



GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

NOTABLE DATES

October 9

- Library Closed

October 10

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

October 12

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

November 9

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

November 14

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

November 23-24

- Library Closed

December 12

- ELCL Advisory Board—6 pm

December 14

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

December 23-25

- Library Closed



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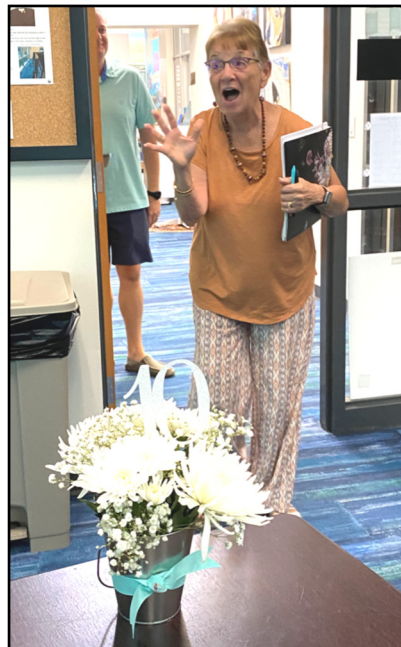


A very significant milestone for East Lake Community Library occurred September 6, the 10-year work anniversary of Library Director Lois Eannel. In some ways it seems impossible that Lois has been in place that long, but in others, when I look at all that has been accomplished during her tenure, I can’t believe she has only been the library’s leader for a decade.

Since her hiring, Lois has worked each day to shape ELCL into her vision of being not just a place to check out books but a true community center with materials, programs, services, age-appropriate activities and engaging special events for area residents of all ages and interests. She has built an outstanding staff who gladly follow her lead and has brought her warmth, wit and wisdom to bear at meetings of governing entities, community organizations, volunteers and other groups, winning friends and respect for ELCL wherever she goes. What a dynamic, dedicated, dynamo!

We are all so lucky to have this wonderful woman as a colleague and friend to the Friends, and we look forward to more outstanding achievements in the future.

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL



Members of ELCL’s staff accomplished the almost impossible task of surprising Lois with a celebration of her 10-year work anniversary. She received an award from the ELCL Advisory Board in appreciation of her outstanding leadership and a gift from the Friends.



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

I cannot believe I am celebrating my 10th anniversary as Director of East Lake Community Library! I feel proud of all that WE have accomplished for the community thanks to your support. I also wish to say thank you for the outpouring of responses this past month to Pinellas County Board Commissioners, who were reviewing a proposal to cut our millage rate. You SAVED this library from the possibility of losing tens of thousands of dollars which would have crippled our ability to provide collections, programs, services and e-resources to our residents. Unlike the municipal libraries throughout Pinellas County, whose funding is filtered through their city governments, our allocation from the county and the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative go DIRECTLY into our operational account to meet budgetary needs. That, along with generous donations, fundraising efforts and grant funds, allows us to do all that we do.

Now let's see what fun things are happening at ELCL over the next few months:

- **A Taste of East Lake Expo** on October 21, 11 am to 1 pm, will feature more than a dozen local businesses and organizations which partner with the library. There will be giveaways, raffle prizes and a wealth of information to enjoy. Just before 1 pm, there will be a ribbon-cutting of two projects paid for by donations to the Friends of ELCL—a new outdoor book drop and the “Made in the Shade” canopy for outdoor programs and special events. From 1 to 2 pm there will be a FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT featuring the St. Pete Saxophone Quartet under the new canopy. No pre-registration is necessary, and seating will be provided.
- **Ciao House: East Lake Edition!** On Thursday, October 12, 5:30—7:30 pm, will celebrate Italian-American Heritage Month, with an eggplant parmesan competition between the Library and East Lake Fire Rescue. For a \$5 sampling fee, come taste and then vote for your favorite! Italian bread and water are included in the price. For an additional \$5 donation, a glass of wine will be offered. The competition winner will receive a trophy and net profits will be divided between the two organizations. Don't miss the fun!
- **Wine Not?!** This hugely popular fundraiser will return on Friday, November 10, 6:30—9 pm. This adults-only event will feature wine-tasting sessions with PRP Wines, a wine toss, a wine pull, Wine Bingo, raffle baskets and silent auction items and SO much more! Tickets, which sell for \$30 each, go on sale October 2. Don't wait as last year tickets sold out WEEKS ahead of time!



Thank you again for your support, We look forward to seeing you and your families this fall at East Lake Community Library.

—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory
Board &
Foundation
President

As 2023 draws to a close, you may start thinking of ways to reduce your tax liabilities while also making a positive impact in your community. One way of achieving both goals is a donation to the East Lake Community Library Foundation! ELCL plays a vital role in education and community development, and your support of the ELCL Foundation ensures our library has the support it needs to thrive over the long-term.

One tax-saving strategy deserving attention is donating Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). If you're over the age of 73, you are required to take RMDs from your IRA each year, and these distributions are typically subject to income tax. By donating your RMD directly to a qualified charity like the ELCL Foundation you can exclude the donated amount from your taxable income, potentially lowering your overall tax bill. These donations from an IRA are known as Qualified Charitable Distributions or QCDs.

Beyond IRA RMDs, you may consider other ways to support the ELCL and its Foundation, such as making cash donations, donating appreciated assets like stocks or including them in your estate planning. These gifts can also provide valuable tax deductions and ensure that libraries continue to be a valuable resource for future generations. Donating to the ELCL Foundation is a win-win scenario: it allows you to reduce your tax liability while supporting a crucial community institution. However you choose to give, your support helps the East Lake Community Library continue its mission of strengthening our community through inspiration, enrichment and education.

The ELCL Foundation supports the East Lake Community Library through funding capital improvement projects, with 100% of funds going directly to these projects thanks to its board of community volunteers. We hope you'll consider our foundation as a way for a direct, high-impact opportunity to give back directly within your community. Learn more about the ELCL Foundation and our Library Legacy Program at <https://www.elclfoundation.org>, and let's partner on your library legacy!

Friends' contributions to the library outlined in president's annual report

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of East Lake Community Library was held in September, during which, Friends President Barbara Cole presented her annual report. Excerpts from the report follow.

Our bylaws say, "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."

How well did we fulfill our purpose? I'd say we did well. While we focus our efforts on fundraising, sometimes it's good to look at how those funds were used to enhance library services and facilities. The funds the Friends contributed to the library made a difference in 2023.

Support for Operations

The Friends provided \$20,000 to the library's operating budget in 2023. These funds were allocated by the library director to pay for programs, books and other materials and services. Thanks to the creativity and competence of the director and staff, the funds, which are only a small portion of the overall library operating budget, were stretched far and had a real impact.

Friends' funds were used to pay for Read Box books and DVD's. These popular, best-selling materials are available on a first come, first served basis only to people visiting the library.

The Friends also paid for Cloud Library e-books, which make a wide range of popular titles available to library users. And funds supported other library online databases, as well as library automation (catalog and check-out systems).

Friends' contributions helped with the cost of children's books and services and also paid the full cost of the Sunshine State books and for the Summer Reading Club online database and printing. In addition, the Children's Garden was upgraded by removing tripping hazards and by adding Florida plants, mulching and edging.

Friends' funding supported several library programs for the public and also contributed to the children's programs held by library staff at Brooker Creek Preserve.

Gizmos and Gadgets, an Annual Fund Drive project of a few years ago, kept going strong with additional funding to add new gizmos. Where else can you borrow such diverse items as an air compressor, a pickle ball set, a folding wagon and beach tent, plus binoculars and a birding kit? Funding also paid for Mobile Hotspots that enable library patrons to take the Internet with them when they travel.

The Friends also supported staff development. Funds paid for Niche Academy, an online platform for learning that can be used by both staff and the public. The Friends also paid for a staff development art program.

Sometimes the best way to find professional librarians is to "grow your own." And the Friends are helping the library do just that by funding tuition costs for two library staff members to attend library school while they continue to work at ELCL.

Support from the Annual Fund Drive

The Friends also contributed Annual Fund Drive proceeds. Last year's project, a canopy to provide an outdoor event venue, was completed this year. This year's project, an outdoor, drive-up book drop, was also completed this year.

Community Concerts

As part of its purpose to enhance library services, the Friends held four concerts in 2023. Different groups and musicians reflected an eclectic mix of musical styles, and enthusiastic audiences returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Election of Board Members and officers also held during the Annual Meeting

The following volunteers were elected to serve as Board Members and officers of FOELCL for 2023-2024.

President—Barbara Cole

Vice President—Joan Lawler

Secretary—Jerry Griffin

Treasurer—Jim McCarthy

Directors-at-Large:

Marcia Giza

Elaine Kirkhoff

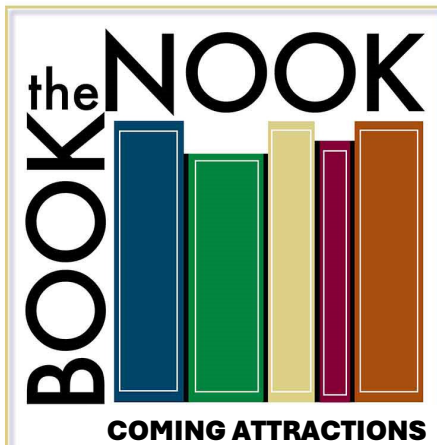
Michelle Malacinski

Joan McCarthy

Barbara Schultz

Claudia Thomas

Bob Weinberg



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

OCTOBER SPECIAL: Trick or Treat! Draw one TRICK OR TREAT COUPON per total purchase per family per day to discover a savings discount.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL: Get ready for the holidays with 50% off ALL holiday books, cookbooks, CDs and DVDs. Also, be on the lookout for SURPRISE SALES each week.

DECEMBER SPECIAL: Ho, ho, ho, it's BOGO on all fiction paperbacks, oversized coffee table books and children's books. Also, 50% off holiday books and DVDs.

NOTE: Special savings do not apply to any gift baskets, items marked "GIFT" or "CRITTERS AND BOOKS".

You better watch out...
You better not pout....

Santa Claus is coming to town!

Join in the fun when Santa Claus returns to East Lake Community Library on Saturday, December 2, 12:30 to 3:30 pm. ELCL patrons of all ages can sign up at the library's front desk starting November 1 for a reserved time to laugh, sing or just talk with the jolly old elf.

For a \$5 donation to the Friends of ELCL, Santa's visitors can take pictures with their own cell phone or camera to capture the memory. There will be elves on hand to help with taking these pictures so the whole family can be included in the special holiday images.

To make the event even more fun, members of the Friends of ELCL are working with the staff of the library's Children's Department to plan a variety of activities for children to enjoy before or after they meet with Santa.

Day of walk-ins will be welcome if time allows.



THE EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PRESENT:

A TASTE OF EAST LAKE CELEBRATION AND EXPO

Saturday, October 21st, 2023


at the East Lake Community Library

Scheduled Events:

11 AM-1 PM: Community Partners Expo in the Community Room. Meet library partners and local businesses.
(Learn info on what our partners have to offer to you!)

12:45 PM: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our two community-funded projects, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
- "Made in the Shade" Outdoor Venue
- Outdoor Book Drop

1 PM - 2 PM: FREE Outdoor Concert, featuring the St. Pete Saxophone Quartet underneath our new canopy.

 East Lake Community Library
4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685
eastlakelibrary.org
727-773-2665

2024 Concert Series tickets are now on sale

Give the gift of music this holiday season

The Friends of East Lake Community Library 2024 Concert Series will be better than ever! Musicians who will be performing are as follows:

🎵 Sunday, January 28, 2024
After Five Jazz Trio

🎵 Sunday, February 25, 2024
St. Pete Baroque

🎵 Sunday, March 24, 2024
Crooner Steve Walker

🎵 Sunday, April 28, 2024
Violinist Cal Morris

All concerts will begin at 2 pm in the library's Community Room. A complimentary wine and cheese social will follow each of the hour-long concerts.

The regular ticket cost is \$15 per concert; however, the Friends are once again offering a special discount to those who purchase the entire series. Tickets for all four concerts will be sold at the reduced price of \$50, a \$10 savings, during the months of October, November and December.

Note that 2024 ELCL Concert Series tickets make a great gift for almost anyone, and should the person receiving a ticket as a gift not be able to attend on that day, he or she may swap the ticket for another concert as long as the performance for the original ticket has not taken place. Whether given as a thank you to a holiday hostess or wrapped in a pretty box under the tree, the gift of music is sure to bring a smile.

There are limited numbers of tickets for each concert, so patrons are encouraged to avoid disappointment by purchasing early.

Getting a great gizmo

East Lake Community Library patron Shelley Golden is happy to be checking out a stand mixer, one of the 68 Gizmos and Gadgets available at the library for free 14-day loans. Gizmos and Gadgets is funded by the Friends and was the focus of the 2020 Annual Fund Drive. Additional items have been purchased each year with the most recent being pickle ball sets, Chromebooks, a portable speaker and chargers. Visit www.eastlakelibrary.org/gizmos-and-gadgets to see a full list.



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Dan Wendol is the founder and CEO of Dolphin Financial Group. He has a 15-year background in financial and strategic planning, investment management and retirement income planning.



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Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know....

- ◆ **THE LONGEST-EVER BOOK TITLE** consists of over 3,700 words with 26,000 characters. It was written by Vityala Yethindra in 2019, and is so long mainly because the author decided to include all the different species the book mentions, as well as 50 different questions for which the book provides answers.
- ◆ **PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT** read at least one book per day before breakfast and, depending on his schedule, another two or three in the evening even during his presidency.
- ◆ **BOOK NOOK SALES AT ELCL** averaged earnings of over \$1,600 per month during the last fiscal year.
- ◆ **LIBRARY TRAFFIC COUNT** during the month of August shows 5,867 individuals walked through one of ELCL's doors that month.

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**
- 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 & Foundation Chair (Liaison)**

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