

Collier County Library Golden Years Remembrance

By Ruth Kuttler
Local Naples Poet & Graphic Artist

*Beyond its brick and mortar, it's a beacon in the night
For 50 years the Collier County Library shines its light.
Informing and enlightening through stories, facts and rhyme
In books and tapes and live events that help us grow and climb.*

*From tiny tots to older folk, no matter who they are
The residents and visitors who come from near and far
Are warmly welcomed one and all and rarely for a fee
To help them learn and fuel their dreams; a noble legacy.*

*It started in a small book room, just perfect for its time.
Housed in Naples Woman's Club in 1939.
Without a paid librarian and run by volunteers,
Donated books were cataloged and loaned for 18 years.*

*The Library "Friends," a grassroots group emerged in '57;
Enriching their community, this group of men and women
Organized to help create a public library
With central hub and bookmobile for all to use for free.*

*With roots on Central Avenue, its building brown and new
In '63, for many years till Collier thrived and grew.
Branches came as decades passed and finally it was time
To modernize and move the hub; its new home is sublime.*

*And now you know the story – one that needed to be told
We honor those who brought to us this treasure that we hold.
We celebrate these golden years, perhaps in fifty more
We'll tell the story once again – our legacy for sure.*



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