FRIENDS OF THE
ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY
Newsletter · Volume 21 Number 3 Autumn-Winter 2023
www.friendsofelsiequirk.org

~Adventures in the Garden~

The Friends Golden Reading Garden Welcomes Visitors of All Kinds!

Have you found the door behind the stacks that leads to the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Golden Reading Garden? It's a lovely spot - with benches, a gazebo, native flowering plants, butterflies, birds, and..... an alligator? This one-time peaceful visitor arrived on June 1st and explored the garden until Sarasota County Animal Services arrived to gently escort it back to the pond across the street. Although the alligator seemed to approve of the garden's flora, fauna, and design, we don't anticipate a repeat visit anytime soon due to fence repairs. So, follow the lead of this hometown Englewood alligator and find the door that leads to the garden. Bring a book, a friend, or just yourself for your own garden adventure.

Karen Clark, Becky Dubowik, and Janis Alberti mulch the garden with pine straw

Friends President Becky Dubowik is joined by fellow board member and master gardener Karen Clark and master gardener Janis Alberti for an afternoon of spreading pine straw in the garden. The garden is largely maintained by volunteers, and despite the damage from Hurricanes Ian and Idalia, the garden is lovely and blooming again!

FRIENDS of the ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY

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

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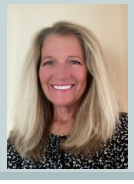
Newsletter Team: Becky Dubowik, Nancy Harper, & Maria Elisabeth McIntyre, *Editor, Layout, & Design*

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**



Message From the President
Becky Dubowik

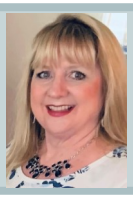
Elsie Quirk Library – great location on newly renovated Dearborn Street!

Our library has not moved – we are still at 100 W. Dearborn St – but with all the great renovations there are more people coming to visit Dearborn St! We are now part of the location with great entertainment, shops, food and more. Look for our library on the right – just after this new welcoming sign over Dearborn Street!

We are so happy that many of our great neighbors on Dearborn have also supported the library. A shout out to Mango Bistro for providing a delicious lunch for the end of the Summer Reading Program. Also, please watch for our upcoming Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library fundraiser at the Lemon Bay Playhouse on April 30, 2024. Thankful for this community spirit that makes Englewood so special.

As you wander down Dearborn St – please wander into the library! Our Friends Bookstore has great items for sale – perfect for gifts for this Holiday season. Enjoy all the free programs we offer and the beautiful Reading Garden – this is your library and the staff and volunteers are working hard for you!!

~ *Becky Dubowik*



MANAGER'S REPORT

Michele Strickland - Library Manager

We hope that you've enjoyed your summer, and we are excited to welcome back our many visitors that have made their way back to Elsie Quirk Library!

We've had lots of fun in the library this summer with all of our summer reading programs and activities. Our all-ages summer reading program, "All Together Now" kicked off in June with a laugh-a-minute comedy and magic show with magician James Chartier and a delicious community BBQ brought to us from Darrell's Restaurant in Venice. Over 1,200 library patrons attended the many exciting and fun programs that included Little Adventures story times, book discussions, Artists in the Libraries programs and a Creation Station Palooza where we made bracelets, bookmarks, and decorated mugs using tools from our Creation Station. Together we exercised our bodies and minds with some Yoga for adults and kids, worked out on the literary fitness trail, and transformed the library into a mini golf course where participants designed and created challenging holes and also played a round or two. There were visits from musicians Karlus Trapp and Evan and Vanessa, the Englewood Fire Department brought over a fire truck for children to explore, Chef Warren showed us how to prepare meals and season them well, and we were thrilled to hold an alligator and a snake from Sarasota Jungle Gardens! How cool is that? We wrapped up the summer programming at our Wrap-Up event with a morning filled with arts and crafts followed by sandwich wraps from our friends at Mango Bistro provided by the Friends of Elsie Quirk.

Stay tuned for our fall and winter programs. We've been busy making plans to offer some new basic technology classes along with our Tech Navigator one-on-one tech help appointments and we're adding more Creation Station craft programs. If you're interested in learning to speak Spanish, Señor Dan Duffy will be returning in December to teach Basic Conversational Spanish. For more information on library programs stop in and pick up a monthly calendar or visit the library website at https://www.scgov.net/government/departments/libraries click onLibrary Events.

You'll see some new faces at the front desk this fall. Several of our staff have transitioned to other opportunities, including Library Manager, Zina Jayne. We will miss all of these folks and wish them all the best in their endeavors and welcome in the new staff. In addition to new staff, you'll soon see some new equipment as our self-checkout stations will be getting a much- needed update. But don't be dismayed, we are always ready to help connect you with that next great read, assist you with your technology questions, offer a quiet space to study or a creative space to enjoy with your children. What are you waiting for? Come in and check us out!

~ Michele Strickland

Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Bookstore!

Bookstore Hours:
Monday to Friday - 10:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday - 10:00am - 4:00pm

The bookstore has an amazing collection of books for adults and children along with DVD's, CD's, puzzles, and magazines.

Current Specials: An interesting collection of Old Books! Beautiful Art Books! Interesting Books on History! Books about Cars! (VW Beetle, etc.) - available during normal hours. And, a collection of James Bond books in perfect condition - available Monday mornings.

If you are looking for a special book, we are happy to take your name and phone number and we will call you upon receipt in our bookstore!

Donations are Needed and Appreciated - Books, Magazines, Puzzles, CDs, DVDs
Please take all donations to the circulation desk. Thank you for your support!

Library News, Programs, and Events

Adult & Family Programs

~ **Tech Navigator** ~ Tuesdays from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. - Stumped by technology? Your technology questions can be answered through an in-person or distance appointment with one of our Tech Navigators. Tech Navigators are library staff members ready to assist you with technology skills.

~ **Quirky Readers Book Club** ~ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am - 11:30am. Pick up a schedule, the book of the month, and join the best book club in Englewood!

~ **Great Books Discussion Group** - 1st Thursday of the month, 10:15am - 12:00pm.

~ **Short Story Discussion Group** - 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:15am - 12:00pm.

Join moderator Ellen Bilangi in reading and discussing selections from the Great Books Foundation's books. Copies are available at the Reference Desk.

~ **Basic Conversational Spanish for Beginners** - Fridays, 10:30am - 12:00pm. Join Dan Dufffy for a Beginning Spanish class. The class uses the book "Spanish in 10 Minutes a Day" by Kristin Kershul.

~ **Quirky Knitters** - Thursdays, 1:00pm - 3:00pm - open to all ages - Learn to knit and share your knitting passion with fellow knitters.

~ **Songs of the Holidays** - Thursday, December 14, 11:00am - 12:00pm. Join in and sing songs of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza - the whole family is invited!

~ **Asian Herbal and Spice Teas** - Tuesday, January 16, 10:30am - 11:30am. Registration required. Learn about herbal and spice tea making in diverse Asian cultures. Participants will make their own herbal tea blend.

The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Fundraiser at the Lemon Bay Playhouse

April 30, 2024

Performance at 7:30pm, Doors open at 6:30pm

Ticket Price: $50.00

SICILIANS IN THE BASEMENT

By Joe Simonelli

Food, Raffles, Door Prizes!

More to Come!

Children, Tweens, & Teens

~ Little Adventures - ages 0-5
Thursday at 10:30 a.m.
Join us for Special Summer Reading Programs featuring music, stories, movement, arts, crafts, and school readiness!

~Forty Carrots/Partners in Play -ages 0-5
Mondays at 10:15 a.m.
Meet our friendly Parenting Educators and discover how play and learning go hand-in-hand. Tickets are at the youth desk.

~ Read with the Dogs - ages 3-12
December 11 - 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Check with the Youth Department for additional days! Come and read to our fuzzy friends from the Suncoast Humane Society!

~ Let's Pretend Day - ages 2-8
Wednesdays - Drop in time - 10:30-11:30
Come, explore, and play at the library!

~ Quirky Knitters - Open to Tweens, Teens, Adults, and Seniors!
Thursdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm.
All skills levels welcome - Bring a project or start one here.

~ Drums of Unity with Joe Licinski -
All ages, 1-100 years old!
Wednesday, December 6,
3:30pm - 4:00pm in the Meeting Room.

Children, Tweens & Teens

Are you a teen who wants to make a difference at the library! Are you willing to share the youth / teen perspective with the Friends Board? In need of volunteer hours? The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library is in need of a Teen Representative! Contact Becky Dubowik at 941-473-3515 for more information.
This is a fun position where your opinions matter!

Thinking About College? Are You an Elsie Quirk Library Teen Volunteer? *The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library Teen Volunteer Scholarship* is now Open! Applications are due on March 15, 2024. For more information and an application please Contact Sandy Perron at *SLPERRON@COMCAST.NET* or ask at the youth desk for an application.

Thank you to our New Treasurer Karen Beckman!

The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library extends a warm thank you to fellow board member Karen Beckman for stepping into the role of Treasurer. While we will miss the careful and cheerful guidance of former Treasurer John Ruthman, we know that he did an excellent job of training Karen Beckman as the new treasurer. The Friends Board is grateful to have such wonderful volunteers!

Welcome Nikki Martin, Hanna Hekking, & Rhianna Micalizzi Elsie Quirk's Newest Library Staff Members!

~ **Nicole (Nikki) Martin**, ~ *Youth Librarian.* Nikki has recently moved back to Florida after living in Tennessee for the past two years. While living in Tennessee, she acquired her Masters in Library Information Services degree online from the University of South Florida and is very excited to be working in the youth department at Elsie Quirk. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her husband, daughter, and two greyhounds. Nikki previously worked at EQ as a library assistant.

~ **Hanna Hekking**, ~ *Sr. Customer Service Representative.* Hanna was born in Massachusetts but has lived in Southwest Florida for seventeen years. She enjoys helping people through her work by trying to brighten their day. Music and literature have always played a significant role throughout her life, as she plays three instruments and studied AICE English courses in High School. She enjoys jewelry making, journaling, and taking care of her cats and dogs. She yearns to create a strong sense of community with everyone she meets.

~ **Rhianna Micalizzi,**~ *Customer Service Representative.* Rhianna is so happy to join the Elsie Quirk team! She enjoys spending her free time reading Si-Fi and Fantasy books and crafting. Rhianna has always felt at home around books and is looking forward to helping support the community through her work at the library. When not at work, she looks forward to spending time with her husband and their cat Sophie.

Members of the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library
May 1, 2023 ~ December 1, 2023

Lifetime Members:
Tom Dignam
Ron Cutsinger
Chris Kourapis
Angie Zerad

Patron:
Fritz & Chris Kucklick
John Ruthman

Benefactor:
Karen & Don Beckman
Jody & David Cook
Virginia Corcoran
John & Becky Dubowik
Ray Humphrey
George & Diane Mahoney
Sandra Perron

Sponsor:
Harry Barnes
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Jim Duke
Geraldine Schreibman
Jane Serdynski
Shannon Staub

Contributor:
Patricia Appold
Richard & Ellen Bilangi
Deborah Bouchard
Hilda Dillman

Family:
Anonymous
John & Catharine Fisher
Jim & Beth Harrison
Randy Kunish
Maria Elisabeth McIntyre
Mary & Gary Myers

Individual:
Anonymous
Carol Dippolito
Carol Estell
Christy Hamilton
Nancy Harper
Janet Heckroth
Beverly Hollows
Janice Thompson
Cris Walton

Thank You!

Would you like to see your name, your business' name, or your organization's name on this page? Fill out the Membership Form on the back of this newsletter or go to the Friends' website *www.friendsofelsiequirk.org* and join our amazing group of Friends in the support of the Elsie Quirk Library. Thank You!

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 at 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 - $125
-In Memory of loved one
-Gift for a Special occasion
-Your special words engraved
Support the Friends of the Elsie Quirk 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_____ $30 Contributor_____ $100 Benefactor_____
$20 Family_____ $50 Sponsor_____ $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:_____