

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

Mary Jane Williams,
President of the Board of
the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library

Happy Fall to everyone! Those of us who stayed in Florida over the summer are looking forward to some cooler weather and the opportunity to use our lanais again.

The Library renovation project was up in the air all summer but it looks like we finally have some forward movement. However, we may all be working around the renovations at the height of "the season."

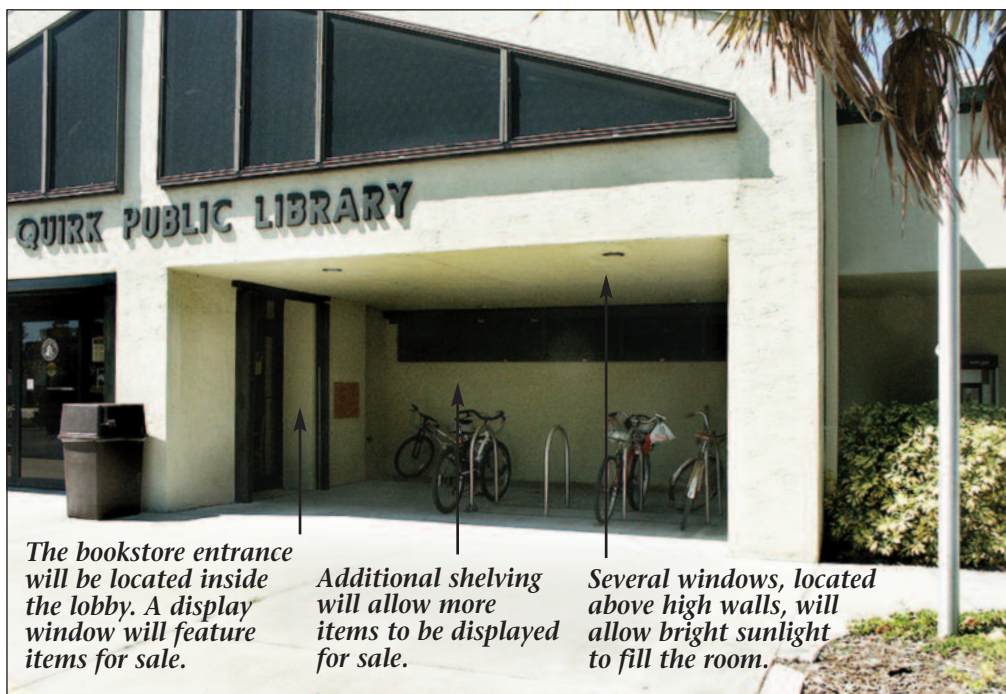
We're also looking forward to a wonderful year with lots of great programs and activities. Reading schedules for our book groups can be found on page three of this newsletter.

Please consider service to the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library. Many things that need doing don't require a permanent commitment. Perhaps just setting up the room for a program or making coffee and tea occasionally would be something you'd be willing to do. If you have any ideas for programs or activities or would be willing to help out, please let a Board Member know.

If you're interested in a more serious commitment perhaps you'd consider taking responsibility for one of the ongoing programs or serving on the Board. Perhaps you could make a financial contribution towards a program or service of interest to you. A list of needs for the new Friends of Elsie Quirk Bookstore can be found on page one of this newsletter.

The Elsie Quirk Library is a great place to spend time and relies on people like you to be the special place that it is.

Picture this... a "before tour" of our new "Friends" Bookstore!



Members who frequent Elsie Quirk Library have probably noticed that construction has not yet begun on our new, improved Friends' bookstore. The good news is that, according to Library Manager Jennifer Perry, almost 50 potential contractors will have submitted bids by the time this newsletter reaches our membership. We are hopeful that bids for our bookstore and many other library renovations will come in under budget. This should help tremendously with any additional cost items.

In a way, this construction delay is a "blessing in disguise" as we will now have more time to raise funds for bookstore furnishings. We will also have more time to visualize our new, more visible space and plan more efficiently.

Picture yourself walking into the existing library entrance. To your right, instead of the present "door to nowhere" will be a door leading into a new and inviting space. A picture window to the left of that door will allow you to preview beautifully displayed books, videos, and tapes for sale at bargain prices, a booklovers dream come

true. Inside, new furnishings and shelving, gifts from our generous and faithful members, will allow books to be showcased in ways that allow customers to browse in comfort. Light will pour inside from a set of windows high above.

Best of all, you will be greeted by your favorite people, who, for years, have offered their services on behalf of the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library. Yes, Camille Thinnies, bookstore manager and her crew will be on hand, happy to serve as always. For years they have worked faithfully in cramped quarters, practically invisible from public view. With better lighting, more storage space, and a visible presence, sales should increase considerably. Perhaps you'll want to add your name to our growing list of volunteers. Perhaps you'll want to make a donation.

A bookstore furnishings wish list includes: signage, display shelves, storage areas, workroom counters, a dehumidifier, and a new desk and chair. We'll gladly post your name along side our list of donors. With your help, very soon, our best library fundraiser will just get better!

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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*

Online, 24/7

Your library card can help you access a myriad of resources from your home computer, even when the library is closed. Just go to the Sarasota County Library web page: <http://www.sclibs.net> at any time from your home.

Did you know that you can chat live with a professional Florida reference librarian on your home computer? The "Ask a Librarian" service provides access to a librarian online Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to midnight, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. You may also email your information request anytime.

Leah Lasbury: A leading force in establishing our library

Honorary Friends' Board Member Leah Lasbury passed away on June 7th. She will be remembered as a community organizer who, according to her extensive resume, volunteered on or helped to establish many important Englewood Boards including: The Englewood Chamber of Commerce, the Englewood Business and Professional Women's group, the Sarasota County Community Goals Council, and The Good Neighbor Group of Englewood, to name just a few.



Leah B. Lasbury

Leah Lasbury's first love, her passion for libraries, however, drove her to organize the first ever Friends of the Library in

Englewood, Florida. Leah, along with Lois Potter and other ladies, convinced Sarasota Commissioners to award the group \$4,000 to start a library. As a result of their many years of hard work, Elsie Quirk Library, in 1962, became the first Sarasota County-supported library.

After serving as the Friends' first president, Leah continued to assist with library improvements and expansions over the years. She served on the Sarasota County Library Advisory Board from 1964 until 1990. We will always be grateful for the support of Leah Lasbury, a very special, talented, and innovative friend of the Elsie Quirk Library.

Remembering Jan Findley

Englewood's popular Sun Columnist and Friends' Past President, Jan Findley, was honored at a special memorial service at St. David's Episcopal Church on June 13th.

Jan was a long-time supporter of the arts

who wrote extensively about community groups and organizations. After serving one term as President, Jan Findley continued to publicize library events throughout her career as a writer for the Sun newspapers.

New laptop computer and printer delivered

Thanks to a \$1,100 Plantation Grant, the Elsie Quirk Reference Department was able to purchase a much needed laptop computer and printer. This laptop is designated for patrons who need assistance in filling out e-government documents such as food stamp or unemployment benefit applications.



Library patrons needing assistance in filling out e-government documents may use the new computer located in the Reference Department.

The Plantation Community Foundation located in Venice honors organizations who make South Sarasota County a better place in which to live. This year the Foundation distributed a total of \$100,000 to local organizations.



Ron Cutsinger (2nd row, third from left) accepted the Plantation Community Foundation Grant on behalf of the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library.

The Great Books Group

Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights

Published by The Great Books Foundation

Except for the month of November, The Great Books Group meets the **first** Thursday of the month at 10:00 am, November thru April at Elsie Quirk Library.

DATE	READING	AUTHOR	DISCUSSION LEADER
Nov. 19, 2009	RED SCARF GIRL MY FORBIDDEN FACE	Ji-Li Jiang Latifa	--
Dec. 3, 2009	LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL LETTER TO DENG XIAOPING	Martin Luther King Jr. Wei Jingsheng	--
Jan. 7, 2010	DEFENDING FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH THE CENSORS	Luis Aguilar Luisa Valenzuela	-- Discussion Leaders to be announced
Feb. 4, 2010	HARLEM THE RIVONIA TRIAL: SECOND COURT STATEMENT COMRADES	Langston Hughes Nelson Mandela Nadine Gordimer	--
Mar. 4, 2010	I WILL BEAR WITNESS SURVIVAL IN AUSCHWITZ	Victor Klemperer Primo Levi	--
Apr. 1, 2010	THE STALIN EPIGRAM THE ARREST OF OSIP MANDELSTAM	Osip Mandelstam Nadezhda Mandelstam	--

The Book Discussion Group

Except for the month of November, The Book Discussion Group meets the **third** Thursday of the month at 10:00 am, November thru April at Elsie Quirk Library.

DATE	BOOK	AUTHOR	DISCUSSION LEADER
Nov. 5, 2009	PROFILES IN COURAGE	John F. Kennedy	--
Dec. 17, 2009	POSTCARDS FROM TOMORROW SQUARE: REPORTS FROM CHINA	James Fallows	--
Jan. 21, 2010	INFIDEL	Ayaan Hirsi Ali	-- Discussion Leaders to be announced
Feb. 18, 2010	LITTLE MAN, WHAT NOW?	Hans Fallada	--
Mar. 18, 2010	NON FICTION WORK ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UNDER TRUJILLO TITLE TO BE ANNOUNCED--	to be announced	--
Apr. 15, 2010	TO BE ANNOUNCED	to be announced	--

Rita Eger and her husband, Lou, were instrumental in organizing Elsie Quirk Library's Great Decisions Discussion Program.



The Friends of Elsie Quirk Library were saddened to hear the news of Rita Eger's passing in May. Rita, an accomplished pianist, performed widely and taught piano lessons in the area. For years she hosted "Musical Mornings" in her Englewood home to benefit the Florida West Coast Philharmonic Orchestra.

Twenty-six years ago Rita and her husband, Lou, were instrumental in organizing the Elsie Quirk Library's Great Decisions Discussion Program. This group meets Mondays from January to April in the upstairs meeting room at our library and is currently the largest Great Decisions Program in the state of Florida.



Cris Walton
Senior Librarian,
Youth Services

What's new at Elsie Quirk?

The 2009 Summer Reading Program for kids, "Be Creative and Express Yourself at Your Library" was a huge success. Preschool and school-aged children were treated to story programs, guest speakers, art workshops, theater performances, storytellers, and more!

Children who registered for the Summer Read-A-Thon kept a reading log in order to track the number of days they spent reading. Every participant received a free book courtesy of the Friends of the Library Alliance, of which our Friends' organization is a member. According to Page Ahead, a national children's literacy group, having a personal library motivates children to engage in voluntary reading.

For Tweens and Teens, A summer Reading Program featured an invitation to "Express Yourself". This program included the Twilight Book Club, "So You Want to Be a Marine Biologist?" and a Poetry Writing Workshop. The Twilight Saga Book Discussion Club for

teens ages 11 and up featured the series by author Stephenie Meyer.

These summer programs were sponsored by the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library. If you are a member of the Friends or are interested in supporting Library services, you are invited to attend one of their monthly board meetings that are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM in the upstairs Meeting Room. The Board of Directors are volunteers who dedicate themselves to helping to support and promote library services and to raising funds for continuing library improvements. Volunteerism offers a unique opportunity to truly get involved in the Englewood community.

Summer "Adopt a Panther Program"

Children who participated in the "Summer-Read-A-Thon" filled up the "Adopt a Panther" board with stickers representing one week of reading for at least 15-30 minutes a day. The Friends of Elsie Quirk Library provided funding for the adoption of an endangered Florida Panther. This is the third summer that readers have met such a chal-

lenge. Two years ago youngsters adopted a female sea turtle and a hatchling. Last year they adopted a manatee.

Official adoption papers were received from The Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge for "FP119", Florida Panther 119. A celebration of this event was held on July 15th. The adoption provides support to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge for their efforts in protecting and preserving Florida panthers in the wild.

FP119 was born in 2002 and has worn a radio collar since 2003. His home is on a large range of land near Naples that includes the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. FP119 is the first panther ambassador for the Friends Adopt-A-Panther program, and Elsie Quirk Library had provided the first adoptive parents for the Refuge.

Summer Readers Celebrate their official Panther Adoption at the "Panther Palooza" party on July 15th.



"Art With Carolyn" Provided a Unique Learning Experience

Children who participated in the popular "Art with Carolyn" Program in July were given the opportunity to learn about pointillism, the unique artistic style of French Impressionist painter, Georges Seurat. In another workshop participants learned about the artistic style of Jackson Pollack and created their own "splatter art". To help offset the cost of supplies for this popular program, a parent, Andrea Lipstein, donated \$50 to the Friends.



After learning artistic techniques, children in the "Art With Carolyn" summer program lined the sidewalks and created their own works of art.

Summer Youth Programs



Creative puppet play wows the audience at the Tuesday morning Play and Read program for toddlers.

Elsie Quirk Library Features "Funnies"

The Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library provided financial support for Free Comic Book Day on May 1st. Comic books were available to library

customers of all ages. The event, held annually throughout the United States, is promoted through the independent comic book specialty stores. Comic

books are an original American art form, created in the early days of the twentieth century. Because they are fun to read, the "funnies" feature a wide range of diverse story lines that capture the imagination of all readers.



Families enjoyed browsing through stacks of comic books during Free Comic Book Day.



Dozens of comic books appealed to patrons of all ages on May 1st.



Musical Program for Children

Children enjoyed "Shake, Rattle and Read", a summer musical program presented by The Battersby Duo. Funding was provided by the Friends.

A BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS KOURAPIS

Postcards From Tomorrow Square, Reports from China

By James Fallows
Insight From Inside China



Anyone concerned or curious about China's rising power in the world should read *Postcards From Tomorrow Square, Reports from China* by the award winning national correspondent to the

Atlantic Monthly, James Fallows. A former editor of *U.S. News & World Report* and a former chief White House speechwriter for Jimmy Carter, James Fallows is also the son in law of our own former Elsie Quirk Library Board Member and contributor to this newsletter, Angie Zerad.

In his introduction, Jim Fallows explains that all 12 chapters of his book were written between the summers of 2006-2008 when he and his wife Deb were living in Shanghai, then later in Beijing and began traveling through remote areas of China. Most of the material appeared monthly in *The Atlantic*, starting late in 2006. According to the author: "Some of the articles collected here deal with questions that I had in mind before coming to China. But many are about people, trends, and events that I had not known were interesting or significant until I came across them after we had arrived."

In the United States, people are often fearful of China's large-scale economic power. In his chapter entitled "China Makes, The World Takes" Fallows explains how he came to change his opinions regarding free trade between China and the United States. In fact, much (not all of course) of what he discovered as he toured factories in large

cities and rural areas turned out to be exactly the opposite of what he had originally expected. He makes some interesting observations when comparing the rise of manufacturing in Europe and America to that of China's recent manufacturing boom. On the whole, he surmises, the U.S. relationship with China, although imperfect, has been beneficial for both sides.

In a chapter entitled "After the Earthquake" much is revealed about how the totalitarian regime in China handled the catastrophic earthquake of 5/12/08. That crisis served to portray the Chinese government in a more positive light, especially when China uncharacteristically welcomed international assistance. Jim Fallows further explains: "I looked at local government in a different way after seeing these villages in Sichuan. Not from the opposite perspective - that local government is always wisest, commissars in Beijing are out of touch - but with a more sober appreciation of how hard and complicated it is to get anything done in China."

China is a vast, state-controlled nation that is often portrayed as "a civilization pretending to be a nation-state" according to Jim Fallows. Americans who are fearful about China's increasing dominance in world trade or suspicious about China's future role in world affairs should attempt to learn as much as possible about modern China - its aspirations, its economic strengths, and its growing political influence.

Readers will be fascinated by how Chinese tycoon Zhang Yue organizes "luxury weekends" where guests are flown in from across China on private jets to his palatial residence "Broad Town". At this fabulous resort/industrial

complex, dozens of fellow Chinese millionaires can see for themselves where Broad Air Conditioning is based and where institutional air conditioners are prepared for shipment to cities around the world.

Another surprise for readers is that state-controlled and censored Chinese TV produces reality shows. Although most shows are ridiculous, one program called "Ying Zai Zhongguo" or "Win in China" is patterned after "The Apprentice". The purpose of this show, however, is not to give a job that already exists to a winning contestant, but to teach values, enlighten Chinese people, and encourage them to dream of attaining greater business opportunities for themselves.

On an even more positive note, Jim Fallows describes a visit with Tang Jenquan, a Chinese Engineer who has spent 20 years trying to make the dirty, wasteful fast-growing cement industry more efficient. Tang's "green" systems are operating in countries around the world, including India, the Philippines, and Pakistan.

China still has a long way to go, and its environmental situation remains disastrous. However, China has come a long way in meeting environmental and human rights challenges. Web sites now connect Chinese scientists and bureaucrats with their counterparts overseas. In time, reducing emissions and creating more efficient technologies should result in much needed improvements. Readers of *"Postcards from Tomorrow Square"* will come away with greater insight and understanding of how China expects to achieve what its much-touted slogan proclaims - a "Peaceful Rise in the World".

Gertude Staniels, left, and Marjorie North, share the audience's attention during the announcement of her Golden Gavel Award in 1983.



15 Donations received in honor of Gertrude Staniels

The Friends of Elsie Quirk Library received donations totaling \$1,000 in honor of Gertrude Staniels who passed away in Guilderland Center, NY on April 14th. Mrs. Staniels moved from New York to Englewood in 1976. Upon moving to Englewood, she worked in real estate and became affiliated with the Leah Lasbury and Lou Douglas

Agencies. She was an active member of the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library serving two terms as Board President. She also enjoyed the Great Decisions and Great Books programs. Her daughter, Lucia Tasker, requested that donations in her mother's memory be used to support the Friends Bookstore project.

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THANK YOU SO MUCH! We appreciate your support! • Total Membership - 97 (\$2,925.00)

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100 West Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

NOTICE! Library Hours Have Changed. Effective October 5, 2009 Monday & Wednesday, 10-8 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10-5

Katherine Newton Receives Scholarship



Lemon Bay High School Senior Katherine Newton was awarded the \$500 Elsie Quirk Friends of the Library Teen Volunteer Scholarship award for 2009. Katherine, also known as Katie, worked as a volunteer during her freshman and sophomore years, logging in a total of 50.5 hours. During that time she learned many important people skills that taught her the importance of volunteering. According to Katie, "People skills and office work experience benefited me at my summer job last year, when I worked as a receptionist of a construction company."

In high school Katie took a variety of courses including dual enrollment and advanced placement courses. She has also written articles for the *Englewood Review* since 2004 and entered information into the magazine's online calendar.

Katie plans to attend New College of Florida in Sarasota where she will work toward obtaining a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology. She is the daughter of Thomas and Patricia Newton who publish the *Englewood Review*.

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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!

Betty Bullock, discussion group leader, has informed us that "Great Decisions, 2010" topics and dates will be listed in the December newsletter. Programs will begin January, 2010.