

News from your Friends

Season 40, Issue 1

Friends of the East Longmeadow Public Library, Inc.



New Season!



News from our Friends' President— Diane Tiago

Greetings, Friends!

What's that, you say? Already we're marching into October? Well then, it is time for me to fill you in on news since last May.

Do you remember that in our Spring Newsletter I told you that two high school seniors were determined by our scholarship committee to be the recipients of the Vinick Memorial Scholarship Awards? They were Eliza Iacobucci (left) and Julia Boucher (right). We mailed letters inviting them and their families to join us at our May meeting in the library's Community Room. As their proud relatives looked on, Betty MacLeod, scholarship chair, read each student's accomplishments and presented them with framed certificates representing \$1,500 each. The stipulation was and always will be that the funds could only be applied to their college tuition or college fees. Currently, Eliza is attending Endicott College in Beverly, MA and is working towards an undergraduate degree in Exercise Science. Julia is attending Trinity College in Hartford, CT where she is double majoring in English and History. We wish them both continued academic success and hope to hear from them as to their progress.



The Friends annual meetings are conducted in May. The rules of our bylaws state that we must officially elect a new slate of officers at that time. Since no other individual came forward to express an interest, all current officers and directors will remain in their positions....and, yes, I will continue to be the President for one more term of 3 years.

Other agenda items for the month of May were the Friends' calendar indicating the dates of our meetings from September 2023 through June 2024 and the President's Annual Report, which is a narrative of Friends events and activities during the previous year. Both documents and the names of the Friends officers and directors are on our website.

At our June meeting, the Library Director, Katie McGonigle, distributed an article entitled "Mass Library Organization Stand with Librarians Against Censorship and Intolerance." That got us buzzing about book banning and what could be done to stop or slow down these challenges that are interfering with *everyone's* First Amendment Rights. It was recommended by one member to write or call your representatives at both the state and federal level and let them know their position on this confrontational matter.

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Also at that meeting, the Library Director extended an invitation to the Friends to set up a table and join the staff during the Summer Reading Program's "kick-off"

event that was held on Tuesday, June 13th. It was an offer we couldn't refuse. It provided us an opportunity to answer any questions about our organization and explain our role in the library system. Although the Friends do have a website, there is nothing that can take the place of having a one-on-one conversation with individuals. And, the loyal patrons who did stop by our table were full of enthusiasm and shared how much they loved "our" library and outstanding staff who always make them feel welcome.

Since the Friends do not meet during the months of July and August, I am jumping to the Friends' September meeting. During that meeting, the Library Director and Adult Services Librarian, Maura Mara, invited the Board to accompany them on a quick informative tour of the library after the meeting adjourned. They were excited to lead us on an expedition of the building and point out the improvements that were made during the summer months. Certainly, we were impressed by the staff's above-and-beyond efforts to rearrange bookcases in order to help the flow of foot traffic in order to grant easier access to materials as well as listen to their ideas for the future.

However, you may recall that I told you that the Friends approved paying for new furniture in the Teen area in our Spring Newsletter. After patiently waiting approximately 3 months, the furniture arrived! The furnishings are colorful, made with material that is easy to maintain, and brightens that entire section of the library. While they were beaming at the new arrivals, I was **proud** that the Friends played a role to make another "wish" come true.



United for Libraries has announced that the 18th annual National Friends of Libraries Week will take place from October 15 – 21. This is a time to celebrate and thank all the Friends of Library organizations across the country for advocating and financially supporting their libraries. You see, cities and towns appropriate funds for the operations of their libraries, but it is the Friends groups that provide funds for summer reading incentives, special programs, museum passes, etc. Membership dues, fundraisers and donations are the foundation that allows the Friends to support their respective library so that all patrons can have the best experiences as possible. During National Friends of the Library Week, Friends organizations set goals to increase the number of Friends. If you have a family member or close friend who enjoys our library, encourage them to join our team. Tell them that their membership dues will

support a very worthy cause.

And one last item... by the time you receive this newsletter, the Fall Basket Raffle will be taking place. So that our fundraisers do not conflict with Library sponsored donation drives, the Friends have coordinated with the Library Director as to when the basket raffles will begin and their duration of time. **The drawing** for the Fall Basket Raffle will be on **Thursday, October 26th**. More raffles are planned as the season progresses. Whether you win a lovely basket or not, my sincere appreciation for your participation!

Thank you all for your continued support!

Director's Dialogue

Katie McGonigle, Library Director

Happy Fall, Friends!

Thank you to all the Friends of East Longmeadow Public Library for your heartfelt support of the East Longmeadow Public Library. Through your love of the library and generous contributions and support, the library continues to offer top notch programming, a diverse and current collection, print and electronic resources, services and an inviting community space.

Together, Library Staff and Friends support the Library's mission: The mission of the East Longmeadow

Public Library is to provide free and equal access to information, resources, and technology. Its purpose is to help educate and enrich our community in response to the intellectual, educational, and cultural needs and input of its patrons. The library offers an extensive variety of materials for the purpose of study or enjoyment and supports literacy and life-long learning for its town residents.

The variety of financial support the Friends provide reaches each member of our community in an important way, including but not limited to programming, museum passes, BookPage, Swank movie license, AV equipment, brand new furniture, and more! There is something for everyone who utilizes the East Longmeadow Public Library.

During the summer, the Friends funded educational and entertaining programs for patrons of all ages as well as incentives to keep patrons active and engaged all summer long. During the fall, the Friends purchased brand new furniture for the teen section to provide the perfect space for study and socializing. Every day a Friend makes an impact in our community.

To learn more about the library's offerings, please visit the recently updated website at eastlongmeadowlibrary.org, sign up for a weekly newsletter eblast, or visit one of the friendly staff at a public service desk.

Information Services

Maura Mara, Adult Services Librarian

Fall is upon us and with it comes new activity at the library. School is back in session and we see an influx of kids of all ages coming into the library. We were so pleased this September to have our new furniture in the second floor teen space. Thanks to the generous donation from the Friends of the East Longmeadow Public Library, we purchased new chairs and tables for the space. The furniture is bright, colorful and comfortable for tweens and teens using the library after school to do homework, read or just hang out. There are comfy lounge chairs, sturdy desk chairs and tables for computers, writing or playing a game. Please come into the library and check it out!



As part of our Library of Things collection, we have added Adult Activity Kits to Keep Your Mind Sharp! These kits combine books, puzzles, games, and other activities that adults can enjoy independently and with family and friends. All the elements of the kit come in their own tote bag. The kits are designed to facilitate conversation, invite sharing, and spark reminiscing about the past. They have become quite popular among patrons. Follow this link to find out what kits we have available in the catalog, https://elplmdw.cwmars.org/eg/opac/record/5003998?query=stay%20sharp;qtype=keyword;locg=186;detail_record_view=0;sort=poprel

Do you enjoy cooking? How about eating and chatting? Come check out our ELPL cookbook club. We had our first meeting in September and it was a success. Check out the cookbook of choice, pick a recipe and bring the dish to share. Our next meeting is November 4th and we plan a gathering every 6-8 weeks.

Be sure to look for programs that would be of interest to you. There is a meditation and mindfulness group meeting in the community room, movie showings on a Friday afternoon, a book club chat or a way to show your creative side by making a craft. We are welcoming local author Dr. Andrew Lam to speak on November 28th.

As always, ideas on programs you wish to see are welcome.

Friends Brick Program

Toni Raczkowski, Coordinator

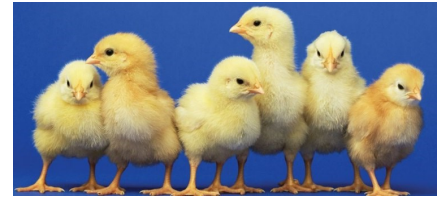
There is change in the air as fall approaches, and if you have visited the Literacy Path lately you will see changes there too: new engraved bricks that were installed over the summer. You can set your own name in stone as well or perhaps that of a loved one. There are many occasions to honor someone special, like a birthday, anniversary or wedding. Thank a good friend, share a favorite sentiment, or even promote a business! With the holiday season upon us in a couple of months, it is a perfect opportunity to give this special gift, and gift cards are available. For a tax-deductible donation of \$75, a one-of-kind brick can be yours, and order forms are available at the Circulation Desk. Happy fall and beyond!

Children's Chatter

Michele Lemire, Children's Librarian

The Children's Department has transitioned from a very busy summer to a busy fall filled with exciting programming.

Spring 2023 was a very exciting time for us. We reached out to Rent-A-Chicken and they brought us 6 eggs in an incubator rotation, a flashlight to see the chicks in the eggs as they grew, a cage for chicks once they hatch, and fun information about chicks. All 6 of our chicks hatched - this was a huge success! The kids and adults loved seeing the chicks over the 6 weeks, going from eggs to chicks and then being able to hold them. This Friends sponsored program was loved by patrons of all ages.



In April and May, we also offered many other programs that the FOELPL made possible including: STEAM, an Earth Day program, Mother's Day Craft, Storytimes and Book Groups. We visited the schools to promote all the library has to offer, including our Summer Reading Program.

June - August was spent on our library wide Summer Reading Program. We had a huge Summer Reading Kick off Event in early June. We had over 400 in attendance and had face painting, glitter tattoos, raffle prizes, Ed the Magician, board games giveaway donated by Cartumundi, and so much more. It got everyone excited to take part in our summer event. We used Beanstack again this year and had 1,348 participants which included adults, teens & children, 1,692,896 minutes read, 28,214 hours read and 18,263 books read. We offered weekly incentive prizes, fun activities and 69 programs all contributing to make reading fun and productive. As always, Summer Reading was truly a community-wide effort, receiving assistance from area businesses, the local schools, and area school children. In addition to the generous support given to us by the Friends of the Library, significant support also came from The East Longmeadow Cultural Council, The Meadow Freemasons, Cartumundi, The Apple Place, Peoples Bank, Pathways for Parents, The Boston Bruins, MBLC, Shaker Bowl, Fenway Golf, Busy Bees Preschool, The Hartford Yard Goats, Adventure Theme Park, Texas Roadhouse, and Interskate 91. Our Summer Reading program would not have been as successful without our student volunteers. We were very excited to offer the volunteer program again this summer. Students going into grade 6 and up came each week to help ensure the program ran smoothly by registering new participants, giving out reward coupons and prizes, and monitoring games and activities. Last but not least, the entire staff of the East Longmeadow Public Library managed to keep their good humor during the increased level of patron activity.



Fall brings the start of Storytimes, Book Groups, Art Club, STEAM, and other special programs. We are offering programs for children ages Birth - 12 and all of our programs are extremely successful! This year the Friends will

be sponsoring, for the first time, The Fatherhood Project. This is a four week program that focuses on strengthening the essential emotional connection between dads and their children in the early years. Led by John Badalament - Director of Programs for The Fatherhood Project at Mass General Hospital and sought-after speaker - this interactive workshop experience gives fathers/father-figures and their children the opportunity to have fun together while learning and practicing lifelong relationship skills. We cannot thank the Friends enough for sponsoring this program and offering it to our community.



In addition, we have been involved in community outreach programs, working with many other town departments. These have included: Celebrate EL, National Night Out, Fire Station Open House, and Farmer Market Fridays. The community has expressed great appreciation for the involvement of the library.

As always, the Children's Department would like to thank the FOELPL for your help and support. You have funded over 100 programs so far this year. We would not have such a successful Summer Reading Program, or the ability to offer new and existing programs throughout the year without the support you continue to provide.

Raffle time!



Currently the Friends is sponsoring its Fall Raffle. 13 delightful choices await your inspection, sitting on tables opposite the Circulation Desk. Tickets cost \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. The drawing will take place on Thursday, October 26th. Thanks to all who donated and good luck to those patrons hoping to bring a basket home!

Friends Corner

Things have shifted in the library and you will find the bookcases of books, videos and CDs that are for sale now located near the door of the Children's Department. New place, new items, same prices.

Book Sale Coupon

Bring this coupon with your sale items to the Circulation Desk and get \$1 off your purchase.

The offer expires November 30, 2023.

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FOELPL

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East Longmeadow, MA

01028

If this newsletter is not reaching the correct party as printed on the address label, please let us know. Call the library or email us at foelpl@gmail.com with the correction.

Thank you.

2023 Calendar of Events

October 15-21 National Friends of Libraries
Week

December 4 Friends Board Meeting
Community Room
6:30 p.m.

October 26 Winners drawn for raffle

November 6 Friends Board Meeting
Community Room
6:30 p.m.

Library's website:

eastlongmeadowlibrary.org

Friends' website:

foelpl.wixsite.com/friendsellibrary