



Friends News and Notes

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

www.nyla.org/Friends

Volume 12, #4 -- July/August 2026

2026 FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Recipient Announced

The FLS Scholarship Committee recommended that Marjorie Focarazzo, President of the Friends of the Chili Public Library, receive the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (RECS) for 2026. At its June 5th meeting, the Executive Board approved this scholarship; the first to be awarded since the untimely passing of its namesake, Randall Enos.

The RECS seeks to enable a community volunteer or staff member who is currently and actively involved in a local Friends of the library group to attend the NYLA annual conference and take full advantage of this continuing education opportunity. The scholarship is \$1,000.

Marjorie joined the Friends of the Chili Public Library in 2022 and has been the President since 2024. She has served as the FLS representative to the NYLA Legislative Committee for the last year. She'll have the opportunity to experience the NYLA conference and all the event has to offer: pre-conference workshops, a full schedule of programming – including several Friends-themed sessions, the trade show, special events, and all the options for networking and socializing.



Besides her activities with FLS and the Friends of the Chili Public Library, Marjorie is involved with local, state, and national organizations in a variety of

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Newly Elected FLS Board Members

The results are in. All candidates running for positions on the 26-27 FLS Board have been elected. Congratulations to:
First Vice President/President-Elect - Nicole Scherer
FLS Councilor - Jerrie Grantham*
Treasurer - Terry Mulee*
Members At Large - Jennifer Allen,*
Marjorie Focarazzo, Meg Sgombick*
*incumbent

The members of FLS are grateful to all who volunteer and serve with the Section.

Libraries Because *Friends-Themed Preview* NYLA 2026 Conference

FLS works with Friends and friends to ensure dynamic programming on topics of interest for Friends, volunteers, library staff, and trustees. Here's the line-up:

FLS Showcase: Spotlight on Friends!

Friday, Nov 6, 8:30 am – 9:45 am

How Cooperative Fundraising Saved a Library

Friday, Nov 6, 8:30 am – 9:45 am

Wild Card with the Friends of the Library

Friday, Nov 6, 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Fundraising Without Book Sales

Saturday, Nov 7, 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Revitalizing Your Friends Group: Finding What Works!

Saturday, Nov 7, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

See program details starting on page 3. To access the conference app with schedule and speaker details, click [here](#) or go to the www.nyla.org > Events > Conference Schedule. You'll find special events, meetings, trade show hours, and more.

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

FLS, a unit of NYLA, embraces and promotes diversity and inclusion in all their forms.

A Message from FLS President Meg Van Patten

"Come with me,' Mom says.
To the library.
Books and summertime
go together."
Lisa Schroeder

I hope your summer has been filled with time to relax and read a good book. One can't beat sitting out on a summer day while reading a good book. This summer a group of us were on vacation together and in preparation for the trip we drew names, but did not tell anyone whose name we drew. We then purchased a book for that person. Everyone had noted, in a group chat, the types of books they liked to give the purchaser some ideas. On our first day of vacation, we sat down as a group and exchanged books. I was given a copy of *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*. It was not something I would have picked up but I enjoyed reading it. As the week went on and we started to read our books it created some great conversations with each other about our books. Perhaps you have a way you share books that is fun and opens new doors.

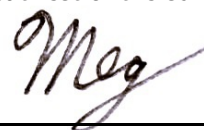
It was great to see folks in-person this past June at the Vestal Public Library. The day started with the FLS Board meeting. It was a packed agenda that included updates on plans for the 2026 conference, ongoing efforts to support Friends groups efforts on behalf of their libraries, and legislative support for the "Open Shelves Act" which aims to empower library staff to develop collections and programming that serve the needs of all members of their community. The afternoon FLS Friends Group Meet-up engaged participants in small group discussions followed

by sharing on various topics with the full group. Thank you to Chris Lund for organizing a great day! See the [article](#) below for more on this successful gathering.

While enjoying the slower pace of summer, members of the FLS board have been taking time to plan some great programs for the annual conference in Saratoga Springs this coming November. Consider attending the conference; registration is now open. Details on the conference begin on the next page. Check out the programs specifically designed to give Friends groups fresh ideas to share with others at their library.

Thank you to all who contributed to the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Fund in memory of Randy Enos. It's a great tribute to Randy that people have recognized his commitment to educational opportunities and that more library Friends will have the opportunity to learn more about new ways to support libraries. Read about this year's recipient, Marjorie Focarazzo, beginning on page 1.

I hope you have a great rest of the summer.
Sincerely,



Friday June 5th, representatives of Friends organizations from twelve libraries in eight public library

systems gathered in person to talk with members of the FLS Executive Board at the ninth FLS Friends Group Meet-up. A total of 27 people brought a wide range of experience to the Vestal Public Library, where ideas were shared to help strengthen the work of Friends in libraries of all sizes across the State.

The FLS Board owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the Friends of the Vestal Public Library and the Vestal Public Library for hosting the event and helping the Board return to the site of the very first FLS Meet-up, held in Vestal in May 2015.

FLS In-Person Meet-up in Vestal

FLS President Meg Van Patten welcomed attendees and shared ways that Friends can support and become more involved with FLS, including personal and organizational membership, service on the FLS Board, committee work, newsletter contributions, and presentations at the NYLA Annual Conference. Treasurer Terry Mulee encouraged groups to join NYLA/FLS, reminding everyone that just as libraries need Friends to thrive, the Friends of Libraries Section needs Friends to do the same.

FLS Vice President Geoff Kirkpatrick also previewed Friends-themed sessions planned for the 2026 NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, including programs on fundraising without book sales, revitalizing Friends groups, cooperative fundraising, leadership experiences, and a showcase spotlighting Friends projects. For more info on these sessions, see pages 3-5. Planning ahead, FLS members are encouraged to apply by June 1, 2027, for the

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Libraries Because NYLA 2026 Conference, November 3 - 7 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 9. 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 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.

You may also add ticketed events to your registration. These include the Meal N' Deal Lunch Buffet on Thursday, Scholarship Bash-Trivia on Thursday evening, Youth Services Section Empire State Award or Public Libraries Section Author! Author! Luncheons on Friday, and the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable Breakfast 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.
- ◆ Friday Single Day includes the Trade Show (8:00 – 11:00 a.m.) and Program Slots.
- ◆ Saturday Single Day includes Program Slots.

Single day registrants may also purchase any of the available add-ons for the day that you are coming (see previous listing of these events). Friday only registrants may also purchase an Awards Reception 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.

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 level, or as part of a Friends Group Organizational Membership. For membership related inquiries, email Lauren Hoyt, NYLA's Director of Association Operations at membership@nyla.org.

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 if questions arise while registering, please contact Lauren Hoyt, NYLA's Director of Association Operations at events@nyla.org.

Registration is open now. Early Bird rates are available until September 4th. FLS looks forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs this November!!

Conference Programming for Friends

Dear Friends,

The countdown to the 2026 NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs is on, and this year's program is packed with inspiration, practical ideas, and success stories for Friends groups and the library staff who work alongside them. Whether you're looking for innovative fundraising strategies, fresh approaches to volunteer engagement, or creative ways to strengthen your organization, you'll find plenty of opportunities to learn from colleagues across the state. We hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting and energizing conference experience!



Conference Programming for Friends

Friday | November 6th

The FLS Showcase: Spotlight on Friends! **8:30-9:45 am**

A highly rated and perennial favorite is back by popular demand! If you are shopping around for successful Friends initiatives, you'll pick up some great finds here! We'll feature three short presentations focusing on volunteer support and projects at various libraries, followed by a question and answer session. Will Friend-raising efforts like participating in parades and festivals and tabling at community events champion the library and raise awareness about the Friends? Without a doubt! Working to get books into the hands of people who truly need them, the new Community Outreach Committee of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library has expanded partnerships with schools, nursing homes, women's shelters, and other local organizations, making a meaningful difference for community literacy and donating more than 5,000 books over the past three years. Perhaps your Friends might contemplate a Story Walk project, introducing families to picture books along a trail in your community. We'll have a chance to interact informally with our speakers one-on-one and get details on their best ideas on membership engagement and community outreach. This format will highlight great things happening in our multi-talented volunteer groups that support libraries of all sizes. Trust us: you're going to want to borrow these ideas and take them back home to your group!

Presenters:



Aaron Lauber (above left), President
Friends of Ballston Community Public Library



Diane Wilkinson (above right), President
Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Lisa C. Wemett, Coordinator for Professional Development
Friends of Libraries Section

How Cooperative Fundraising Saved a Library **8:30-9:45 am**

Facing possible budget cuts and a serious mold problem, an innovative Library Director at a small rural library rallied and partnered with the Friends Group to sponsor new, exciting programs to raise funds and involve the community. While the longstanding Friends worked hard to raise money with seasonal used book and bake sales, raffles, small local grants and a Nickel Social auction, the Library explored new, exciting fundraising efforts. Initially, the Friends were surprised, territorial and a bit threatened by these new

initiatives, but the group soon realized we were all working toward the same goal and thought of ways to support and get involved in these new endeavors. The Director created an online shop for library merch, an Amazon wishlist, a British Bake-off, a Cookie Walk, and a Romance Book Fair. Members of the Friends baked and volunteered to work at these events. While they plan to continue their tried-and-true undertakings, they now look forward to seeking new ways to team up and help with future projects and events.

Presenters:

Barbara Auerbach, President
Friends of the Cairo Public Library
Corinne Tatavitto, Director
Cairo Public Library

Wild Card with the Friends of the Library **2:15-3:30 pm**

A certain NPR podcast host has honed the art of the interview with a deck of cards and questions that get right to the heart of the matter, far beyond more traditional interview tropes. Not another panel presentation, given the anticipation of what question will pop up next as we focus on the Friends' role in the life of the library, cooperation, management, volunteer engagement, and communication. Leaders from a variety of library support groups will share personal insights from their leadership experience and impromptu reactions to questions that all key volunteers in Friends organizations wrestle with as they provide needed support to their libraries. Join us for a joyful reminder of the value Friends bring to the library community!

Presenters:



Wilma Jozwiak (above left), Co-President
Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library



Lori Farrell (above right), President
Sand Lake Town Library Friends
Lisa C. Wemett, Coordinator for Professional Development
Friends of Libraries Section

~ continued on [next page](#) ~

Check out the FLS booth at the Trade Show. You'll find Friendly faces, networking opportunities, and lots of information about Friends of libraries. Come visit us!

Conference Programming for Friends, continued from [previous page](#) Saturday | November 7th

Fundraising Without Book Sales

9:30-10:45 am

Tired of the book sale treadmill? No storage for your book stock or fewer active volunteers to coordinate a sale? No problem! Our panelists will share their successes with fundraising projects that don't require lifting heavy boxes. Let's take a fresh look at raising funds for the library. The Friends of the Voorheesville Public Library have a seasonal new-to-you sale that gives Friends and the community a jumpstart on holiday gift giving. The annual appeal of the Friends of the Bethlehem Public Library has served to incrementally grow the group's membership and endowment for the library. With their Night at the Library, the Friends of East Greenbush Community Library created a fun and lucrative event for adults. Leave with some excellent ideas and concrete plans for your next great fundraiser!

Presenters:

Mary Service, President
Friends of Bethlehem Public Library
Julie Ruhren, President
Friends of the Voorheesville Public Library
Clint Rickards
Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director
Bethlehem Public Library

Revitalizing Your Friends Group: Finding What Works!

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Friends of Crestwood Library has rebuilt and implemented successful strategies to support the mission and vitality of our library. Revitalizing a Friends group is hard work and the library needs to find dedicated volunteers to carry out the tasks involved. As difficult as it is to restart a group of volunteers to support the library, the effort is well worth it for your community's library. We will share insight into how we have strengthened the ability of our newly energized Friends organization to grow into a vital and successful organization by outlining creative ways to recruit, prioritizing tasks to get back on point, and engaging and motivating new leadership. After a decade of rebuilding, our group has arranged for and supported author programs, musical concerts, holiday events and programs for all ages. We have also drawn on the support of the community to raise funds and awareness for our library that is celebrating its 100th year in our current building.

Presenters:

Joe Harbeson, Secretary
Friends of Crestwood Library
Z Baird, Branch Administrator
Crestwood Library, Yonkers Public Library

As you can see, this year's conference offers an outstanding lineup of programs designed to inform, inspire, and spark new ideas. Whether you're a seasoned Friends leader or just beginning your journey with a Friends organization, there is something here for everyone. I encourage you to take advantage of these excellent learning opportunities and connect with fellow advocates from around New York State. I look forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs!

Geoff Kirkpatrick, FLS Vice-President and Representative for FLS on the NYLA Continuing Education Committee

Additional FLS Track Programs

The following programs also carry the label of FLS. These and other offerings in the full conference line-up may be of interest to you.

See the complete [2026 NYLA Conference Event Schedule](#).

"That All May Read": Services and Support from the NYS Talking Book and Braille Library

Thursday, November 5, 4:00–5:15 pm

The PHI: Preserving Community Stories

Thursday, November 5, 4:00–5:15 pm

Advocacy Through Stories: Talk So They Will Listen and Act

Friday, November 6, 8:30–9:45 am

The Balanced Librarian: Navigating Diverse Perspectives in the Modern Library

Friday, November 6, 3:45–5:00 pm

FLS Board Photo Op!



Members of the FLS Board sat for a group photo at the in-person board meeting at the Vestal Public Library in June.

Back row: Jim Foster, Geoff Kirkpatrick, Circe McKinney, Chris Lund, Jen Allen, and Meg Van Patten
Front row: Lisa C. Wemett, Terry Mulee, Marjorie Focarazzo, Meg Sgombick
present but not in photo: Mary Giardini

NYS Friends Receive Grant

United for Libraries (UFL) recently announced 50 recipients of the second year of a grant program funded by publishing company Penguin Random House. Congratulations to the **Friends of the Cairo Public Library** (Mid-Hudson Library System), the only group in New York State to receive an award this year.



The [Friends of the Cairo Public Library](#) received \$500 to help the group defray the costs associated with applying to the IRS for the organization's nonprofit status, including incorporating, which totaled more than \$700. Library Director Corinne Tatavitto said that receiving this award "will put the Friends in a position to actively pursue more grants in the future and provide a secure future for the group. With such an active Friends group, it is important to protect and stabilize their position legally so they can better serve the community."

Friends President Barbara Auerbach shared that she had applied last year for funding for "Battle of the Books," but did not receive the award. Barbara has regularly coached the young readers for this program and is very enthusiastic about the competition. She continued, "This year I read the grant guidelines more carefully and realized the award needed to be directly related to a Friends' endeavor as opposed to a worthy library project. This realization may help others in the future."

Tatavitto stated, "The Cairo Public Library is indebted to Barbara for bringing the Friends group to the next level by submitting an application for this national grant and doing all of the work that comes along with applying for 501(c)(3) status for the Friends. Barbara leads the group with such enthusiasm and passion! We are lucky to have her as the president of the Friends as well as leader of our book group and substitute librarian when needed. She has ensured that the Friends of the Cairo Public Library is here to stay, continuing to help the library and its patrons."

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Bowling and Bags for Books

by Tanya Taylor and Ayasha Wood

On the Saturday after President's Day, at the end of winter break week, the Friends of the Newark Public Library (OWWL Library System) held a family-friendly fundraiser at their local bowling alley that was wildly successful. Library Director Tanya Taylor and Friends Steering Committee member Ayasha Wood collaborated with Lisa C. Wemett for this summary of their exciting event.

The atmosphere was nothing short of electric from the moment guests stepped inside Doug Kent's Rose Bowl Lanes and Games. There was an immediate sense of warmth and excitement, as the Friends had transformed the bowling alley into a festive, high-energy venue. A vibrant arch of balloons served as a colorful gateway, elegantly bridging the space between the rhythmic crashing of bowling pins and the focused competition of the cornhole area. This thoughtful touch set a professional yet celebratory tone that carried through the entire day.



Planning for the event began in the fall, with the bulk of the work accomplished between November and January. It was the first time the Friends had tackled this type of fundraiser. The event planner at the bowling alley helped the steering committee talk through their ideas and plan carefully for success. The Friends also worked closely with the Wayne County Community Schools' Steady Work Print Shop to print posters, T-shirts, and hats, as well as an oversize poster listing all the donors, which was displayed at the event to thank everyone who had contributed.

A mother-daughter team on the Steering Committee, Julia Ahmed and Ayasha Wood, drafted a letter requesting donations and hand delivered them to over 90 local businesses. Some donation requests were emailed to larger businesses and sports teams in the area. Ayasha said, "We found the face-to-face requests were much more impactful with a positive response" over the emailed appeals.

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Enos Scholarship, continued from [page 1](#)

roles, advocating not just for libraries but other groups as well. She has served on local and county school boards, the National Funeral Consumers Alliance, Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, and the Parent Teacher Association.

Jennifer Lowden, Director of the Chili Public Library, wrote in her recommendation letter, "Marjorie believes that it is the Friends' responsibility to promote literacy and lifelong learning, and they help support the library through the many programs they sponsor. She is always looking for new and unique ways to engage the community, increase membership, and support the library. She is a strong believer that the Chili Public Library is more than a building filled with books. It's a place where friendships blossom and the community comes together. The library is a special space to connect with others and unite through the love of reading and learning."

Upon hearing that she had received the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship, Marjorie responded, "I am honored to represent FLS at the conference this November. I am excited to be able to attend workshops that will enhance my opportunities for the Friends of the Chili Public Library as well as my part in FLS and NYLA."

Congratulations Marjorie! FLS is confident that you'll make the most of your time at the conference. Marjorie will share her reflections on her conference experiences during the FLS annual meeting on November 18 via Zoom and as part of the Conference Recap in the January/February issue of the Friends News and Notes newsletter. Be sure to say hi to Marjorie at the conference!

The **FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship** was named in honor of Randall Enos, a founding member of the Empire Friends Roundtable (EFR) established in 1992 and the precursor to FLS. Randy served as EFR President no less than six terms and was a continuous member of both EFR and FLS until his untimely death in March 2026. FLS honored Randy in 2015, naming him FLS President Emeritus. His dedication to the library community and support of Friends of the Library groups across the state was exceptional. He served as the Youth Consultant at the Ramapo Catskill Library System in Middletown, NY from 1980 through his retirement in 2019 and he was recognized with the NYLA Outstanding Service to Libraries Award in 2000. The scholarship and the RECS Fund were established by FLS in 2018.

Randy's family designated the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship for memorial donations. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please see the instructions on page 9. FLS and Randy's family are extremely grateful to all who have made such generous donations to the fund in Randy's memory.

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

\$1,000 FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship to help with registration, travel, and lodging for next year's conference.



The meet-up was filled with active discussions and exchanges of ideas and questions. Four topics were discussed in small groups: fundraising ideas other than book sales; community outreach and library advocacy; managing the relationship between Friends, library staff, and boards of trustees; and recruiting new members. Following these breakout groups, we all reconvened and each group highlighted key takeaways. Suggestions included mini golf tournaments, bus trips, murder mystery nights, direct appeals, wreath sales, repair days, tabling at community events, inviting local representatives to the library, developing operating agreements or MOUs, making volunteer opportunities specific and low-commitment, and showing appreciation for members and volunteers.

The full group also discussed allocating Friends funds, including how Friends can clearly communicate to the community what their fundraising supports, how to handle library funding requests, and how program success can be tracked to help guide future decisions. The afternoon concluded with general questions and sharing of projects, including ideas such as raffles, "bakeless bake sales," mahjong tournaments, community partnerships, and creative outreach projects.

Notes from the day were compiled and distributed to all attendees. Thanks to all who came to share and learn. Watch this space in coming months for an announcement of our 2027 Meet-up. Be sure to sign up and attend!

Ask the Lawyer - Sales Tax

Whether you offer a single rolling book cart of donated books for sale or have a bookstore operated by volunteers, ongoing sales fall under the purview of the NYS Department of Taxation & Finance. As Stephanie Adams says, "Even if sold by a sales tax-exempt charity..., if sales are a regular activity, they are subject to sales tax."

In "[Tackling the Complications of Selling Weeded and Donated Books](#)," Stephanie, an attorney who provides the "[Ask the Lawyer](#)" service, presents clarity for making informed decisions about ongoing sales and outlines how to register as a sales tax vendor. Stephanie concludes: "Libraries supported by the public must be able to withstand scrutiny on fiscal matters, so even though a quiet book sale might go undetected for many years, it is important to get sales tax right."

Bowling, continued from [page 6](#)

In January, marketing efforts ramped up including notices in the events section of the local Pennysaver calendar and posters around town. A Facebook event was created and social media posts built excitement, highlighting raffle basket items as they were received from local businesses and community members. The night before the event, the Friends Facebook page featured numerous photos of the tantalizing gift baskets. Many of those who were walk-ins mentioned that the Facebook posts had attracted them.



Bowling was limited to four people per lane. Bowlers were charged \$30 per person for two hours of bowling, shoe rental, unlimited soda, and one large pizza per lane. Cornhole was \$25 per player, with teams of two. Ticket prices included a \$5 donation to the Friends. The group wanted to keep the costs of bowling as low as possible to encourage families to attend; 22 lanes were available to the group. Over 60 bowlers pre-registered along with six two-person teams of cornhole players. Payment upfront ensured that bowlers were committed to attend, which streamlined check in.

Organization was the secret ingredient that made the event flow so seamlessly. Every registered participant was greeted with a curated gift bag, a small token that made everyone feel like a VIP. The Friends planning committee leaned into modern efficiency by utilizing Scoreholio, a dedicated app for cornhole registration, which was a savvy move considering the sport's massive popularity in the region. The logistics were handled with such grace that guests could simply focus on the fun rather than the process.

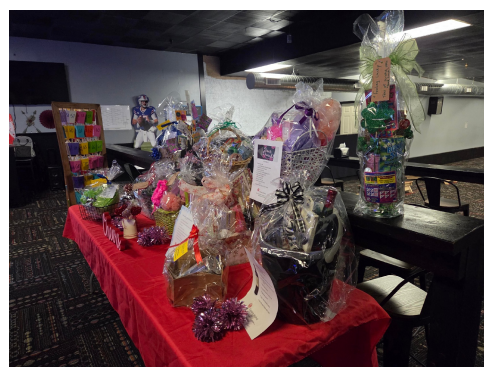
The sheer scale of community generosity was on full display in the cornhole section, where an incredible spread of over 60 gift baskets and 40 gift certificates sat waiting for lucky winners. Tickets were \$20 for 26 tickets, with payments via cash, check or Venmo. A 50-50 cash prize raffle was also offered along with silent auction items. Drawings started around 4:15 p.m. and people were not required to be present to win.



Managing a raffle of that magnitude is no small feat, yet the bowling alley staff handled the drawings with remarkable coordination and poise. It was a testament to the community's spirit

that the Friends secured over 100 donations, ranging from high-end items and cash contributions to invaluable in-kind services. Friends members organized the baskets and had a small caravan of cars to bring them to the venue to set them up. Ayasha said, "It was an amazing force of help!" The Friends secretary sent handwritten thank you notes to the donors and organizations as the contributions were received. Julia also called several donors after the event to let them know how much their gift items were welcomed by the guests.

The event proved to be a resounding financial triumph, clearing a \$4,000 profit after all marketing and printing expenses were covered. The bowling alley's event planner shared



that the Friends "were a lovely and well-organized team of volunteers" and she would love to work with them again! The library director stated, "While 'Bowling and Bags for Books' was a massive success fueled by overwhelming local support, the organizers have decided to keep it as a special highlight rather than a yearly staple. Though it won't be an annual fixture, the door remains wide open for this wonderful celebration to return in the future, leaving everyone who attended eagerly anticipating its next appearance."

The Friends of the Newark Public Library provided over \$8,000 in funding to the library in 2025. Purchases included a refrigerator, laptop computers, promotional items and branded polo shirts for tabling events in the community, adaptive learning tools, and food for monthly book review luncheons.



FLS Executive Board and Auxiliary Volunteers

Officers

President: Meg Van Patten
FLS Councilor: Jerrie Grantham
Vice President/President Elect: Geoff Kirkpatrick
Board Advisor: Chris Lund
Secretary: Circe McKenney
Treasurer: Terry Mulee
President Emeritus: Randall Enos (2015-2026)

Members At Large

Jen Allen
Elaine Dunne
Jim Foster
Erica Freudenberger
Mary Giardini
Meg Sgombick
Lisa C. Wemett

NYLA Committee Representatives

Awards Committee: Meghan Lenahan
Communications Committee: Terry Mulee
Continuing Education Committee: Geoff Kirkpatrick
Governance: Meg Van Patten
Intellectual Freedom Committee: Chris Lund
Legislative Committee: Marjorie Focarazzo
Membership Committee: Circe McKenney
Nominating Committee: Chris Lund
Sponsorship/Fundraising: Terry Mulee

FLS Auxiliary Volunteers

Voting Alternate for FLS Councilor: Meg Van Patten
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: Chris Lund
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 Grant, continued from [page 6](#)

In addition to the grant award, the Friends will also receive complimentary eLearning from UFL, including a year of access to United for Libraries [Learning Live](#) monthly webinars which present in-depth training to library trustees, Friends, and board members of library foundations. Recipients will also receive complimentary registration for the UFL Friends virtual retreat (spring 2027) and access to additional on-demand webinars.

The Penguin Random House cash grants totaled \$25,000. Friends groups supporting rural and small libraries across the United States 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. View the full list of grantees [here](#).

We look forward to learning more about how the Friends of the Cairo Public Library have worked with their library director on many cooperative fundraising initiatives to help the library. Corinne and Barbara will be presenting at the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs on Friday, November 6 from 8:30 until 9:45 a.m.

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 NYLA account 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.

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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.