

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #52
“Discovering seasonal secrets and looking ahead”
Sno-Isle Libraries, Dec. 24, 2019



Ken Harvey: 00:00 This is our last episode of season two. And in this episode, we take note of the celebrations and holidays that mark the season, and what the library offers to support your holiday efforts.

Ken Harvey: 00:11 We'll also look at the important work that donors to the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation make possible. And lastly, we'll look ahead at what's in store for season three, and the types of guests we're pursuing for your enjoyment. All of that and more coming up next.

Ken Harvey: 00:36 Welcome to season two, episode 52, of Check It Out, the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.

Speaker 2: 00:43 The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey: 00:52 Hi, I'm Ken Harvey.

Jim Hills: 00:53 And I'm Jim Hills.

Paul Pitkin: 00:54 I'm Paul Pitkin.

Jessica Russell: 00:55 And I'm Jessica Russell.

Ken Harvey: 00:56 And we are sitting here in our studio, and we are celebrating, actually, the last episode of season two, the Check It Out Podcast. Congratulations everyone.

Paul Pitkin: 01:06 Yeah, it's been great. It seems like it's flown by.

Ken Harvey: 01:09 It really has. 52 episodes over a couple of years, and a lot of great guests that we've had. And boy, it's just been a pleasure to share the studio with each of you. And Jessica, you've been a fairly recent addition to the team.

Jessica Russell: 01:27 That's right.

(Continued)

Ken Harvey: 01:28 We love having you as part of this.

Jessica Russell: 01:30 Well, thank you. I love being here.

Ken Harvey: 01:32 Well, you add so much. And now here we are, we're heading into the final days of December. And I don't know if any of you remember Thanksgiving, but-

Jim Hills: 01:46 I'm still full.

Ken Harvey: 01:49 Yeah. Well, I've actually been full a few times since then because I keep emptying out, and then I want to relive the experience.

Jim Hills: 01:56 I'm going to let that line pass [crosstalk 00:01:57] because it was just laying out there ready to be used and I'm going [crosstalk 00:02:02].

Jessica Russell: 02:02 We're all backing away.

Ken Harvey: 02:05 I think that it would be just interesting to talk just for a minute about the most delicious thing that you've ever eaten, or remember eating, for Thanksgiving?

Jim Hills: 02:16 The most delicious? I always think of my plate as one thing, because I pile it so full, it all runs together.

Ken Harvey: 02:25 And all your food is touching?

Jim Hills: 02:26 Yeah, all of it, constantly.

Ken Harvey: 02:29 Do you just-

Jim Hills: 02:29 It's not even just touching next to each other, it's touching vertically.

Ken Harvey: 02:32 Do you purposely mix it together?

Jim Hills: 02:34 [crosstalk 00:02:35]. Well not on purpose, but it just happens.

Jessica Russell: 02:37 See I was one of those children that would have been appalled and would have gone hungry rather than eat stuff that had touched like that. And I've moved past it. But even listening to you talk about it gives me some strong [crosstalk 00:02:54].

Paul Pitkin: 02:54 I go both ways as far as food separation. I'm with Jim on Thanksgiving. It's very touchable food to me.

Jim Hills: 03:02 Yeah, absolutely.

Ken Harvey: 03:03 So was it then there's something that you absolutely did not want to be on the plate [crosstalk 00:03:08]?

Jim Hills: 03:08 Several things. Because when I was a kid, the idea was still that mom cooked the Thanksgiving day dinner and my mom is a horrible cook.

Ken Harvey: 03:21 Was everything boiled?

Jim Hills: 03:23 No, but it might as well been.

Jessica Russell: 03:25 All gray?

Jim Hills: 03:27 Yeah. Well, she was a terrible cook and partly because she hated cooking. So we were one of the first families that ever had Thanksgiving delivered to our home from Nordstrom.

Ken Harvey: 03:39 Really?

Paul Pitkin: 03:40 Nice.

Jim Hills: 03:40 Yeah. This is when I was a kid.

Jessica Russell: 03:42 I like your mom a lot. O.

Jim Hills: 03:45 We had this delivered and it was absolutely detestable. Like I said, I was a kid, and we actually took the stuffing, me and my friends took the stuffing, you could put it into a ball because it was so hard. We took it outside, we threw it at stuff. It was like paint balls. It was horrible. But as far as-

Ken Harvey: 04:05 So, stuffing as substitute snowballs.

Jim Hills: 04:09 Yeah, it's exactly it. It was great. But other stuff... So there's a lot of stuff in general I wouldn't want on my plate, but the mashed potatoes, the stuffing, and the turkey, those are it, those are what should go in there.

Paul Pitkin: 04:21 But as far as the best thing I've ever eaten, and I know this sounds recency bias, but at some point I took over cooking Thanksgiving. So then Thanksgiving became a lot more of a pain than it used to be. But so I can't really say anything I ate is my favorite thing. My girlfriend made pumpkin cheesecake last year and it was so good. It was just incredible. It's the best thing I've ever had for Thanksgiving.

Ken Harvey: 04:46 There you go.

Jessica Russell: 04:48 Deep fried turkey has been some of the best that I have had. I think I've actually had it when somebody had it done, but I also have gone to a friend's house, because I grew up in the South. So it's Louisiana and you stand out on your front lawn and somebody has a giant pot and a propane burner and you deep fry a Turkey in your front yard and then go inside and enjoy it.

Ken Harvey: 05:16 [crosstalk 00:05:16] in the yard, not in the house.

Jessica Russell: 05:18 Safety first.

Jim Hills: 05:20 I have never had that. But I've always wanted to have that.

Jessica Russell: 05:25 It is delicious.

Ken Harvey: 05:25 That's what I've heard.

Jim Hills: 05:26 Turkey can be bland. So if you deep fry it, that sounds fantastic.

Ken Harvey: 05:30 Who's the guy I'm thinking of that does that?

Jessica Russell: 05:30 You need to brine it, flavor it, and stuff.

Jim Hills: 05:33 You do the whole routine before you deep fry it.

Jessica Russell: 05:35 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 05:35 [crosstalk 00:05:38]. John Lovick.

Jim Hills: 05:38 John Lovick. There's a local legislator, John Lovick. Well, I say legislator, but John Lovick has been everything here. He's been a sheriff. He's been a million things. He has this deal where he does deep fried turkeys for the community and then he takes them and gives them away.

Jim Hills: 05:57 He has this whole event in his driveway,, a production line of doing deep fried turkeys. John Lovick's deep fried turkeys. I've always wanted to go have Lovick's deep fried turkeys.

Jessica Russell: 06:09 That is how it is done. It is done in a driveway. It is done outside.

Ken Harvey: 06:15 A front yard. A back yard.

Jim Hills: 06:16 I'm just curious, if you don't have a deep fryer, is it basically just a big can that you just dump the turkey in?

Jessica Russell: 06:23 Because my deep fried Turkey was in Louisiana., it's piggybacking on the crawfish boil in your front yard setup, which is a propane-

Paul Pitkin: 06:34 Yeah, the crawfish bowl. I've never heard of that.

Ken Harvey: 06:38 It's also called a washtub.

Paul Pitkin: 06:39 Got you.

Jessica Russell: 06:39 No, it's a big old pot, is what it is. A technical term.

Jim Hills: 06:43 Big old pot.

Jessica Russell: 06:44 It's a big old pot and you can deep fry a turkey and you can have a crawfish boil. Delicious.

Jim Hills: 06:49 It sounds awesome.

Ken Harvey: 06:50 In Mississippi they call them wash tubs.

Jessica Russell: 06:51 Nice. [crosstalk 00:00:06:54]. Because Ken's got that southern insight as well.

Paul Pitkin: 06:56 We're here to educate here at the podcast. This is great.

Ken Harvey: 06:59 Well, if you're listening and you're just thinking about some of the food that we're talking about around holidays and you're really wondering, what to do with... Of course you could always turn to Sno-Isle Library's collection because we have a lot of things in our collection around holiday meals preparation and menus.

Jessica Russell: 07:16 Some of our library locations have entire cookbook sections because we know that our community loves cookbooks so very much. So you are spoiled for choice.

Jim Hills: 07:28 And if you go to the website and go to the World of Winter banner there, click on that, and there's a bunch of stuff that you can find book lists, you can find those cookbooks, you can find community events, you can find library events. There's all of that is there under that World of Winter banner.

Ken Harvey: 07:43 So before we move off of the food, any particular thing that you would just absolutely not want, something else you would absolutely not want on your plate or have served?

Paul Pitkin: 07:53 I despise cranberry sauce.

Ken Harvey: 07:55 I love cranberry sauce.

Paul Pitkin: 07:56 I absolutely despise it.

Jessica Russell: 07:57 I've only come to like it in adulthood and I've also had some that was fresh made with less sugar, so it's tangy as well and that was really good.

Paul Pitkin: 08:07 For some reason on Thanksgiving I'm focused on salt and meat and somehow [crosstalk 00:00:08:13].

Jessica Russell: 08:12 It just doesn't work for you.

Paul Pitkin: 08:13 It's does not work for me at all.

Jessica Russell: 08:14 It's the counterbalance to the salt for me.

Ken Harvey: 08:16 For me, the less tangy, the more sugary, the better.

Jessica Russell: 08:20 I grew up in the South, but my parents are from the Midwest and so I was treated often to a parade of the truly terrible Midwest salad concoctions, things with mayonnaise, things with gelatin, things with mayonnaise and gelatin that should not be combined together.

Ken Harvey: 08:38 Things that Mother Nature never intended.

Jessica Russell: 08:41 Intended. Yes. And she weeps.

Paul Pitkin: 08:43 A quarter of a head of iceberg lettuce with a dollop of mayonnaise, is not a salad.

Jessica Russell: 08:48 That is correct. The carrot and raisin salad, and then my mom also had some peculiar one that was peas and carrots canned, mixed with mayonnaise and ketchup. It was truly horrible.

Paul Pitkin: 09:02 That sounds so bad.

Ken Harvey: 09:05 I never want to see another pickled pig feet setting at the Thanksgiving table, or the head that goes along with it.

Jessica Russell: 09:13 Yes. Did y'all do the head cheese thing? That's another boil it in the pot in the yard.

Ken Harvey: 09:17 I always try to avoid the room when the head cheese was available. Just moving on then.

Paul Pitkin: 09:26 I'm really hungry now.

Jessica Russell: 09:26 We all had to pause for a moment just to bask in the thought of head cheese.

Paul Pitkin: 09:32 Once head cheese is mentioned, all bets are off.

Ken Harvey: 09:35 Well, just thinking about the different holidays that are that are celebrated through November, December, and going into January, and some of the memorable days that people celebrate. Let's take a look at some of those. So we've all got a list here. Let's all pull out a couple and share with the audience.

Jim Hills: 09:55 So there's the No Duh Day on January 1st, which is Hangover Day. That's a given.

Ken Harvey: 10:00 [crosstalk 00:10:03]. What was that called again, Jim?

Jim Hills: 10:04 The No Duh Day.

Ken Harvey: 10:06 Duh, spelled?

Jim Hills: 10:07 D-U-H.

Ken Harvey: 10:08 D-U-H. Duh.

Jessica Russell: 10:09 Like, no duh.

Jim Hills: 10:11 No duh. It's also combined with Bloody Mary Day, which should be all combined into The Hair of The Dog Day.

Paul Pitkin: 10:20 Or Alka-Seltzer day.

Ken Harvey: 10:21 Yeah, or Alka-Seltzer day. There you go. That's good.

Paul Pitkin: 10:26 I'm truly fascinated by January 7th, Old Rock Day.

Ken Harvey: 10:31 Because you're an old rocker?

Paul Pitkin: 10:32 Well this is, I guess I'm the only person who might look at it this way. I'm trying to figure out and I genuinely do not know the answer, is this day we're celebrating literally old rocks or is it celebrating old rock music? I don't know.

Ken Harvey: 10:46 Are you picky?

Paul Pitkin: 10:48 Well I have no interest in old rocks but some old rock for the day, I could do that.

Jessica Russell: 10:55 You could study geology while you listen to some old Beatles albums.

Paul Pitkin: 10:59 There you go. Yeah. Actually, geology and Led Zeppelin would be the perfect combo.

Jessica Russell: 11:05 Yes. Winner, winner chicken dinner.

Ken Harvey: 11:07 I've got one that actually happened earlier in December called Put On Your Shoes Day, which I really like.

Jim Hills: 11:13 Because you like shoes?

Ken Harvey: 11:14 Yeah. I actually like wearing shoes to work and there have only been a couple of times in my professional career where I actually got to work and discovered I had house shoes on, not my work shoes.

Jim Hills: 11:25 That's good.

Jessica Russell: 11:25 I find that I'm very uncomfortable if I don't have on shoes at work because it's, I have the shoes on, I'm here to work.

Ken Harvey: 11:33 That makes sense.

Jessica Russell: 11:34 Yes.

Jim Hills: 11:34 But some days you're distracted, apparently.

Ken Harvey: 11:40 I have been. [crosstalk 00:11:41].

Jim Hills: 11:40 I'm going to pick a pair of shoes at home now tonight and I'm going to call them my house shoes.

Paul Pitkin: 11:45 There you go. [crosstalk 00:11:47].

Jim Hills: 11:46 I don't think I have anything that I could call house shoes.

Jessica Russell: 11:48 What's it's slippers, and it's also shoes that you've decided you only wear inside of your house. That's also, I feel like, a Southern thing. You have house shoes.

Ken Harvey: 11:57 Yeah. Earlier this month there was also a day called National Ding-A-Ling Day. I forgot to celebrate it because evidently I'm at ding-a-ling.

Paul Pitkin: 12:07 I would everyone's feedback on what you think is the meaning of January... What is that? January 16th, Nothing Day. What do you think that means? That is actually a day, Nothing Day. What do you think that means? Is it an Existential Crisis Day?

Jessica Russell: 12:27 Absolutely. Positively.

Ken Harvey: 12:30 Nothing.

Jessica Russell: 12:30 Nothing.

Ken Harvey: 12:32 I know nothing about it.

Jim Hills: 12:33 So, there's nothing. Got nothing to say. [crosstalk 00:12:35].

Paul Pitkin: 12:35 What happens on the 17th then? Something Day? I don't know.

Jim Hills: 12:38 Something, yeah.

Ken Harvey: 12:39 The day after that is every day.

Jessica Russell: 12:42 I like January 22nd, which is Answer Your Cat's Questions Day. But I feel very strongly that it's about why are there not more pets, where are my treats, and why do you leave me every day?

Jim Hills: 12:58 Why do you leave me every day?

Ken Harvey: 12:59 Why do you leave me? Where have you been?

Jim Hills: 13:01 Answer your pet owner. Do you have a camera on your couch so you know what they do? [crosstalk 00:13:05].

Jessica Russell: 13:04 We do not, but I would be fascinated. But I do have somebody at home with them so I know they spend a lot of their day with him.

Jim Hills: 13:10 Take notes.

Jessica Russell: 13:12 He sends me pictures.

Jim Hills: 13:15 There you go. Close enough.

Jessica Russell: 13:15 They like to cuddle with him while he works because he works remotely.

Jim Hills: 13:19 That's good.

Ken Harvey: 13:22 Well there's another day actually before we get to the end of December called Card Playing Day and that reminds me of some of the favorite games that my family celebrated. I don't know if any of you came from games playing families.

Paul Pitkin: 13:37 We definitely played some card games. Poker has been one that we played with my friends when we were kids. Haven't played it in a long time, but of course also-

Ken Harvey: 13:48 Where'd you grow up? Vegas?

Jim Hills: 13:50 No, we already did that in another podcast, Ken. But no, did not grow up in Vegas. But one game that I played a lot of is Rummy 500. It's a version of Gin Rummy. That's really fun. I like that. That's probably my favorite card game. Although I blackjack too.

Ken Harvey: 14:07 We learned, not as children, but as an adult, I learned Hand and Foot.

Jessica Russell: 14:15 Like Foot and Mouth?

Ken Harvey: 14:16 Not quite like Foot and Mouth, but a very interesting game and that in some ways maybe a cross between Gin Rummy and Spades or Hearts.

Ken Harvey: 14:31 There's another one that is a combination card game and board game called Cutthroat Marbles, which is a game where, if you ever played the board game Aggravation, any of you ever play that?

Jim Hills: 14:43 I remember it but I don't think I played it.

Ken Harvey: 14:45 Well, it was an aggravating game and I told myself-

Jessica Russell: 14:47 It sounds like a bad deal, doesn't it?

Ken Harvey: 14:48 I told myself I wasn't going to play it after two or three times.

Paul Pitkin: 14:50 It sound like something you play while you ate head cheese.

Ken Harvey: 14:52 Well, because you'd lose your composure because those around the table could be... It was within the rules to be not nice to each other.

Jessica Russell: 15:05 A stealing thing like backgammon?

Ken Harvey: 15:07 And knocking each other backwards. Cutthroat Marbles is a little bit like that but more civilized. Where it is really okay to knock those you're competing against back. And anyway, cutthroat marbles.

Jim Hills: 15:24 I'm trying to think. When I was a kid, I'm spacing on the name of this game, so I'm going to quick describe it and you guys will come up with the name. So it's all the adults. They sit around the table. There is a thing that spreads out on the table and it's got places where you ante into. I think it's called Ante Up. Where you put a chip into all these different descriptions of cards. You have your cards, you can pass cards to the left and right, and you win pots, separate pots.

Paul Pitkin: 15:52 Sounds like Poker to me.

Jim Hills: 15:56 It's a little different. It might be called Ante Up.

Paul Pitkin: 15:59 Was it Stud Poker maybe?

Jim Hills: 16:00 No, I don't think so. But all I remember is being the little kid at the family holiday get togethers, barely being able to see the top of the table, and all the adults sitting around and doing this. At that time, I'm pretty old, but they were all drinking and smoking and our dining room table has a little spot on the corner where some Aunt's cigarette burned through and all of that. It was all good stuff.

Ken Harvey: 16:30 It sounds a lot like Poker to me.

Paul Pitkin: 16:33 It reminds me of my parents, they played Bridge. [crosstalk 00:16:36] there'd be a bunch of people to come over and play Bridge. Inevitably at some point somebody would be yelling at the other... There'd be a fight. But it reminds me of that.

Jessica Russell: 16:45 Did they ever let you play or were you just a spectator [crosstalk 00:16:49]?

Jim Hills: 16:47 No, I was just between the adults, I'd pop up, they'd say, "What are you doing?" Kids never got to play.

Ken Harvey: 16:54 Well they probably didn't want to admit to you it's Poker There was money changing hands.

Paul Pitkin: 17:00 Jim, this is a fun game we like to play called Ante Up.

Ken Harvey: 17:02 This is called Ante Up.

Jessica Russell: 17:02 This is called ante UP.

Ken Harvey: 17:05 Jessica, are there different materials in our collection that can help any of our listeners learn more about games and what the rules to games are?

Jessica Russell: 17:14 Yeah, absolutely. There are actually books that are specifically about card game rules or other game rules that you can check out and take home and learn a new game.

Ken Harvey: 17:26 I think that's really neat because almost invariably someone's arguing about rules. They're like, "Did you just make up that rule?"

Jessica Russell: 17:34 That's right.

Paul Pitkin: 17:35 That's the great killer of all games, is the rule problem.

Jessica Russell: 17:40 So check out the book, Take It To The Game and whenever things get disputed, just slap it on the table and say, "I know what's up."

Paul Pitkin: 17:49 Perfect.

Ken Harvey: 17:50 That's great. That has solved a lot of arguments in our house, especially over Scrabble because we always keep a Scrabble Dictionary.

Jessica Russell: 17:58 Scrabble Dictionary.

Ken Harvey: 17:59 Slap it on the table. I challenge you. So Paul do you want to talk a little bit about some of the things that is happening around Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation because we're right around the year end here and going into the new year.

Paul Pitkin: 18:17 First of all, I would encourage everyone listening to make a year end donation to the foundation. It's a great time to give. It's the end of the year. You might need to get rid of some money for taxes. You might want to have some things to deduct on your taxes. But also it's just a period of time around the holidays

when we want to support our communities. And so we would love to have you donate to the foundation.

- Paul Pitkin: 18:43 It's interesting. We've got a couple things coming up that your donation will help fund. And one of them is a Third Grade Reading Challenge. Semi-finals coming up very, very soon. In about three months we'll have the finals. And as I've said before on this podcast, this is an incredible program that helps third graders improve their reading at the most critical time of their literacy.
- Jessica Russell: 19:06 And I am so excited that I get to be here for the Third Grade Reading Challenge this year. It just looks amazing. I cannot wait to attend.
- Ken Harvey: 19:16 It is pretty amazing because you have hundreds of kids involved.
- Paul Pitkin: 19:19 It's incredible.
- Jim Hills: 19:21 Thousands.
- Ken Harvey: 19:21 Thousands?
- Jim Hills: 19:22 Thousands.
- Paul Pitkin: 19:22 Exactly and this year it was great. We were able to expand our funding for the Third Grade Reading Challenge with help from donors, people who are potentially listening to this podcast.
- Jessica Russell: 19:32 Like yourselves.
- Paul Pitkin: 19:33 Yes. But that's how we fund the Third Grade Reading Challenge. And this year we added to our budget so that we could fund 40 new teams at eight new schools. We were at 51 schools last year.
- Ken Harvey: 19:48 51 schools. Amazing.
- Paul Pitkin: 19:50 But this year it will be 59. It's just a program that gets bigger and bigger. And the reason it can get bigger is honestly because of donations.
- Ken Harvey: 20:00 Because of donors like you.
- Paul Pitkin: 20:02 Yeah. From donors you. It's absolutely necessary for us to keep expanding this program. And even with those 59 schools, there are still other schools that would to participate. And every year

everyone hears about how effective this program is, how great it is at helping kids with their literacy, with their teamwork, having them get excited about reading. Everyone hears about it, and so new schools, new communities want to get involved. So we'd like to continue to grow this program and that is possible only with donations.

Paul Pitkin: 20:31 Another thing that's going to be coming up soon is the return of TEDxSnoIsleLibraries. Ken, what's the date on that? Do you remember?

Ken Harvey: 20:39 So that is May 9th, a Saturday, and down at the Edmund Center for the Arts.

Paul Pitkin: 20:46 That is something that the foundation was a founding sponsor of. And we've always been the main sponsor. We have a lot of other partners that join in with us, but we've always come in and been the spark for that program, for that incredible event. And we could not be more excited that it's coming back and it's going to come back full force. And Ken, you just sent out an email today about how many people have been touched by TEDxSnoIsleLibraries. I'll be more specific. How many people have watched all of our TED Talks at TEDxSnoIsleLibraries online?

Ken Harvey: 21:22 So we've had, in the previous three years that we've done events, when you take all the speakers together who've stepped out on this red circle and shared their idea, there've been 52 of them. We just did a tally and the word got to me that over three and a half million views of those TED Talks. Three and a half million views.

Jim Hills: 21:46 And what's interesting to me is three and half million views. That's a really big number to bring down. It's still a big number, but something maybe you can wrap your head around a little more, 50,000 views are coming to those talks a month. It's just incredible.

Jim Hills: 22:04 I had a chance to see two out of the previous three TEDxSnoIsleLibraries events and watch a little bit of the preparation for that and to see the work that the speakers do to get ready to have an idea worth sharing... That's not quite right. What do they say? Is that it? [crosstalk 00:22:24]. Ideas worth sharing. Is amazing. They go through their own transformation.

Jim Hills: 22:30 And when you say there are 52 people who have gone through TEDxSnoIsleLibraries and stepped out onto that circle, they're

52 people in the community now who've had that experience, who've gone through that training, and they come out transformed, as well as the thousands of attendees. Along with those three point million interviewers. But those 52 are in our communities making a difference all the time. Having had this experience.

Paul Pitkin: 22:59 Well and it's also something that is, as a library district we want to provide value to our customers and to have something where you can go to the Sno-Isle Libraries website and watch a TED Talk that has been curated by a librarian, the subject and the speaker, which is nobody's better at curating a TEDx event than librarians. I think we all know that. It's an amazing value.

Paul Pitkin: 23:25 And so for the foundation, that's one of the things that makes it so important for us because to put on an event is extraordinary aesthetics Sno-Isle Libraries and it truly is extraordinary. It costs money. So we have to raise money for that. We and the foundation, we provide, as I said, we provide a signature sponsorship and we also have other partners.

Paul Pitkin: 23:44 But that's another thing that your donation will go to fund. And we're just very excited about that. And I want you to just think about that as you consider your year end giving. Consider the foundation. Please go to our website, we'll have a link in the show notes. You can go to the website, you can send us a check, you can give in a number of ways, you can just contact me directly. But every donation matters and we're grateful for every donation. It goes to do a lot of different things in our communities and to support the library district.

Ken Harvey: 24:19 We really appreciate the foundation's support for this. And, and also both for the TEDxSnoIsleLibraries, the Third Grade Reading Challenge, and other things that you help bring needed funds to that the library would not be able to do otherwise.

Paul Pitkin: 24:36 Yeah. Even temporary libraries. We're bringing direct library service to people.

Ken Harvey: 24:42 Examples of those are the Mariner Library.

Paul Pitkin: 24:44 Mariner Library, Smokey Point, Lakewood, Smokey Point. Those are communities that need libraries that don't have permanent libraries yet. And we help pay for those and just bring in library service to people who don't have it and expanding the reach of the library district. And Ken, before we switch subjects, you have to tell the listeners the theme for this year's TEDx.

Ken Harvey: 25:07 The theme of the event will be pause... Quantum connections. Jessica, I would really love to just throw to you an opportunity to talk just a little bit more about what our listeners could take advantage of in terms of the collections that Sno-Isle Libraries has available and is making available.

Jessica Russell: 25:39 Absolutely. So as we delve into the winter, and by the way, since this podcast is, I did not know that I would have to thaw out my car's windshield every morning on the way to work. So welcome to the-

Ken Harvey: 25:56 Because that doesn't happen in Louisiana?

Jessica Russell: 25:59 In Texas, no?

Ken Harvey: 25:59 Or Texas?

Jessica Russell: 26:00 Nor Texas.

Jim Hills: 26:01 No, I bet it doesn't happen in Texas.

Jessica Russell: 26:01 It's an event. [crosstalk 00:26:02]. It's an event you circle in red on your calendar. So anyway as we head into these chilly days, we have all the things that you may think of about the library, books, movies, music. We have our winter holiday music out in the libraries for your enjoyment. But we also have some things that you may not have thought of. As you are thinking about gift-giving, as you may be slated to receive some new electronic devices, we'll have classes starting in the New Year To learn how to use the Libby app from Overdrive in order to read and listen to our really truly amazing collection from home or from anywhere that you've got wifi. You can also use our Book-a-Librarian service to get some hands on help.

Ken Harvey: 26:54 It's a great service.

Jessica Russell: 26:56 Yes. The undivided attention of the librarian to help walk you through using your new device. And we also have some other digital materials, like magazines, offered through RBdigital. We've got classes about getting used to using those and that is a pretty amazing experience. It feels almost like you're holding a magazine because there's that page flipping motion. But anything that's a link on that page also, you can click it and it'll take you out to the internet to take a look. So that's really cool.

Ken Harvey: 27:35 So that was the RBdigital you just talked about.

Jessica Russell: 27:37 RBdigital Magazine. It.

Ken Harvey: 27:37 Just for anyone who's listening, and you have not heard that term before, RBdigital, it's a name of an online service, right?

Jessica Russell: 27:47 It's the company that provides our digital magazines.

Ken Harvey: 27:50 And so these are digital magazines. The experience is like holding a magazine in your hand.

Jessica Russell: 27:56 Holding a magazine in your hands.

Ken Harvey: 27:58 But you're looking at it essentially through your computer, through your laptop, through your tablet, through your smart device. And it's amazing.

Jessica Russell: 28:07 You don't even have to get up off the couch.

Jim Hills: 28:07 Which I almost never do.

Ken Harvey: 28:08 So magazines such as? Would there be consumer reports?

Jessica Russell: 28:14 There would be consumer reports. You could do some scoping out of the best gifts to give your loved ones. Give them something quality that they will not return immediately for store credit.

Ken Harvey: 28:27 Or something they won't like, then you really bought it for yourself anyway, but you just gave it to them, knowing they wouldn't like it so they would give it back to you.

Jessica Russell: 28:31 Yes, in the hopes that they will hand it back to you.

Paul Pitkin: 28:33 The strategic gift.

Jessica Russell: 28:35 That's correct.

Jim Hills: 28:36 The cool thing though, because there is an upsurge of those kinds of devices given as gifts and we see the results of that because we see an uptick in checkouts of digital material. People trying out their new stuff.

Jessica Russell: 28:48 That's correct.

Jim Hills: 28:49 The whole idea of going to the classes, if you don't know how to use your device and you go, "Hey, thanks for this thing."

Ken Harvey: 28:55 How do I use it?

Jim Hills: 28:56 And then if you don't want to go to class, that whole Book-a-Librarian. The thing I like about Book-a-Librarian is you're making an appointment with someone who's there to help. And so when you walk up and you say, I need help, they're already expecting you to say that. The barrier to entry is really low.

Jessica Russell: 29:19 They're excited to help you. [crosstalk 00:29:18].

Paul Pitkin: 29:19 It's like, please come, let me help you, and they walk you through that.

Ken Harvey: 29:24 Well I think that's really a big deal because in all seriousness, there can be a lot of embarrassment.

Jessica Russell: 29:31 That's correct.

Ken Harvey: 29:33 You receive a gift, or it may be a gift that you've gifted yourself, and you discover this thing isn't as easy to use or intuitive as I thought it was going to be.

Paul Pitkin: 29:43 I never do that.

Ken Harvey: 29:44 I don't really want to look dumb to someone else and admit that I don't know how to make this thing work. Like 30 years ago, going home and then looking and you're seeing that the 12 is flashing on your VCR unit because you've never figured out how to program it.

Jessica Russell: 30:01 Who knew how to program their VCR?

Ken Harvey: 30:03 It's our librarians are just... You don't have to be embarrassed to say, "Hey, I could use some help."

Paul Pitkin: 30:12 No judgment as well.

Jessica Russell: 30:12 No. It is a no judgment zone.

Ken Harvey: 30:13 It's so refreshing to know that it's safe.

Jessica Russell: 30:16 It's highly individualized. It's exactly what you need and not what anybody else needs.

Ken Harvey: 30:22 So when you tell them what you're looking for, what you need, they don't start laughing at you.

Jessica Russell: 30:28 Absolutely not. They are, again, they're really excited to help you. So what you view as a problem or a barrier, they see as an opportunity to connect with you and to guide you to that knowledge.

Ken Harvey: 30:46 That's real exciting.

Paul Pitkin: 30:47 I'm just thinking of all the things I need to Book-a-Librarian for.

Jessica Russell: 30:49 I was going to say, Paul is pulling out his device so that he can Book-a-Librarian.

Paul Pitkin: 30:55 I'm just imagining between the 25th and first part of January, all these little phone calls that go to our libraries of this plaintiff cry in the wilderness, and everybody going, "Help me."

Jessica Russell: 31:08 People come up to the reference desk with their device cupped into their hands and they just hold it out mutely to you and you say, "Come with me. We'll be okay."

Jim Hills: 31:20 Put your hand around their around their shoulder. It's okay. [crosstalk 00:31:22].

Jessica Russell: 31:23 Well and the exciting thing is that devices have gotten easier to operate, which does not mean that you should not come in for help. But the Libby app in particular from Overdrive is incredibly user friendly, so easy to navigate. It's got built in help. So it allows customers who are excited and ready to help themselves to do so. But then it also means that it's really easy for our staff to assist people in using it.

Jim Hills: 31:51 I just used the Libby app the other day. I was looking on our website because that's one of the things I'm supposed to do, it's my job, and there was this thing about the history of the internet that I didn't know it's called the... I can't think of the title. I just downloaded it. It's on my phone. I haven't started reading it yet, but it's so simple. You just go to Libby, have the app there, click on that.

Jessica Russell: 32:11 Search for what you want.

Jim Hills: 32:14 I bungled the title. It figured out what I wanted.

Jessica Russell: 32:17 Auto corrected you.

Jim Hills: 32:17 Yeah. There it was and I go, "Yep. Thank you."

Jessica Russell: 32:19 It's so smart. Well and the other cool thing is that if you search for something that we don't have, we have a recommend to library feature that allows you to say, "Hey, Sno-Isle Libraries, I'm really interested in this title and you haven't purchased it yet." And then that comes to me and my staff and we say, "That sounds great. We're sorry we didn't buy that. Let's get to that." And you have it to check out.

Jim Hills: 32:46 Your own personal buying [crosstalk 00:00:32:47].

Jessica Russell: 32:48 There you go.

Paul Pitkin: 32:48 Sounds like it. [crosstalk 00:32:52].

Ken Harvey: 32:51 This is just an example of just so many things that Sno-Isle Libraries has available for our customers. And I'm hoping if you're a listener, that you're already a customer, but if you're not, or if it's been a while since you've used the library, that you'll take the time to just check out what we're offering. You're going to find that there's something in our collection that will delight you and you'll find things that services and resources that we have that will surprise you because you'll discover that they were just waiting for you and you'll say, like we've said, "Didn't know that. Didn't know the library had that."

Ken Harvey: 33:33 Hey, this is the last episode of Check It Out Podcast for season two. We'll be taking a short break and then be coming back in the month of January with season three.

Ken Harvey: 33:45 We have had a very exciting year, lots of guests and we're looking forward to a lineup of exciting guests ahead of us, which we'll be including the new President for the Everett Community College, Dr. Daria Willis. We are looking at representatives from the Ruling Council and Board of the Tulalip Tribes. We're looking for the Head from Campfire and maybe one of his chief buddies who was a previous Seattle Seahawk player, as well as some other Seahawk players, past and current. And a whole slew of authors, both with international acclaim and some who are local, who are getting started and creating a following for them.

Jessica Russell: 34:42 Do you have any hints?

Ken Harvey: 34:43 Well, no, I just want to leave people anticipating. Waiting to be surprised.

Jessica Russell: 34:53 Oh, man. Dang it.

Ken Harvey: 34:55 But we also have, and I'll just mention this, I'm looking forward to having someone that I've gotten to know who is the Head of the IBM Watson work back in the New York area and is going to talk to us about what's happening with artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

Ken Harvey: 35:16 Just an indicator of some of the interesting individuals that we are hoping to have on, as well as other community and local heroes. And if you have any suggestions of someone that you would love to have us talk with, whether it be an author, whether it be a performer, or someone who is doing something incredible in the business world or the world of science, technology, engineering, or math, just let us know. You can do that by contacting us through our website and/or through the Check It Out Podcast and we will definitely take a look at your suggestion.

Ken Harvey: 35:57 I would like to just do a final wave off and say thank you to my podcast co-hosts.

Jim Hills: 36:06 (singing).

Paul Pitkin: 36:06 Thank you [crosstalk 00:36:07] podcasters.

Jessica Russell: 36:07 (singing).

Ken Harvey: 36:10 Yes, it's been a great year. Thank you so much, our listening audience for being out there and subscribing to the podcast, listening on your way to work, or on your way home, or wherever you have happened to click on the button that has given you the opportunity to listen to our voices. We've got some great things coming up in the next season and appreciate your being part of this season. Take care everyone.

Speaker 7: 36:36 Cuddle up with your preschooler reading fun books like Goodnight Moon or Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. You'll find 100 enjoyable picture book titles, which were hand selected by Sno-Isle librarians, guaranteed to create delightful and meaningful afternoon and bedtime experiences all while helping your children learn to read. Find the countdown to kindergarten list and many more online at Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey: 37:02 Thank you for listening to the Check It Out podcast. For free resources and materials connected to today's guest and topic, head over to the library's website and search for the word podcast. The library's website is sno-isle.org/podcast.