



GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

NOTABLE DATES

November 17

- FOELCL Meeting— 10 am

December 2

- Santa’s Merry Meet & Greet—11:30 am-2:30 pm (Registration required)

December 3

- Holiday Poinsettia Pick Up begins at noon

December 8

- FOELCL Meeting— 10 am

December 24-25-26

- Library Closed



What a wonderful time of year! With the holiday season rapidly approaching, I am certain you, like me, are looking forward to special celebrations with family and friends. The list of friends I hope to share the joy of this holiday season with includes you. I would love to see you at one or more great library event in November and December. Be sure to go online to eastlakelibrary.com to review the full library calendar of holiday activities and events.

Of particular note is the library’s Annual Giving Tree campaign to provide holiday gifts for young victims of domestic abuse in partnership with The Haven of Hope Villages of America. The need has never been greater, so I hope you can find it in your heart to make the holidays brighter for an area child in need. I’d also like to remind you about the library’s food pantry where the need is also great this year. It’s available 24/7 for neighbors who face a shortage of food and other necessities. Please consider helping to restock the pantry by dropping off non-perishable foods, paper goods and personal hygiene items. Donations to these two ELCL projects will be very much appreciated.

Speaking of appreciation, Thanksgiving is the time to, well, give thanks, and this year my list of things for which I am thankful is incredibly long. The past several years have been so challenging and disruptive, but things have finally settled down to a more manageable state. This has to be number one on my “I’m so grateful for” list. Also topping my list is ELCL Director Lois Eannel, her exceptional staff and a great cast of FOELCL Board members and other library volunteers, all of whom have worked so hard during the difficult times to keep the library’s great programs and services not just continuing but growing. I have an extra special dose of gratitude for retiring FOELCL Board members Susan Wolf and Pat Salvior, both of whom made a positive difference as part of the FOELCL team. I am also extremely grateful for YOU and all members of Friends of East Lake Community Library. You play a critical role in keeping ELCL an outstanding community resource and are most definitely “Thankful List” superstars!

I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyful holiday season.

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL



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DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Long-Range Planning

As the East Lake community and society in general continues to grow and change, library services and programs also need to evolve to keep pace with these changes. In 2018, Long-Range Plans were drawn up to guide East Lake Community Library through 2022. As 2022 comes to an end, we are now reviewing the Mission Statement and previous plan, and we are gathering current data from multiple sources to formulate a new set of goals and objectives. A review of the 2018 Plan determined those items not completed and the set of needs determined at that time. We are now seeking input on what areas require updated or new information based on changes in the community and library environment. A survey was created to glean input from staff and patrons to ensure the new long-range plan becomes a dynamic tool as we make strategic decisions and public policy for the next four years. Survey results, as well as data from various sources (e.g. 2020 Census) will be analyzed and utilized as part of the ongoing process.

A key part of the strategic planning process are community focus groups. These groups offer an opportunity to voice your ideas for YOUR community library. There are three focus groups scheduled at the end of November: Saturday, November 19 at 10 am; Tuesday, November 22, at 10 am; and Wednesday, November 30th at 6 pm. All three of these meetings will be held in the Community Room of the library and refreshments will be served. Please register for one of these sessions online, by phone or in person and make your voice heard.

One of the biggest issues East Lake Community Library faces is the lack of space, which certainly hinders all that we wish to accomplish for library patrons and the community. The Penny for Pinellas initiative, which was passed in 2020, included a \$5M Phase II expansion and renovation of ELCL, slated for 2027. If funding is available for this worthwhile endeavor, we need to be prepared to move forward. Although 2027 seems far away, part of our long-range planning in the upcoming months will be to include a Master Plan of the Phase II project with initial drawings and ideas completed in 2023. Again, your opinion matters, so please feel free to add your suggestions to our ever growing wish list!



Be sure to look for the new 2023—2026 Long Range Plan: Road Map to the Future to be unveiled sometime before March 2023.

Thank you all for your support of this library and best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season from the staff at East Lake Community Library!

—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory
Board &
Foundation
President

Luckily, many people love East Lake Community Library and want to help in the mission to enhance and expand its services within our area. Oftentimes, people will share their time or their money to support the cause of making the library even better than it currently is. Sometimes, individuals, couples families and/or businesses want to do a little bit extra but just don't know how.

The East Lake Community Library Foundation exists for situations like this. Watch this space over the next several months as we unveil some amazing programs developed with community members and other partners who have collaborated with the Foundation to demonstrate their high level of support!

We want you to know ELCL Foundation volunteers are always available to help design and implement a special project with you, too. What's your dream for ELCL's future? Perhaps you'd like to develop a program, add to an existing collection or enhance a part of the building and are looking for the best place to start. Share your vision with any Foundation Board member, and we will gladly work together with you to bring it to reality.

The ELCL Foundation supports our community's library with 100% of the funds raised going directly to library projects, augmenting funding ELCL receives from Pinellas County. We hope you'll consider the ELCL Foundation as a way for a direct, high-impact opportunity to give back directly within your community. Learn more at <https://www.elclfoundation.org> and create **your** library legacy through charitable, tax-deductible giving!

Retiring board member Susan Wolf honored

Her 18 years of service are recognized

East Lake Community Library (ELCL) has lost a very active, experienced and effective volunteer. Due to poor health, Susan Wolf, who began her volunteer career at East Lake Community Library soon after moving to Palm Harbor in 2004, was compelled to resign her position on the Friends of East Lake Community Library Board this summer. Susan's enthusiasm and support for ELCL over the years knew no bounds, and she has been a joy to work with for all concerned.

Susan started volunteering for ELCL with simply shelving returned books, but with a masters degree in business and a minor in library science from University of Minnesota, she was soon asked to join the East Lake Community Library Advisory Board, a body that advises the library's director and provides assistance and oversight to library operations, where she served six years. She also joined the board of Friends of East Lake Community Library (FOELCL), where she served for 18 years.

Over the years, Susan was instrumental in establishing three major library projects:

- Lego Robotics Program for students ages 10-16 for which she raised \$3,200 to purchase Lego kits. The eight-week sessions were enjoyed by area students, many of whom were home schooled or children of first generation immigrants, some of whom had a slight handicap while others had genius IQs and needed more challenges. *Florida Libraries*, which is usually

reserved for contributions from Metropolitan Library System certified professionals, chose to publish the article she submitted about the program without a single modification.

- Little Free Library Program with recruited volunteers building small library boxes which are placed around Lansbrook and at the Greater Palm Harbor YMCA. Anyone interested can simply take a book out of any of the boxes with an expressed hope that he or she will return the book or put another book into a Little Free Library box for others to enjoy.
- Fundraising Program to solicit and then sell donated items on internet websites with monthly sales revenue going to the Friends to in turn support specific library needs and dreams not covered in its regular budget.

Susan also contributed in many other ways. She visited countless estate and garage sales to find items for the library's gift basket initiative. She identified and recruited volunteers with special skills, convincing them to donate their time and talents. And, if there was a public program of any kind at the library, Susan could be depended upon to be present and often to help fund the activity.

To recognize Susan and all she has done to help ELCL be an important and impactful institution in the community, a delegation of FOELCL Board Members visited Susan at her



home in August to present her with a crystal sculpture engraved with the following sentiment: "For outstanding contributions to making East Lake Community Library a gateway for knowledge and culture. Thank you from the Friends."

For her part, the typically humble Susan responded, "I've always loved this library. For 18 1/2 years all I have wanted was to give back to East Lake Community Library. I never expected anything in return."

2021-2022 Annual Report shows very successful year for FOELCL

Friends of East Lake Community Library (FOELCL) began more normal operations during its 2021-2022 fiscal year as the COVID-19 pandemic became less traumatic. For one thing, the FOELCL Board was able to return to meeting in person every month. In another very positive action, the FOELCL Community Concert Series reappeared on the library's events calendar, as well as a spring Children's Concert. And, thankfully, Santa was able to visit with children at the library in December.

Fund-raising initiatives, including Book Nook, holiday flower sales and gift basket sales, all showed increased profits as library patrons resumed more regular visits. Very importantly, the FOELCL Annual Fund Drive exceeded its goal.

FOELCL is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that raises money to support materials

and services not covered by library tax funds. It promotes, enhances and supports East Lake Library, bringing increased services to the community. During the past fiscal year (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022), monies raised, along with cash balances carried-over from past years, allowed FOELCL to provide the following substantial financial support:

- A monthly allocation from FOELCL allowed the Library to conduct a wide variety of enrichment programs. Examples include Read Box books, Cloud Library, office supplies and equipment, hospitality supplies, Passport Office photo equipment, Summer Reading Program items, facility repairs and maintenance.**\$24,020.00**
- Additional items were purchased for the Library's "Gizmos and Gadgets"

collection of handy, non-traditional but very useful tools, electronic equipment, and other gadgets available for checkout. Funds were also provided as a down payment for construction of an outdoor canopy as a shaded venue for use by the community.

.....**\$21,296.00**

FOELCL produced funding through fund-raising activities, membership dues, sales and generous donations:

- Book Nook, located at the main entry to the Library, offers a wide range of quality books available for immediate sale to library patrons. The bulk of the inventory comes from book donations by the community. Books are also listed and sold via online sales.**\$20,982.00**
- Other fund-raising activities including gift basket sales, seasonal flower sales, the annual concert series and the Annual Fund Drive, yielded significant results.**\$14,414.00**
- FOELCL memberships, Community Partnership (local business community) Memberships and general grants and donations accounted for the remainder of income transactions.**\$9,196.00**

Every effort was made to keep the operating expenses low:

- Operating expenses included bank fees, Sales Tax transfers, State Corporate filings, Insurance, Printing, Postage, Office Supplies, and membership fees in library associations.**\$9,147.00**



At the Friends of East Lake Community Library annual meeting, officers and directors for the coming year were elected. Shown gathered for their first official 2022-23 FOELCL Board picture are, seated, from left, Director-At-Large Barbara Schultz, President Barbara Cole and Director-At-Large Joan McCarthy; and standing, from left, Director-At-Large Michelle Malacinski, Secretary Jerry Griffin, Director-At-Large Claudia Thomas, Treasurer Jim McCarthy and Director-At-Large Marcia Giza. Not pictured are Vice President Joan Lawler and Director-At-Large Bob Weinberg.

Library offers one-stop holiday shopping

Find great gifts for everyone on your list while supporting library programs with your purchases

Need a nice holiday present for your hairdresser, pet sitter or mailman? Cousin Ralph, Grandma Jane and Sister Sally hard to buy for? Want a lovely hostess gift to say thank you for a fun holiday party? How about something special for your child's teacher or your boss? Have nothing for the neighbor who just shows up with a gift for you?

Never fear! Friends of East Lake Community Library has some wonderful solutions to your gift-buying quandaries and challenges. Just grab your list and head over to East Lake Community Library for terrific one-stop holiday shopping.

Glorious Gift Baskets



These hand-crafted, beautiful gift baskets must be seen to be appreciated and are certain to put a smile on the face of anyone who receives one. The selection of baskets varies from day to day, as do the prices and the assortment of items each contains. On any given day, there may be a perfect, beautifully decorated and abundantly filled basket for the tea-lover on your list, or maybe for a child who adores Curious George, a wine connoisseur or a chocoholic. And if a last-minute need for a gift pops up, don't stress. Just dash on over to the library where you're sure to find a gift basket that will make them think you spent hours and hours gathering all the items and then creating a bountiful basket.

Perfect Poinsettias



While pre-sales of lovely Poinsettia plants from Brouwer's Flowers have ended, there will be a limited number of extra plants available for purchase at the library starting December 3 at noon. And the good news is while the Brouwer's flowers have grown, prices have not. Like last year, 6.5-inch containers with two canes are just \$10, and 10-inch containers with three-four canes are \$25. These nursery grade, vivid red plants will brighten your own home as well as make for a perfect holiday gift for absolutely anyone. They will be thinking about you with gratitude the entire holiday season (and beyond!) as these flowering beauties continue to bring joy.

Magical Music



Tickets to one or more of the 2023 East Lake Library Community Concert Series performances would be a welcome gift for friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, service providers and so on. Who doesn't like live music? There will be four concerts:

- **Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones** will rock blues, jazz, swing, soul and R&B tunes on Sunday, January 29.
- **Peter Fletcher** will deliver a variety of engaging melodies on his classical guitar on Sunday, February 26.
- **The Mungos** will offer intriguing covers along with original songs played on ukuleles on Sunday, March 19.
- **Pinellas String Quartet** will enchant with a classical concert on Sunday, April 23.

All concerts begin at 2 pm in the East Lake Library Community Room. Tickets are \$10 each and include a post concert wine and cheese reception. The time to buy tickets is NOW, because as a special holiday gift to the community, between now and the end of the year FOELCL will be offering deal on concert series tickets. Buy a ticket to three concerts and get a ticket to the fourth one free. That's four concerts for \$30! For a small price, you can gift four months of amazing, magical music. Don't delay as this offer ends December 31.

Ticket sales are final, but do not worry about gifting tickets to someone who may have a conflict with a concert date. Tickets for one concert may be exchanged for a ticket to a different concert as long as the performance for which the original tickets was issued has not already occurred.

Bodacious Books



Book Nook at the library truly offers something for all ages and interests. Gently used and, at times, new books, puzzles, DVDs and other media may be purchased for very reasonable prices. Browse the "Nook" to find hidden gems suitable for holiday gift-giving.

**NOW
STARRING**

Serving
Breakfast
and
Lunch

Friends of East Lake Community Library Community Partner

Deviled Eggs
to Die For!



"I've always been a reader, and I've always taken my kids to the library. The library has so many wonderful programs, and it's a great place to meet people."

—Heather Marvel,
Nesting Grounds Café Owner
a 25-year restaurant industry veteran



Nesting Grounds Café
4852 Ridgemoor Blvd, Palm Harbor
727-559-1574

- ★ **Real cooking**
- ★ **Family Recipes**
- ★ **Weekly Breakfast & Lunch Specialties**
- ★ **Inside & Patio Dining**
- ★ **Fresh Local Ingredients**
- ★ **Brisk Coffee—Ybor City**
- ★ **Cusano's Bakery Goods**

Grandma's
Pancakes
YUM!

Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know....

- ◆ **The oldest library dates back to 7 BC**
The oldest library in the world is the Ashurbanipal Library in Ninevah, Assyria (modern Iraq). The remains of this library were discovered in 1850 and included cuneiform tablets about the law and history of the period. Interestingly, everything was arranged in a systematic order.
- ◆ **Donations to Book Nook are tax deductible**
Donations of gently used books, puzzles and media (CDs, DVDs, Audio Books) to ELCL's Book Nook, which is operated by FOELCL, are tax deductible. A tax letter for donations can be provided upon request.
- ◆ **ELCL is now a Family Search Affiliate Library.**
Only the second library in Pinellas County with this distinction, ELCL now has privileges to limited-access FamilySearch databases, providing patrons with enhanced genealogy services.

FOELCL BOARD

Barbara Cole, President
Joan Lawler, Vice President
Jerry Griffin, Secretary
Jim McCarthy, Treasurer
Marcia Giza, Director-at-Large
Michelle Malacinski, Director-at-Large
Joan McCarthy, Director-at-Large
Barbara Schultz, Director-at-Large
Claudia Thomas, Director-at-Large
Bob Weinberg, Director-at-Large
Lois Eannel, ELCL Director (Ex Officio)
**James Cuomo, ELCL Advisory Board
Chairman (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.