FRIENDS OF THE
ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY

Newsletter • Volume 21 • Number 3 • Summer 2022
www.friendsofelsiequirk.org

60 years!

Happy 60th Anniversary to the Elsie Quirk Library!
Sarasota County's first county library and we think the Best!!!

Elsie Quirk

Did you know that Elsie Quirk library is the oldest and first county library in Sarasota County?
Elsie Quirk library opened on June 15, 1962. So proud of the group of Englewood pioneers who saw the need, desire and willingness to donate time and money. They persevered and made Elsie Quirk library a reality for all to enjoy! Here is a little of our history!!!

The Beginning

Elsie and Wellington Quirk moved to the Englewood area in the 1940s. In 1961, inspired by a small community library they visited on a vacation to North Carolina, the couple decided that this was just what Englewood needed.

The Quirks donated land they owned at 101 Cocoanut Avenue and $10,000 so Englewood could have a library of its own. The Quirks weren't the only ones excited about the idea of a library in Englewood. In 1961 the Friends of the Library was established headed by Leah Lasbury, Josephine Cortes and President Lois Potter.

These dedicated women gathered additional donations and lobbied Sarasota County to recognize their efforts to build a public library. Stocked with 3600 books donated by the Lemon Bay Woman's Club, and manned by volunteers including Elsie Quirk, the library opened its doors on June 15, 1962. The 1400 square-foot library was the first in the Sarasota County Library System, when it was established in 1963.

Getting Bigger.....

The library immediately proved a popular spot and meeting place in sleepy Englewood and underwent its first expansion in 1964 when a children's and young adult book section was added.
Then in 1972, Mr. O.T. Alexander donated $15,000 to the Friends of the Library. That money was used to purchase more land and add an actual youth reading room, which was named the Alexander Wing. The Friends raised additional funds to dramatically increase the library's collection to 29,000 books, great news for its 4,000 plus library card holders.
As Englewood got bigger so did the library. In 1982, after five years of fund-raising, came a $500,000 expansion that added a second floor and mezzanine. Now 35,000 books were available in the nearly 12,000 square foot library.

.....*And BIGGER*

The library's most ambitious expansion occurred earlier this decade. This time the staff had to actually pack up roughly 2000 boxes and move down State Road 776 to a temporary location at Englewood Plaza.
The $1.2 million renovation, funded by Sarasota County sales tax dollars and a state grant, took a bit longer than planned, but most would say the wait was worth it. When the library reopened to the public in December 2001, it was like a brand new Elsie Quirk.
There was a new community room with a catering kitchen, a bookstore area for the Friends, a children's program room, self check-out and so much more!

The Elsie Quirk Public Library Today

Additional renovations have been made over the past 15 years – the circulation desk, automation, relocate and expand the Friends Bookstore and the Friends designing and building of the Golden Reading Garden for the 50th Anniversary!
Through all the renovations and changes, the Elsie Quirk Public Library has held a significant place in Englewood's history. Long-time employees and volunteers provide a sense of continuity among all the renovations, upgrades and service to our patrons.
We are proud of our community's dedication and support of the Elsie Quirk Library!

FRIENDS of the ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY

A non-profit 501(c)3 tax exempt organization

Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Board of Directors

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Newsletter & Website
Rough & Ready, *Website Manager*
Venice Print Center, *Print Edition*

If you would like to share your news with us, call our president at **941-473-3515** or email at **beckydubowik@gmail.com**

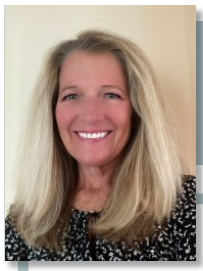
Visit Our Website @ www.friendsofelsiequirk.org

And like us on Facebook @ElsieQuirkLibraryFriends

ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday	-	10 am to 8 pm
Tuesday	-	10 am to 6 pm
Wednesday	-	10 am to 8 pm
Thursday	-	10 am to 6 pm
Friday	-	10 am to 5 pm
Saturday	-	10 am to 5 pm

100 West Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223



Message From the President
Becky Dubowik

Love Your Library - Love your support!

The past two years have been challenging for most of us. Here at Elsie Quirk, the library remained mostly open but our volunteers were put on hold, the Friends bookstore was closed and the Friends memberships were down.

We know you LOVE the Elsie Quirk Library and we also LOVE your support!

Friends of the libraries are non-profit, charitable groups formed to support libraries in their communities (Wikipedia). In the US and around the globe – Friends provide monies, time and talent to increase the overall positive library experiences in the community.

If you are wondering "What can I do to help?"….please continue reading!

1. Visit our Elsie Quirk Bookstore and buy a book (or magazine, puzzle or DVD) today!!! 100% of the monies generated from the bookstore stays at Elsie Quirk to provide more free programs and materials! Tell your friends about our bookstore!
2. Become a Friend of the Library member for as little as $10/year
3. Donate now (buy a garden brick or tax free donation) or consider leaving a legacy to the library.
4. Be a volunteer – share your time and talent with the community! Giving back is extremely satisfying and a great way to meet new friends!

Visit the library to learn more or you can always reach out to me via phone or e-mail (941-473-3515 or beckydubowik@gmail.com

From your Library Friend!

Becky Dubowik

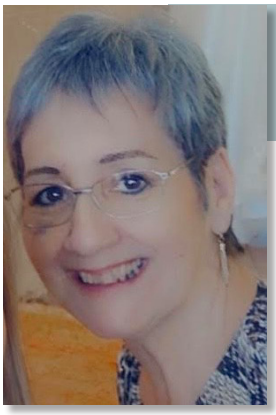
Welcome Karen Beckman!

Karen Beckman is a new member of The Friends of Elsie Quirk Library Board. She was born and raised in Bristol, RI and raised three children there. Karen and her husband Don moved to Florida from California in April of 2022 to be close to her parents. She loves playing pickleball, hiking, cycling, traveling and spending time with her grandkids!

For thirty years, she was employed as a Cytotechnologist. Working closely with a pathologist, her duties included diagnosing cancer and other diseases at the cellular level. She retired from Cytopathology in order to focus on managing several Mobile Home Parks that she and her husband own.

While working in California, Karen took part in "Books and Beyond", a program designed to help disadvantaged readers in the 2nd and 3rd grades. Karen was also a member of the Assistance League Sierra Foothills. She wrote several grants and was able to raise over $75,000 for the programs.

Join us in welcoming Karen to the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library Board.
She will be a wonderful addition!



Welcome Nancy Harper!

Nancy Harper is a new member of The Friends of Elsie Quirk Library Board. She moved to Englewood from Chicago in 2010 with her husband, who passed away in 2016.

Nancy decided in first grade that she wanted to become a first-grade schoolteacher when she grew up. She earned her teaching certificate from Illinois State University and that dream came true. During this time, she earned two Master's Degrees in education, one in reading and the other in curriculum design. She then taught an undergraduate course at Northeastern University in Chicago to teach others how to be good first grade teachers.

Nancy is an active member of the Lemon Bay Woman's Club and served on the board for many years. She enjoys dancing, Pilates, hula, biking, baking, sewing, playing board games, ukulele lessons and laughing.

Please Join us in welcoming Nancy to The Friends of Elsie Quirk Library Board.
She will make a great addition to the focus of the Board's mission.

Summer Reading
at Elsie Quirk Library

General Summer Info:

We had 60 readers log their minutes towards a county goal with a total of 119,778 minutes logged at Elsie Quirk alone. This made us the branch with the most amount of readers AND minutes for summer 2021!
This year we are tracking your time reading with a goal of 75,000 minutes. If we hit this goal we will get a community prize! Patrons can track their minutes read either with the Beanstack app, on paper, or reporting them in person at the desk.

Children Programs-

- Forty Carrots/ Partners in Play: Ages 0-5 Every Monday at 10:15AM OR 12PM
    - Enjoy special uninterrupted play time with your child in our drop-in FREE Partners In Play® (PIP) parenting education groups. Meet our Friendly Parenting Educators and discover how Forty Carrots can help you enhance your parenting skills even more. Hands-on developmental age appropriate activities, circle time fun, make new friends and valuable parenting information. For babies to 5 years old. Offered by Forty Carrots Family Center. Class is limited to 12 families. Come to the youth services desk to sign up the day of the session.
- Family Storytime: Ages 2-8 Every Thursday at 10:30AM
    - For ages 2-8. Join us for Family Story Time. Enjoy stories, movement activities, songs and more at this early literacy program.

Teen Programs-

- Cray-Sea Crafternoons: Ages 9+ and their families Every Wednesday from 2-6
    - Drop your anchors and dive in every Wednesday afternoon anytime between 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. to our Creation Station to make an ocean-themed craft. Teens, Tweens, and families are welcome to participate.
- Volunteering: Ages 14+ are welcome to email George (gbarnhouse@scgov.net) to learn more about volunteering opportunities

Continued Summer Reading at Elsie Quirk Library

Adult Programs-

- Quirky Readers: June 16th and July 21st from 2-3PM
  - Looking to try something new and maybe make a friend or two? Join the library book club! Ask for this month's book titles at any desk.
- Monday Night Movies: Every Monday at 5 PM
  - Our popular movie night is back! Swing by for a different movie every Monday. Ask for this week's movie at any desk.
- Technology 101- Every other Tuesday from 2-3 PM
  - Bring your mobile device or borrow a Chromebook from the library for a Technology 101 class. In these sessions we will cover topics from basic use and vocabulary to how to access and enjoy the libraries digital resources, to navigating social media and much more.
- Tech Navigators- Every Tuesday by appointment
  - Join us for one-on-one technology assistance in these half-hour slots.

Special Events and Partnerships-

- What's That Turtle Doing On Our Beach? June 9th at 10:30 AM Ages 2-8
  - What's that sea turtle doing on our beach? Find out the answer from Englewood's local Sea Turtle Patrol volunteers from the Coastal Wildlife Club. They will share what's happening with sea turtles that are visiting our local beaches and how we can help to keep them safe. We'll also make a sea turtle craft!
- Artists in the Libraries- TBD
  - We will have 3 different programs from the Van Wezel teaching artists this summer. Come to the desk to learn more about these programs!

Manager's Report Summer 2022

Zina Jayne - Library Manager

In these times of change and upheaval, we can draw good lessons from physics. As the Elsie Quirk staff will tell you, only because I have said it with glee so many times, molecular chaos is inevitable…but the beauty of it is that the molecules reform, they always re-form, into something new. As Elsie Quirk turns sixty, we are working to re-form into something new and strong and inspiring, while retaining the elements that have made the library a meaningful anchor for the community across all of those years.

In Seven Brief Lessons on Physics, Carlo Rovelli writes, "There are frontiers where we are learning, and our desire for knowledge burns. They are in the most minute reaches of the fabric of space, at the origins of the cosmos, in the nature of time, in the phenomenon of black holes, and in the workings of our own thought processes. Here, on the edge of what we know, in contact with the ocean of the unknown, shines the mystery and the beauty of the world. And it's breathtaking." I would add, they are also in the public library! As we careen through the universe, the library is a steadying force to learn, find refuge, be entertained, and be greeted by a friendly face.

Sixty is the diamond anniversary, which is an apt symbol for Elsie Quirk. Multi-faceted, complex, sometimes hidden, beautiful, and representative of long-term commitment. We have wished fond farewell to some staff, and have welcomed with warmth and enthusiasm new staff, but the continuum is our dedication, as an institution, to serving the community. Our connection with Englewood remains a strong and happy marriage! It is an honor to serve the community of Englewood as part of a line of dedicated, and quirky, Head Librarians, and I look forward to celebrating all that comes next!

Friends of the Library Bookstore is Now OPEN every day!!

Please visit us to purchase books, magazines and more! 100% of the sales goes to the Friends of the Library to support ongoing free programs and needs of the Elsie Quirk Library and our community!

Donations are now being accepted – we appreciate your support!

We want to thank all our bookstore volunteers who have been anxious to return. This dedicated team has done a fantastic job preparing for the reopening with lots of new books, magazines, puzzles, DVD's and more! We appreciate all you do!

Please tell your friends about our bookstore too!

Members of the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library

May 21, 2021 - April 22, 2021 (Year ends April 30, 2022)

Patron:
David and Jody Cook
John and Jackie Ruthman

Benefactor:
John and Becky Dubowik
Rabbi Jeff and Mindy Glickman
Library Foundation for Sarasota County
George and Diane Mahoney
Suncoast Writers Guild
Robert Trites

Contributer:
Deborah Bouchard
Roberta Medal
Elise Logan
Anonymous
Anonymous

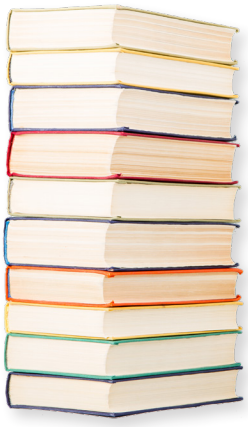
Sponsor:
Jody Heuer
Rotondo West Women's Club
Karen & Howard Scott
Shannon Staub

Family:
John Amalfitano
Renee DiPilato
Susan Greenhalgh
Joanne McCauley
Maria McIntyre
Mary and Gary Myers
Karen Swartz

Individual:
Doris Allewelt
Jim Duke
Carol Garrett
Christy Hamilton
Nancy Harper
Beverly Hollows
Sara Jones
Erin Krasnove
Susan Santowasso
Lois Wilkins
Anonymous

Lifetime Members:
Ron Cutsinger
Tom Dignam
Christine Kourapis
Angie Zerad

Thank You to all our Friends & Members!



Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library
SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Friends of the ***Elsie Quirk Library Teen Volunteer Scholarship*** is open to graduating high school seniors who have volunteered a minimum of 36 hours at the Elsie Quirk Library. This scholarship recognizes teens who strive to better the Englewood community through volunteering at the Elsie Quirk Library.

For scholarship applications, please contact Sandy Perron, slperron@comcast.net
For volunteering opportunities, please contact George Barnhouse, gbarnhouse@scgov.net

Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Membership

The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library spends more than $20,000 annually to provide you FREE educational programs, activities, and live entertainment. Our Tax Dollars do not support these programs, ~ only the FRIENDS of the Elsie Quirk Library!

Be a Friend of the Library for as little as $10 annually! Your dues can be whatever level you choose! Volunteering is optional.

Please help us continue to provide the excellent free programs and services that you and our Englewood community enjoy at Elsie Quirk Library.

Buy a Forever Memory Brick in the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library's Golden Reading Garden

Buy a Personalized Brick - $75

- In Memory of a loved one
- Gift for a Special occasion
- Your special words engraved

Support the Friends of the Elsie Library today!

Forms are available in the Bookstore or contact the Friends President, Becky Dubowik, at beckydubowik@gmail.com or 941-473-3515

FRIENDS of the ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY

Please enclose this form with your check made payable to:

Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library
100 West Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223
www.friendsofelsiequirk.org

Volunteer Interests

Garden: ☐

Bookstore: ☐

Board Member: ☐

Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Date: _____ **New Member?** _____ **Renewal?** _____

Do you wish to remain anonymous? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

$10 Individual ☐ **$20 Family** ☐ **$30 Contributer** ☐ **$50 Sponsor** ☐ **$100 Benefactor** ☐ **$500+ Patron** ☐

The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library receives 100% of all contributions. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

DONATION

In Memory of: _____ **Memorial** ***or*** **In Honor Of:** _____ **Tribute**

For (name): _____ **From** (name): _____

Occasion: _____ **Amount: $** _____ **Address:** _____

Send Notice to: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City: **State:** **Zip:** **Email:**