



January—March 2025

GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY—PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

NOTABLE DATES

- January 1**
 - Library Closed
- January 9**
 - FOELCL Meeting—10 am
- January 14**
 - ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm
- January 19**
 - Concert—St. Pete Baroque
- January 20**
 - Library Closed
- February 11**
 - ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm
- February 13**
 - FOELCL Meeting—10 am
- February 17**
 - Library Closed
- February 23**
 - Concert—Ron Mitchell
- March 11**
 - ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm
- March 13**
 - FOELCL Meeting—10 am
- March 30**
 - Concert—La Lucha



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Goodbye to 2024 and hello to 2025! It is hard to believe we are already a quarter into the 21st Century. It does seem time marches on quicker and quicker, bringing new opportunities and changes, some good, some challenging.

One of the challenging changes for East Lake Community Library in the new year will be a new assistant director. At this writing, who that person will be has not yet been finalized, but whoever is hired will have some pretty big shoes to fill.

It was with a very heavy heart I and other members of the Friends of East Lake Community Library Board bid farewell to long-term Assistant Director Susan Schuler who left her position at the end of 2024. The Friends joined with library staff and patrons of all ages at a reception held in Susan’s honor last December to thank her and celebrate the many contributions she made during her 11-year tenure at ELCL. All wished her much success as she returns to her home state of New York due to complications in her life as a result of last year’s hurricanes.

Susan joined the ELCL staff in 1994 as the Children’s Librarian. Over the years, she expanded programming and other offerings in many areas as the library grew in size. A Children’s Room, a Teen Room and a Children’s Garden were added to the building. Susan was also instrumental in expanding STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, math) programming and introducing genealogy programs and assistance. More recently, she coordinated the highly successful Passport Service at the library.

Susan accomplished all of this with a smile and a friendly word for everyone. Her warmth and welcoming manner endeared her to everyone, and she will be sincerely missed.

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL



Susan Schuler prepares to cut a cake at an event held to honor her 11 years on ELCL’s staff.



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

Life is like a book - some chapters are sad, some happy and some exciting. East Lake Community Library staff and patrons were saddened recently by the departure of our beloved Assistant Director, Susan Schuler, after 11 years as an integral part of the ELCL team. She gave so much of herself to the families of this community. The Director and Board Members are presently interviewing potential candidates for the position and hope to have a new Assistant Director very soon. As with all books, we never know what the next chapter holds unless we turn the page!

On a happier note, the library will be unveiling its Capital Campaign, "Spreading Our Wings," in the next few months to seek support and donations for a Phase II Expansion of the library facility. The design phase of this project is scheduled to begin in the next fiscal year. A collaborative effort with the ELCL Foundation and the Friends of the Library, the campaign will take place the next two years to raise the necessary funds to supplement Pinellas County's pledge to the project of \$4,500,000.

Please check the library's online newsletter, calendar and print flyers in the library for some new and exciting programs coming in the next few months. And don't forget the ever-popular Homemade Soup Day, which will be back on February 4th!

Each new year brings us a chance to review the past and consider opportunities for the future. The public library is a unique resource that specializes in recording the past, engaging the present and inspiring the future. My very best wishes for a happy, healthy 2025!



—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation President

Reflections On the Past 25 Years of ELCL and Ambitions For the Next 25

From a modest storefront lending books to a vibrant hub of technology, creativity and community, East Lake Community Library has grown alongside its patrons for 25 years. Today, ELCL offers everything from cutting-edge tech loans to art exhibits and even practical services like passports and fingerprinting, reflecting its evolution into a true community cornerstone.

ELCL has enthusiastically embraced these changes, adapting to meet the needs of our community. Yet, as we celebrate 25 years of service to the East Lake community, we are mindful the next quarter-century brings even more opportunities. What will ELCL look like in 25 years? What services will be essential to the community's needs and desires? One thing remains consistent: ELCL remains relevant by addressing requests "beyond the books" from the community. The biggest request is the demand for more resources and space.

East Lake Community Library Foundation is spearheading "Spreading Our Wings" Capital Campaign to fund a library expansion project expected to commence in late 2026 that will allow ELCL to serve patrons even better. This campaign, in coordination with ELCL and the Friends of East Lake Community Library, will not only raise funds for the physical expansion but will also help continue to provide top-quality services and resources. We are counting on your support to help shape the next 25 years of services, programs and connections for you at ELCL!

ELCL Foundation supports the Library with 100% of funds raised going directly to long-term projects. Your gift can ensure that ELCL continues to inspire and serve for decades to come. Whether through cash donations, matching grants or planned giving, your contribution creates a lasting legacy in the East Lake community. Visit <https://www.elclfoundation.org> today and help shape your library of the future!

Artists announced for 2025 Concert Series

Friends of East Lake Community Library 2025 Concert Series will be nothing less than spectacular! Each of the four concerts will feature performers at the top of their game, and the series will offer an intriguing variety of musical genres to enjoy.

The four 2025 concerts are:

♪ **St. Pete Baroque — Sunday, January 19**
Back by popular demand! Dramatic music from the Baroque period performed by virtuoso musicians from The Florida Orchestra along with a renowned visiting guest performer.

♪ **Singer Ron Mitchell — Sunday, February 23**
Timeless Motown tunes sung by a talented, soulful vocalist who has appeared worldwide and who is a highly popular entertainer on cruise ships known for getting audience members on their feet and dancing.

♪ **La Lucha — Sunday, March 30**
Latin jazz to blues delivered with a cool vibe and engaging presence by a "Best of the Bay" band. With several widely-acclaimed albums, the group is one of the hottest trios in the Tampa Bay music scene.

♪ **The Vocalitas — Sunday, April 27**
Dazzling close-harmony swing era and mid-century sounds fused with popular hits of today performed by a talented female trio from Orlando. From their wardrobe to their performance vibe, these ladies recall classic vintage girl trios of the past.

Each of the 2025 concerts will begin at 2 pm in the library's Community Room. A complimentary wine and cheese reception will follow each one of the hour-long performances.

Tickets for each concert are \$15 and may be purchased by visiting the library's front desk or calling with a credit card. Tickets may also be purchased day-of if still available, but given the caliber of the 2025 Concert Series performers, advance purchase if advised.

Library director feted for 25 years in Palm Harbor



At its November meeting, PHCSA presented Lois Eannel with an engraved gold watch in recognition of her 25 years of service.

At the same time ELCL was celebrating its 25th anniversary in November, its library director, Lois Eannel, was also being recognized for her 25-year career as a PHCSA (Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, Inc.) employee. In 1999, Lois moved to Florida and became head of Youth Services at Palm Harbor Library and later served as its assistant director from 2002- 2013.

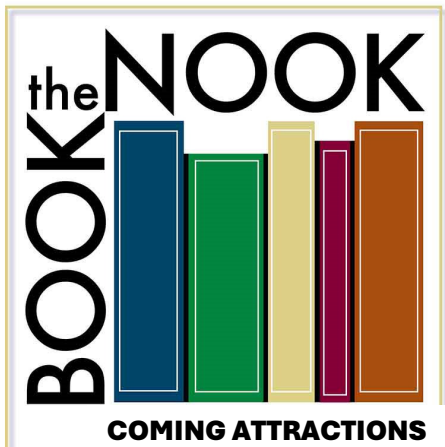
Lois became Director of ELCL in September of 2013 and brought with her innovative ideas, engaging enthusiasm and a philosophy of family-centered libraries. During her 11 years at ELCL, the library has expanded services and community support to extend beyond the four walls of the building, which were also physically expanded with an addition in 2010 under her guidance.

Welcome to FOELCL 's newest Community Partner

HEALTH SOURCE OF PALM HARBOR
36157 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
(727) 457-5412

Please support 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:

JANUARY SPECIAL: DOLLAR DAYS! CDs four for \$1; DVDs two for \$1. All books dealing with crafts, pets, sports, health and family —\$1.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL: 50% off all children’s books, young adult novels, biographies and puzzles.

MARCH SPECIAL: Take a lucky coin from the Leprechaun’s Pot o’ Gold to get a special savings on your total Book Nook purchase. (One coin per customer/family per day.)

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

Christmas Magic



After their December meeting, several members of the Friends of East Lake Community Library Board decorated the library’s Christmas tree. Shown with the finished tree are, above from left, Jim Scott, Barbara Cole, Joan Lawler, Jerry Griffin, Jim McCarthy, Joan McCarthy and Kim Lindemann. With the tree up and ready, Santa Claus paid his annual visit to ELCL a few days later to the delight of the children and their parents who had signed up to see him and relay holiday wish lists. Three of Santa’s special visitors, shown below, were, top photo, Jacob Moore; bottom left photo, Lalen Davis; and bottom right photo, Paisley Saxon.



Celebrating ELCL's first 25 years

Murder Mystery Dinner
"Death of a Gangster"
November 2, 2024



Anniversary Celebration — November 9, 2024



**NOW
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&
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Friends of East Lake Community Library
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Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know?....

- ◆ **THE TRADITION OF LIBRARY CATS** began in ancient Egypt where cats were known to be domesticated and trained to keep rodents away from fragile manuscripts. In medieval Europe, library cats were also highly favored for their rodent hunting skills, keeping mice and rats from chewing on vellum, the material used in manuscripts.
- ◆ **THERE ARE ALSO LIBRARY BATS** at work protecting books. At the University of Coimbra in Portugal, a colony of bats make their home behind the bookshelves as welcomed guests. Each night they swoop through the stacks snapping up bugs that might otherwise feed on book pages.
- ◆ **A FACILITIES MANAGER** has been added to the ELCL staff to keep the building and grounds in tip top shape. Charles Russo began his duties in November and has already had significant impact.

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
Jim Scott, 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.