Petition Seeks Section Status in NYLA

During the NYLA Council election this summer, NYLA members were able to "e-sign" an electronic petition put forth by the EFR Executive Board. In May, the Board passed a motion for EFR to "petition the NYLA membership for a change in status from Roundtable to Section within the framework of NYLA."

Such a change requires three hundred signatures from all of NYLA’s members, not just EFR members. We are already two-thirds of the way there, with 194 signatures garnered during the Council election timeframe. The electronic petition will remain on NYLA’s online membership center until December 31 of this year. We will also be seeking signatures for the petition at the EFR booth at the NYLA Trade Show at the annual conference in Niagara Falls.

If we are able to secure the 300 signatures, the petition will be brought to the NYLA Annual Membership meeting in Niagara Falls for a vote of the NYLA members present. If it takes longer to complete the petition, EFR’s application to become a Section will come before the general membership in the 2014 Council election to seek approval.

The Empire Friends Section could become one of the basic Sections of NYLA, so any member joining NYLA could select Empire Friends at no charge (unlike the current arrangement where extra funds must be paid to join EFR). Sections are also allowed to have additional program slots as well as continuing education workshops at the NYLA Annual Conference. Another benefit would be that the Empire Friends President would sit on NYLA Council giving EFR a vote on NYLA’s policies, etc., rather than being represented with other roundtables by a Councilor-at-Large. Friends of Library groups across NYS will have a Section devoted to their specific needs, interests, and advocacy efforts. The Empire Friends would also have a broader financial base to serve its members.

We hope all of our current roundtable members will support our bid to become a Section by logging into the online membership center and adding your "signature" to the EFR Section Formation Petition. Once in the online membership center, on the left sidebar choose "Voting-polls." Click on "EFR Section Formation Petition" referendum and follow the directions. Any questions about this process may be directed to President Randy Enos at renos@rcls.org.


Friday, September 27, 2013
Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls NY

9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
NYLA Trade Show.
Visit the EFR Booth. At 10:15 a.m., hear a “chitchat” session on “Raising Awareness with Community Organizations” from the Friends of the Irondequoit Public Library.

11 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.
Moving Friends’ Records to Cloud Storage

12:30 p.m.
Special Event (tickets $25; requires pre-registration)
Empire Friends Luncheon
at the Castellani Art Museum at the Falls

2:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Beyond the Book Sale: Groups of volunteers make a difference and improve their libraries.

3:45 - 5 p.m.
Reaching Out to Younger Volunteer Friends
(co-sponsored by PLS)
EFR’s annual membership meeting, including the announcement of the Dan Casey Award winner and election of officers for 2013-14, will begin the session, followed immediately by the panel discussion.

For more information on program descriptions or to register for the conference visit NYLA.org

Inside this issue:
A High Tea Fund-raiser! ............... page 2
Steps to Financial Security ............. page 2
Bountiful Fund-raisers ................. page 3, 4
NFOLW .................................................. page 4
New Benefit for Members .............. page 5
Future Endeavors ....................... page 5
In the Next Issue ......................... page 6
PESH Inspections ....................... page 6
EFR Membership Form ............... page 6

The mission of the Empire Friends Roundtable is to promote and inspire local Friends groups in libraries of all types for the betterment of New York State’s library community.
**A High Tea Fund-raiser!**

Article and photos by Susan Swanton

Break out your fascinator, gloves and formal wear for the Friends of the Rush Public Library's May 11, 2013 High Tea fund-raiser. Held after Saturday hours in the library on a spring afternoon between 3 and 5 pm, the Friends and staff transformed the library so that the tea service graced the circulation desk and a wonderful buffet of sweets and savory treats covered the adult area reading tables. Small tables scattered through the library provided seating for high tea attendees. Tickets were a modest $15 each with the proceeds supporting summer reading programs for the whole community.

Friends and staff worked together for this fun after-hours fund-raiser with door prizes and a special raffle of a Vera Bradley purse. A few party games were held for prizes and all had an enjoyable time talking with fellow library supporters and booklovers. The fund-raising goal of $200 was met, after expenses for savories were deducted.

This is a creative way for a small Friends group to raise money for a specific library cause and have a great time in the process. The Rush Public Library serves a population of less than 3500 in a mostly rural community in southern Monroe County. For more details on this event, contact Rush Library Director, Kirsten Flass, at (585) 533-1370 or Heather Iannone, Friends Chairperson, at (585) 359-9914.

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**Book Sales and Foundations: Steps to Financial Security**

by Lisa C. Wemett

NYLA's "The eBulletin" published several articles of interest to Friends groups in the June 2013 issue which focused on fund-raising strategies. (See the end of this article for directions on how to access this publication online.)

The Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca outlined a detailed history of their group's book sale from its beginnings in 1946 to its ultimate home in a spacious warehouse in downtown Ithaca purchased by the Friends in 1991. Their web page, www.booksale.org, combined with three "long weekend" sales held annually in the spring and fall, have helped the group donate more than $4.5 million to the library and other small libraries in the Finger Lakes Library System.

But wait: there's more! Regina Lenox graciously shared an extremely detailed list of "Tips to Make a Book Sale Grow," based on the Tompkins County Friends' experiences. Her article includes a category list for sorting (and why sorting matters), ways to identify collectibles and first additions, the layout of the sale (with merchandising and safety tips), rules for shoppers and dealers, where to advertise, and an incredibly easy method for pricing materials and cashing out purchases. Books sales of all sizes will find concrete ways to improve their fund-raisers.

Both Friends and library trustees will want to read "Building a Foundation for Fund-raising Success." Library Director Sophia Serlis-McPhillips and Grants Administrator Lori Abbatepaolo of the Middle Country Public Library co-wrote the article delineating the "collaborative, innovative, and replicable initiatives" the library's foundation has supported for the residents of Middle Country and the Long Island region. Established in 1997, the fund has grown through investments and generous contributions to help the Middle Country Public Library maintain its leadership role and continue on its path of innovation into the future. Other libraries can certainly set some similar goals to attract corporate sponsorships and launch capital campaigns for their communities.

"The eBulletin" is published bi-monthly. From NYLA’s home page, www.nyla.org, select the "News and Events" tab. From the drop down menu, click on "e-Bulletin." Past issues (spring 2006-2011) are available in PDF format; just click on the link. The current issues have a hotlink. You will need your NYLA user name and password to access each digital issue. (You will find this information at the bottom of your e-mail receipt for your membership dues payment. If you have no record of this, you may contact Lois Powell, Director of Membership Services, by clicking the link "Forgot Your Logon Information? Click here." The link opens up a form you can complete and submit. Your logon information will be sent to your e-mail.)

Enter your user name and password in the boxes labeled "System Log on." The current issue comes up. The June 2013 issue is a past issue. Click that link above the masthead. (The issues from April 2012 to date are archived.) The search box allows you to search content in past issues. Put in "Friends" and you'll find even more than two dozen links to explore, including the three articles from the June 2013 issue. Once you have read a link, you cannot go back in your browser. Just search "Friends" once more to obtain the list of articles again.
Bountiful Fund-raisers for Autumn and the Holidays
by Lisa C. Wemett

If your Friends group is looking for some new ideas for fund-raising, think about adopting some of these great projects from around the Empire State. Creativity abounds for money making when the holidays approach. Perhaps your group will want to try something different from book sales, raffles, or other standard fund-raisers in the coming year.

Harvest Dinner

The Friends of the Hillside Public Library of New Hyde Park have two very successful fund-raisers each year, a spring tea and a Harvest Dinner.

President Patricia Burns states the harvest dinner "is a catered affair for 60 (that's all the room can hold)." Tickets are $20 per person (everyone pays, "even Friends Board members"). In September, volunteers are asked to approach local merchants with a letter about the fund-raiser to ask for donations for a raffle table, which includes holiday items and items known to be popular from previous raffles, such as wine and gift certificates at restaurants and hair salons. There is also a "lucky buck" 50-50 raffle. To encourage membership in the Friends, one raffle is only for members. Net proceeds are $1400.

Entertainment spotlights the local schoolchildren, with performances from the music departments of the grammar and high school.

Bus Trips

Bus trips for adults are popular for two libraries on Long Island. This past June, a bus tour, "The Power of Style in Our Lives," was a cooperative venture between the Friends groups of the Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library and the Mattituck-Laurel Library. A former Past President of the Cutchogue New Suffolk Friends, Sue Micelli, organizes the tours and reported that "the trip included a behind-the-scenes tour of the garment center in NYC by Adrienne Landau, a very successful and well-known fashion accessory designer [who] gave us a tour of her showroom. In addition, she offered any of her items for sale at wholesale prices. Kindly, she also gave us two beautiful shawls to raffle off during the ride home."

The tour also stopped for lunch at a Chinese restaurant and included a visit to an exhibit on French interior decoration at the Bard Graduate Center. The cost of $65 per person covered the transportation, lunch, tours, and tips. The tour sold out the 56-passenger bus within two weeks of advertising the trip. Sue stated "the participation in the raffle was amazing. It was an easy trip to organize and a fast way to bring in some money." The two Friends groups each received $1,300 for their Friends projects. The groups also offer "Do As You Please" bus tours to Manhattan a few times a year for $25 per person, a "public service" for residents to have a day in NYC for sightseeing or shopping. "We have multiple stops in the city; they are on their own for the day, then we all meet at The New York Public Library at 6 p.m. for the ride home," says trip coordinator Sue Micelli.

Angel Tree

Besides decorating the library for the holidays, the Friends of the Evans Mills Library have an Angel Tree each year. With this on-going project, community members may donate $5 or more to the Friends in memory or in honor of loved ones. Each donation is recognized with the person's name attached to an angel ornament placed on the library's Christmas tree. The project helps residents to keep in mind the message to "remember the library" when making memorial contributions and charitable bequests year-round.

Gathering the Community

The Farm Feasts organized by the Friends of the Bovina Library bring the entire community together to celebrate the local foods of Delaware County. With only a dozen active volunteers, this energetic group has worked to successfully raise funds for a matching grant from a community foundation for the past two years to help close a large shortfall in the library's operating budget. They are planning their third Farm Feast for November 9 this year.

When they established this event in 2011, the Friends' efforts were tied in part to a growing local food movement, which included a new advocacy group named Farming Bovina. Thanks in large part to the generosity of the Friends members and local farmers, many of whom donated the provisions, the group spent less than $800 to hold a community supper that fed 220 people. "The farmers supplied two pigs for roasting, four turkeys, ground beef and veal which we made into meatloaf, short ribs, chicken, and local squash, carrots, and potatoes (the only veggies we would get at that time of year) as well as applesauce - all of which we cooked or made ourselves along with library and community members," reports Marjorie Miller, director of the Bovina Public Library. "We also had donated bread from a local bread-maker (Breadfellows) as well as local apple cider. Our Friends group and library members made desserts."
Ticket prices were set at $10 for adults and $6 for children if purchased before the event. The also offered a "buy it there" option ($12 and $8 respectively). Anticipating perhaps 90 diners, more than twice that number showed up!

The Bovina Community Hall was decorated by a Friends member with wonderful Christmas decorations which included two donated trees that were auctioned off. Additional funds were raised with a 50-50 drawing and an auction of farm animal collages (cow, pig, barn, etc.) made by the youth group from the Presbyterian Church. "Several of our talented local musicians were asked to come and perform during dinner. The church kids sang holiday carols, in which the assembled diners participated," says Marjorie. "We allowed diners to BYOB wine. Bovina is a dry town with a very strong second home owner population from downstate. Bob Bishop, the Executive Director of the O'Connor Foundation, who had attended both Feasts, was very pleased by the integration and attendance of both local full-time and part-time resident members of our community at the dinner. In one night we were able to raise over $4200, more than we needed [for the matching grant]."

"Members Only" Events

Two highly successful projects of the Friends of the Florida (NY) Public Library (FFPL) are run by this group that numbers less than 60 people. Just as bargain hunters and book dealers become members to have a first look at Friends preview nights at book sales, the Florida Public Library has found that several exclusive "members only" events have increased their Friends numbers.

Since 2008, the Friends have hosted a local chef fixing a holiday meal in the library’s kitchen following a brief business meeting in November. (When FPL moved to its new building thirteen years ago, the Friends donated the kitchen’s full-size appliances.) At various times, Dan Lemire of Chumley's BBQ has prepared roast turkey with all the fixings, roast beef, and a butterflied, stuffed pork roast with seasonal root vegetables. Chef Dan donates his time and all supplies; he prepares one meal for the eager Friends to enjoy and a meal "to go" for the lucky winners of the evening's door prize drawing. "Chef Nick Mouhteros of Cornucopia Restaurant treated us to a full Greek meal from spicy moussaka to sweet baklava," said Library Director Madelyn Folino. "These programs are a highlight of the year and draw members who rarely attend monthly meetings. Who doesn't like a live cooking show with lots of expert advice, unlimited Q&A, and delicious tastes of a variety of fresh foods in a cozy setting?"

December’s meeting is devoted to the annual members-only Holiday Cookie Swap in which Friends share their favorite, homemade cookies. The Cookie Swap includes sweet treats, relaxed socializing, and soft holiday music. The goal is to bring a dozen cookies and assemble an assortment of goodies to take home. Colorful paper boxes are provided by the Friends so that members leave with a customized selection of home baked treats ready to enjoy or share as a gift. All funds raised by FFPL are used to defray costs and materials for many library programs including Poetry Cafés four times a year and a summer ice cream social.

Giving Back

In the spirit of giving back to their community, the Friends of the Waddington Hepburn Library in Waddington (North Country Library System) donated the proceeds from their "Merry Berry Sale" to the local neighborhood center. The sale, first presented in 2012, offered five vendors with handicrafts including quilts and wooden ducks. Crafters were charged $15 for their display space. "Every vendor that attended said they would gladly return next year," reported Library Director Edith Ashley. Running from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the first Saturday in December, the Merry Berry Sale also featured a $5 "soup and sandwich" luncheon coordinated by the Friends. A canned food collection was held to benefit the local food cupboard. Due to its success, Edith reports "we are planning another one this year."

Thank you to all of our Friends groups who completed the NYLA/EFR Friends Census this year and to those who contributed these successful projects to this article: Pat Burns, Friends of the Hillside Public Library (Trish1937@verizon.net); Suzanne Micelli, Friends of the Cutchoogue New Suffolk Library (mselly03@hotmail.com); Marjorie Miller, Bovina Public Library (bovinalib@delhitel.net); Madelyn Folino, Florida Public Library (mfolino@rcs.org); Edith Ashley, Waddington Hepburn Library (wadlib@rcs.org). Readers may contact them about their Friends projects.

How will your Friends Group celebrate the 
8th National Friends of the Library Week 
October 20-26, 2013?

Please email us to share your stories and photos from NFOLW events at your library! 
EmpireFriendsRoundtable@frontier.com

Page 4
New Benefit for Organizational Members of NYLA / EFR
by Terry Mulee, Membership Chair

Is your Friends group a member of EFR? NYLA and EFR are pleased to announce a new benefit for organizational members.

NYLA now provides a non-voting membership status at no additional cost to the elected officers of any Friends group that is a NYLA organizational member. These non-voting members will receive the weekly "News You Can Use" newsletter, bi-monthly issues of "The eBulletin" and legislative alerts, via e-mail.

Each Organizational Membership still includes a designated Primary Contact. This person is a voting member of NYLA.

An Organizational Member form is online at www.nyla.org under the "Membership" tab. When a Friends group submits their annual membership dues, the NYLA - Friends Group Member - Elected Officer Registration Form should be completed with the current list of Friends officers and their contact information, including e-mail addresses. This form should be filed annually to reflect any changes in the list of Friends officers.

Non-voting members of organizational groups belonging to NYLA/EFR will also be eligible for significantly reduced registration fees for NYLA's Annual Conference. A single day registration is available for "Friends Day" which includes a badge allowing entry to all non-ticketed programs (including sessions not sponsored by EFR) and the NYLA trade show. NYLA also offers EFR members a discount for full conference registration which includes entry to all non-ticketed programs for all days of the conference and the NYLA trade show.

The discounted Friends conference registration rate is available to the following NYLA members:

- Individual members of NYLA who have joined in the Friend, Trustee, or Retired categories
- The primary contact (voting member) for a Friends of the Library group that is an organizational member of NYLA/EFR
- Elected officers (non-voting NYLA members listed on the NYLA - Friends Group Member - Elected Officer Registration Form) for a Friends of the Library group that is an organizational member of NYLA/EFR

Please take advantage of all NYLA and EFR has to offer by completing the NYLA - Friends Group Member - Elected Officer Registration Form for your Friends officers. EFR is excited to welcome these Friends officers to our ranks. Once they have received their NYLA user name and password, be sure they log on to the online membership center at NYLA.org to join the EFR listserv; just one more way they can keep abreast of issues and programs of interest to Friends groups.

This new Friends benefit is modeled on the non-voting membership offered to trustees of libraries and library systems that are organizational members of NYLA. Trustees with non-voting status are also eligible for the reduced conference registration rates.

Future Endeavors Guided by Census Responses
by Lisa C. Wemett

With more than 250 responses to the census of Friends groups that NYLA conducted earlier this year, the EFR Board was provided with many ideas to ponder for its future undertakings. The survey, composed of 30 questions, was widely distributed through NYLINE, PULISDO, NYLA's "News You Can Use," and reminders in system newsletters. Nearly one-third of the 756 public libraries in the state submitted information about their Friends groups. Around 16% of the responses came from groups ranging from 70 to 150 members, primarily in medium-sized libraries.

The final open-ended question asked for suggestions for services the group would be interested to receive from NYLA and the Empire Friends Roundtable, giving the examples of "speakers for events" and "accounting services." The following responses were received from four or more groups:

- speakers for events
- fund-raising ideas
- accounting services
- ideas on attracting new members and expanding the Friends
- workshops and other training opportunities for Friends Board members
- sharing best practices
- ideas for community programming
- tax advice
- considerations for starting, organizing, and running a Friends group

The EFR Board provides some of these services at this point through the Friends Day at the NYLA Annual Conference which allows participants to hear many ideas and "best practices" in a one-day setting, encouraging Friends groups to connect with one another and to share projects that have been successful. Articles in every issue of the EFR newsletter highlight successful fund-raisers held in communities large and small.

But where do we go next? Did the responses to "speakers for events" mean directing groups to entertaining speakers and authors for adult programming or the annual meeting of the Friends group? Or should the EFR Board resurrect its informal "speakers bureau," where experienced Friends members can be contacted to provide workshops on

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Future Endeavors

topics such as how to revitalize and grow a Friends group, planning a successful membership drive, or running a successful bookstore operation? Would Friends groups want administrative support from NYLA for assistance in becoming incorporated, reporting sales tax, accounting services, offering a Friends web page, advice on insurance or legal needs, or completing an application for 501(c)(3) non-profit status?

Please know that the EFR Board is willing to listen to suggestions on what initiatives will help our members the most. We wish we had concrete answers to your questions like "how do we turn 'dues payers' into active, participating members?" and "what's the best way to have the Friends become more involved in community events?" Until then, please contact President Randy Enos at renos@rcls.org with your concerns. We are willing to help local groups plan training sessions for their members and other libraries in the region. We are continuously looking for groups willing to share their personal successes with a wider audience at our Friends Day programs at the annual conference (2014 will be in Saratoga Springs). With your help, we will continue with the EFR mission, to promote and inspire local Friends groups in libraries of all types for the betterment of New York State's library community.

Coming Up in the Next Newsletter:
- Online Resources for Friends
- Member News
- 2013 NYLA Conference Wrap-up
- EFR Election Results
- 2013 Dan Casey Award Winner

PESH Inspections

PESH [Public Employees Safety and Health] is New York State's equivalent of OSHA. A recent annual inspection of a town facility resulted in a warning for a Rochester area Friends group about not storing boxes of book sale items in aisles or on tops of ranges of book shelves. While the warning did not result in a fine, the town assured the PESH inspector that the Friends would correct the hazardous situation immediately and the Friends did. So if your Friends use a municipal facility for storage of book sale materials, be aware of PESH safety requirements.

Congratulations to Lisa C. Wemett, Vice President of EFR. She has been named a Dewey Fellow by NYLA's Youth Services Section for the 2013 NYLA Conference.