



WINTER 2023

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Lisa Harvey, FOL Board President**

Dear Members,

It's a new year and we have lots of great opportunities to support the Friends of the Library. I am so excited to be the incoming President of Friends of the Library. Our immediate past president Dale Dehart Grigas has done a fabulous job the past two years with several signature projects, including the Wander in Wonder StoryTrails, the enhanced FOL Business Membership Program, and the initiation of the Best-selling Book Club Kits. She is a tough act to follow.

We have started 2023 by presenting a check for \$100,000 to the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System at the January 24, 2023 meeting of the Leon County Commission. In January, we also co-hosted an author event with Deborah Goodrich Royce, author of Reef Road, in conjunction with Hearth and Soul. The event was extremely well attended and very enlightening.



*Leon County Commissioner Bill Proctor, Lisa Harvey, Library Director Pamela Monroe, and Bailey Howard.*

As we move into 2023, we will continue soliciting Business members. We encourage you to help us by reaching out to your favorite businesses and asking them to support FOL. You can forward our [business membership webpage](#) to your business contacts.

Another FOL focus of 2023 will be our new Level up to Lifetime program. Individual and Business Members will be able to apply your 2022 membership dues toward your Lifetime membership cost. For example, if you donated \$100 toward membership dues in 2022, you would only pay \$900 for a \$1,000 Lifetime Membership. The benefits of a Lifetime Membership are innumerable. First, no more annual dues notices, and you will be permanently recognized on the Tree of Knowledge in the lobby of the Main Library. Please become a Lifetime Member today. All proceeds will go to support library programs such as the Library of Things and additional Wander in Wonder Story Trails.

There's a lot to look forward to in 2023. We're so glad you're a member!

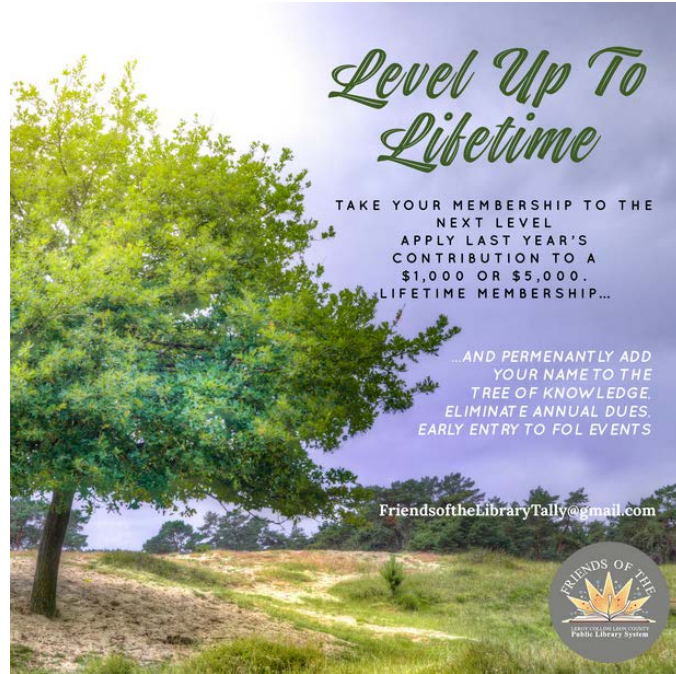
*Lisa Harvey*  
Sincerely,

# Let's See What 2023 Brings!

I am so excited to start my second year as your library director. We accomplished so much in 2022 and we are planning on an exciting 2023, as well. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we are making upgrades to the NEW Tween/Teen Lab with gaming systems, upgraded seating and new tables. This space can be checked out by homeschool groups during school hours as a classroom set-up.

Our Community Resources Specialist was graciously given the funds to create Care Kits. Some of our patrons are not afforded the most basic personal hygiene products and the Friends answered the call. These are just two of the ways that our library system has been impacted in just two months. Our library system is so fortunate to have a group of people who care very deeply about our entire community. Let's continue this great work together!

Amazing things are happening,  
Pamela Monroe  
Library Director



## Welcome, New Board Members!

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the addition of Laura Frandsen, Debra Henley and Anya Owens to the Board.

Laura, founder and retired partner at Cade & Associates Advertising, is excited to spread the word about all the new and creative features that the Library has to offer. She is ready to serve the community and help make more people aware of the value of the Library and all its wonderful programs.

Debra, an associate dean at the FSU College of Law, has a long history with the Library, having enjoyed many a happy Saturday selecting books and movies and playing on the computers. She is excited to turn her creative energy to serving the community and the Library with her friends, including by leveraging her performing-arts background to help generate creative program ideas.

Anya holds a master's degree in Library and Information Studies, and--when not working on her never-ending "To Be Read" list or browsing Libby for audiobooks--she and her guinea pig volunteer at the Wakulla Library to assist young readers. She looks forward to helping boost engagement with Friends initiatives and continuing to help foster the love of reading in her community.

**Interested in serving on the Board of Directors? The Board has vacancies for three dedicated Friends to fill. Interested persons should contact Nominating Committee Chair Bailey Howard at [baileyhowardcsw@gmail.com](mailto:baileyhowardcsw@gmail.com) to learn more and receive an application.**

# Distinguished Service on the FOL Board



Marcia Labat



Darby Tish

At its December Meeting, the Friends of the Library Board said farewell to two of its longest serving members. Combined, veteran board members Darby Tish and Marcia Labat have over twenty five years of Friends of the Library Board experience. After more than ten and fifteen years of service respectively, Darby and Marcia have earned a well-deserved retirement from Friends Board service. We cannot thank them enough for their distinguished service.

Marcia has held every Executive Committee position: President (twice), President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary. She has also served as Chair of the Membership, Friendshop, and Nominating Committees. During Marcia's most recent tenure as Treasurer, she spearheaded an additional \$100,000 donation to the Library.

Marcia is a reader of romance novels and the Friends of the Library's biggest cheerleader, two roles she is certain to continue as she steps down from the Board.

Darby has served as Friends of the Library Board President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President, Recording Secretary, Communications Intern, Chair of several Author Events, and Co-Chair of a Fall Title Wave Book Sale. For the past two years, Darby has also served on the Friends of the Library Endowment Board. When asked about her favorite Friends memory, Darby said, "I have so many, but my favorite was my first Author Event with P.J. O'Rourke." The Friends and KCCI Wander & Wonder Project is, of course, her favorite Friends of the Library project.

Darby's creativity and positive energy will continue to inspire the Board even in her absence.

Thank you again, Darby and Marcia, for your combined decades of service. The current Board has big shoes to fill, and we are excited to continue the legacy Darby and Marcia leave to us.

***Darby and Marcia have earned a well-deserved retirement from Friends Board service. We cannot thank them enough for their distinguished service.***



# Poco Vino Business Friends Event



Jon Moyle & Ana Ortega



Cindy Evers, Dale Grigas,  
Lisa Harvey



Ginny Milne, Morgan Evers



Angela Chiang,  
Kirsten Mood

What do you get when the Friends of the Library wanted to thank our “Business Friends” of 2022? You get an awesome reason to throw a social at a trendy downtown gem. This past October, we wanted to get our board members together with our new business members and some of our past presidents to simply say thank you. We chose the downtown venue, Poco Vino, where wines were poured and charcuterie boards were had.

Board members were excited to meet business owners and representatives, who had chosen to support Friends of the Library throughout 2022. Businesses qualified to be a member with commitments ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. However, we had one donor couple who decided to pay it forward and really propel our push for business members this past year. Sharon and Randy Young chose to match all 2022 business memberships accrued dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. Friends of the Library worked hard to find supportive businesses and succeeded, with more than 25 businesses! The Young’s we’re present at the Business Friends event, and received our utmost gratitude for supporting the library.

As people mingled, they could observe items on display from the “Library of Things” or learn more about the “Bestselling Book Club Kits”. We also had a table set up for library card application forms and Friends of the Library membership information.

We are so thankful to our Business Friends of 2022 and cannot wait to see our Business Friends list grow in 2023.

## Friendship Breaks Records in 2022

The numbers are in, and the Friends of the Library have plenty to celebrate, courtesy of the Friendship. Readers may recall that 2019 was a record year for the Friendship, with nearly \$65,000 in sales. No longer. In 2022, Friendship manager Deitra Kemmer and her dedicated staff shattered that record, posting nearly \$77,000 in sales--an increase of almost \$12,000 amounting to an 18.5% year-on-year increase. Together with the continued support of our members, it is the Friendship staff’s hard work and blue-ribbon customer service that enable the Friends to give fulsome support to the Library’s programs.

Visitors to the Main Branch Friendship will also notice that the Friendship has changed over from its previous point-of-sale system to a new Square terminal. The new system not only streamlines the customer experience but also results in savings of about \$200 per month -- an amount that can now go directly toward the Friends’ mission.

# Holiday Cocktail Party with a Literary Twist



A highlight of December 2022 was our "Holiday Cocktail Party with a Literary Twist," an evening to support and celebrate the Friends of the Library. This festive event was held at the magically decorated home of Tim and Stephanie Jansen. Each room was themed to a classic holiday book, from "The Night Before Christmas" to "Frosty the Snowman." An elaborate gingerbread library graced the kitchen island and guests enjoyed a magnificent charcuterie board, delectable desserts, and special holiday drinks.

The FOL Board is truly grateful to the Jansen family for their incredible generosity and support, as well as to all who attended the event.

