

FRIENDS OF THE **ELSIE QUIRK** LIBRARY

100 West Dearborn Street • Englewood, Florida 34223 • Phone: 941-861-5000 • Website: www.sclibs.net



A message from the President

Ron Cutsinger, President of the Board of the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library

New Beginnings Of all the seasons, I enjoy spring the most. Already its promise is in the air as the foliage greens and blooms. Let's hope we don't jump to summer too quickly!

In a way, it's springtime for the Friends and the Elsie Quirk Library too, a time of new beginnings. In March the Friends Board held an excellent retreat. We came away challenged but refreshed and reenergized as we planned for an exciting future. And this year's Volunteer Luncheon – one of the best – was a fitting tribute to an amazing group of talented and generous people.

The new face of the Friends bookstore is getting close to completion. It is more than twice the size of the old bookstore and gives us premier location and visibility. We're looking to display an even larger selection for sale and increase our fundraising efforts. But perhaps even more, our goal is to raise awareness of who we are and what the Friends do. It's a great story, somewhat hidden before, but now with a new visibility, we can reach a larger audience and increase (double?) membership. If you're not a Friend yet, now is the time!

For the library itself, the renovation is taking shape. New conference area, new computer space, new reading area, and a very exciting new circulation/reference desk promise improved efficiency and community access.

New beginnings, great new services, but also new needs!

Financially we need help outfitting the bookstore and the expansions. We are committed to doing this right, and frankly this is costly. Also, with new longer hours of operation, we will need more volunteers to help staff the bookstore. Can you help?

Watch for news of a ribbon cutting dedication soon!

Luncheon Honors Library Volunteers

Elsie Quirk Library Volunteers were honored on March 24th at the Boca Royale Country Club. Chairman Helen Wikoff, who organized the annual luncheon, surprised guests with a unique keepsake, a beautiful print of an original watercolor painted by local artist, Sandy Nusblatt. Assorted library memorabilia, including pencils, note pads, and baseball caps, were available as well.



Helen Wikoff, who organized the Volunteer Luncheon, introduced guests and thanked Englewood artist, Sandy Nusblatt for reproducing over 40 prints of her library painting. The prints were given out as favors to each guest.

After lunch, came the biggest surprise of all, a program by Betty Jean Steinshouer who would be portraying Marjory Stoneman Douglas that evening at the library. No two performances by Betty Jean are ever the same, so those who attended the evening performance received a double treat.



Betty Jean Steinshouer performed as Marjorie Stoneman Douglas at both the Volunteer Luncheon and the evening program at Elsie Quirk Library.

Commissioner Shannon Staub, a long-time member of the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library, offered words of encouragement and praise to the volunteers. She has been a strong supporter of the Friends' efforts to expand the footprint of our actual library building and move our bookstore to a newly built space just off the entry. At the completion of our new bookstore, Commissioner Staub will join us for a formal "ribbon cutting" ceremony in April to celebrate the occasion.



Commissioner Shannon Staub offered kind words about the quality of our Friends organization at the luncheon. Joining her at the head table were John Dubowik, Vice President (left) and President, Ron Cutsinger.

Friends' President, Ron Cutsinger, thanked



Betty Ditto, and Helen Streeter, both long-time volunteers, had an opportunity to chat prior to lunch.

the library volunteers for their service, and reminded everyone that volunteers worked 4,772 hours in 2009. That is equivalent to 2.29 full time employees! There are 10 full time employees on the staff, so the volunteers increased the library work force by 20%. In the entire Sarasota County Library System, volunteer hours totaled 104,262 last year.

(continued on page 2)



Michele Strickland, Elsie Quirk Librarian in charge of Volunteers, at left, welcomed Roberta Reese, Annie Mikesell, Rose Dybalski, and Janice Thompson at the Volunteer Luncheon.

Vice President John Dubowik, standing, introduced himself to new Reference Volunteer, Lee Grappin, and Sally Entlich who helps with shelving library materials.



FRIENDS OF ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Ron Cutsinger, *President*
- John Dubowik, *Vice President and Building Chairman*
- Mary Jane Williams, *Past President*
- Nadine Smith, *Treasurer*
- Miriam Rullan Alba, *Secretary*
- Pat Burkey, *Program Chairman & Alliance Representative*
- Christine Kourapis, *Newsletter*
- Beth Sarles, *Membership Chairman and Sarasota Library Advisory Board Representative*
- Hal Roberts, *Fundraising*
- Ruth Jameson
- Bill Lowe
- Sanskriti "Sunny" Sharma, *Teen Representative*

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT:
Jennifer Perry, *Manager*

FRIENDS BOOKSTORE:
Camille Thinnes, *Manager*

If you would like to share your news with us, just call Chris at 475-6592 and we'll do the rest.

Walter Wardell: *Newsletter layout*

(continued from page 1)

A highlight of the Volunteer Luncheon was the naming of the 2010 Star Award Winner. The Star Award recognizes a person whose exemplary efforts benefit Elsie Quirk Library. This could be a staff member, a small group, or a person who has performed beyond expectations.

Senior Youth Librarian, Cris Walton, presented the award to Carolyn Johnston for her unique ability to teach youngsters at Elsie Quirk Library. Every second Saturday of the month Children learn to draw or paint birds, animals, and flowers. In a recent class, children were read a story about the Inuit people of the

2010 Star Award Winner



Cris Walton, Senior Youth Librarian, presented a personal desk top Star Award and an engraved framed photo that will be displayed in our Friends Bookstore to art instructor Carolyn Johnston for her outstanding work with youngsters at Elsie Quirk Library.

Arctic, then painted polar bears, wolves, puffins, and walruses.

Art instructor Carolyn Johnston retired after teaching art for 24 years at Out of Doors Academy in Sarasota. She worked for another five years at the Sarasota Lutheran School before retiring. She now volunteers at the library, teaching art to children and "learning, in turn, from them," she says.

The Star Award is a beautiful, personalized desk top award. A framed picture of Carolyn will be hung in the new bookstore along side pictures of past award winners: Camille Thinnes, Walter Wardell, and Tina Tullo.



Jean Dixheimer helps out every week shelving books in the Youth Section of Elsie Quirk Library.

Friends Volunteer, Lorraine Staples, turns recycled greeting cards into free book marks for bookstore customers. Lorraine, a former teacher, spends 6 months in Quebec and 6 months in Englewood. She is fluent in French and is currently enrolled in the Basic Conversational Spanish Class offered by Dan Duffy here at Elsie Quirk Library.



Upcoming Books 2010-2011 - Participants are encouraged to read the selections before attending.

The **Great Books Group** meets the first Thursday of the month at 10:15 a.m., November - April at Elsie Quirk Library. A copy of the book *Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights*, is available in the Reference Section.

DATE	READING	AUTHOR
Nov. 4, 2010	GANDHI'S FOLLOWERS PROTEST THE SALT TAX INDEPENDENCE V. SWARSJ	Webb Miller Mahatma Gandhi
Dec. 2, 2010	THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. SUSAN B. ANTHONY	

The **Book Discussion Group** meets the **third** Thursday of the month at 10:15 a.m., November - April at Elsie Quirk Library.

DATE	BOOK	AUTHOR
Nov. 18, 2010	THE CLOSING OF THE WESTERN MIND	Charles Freeman
Dec. 16, 2010	THE GUERNEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY	Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

The **Short Story Group** meets the **second** Thursday of the month at 10:15 a.m., November - April at Elsie Quirk Library. Copies will be available at cost.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR
Nov. 11, 2010	OLIVE KITTERIDGE	Elizabeth Strout

All three Book Groups are sponsored by the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library. For more information contact the Elsie Quirk Library (941) 861-1200.



Jennifer Perry

Elsie Quirk
Library Manager

Get library updates via e-mail, web or phone!

Want to know what's happening at your local library? There are many ways to find out, depending on your information preferences.

Are you a social networking fan? You can follow the Sarasota County Libraries on **Facebook!**

Like to get your news on your cell phone? Subscribe for Twitter updates from <http://twitter.com/scgovlibrary>.

Like to surf the web? Check out the Sarasota County Libraries website at www.sclibs.net.

Are you a radio listener? You can listen to the weekly radio update from the library on **WENG Radio News-Talk 1530 AM 107.5 FM** at 8:10 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

Do you regularly check your e-mail account? Sign up for the weekly e-mail newsletter from the Elsie Quirk Library, and you'll get a weekly list of everything going on **right in your e-mail inbox.**

To sign up for the newsletter stop by the library and fill out a form or e-mail Cris Walton, newsletter editor, cwalton@scgov.net.

Dearborn Street Book Fair

Lynda Citro from the Englewood Charlotte Library and Jennifer Perry, Elsie Quirk Library Manager, represented both Englewood Libraries at the first-ever Dearborn Street Book Fair on February 18th. The event included writing workshops, local author presentations, a poetry and prose contest, live music and a children's story hour. Librarians and Friends Volunteers sold used books and offered information about library activities and programs.



April - May Programs

Program Chairman Pat Burkey has lined up some programs for April and May. Check for times and dates of future programs and movies at the Reference Desk.

Truth in Labeling
by Terri Burke

The Galapagos Islands
by Rosemary Hagen

Good and Bad Fats
Defined by Terri Burke



Get Lost in Austen
with Monday Night Movies in April. All movies start at 5:00 pm and will be held in the Youth Program Room.

Jane Austen's novels will be brought to life in movies on April 19th and April 26th.





Sunny Sharma

Teen Board Member
Representative

Calling Upon Our Teens

Quietly systematizing books behind hundreds of floor-to-ceiling shelves while pointing out directions to patrons, Savannah Moffett and others like her are rapidly becoming an integral part of their library community. Teen volunteers like Savannah are extremely important because they not only help the library, they provide a positive impact on the community as a whole. According to Savannah, "I do this because I know that helping out my community will encourage others do to the same. If we could all just pitch in, wouldn't the world be a much better place to live in?"

Due to ever increasing budget cuts, Sarasota County libraries have had to rely on more outside aid. Volunteer hours for this past year have fallen by eight percent. A campaign has been launched to recruit more help from the youth in their communities. This idea for innovative change has not originated at the Sarasota Library system alone. As Erin Slattery from the Acorn Public Library in Oak Forest, Illinois said, "It can be hard for teens to find a creative or social outlet other than TV, video games, or the Internet. We should be working to build a common bond for teens. Programs like the Teen Advisory Board meet once a month to help promote the importance of our children."

At Elsie Quirk Library the following teens help out weekly:

- Ashley Kreher is a Teen Advisory Board Member.
- Scott Richter is a Teen Advisory Board Member.
- Sunny Sharma is the Teen Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Board Member.
- Erin Mulvaney works with the *Art with Carolyn Program*.
- Genesis Calo helps with the *Read with the Dogs Program*.

Virtually all of the teen volunteers at Elsie Quirk Library are enrolled in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. They receive credit for their volunteer hours and become eligible for a scholarship to any college that is a part of the Florida state system.



Toddler Time

Tess Turbeville enjoyed dressing up and donning a wig during Toddler Time on February 18th. Her mom, Kathy, who served on the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Board for many years, continues to support youth activities and lead library book groups.



Cris Walton

Senior Librarian,
Youth Services

Youth Volunteers with Carolyn Johnston

On March 13th, the Art with Carolyn class focused on watercolor techniques featuring the art of Georgia O'Keefe. Students learned about the life of the famous artist before practicing her style.

Ann's Florist, Inc. donated beautiful roses and carnations that student artists could examine closely for this project.



Carolyn Johnston posed with teen volunteers Erin Mulvaney and Ashley Kreher during the March 13th class.



Certified art teacher and this year's Star Award winning volunteer, Carolyn Johnston, featured a program entitled "Birds of a Feather" on February 15th. Class size was limited to 10 participants who learned how to draw a variety of birds that they might see in their own back yards.

Family Reunion at Great Decisions

In 1634 Charles Hyatt traveled from England to Maryland where he raised a large family on land bestowed to him by Lord Baltimore. Eventually, at least two towns were named after the Hyatts – Hyattville and Hyattstown. Over the years, most Hyatts married, had huge families, and relocated far from their original settlements. It would seem impossible to track them all, but in Englewood, Florida three descendents of Charles Hyatt discovered, quite by accident, that they were related!

The Great Decisions Group is a tight-knit group, the largest in Florida. Many members have known each other since the group began meeting 25 years ago. They are, according to the group's late chairman, Ellie Salander, "like family". Suki Swepston, Paul Hyatt, and Mary Black, however, discovered that they really are family.

Paul and Suki have known about their Hyatt family connection for years, but in February, Mary showed up at a Great Decisions meeting. She noticed Paul's nametag and asked some questions. He told her that the first Hyatts had settled in Maryland, but that he had grown up in Indiana. Mary shared her family history and remarked that Paul resembled her grandfather.



"Cousins", Suki Swepston, Paul Hyatt, and Mary Black.

After the Great Decisions meeting Paul introduced Mary to Suki. Amazingly enough, both Mary and Suki were born and raised in the same town, Mount Vernon, Ohio. Both had attended the same schools but at different times. Both had belonged to the same church! They also discovered that they had elderly cousins in common still living in Ohio.

All three "cousins" love to read, write, and participate in discussion groups. Suki, a retired English teacher and world traveler, presents interesting programs about her travels at Elsie Quirk Library. Paul, a retired businessman, conducted a series of courses in social and political philosophy before moving to Englewood. In February he presented a program on the Persian Gulf for the Great Decisions Group. Mary, a retired social worker and clinical supervisor, holds masters degrees in theology and social work and has published devotional articles and works of poetry. One could say that creativity runs in the Hyatt family.

Staff and Patrons Adjust During the Renovation Process



To allow for renovations to take place, Librarian Deirdre Morrow was moved temporarily to what will become the new conference room/computer lab upstairs.



The former Friends of the Library Bookstore is now a place for public computers.



Jayne Price, a regular library patron, enjoyed working in the new public computer area.



The friendly circulation staff relocated temporarily to where the reference desk used to be. Mary Jane Williams and Kathy Smith checked out some books after their book group meeting.



Artist Sandra Nusblatt is a seasonal resident of Englewood who attends all three book groups and the Great Decisions Discussion group.

She specializes in watercolor paintings of historic buildings and residences, and is shown here with a photo of her painting showing the new renovation of the Elsie Quirk Library. (See back cover)



Baila Miller presented a program about Louis Comfort Tiffany: His Work, Life, and Times on February 25th in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Miller owns Miller Music & Fine Arts LLC. She develops, presents, and sells a series of 50 lectures and programs to local libraries, educational centers, and senior living facilities. Her Elsie Quirk Library presentations attract audiences from as far away as Longboat Key, Venice, and Port Charlotte.

Friends Board Members Establish Organizational Direction at Board Retreat

Board members met at the home of Hal Roberts on March 13th to consider the roles and responsibilities of individual members and determine the Board's vision, mission, values and goals.

Nancy J. Shoemaker, a Board-source trained governance consultant and facilitator for nonprofit organizations, explained how boards should deal with complex issues. During the session topics included: legal and fiduciary accountability, strategic planning, board development, fundraising, teamwork, and other related subjects.

Currently, 12 members, all volunteers, serve on The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Board. Board Retreats help to clarify a Board's purpose and values. Designing an operational plan will enable the Board to fulfill their mission: to advocate the importance of the library to the broader community and provide funding for library services.



L-R: Program Chairman Pat Burkey, Membership Chairman Beth Sarles, President Ron Cutsinger, Library Manager Jennifer Perry, and Fundraising Chairman Hal Roberts took notes during the Board Retreat on March 13th.



Attending the Board Retreat at the home of Hal Roberts were: Past President and current Vice President, John Dubowik, Presenter Nancy J. Shoemaker, Secretary Miriam Rullan-Alba, and Program Chairman Pat Burkey. Not shown, Ruth Jameson and Newsletter Editor, Chris Kourapis.

State Funding for Libraries May be Cut

Last year the state legislature eliminated State Aid to Public Libraries, and a public outcry to legislators restored the funding. Sarasota received \$259,384 in State Aid in 2009 according to Sarasota Library Director, Sarabeth Kalajian, and these funds were used to purchase books and collection materials for the library system. This year, however, State Aid to Public Libraries has once again been cut from the preliminary state budget. This could mean fewer hours, reduced services, and perhaps closures for some libraries.

Library advocates, Friends of the Libraries, and residents need to urge lawmakers to reconsider the elimination of the State Aid to Public Libraries grant program before the annual 60 day session ends in April. A recent report issued to librarians from Faye Roberts, Executive Director of the Florida Library Association, recommended that people contact their legislators, newspapers, friends, community groups, and library users in the community. A sample message was included.

Please read the sample message below, and contact the governor, legislative leadership, and key committees. Add your local stories — they are the most powerful!

Sample message: Restore funding for State Aid to Public Libraries to the current \$21.2 million.

If State Aid is eliminated, branches will close all over Florida and library service in rural libraries will be decimated because of their reliance on state funding!

The following need to hear the message:

Governor Charlie Crist:
Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com

Senator Nancy Detert:
Detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Kenneth Roberson:
www.myfloridahouse.gov

New and Renewed Members for 2010

THANK YOU SO MUCH! We appreciate your support.

Benefactors:

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 Mr. & Mrs. Hal Roberts
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Snelgrove
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Swepston
 Ms. Mary Wolff

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 Mr. & Mrs. Hector E. Medal
 Mr. Richard J. Muller
 Mr. & Mrs. David Pike
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 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Thinnes
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wardell
 Mrs. Helen Wikoff

Individual Membership:

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 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Mr. Fred Bernstein
 Susette Bryan
 Ms. Sandy Dameron
 Ms. Betty Ditto
 Dr. J.A. Gendzwill
 Ms. Lucille Harford
 Ms. Janet Heckroth
 Ms. Genie Hindall
 Pat Jarvis
 Ms. Judy Johnson
 Ms. Eleanor Kallop
 Ms. Valarie Kandel
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 Commissioner Shannon Staub
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 Ms. Geraldine A. Villa
 Joan Walsh
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Memorial Donations:

Ms. May Smith in memory of her good friend Gertrude Staniels

Other Donations:

Mrs. Eileen Best in celebration of her birthday by Bob and Beth Sarles



FRIENDS
 of the
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 QUIRK
 LIBRARY**

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 Englewood, FL 34223
 Phone: 941-861-5000
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VOLUNTEER INTERESTS

- At Library
- Computers
- Newsletter
- Fund Raising
- Telephone
- Membership Programs

M E M B E R S H I P F O R M

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Ext. _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____ New Member Renewal

Do you wish to remain anonymous? Yes No

- \$5 Child under 12
- \$10 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$30 Contributor
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$100 and up Benefactor

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Elsie Quirk Library**
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I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

Please enclose your check with this form and mail to:

Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library
100 West Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

IN MEMORY OF: IN HONOR OF:

Tribute to (name): _____

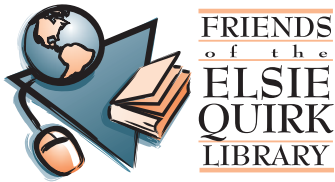
Occasion: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Send Notice of Tribute to: _____

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The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library receive 100% of all contributions made to our organization. We are a non-profit corporation, and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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Englewood, FL 34223

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Be a Library Volunteer!

New Look for Elsie Quirk Library

The Friends new bookstore is now located at the front entrance.



Volunteers received a beautiful print of an original watercolor painting of Elsie Quirk Library by artist Sandra Nusblatt at the March 24th Volunteer Luncheon.

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View our newsletter in full color at www.sclibs.net

1. When the home page comes up, click on "Friends" in the upper right corner.
2. Click on "Elsie Quirk".
3. Under Current Newsletter click on "EQ Friends Newsletter". Read, and/or print!

Library Hours:
Monday & Wednesday, 10-8
Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday, 10-5