



Friends News and Notes

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

www.nyla.org/Friends

Volume 12, #2 – March/April 2026

In Memoriam: Randall Enos



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of FLS President Emeritus Randall Enos. Randy died unexpectedly on March 6, 2026. To say that he will be greatly missed is quite the understatement. From his [obituary](#), "Randy spent much of his professional life as the Youth Services Consultant for the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) in Middletown, New York, where he worked from 1982 until his retirement in 2019. He was deeply involved with the New York Library Association (NYLA), serving as president of the Youth Services Section and holding numerous leadership roles. Randy

served six terms as president of the Empire Friends Roundtable and remained a continuous and active member as the organization evolved into the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS)." He was named FLS President Emeritus in 2015.

Besides spending time with your favorite books, people, or dogs – in no particular order – you can honor Randy's memory by 1) making a [donation](#) to the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship Fund, the family's selected charity and/or 2) [applying](#) for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship to attend this year's NYLA annual conference, November 4-7, in Saratoga Springs.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday May 3 at Mountain Lake Park in Warwick, NY from 11:30-2:30. See the [flier](#) and more about Randy throughout the newsletter on [page 3](#) and [page 10](#).

Save the Date! FLS Friends Meet-up

The Friends of Libraries Section will be hosting its in-person Friends Meet-up at the Vestal Public Library on Friday, June 5th from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m. Volunteers and staff working with Friends organizations are encouraged to come enjoy some friendly conversation with FLS President Meg Van Patten and members of the FLS Executive Board.

All Friends are welcome; this event will be open at no charge to both FLS/NYLA members and non-members. Start thinking about specific topics you'd like to discuss with the other Friends groups – we will be asking for your suggestions and will build our agenda around the most requested topics. In the past, we've had conversations about new fundraising ideas, best practices for book sales, growing and retaining your Friends membership, volunteer recognition, succession planning, social media use, and community partnerships.

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 a future issue of the Friends News and Notes e-newsletter. We look forward to some friendly conversation with you and sharing great ideas on June 5th!

Details on registration will be in the May/June FLS newsletter and also The NYLA Voice in April and NYLA's News You Can Use in May. We hope to see you in Vestal!

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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

Dear Friends,

It was a long, cold, hard winter, but Spring is here. Signs of Spring are bursting forth as crocuses and other blossoms start to appear. Geoff Kirkpatrick and Lisa Wemett are at work planning some sessions for the NYLA annual conference in November. The programs will be sure to inspire all with ideas that could be replicable at their own libraries. Save the dates for the 2026 conference: November 4-7. Stay tuned for details as they are announced. Conference registration will begin in August.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of long time FLS member Randy Enos. A founding member of EFR, which became FLS, he continued to serve on the FLS Board as

President Emeritus. He was a true champion of library service. Randy's family has requested that donations in his memory be made to the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. Please see the tribute to Randy beginning on [page 1](#).

Happy Spring,



Call for Applications FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship

This is the year to do it – as it will be the first Memorial FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship (RECS). In an interview with Randy after the establishment of the scholarship, he was quoted as saying, "Some people are drawn to bars, some to church groups, I was drawn to the library!" He certainly was - and he dedicated his life to making libraries better. That's why the Friends of Libraries Section developed this scholarship in his honor; now, in his memory.

So, here's some questions for you: 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 your Friends volunteers benefit from a professional development opportunity?

Well, if you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then FLS has the scholarship for you to attend the 2026 NYLA Annual Conference (November 4-7 in Saratoga Springs). The award pays a maximum of \$1,000 for an individual to attend the conference. Costs covered may include registration, tickets for events and meal functions, lodging, and travel expenses.

Whether a community volunteer or a library staff member, applicants must be a member of the Friends of Libraries Section as a part of their NYLA membership **and** involved in a local Friends group at any type of library in New York State. Applications must be received by June 1. Learn more and find the [application](#) packet on the [FLS RECS](#) page.

To apply, submit a completed application form and supporting documentation to FLS.nyla@yahoo.com. Use the same address for any questions. The Scholarship Committee

will review all eligible applications and notify applicants of the results in early summer. It's not too soon to think about applying!

The scholarship is underwritten through an endowment funded by designated contributions to NYLA/FLS. See page 11 to [donate](#) to the fund.

Thanks for your interest and support.

FLS in 2026

- ✓ Application and Nomination packets for the FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship and the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award are available on the [FLS Awards and Scholarships](#) page. The submission deadline for the RECS and the Casey is June 1. Read more on [page 2](#) and [page 5](#).
- ✓ FLS will hold an in-person Friends group Meet-up on Friday, June 5, 2026 at the Vestal Public Library. This is a great opportunity for Friends to get together to talk shop and share ideas. Networking is how we learn from each other. See the article on [page 1](#).
- ✓ National Friends of Libraries Week is October 18-24, 2026. It's not too soon to think about celebrations, activities, or a membership drive during that week. See the article on [page 6](#).
- ✓ Mark your calendars now for #NYLA2026. The conference is November 4-7 at the Saratoga Springs City Center.
- ✓ The FLS Annual Membership will be held via Zoom on November 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Registration details and other pertinent information will be available in October.



Walkway Over the Hudson

My "Randy Story"

by Terry Mulee

I first met Randy Enos at a Halloween party on the main floor of the Rochester Public Library's Rundel building, part of a NYLA conference many years ago. My best friend, Lisa Wemett introduced me to him. She had been working with him on Youth Services Section (YSS) projects for years. Fast forward, maybe ten years or so, to the YSS 2009 Spring Conference. Lisa recruited me to help with that event and my path crossed with Randy again. We hit it off, but who didn't hit it off with Randy? I worked on the 2011 YSS conference, too. And there was Randy, right in the thick of things, lending a hand, making things happen.

In 2012, Randy got in touch with Lisa to recruit her, very successfully, to join the board of the Empire Friends Roundtable. She had been retired for a few years, so it was a good opportunity to get involved with Friends of libraries. And he asked me, too. Recruited by Randy, a badge that I proudly wear. One more YSS Spring Conference in 2013, nearly 14 years of EFR/FLS, and NYLA annual conferences account for the "business" side of knowing Randy.

But along with the business, we mixed pleasure. On several trips to the Hudson Valley over the years to offer workshops on starting or strengthening Friends of the library groups, for Friends group Meet-ups, or just "for fun visits," we spent time with Randy exploring the region. I have thousands of photos documenting all the places that we went together from Wilderstein in Rhinebeck to The Great Jack O` Lantern Blaze in Croton-on-Hudson to the New York Botanical Garden Train Show in the Bronx. We visited fancy restaurants, little bistros and cafés, breweries, ice cream shops (lots of ice cream shops), specialty stores, state parks, national historic sites, former railroad trestles that are now walkways. There are so many places, so many stories...

In November of 2024, Randy and his husband Doug moved to Cazenovia. Now a two plus hour drive to see them instead of a five plus hour drive. We were very excited. Last summer we had a wonderful weekend visit and checked out new places in central New York together; a cobblestone mercantile, more ice cream, canal sites, and dinner in a cobblestone tavern. We took Randy to a state park very close to his new home. And we met up a few times at a Farm to Fork restaurant about halfway between Rochester and Cazenovia. We had just started to talk together about what adventures might unfold in 2026.

And then the unthinkable news that Randy had died, so unexpectedly. A life so well lived, but cut short with so much more to do.

I am grateful for the time that I had to spend with Randy. I am thankful to Lisa for introducing him to me. What wonderful times we had together; for business and for pleasure. He was a Librarian's Librarian. A Friend's Friend. And my friend.



left to right:
Randy, Doug,
Terry, Lisa
New York
Botanical Garden

See another
Randy story on
[page 10](#)

Scholarship Recipient Remembers Randy

Meg Sgombick, FLS Member At Large
and Director, Florida Public Library

When I first came to the Florida Library and started doing Children's programs, Randy made me feel immediately welcome at the first Youth Services meeting I attended. He was friendly, approachable, and always willing to lend a hand or offer guidance when I needed it. I share with you a paragraph from my Director's Recommendation letter from my application for the FLS Randall Enos Scholarship:

"We would be especially honored for Meg to be chosen as Randy Enos was a beloved and good friend to our library and many of us, including Meg, worked closely with him in the Children's Librarians of Orange, Ulster & Sullivan Counties (CLOUSC). We understand and value Randy's long history of being a dedicated volunteer on top of his long service as youth consultant to our libraries. I believe Meg would be a great choice to benefit from Randy's legacy of always going above and beyond."

It was truly an honor to be a recipient of the first FLS Randall Enos Conference Scholarship.



left to right:
Meg Sgombick,
Randy Enos, and
Marianne
Michaud
Inaugural FLS
Randall Enos
Conference
Scholarship
recipients,
November 2019

A Unique Fall Fundraiser!

A fun, non-competitive walk around the [Shortsville Reindeer Farm](#) combined with activities with a German flair helped the Friends of the Red Jacket Community Library have a very successful fundraiser on a spectacular autumn Saturday in October 2025.



Mike Schaertl, farm owner, in his lederhosen

Volksmarches are a tradition in Germany dating back to the 1960s and are fondly remembered by many US service members who were stationed there through the 1980s. They are typically 5 km long (about 3 miles), ending with a festival-style event with bratwurst, beer, and music.

Friends President Lisa Schaertl and her husband Mike who founded the reindeer

farm were stationed in Germany during Mike's time in the service and remembered the Volksmarsch quite fondly. (The establishment of the reindeer farm in Ontario County, far from the North Pole, is another story!) The farm was the perfect attraction to host a one-hour walk through fields and forests near the reindeer pastures dressed in lederhosen or dirndls! (Jeans were perfectly acceptable alternative apparel to leather breeches.) Photographer Cassie Webb of [Cassie Webb Captures](#) volunteered her time to document the festivities (see also below).

Pre-registration at \$20 per person (for ages 3 and older) provided the opportunity to participate in the walk, one free bratwurst, and musical entertainment. Beer, water, and additional brats could be purchased separately. Walkers opted for the full 5 km course or a one-mile short-cut path. A total of 280 walkers took part. As walkers arrived back at the barn, The Crazy Firemen German Band provided lively oom-pah music from 11 a.m. until 2 o'clock. Several brave souls kicked up their heels in a polka and almost everyone else swayed along! The crowd enjoyed locally sourced authentic German foods: grilled bratwurst on fresh-baked Brötchen (rolls) with homemade mustard, along with "Reindeer P" beer from Shortsville's own Rebel Sailor Brewery. (Curious? Reindeer P is a clear, dry blonde ale with a hint of goldenrod honey sourced from the hives at the reindeer farm.)

Volunteers with the Friends of the Red Jacket Community Library helped publicize the event, greeted guests, served

brats, sold water, and signed up new Friends at the information table. The event raised more than \$4,000 in support of future Friends and library projects.

Many thanks to Friends President Lisa Schaertl, Friends Past President Mary Zingerella, and Cassie Webb for sharing this wonderful event with us! If you're interested, the Shortsville Reindeer Farm will be offering this year's Volksmarsch on October 4. Come out for the walk and stay for the music (and beer)!

See all the photos Cassie took of the Inaugural Volksmarsch and the day's festivities [here](#).

Want to learn more about volksmarching? The [American Volkssport Association](#) (AVA) can help you find a walk in your area. Their website provides a listing by state which includes many walks that can be done at any time in all sorts of locations including Pultneyville and Sackett's Harbor (War of 1812 trails), Cape Vincent (lighthouse trail), and East Aurora (the Roycroft campus) as examples. If you are a walker looking for interesting venues, this is a wonderful resource of trails to visit. The group also offers a publicity toolkit that you can use to plan your own Volksmarsch event.

Here are a few of the sights that Cassie captured!



The shirt says, "Follow Me to the Library"



8 Great Reasons to Submit a Nomination for the FLS Casey Award

Lisa C. Wemett's first listicle of 2026*

Psst! Have you heard about the FLS Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award? Good! Glad you're well informed. But now's the time to act:

1. You'd been thinking about recognizing your Friends of the Library with something special and along came this article. It was Kismet!



Mr. Library

2. Daniel W. Casey was known as "Mr. Library." You should continue to honor his amazing legacy of advocacy.
3. June 1st is just around the corner, in terms of your "to do" list.
4. FLS has kept this tradition going for more than 30 years. You should have at least one nomination in you, to recognize an awesome volunteer or group of folks!
5. That plaque would look pretty snazzy on the wall near the library's meeting room!

6. Wouldn't it be great to see your Friends on the list of all the past recipients on the FLS webpage?
7. If you don't have a Friends group, who else in your community is waving the flag as a library champion and speaking up for your library?
8. FLS doesn't have a Facebook page, so go to www.NYLA.org/Friends and click on the "Our Awards and Scholarships" button. You'll help with our count—we love metrics!

Your submission needs to describe the candidate'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 completed form and all relevant supporting materials should be submitted electronically by June 1 to Lisa C. Wemett, FLS Coordinator for the Casey Award, via email at FLS.nyla@yahoo.com. Questions concerning the award process can also be submitted to this email address.

OK, you're on it, right? Good! Plan B: cut out this article and leave it on the library director's desk....

*In journalism and blogging, a listicle is an article structured as a list, consisting of an introduction, three or more list items, and a call to action. It typically features a number in its title.

Annual Reports: Tell Your Story!

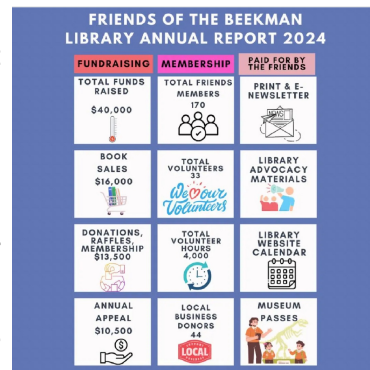
by Lisa C. Wemett

Whenever I get together with my colleagues who are involved in their Friends of the Library groups, inevitably the topic of book sales comes up. "At our spring sale, we made \$5,000 in three days." "Our lobby sale brings in nearly \$1,000 every month." "We just set up a large collection of paperbacks at our farmers market and took in \$200 last week." It isn't one-upmanship; it's just Friends talking shop. But are we the only people that care about these statistics?

Gather a group of trustees or library directors together and what do you hear? "Our library has the highest circulation of e-books in the county." "Last year, our library moved up to #3 in terms of our total materials budget compared to other libraries in our system." "We have 35 active volunteers at our library: we couldn't get along without their help." Again, "statistics" that tell a story and put the efforts of the library in context for their peers.

Public and association libraries complete an annual report each year for the Division of Library Development. It gives details on the library's circulation, number of patrons, program offerings and audience, funds received and spent, and other vital measures of library activities. Although Friends groups are not required to write annual reports, a regular accounting of group activities can tell your story to a wide audience in your community. Whether it's the library's Board of Trustees, a potential sponsor for your summer reading program, or your neighbor, the people reading the report can draw conclusions on your volunteers' accomplishments. An annual report can be a recruitment tool for new volunteers: "Look what they do! I think I'd like to work with them."

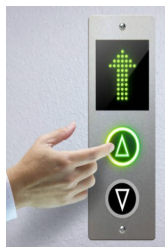
Start by gathering some information about the last year: what did your group buy for the library? What community events did the Friends participate in? Outside of the book sales, what were some of your large-scale projects? How else did you raise funds? Was it a banner year for attendance at programs underwritten by the Friends? Make a list, determine what library staff member or Friends officer keeps that information, and then go after those numbers. Review your treasurer's reports for the lobby sale income: what is your monthly revenue on average? Did you buy two computers to increase the number offered to patrons? How many new members joined the Friends during the book sale's "preview night"? Do you have photographs to include? You could even



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Going Up – Get Ready to Pitch the Friends

by Paulette Quinn, FLS NFOLW Coordinator



With National Friends of Libraries Week (October 18-24, 2026) still several months away, for some Friends groups it may seem a bit soon to start making plans for NFOLW. On the other hand, it is always good to be thinking about ways to promote your Friends group. That makes **now** a great time for individual members to work on their own plans for making the most of any opportunity that may come up to tout the Friends.

The purpose of NFOLW is to promote the group to the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. Each of us can individually play a part in advancing the same goals that Friends groups strive for every October.

Here's how: Prepare yourself to talk up the Friends with a brief, but specific and memorable "elevator speech." Create your own concise, engaging summary that clearly communicates what the Friends do and why it matters; something that can be shared in the time span of an elevator ride.

Or, perhaps decide to give AI a try. Have it come up with "an elevator speech for Friends of the library," then select from revision categories offered to personalize the original response.

My subsequent selection of "casual" and "humor" resulted in Copilot coming back with this light-hearted script: "Friends

of the Library? We're like the library's biggest fans—part cheer squad, part fundraising crew, and part snack providers. We help keep the books coming, the programs rolling, and the community smiling. Basically, if the library were a rock star, we'd be the ones selling the merch."

This trendy-sounding pitch might be spot-on for a Gen Z dude promoting the Friends, but, as a Boomer, I'll be requesting a few more revisions!

Whichever way suits you best to create your elevator speech, have it rehearsed and ready because you never know when you'll have an opportunity to use it!

For those Friends groups eager to start making plans for National Friends of Libraries Week, information can be found at [National Friends of Libraries Week | United for Libraries](#). Included are tips and ideas for Friends groups.

Another new resource is the recap of last year's shout-outs and activities from Friends all over the country at [Celebrating the 20th anniversary of National Friends of Libraries Week](#).

The winners of the 2025 National Friends of Libraries Week Awards were recently announced. Check out [2025 National Friends of Libraries Week Award Winners](#) (Friends of the Moorhead Library and Friends of the Perry, Iowa Public Library) for details about their winning entries. It would be awesome to see a New York State group declared a winner next year!

Friends and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

by Lisa C. Wemett

Did you know that in May 2025, Kermit the Frog gave the commencement address to the graduating class of the University of Maryland? (Yes, a puppet. I'm thinking there were some logistics involved in having him stand at the podium in his mini cap and gown. UM is Muppet creator Jim Henson's alma mater.) It's probably a certainty that Kermit remarked, "It isn't easy being green." Which, of course, is true. But as a community, we can be "greener" when we partner with the libraries we support to become involved in the work developed by the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI).

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative empowers library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices to intentionally address climate change, helping to co-create thriving communities. The SLI is designed to offer tools and resources that library staff and governing bodies need to incorporate the principle of sustainability in their work.



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

The SLI had its origins in 2014 when NYLA Council passed the "Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries" which recognized the significant role libraries could play in larger community conversations about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future. The SLI has now spread across the United States with the endorsement of the American Library Association which added sustainability as a core value of librarianship in 2019.

Community volunteers and Friends of the Library can both support and participate in these efforts, applying sustainable thinking to library facilities, day-to-day operations, policies, technology, programming, and partnerships. Work may include reducing energy consumption, preparing for disasters, upgrading recycling programs, addressing

~ continued on [next page](#) ~

Friends and Sustainability, from [previous page](#)

residents' climate concerns in public forums, or meeting other sustainability goals.

In this survey, I was interested to learn what could transpire if Friends of Libraries became involved in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. I've long championed environmental advocacy and personal responsibility for sustainable practices, whether recycling, composting, or encouraging thrift store shopping! So when the SLI was getting started, I read closely to see how I could support this. Now seven years in, I wanted to see how library civic leaders could be involved to help their library obtain the status of Certified Sustainable Library in the SLI certification program.



I started in January 2025 with ten short questions and personally invited several libraries to answer my survey in relation to their certification efforts. Some had completed the certification and others were still working on it. But after eight weeks and only four responses, I knew I had to get a better plan to get some solid data on this topic. ("Work smarter, not harder....")

At the beginning of March, I reached out to then Sustainability Coordinator at SLI, Alex Blend, at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System which itself is a Certified Sustainable Library System. It took us eight weeks of on again/off again effort to transition my basic survey to SurveyMonkey. The goal was to have a survey instrument that would be short (fewer than a dozen questions) and easy to complete while (hopefully) subliminally educating the survey respondent on ways Friends volunteers might work with their library staff to advance the SLI certification.

The preliminary questions were shared with the SLI Advisory Board. After several drafts, including one to test the survey's functionality, we were ready. Alex invited the 150 public libraries from across the country that are currently enrolled in the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP) to complete the survey.

The purpose of the survey was clearly spelled out in the

invitation message: "The Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association has teamed up with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative to develop a short survey for members of the Sustainable Library Certification Program. We are interested to learn how community volunteers and/or Friends of the Library are currently involved in your library's certification process."

The survey was open May 1 through June 13. We received 32 responses, a 21.3% return rate. Of the replies received, 84% of the libraries had a Friends group. Fourteen libraries from New York State replied and five responses came from Vermont. Nine other states were represented with one or two responses each.

The results of the survey are itemized in our latest publication, **Toolkit about Friends of the Library and Sustainability**, which was developed as a handout for our program session at the 2025 NYLA Annual Conference, "A Crafty Way to Support Sustainability," presented with the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. The toolkit is now freely available as a resource on the Sustainable Libraries Initiative's website under [Recommended Reading](#) in the Articles section. Thank you to the new Sustainability Coordinator for SLI, Rebecca T. Miller, for her assistance in making this possible.

The toolkit provides a basic introduction to sustainability, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, and its certification program for libraries. The survey outlined many ways library support groups can help their libraries and communities with sustainability. Examples are clustered under the headings of book sales, bookstores, and literacy efforts; library collections and services; outreach and partnerships; and recycling efforts.

The toolkit contains a lengthy resource list and highlights articles from past issues of the Friends News and Notes newsletter that deal with environmentally-friendly practices, projects, and initiatives Friends can undertake. Learn how the Friends might establish a "donation station" to assist local nonprofits and also how Friends groups should strive to be sustainable themselves through careful succession planning.

For Friends organizations, the concept of sustainability requires a comprehensive approach which includes making provisions for leadership succession, adaptability, strategic planning, and the ability to raise funds in support of the library long term. We hope you'll get involved in this movement – take a deep dive! The pandemic taught groups many lessons about pivoting and exploring new options to fundraise in ways we had never thought of when in-person book sales and other events had to be curtailed. In a similar way, the organization itself needs to be maintained, making the group self-supporting as it performs its vital volunteer work for the community.

Welcoming Woodland Décor

This past fall, both the Irondequoit Public Library and the Wood Library in Canandaigua "spruced up" (pun intended!) their children's areas with woody themes to attract their youngest patrons and their families.

The Irondequoit Public Library Foundation has supported major projects and services since the library opened its new building in 2015. Upgrades have included equipment for their Maker's Lab, database subscriptions, and now a total refresh for the Children's Room to accommodate interactive programs, imaginative play, and entertainment like plays or dance on a stage area. The library collaborated with [Janice Davis Design](#), a design firm that specializes in creating magical worlds for children in libraries across New York and the USA. Whether castles, a pirate ship, trains, or caves, this company creates enchanting, fanciful spaces that encourage reading, study, and family-focused activities.



left: before
below: after

The renovation in Irondequoit includes sittable reading nooks, ceiling décor of treetops and branches, and a small elevated platform surrounded by a canopy of trees as the stage proscenium. Endcaps on shelving units also received a refresh. Shaped like bushes, openings have inserts that hold shelf category information to help young readers, like fairy tales, seasons, school, pets, along with fanciful animal figures (porcupines, squirrels, rabbits, hedgehogs, bear cubs, and owls).



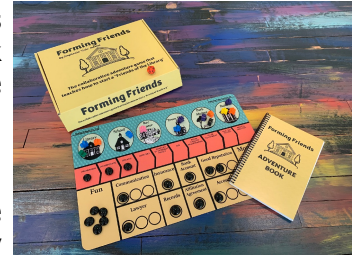
The Irondequoit Public Library Foundation raised \$106,408 toward this project and also received \$37,200 in NYS construction grant funds. Contributions could be made for specific aspects of the project, such as \$250 for each of the shelving unit endcaps. Fourteen donors chose to fund the endcaps and others helped cover the costs of the reading nooks and bears. The project was completed at a total cost of \$174,410.

Assistant Director Matt Krueger said, "The response from the

~ continued on [page 9](#) ~

Forming Friends: a Board Game!

The Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association are pleased to be collaborating with the Upper Hudson Library System for an opportunity to learn more about forming library support groups.



You're invited to join in the fun on Sunday, April 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the [Colonie Town Library](#) in Loudonville to play a board game, "Forming Friends," which simulates the process of starting up and running a nonprofit organization using a Friends of the Library group as the structural model.

This in-person session is free of charge. Any library workers, community volunteers, current members of Friends of the Library groups, and other interested parties are encouraged to come together to learn about the process of developing a Friends of the Library organization. There will be time to play, share experiences, and network with others working to build or strengthen Friends groups. If you plan to attend, please register [here](#).

"We created Forming Friends to keep FUN at the center of forming a Friends group, while faithfully teaching the process," says attorney Stephanie Adams. "Friends groups have to address formal things like incorporation and legal compliance, but without fun, you're missing an essential element of the journey." Stephanie Adams is an attorney in Buffalo, New York, who helped to develop the game. Her firm, the Law Office of Stephanie Adams, PLLC (the LOSA), focuses on laws that impact the cultural and built environment. Adams' primary clients are libraries, educators, students, and creative professionals.

Questions may be directed to Judith Wines, Upper Hudson Library System, at judith.wines@uhls.org.

View the [event flier](#) on page 12.

Spruced Up, continued from [page 8](#)

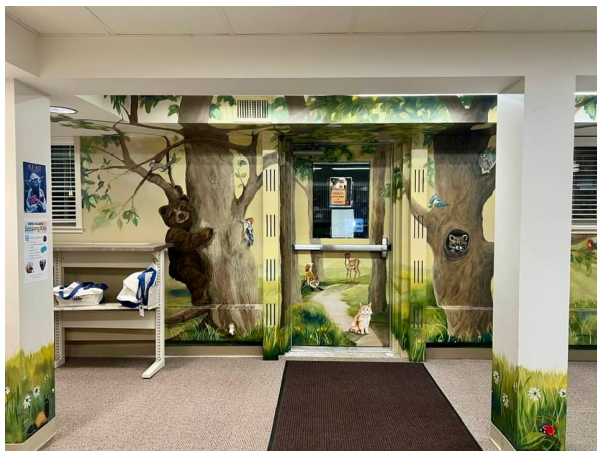
patrons has been overwhelming! Kids love sitting in the cubbies. The new lighting has created a calming, cozy atmosphere for storytime—you can feel the difference!”

At the Wood Library, the new mural by local artist Heather Heffernan was completed in December. See the photos posted on December 24 on [Heather’s Facebook page](#). This art installation was funded by contributions from individual donors (\$5,800) to honor the 2024 retirement of long-time children’s librarian Mary Ferris after serving the Canandaigua community for 50 years.



left: before
below: after

Familiar plants and animals of the Finger Lakes frame the doorway from the children’s area to the library’s new outdoor Reading Garden which was completed in 2025. The door is a cheerful focal point, drawing children outside. But at the base of every support pillar in the children’s area, they will also find little animal figures hiding in the grass that they will want to engage with. A fawn, fox, pileated woodpecker, racoon, and bear cub are only some of the featured wildlife providing a woodland welcome.



Heather’s post at the completion of the project was wonderful: “Wood Library is truly a special place. It holds such special energy — full of people who love learning, stories, and bringing their children into a place of possibility. It was truly an honor to create art in a space like this. Relationships matter deeply to me, and this experience was a beautiful reminder of how much I love people and

connection. My hope is that this mural creates a warm, inspiring atmosphere full of positive energy, where children and adults alike can imagine, grow, and feel truly at home.” She definitely succeeded!

We hope these photos will inspire Friends to consider the impact their fundraising might make to provide an artistic refresh to their libraries’ children’s rooms!

Here’s a few more photos of the remakes:
top two: Wood Library
bottom two: Irondequoit Public Library



Annual Reports

continued from [page 5](#)

use a bar graph or pie chart to give the statistics visually (e.g., comparing the revenue from the past four book sales).

Once written, distribute your annual report at the Friends' annual meeting. Shout out your good works! Post the report on the library's website and on the lobby bulletin board. Send home copies with the children as they leave storytime. Some libraries mail an annual report to the entire community or include it as an insert in the weekly advertising circular. Ask the library director if the Friends could have a page in that publication. If your library sends an annual fundraising appeal letter, put the Friends report in the envelope, too! Don't forget to include a contact person for joining the Friends, put the library's name, address, and phone number: give the reader a way to act on the information you are providing. Checks of support might come your way (dues or a donation) or you could hear from an enthusiastic volunteer to serve on a Friends committee. Annual reports are not in the category of holiday letters touting the exploits of your family members or the grandkids. They are a report card and the history of your group, an archive of your accomplishments. Reading them over several years, you can see the growth of a group that is healthy and strong. When they are written well, even your Friends officers will exclaim, "We did all that?"

This article first appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of the "Empire Friends News and Notes" newsletter.

Editorial note:

We hope that you have taken the opportunity to read the new **NYLA Annual Report 2025** which you'll find [here](#).

See what your NYLA membership supported this past year and the successes the Association achieved with the work of the volunteers who serve on NYLA Council, NYLA Standing Committees, and the units' leadership corps, all in partnership with the NYLA staff.



A memorial gathering announcement for Randall Enos. The top half features a portrait of a smiling man with a grey beard and a blue suit jacket. Below the portrait is a graphic of an open book with the text "in loving memory of RANDALL ENOS" overlaid. The dates "NOVEMBER 16, 1949 - MARCH 6, 2026" are printed below the name. The event is titled "MEMORIAL GATHERING" and is scheduled for "Sunday, May 3rd, 2026 | 11:30 am" at "Mountain Lake Park, 46 Bowen Road, Warwick, NY 10990". The program includes "11:30 Mingle & Food" and "12:30 Remembrance". The closing text reads: "Together, let's celebrate our beloved Randy through our favorite memories and stories".

Another Moment With Randy

Lisa Wemett shared this:

In 2014, when the Youth Services Section designated one of their scholarships for the Spring Conference in my name, Randy congratulated me, but quipped, "But you're not dead yet!" I reminded him of that exchange when FLS named the conference scholarship after him!



Lisa Wemett presenting Randy Enos with a certificate naming him FLS President Emeritus at the NYLA Conference in 2015.

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)

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Elaine Dunne
Jim Foster
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Mary Giardini
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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.

Membership in the Friends of Libraries Section

FLS is grateful for the many Friends groups that have joined NYLA as a Friends Group Organizational member and for those Friends who have then selected FLS as an included Section within NYLA. We are also grateful for all the NYLA members who have included FLS in your selected NYLA units. Your membership in FLS helps to fuel the work that we do and the outreach that we can provide. When your membership renewal is due this spring, please include FLS as a Section with your registration. You must do this manually. It is not automatic, even if you are a part of a Friends group or register as a Friend. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Lauren Hoyt, NYLA Director of Association Operations at membership@nyla.org.

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.

The family of Randall Enos is grateful to all who are donating to the RECS Fund in Randy's memory.

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

This newsletter is a publication of the
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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.

~ Forming Friends! Flier on next page ~

Forming Friends!

Incorporation, 501(c)(3) status, EINs - forming a Friends group can feel daunting. Wherever your group is in the process, you're invited to join us for a fun, collaborative board game-based exploration of the steps involved and some common pitfalls along the way.



Participants will learn about the formation process while also having time for networking, sharing experiences, and informal idea exchange with others working to build or strengthen Friends groups.

[Learn more about the game here.](#)

Sunday, April 12

2–4 p.m.

Colonie Town Library
([just off Northway Exit 4](#)).

[Register at this Link](#)

UPPER HUDSON
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