

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GAL'S GUIDE LIBRARY



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Gal's Guide continued to be a vital resource in the Noblesville community and beyond. Providing books, programming, and a joyful space helped Gal's Guide meet our patrons where their needs were.

I'm delighted to report that Gal's Guide doubled its programming this year, offering 202 programs in 2023. We added unique retreats and two new weekly clubs. These clubs provide a support system and encouragement for patrons.

The collection has now risen to over 6,000 books written by women or about women. Gal's Guide continues to put a focus on hard-to-find women's biographies to celebrate and shine a spotlight on their achievements and wisdom.

2023 percolated two things for me, books save lives, and books bring joy. Let's save more lives and bring more joy in 2024!

Books & Love,

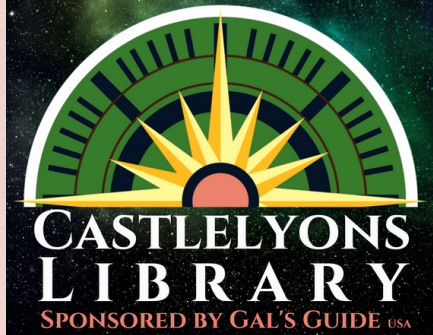
Leah Leach

Leah Leach

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BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION





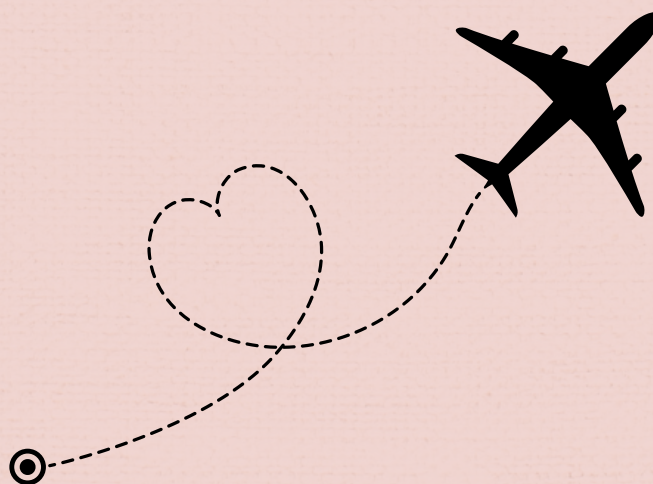
GAL'S GUIDE IN IRELAND



Gal's Guide has a branch in Ireland. The Castlelyons Library is sponsored and supported by Gal's Guide.

Just as Gal's Guide Library started in Leah's front room, the Castlelyons Branch is starting with a monthly book swap in the village community room.

Jackie Donegan is our fantastic Branch Director. She has been a wonderful supporter and contributor to Gal's Guide since 2021. Jackie is the perfect person to continue the Gal's Guide positive love of books across the pond!





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Featuring

"Literally Inspired" Art Show

Nourish Writers Workshop

Galentine's Brunch

Back to Nature Retreat

History Faire

Gal's Guide Anthology Book Tour

3 Girl Scout Events

6 Author signings

6,521
ATTENDEES

202
PROGRAMS
IN 2023

DOUBLE THE
NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS IN
2022



PODCAST



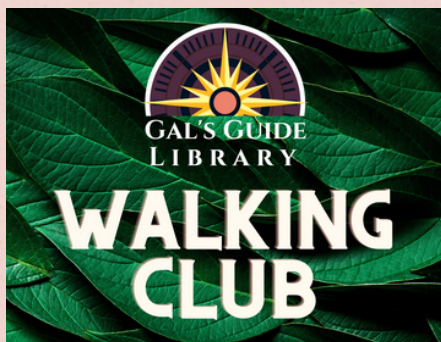
In 2023 the Gal's Guide Podcast released 42 episodes about amazing women of history. Never a thesis statement, the Gal Pals shared passionate, heartwarming, and laugh-out-loud stories. In a neat twist, they we're not drunk for most of the episodes this season! See if you can tell which episode had drinks involved.



The Gal's Guide Podcast is available everywhere you like to listen to podcasts.



23,057
downloads
in 2023



CLUBS



Gal's Guide ran 6 different clubs in 2023

Film Club

Gal's Guide Film Club discussed 8 films and 3 documentaries with a female focus that also tied into the Gal's Guide theme of the month. We shifted to online only and saw an increase in attendance. We also heard more from people who didn't make it to the meetings but still watched the film suggestion on their own and were very happy they did.

Walking Club

This year we had two popular walks that incorporated women's history. First, we had the libraries of Noblesville walk and second, we had the Avril Schull walk in Carmel. We also received some good interest in doing some forest bathing walks, that we first did for the Back to Nature Event.

LGBTQ+ Ally Meetup

Gal's Guide LGBTQ+ Ally Meetup is the only public group of its kind in Noblesville and spreads love and awareness with great support from the community. Our members put over 200 rainbow stickers on Gal's Guide Library books that contained positive depictions of LGBTQ characters and persons of history. We have a youthful vibrancy talking about resources, inclusion, support, and of course anime.

Book Club

Gal's Guide book club continued to enjoy a mix of nonfiction and fiction books written by women or about women that complimented the library's monthly topic. This helps bring focus in the library to our theme of the month, and it helps build our collection to cover a wide variety of subjects. Our group enjoyed many lively discussions about our selections and had fun learning about so many different women.

BUDDHA FRIENDS

INDIANA SANGHA OF
TARA MANDALA
International Buddhist Community
You're never alone



NEW CLUBS



Our newest club arrivals are Buddha Friends and Writer's Galaxy.

Buddha Friends/Tara Circle

In January, Tara Circle became officially recognized by the Tara Mandala International Buddhist Center. Tara Mandala contains 47 chapters around the world. Tara Circle led book discussions on two amazing Buddhist books and led meditation on 10 of the 21 Tara deities. In December, Tara Circle changed to Buddha Friends to be more of a mindful connection space that includes Buddhist meditation time and cookies. Attendance has tripled since the group's re-structure.

Writer's Galaxy

Writer's Galaxy was started as a place for the writers from the workshop to hang out and encourage each other. Our average attendance grew steadily over the course of the year and we became a place where writers, local and online, could gather to help each other be the writers we were meant to be. Over 40 Writing Prompts were distributed and word was spread of our group at over 5 in-person events.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



In 2023 our Director of Community Outreach, Barb Conlin, extended our involvement in the surrounding community.

2023 EVENTS

Back to Nature Event

HATCH Fest - Gal's Guide Booth

HATCH FEST - LGBTQ+ Ally Booth

Autumn Alley Art Market Booth

Winter Alley Art Market Booth

Hamilton County Bicentennial Bash Booth

Harvest Fest Booth

Merchants Bank Presenter

Indiana Writer's Center Presenter

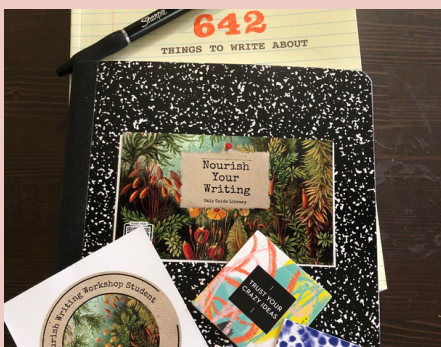
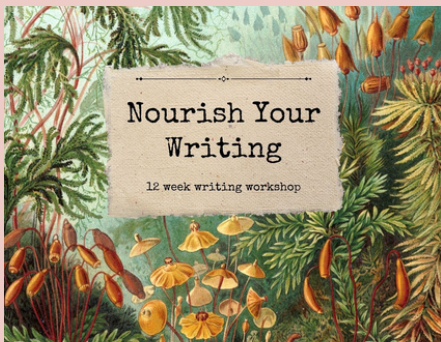
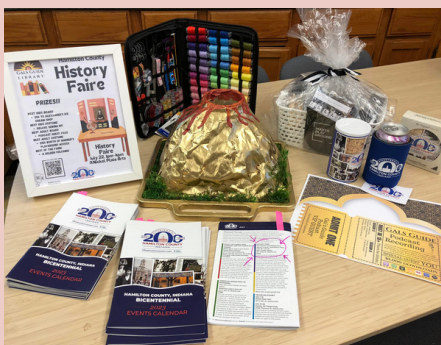
Rotary Club Presenter

PEO Presenter

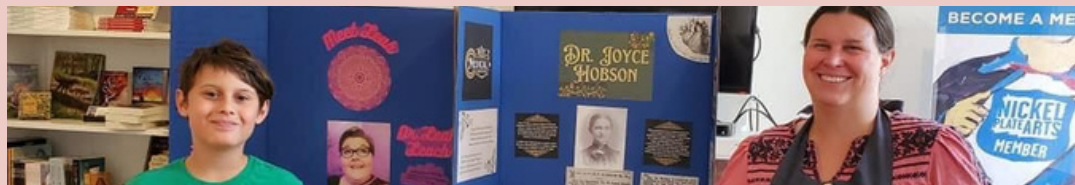
Serve Noblesville Longest Table Participant

Farmer's Market Booth

Hamilton East Public Library Presenter



GRANT PROJECTS



HISTORY FAIRE

Thanks to the Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission we were able to put on a history faire featuring Hamilton County residents. Participants shared their research, dressed as their subject, and presented their tri-fold presentation board. Prizes were awarded for a kids category and an adult category. Best of the Faire was awarded to Cathy for her amazing research on “Dirty” Helen Cromwell and even had vintage hats and clothing.



NOURISH WRITING WORKSHOP

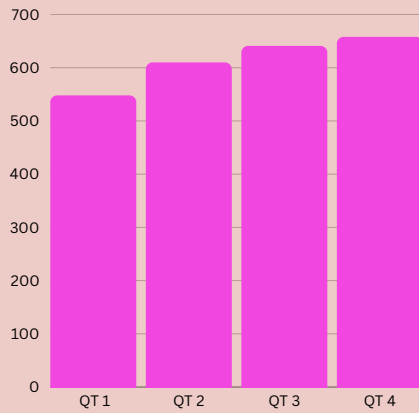
Gal’s Guide Library was supported by the Indiana Arts Commission with a grant for our 12-week writer’s workshop. The third annual writer’s workshop had 25 registered attendees from around the world. Fourteen writers received scholarships thanks to the grant. The hybrid option allowed for attendees to meet in the Gal’s Guide Library, to meet on Zoom to watch the recordings later. The flexibility and support produced new writing projects and maybe even new books to be put out in to the world in upcoming years.



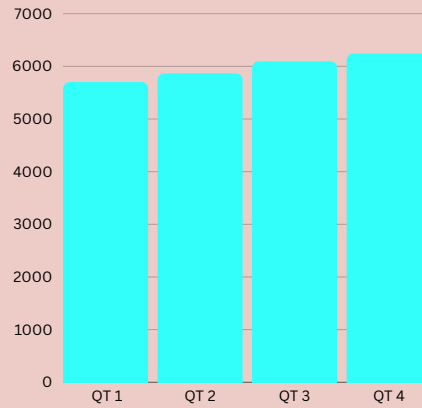
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)



26%
Increase



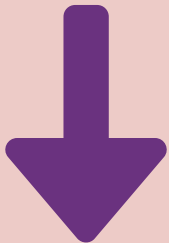
Library Card Memberships



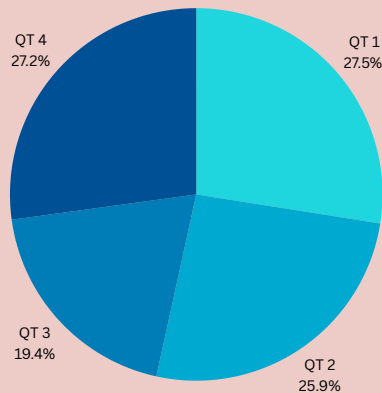
Catalog



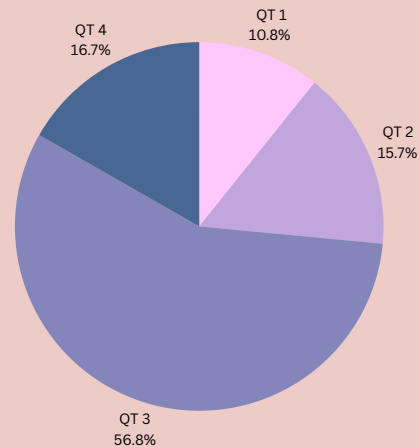
11%
increase



21%
Decrease



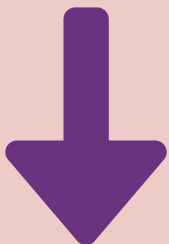
Check in/out/renewal Transactions



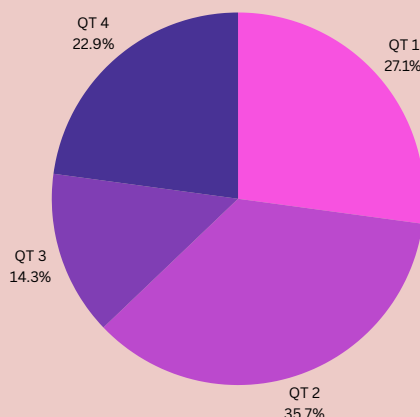
Book Donations



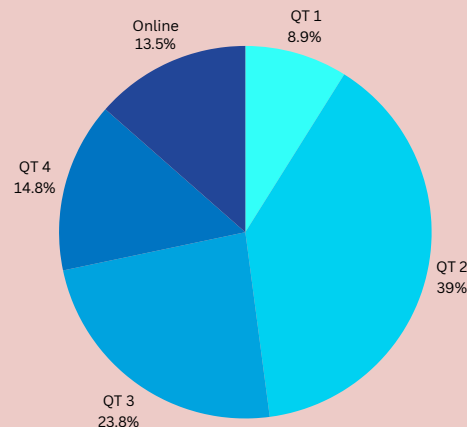
19%
Increase



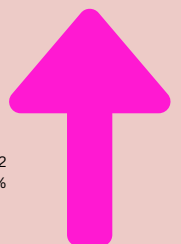
46%
Decrease



Purchases for Catalog



Program Attendance



16%
Increase



GOLDEN BOOKS

Carol Jones
Wendi Williams
Kerra Wagner
Debbi Sponsler
Jennifer Baltz
Mary Miller
Sarah Fisher
Leah Leach

Rose Marcario
Kylee Pena
Pam Kanner
Christine McNelis

David Mott & Lisa Meece
"SchWegers" by Bethany Schultz Realtor
Dr. & Mrs. Oskar A. Oskarson
DeAnn & Kevin Klinedinst

Instead of a plaque, Gal's Guide creates a stack of Golden Books. Want to add your name to the stack? Visit galsguide.org and click on "Donate."

PATREON SUPPORTERS

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Teresa Dallas
Wendi Williams
Carol Jones
Katherine Johnson
Alyson Dewar
Jennifer Rycenga
Lisa Cardona
Brian Helton

Rebecca Berfanger
Barbara Ann O'Leary
Chris Eller
Debbi Sponsler

**donate \$1
per month
or more**
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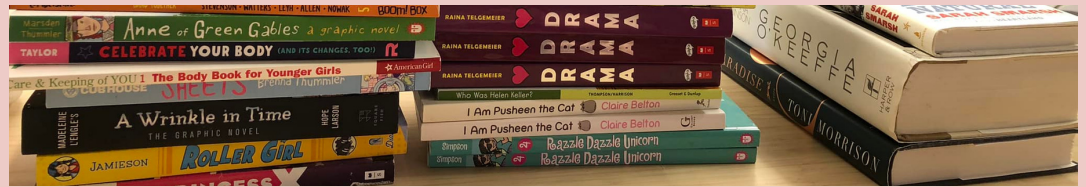


BUSINESS & ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT



Indiana Arts Commission
 Nickel Plate Arts
 National Endowment for the Arts
 Hamilton County Bicentennial Commission
 Lacy Arts Building
 Fins & Foxes
 Kiln Creations
 Microcosm Publishing
 Beauty & Grace Aesthetics
 Indy Reads
 Netflix
 Fishers Parks & Rec
 Bonnie Fillenwarth
 Noble Coffee & Tea
 Fishers Arts Council
 Noblesville Main Street
 9th Street Bistro
 Debbie's Daughters
 NHS Peonies' Club
 Kroger
 Amazon Smile

BOOK DONORS



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Angie Forman
Stephanie Hicks
Pamela Jackson
Leah Leach
Fiesty
Janet Chilton
Debbi Sponsler
Jeff Couch
Carole Stamn
Gina Mallory

**And all who donated
anonymously
using our drop box**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Bonnie Fillenwarth
Vice President



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Dr. Leah Leach
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Barb Conlin
Director of Community
Outreach



Jackie Donegan
Castlelyons Library
Ireland Branch Director



Katie Young
Book Club Director



Joshua Leach
Walking Club Director



Jeff Couch
Writer's Galaxy Director



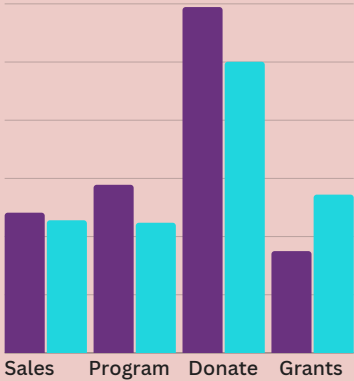
Amber Jones
Podcast Editor



Dr. Leah Leach
Executive Director
Film Club Director
LGBTQ+ Director
Buddha Friends Director
Podcast Director
Writer's Workshop
Instructor

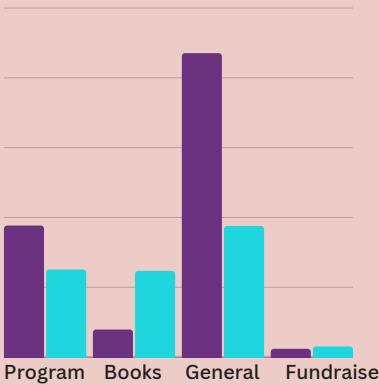
**+ 44
VOLUNTEER
DAYS IN 2023**

NUMBERS



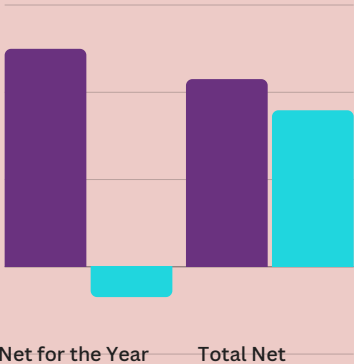
2023 REVENUE

Sales	Grants
\$4,821	\$3,500
Programming	TOTAL REVENUE
\$5,780	\$25,991
Donations	
\$11,890	



2023 EXPENSES

Programming	Fundraising
\$3,768	\$237
Book Purchases	
\$789	
General Operating	TOTAL EXPENSES
\$8,707	\$13,501



BOTTOM LINE

Net for 2023	TOTAL NET
\$12,490	\$10,755

A close-up photograph of a row of books on a shelf. The books are standing upright, with their spines facing the camera. The spines are of various colors and designs, including some with text and others with images. The books are arranged in a slightly curved line, and the lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the book covers.

First lending library dedicated to
women's history in the United States

GalsGuide.org

6,241 BOOKS

**WRITTEN BY WOMEN
OR ABOUT WOMEN**

**KEEP THE
LIBRARY
OPEN**



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