes below and pages 6 - 8 at the end of the newsletter from our 2nd Vice President and Membership Committee Representative, Amy Discenza.

And last, but certainly not least, I'd like to welcome Meg Van Patten to our Board. Meg graciously agreed to fill the vacancy created in the 1st Vice President / Conference Ambassador role that was created when I assumed the Presidency. Meg and I have some great things in the works for this year's conference, which should be getting announced shortly. So stay tuned for more good things to come!

Have You Joined Yet? Notes on FLS Membership from FLS 2nd VP Amy Discenza

The New York Library Association kicked off the new year with a brand-new website and membership database. NYLA staff have been pushing out reminders, updates, and instructions – including a handy Membership Database Guide which can be accessed in the Quick Links menu at www.nyla.org – to members weekly via their e-newsletter, News You Can Use. If you haven't had a chance to enroll in the new membership database yet, NYLA is extending its open renewal period for 2024 through May 31, 2024, and memberships will be good through May 31, 2025. Going forward, NYLA will run on a fixed membership year: all memberships will begin on June 1 and expire on May 31.

Your friends at FLS and NYLA are grateful for your past membership and invite you to join the new system. Just as libraries need Friends to thrive, Friends need friends to do the same. Your membership fosters community and helps ensure FLS and NYLA can continue our work.

NYLA offers reduced individual and group membership rates for Friends. Personal "Friend" level memberships are good for one individual; whereas a "Friends Group Organizational Membership" entitles up to five members of a Friends group to become members of NYLA. To enroll in the new system, you need to establish login credentials and create a user profile; however, your membership isn't activated until you submit payment and it's processed by NYLA staff. Your NYLA membership comes with one section affiliation of your choice. Please choose FLS. Already a NYLA member? You can add FLS as a section for \$15. To add FLS to your established NYLA Member Profile, [login](#) and click on the link to the "2024-2025 Unit Join Form" located under your welcome banner.

Please see pages 6 - 8 at the end of this newsletter for information on FLS Membership Benefits and details on Friends Group Organizational and Personal Memberships.

FLS 2024 Slate – Candidate Profiles

Vote Online June 1-15



Vice President/ President Elect

Margaret Van Patten
Director, Baldwinsville
Public Library

Candidate Statement

I am pleased to be able to be a candidate for the position of President of the NYLA Friends of Libraries Section. I have had a passion for libraries even as a young child when I decided in 6th grade that I wanted to be a librarian.

Libraries have changed a lot since those days when I was young. I feel that they have grown and are able to adapt to the changing times. I always say that libraries still have the same mission/goals, we just have changed some of the ways we meet that mission. It is not just the library staff that make it all happen, it is also the trustees and the Friends organizations. The Friends organizations are a vital cog in the wheel that makes libraries work. Friends work hard running book sales and creating fundraising events that enable the purchase of furniture, equipment, and honorariums for speakers just to name a few items. They also support and advocate for library funding at the local, state, and national level. After spending 54 years working in libraries, first as a page and then 45 years as a librarian, I am retiring in October. Retirement will give me the opportunity to focus on helping NYLA, FLS, and the membership of FLS grow. FLS is a fantastic way to support Friends organizations across NYS and help them flourish in their support of their local libraries. If elected to the position of FLS President-Elect I will strive to build on the work the Section has accomplished to date and do what is needed to make FLS and its membership grow.



Treasurer

Terry Mulee

Candidate Statement

I have the privilege of being a Friend helping Friends. Our unit Mission is "FLS creates a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community."

As a member of the FLS Board (and the precursor

Empire Friends Roundtable) since 2012, I've met and worked with library Friends, staff, and civic leaders across the state. All of these people have one common goal; to ensure that libraries survive - and thrive!

I'm looking forward to a second term as FLS Treasurer to continue this work with the FLS Executive Board, Auxiliary Volunteers, and state-wide Friends. There is so much more that we can do together - the more Friends/friends we have, the better!

Member at Large

Jennifer Allen
Executive Director,
Friends of the Saratoga
Springs Public Library

Candidate Statement

I am thrilled at the prospect of serving as a Member at Large within the NYLA Friends of Libraries Section board. Eagerly, I anticipate collaborating seamlessly with fellow board members and the esteemed executive committee. Over the last two years, I've proudly held the role of Executive Director for the Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library. This tenure has afforded me invaluable insights into the operations of Friends groups and their dynamic relationship with libraries. Additionally, my recent tenure as the NFOLW coordinator, coupled with active participation in FLS board meetings, has deepened my understanding of the sector. I am confident that my background and dedication will complement the FLS team seamlessly.



Member at Large

Meg Sgombick
Library Director, Florida
Public Library

Candidate Statement

I am pleased to be nominated for this position. As an appointed Member at Large, I look forward to continuing work with this dedicated group of library professionals. As one of the first recipients of the Randall Enos Conference Scholarship, I have FLS to thank for getting me involved with such a committed organization. As a member of my Friends Group, I appreciate their importance and look to continue to assist FLS in meeting their goals and plans for future.



FLS Casey Award

[continued from page 1](#)

Nominations must include all relevant information outlined on the application form. Selection criteria include contributions of the nominee (group or individual) to library service, including positions held, years of service, and accomplishments such as successful fundraisers and volunteer engagement. Community outreach, marketing initiatives, advocacy, and leadership should all be highlighted.

Providing supplemental materials to support the nomination letter, such as notices in the media, annual reports of Friends activities involving the nominee, letters of support from individuals that know the nominee's work, etc., assist the committee in gaining a full picture of the nominee's accomplishments and impact.

The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 1. All materials need to be sent electronically. Click [here](#) for additional information and the award packet, available as either a PDF or a Word file. Send questions to Lisa C. Wemett at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.

www.NYLA.org/Friends > Our Awards and Scholarships > FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award Information)

Fundraising Meets Sustainability



The Friends of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library held their second "Craft Supply Give & Take" event on April 20 and 21. Shoppers bought items with free-will donations, netting the group over \$5,000. Thanks to Wilma Jozwiak for sharing this great photo of the organized chaos that drew many eager crafters looking to expand their stash of yarn, fabric, and more! Tying this swap of craft supplies to Earth Day emphasized how this type of event was sustainability at its best, keeping these materials out of the landfill!

If you would like more details on FCPHL's first sale, see

FLS Enos Conference Scholarship

[continued from page 1](#)

"Some people are drawn to bars, some to church groups, I was drawn to the library!" This quote is by Randy Enos, who has spent a very successful professional career supporting libraries and library Friends groups. The FLS Executive Board has honored him by naming him President Emeritus and paid tribute to his commitment to professional development for volunteers and staff by establishing the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship in 2018. The scholarship is underwritten through an endowment funded by designated contributions to FLS.

Previous recipients of the RECS have written about their experiences after the conference that they attended. Their reflections include details on the programs and events they attended, takeaways from the event, and what they hoped to accomplish with their Friends group afterwards. Links to these articles are on the RECS web page. See below for that link.

Whether a community volunteer or a library staff member, applicants must be a member of FLS/NYLA* and involved in a local Friends group at any type of library in New York State. Applications must be received by 5 p.m., Saturday, June 1, 2024. Click here for additional information and the scholarship packet, available as either a PDF or a Word file.

The [application form](#) and supporting documentation should be submitted to FLS Scholarship Coordinator Marie Bindeman at mariebind1955@gmail.com. Please contact Marie with any questions via email or by phone: (716) 433-0548. The Scholarship Committee will review all eligible applications and notify applicants of the final results in the summer. Thank you for your interest and support.

www.NYLA.org/Friends > Our Awards and Scholarships > FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Information)

*** Please note:** In order to apply for this scholarship you will need to be registered in the **new NYLA membership system** by the application deadline.

"Craft Supply Fundraiser" on pages 4 and 11 of the August 2023 issue of Friends News and Notes. If you'd like a copy of the article, please email your request to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com. Questions about the 2024 sale can be directed to FCPHL volunteers at FOLCraftersSuppliesGandT@gmail.com

If your Friends Group sponsors a unique fundraiser or program, please tell us about it. Send your story, with photos, to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com. You could see your event featured in a future FLS newsletter. Thanks!

FLS Executive Board and Auxiliary Volunteers

Officers:

President: Chris Lund
 FLS Councilor: Jerrie Grantham
 First Vice President: Meg Van Patten
 Second Vice President (Membership): Amy Discenza
 Secretary: Joyce Maguda
 Treasurer: Terry Mulee
 Immediate Past President: Kerstin Cruger
 President Emeritus: Randall Enos

Members At Large:

Matt Corey
 Jim Foster
 Mary Giardini
 Erica Freudenberger
 Meg Sgombick
 Arlene Vaquer
 Ristiina Wigg

NYLA Committee Representatives:

Awards Committee: Joyce Laiosa
 Communications Committee: Terry Mulee
 Conference Ambassador: Meg Van Patten
 Continuing Education Committee: Matt Corey
 Governance: Chris Lund
 Intellectual Freedom Committee: Chris Lund
 Legislative Committee: Jean Sheviak
 Membership Committee: Amy Discenza
 NYLA Nominating: Erica Freudenberger
 Sponsorship/Fundraising: Terry Mulee

FLS Auxiliary Volunteers:

FLS Casey Award Coordinator: Lisa C. Wemett
 FLS Scholarships Coordinator: Marie Bindeman
 Coordinator for Professional Development: Lisa C. Wemett
 Marketing Coordinator: Meg Sgombick
 Nominating Committee Chair: Kerstin Cruger
 NFOLW Coordinator: Jen Allen
 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

FLS is not publishing email addresses in an attempt to eliminate phishing scams. Please use the NYLA Membership Directory to find contact information or use the FLS email. Please indicate your email recipient. 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
 Contributors: Lisa C. Wemett, Marie Bindeman, Amy Discenza

NYLA leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community.

NYLA FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES SECTION

Membership Benefits

First access to publications and learning opportunities to engage and inspire your Friends group

Reduced NYLA membership and NYLA Annual Conference rates

Opportunities to network and connect with Friends across New York State

Awards and scholarships, including the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award and the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

www.nyla.org/friends

ABOUT FLS

The Friends of Libraries Section (FLS) is a unit of the New York Library Association.

FLS's mission is to create a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.

FLS is for Friends of the Library and for those who support their mission.

Looking to organize a Friends group? FLS has resources for that.

JOIN NYLA / FLS

Maintaining a healthy membership helps ensure that FLS can continue our work.

NYLA offers personal and group membership rates for Friends of the Library. Already a NYLA member? It's easy to add FLS as a Section.

www.nyla.org/join

Volunteer with FLS

- Grow your network of Friends**
- Develop leadership skills**
- Make a difference**



Scan the code or complete an FLS Volunteer form at jotform.com



New York Library Association

Friends of Libraries Section



About FLS

The Friends of Libraries Section (FLS) is a unit of the New York Library Association. Our mission is to create a network to connect and inspire Friends groups in all types of libraries to support the New York library community. Learn more at www.nyla.org/friends.



FLS Membership Benefits

- Access to publications and learning opportunities to engage and inspire your Friends group, including FLS's newsletter, *Friends News and Notes*; archived webinars; and toolkits and resource pages on various Friends topics.
- Reduced Annual Conference rates. The 2024 NYLA Annual Conference will be held in Syracuse. Save the date for "Friends Day" on Friday, November 8.
- Opportunities to network and connect with Friends groups across NYS at in-person and virtual meetups.
- Awards and scholarships for Friends, including the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award for outstanding volunteers and the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship, which pays up to \$1,000 for an individual to attend the NYLA Annual Conference.



Join NYLA/FLS

NYLA offers reduced individual and group membership rates for Friends. Add your voice to a community of library supporters who are leading, educating, and advocating on behalf of libraries in New York State. With a strong and diverse membership, FLS can do more for its members.

Open enrollment in the new NYLA membership system runs through May 31. [Join now](#) and your membership will be active through May 31, 2025. Already a NYLA member? It's easy to add FLS as a Section.



Questions?

Contact the FLS Board at FLS.nyla@yahoo.com.

www.nyla.org/friends



New York Library Association

Friends of Libraries Section

Join Us!

Group Membership

A NYLA **Friends Group Organizational Membership** allows up to five members of a Friends group to join NYLA/FLS for a flat rate of \$100. Before completing the online membership form, Friends leaders should 1) identify which Friends volunteers will be included in their group's organizational membership and 2) determine who will serve as the key contact for the account.

In the NYLA membership system, an organizational account is made up of a collection of personal profiles with one profile designated as the **key contact**. Please choose your key contact carefully, as this individual will be responsible for managing your group's account and making sure all members are added accurately. *The key contact should be the one to complete the membership form on behalf of your organization. All Friends group information will be tied to their account.*

Become a member:

1. Visit www.nyla.org
2. Use the [Join Now](#) button or select [Become a Member](#) from the quick links menu on the right-hand side of the screen
3. At the login screen, scroll down to the heading **New Users** and read through the information provided. **Enter an email address** at the bottom of the screen and then **create a password** for the profile. (This email address will be the username for the key contact's personal profile in the organizational account.)
4. Select the **Friends Group** member type from the dropdown menu and **complete the remainder of the form with your organization's contact information**.
5. Once the organizational information is complete, the next fields will allow you, the key contact, to **create your own profile**. Under the **Unit Information** heading, please **select FLS** as your "included" specialty section.
6. Next, use the **Create Linked Profile** button at the bottom of the screen to create accounts for the other Friends volunteers who will be included in your group's membership.
7. At the payment screen, you'll have the option to **Pay Now** with a credit card or **Invoice Me**.
8. All accounts will be placed in a "pending" status for the NYLA office to review. Once the pending status is removed, all members included in your Friends Group Organizational Membership will be emailed their username and instructions to set up a profile and password.

www.nyla.org/friends

April 2024



New York Library Association **Friends of Libraries Section**

Join Us!

Personal Membership

A NYLA **Friend** level membership entitles one individual to become a member of NYLA/FLS for \$50/year.

Become a member:

1. Visit www.nyla.org
2. Use the [Join Now](#) button or select [Become a Member](#) from the quick links menu on the right-hand side of the screen
3. At the login screen, scroll down to the heading **New Users** and read through the information provided. **Enter an email address** at the bottom of the screen and then **create a password**.
4. Select the **Friend** member type from the dropdown menu and complete the remainder of the form with contact and demographic information.
5. Under the **Unit Information** heading, please **select FLS** as your “included” specialty section.
6. At the payment screen, you’ll have the option to **Pay Now** with a credit card or **Invoice Me**.
7. All accounts will be placed in a “pending” status for the NYLA office to review. Once the pending status is removed, your personal account will become active.

Add FLS to a current NYLA membership:

Already a NYLA member? You can add FLS as a section for \$15. To add FLS to your established NYLA Member Profile, [login](#) and click on the link to the [2024-2025 Unit Join Form](#) located under your welcome banner.

Questions?

Contact the FLS Board at FLS.nyla@yahoo.com. NYLA staff are also available Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and can be reached at **(518) 432-6952 x 104** or at membership@nyla.org.

More information about the new NYLA website and database can be found in the [Membership Database Guide](#), available under the Quick Links menu at www.nyla.org.

www.nyla.org/friends

April 2024