



Friends News and Notes

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

www.NYLA.org/Friends

Volume 11, #2 -- March 2025

Join FLS IRL for a Friends Meet-Up in Rochester!

FLS President Christopher Lund, the FLS Board, and the Friends Council of the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) invite you to an in-person meet-up, hosted at the beautiful Henrietta Public Library, on Thursday, June 12 from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m. Come enjoy some Friendly conversation with members of the FLS Executive Board – **In Real Life!**

All Friends are welcome; this event is open at no charge to FLS/NYLA members and non-members alike. However, advanced registration is required. No walk-ins, please. Send a message to FLSregister@yahoo.com indicating your intention to attend. Put Henrietta in the subject line. In the body of the message, please give the names, their library affiliation, positions (e.g., Friends officer, Staff Liaison to the Friends, library trustee, Friends committee chair, book sale coordinator), and email addresses for all who plan to participate.

If there is a specific topic you'd like to discuss with the other Friends groups, please provide that information in your registration message. In the past, we've had conversations about new fundraising ideas, best practices for book sales, growing your Friends membership, volunteer recognition, and community partnerships. Tell us what topic your group would like to learn more about. This session runs for two hours and will not be archived. Videoconferencing is not available to attend this meeting remotely.

Over the past ten years, FLS meet-ups have been held at various locations around New York. They offer a great opportunity for Friends of the Library groups to meet in-person with other library civic leaders, to exchange ideas, and make new contacts, all within a short distance from your home! Groups may wish to bring copies of membership brochures, program fliers, promotional pieces for their bookstore or book sales, and newsletters to share.

~ continued on [page 7](#) ~

FLS in 2025 Events and Dates

- ✓ FLS Connections!, conversations offered via Zoom, will return in 2025. Stay tuned for upcoming topics and registration details.
- ✓ Application and Nomination packets for the [FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship](#) and the [FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award](#) are online now. It's not too early to think about applying for this \$1000 scholarship to attend the 2025 NYLA Conference, or to nominate a deserving individual or organization for exceptional service to the library community. The submission deadline is June 1. See pages 2 and 3 for more information.
- ✓ The FLS Friends Group Meet-up is scheduled for June 12 at the Henrietta Public Library. See the article to the left! This is a great opportunity for Friends to get together to talk shop and share ideas. Networking is how we learn from each other.
- ✓ National Friends of Libraries Week is October 19-25, 2025. It's not too soon to think about celebrations, activities, or a membership drive during that week. There's an article on page 4.
- ✓ Mark your calendars now for #NYLA2025. The annual conference is November 5 - 8 at the Saratoga Springs City Center.
- ✓ FLS will hold its annual membership meeting Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Inside this issue (TOC):

Message from the FLS President	page 2
FLS Enos Scholarship	page 2
30 Years of Recognizing Advocacy	page 3
Everyone Has Remainders!	page 4
NFOLW October 19-25, 2025	page 4
Funding Requests to the Friends	page 5
What to Read Now: Donor Appreciation	page 6
Have a "Greener" Summer	page 6
Correction: FLS 2024 Annual Report	page 6
FLS Board / Auxiliary Volunteers / Info	page 7
Donate to the FLS Enos Fund	page 7

Additional Resources:

[Cornwall Public Library - Good Idea Fund](#)

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 Friends, we are often thought of as the group that raises money for the library, but there are so many more things that we do to support our institutions. And high up on the list of things we do other than fundraising is

the way we serve as community advocates for the library. Advocacy can mean a lot of things, but in this issue, I'd like to focus on one particular type of advocacy that is especially important right now: Intellectual Freedom.

As most of you likely already know, many of our libraries are currently facing an onslaught of attacks and challenges, ranging from informal complaints about specific books, to special interest groups lobbying to criminalize the typical everyday tasks of librarianship. And as with many things in life, those who shout the loudest are often the ones whose opinions get the most attention and response. So, while the opponents of libraries are making a lot of noise, Friends of libraries are in a prime position to be just as loud, or even louder, as community voices in support of the library. I encourage all of you to make sure you're keeping up to date on these issues, both nationally and at your local level. Arming yourself with this information is key to being able to provide consistent support. This can seem like a daunting and overwhelming task at first, particularly these days when the metaphor of "drinking from a fire hose" seems almost

like the quaint good old days (I'm currently more partial to terms like "sipping from a tsunami"). But don't fret - there are many resources available that can help guide us in offering this much-needed support.

First and foremost, you should be familiarizing yourself with <https://freeforallny.org>, a New York specific intellectual freedom website focused on libraries that is maintained by NYLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee. This site has a lot of great resources, including subpages with [Frequently Asked Questions](#), [guidance for library volunteers](#), and [tips on defending intellectual freedom in your community](#).

To keep up on the latest intellectual freedom news on a national level, my go-to source is Book Riot's [Literary Activism Newsletter](#). Author Kelly Jensen tracks these issues across the country and provides regular updates with analysis and links to relevant sources. Jensen also wrote an [excellent article](#) last year detailing some concrete steps that anybody can take to help fight book bans. You may also want to consider joining NYLA's [Intellectual Freedom Roundtable](#), which specializes heavily in this particular topic.

It can be very easy to get discouraged and overwhelmed when it comes to the seemingly unending assault on intellectual freedom, but the opponents of libraries are energized and don't plan on easing up in the foreseeable future, so there's no time like the present to flex our muscles, fight back, and demonstrate that libraries have a lot more Friends than enemies.

Chris

Apply Now for the 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?

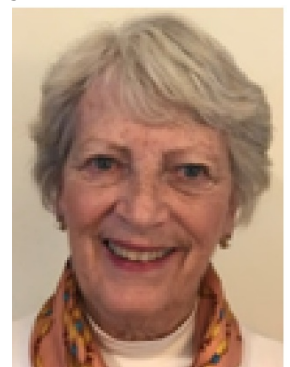
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please consider applying for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (RECS) to attend the 2025 NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs this November. The scholarship pays up to \$1,000 in reimbursements for an individual to attend the conference and may include registration, tickets for events and meal functions, lodging, and travel expenses.

The FLS Executive Board established this scholarship in 2018 and named it in honor of the Section's President Emeritus Randall Enos. Randy was a founding member of the Empire Friends Roundtable, the precursor to FLS, and has been a

continuous member for more than 30 years.

The first RECS recipients attended the 2019 NYLA Conference. Here's a little about them:

Marianne Michaud has been a hardworking and dedicated Friend of the Library for over 40 years, volunteering first at Powers Library in Moravia, NY and then later at the Fairport Public Library. Broadening the impact of the Friends was an objective that Marianne identified early in her presidency. Under her leadership a new membership form and distribution channels were



developed that resulted in increased membership and new

~ continued on next page ~

Enos Scholarship from previous page

volunteers. Marianne first attended a NYLA Annual Conference in 2018 and was eager to continue learning in 2019. "It will give me the chance to bring back more ideas and to expand programs that will inspire us." Although Marianne is no longer in a leadership position with FFPL, she remains involved. The Friends group received the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award in 2021.

Meg Sgombick was incredibly active with the Friends at the Florida Public Library where she is now the library director. For years, Meg has attended NYLA's Library Advocacy Day where she adds her voice to those of her colleagues for legislation and increased funding that supports and improves libraries across the state. Never having attended a statewide library conference, Meg enthusiastically wrote about what she hoped to experience: "It will offer me the best opportunity to get inspired, develop new skills, and engage with my peers right in my own backyard." She went on to mention that "as one of the youngest members of our Friends group, I am looking to uncover some avenues to reach a new audience and help our group grow." Meg has been volunteering as FLS Marketing Coordinator since 2020 and is currently a Member At Large on the FLS Executive Board.



Both Meg and Marianne gained valuable insights at that 2019 conference and both build on those experiences to this day.

Are you or someone you know doing similar things for your library Friends group as Marianne and Meg? Now's the time to think about applying for the RECS. This scholarship is a benefit of membership in FLS as **only members** are eligible to apply.

You can be a community volunteer or a library staff member involved in a local Friends group at any type of library in New York State. Learn more and find the [application packet](#) on the [FLS RECS page](#). See page 7 to learn more about making a donation to the RECS fund.

The application form and supporting documentation should be submitted to Terry Mulee, FLS Scholarship Coordinator, at FLS.nyla@yahoo.com and must be received by June 1. Use the same address for any questions. The Scholarship Committee will review all eligible applications and notify applicants of the results in the summer.

Thank you for your interest and support. It's not too soon to think about applying!

30 Years of Recognizing Outstanding Advocacy

The FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award

Would you like an opportunity to honor a Friends of the Library group or an active library supporter? In October 1995, the Empire Friends Roundtable renamed their "Friends Lifetime Achievement Award" the "Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award," bestowing it on Dan Casey posthumously. 2025 is the 30th anniversary of this prestigious award which is now given annually by the Friends of Libraries Section.

The FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award recognizes 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. The recipient receives a plaque engraved with their name and year of the award. In addition, 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.

If a Friends group has been a recipient in the past, they certainly may be nominated to be recognized again. Or if a Friends group has received the award, perhaps you can think of an individual associated with that group that might deserve this recognition.

And please don't forget about partner organizations supportive of the Friends. The award can also go to "a group ... whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends organizations." The Award has previously been presented to a representative in the State Assembly, public library system administrators, system trustees, and county executives.

Nominations need to describe the nominee's (group or individual) contributions to library service. You'll find the [nomination packet](#) posted on www.nyla.org/friends under [Our Awards and Scholarships](#). The nomination form and all relevant supporting materials should be submitted electronically to Lisa C. Wemett, FLS Coordinator for the Casey Award, via email at FLS.nyla@yahoo.com by June 1. Questions concerning the award process can also be submitted to this email address.



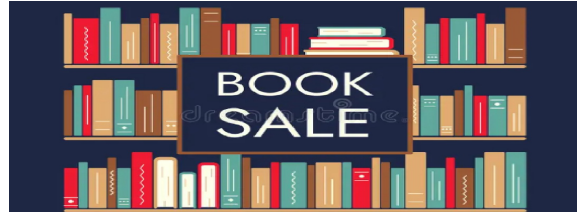
Everyone Has Remainders!

It's spring book sale season. Always a time for book sale volunteers to be concerned about excess book inventories, remainders, or worse, "the dregs." Whatever you call them, all book sales have leftovers. Here are some ideas for environmentally-friendly disposal of perfectly serviceable books. When all else fails, recycle responsibly. The great thing about book recycling is the paper eventually comes back as new books!

- Books can be repurposed as art, decorations, or used in other unique creations. Check with your local crafting thrift stores to see if they'd be interested.
- Set up and stock a Little Free Library, a curbside book exchange of used books. If the Friends do not want to become involved in this type of project, check <https://littlefreelibrary.org> for a list of LFLs in your area and contact the volunteer stewards to take your remainders to stock their own sites.
- At the conclusion of the sale, have a Free Day: allow anyone to haul away as much as they want for whatever purpose, no questions asked. (To quote Elsa, "Let it go....").
- Try some of these online sites to find takers: <https://www.readertoreader.org> which has provided district-wide book donations for public schools in low-income areas; <https://donationtown.org>, which links donors to regional charities offering a free donation pickup service; www.freecycle.org.
- Set up and stock free bookshelves around town: waiting rooms in government offices, train stations, laundromats, medical centers, the local hospital, senior centers, coffee shops, assisted living facilities, and daycare centers. Both children and caregivers will thank you!
- Keep your inventory moving throughout the year. If you run a bookstore, have periodic "sidewalk sales" of slower moving items at half off their usual price.
- Contact local literacy nonprofits to use books in their writing programs or their English language classes.
- Share with other community groups that have book sales as part of their rummage sales. They will be thankful for the donations.
- Offer BOGO Bag Day: when presenting a "bag day" opportunity at the end of your sale, offer "Buy one bag of books and get a second bag for FREE!" (Who doesn't like the word "free"?)
- Connect with your local Rotary Club to see if they

participate in "Books for the World," an educational nonprofit which promotes literacy worldwide with the assistance of Rotarians and the Second Wind Foundation.

- Partner with the local food bank and give bags of children's books to families picking up groceries. Cookbooks about easy-to-fix meals and special diets would also be a good fit.



Didn't see your group's solution here? What works for you? Please let us know and we'll include additional ideas in an upcoming newsletter. Send your suggestion to FLS.NYLA@yahoo.com.



**NATIONAL Friends
of Libraries WEEK**
AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

NFOLW

October 19-25, 2025

FLS welcomes its new Coordinator for National Friends of Libraries Week, Paulette Quinn. You may recognize that name. Paulette, a long-time volunteer with the Friends of the Marcellus Free Library, was the 2024 recipient of the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. Welcome to the team!

United for Libraries: Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations offers a reminder "that the work of library trustees often goes unseen. Behind the scenes, trustees are responsible for developing library policy, setting goals to help the library succeed (such as new building developments and community initiatives), and presenting the library point-of-view to their locally and nationally elected legislators and leaders. Like many library support roles, trustees also advocate extensively for libraries." They are truly "Friends" of their library.

As there is no National Library Trustees Day to encourage public recognition for their work, Friends groups could consider including a shout out to their own dedicated library trustees during National Friends of Libraries Week. Check out the many different activities that have been done by Friends groups for National Friends of Libraries Week on the United for Libraries website <https://www.ala.org/united>.

From the FLS Inbox: Funding Requests to the Friends

FLS is often contacted through our Yahoo mailbox for advice related to the operation of Friends organizations. How to handle funding requests from the library is a frequent topic of concern. Must the Friends automatically accept the director's wish list? The director changed her mind and did not purchase the item we raised money for—do we need to inform our donors? Are there specific procedures to follow when providing funds to the library for purchases? Here is some guidance on these questions which boils down to transparency and effective collaboration between the library director and the Friends.

Friends of the Library groups traditionally provide support for various library initiatives and projects outside of the library's general operating budget. The Friends purpose outlined in their incorporation papers, by-laws, and mission statement will probably indicate that the organization exists to make expenditures to benefit the library directly or indirectly.

Friends are structured as a separate organization from the library and have state and federal guidelines they must follow to protect their legal nonprofit status. The use of funds raised by the Friends must align with the organization's bylaws and mission or they will be out of compliance with their legal status. New York State also has laws governing solicitation of contributions.

Although the library's administration (library director, Board of Trustees) may want a high degree of oversight and control of the Friends organization, this arrangement may seriously restrict the Friends' effectiveness, even to the point of limiting the group's ability to attract quality volunteers and board members. Controls may jeopardize the nonprofit status of this group and could prevent the Friends' board from exercising their fiduciary responsibilities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) puts in writing the respective roles, responsibilities, and fiscal relationship of the library management, its Board of Trustees, and the Friends leadership team, helping everyone to function effectively and consistently. It should include a broad statement on how funds raised on behalf of the library will be distributed.

Libraries cannot legally control or dictate to the Friends how the funds raised by the organization are spent. Collaboration and dialogue about library services, programming, and needs of patrons will help support decision making on use of the funds. The Friends leadership should have meaningful involvement in these discussions. Expenditures should be for "extras," outside the general budget, to supplement the library's funding. Money might be needed to start a new collection to loan to the public, furnishings for a newly renovated space, an item of equipment for patrons' use in the library's Makerspace, or a software license for a new resource for job seekers. It is an unfortunate practice for a library to zero out a line item in the operating budget, such as programming, and count on the Friends to be the sole source of revenue to underwrite program sessions for all ages. Funders, whether a municipality or county, may

determine to reduce their funding specifically because Friends' financial support is available.

Library staff should provide accountability and feedback to the Friends about the funds spent. The library's annual report should itemize the impact of the Friends funding, with data about summer reading program participation, equipment usage, programming attendance, exhibits, and celebrations. Such marketing may encourage donors and volunteers to be involved in the Friends.

Before the start of the Friends' new fiscal year, while the group is developing their annual budget and plans for fundraising events, library staff should give the Friends their "wish list" for items to be funded. This list may need to be reviewed mid-year. An agreement could be made to have the requests presented quarterly, helping the library staff be more nimble in responding to new initiatives or unexpected needs.

The Friends leadership may not always say "yes" to every item on a wish list. They may want the library director to make requests in a priority order. What is the return on investment, meaning, how many people will be reached with this influx of funds? Any ex officio members of the Friends board of directors, such as the Staff Liaison to the Friends, the Trustee Liaison to the Friends Board, and the library director, do not have the authority to vote on these funding requests.

Friends groups, as independent nonprofits, need to be transparent regarding their operations and finances. The organization has a fiduciary responsibility to their donors to account for the funds, whether direct contributions such as an annual appeal or volunteer efforts to raise funds through a labor-intensive event. The library is obligated to spend the funds as indicated. The library's financial reports should have a line item to track income and expenses related to the Friends' grants. This accounting is the "paper trail" the Friends need, should the IRS, the state, or any donors question how the funds were spent.

A few ways purchases can be handled:

- The Friends give money directly to the library with written instructions for how and when the money may be spent (e.g., purchase a movie license or STEM kits).
- The Friends receive a list of specific needs from the library, purchase those items directly, and pay the supplier/vendor.
- The library purchases the agreed-upon items and submits an invoice to the Friends for reimbursement.
- The Friends periodically give funds to the library for an endowment fund for a specific need (e.g., children's picture book collection; multiple copies of best sellers) and interest is used annually to purchase items for that collection.

~ continued on next page ~

What to Read Now: Donor Appreciation

"The more we thank our donors, the more we're going to raise. End of discussion." Rachel Heine, Director of Development at Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library

The January/February 2025 issue of *American Libraries* (vol. 56 #1/2, pages 28-31) had an excellent summary article about the three-day virtual conference hosted by United for Libraries in July 2024. You can access "Into the Future: United Virtual focuses on the advocate's role in defending intellectual freedom, raising funds, and sustaining libraries" online at the *American Libraries* website (no ALA membership needed):

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2025/01/02/into-the-future/>

Jump to "Finding the funds" to read ideas for raising money with efforts that actually pay off: major gifts, grant writing, year-end appeals, planned giving, and expressions of gratitude. A consultant from Library Strategies stated donors drop primarily for one reason: they got an insufficient amount of gratitude. Be certain to send an acknowledgement within a month of receiving dues or an extra gift. And thank your volunteers each and every time they show up to help with Friends projects.

Help Your Library Have a "Greener" Summer

Often the Friends of the Library help to underwrite much of the library's summer reading program (also called a summer learning program), including what some youth services staff members call "dinky prizes." Gone are the days of rewarding a summer reading goal with a bookmark. Small plastic prizes along the lines of carnival game rewards and gumball machines have become the motivators when children are racking up cumulative reading minutes. But Friends can help libraries have a "greener" summer reading program.

As reported in the June 2024 issue of *American Libraries*, Montgomery County (MD) libraries challenged their children and teens to "read for good," and ditched the small, nonbiodegradable plastic prizes. Starting in 2022, instead of providing funding to purchase "dinky prizes," the Friends made a monetary donation to a nonprofit foundation on behalf of the summer reading program participants. The following year, four nonprofits benefitted from the children's reading and completion activities with contributions from the Friends. Participation in the summer program increased with the children and teens motivated to help people in their community—they were excited that their reading could help contribute money to charities that benefitted their neighbors.

Closer to home, the Friends of the Penn Yan Public Library underwrote a drawing to win an Empire Pass at the library's annual summer reading kickoff event—a prize the whole family could enjoy together throughout the year as they explored parks and historical sites all over New York State.

Funding Requests from previous page

Considerations: Which is the best method for saving on sales tax or receiving the greatest discount on purchases? Which method saves staff time? How do the Friends ensure that the specific item requested is the correct item purchased?

The library should recognize that some of the funds raised may need to be utilized by the Friends for their ongoing work and expenses. Examples include costs related to background checks for volunteers, website creation and maintenance, volunteer recruitment or recognition events, upfront expenses for fundraisers, office supplies, providing ID tags for volunteers, regularly updating a commemorative plaque for donors, and celebration of special occasions like National Friends of Libraries Week.

Always remember: the funds that are in the Friends bank accounts are not the "Friends money." Friends are actually trustees of these funds that have been raised on behalf of a specific beneficiary, the library. The Friends cannot hold back funds that the library truly needs.

Additional Resources to Consult:

Stephanie Adams, an attorney in Buffalo, provides the "[Ask the Lawyer](#)" service that the nine library resources councils of the Empire State Library Network offer to each library in the state. The following postings may be helpful on this topic:

- "[Can a Friends group withhold money from the library?](#)" [Friends of the Library not being friendly](#). Posted January 30, 2020.
- [Fundraising in Public Libraries](#). Posted November 28, 2023.
- [Friends and Library Cooperation Agreement](#). Posted September 30, 2020. Specifically see the following sections of the Friends and Library Cooperation Agreement TEMPLATE provided: Annual Contribution Ratio, Annual Planning Sheet, and Annual Accounting

Riley, Leslie. "Cornwall Public Library - Good Idea Fund." FLS "Friends News and Notes" (Volume 6, #2), March 2020, page 4. The Friends of the Cornwall Public Library used some of their nest egg to establish a quarterly grant program allowing the staff an opportunity to expedite programs to increase the breadth of library services to the community. Reprint included at the [end of this newsletter](#).

Correction: FLS 2024 Annual Report to the Membership

The financial chart in the report incorrectly stated the July 2023 balance of the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Fund as \$4449 instead of \$4399. The June 30, 2024 balance of \$3913 is unchanged. The online newsletter and report will be corrected and re-posted.

We apologize for the error.

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: Jean Sheviak
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.

Friends Group Meet-up

~ continued from [page 1](#) ~

FLS Board members will serve as mentors and moderators for this informal in-person discussion, sharing advice from their experience with Friends organizations from all across the Empire State. Any pearls of wisdom gathered will be distributed in the "Friends News and Notes" newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on June 12 and sharing great ideas.

The library opens at 9 a.m. on Thursdays; come early and enjoy this well-designed facility. We guarantee you'll find some great ideas you'll want to implement in your library! The meet-up will be in the Community Room near the library's main entrance.

Directions to the Henrietta Public Library can be found on the webpage <https://www.hpl.org> under ABOUT > Contact Us. Scroll down and click on Directions for a map. Detailed directions will be included with your registration confirmation.

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.

Cornwall Public Library - Good Idea Fund on next page.

Cornwall Public Library - Good Idea Fund

by Leslie Riley

The Friends of the Library, over the years, accumulated money that was just sitting in Certificate of Deposit and savings accounts. An endowment fund was rejected; but replaced by distributing \$25,000 to the library in February of 2018. This large donation would provide the Library Board some additional funding for their discretionary use as well as reduce the accounts of the Friends.

The result: a project that consists of awarding a small grant allowing the staff an opportunity to expedite programs beyond budget and increase the breadth of library services to the community. It is called The Good Idea Fund.

The grant is awarded at the end of each quarter. Staff are encouraged to submit a proposal to the Director for consideration and approval by the Board of Trustees. Grants are issued for a minimum of \$500 and should be for one-time expenses outside the parameters of the annual operating budget and "enhance the programming or services of the library."

Staff can submit proposals for technology, products, furniture, equipment, or services. A specific audience must be identified as well as another source of funding. As of July 2019, four projects have been awarded.



An upgrade to furniture in the YA section of the library. Seating at two café style tables and a rolling 42" book case to hold the Manga collection. Many youths are sitting at the café tables to either do homework or play chess. They seem to love the higher chairs!

An audio and a video recorder for use in collecting interviews from residents of Cornwall to increase our knowledge of Local History, and also to involve young people in collecting local history and community stories.



Two endcaps for our Audio book collection. These show the collection to better advantage, allowing our commuting public better access to a popular collection. It has been observed that patrons are able to find books on CDs quickly and they love the display of Eileen's "great read" picks.

The most recent request is for an outdoor weatherproof bulletin board. This will allow us to advertise programs to patrons while the building is closed. It will be updated with current flyers on a weekly basis.



Staff is happy to have their ideas come to fruition and see the positive impact they can have on the library with their "Good Ideas!" One surprising result is staff and patrons are beginning to see things here in a new light. Sometimes just changing one small thing can make a huge impact!

For the future, the Library plans to continue with this program, in the hopes that we can bring more good things to the library and our patrons.

Director Charlotte Dunaief says "It has been wonderful to be able to realize some of the staff's good ideas, to see concrete evidence of them happen. I hope seeing things happen will encourage more staff to step forward and share their own good ideas."

And the Friends are very pleased that this funding project has enabled staff the opportunity to reach out to the community with programs and services not realized within the current budget restraints. President Jane Harkinson says "The Good Idea Fund makes it possible for staff wishes to be fulfilled and library services evolve."

Book Sale Ideas Roundup

Here are a few new "variations on a theme" that might pump up your next book sale:

The Friends of the Columbus (OH) Metropolitan Library sells books "and other library materials no longer suitable for the Library's collection." Sounds a little better than "library discards," doesn't it?

Friends of the Thousand Oaks (CA) Library held a pop-up sale from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the Saturday during the summer reading program sign-up. Lots of families! Shoppers were encouraged to stock up on their summer reading needs by filling up a bag with paperbacks for only \$5.

The "members only" pre-sale for the Friends of the Chapel Hill (NC) Public Library included a "Sip & Shop" event. Think beer, cider, and wine tastings while browsing the sale!

The Friends of the Chattanooga (TN) Public Library has a surefire countdown to no remainders after their two-week-long sale: on the second Saturday of the sale, everything is half price; on Sunday, \$5 buys a bag of books and items are free for teachers and nonprofits; Monday, a bag of books is only \$1; and Tuesday, the last day, all items left are free to all patrons.

(source: June 2019 issue of The Voice for America's Libraries, from United for Libraries)