

**Gail Borden Public Library**  
**Sarah Hudgens**

1 I've ALWAYS been a library buff. From the day I was  
2 born, Elgin has always been lucky enough to have an  
3 OUTSTANDING library. They have had three buildings to date  
4 and my father was involved in the board for the second  
5 building - the building of the second building and I was  
6 involved, being on the Board of Trustees, with the third  
7 building which is the one we're in now. And I think because  
8 I was such a library lover - loved to read, loved to be  
9 read to, that I have ALWAYS used the library day in and day  
10 out. And of course it helped me with my passion for Beatrix  
11 Potter. Her wonderful 23-plus books for children - "The  
12 Tale of Peter Rabbit" being the most famous - has always  
13 been a favorite of mine. And I can remember exactly WHERE I  
14 was and how OLD I was when I first picked up the book and  
15 read "To my famous partner." I was at the wonderful  
16 bookstore that Elgin used to have - "Norton's Open Book  
17 Shop." And I went in with my father who knew the Nortons  
18 very well and of course, I wanted to go over and sit in the  
19 children's section but I had to ask Mrs. Norton first. I  
20 DID ask her and she said, "Absolutely wonderful. Would you  
21 like Angelo to go with you?" And I said, "Well, yes. I'd  
22 LOVE to have Angelo." Well, Angelo was a standard size  
23 poodle and of course, when I went over and sat down, we

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1 were eye-to-eye and I REACHED over, picked up a little book  
2 that fit just perfectly in my hand and it was "The Tale of  
3 Peter Rabbit." Now at three I couldn't read words, but I  
4 CERTAINLY could "read" pictures. And to this day, Angelo is  
5 the best listener I have ever read to. And of course,  
6 libraries are the perfect place for "The Tale of Beatrix  
7 Potter" and "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" and I've done, you  
8 know, a NUMBER of programs HERE. Having a library, a  
9 wonderful, helpful library has just been an aide to SO MANY  
10 people here in Elgin. I remember before I sat on the Board,  
11 very shortly before, that the library had created just a  
12 very small space for Spanish-speaking books to be placed so  
13 that our Hispanic community could come in and find  
14 something. And I think we try and address here at the  
15 library ALL of the cultures that we find here in the  
16 community as much as we certainly can. We have a community  
17 college. Students come down to do reference work and write  
18 papers and do ALL kinds of things and get ALL the help that  
19 they need THROUGH Gail Borden Public Library PLUS the  
20 library that they have at Elgin Community College. It's a  
21 wonderful place to bring children and I think that  
22 children's books are probably my biggest passion. Although  
23 I am a voracious reader, I've REALLY connected with

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1 children's books and I do many programs - especially during  
2 the holidays - using children's books which adults enjoy as  
3 much as or MORE than children themselves.

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