



GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

NOTABLE DATES

April 9

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

April 11

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

April 15

- CNCN Legislative Forum—7 pm

April 28

- FOELCL Concert—2 pm

May 9

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

May 14

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

May 27

- Library Closed

June 11

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

June 13

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am



Hooray! Daylight savings time has started, and spring has officially arrived! Songbirds are chirping the news, and, except for a few requisite showers, the weather has been mild and marvelous.

Alas, amid the joy this time of year brings, there comes the less than joyful task of spring cleaning, and Friends of East Lake Community Library have taken up the task. While not as exciting or noteworthy as other initiatives undertaken by the Friends, much time during recent meetings of the FOELCL

Board has been dedicated to a clean sweep of the organization's governing documents and guidelines.

In the scheme of things, this clearing away of the cobwebs in the FOELCL Bylaws, Standing Rules and Board Member Job Descriptions may not seem noteworthy, but I promise you it was necessary and long overdue. The FOELCL Bylaws had not been reviewed and revised since August 2018, and the Standing Rules had not seen housekeeping since June of 2017. Officer and Board Member Job Descriptions were equally moldy.

Board members rolled up their sleeves and set to work, going article by article, line by line to make certain each document accurately and fully represented the policies and procedures currently in place. While no earth-shaking changes were needed, updates, clarification and reorganization have made dramatic improvements to all three documents. For example, Board member and officer duties are more clearly outlined, the process for electing FOELCL Directors is more clearly stated and financial policies and requirements are listed in full detail so as not to miss a single step going forward.

Just like spring cleaning one's home can be tedious, scrubbing the FOELCL documents took painstaking effort, and I am proud of the Board for hanging in there and seeing it through. Also, just like spring cleaning one's home, with the job accomplished, we all feel lighter, less encumbered and more ready to move forward with a set of administrative tools that are shiny and dust free.

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL

P.S. Need some inspiration to tackle your own spring cleaning? Turn to page 4 to read about East Lake Library's "Junk in the Trunk" event—a perfect way to divest yourself of unneeded debris!



A LOOK INSIDE

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Junk in the Trunk

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Did You Know?



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

Spring is upon us, and the entire library staff is sprucing up the building and grounds and planning dozens of wonderful programs and activities for all ages. Thanks to a grant from the East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club and a private donor, the Children's Garden will have two new outdoor musical instruments — a glockenspiel and a drum panel. This equipment has the ability to stimulate many areas of development and enhance play experiences.

During the upcoming summer months, most of the library's programs will be geared toward school aged students with workshops and activities to promote reading and learning. Thanks to a generous grant from Waterford Press, the entire Adventure Awaits series is fully funded, with such outstanding programs as an Eco-Cruise Adventure out of Tarpon Springs and the return of Challenge Island.

Adults, too, deserve some summer fun! For example, there will be a free "Slice of Summer" Concert on June 19, presented by St. Pete Saxophone Quartet. Other workshops are yet to be announced.

We are also gearing up for the library's 25th Anniversary next fall by having a Library Card Design Contest over the summer to commemorate this milestone. Submissions run from June 1 to July 31 with the winners' cards available beginning November 1. Check the library's website and online calendar for more information beginning in May.

We know it soon will be hot out there, but it's cool in here...stop in and beat the heat!



—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation President

The ELCL Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and community organizations to receive gifts that help establish and grow an endowment fund. These gifts can take various forms, including cash donations, bequests in wills, stocks, real estate and other valuable assets. Donors contribute to the endowment fund with the knowledge that their gifts will provide ongoing support for the library. I'd like to call out two bequests received by the Foundation since the last newsletter:

- **Lawrence and Charlotte Klau:** Their recent legacy gift will be used to enhance, and later enlarge, the adult reading area at East Lake Community Library.
- **Deanna and Tom Bennett:** Their recent legacy gift will be used toward the "Phase 2" library expansion project; previous gifts updated the library's circulation desk and Community Room.

Why are these gifts noteworthy? Beyond the generosity of the donations themselves, both families worked with the Library and the Foundation to make their intentions clear on how they wished to memorialize their legacy. They also asked about the Library's immediate needs and provided latitude for the Foundation to properly manage the gifts and make informed decisions that will support future, long-term efforts.

The Foundation carefully manages its endowment funds and utilizes a responsible investment strategy to generate returns. Returns are distributed to the library on a regular basis, providing critical financial support for its needs. The endowment fund also serves as a catalyst for significant capital projects. Libraries often require infrastructure upgrades, expansions or adoption of new technologies. Such ambitious endeavors can strain a library's budget, making it challenging to embark on them without external support. ELCL Foundation, through its growing endowment fund, can step in to provide necessary financial backing for these capital projects, ensuring the library remains a vibrant hub for knowledge and community engagement.

The ELCL Foundation supports our Library, and 100% of the funds raised go directly to projects that augment funding from Pinellas County. We hope you'll consider donating to the ELCL Foundation to give back to your community. Learn more at <https://www.elclfoundation.org> and create your library legacy through charitable giving!

Friends of ELCL participate in area non-profits meeting

In January, Friends of East Lake Community Library Board President Barbara Cole and Communications Director Claudia Thomas attended a meeting of area non-profit organizations sponsored by East Lake Community Library. In addition to the Friends and the library, other groups sending representatives to the gathering were Palm Harbor Newcomers Club, Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise, Empath Health, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, East Lake Parks and Recreation, Palm Harbor Cares and Cypress Woods Elementary School PTA.

The concept behind the meeting was to provide an opportunity to network, share ideas and resources, coordinate calendars, problem solve and collaborate on other issues, strategies, opportunities and goals. The intent is to hold quarterly workshops for the group with the next scheduled for Thursday, April 25.

Some of the ideas put forward at the first gathering included exchanging information on special events to enhance awareness in the community, sharing details about speakers and performers who are reasonably priced or who might offer discounted pricing for multiple bookings in the area and sharing training opportunities and workshops for staff members and patrons. Space for meetings, programs and parking that could possibly be utilized by participating organizations was identified, and the possibility of group purchasing was discussed to address spiraling costs.

Other area nonprofits were identified with the hope they will choose to join the new consortium as the more participants, the greater the benefit to all.



Participants at the first area non-profits workshop sponsored by ELCL share problems, ideas and opportunities to collaborate in a roundtable setting in the ELCL Community Room in January.

Welcome to FOELCL 's newest Community Partners

Dawson Dance Academy
4934 Ridgemoor Blvd.
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
813-814-7500

Expedia Cruises
Maryellen Crowder, Travel Agent
2524 C McMullen Booth Road
Clearwater, FL 33761
727-698-3010

Jon Geigle YMCA of the Suncoast
4550 Village Center Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-772-9622

Olympia Aesthetics
33295 US Hwy 19 N #109
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
727-501-2828

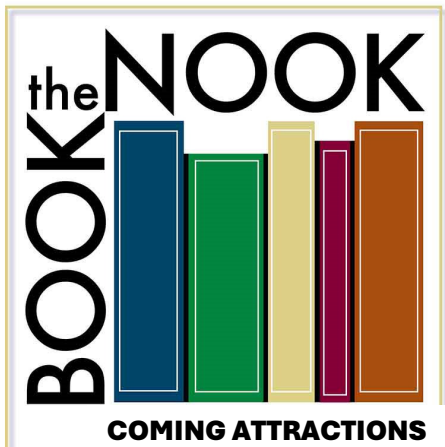
Special thanks to Community Partner

Nesting Grounds Cafe
4825 Ridgemoor Blvd.
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-559-1574

for providing a delicious breakfast for the Friends' recognition of ELCL's staff members during National Love Your Library month.

Please support these and other FOELCL Community Partners. For a complete listing of FOELCL Community Partners, visit www.eastlakelibrary.org

Community Partner membership is available on a yearly basis. Information and an application are available at the library or online at the above website address.



The Friends of ELCL’s Book Nook, which sells used books, puzzles and other items, will be offering the following specials:

APRIL SPECIAL: 50% off children’s books and books on gardening, sports and games, humor, travel and family health. Flash Sale — David Baldacci 50¢ - \$1.50!

MAY SPECIAL: Girl Power! 50% off women authors’ paper cover novels and children’s books.

JUNE SPECIAL: It’s a “Ducky” Summer Sale! Pick a rubber duck from the pond to discover your savings....50¢....75¢....\$1....Free Book

NOTE: Special savings do not apply to any gift baskets or items marked “GIFT” or “CRITTERS”.

How cool is this?



As a member of the Friends—YOU helped make this happen!



During the Covid pandemic, East Lake Library installed a 24/7 food pantry to assist area residents experiencing food insecurity. Recently, a new shed was purchased and installed to house the food pantry, and Friends of East Lake Community Library paid for a new refrigerator to go inside the shed. (The original refrigerator was located outside the food pantry.) Donations to the ELCL food pantry are always wanted and appreciated. Please consider bringing an item or two the next time you stop by the library.



SATURDAY

MAY 11

10AM - 2PM

Register to sell items out of the trunk of your car for a fee of \$15 per parking space. Bring a table or rent one for \$10. Advance registration, rental & payment required. Call the library ASAP!

Let the music play

2024 Concert Series is a hit

From cool jazz to virtuoso classical to vocal golden oldies, the musical menu of the 2024 Friends of East Lake Community Library Concert Series has been a delicious smorgasbord of genres. In each of the Series' first three segments, incredible talent has been on display to the delight of enthusiastic audiences.

After Five (top photo) kicked off the 2024 FOELCL Concert Series in January with jazz standards and a few originals composed by guitar player Andy DePasquale that had the "joint jumpin'". Group leader and saxophone player Bernie Maloney shared interesting stories about several of the numbers, and bass player John Tschirhart provided the rhythmic beats that kept toes tapping.

In February, the lush sounds of classical music filled the ELCL Community Room when St. Pete Baroque (middle photo) presented "Many Strings Attached". Leader and viola d'amore player Dan Urbanowicz told the crowd some of the music played had only recently been discovered in Italy, meaning the ELCL audience members were some of the first people to hear it in the modern age. Yuan-Yuan Wang's baroque violin playing was spectacular, and having her mother, who was visiting from China, present, added a special note. Also making the afternoon exceptional was having a harpsichord in the room, played brilliantly by Dale Williams. The harpsichord arrived in pieces and had to be reassembled and tuned before making its ELCL debut.

The third concert featured the remarkably vocally talented Steve Walker (bottom photo), who took audience members on a sentimental journey with a repertoire of songs from the 1950s and 60s. The Platters, Johnny Cash, The Drifters, The Temptations, Dion and the Belmonts, Neil Diamond, Elvis.....the hits just kept coming!

The Concert Series will conclude on April 28 with the romantic, contemporary sounds of an amazing violinist, Cal Morris. Tickets are going fast, so be sure to call or visit the library soon to get yours.



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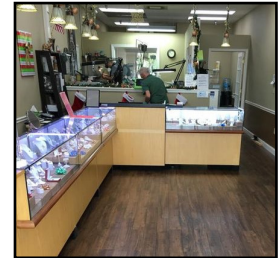
Friends of East Lake Community Library

Community Partner

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Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know?....

- ◆ **A STUDY FINDS** reading for just six minutes a day can help reduce stress by up to 68%. A 2009 study at the University of Sussex found that reading can reduce stress by up to two thirds, making it a much more efficient relaxation method than listening to music, drinking a cup of hot tea or even taking a walk. Participants who engaged in just six minutes of reading for pleasure were found to have a significantly slower heart rate and reduced muscle tension.
- ◆ **THE TOTAL TRAFFIC COUNT** of visitors to East Lake Community Library in 2023 exceeded 80,000 individuals.
- ◆ **THE PASSPORT FAIR** held in February at ELCL generated 47 passports, 49 passport photos and netted \$2,000 in revenue for the library, making it a win-win for community residents and the library's bottom line.

FOELCL BOARD

Barbara Cole, President
Joan Lawler, Vice President
Jerry Griffin, Secretary
Jim McCarthy, Treasurer
Marcia Giza, Director-at-Large
Elaine Kirkhoff, Director-at-Large
Kim Lindemann, Director-at-Large
Michelle Malacinski, Director-at-Large
Joan McCarthy, Director-at-Large
Claudia Thomas, Director-at-Large
Bob Weinberg, Director-at-Large
Lois Eannel, ELCL Director (Ex Officio)
James Cuomo, ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation Chair (Liaison)

The purpose of the Friends shall be to promote and enhance library services and facilities of ELCL, to foster closer relationships between the library and its community and to raise funds in support of the library, its materials and resources.