



Friends News and Notes

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

www.nyla.org/Friends

Volume 11, #4 -- July/August 2025

FLS Awards Two FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarships

The FLS Scholarship Committee recommended that two applicants receive the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship for 2025. At its June 12th meeting the Executive Board approved scholarships for Elaine Dunne, Friends of the Massena Public Library, and Michele Merwarth, Friends of the Marcellus Free Library.

Both women have worked in libraries, Elaine as a Director and Michele in a school library. And both now serve in their local, rural Friends of the library groups. Each will have the opportunity to experience the NYLA conference and all that event has to offer: pre-conference workshops, a full schedule of programming - including several Friends-themed options, special events, and all of the networking and socializing options.



Congratulations to Elaine Dunne and Michele Merwarth. They will each receive a \$1000 scholarship.

We'll feature both of these amazing women in a longer article in the September issue of FLS Friends News and Notes.

Elaine Dunne
Friends Trustee
Friends of the Massena
Public Library



Michele Merwarth
Corresponding Secretary
Friends of the Marcellus
Free Library

Actionable Advocacy *Friends-Themed Preview* NYLA 2025 Conference

FLS works with Friends and friends to ensure dynamic programming on topics of interest for Friends, volunteers, library staff, and trustees.

Here's this year's line-up:

Writing Winning Grant Proposals for Library Programming

Wednesday, Nov 5, 1:30-4:30 pm

Fighting Censorship: Friends as Allies

Thursday, Nov 6, 4:00-5:15 pm

A Crafty Way to Support Sustainability

Friday, Nov 7, 3:45-5:00 pm

FLS Showcase: Spotlight on Friends!

Saturday, Nov 8, 9:30-10:45 am

Collaborative Social Media Marketing for the Friends

Saturday, Nov 8, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Strengthening Community Connections: Friends Groups in Library Advocacy

Saturday, Nov 8, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

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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.

See more program details starting on [page 3](#). To access the conference app and more schedule and speaker details, go to the www.nyla.org > Events > Conference Schedule. On that page, scroll down to the blue Details button. That will take you to the app. Use the tabs to find the Schedule, Speakers, etc.





A Message from FLS President Chris Lund

Hello again, and happy summer! First things first, I'd like to thank all of you for voting in this year's elections and I'd like to congratulate all of our candidates who won. Welcome to all of our newly elected FLS Board Members -

Geoff Kirkpatrick (Vice President/ President Elect), Circe McKenney (Secretary), and Elaine Dunne (Member At Large). And thanks and congratulations to Jim Foster, Erica Freudenberger, and Mary Giardani, who were all re-elected to new terms as Members at Large.

This is also the time of year when we can finally start telling you about all of the great Friends sessions coming up at this year's Annual Conference. NYLA is returning to Saratoga Springs from November 5th to 8th for four days of networking and education opportunities. On Wednesday afternoon, we kick off with a CE session on writing grant proposals for library programming. Thursday's highlight informs Friends how they can be allies in fighting censorship. On Friday afternoon we'll be discussing ways to embed sustainability into your work supporting your library. On Saturday morning, we'll have poster sessions and accompanying presentations focusing on volunteer support and projects, followed by a Q&A session. And in the final Saturday program slot you can choose between learning how you can collaborate to use social media to market your Friends group and library, or building connections in your community to improve your advocacy efforts.

Visit <https://www.nyla.org/registration-information> to register. To view the schedule, starting from the registration page, choose "Events" on the top-right menu, then select "Conference Schedule" from the drop-down menu, then scroll down and click the "Details" button, then click on the "Schedule" tab. From there, you can view each day's schedule by selecting the date you'd like to view.

Lastly, if you haven't done so already, please make sure that when you renewed your NYLA membership, you also selected FLS as your primary section. To check on your status, log into your NYLA account and select "My NYLA Profile." You can then click on "My Profile" then "Forms I've Taken." This will show you a list of your recent submissions. Find the form titled "2025-2026 Membership Renewal Form" then click on the three dots on the right-hand side, then click "View." This will show you your renewal information. If you scroll down, there is a section titled "Choose your Included Section." If you chose FLS as your primary section, this should say "FLS - Friends of Libraries Section." If you chose FLS as an additional section, this will be listed under "Choose your Additional Sections." If you do not see FLS listed in either of these, that means you have not renewed your FLS membership yet. If this is the case, please renew as soon as you can! You can still add to your membership. On the Welcome screen, after logging into your account, choose the "2025-2026 Unit Join Form." Select the Sections and Roundtables that you wish to add and complete the payment or invoice me options on the next page.

Thanks as always, and we look forward to seeing you all in November!

Chris

FLS In-Person Meet-up in Rochester

Twenty-eight representatives of Friends organizations from nineteen libraries in eight public library systems gathered in-person to talk with the members of the FLS Executive Board on Thursday afternoon, June 12, at the eighth FLS meet-up. Travelers arrived from Onondaga County, Niagara Falls, Hornell, and several suburbs of Monroe County. A total of 37 people brought varying levels of experience to the table where ideas were shared to help strengthen the work of Friends in libraries large and small.

The FLS Board owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Adrienne Pettinelli, Library Director of the Henrietta Public Library, for her hands-on involvement in hosting the event and helping the Board have a very successful meeting in the morning with our members who were able to join us via videoconferencing using HPL's state-of-the-art technology.

Board members shared the plans for workshops of interest

to Friends at the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs this November. Planning ahead, FLS members are encouraged to

apply next year for the \$1000 award of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship by the June 1 deadline. Nominations for the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award are also due June 1. There are many benefits of personal and organizational memberships in the New York Library Association and groups were encouraged to join our ranks.

The meet-up was a lively exchange of ideas to keep Friends



Small group discussion at FLS Meet-up

~ continued on [page 10](#) ~



Actionable Advocacy NYLA 2025 Conference, November 4 - 8 Saratoga Hilton and City Center, Saratoga Springs NY Opportunities for Friends



Friends Conference Registration Options:

NYLA members registered at the Friend, Retired, Trustee, or Student level, or as part of a Friends Group Organizational Membership, are eligible for reduced rates to attend the conference. Advance registrations must be completed online by October 10. You will need your NYLA username and password in order to receive these reduced rates. The registration form will populate with the appropriate rates based on your NYLA member type. You may also register onsite, but the fee is higher. Look for complete conference registration information at

<https://www.nyla.org/registration-information>.

Full Conference:

A Full Conference registration includes entry to the NYLA Membership Meeting, Keynote, Trade Show (Thurs. and Fri.), all Program Slots and the Friday Awards Reception.

Full Conference with Pre-Conference:

A secondary Full Conference plus Pre-Conference registration is also available. This includes everything listed above plus Pre-Conference workshops on Wednesday; you may attend both a morning and afternoon session. FLS is hosting a Pre-Conference workshop in the afternoon.

You may also add ticketed events to your registration. These include the Empire State Library Network Luncheon on Thursday, Scholarship Bowl on Thursday evening, Youth Services Section Empire State Award or Public Libraries Section Author! Author! Luncheons on Friday, and the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable or New York Black Librarians Caucus 55th Anniversary Breakfasts on Saturday. Check the registration page and schedule for additional add-on events.

Single Day:

A Single Day registration is available for admission to the conference on just one day; Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

- ◆ Thursday Single Day includes the NYLA Membership Meeting, Keynote, Trade Show (10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), and Program Slots. Add-ons include the ESLN Luncheon and the Scholarship Bowl.
- ◆ Friday Single Day includes the Trade Show (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.), Program Slots, and a ticket to the Awards Reception. Add a luncheon ticket for either the YSS Empire State Award or PLS Author! Author!
- ◆ Saturday Single Day includes Program Slots. The Trade Show is not open on Saturday. You may add an Intellectual Freedom Roundtable Breakfast or a NYBLC - Honoring History, Inspiring the Future: NYBLC's 55th Anniversary Breakfast ticket.

Pre-Conference:

You may register to attend the Pre-Conference workshops without registering for the rest of the conference. There are morning and afternoon sessions. As mentioned, FLS is hosting a Pre-Conference workshop in the afternoon.

Single Event Tickets only:

It is also possible to purchase a ticket for only the Friday evening Awards Reception or a registration to attend just the Trade Show on Thursday and Friday.

Registration Reminders:

You must have an active NYLA Membership in order to register at the rates for NYLA members and also to receive the additional discounted rates for Friend, Retired, Trustee or Student member types. Please read all of the registration policy information before proceeding with your registration.

When you select a meal event you will be able to indicate any dietary accommodations you require. Be sure to secure your tickets by registering in advance; events often sell out early.

Should you need any special accommodations, or if you encounter any difficulties, or questions arise while registering, please contact Lauren Hoyt, NYLA's Director of Association Operations at events@nyla.org or call 518-432-6952, ext. 104.

FLS looks forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs this November!!

Conference Programming for Friends

Wednesday | November 5th

FLS Pre-Conference Continuing Education Workshop: Writing Winning Grant Proposals for Library Programming

1:30-4:30 pm

Presentation Description:

Grant writing has its own vocabulary and requisite planning steps which involve careful attention to detail. We will cover the essential components needed to develop solid proposals that will help you secure funds available for nonprofit organizations for arts and humanities programming designed with your community in mind. Learn how to effectively write about the needs, activities, goals, and outcomes of your

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Conference Programming for Friends, continued

Pre-Conference: Grants, continued from previous page

programs, starting with a grant profile. Communicate to funders that you have the ability to effectively carry out a project that will have wide impact on your audiences by careful preparation and follow through. Hear from grant writers who have successfully received funding from Humanities New York, Poets & Writers, and other regional funders. A grant director for a regional arts council will bring the unique perspective of a grant funder who helps grantseekers and artists build programs that qualify for the Community Arts Regrant funds from the NYS Council on the Arts. Learn how to tap these resources to benefit your library's patrons. Once you have sharpened these basic proposal writing skills and understand what funders are looking for, you will become successful time and again in the competitive arena of grant writing.

Presenters:



Erica Freudenberger (left) Library Development Specialist, Division of Library Development, New York State Library
Lisa C. Wemett (right) Coordinator for Professional Development, Friends of Libraries Section



Learning Objectives:

1. By the end of the session, participants will be able to describe the importance of developing solid working relationships with grant funders
2. By the end of the session, participants will be able to prepare an achievable proposal which will meet the organization's needs and match the interests of the funders
3. By the end of the session, participants will be able to design a comprehensive report on a grant project's progress and impact

Note:

Please remember that an additional registration fee is required to participate in a Pre-Conference Continuing Education Workshop. However, that registration entitles you to both a morning and an afternoon session on Wednesday. See the [Wednesday](#) conference schedule for a complete listing of Pre-Conference offerings. You'll indicate your choice(s) during registration.

Thursday | November 6th

Fighting Censorship: Friends as Allies

4:00-5:15 pm

Presentation Description:

Have questions about patron confidentiality and readers' rights? Want to ensure your library is doing everything in its power to support them? Join Michael Kirby, a Law for Librarians fellow, for an intellectual freedom workshop, geared specifically towards Friends of the Library. Participants will receive help with parsing the law around intellectual freedom in New York State, all while learning more about the importance of privacy and the right to read for both patrons and the profession in general.

Presenter:



Michael Kirby
Assistant Professor/Metadata Librarian
Kingsborough Community College

Learning Objectives:

1. Familiarity with NYS Library procedures for defending freedom to read.
2. Be able to locate resources to assist with promoting and defending intellectual freedom.
3. Provide information about intellectual freedom.

Friday | November 7th

A Crafty Way to Support Sustainability

3:45-5:00 pm

Presentation Description:

Two years ago, the Friends of the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library held a craft fundraiser that wasn't a sale at all. Their first Crafters Supplies Give & Take was not a sale of finished craft projects, but rather a swap of craft materials. People were encouraged to donate what you no longer need and buy with a free-will donation that you think is fair for what you are taking. Tons of supplies, fabric, ribbon, yarn, crafting tools, rubber stamps, and more came pouring in from generous crafters eager to share their stashes and make room at home for more! Pitched as Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle and help the Library it's a win/win/win, the Friends have now hosted three free-will donation events raising more than \$14,000 for library programs and services. The Give & Take team will share their planning methods, outline ways to involve and benefit the community, and discuss how debriefing makes for stronger events, year over year. Learn how Friends, the library's strongest advocacy arm, can

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Conference Programming for Friends, continued

Support Sustainability, continued from previous page

provide volunteer engagement and community buy-in as groups assist their libraries working toward achieving certification in the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program.

Presenter:



Wilma Jozwiak, Co-President,
Friends of the Clifton Park
Halfmoon Public Library

Learning Objectives:

1. By the end of the session, participants will be able to identify ways Friends groups can embed sustainability into their work to support their library
2. By the end of the session, participants will be able to conduct a free-will donation event as an eco-friendly fundraiser for their library and community
3. By the end of the session, participants will be able to summarize the important aspects of volunteers meeting to debrief an event in order to design and improve the success of a future event

Saturday | November 7th

FLS Showcase: Spotlight on Friends!

9:30-10:45 am

Presentation Description:

Back by popular demand! If you are shopping around for successful Friends initiatives, you'll pick up some great finds here! In these poster sessions, hear a 15-minute presentation by each of three participating Friends groups focusing on the volunteer support and projects at their libraries, followed by a question and answer session. Come learn about the "Get Out The Vote" initiative that helps one library succeed in passing their operating budget year after year. Will "Friend-raising" events like parades, community festivals, spelling bees, and clothing swaps champion the library and raise awareness about the Friends? Without a doubt! We'll have a chance to interact informally with our speakers one-on-one and get details on their best ideas. This format will highlight great things happening in our multi-talented volunteer groups that support libraries of all

Don't forget to look for the FLS booth at the Trade Show. There, you'll find Friendly faces, networking opportunities, and lots of information about Friends of libraries.

Come visit us!

sizes. Trust us: you're going to want to "borrow" these ideas and take them back home to your group!

Presenters:



Rebecca Verhayden (left),
Assistant Director of Planning
and Communication, Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library
Lisa C. Wemett (right) Coordinator for Professional
Development, Friends of Libraries Section



Learning Objectives:

1. By the end of the session, participants will be able to describe the importance of community volunteers and library staff developing solid working relationships to complete projects benefiting the library
2. By the end of the session, participants will be able to prepare a pitch to their Friends organization to replicate initiatives from our speakers that will meet the needs and interests of their home library's community
3. By the end of the session, participants will be able to design an activity or initiative which will have a positive impact on library patrons

Collaborative Social Media Marketing for the Friends

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Presentation Description:

Marketing initiatives involving social media and local media outlets can greatly increase awareness of both the Friends and the libraries they support. Placement is key! Strategic campaigns and social media buzz will keep your message popping up in all the right places! Our communications experts will share best practices and tips that will ensure you understand the importance of consistent messages and careful planning for your Facebook posts and other communications. With the library and Friends working cooperatively, you will be able to prioritize your marketing, partnerships, and promotions, whether for fundraising, advocacy, or literacy initiatives. Learn what can prove most effective in reinvigorating your organization's membership, keeping your volunteers involved and engaged, maintaining financial support from donors, and bringing new patrons to the library to enjoy all it has to offer its community.

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Conference Programming for Friends, continued

Social Media Marketing, continued from previous page

Presenters:



Amanda Menneto (left) Web and Digital Coordinator,
Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library
Lisa Totaro (right) Chair, Communications Committee,
Friends of the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library

Learning Objectives:

1. By the end of the session, participants will be able to identify ways Friends organizations can work collaboratively on marketing initiatives with their library staff members.
2. By the end of the session, participants will be able to use social media effectively to align the Friends' and library's branding to engage the community.
3. By the end of the session, participants will be able to summarize how social media can positively impact membership, volunteerism, and the financial viability of the Friends.

Strengthening Community Connections: Friends Groups in Library Advocacy

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

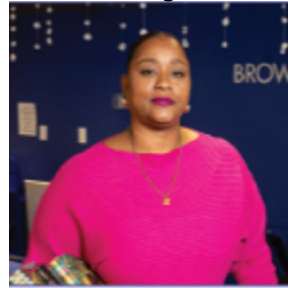
Presentation Description:

Friends of the Library groups are invaluable advocates, providing essential support, fundraising efforts, and community engagement that enhance library services. This session will explore actionable strategies to strengthen the advocacy role of Friends groups, ensuring they are equipped to champion library funding, support policy initiatives, and galvanize community awareness effectively. Through best practices, and interactive discussions, participants will learn how to mobilize Friends groups, cultivate strategic partnerships, and craft compelling advocacy messages. Attendees will obtain practical tools to empower their Friends groups, amplify their impact, and create lasting change by supporting libraries and the communities they serve.

Presenters:

All from Brooklyn Public Library
(see next column for more)

Alicia Pritchard
Branch Manager



Sharon Palmer
Regional Director



Nicole Bryan
Branch Manager



LaMeane Isaac
Regional Director



Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will learn actionable advocacy strategies and practical methods to strengthen the efforts of Friends groups.
2. Participants will learn how to cultivate valuable partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government entities to support library advocacy efforts.
3. Participants will learn how to mobilize Friends Groups for Impact: Activating, Energizing, and Fundraising to Drive Change for Libraries.

Membership in a Minute!

We know memberships are the lifeblood of Friends groups. We also know you are incredibly busy and if you had time to read a book on how to grow your Friends group, you'd do it. So we're going to bring the membership tips to you, straight to your inbox.

FLS is instituting a new members-only benefit, a free subscription to an email resource to help your group build the membership ranks you need to have a successful Friends group. Once a week, right in your mailbox, you'll find a Membership in a Minute message. Each message will be under 200 words in length; we guarantee you'll be able to read it in a minute or less.

Tips will rotate through a series of topics, with week #1 giving a suggestion specific to membership and volunteer engagement. Week #2 will cover incentives to join and

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National Friends of Libraries Week - Coming soon to a library near you! October 19-25, 2025

With 2025 being the 20th anniversary of National Friends of Libraries Week (NFOLW), here are 20 inspirational ideas for Friends groups, individual Friends, and libraries to consider including in this year's celebration:

1. Sign up for information on 20th Anniversary special events being planned by United for Libraries, and to receive NFOLW graphics and resources. <https://airtable.com/app4qX4j5AqpVHaxI/shrmVqMVNWZsZPsF9>
2. Set a membership goal that has something to do with the number 20! 20 members, 20 new members, or increase your membership by 20% - whatever is right for your group.
3. Create a "NFOLW Storywalk" in the greenspace along the walkway to the library that tells what the Friends do: Advocate. Donate. Fundraise. Programs. Promote. Volunteer. New Members Welcome!
4. Set up an eye-catching display to recruit new members. Have Friendly volunteers there to chat with passers-by when the library is likely to be busy.
5. Enter all new members in a drawing for \$20 worth of books from your Bookstore or your next Book Sale or \$20 worth of raffle tickets for your next raffle.
6. Offer a "Friends 2 (f)0(r) 1" deal: A person joining at \$X level can designate a friend to also become a member of the Friends at no extra cost. Both will receive any benefits that your group provides.
7. Give new members a "20th Anniversary of NFOLW" coupon redeemable for some perk, such as a free raffle ticket for the next Friends raffle.
8. Make arrangements for a Friends reunion that includes Friends from past years.
9. Provide recognition to any member from 2005 that is still on your roster!
10. Advocate for state and national Friends groups: In an email blast to your members, publicize the work done on behalf of libraries in New York State by the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association and at the national level by United for Libraries: Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. These organizations need Friends now more than ever, too!
11. Plan something fun for each day of NFOLW. Check out United for Libraries' Promotion and Celebration Ideas for Friends Groups. https://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folwek/friends
12. Publicize your daily activities on your Friends, library, and community social media, local bulletin boards and newsletters.
13. Reaffirm your appreciation to those businesses who donated funds, prizes, raffle items, etc. with a follow-up note to say thanks again for their support. Include a library newsletter.
14. Put a large, colorful tag with your logo on items in the

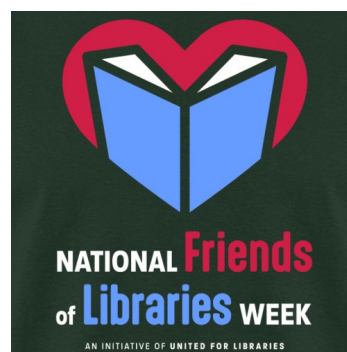
library paid for by the Friends. Create a "Provided by the Friends..." post for Facebook.

15. Have library patrons vote for what they wish the library had "more of." Whatever wins, the Friends will contribute a pre-determined amount.
16. Wear "Friends of (Your) Library" attire: button, shirt, hat, and a big smile everywhere you go during NFOLW. Carry Friends brochures to give to anyone who asks why you look so happy!
17. Add NFOLW info to social emails as part of your email signature. Include an invitation to the recipient to become a Friend and include a link to your Friends website.
18. Include a sequence on the library's video sign "Thanks to the Friends for ____, ____, etc."
19. Or, maybe go low-tech: use sidewalk chalk as an unexpected and unusual (these days!) way for the library to simply say "Thank You to Our Friends for ALL They Do."
20. Use the library Button Maker to create "We Love Our Friends!" for the library staff to wear (no date or a detachable date makes them reusable next year). Or the staff might opt to wear them year-round!

For more ideas, activities, and links to resources, review the March 2024 Friends News and Notes article on pages 7-10, "FLS Connections! Making the Most of National Friends of Libraries Week," a presentation by Jillian Wentworth, Deputy Director for Strategy and Engagement for United for Libraries. FLS members can log into their member account to access this issue in the newsletter archives: www.nyla.org/Friends > Our Newsletter.

Take advantage of the opportunity that National Friends of Libraries Week provides to promote your group and your library. That's what Friends are for!

Submitted by Paulette Quinn, FLS Coordinator for National Friends of Libraries Week



#NationalFriendsofLibrariesWeek
#friendsofthelibrary
#libraryfriends



NYC Friends Council

Part of the series, "Friends Councils Offer Networking"

by Lisa C. Wemett, Jerrie Grantham, and Aréan Diaz



Not that we need reminding, but New York State is incredibly diverse: rural farmland, the peaks of the Adirondacks and Catskills, close-knit villages and mid-size cities along the Erie Canal, and waterfalls and lakes to enjoy. We are also home to the metropolitan mega city and cultural heartbeat of the country, the "Big Apple," New York, NY! FLS is excited to share how two urban library systems, Queens and Brooklyn, are joining forces to assist Friends of the Library that support branches throughout these systems.

Brooklyn is the most populous of the five boroughs of New York City. The [Brooklyn Public Library](#) (BPL) serves more than 2.7 million residents in every neighborhood and from every walk of life. The majority of the borough's population live within a half-mile of a BPL branch. In 2024, BPL offered more than 73,000 free programs, with over 816,000 attendees. Volunteers, some 900+ strong, logged a total of 30,000 volunteer hours last year.

Similarly, [Queens Public Library](#) (QPL) is one of the largest and busiest public library systems in the United States. Its population, 2.4 million people, ranks Queens #2 on the list of the city's boroughs. Queens is very ethnically and culturally diverse with approximately 47% of its residents being foreign-born. QPL consists of 66 locations, including branch libraries, a Central Library, and many community locations, along with two bookmobiles and two book bicycles.

Via email, I interviewed the staff members working to establish the new NYC Friends Council. Below you'll see the questions and the answers provided by Jerrie Grantham, Assistant Director of Civic Engagement for Queens Public Library (QPL), and Aréan Diaz, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL). Jerrie also volunteers as FLS Councilor, serving as the FLS representative on NYLA Council.

Tell me a little about your position in the library administration and your work with Friends groups. Beyond the Friends, what does civic or community engagement look like? What else fills your work week?

Jerrie: A large portion of my work revolves around educating the public about civic literacy, providing a blueprint for the community to be more engaged citizens with the library's Civic Leadership Training Initiative (see below), and managing the Friends of QPL to support the library through service, advocacy, and outreach. No day is the same, and I am often going between working with city agencies and planning community events with the Friends.

Aréan: My responsibility at BPL is to ensure that our partners

in government understand the role the library serves in Brooklyn, managing BPL's relationship with elected officials, community leaders, library advocates, and branch staff. I travel around the BPL system representing the Government Affairs team at events with elected officials and community organizers, coordinating voter registration drives to ensure BPL is adequately stocked with voter registration forms, assisting with participatory budgeting initiatives at multiple branches, and promoting library advocacy amongst our patrons.

About how many Friends groups are in your respective service areas?

Jerrie: In July 2024, Queens Public Library expanded our network to include one large "Friends of QPL" group with existing neighborhood chapters being grandfathered into the new model. A majority of our chapters chose to adopt the new model. However, we still have some "legacy" active chapters who also participate in larger system-wide activities. Combined we have over 100 active Friends members.

Aréan: BPL has six regions within the system and each region has at least two Friend groups. One region has the most at six Friend groups!

How do you keep your community volunteers informed?

Jerrie: My department, Civic Engagement, has a quarterly e-newsletter that advises on what Friends have been up to. In addition, we have email blasts with various calls-to-action throughout different campaigns.

Aréan: My department distributes monthly systemwide updates that we share at meetings and community events.

How frequently do you envision the NYC Friends Council getting together? Will you both co-chair this group?

Jerrie and Aréan truly enjoy working together on "all things Friends" and will co-chair the NYC Friends Council. Jerrie said, "Ideally, the NYC Friends Council will meet virtually once a year to give both groups an opportunity to network. Although Queens and Brooklyn are 'close' geographically, it is not easy to travel between them via public transportation. Meeting virtually ensures we can get the highest turnout among our respective Friends groups."

Both of these staff members are looking forward to their

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Friends Council, continued from previous page



Jerrie Grantham, Assistant Director of Civic Engagement (second from left), with Friends of Queens Public Library at Pride Parade

having Friends in large urban library systems. With the NYC Friends Council, both systems will benefit from networking with like-minded community volunteers and sharing information to support the mission of these dedicated groups.

You can read more about the Friends organizations in each of these systems on their webpages: [Friends of QPL](#) and [Friends of Brooklyn Public Library](#). The Queens Public Library has a Civic Leadership Training Initiative, a series of free virtual workshops aimed at providing resources and professional development to anyone committed to helping others. Leaders of Friends organizations wherever they are located are welcome to attend to learn about leadership styles, building community by creating inclusive and welcoming environments, and other topics to inspire community leaders. View their offerings here, [Queens Library | Civic Leadership - Workshop Calendar](#).

Brooklyn's Friends page includes their Friends handbook, code of conduct, templates for fliers for events like bake sales, and links to helpful Friends websites. Check out their calendar of Friends events, which include book discussion groups and craft clubs.

As pointed out on Brooklyn's Friends of the Library webpage,

next Friends gathering. Aréan said, "It is always exciting to have our Friend groups get together! We get to share amazing ideas and create a larger sense of community between our systems." As Jerrie pointed out, it is unique

the support and advocacy of the Friends "ensures neighborhood libraries have essential funds to purchase program supplies and care for well-tread spaces. Above all, you help educate your community about BPL, so that more people can benefit from our diverse resources and services." This is the mission of all Friends groups, regardless of the size of the library they support!



Aréan Diaz, Community Engagement Coordinator (second from left), with Friends of Sheepshead Bay Library, Brooklyn Public Library

FLS has developed a **"Toolkit for Friends Councils"** with a checklist on how to start a Friends Council along with materials which can be used by public library system personnel considering establishing a Friends Council in their region. Motivated volunteers in a system without a Friends Council could also take the lead in creating a Council with their fellow community volunteers. The toolkit provides samples of correspondence with public library system personnel, a sample of an agenda for a Council meeting, and an invitation to join. The toolkit is attached as an addendum to this newsletter.

If you are interested to establish a Friends Council in your region, please contact us at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com. The FLS Coordinator on Friends Councils, Jim Foster, will gladly guide you in these efforts. Jim is the Assistant Director of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library where he also serves as Staff Liaison to the library's Friends. He can be reached directly at jfoster@sals.edu or (518) 371-8622 ext. 2214.

Membership in a Minute, continued from [page 6](#)

perks for Friends supporters. Week #3 will provide help with volunteer recruitment and week #4, volunteer recognition and donor relations. You can see, there's a lot to learn about membership! We think you'll find lots of ways to apply these ideas to your organization.

We'll introduce you to noteworthy articles from the archives of the Friends News and Notes newsletter. Whenever possible, we'll provide links to online articles or webinars for further exploration of a topic. We'll cite examples from Friends groups that are doing great work, with links to their

websites or Facebook pages. A strong membership or donor base keeps a Friends group healthy. We want your groups to thrive. By bringing membership tips directly to your inbox, we hope you will give this aspect of your volunteer work the regular attention it needs.

You've got a Friendly researcher and champion who is ready to send you messages with great nuggets your group can use right away. This service will run from Labor Day through May 2026. Questions can be directed to us at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.

NYS Friends Receive Grants

United for Libraries (UFL) recently announced 51 recipients of a new grant program funded by publishing company Penguin Random House. Congratulations to the newly-formed **Friends of the Morton Memorial Library** in Pine Hill (Mid-Hudson Library System) and the **Friends of the Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library** (Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System)! Of the nearly 20 applicants from Friends supporting libraries in New York, these two groups made it through the process to receive an award. Nationwide, more than 290 applications were received for these grants. Competition for the funding was fierce, with only 11% of the submissions receiving cash awards. View the full list of grantees [here](#).



Library Director Gisi Vella stated that the [Morton Memorial Library](#) was thrilled and grateful to receive this national award. "We hope this grant will help us expand programming and services, deepen our outreach, and actively engage our patrons in the life of the library." Gisi continued, "By launching our Friends of the Library group, we aim to build a strong volunteer base to support fundraising, building maintenance, and community-led programming—crucial efforts for a small rural library like ours. We need all the help we can get, and this grant is an essential step in sustaining and growing our impact."

The Penguin Random House cash grants totaled \$25,000. Friends groups supporting rural and small libraries across the US were encouraged to apply for priority projects, such as outreach to older adults, technology upgrades, and programs for youth. Twenty additional libraries received in-kind book donations of \$500 for their collections.

Would you like to submit grant proposals to help your library? Wouldn't it be great to feel that surge of excitement and adrenaline by being selected one of the grant recipients? Then please consider attending the FLS pre-conference, **Writing Winning Grant Proposals for Library Programming**, on Wednesday, November 5, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs. Presented by Erica Freudenberger and Lisa C. Wemett, both of whom have served as grant reviewers and will be sharing best practices and tips on crafting grant proposals. Learn more [here](#).

The Friends of the Morton Memorial Library received \$500 to help jumpstart their fledgling organization, working with the library's administration and Board of Trustees to establish this vital support group and launch its initial activities. The [Friends of the Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library](#) was awarded \$1,000 to purchase an Aunt Flow free-vend dispenser supplied with pads and tampons for the library's ADA compliant bathroom. This one bathroom serves the library's visitors as well as the staff. The library administration feels that providing free period products is another step in making the library accessible to all. The newly revitalized Friends organization is committed to providing funds for products for the dispenser as needed. Both Friends groups will also receive complimentary e-learning resources from United for Libraries, including a year of access to UFL's [Learning Live](#) monthly webinar series.

FLS In-Person Meet-up in Rochester, continued from [page 2](#)

groups growing strong to continue their valuable work. Four different topics were discussed in small groups during a breakout session, including (a) new and different fundraising ideas; (b) community outreach, effective use of social media, and partnerships; (c) retention of members, benefits or perks for members, and volunteer recognition; (d) leadership and succession planning. Gathering back together, each discussion group highlighted their top three "best practices" or tips. The afternoon concluded with round-the-table reports when each group had an opportunity to share some of the great things happening with their Friends.

FLS Coordinator for Professional Development Lisa Wemett organized the event with the assistance of the entire FLS Board and auxiliary volunteers. Notes from each discussion group were compiled and distributed via email to those who attended.

Ten years ago, the FLS Board held its first meet-up in May 2015 at the Vestal Public Library. We are hoping to return to

Vestal in 2026 for further successful discussions of "all things Friends!" As soon as we have settled on a date, we'll let you know where to "meet-up" with us!

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



Editor's Note:

We were pleased to have Emily Clasper, the new Director of the Rochester Public Library and Monroe County Library System, join us. She was between meetings, but Emily felt it was important to stop in, meet people, and thank

library Friends for their service. To her left is Lisa C. Wemett, FLS Member At Large, and to her right is Susan Swanton, long-time member - and former newsletter editor - of EFR and FLS.

FLS Executive Board and Auxiliary Volunteers

Officers

President: Chris Lund
FLS Councilor: Jerrie Grantham
First Vice President: Meg Van Patten
Second Vice President: currently vacant
Secretary: Joyce Maguda
Treasurer: Terry Mulee
Immediate Past President: currently vacant
President Emeritus: Randall Enos

Members At Large

Jen Allen
Matt Corey
Jim Foster
Erica Freudenberger
Mary Giardini
Meg Sgombick
Lisa C. Wemett

NYLA Committee Representatives

Awards Committee: Meghan Lenahan
Communications Committee: Terry Mulee
Conference Ambassador: Meg Van Patten
Continuing Education Committee: Matt Corey
Governance: Chris Lund
Intellectual Freedom Committee: Chris Lund
Legislative Committee: Marjorie Focarazzo
Membership Committee: Mary Giardini
Sponsorship/Fundraising: Terry Mulee

FLS Auxiliary Volunteers

Voting Alternate for FLS Councilor: Chris Lund
FLS Casey Award Coordinator: Lisa C. Wemett
FLS Enos Scholarship Coordinator: Terry Mulee
Coordinator for Professional Development:
Lisa C. Wemett
Coordinator of FLS Trade Show Booth: Jen Allen
Coordinator on Friends Councils: Jim Foster
Marketing Coordinator: Meg Sgombick
Nominating Committee Chair: Erica Freudenberger
NFOLW Coordinator: Paulette Quinn
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.

FLS Elections and By-laws

The results are in and we are pleased to announce that the candidates nominated for open FLS positions have been elected (See the [President's Message](#)). Their terms will begin at the NYLA conference in November and they will be installed on the FLS Board at the FLS Annual Membership Meeting on November 19. This meeting will be held via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Registration information will be available this fall.

In addition, the vote on amending the FLS By-laws also passed. The new by-laws incorporate changes in several governance areas that mirror the Section's current operations and align with NYLA's existing by-laws. This new document went into effect immediately following the close of the election. You can find it at www.nyla.org/Friends > [Our Bylaws](#).

Donate to the FLS Enos Conference Scholarship Fund

Please consider a donation to the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Fund to ensure this worthy scholarship well into the future.

To make a donation, log in to your existing NYLA account (or create one) at <http://www.nyla.org>. Once you have logged in, select "Make a Donation" from the Quick Links. Scroll down that page until you find the FLS Randall Enos Scholarship Fund and enter your donation amount. Then scroll to the bottom and select "next" to complete your donation. To use your credit card, select "Pay Now" and continue with your payment details. To send a check, select "Invoice Me" and complete the page. Once you receive the invoice via email, print it out and mail it to NYLA along with your check.

Thanks for your continued support of FLS and the Friends who help libraries across New York State.

This newsletter is a publication of the
Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association.

Newsletter Editor: Terry Mulee
Proofreader and Contributor: Lisa C. Wemett

The current issue of Friends News and Notes is available on the FLS [Our Newsletter](#) page. Archived issues back to August of 2023 may be accessed by FLS members.

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

Toolkit for Friends Councils document on next page



Friends of Libraries Section

*FLS creates a network to connect and inspire Friends groups
in all types of libraries to support the New York library community.*

www.NYLA.org/Friends

Toolkit for Friends Councils

Second edition

Introduction

What is a Friends of the Library?

A Friends of the Library group is a community-based support organization whose aim is to further the goals of the library in the local community. Successful, effective Friends of the Library work closely with the library's Board of Trustees and staff but are independent organizations. Some Friends seek nonprofit status from the Internal Revenue Service and may register as public charities for fundraising purposes. These community volunteers believe in the library's mission and are primarily concerned with advancing the library, its plans, and priorities.

What are the benefits to the library of having a Friends of the Library group?

Friends of the Library are usually active in raising money for the library, volunteering, and increasing awareness of the library through advocacy efforts. These activities often result in an enhancement of the library's image in the community. The Friends underwriting of "extras" outside the scope of the library's operating budget may lead to the development of additional or expanded library collections, programs, and services.

What is a Friends Council?

Generally organized by the geographic region of a public library system's service area in New York State, a Friends Council is a gathering of representatives from member libraries' Friends groups. The Council may meet in-person or virtually once or twice a year. Some public library systems provide an annual Friends forum, leadership workshops, or meet-ups for Friends. A Friends Council can build on these established events.

In-person gatherings may be held at different libraries, providing those who work with Friends organizations an opportunity to network and exchange best practices. A Friends Council meeting is a sharing session where each Friends group can present a question or problem that they are experiencing or provide suggestions to other Friends to help them overcome obstacles to their goals.

Typically, a topic is selected for discussion at the meeting. A speaker may be invited to introduce the theme and present information, methods, or samples that encompass the

chosen topic. Common areas of interest for discussion may include fundraising, membership engagement, volunteer recognition, and roles of the Friends and the library administration. Round-the-table time can allow Friends from each library to talk about their group's current activities.

To facilitate communication, a listserv might be set up by the library system to keep the Friends volunteers and staff connected with one another. Meeting notices can be posted to the listserv, and members may be able to post questions to gain input on a pressing issue.

Audience for this toolkit

The materials presented here include a worksheet on how to set up a Friends Council. It can be used either by public library system personnel considering establishing a Friends Council for their system or by a motivated volunteer in a system without a Friends Council who is willing to take the lead on the work to start a Council with their fellow community volunteers.

Scope of this toolkit

This toolkit provides a checklist for establishing a Friends Council, sample correspondence with public library system personnel, and an example of an agenda for a Friends Council meeting. Once a Council is underway, a sample invitation to participate is provided to encourage other individuals to join.

Basic Directions

If you are considering coordinating a Friends Council in your public library system or region, first review the **FLS/NYLA Checklist for Establishing a Friends Council**. The checklist provides guidance through a set of simple steps, including collecting contact information on key volunteers in Friends organizations in your region. The Friends of Libraries Section continuously is working to develop inventories of Friends groups throughout New York State and volunteers are available to assist you in this task.

At the conclusion of the checklist is a list of a series of articles published in the FLS "Friends News and Notes" newsletter which outline how various Friends Council operate. The checklist includes additional ideas that could be used at a meeting. Follow up with your participants by distributing minutes or other handouts from the meeting and setting the next date to get together. You're on your way!

Appendices

This list includes the resources cited throughout the toolkit above. These sample documents are included here in their entirety. Individual documents in either MS Word or as a PDF can be furnished. Please send your request to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.

1. FLS/NYLA Checklist for Establishing a Friends Council

2. Sample agenda Friends Council
3. Sample cover letter to public library system personnel to encourage them to establish a Friends Council in their system
4. Sample invitation to a Friends volunteer to participate in Friends Council

FLS/NYLA Checklist for Establishing a Friends Council
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FLS/NYLA Checklist for Establishing a Friends Council

Considering coordinating a Friends Council in your public library system or region? Here are simple steps to follow. Please contact **the Friends of Libraries Section** at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Collect contact information of key volunteers in the Friends organizations in your region to develop a group email list. Reach out to FLS to see if an inventory exists for your public library system. If a list does not yet exist, you could help FLS/NYLA to develop one. Once the Council is established, the group list of emails could be maintained as a system distribution list or have the functionality of a listserv for sharing information on Friends topics.

In an introductory email to Friends contacts, **explain the idea of a Friends Council**. Indicate that you are looking for Friends volunteers or interested library staff members to gather together, in-person or remotely, to share ideas, support, and encouragement. The Council can agree to meet one, two, or more times each year. Ask people if they would prefer a meeting by video conference (e.g., Zoom) or to gather face-to-face at a library in a central location in your system.

Set a **date and location** for an initial meeting. After the initial meeting, determine how people would like to meet in the future. Alternating between in-person and virtual meetings might be a preference. Do whatever works best for the groups in your area.

Create an **agenda** for the meeting. Here is a sample based on other Friends Councils:

- Introductions – people and groups introduce themselves, identifying their library.
- Decide on a name for your Friends Council. Suggestions: Friends Helping Friends, Friends Alliance, Friends Together, etc. These can have the System name incorporated i.e., OWWL Friends Alliance or SALS Friends Together.
- OPTIONAL: Invite a guest speaker who can address the discussion topic or related topic of interest to attendees.
- Discuss a topic. To give the meeting some structure, have Friends share their best practices. Here are some ideas for topics: engaging Friends members in

Friends activities; membership recruitment techniques; structure of committees; fundraising events other than book sales.

- Round the table conversations – encourage each group to share what they are doing or ask questions of their colleagues.
- Members of the Executive Board of the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association could be invited to share FLS/NYLA news, information on upcoming professional development opportunities for Friends, and more.
- Consider details for the next council meeting: where (virtual or in-person), when (annually or more than once/year), time of day, length of meeting, food, discussion topics. (With in-person meetings, some Friends Councils rotate the hosting responsibilities, meeting at different libraries.)

Someone will need to **take notes** at each meeting and distribute them to attendees afterwards. The notetaker or secretary could be an ongoing volunteer position or rotated among those in attendance. Formal minutes are not required although good notetaking is recommended. Attendees will appreciate having the discussion topics to review after the meeting.

Follow-up. Make sure the next meeting is tentatively scheduled on the library system's calendar. Determine who will be responsible for calling the next meeting and where it will be held. The Council secretary's duties might include distributing a "call to meeting" notice, the agenda, and possibly the Zoom link to the group email list. Repeat this process for subsequent meetings. Adjust the agenda and topics to suit the Friends Council's needs.

These council meetings are relaxed and somewhat informal. Food is always a draw if the meeting is in person!

Best of luck in establishing your Friends Council!

Looking for ideas on how different Councils operate? See the series, "**Friends Councils Offer Networking,**" in the FLS "Friends News and Notes" newsletters:

- January 2023, p.3: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Friends Council
- April 2023, p.6: Monroe County Library System Friends Council
- August 2023, p.10: Southern Adirondack Library System Friends Council

There is no longer an archive of the FLS "Friends News and Notes" newsletter on the FLS/NYLA webpage. You may request a PDF of any of these articles by sending an email to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.

Is your Friends Council established and you would like to invite a new volunteer or staff member to join these gatherings? See the sample invitation included in this toolkit that will help you reach out to a new participant.

Sample agenda Friends Council

Monroe County Friends Council, Spring Meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

6:30 p.m. Early birds: take a tour of the library

Business meeting: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Irondequoit Public Library

1290 Titus Avenue, Rochester NY 14617

Entrance to the parking lot is off Kings Highway and behind the library.

(585) 336-6060

Meeting Room #113

Please use main entrance and greeters will point your way to the room.

Light refreshments will be served

6:30 p.m.

Tour of the library, including the Maker's Lab

7 p.m.

Welcome remarks – [REDACTED] President, Friends of the Irondequoit Public Library

7:10 p.m.

Maker's Lab. [REDACTED] will introduce us to the tools and equipment that allow people to create science, technology, and artistic projects.

7:40 p.m.

News from the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association

7:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Round-the-table reports from each group present; everyone will have something to share about their group's current activities.

Please bring samples of your membership brochures, book sale posters, event fliers, and any other items that would be helpful (and fun) to share.

Next meeting:

Henrietta Public Library. **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

Minutes will be distributed after the meeting by Lisa C. Wemett, Secretary for the MCLS Friends Council.

Need to update your email or be added to the MCLS Friends Council listserv? Please send Lisa your changes.

**Sample cover letter to public library system personnel
to encourage them to establish a Friends Council
in their system**

*This letter is a sample that could be sent to public library system personnel
to encourage them to create a Friends Council for their system.*

If appropriate, consider putting this letter on letterhead.

Dear _____,

The Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association started a task force in 2021 to work on establishing Friends Councils at public library systems around the state. [*personalize with the system's name*] is one of the systems which currently does not have a Council and I would like to assist in getting one started.

A Friends Council is an in-person or virtual gathering of representatives from member libraries' Friends organizations. The Council meets once or twice a year to provide library civic leaders and library staff who work with Friends an opportunity to network and share best practices

Typically, a topic is selected for discussion. A speaker may be invited to introduce the theme and present information, methods, or samples that encompass the chosen topic. Common areas of interest for discussion could include fundraising, membership engagement, volunteer recognition, and the roles of the Friends and the library administration. Each Friends group is then given an opportunity to contribute their experiences, ask questions, or explain what activities their Friends group is currently involved in.

Community volunteers involved in supporting their library value an opportunity to meet with their peers. A Friends Council is a sharing session where each Friends organization can present a question or problem that they are experiencing or provide suggestions to another group to help them overcome obstacles to their goals.

The FLS Task Force on Friends Councils has also worked to compile a census of Friends organizations in the NYS public library systems. A contact list providing names of key Friends volunteers and their emails is being provided for groups in your system. It could easily be used to create a Friends email list or active listserv for interested volunteers and staff members. We're also including a brief worksheet outlining the steps to take to help get a Friends Council established.

We hope you find these items useful. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about initiating a Friends Council in your system.

Sincerely,

- close with your name, position
- email where you may be reached
- telephone number you prefer

Attachments:

Census of Friends organizations and contact information
FLS/NYLA Checklist for Establishing a Friends Council

<p style="text-align: center;">Sample invitation to a Friends volunteer to participate in Friends Council</p>
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Dear [Friends volunteer],

I wanted to let you know that twice a year Friends groups in the [insert geographic region] get together to talk shop. You would be most welcome to join us for those discussions.

The Any Region Library System's Friends Council is an in-person gathering of representatives from member libraries' Friends organizations. The Council meets once in the spring and once in the fall at different libraries to provide those who work with Friends an opportunity to network and share best practices. The ARLS Friends Council is a sharing session where each Friends organization can present a question or problem that they are experiencing or provide suggestions to another group to help them overcome obstacles to their goals.

Typically, a topic is selected for discussion at the meeting which runs 90 minutes. A speaker may be invited to introduce the theme and present information, methods, or samples that encompass the chosen topic. Common areas of interest for discussion have included fundraising, membership engagement, volunteer recognition, and roles of the Friends and the library administration. Each Friends group also explains what activities their organization is currently involved in. It's always wonderful to hear what other groups are doing!

I think you might value this opportunity to meet with your peers. There is no cost to be involved. If you would like to be on our email distribution list to receive notices of the meetings, please let me know. Our fall meeting is slated for [insert day/date/time] and will be hosted by the Friends of the Idyllic Public Library.

Let me know if you have any questions. We hope to see you at our next meeting.

**Additional Resources from the Friends of Libraries Section
of the New York Library Association**
www.nyla.org/friends

Membership in FLS

Library civic leaders involved in their local Friends of the Library are encouraged to join the members of the Friends of Library Section (FLS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA). See the Membership tab at www.nyla.org.

NYLA runs on a fixed membership year: all memberships begin on June 1 and expire on May 31. Just as libraries need Friends to thrive, the Friends of Libraries Section needs Friends to do the same. FLS facilitates conversations between Friends at in-person and virtual meet-ups; inspires you by featuring the work of Friends groups across New York State both in our newsletter and in sessions at the NYLA Annual Conference; and honors outstanding volunteers and promotes the personal growth of Friends through awards and scholarships. 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, one of whom is designated as the **key contact**, to join NYLA for a single flat rate which reflects as much as a **savings of 50%** over individual memberships. **We encourage your group to support FLS by joining FLS/NYLA.**

To enroll in the system, you need to establish login credentials and create a user profile; however, your membership is not activated until you submit payment and it is processed by NYLA staff. All new accounts are placed in a "pending" status following submission. **Your NYLA membership comes with one Section affiliation of your choice. Please choose FLS.**

Any questions about NYLA membership, please contact NYLA's Director of Association Operations at (518) 432-6952, ext. 104, or via email: membership@nyla.org. FLS and NYLA look forward to growing with you. Keep it Friendly out there!

Training

FLS has offered the services of a cadre of trainers since 2015. The trainers are FLS leaders with backgrounds in volunteer services, librarianship, and Friends of the Library organizations. Send us an email at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com to learn more. We'll provide you with a document **"Considering hosting an FLS Workshop at your location?"**

with details on how to bring these workshops to your region. FLS volunteers can also develop workshops customized to your group's needs.

The training sessions currently available are:

- Getting Started: Creating and Supporting a Friends Group for Your Library
- Keep It Growing! Strengthening Your Friends of the Library Group
- ABCs of Best Practices for Friends Groups

Getting Started and Keep It Growing are two-hour in-person workshops. ABCs can be offered in-person or virtually and runs for 75 minutes.

Friends Councils

If you are interested to establish a Friends Council in your region, please contact us at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com. The FLS Coordinator on Friends Councils, Jim Foster, will gladly guide you in these efforts. Jim is the Assistant Director of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library where he also serves as Staff Liaison to the library's Friends. He can be reached directly at jfoster@sals.edu or (518) 371-8622 ext. 2214.

For more information or assistance, contact FLS/NYLA anytime at FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.

The FLS **Toolkit for Friends Councils** was originally prepared 8/1/23.
Further revisions and supplemental documents were included 5/21/25.

Compiled and written by Lisa C. Wemett, FLS Coordinator for Professional Development,
in conjunction with the FLS Task Force on Friends Councils.

The Friends of Libraries Section is a unit of the New York Library Association,
6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084. 518-432-6952.

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