



Friends of Tennessee Libraries *newsletter*

June-July 2011

Volume 18, Number 3

TLA Retreat for Leaders

MONTGOMERY BELL STATE PARK, May 23—President Susie Webb Ries joined a panel at the Tennessee Library Association's Leadership Conference. Looking at their group's future plans were, from left, TLA President Wendy Cornelisen, Tenn-Share President Tricia Bengel, Susie Webb Ries, Martha Earl, and Sue Alexander. Susie speaks to FOTL members on page 3.

FOTL Has Busy Season



2011 Annual Meeting

BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, May 13—FOTL's 2011 Annual Meeting attracted more than 60 participants to a setting right out of a child's storybook in the Brentwood Library. In addition to hearing Tennessee writers, the audience exchanged ideas for solving common problems. Page 6.



New Support from FOTL

At the Annual Meeting, FOTL unveiled plans to offer three \$200 grants in 2011. Page 5.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries GRANT APPLICATION	
Application must be a Friends Group that is eligible to grant standing of Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Applications must be received by December 31 or be considered for a grant to be utilized in the following calendar year. ALL INFORMATION BY FOTL 2010.	
1. Application Date:	
2. Applicant Group Name:	
3. How long has it been?	
4. Area Served:	
5. Contact Person:	
6. Telephone:	
7. Mailing Address:	
8. City/State/Zip:	
9. E-mail Address:	
10. Title of grant/ initiative	DESCRIPTION
11. Grant description:	Be specific and list the grant's intended use. List all funding for this project.
12. Grant History:	Has your organization ever received funding from FOTL?
13. Justification:	How does this grant support your organization's mission and the needs of your community?
14. Budget:	How much funding do you need? How will you fund the rest of the project?
15. Evaluation:	How will you measure the success of the grant? How will you report back to FOTL?
16. How long will the grant last for?	
17. How long will the grant last for?	
18. How long will the grant last for?	
19. How long will the grant last for?	
20. How long will the grant last for?	



Library Legislative Day

WASHINGTON, DC, May 10—Tennessee's delegation of 11 attended Tennessee Tuesday with Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander as part of National Library Legislative Day. Page 4.

TLA Conference

MURFREESBORO, March 25—At the Friends and Trustees luncheon, planned by FOTL's Connie Albrecht, the very first Friend of the Year Award went to the Art Circle Friends in Crossville. Bettie Nye accepted the posthumous Trustee of the Year Award on behalf of her late husband John Nye. Susan Gregg Gilmore was keynote speaker. Page 8.



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New Representatives Welcomed to Board

Four new members have joined the FOTL board:

From Chattanooga/Hamilton County, Gene Harris

From Forked Deer, Sylvia Palmer

From Knoxville-Knox County, Claire Serrell

From Nashville-Davidson County, Larry Price

President Ries Announces Her Goals

By **Susie Webb Ries, FOTL President**

I am so very honored to serve as the FOTL president for 2011-12. For those of you whom I've not yet met, let me begin by saying that I am not a teacher



Susie Webb Ries
FOTL President 2011-12

or a librarian, but someone who grew up in a teacher's family with a love of books and who helped her children enjoy all that a good library has to offer. I continue to value good libraries and appreciate everyone who works in, advocates for, and supports libraries. We are all contributing to an important educational, social and democratic institution.

I hope that, during the coming year, we will increase our membership, expand awareness of FOTL, and deepen the impact of our advocacy on behalf of Tennessee libraries. I believe that the following three actions will help us achieve these goals.

■ First, we must identify and communicate with each other about programs that our library communities offer, as well as what they need. Each Friends group is different. Some support and run the Imagination Library/ Books from Birth programs, some are responsible for their summer reading programs, and some are directly linked to school libraries. We can all learn from each other, and improved communication between our library communities will foster new statewide ties and shared enthusiasms. We are all facing a tough economy and high fuel costs, but we can reach toward a new level of communication between our library communities by using technology to host online workshops or webinars. Possible topics for consideration are: How Libraries and FOTL Work Together, How to Start a New Friends Group, How to Use Facebook in Your FOTL Networking Efforts, How to Recruit and Train New Members, and How to Organize a Used Book Sale. The internet offers us a myriad of ways to channel our resources and reach more people while building our membership.

■ Second, we should encourage FOTL members to identify their own interests or passions and use this

information to sharpen FOTL's focus on, and support of, the strengths of its members. FOTL members bring a range of interests and skills to our organization. For example, some can teach literacy, language, or computer skills; some are adept at organizing fundraisers; some can make videos; some want to read to children. We will best serve our advocacy goals if we help our members do what they can do best, and put them in touch with members statewide who share their skills and passions.

■ Third, we must continue to recruit others to get involved in our advocacy and support of the library and the services it provides. This is an ongoing challenge, and an important part of our mission. Remember the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

I hope to begin this new push for communication between FOTL communities by encouraging all of you to check out the FOTL Facebook page. Recently, I introduced myself to a Nashville Public Library staff member who, when she heard I was with FOTL, enthused about our Facebook page. She told me that she relies on two sources for all of the latest information in the world of libraries, the New York Public Library Facebook page and the Friends of Tennessee Libraries Facebook page. We should all thank Martha Gill for putting us on the Facebook map! This link will take you to our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Tennessee-Libraries/78895803726>.

I want to close by sharing with you an alarming fact that I recently learned. Do you know that planners of corrections facility project how many jail cells will be needed based on the number of third graders who are not yet reading? In Tennessee, 58% of our third grade children are not reading at a functional level. Most of us know that literacy plays a role in living successfully and productively, but we may not realize how quickly the door shuts on a child who has not learned to read by the third grade. This fact should give us all an urgent sense of the importance of promoting literacy in young children and encourage us that, working together, our library programs can make a real difference.

Let us know what's going on with your library and your Friends group, what works and what needs improving. Let's all stay in touch.

Advocacy in Washington, DC

Delegation Calls on Officials

During these difficult economic times, libraries are busier than ever. People are flocking to them for information about jobs and careers, research for small businesses, government services, and support for formal and informal education and lifelong learning. Families are stretching their dollars by borrowing more books, DVDs, and other materials. The role of the federal government in the support of those libraries is unique and essential.

Conveying that general message to legislators in Washington was the mission of Tennessee's delegation of 11 advocates on National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC, on May 9-10. Specifically delegates asked senators and representatives to take action on several pieces of legislation. Each lawmaker or legislator's aide was given a sheet asking for the following action:

Include School Libraries When No Child Left Behind is Reauthorized (S. 1699). School libraries and media specialists play a critical role in education, but the current ESSA language leaves them out entirely. Please support including librarians in the reauthorization of this important legislation.

Include Public Libraries in the Workforce Investment Act (H.R. 1616). Public libraries provide many resources for the jobless and underemployed. Because libraries are often the only source for free internet access and computer instruction, their inclusion in workforce development legislation is

important. Please support H.R. 1616 to amend the Workforce Investment Act.

Avoid Further Budget Cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Tennessee libraries depend on funds from IMLS to provide technological support, materials for the disadvantaged and training. The IMLS budget has been reduced by 10% this year, and the President's budget proposes another 20% cut next year. Please support the restoration of these funds for libraries.

Support E-Rate Funding through the Anti-Deficiency Act (S. 297). Schools and libraries use E-Rate discounts to help offset the costs of technology and connectivity. The proposed bill will provide a permanent exemption for libraries from the Anti-Deficiency Act instead of the year-by-year exemption currently in place.

Vivian Wynn coordinated Tennessee's delegation which included Secretary of State Tre Hargett, State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill, Cody York from Secretary Hargett's office, Martha Gill from FOTL, TLA President Susan Earl, Susan Knoche from East Tennessee State University's Medical School Library, James Staub from Nashville Public Library, Jason Vance from Middle Tennessee State University Library, and Laura Murray and Tiffani Conner from Lincoln Memorial libraries.

National Library Legislative Day is sponsored annually by the American Library Association.

TLA Names Vance Legislation Monitor

The Tennessee Library Association recently announced at its May 21 Board Meeting that Jason Vance will now be serving as a part-time library legislation monitor for TLA. Jason will monitor state and national



legislation relevant to Tennessee libraries and send action alerts to library advocates via the TLA e-mail list and TLA

Facebook/Twitter pages.

Jason is an assistant professor and information literacy librarian at Middle Tennessee State University, outgoing co-chair of the TLA Legislation Committee, and a legislative advocate for the Association of College and Research Libraries. He can be reached at 615.494.7871 or <jvance@mtsu.edu>.

Local Acts of Advocacy Speak Up Effectively

Become identified as supporters of your library throughout the year.

■ Regularly attend meetings of local funding bodies even if the budget is not on the agenda.

■ Invite lawmakers to events at the library so that they can see how the facility is being used by the public.

■ Include trustees and library staff in Friends' social events.

■ Write positive letters to the editor, especially those that tell stories about the library's services or call attention to developments that support libraries and literacy.

FOTL Offers Three \$200 Grants

Does your Friends' group have a great idea for a project but no funds to implement it? Friends of Tennessee Libraries can help you underwrite projects designed to increase membership, raise funds, or support advocacy.

FOTL offers three new grants of \$200 each, available to members of FOTL in good standing, as they design projects of advocacy, fund raising, or membership drives for the coming year.

From the Friends' website <www.friendstnlibraries.org> local groups can download instructions and an application form. Applications must be received by November 15. They may be sent by mail to Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501, or by e-mail to the following: <connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>. Please note that the grants are designed to support new projects, not to pay for projects already completed.

Grants will be awarded by January 15, 2012.

Once the grant has been awarded, the winning Friends' group must follow up with an evaluation of the project within 30 days of the project's completion. That form is also available on the FOTL website.

Failure to return the evaluation form could result in the group's having to return the grant money or could diminish the group's chance of receiving another grant.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries GRANT APPLICATION	
Applicant must be a Friends Group that is a member in good standing of Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Applications must be received by November 15 to be considered for a grant to be utilized in the following calendar year. ALL GRANTS WILL BE FOR \$200.	
1. Application Date:	
2. Friends Group Name:	
3. Tax Exempt Status?	
4. Area Served:	
5. Contact Person:	
6. Telephone:	
7. Mailing Address:	
8. City/Zip Code:	
9. Email Address:	

10. TYPE OF GRANT REQUESTED (One grant per application.)	DESCRIPTION
Fund Raising:	To assist with the expense associated with fund raising for your Friends group.
Advocacy:	To assist with expense associated with advocating on behalf of your community library.
Membership:	To assist with expense associated with retaining existing members and securing new members.

11. Project Title:	
12. Project Budget:	
13. Project Starting Date:	
14. Project Ending Date:	

15. Describe how the grant will be used:

16. Date Application Received:	
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This application may be filled out utilizing Excel software or print out copy and print or type responses to questions.

Nominations for Friend of the Year Award Due Nov. 15

November 15 is also the deadline for nominations for the second Friend of the Year Award, co-sponsored by FOTL and the Tennessee Library Association.

Anyone may nominate though the nominee must be a Friends' group or an individual member of FOTL in good standing.

The nominee(s) must have made a significant contribution to the advancement of libraries or education in Tennessee through libraries in the current calendar year. The nominee should be an individual or group that performs outstanding service related to the activities of a Friends' group. The nomination, limited

to 200 words, should describe the nominee's service, achievements, and contributions to a Friends' group and/or to the advancement of libraries or education through libraries.

The nomination should contain the name of the nominee, the nominee's mailing and e-mail addresses, and telephone number, and e-mail address; the name of the nominator and the nominator's mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

It may be mailed to Martha Gill at 4109 Forest Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919, or e-mailed to her at <gill333375@bellsouth.net>.

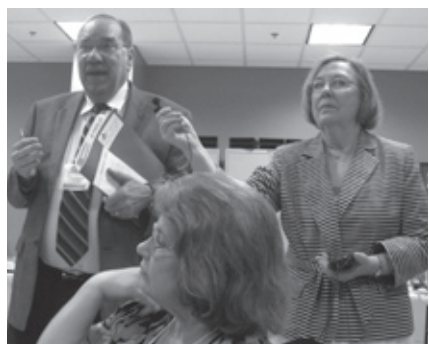
Annual Meeting Brings Friends Together May 13



photos by Peter McNeal
Against the backdrop of a stained glass window, Patricia McKissack spoke of her origins as a writer.



Panelists Dr. Par Donahue, Patricia McKissack and Dr. Jan Hayes described the writer's discipline.



Dick Fankhauser, FOTL's Blue Grass representative, took the open mic from Martha Gill as Secretary Nancy Barineau listened.



Friday the Thirteenth turned out to be a lucky day for Friends of Tennessee Libraries in the month of May.

Registration for the FOTL Annual Meeting was excellent. Friends from East, Middle, and West Tennessee turned out.

The spacious setting—Brentwood Public Library—was well suited to the gathering. The staff of the library could not have been more accommodating.

Guest speakers—Patricia McKissack, Dr. Par Donahue, and Dr. Jan Hayes—sent everyone home with a renewed appreciation of writers and a firmer resolve to read more often. Young author Luke Copas amazed the audience with his knowledge of facts about the *Titanic*.

At the open mic Friends shared stories of success—the publication of local cookbooks, for example—as well as problems like how to persuade members to turn out for events.

Distribution of door prizes—FOTL's license-plate frames, free tickets from

Regal Cinema, gift cards from donor Pilot Oil—was fun.

Five volunteers were honored for their service. See page 7.

Friends of the Putnam County Public Library graciously invited FOTL to hold its 2012 Annual Meeting in Cookeville.

Bonuses for All

Two articles distributed to participants at the Annual Meeting are available to everyone: "What One Small Group Can Do," a profile of the Kodak Friends, written by Dwight Shepherd, Nolichucky regional representative; and "These Friends Make Good Partners," presented by FOTL at the TLA conference on March 25.

If you would like an electronic copy of either of these articles, send an e-mail request to <gill333375@bellsouth.net>

Dr. Jan Hayes on Libraries

"Libraries and books have always been a place of refuge for me: a place to read, to dream, to think, and to learn. My wish is for everyone to find joy and enlightenment in libraries and books."

Dr. Hayes, professor emerita of the Department of Educational Leadership at Middle Tennessee State University, is the author of *The Split Tongue Sparrow: A Traditional Japanese Folktale* (O'More Publishing). The story is told in both English and Japanese. Dr. Hayes' view of libraries is the first in a series of Tennessee authors' comments being developed by FOTL.



Volunteers Set High Standards

Five volunteers left the 2011 FOTL Annual Meeting with certificates of appreciation and a check for \$100 because of outstanding service to their Friends. Here are excerpts from nominations by their admirers.

Emma Ruth Catlett of Kodak

Emma Ruth Catlett is always encouraging the Kodak membership to get involved. She looks for projects the Friends could do. She checks with library staff about what is needed. Emma helps with sorting, setting up, and selling at book sales. She helps plan the annual Kodak Heritage Day. She demonstrates crafts that day. She reads for Story Time. Basically she participates in some way in any activity the Kodak group has. Emma schedules interesting speakers for meetings, usually giving her homemade bread as thanks.

Emma is completing her fourth term as president. She will be co-president this coming year, her term ending shortly after her 90th birthday.

Sherman Dixon of Memphis

Thirty-three years ago Sherman Dixon attended a book sale at Memphis Public Library and Information Center, sponsored by Friends of the Library. Being a book lover and seeing the need for volunteers, he offered his services as a Friend.

In the years since, Sherman has served in many capacities on the Friends' board. However, he has spent most of his time as chairman of the book sales. He works three to four days a week with a staff of volunteers to process materials for library use, the second-hand bookstore (Second Editions), book sales, branch sales, and sales on Amazon, where an average of 175 books per month are sold. In 2010 revenue from all sales was in excess of \$150,000. All this money was used for the benefit of the library system.

Sherman is also the contact person for requests for books from nonprofit groups like veterans' hospitals, city and county detention centers for adults and juveniles, some Catholic schools in the inner city, two rural libraries, two charter schools, and some nursing homes. Sherman often delivers the donations himself. He helped find a recycle company to take all discarded un-usable books and cardboard that guarantees none will go to a land fill. In his "free time" he visits other book sales to buy materials which he donates to the Friends' sales. He also has a real knack for recruiting volunteers.

Linda J. Gnass of Brentwood

Linda J. Gnass has been an active leader among the Friends of the Brentwood Library for more than a decade, serving as book sale chair, vice-chair, and president. Since 2005 she has also served as a trustee



photo by Peter McNeal

Recognized for their service are, from left, Joanne White, Putnam County; Marilyn Joiner, E. G. Fisher Friends in Athens; Sherman Dixon, Memphis; Linda Gnass, Brentwood; and Emma Ruth Catlett, Kodak.

on the Library Board. For the past seven years Mrs. Gnass has led the Amazon Sales Sort Team for the Brentwood Library. She has devoted more than 1,400 hours to sorting donations, selecting books, listing materials online, dealing with customers, and mailing shipments. In the past year the Amazon team raised \$39,000 for the library. She has also developed an Amazon training program for other Friends in the Blue Grass region.

Marilyn Joiner, E. G. Fisher Library, Athens

Marilyn Joiner, a loyal and active Friend of E. G. Fisher Public Library in Athens, is currently co-chair of the Friends' board. She has handled membership for years and takes a leading role in organizing the annual book sale. She actively participates in the monthly noon book discussions. She is also an active member of the McMinn County Library Board, Etowah Carnegie Library Board, and the Tennessee Regional Library Board. Last August she spearheaded the organization of the first Friends of the Etowah Carnegie Public Library (FOCL). She chairs that group and has already organized its first membership drive, two fund-raising concerts, a book sale, and a yard sale. She helped design the FOCL membership brochure and got the newsletter going. There is nothing she would not do for her local libraries.

Joanne White, Putnam County

Joanne White has been on the Board of the Putnam County Library Friends and has run the monthly book sales for the past two years. She spends 45 hours a month cleaning the area, recruiting volunteers, organizing the books, and collecting the money. For 15 hours a month she promotes the Imagination Library by setting up and staffing displays about the program at community events, day-care facilities, and Head Start classes. She also does volunteer clerical work at the library and supports every fund raiser or community activity the Putnam County Library Friends sponsor.

2011 Friend of the Year: Art Circle



Friends of the Art Circle Public Library turned out for the TLA conference in Murfreesboro to celebrate the Friend of the Year Award. Seated are Bettie Nye, Library Director Susie Randleman, and Friends' President Bernice Durbin.

Other News from 2011 Conference John Nye Named Trustee Of the Year by TLA

John Nye, longtime leader of Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crosville, was named Trustee of the Year by the Tennessee Library Association at its annual conference in Murfreesboro on March 25. The posthumous award was presented by Connie Albrecht, former president of FOTL, to John's wife Bettie at the Trustees and Friends luncheon.

John was a beloved leader in Friends of Tennessee Libraries as well. He was the energizing force behind the Art Circle Friends' invitation to FOTL's Annual Meeting in 2010, only weeks after the grand opening of the new library there. His attention to detail and his commitment to both his own Friends' group and to FOTL were manifest and exemplary.

For a decade the Art Circle Friends, inspired by the hard work and plans spearheaded by the local Library Board of Trustees to build a new 34,000-square foot library, raised upwards of \$100,000 for the project. The new library opened May 2, 2010.

On March 25, 2011, at the Tennessee Library Association's annual luncheon for Friends and Trustees, the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville received the very first Friend of the Year, an award sponsored jointly by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association (TLA). FOTL's Frances Darnell worked with representatives from TLA to create this new annual award, and on the last Friday in March, Frances presented it to Bernice Durbin, current president of the Art Circle Friends.

Art Circle Friends have not rested even though their goal of a new library has been attained. Since the new library's opening, Friends have developed the Circle of Friends Bookstore, which raises an average of nearly \$2,000 a month to benefit the library. Monthly meetings and an electronic newsletter keep members and the community informed about the work of the organization.

The Friends also arrange for the sale of prepaid grocery vouchers from Kroger and Food City, sponsor annual events with hosted guest authors, feature local speakers at their monthly meetings, and, according to Library Director Susie Randleman, "are a constant source of support and assistance to the Library Director and her staff."

A profile of the Art Circle Friends is featured in the May 2011 edition of *The Voice for America's Libraries*, published by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF).

**More
FOTL
At
TLA
March 23**



Speaker at the Trustees and Friends luncheon Susan Gregg Gilmore, left, and Frances Darnell



Theresa McMahan, left, and Julie Webb



TLA President Susan Earl and FOTL President Susie Ries



photo by Paul Boyer

Officers of the King Family Library Friends include, from left, Terri Butler, treasurer; Diane Johnson, past chair; Katherine Carlyle, secretary; and Carroll McMahan, vice chair. Not pictured: Bonnie Voit, chair.

King Family Friends Organize

Sevierville takes pride in its new King Family Library. As of May 31 the community can also take pride in that library's newly organized Friends, complete with bylaws, officers, and mission statement. Friends of the King Family Library resolve to **"promote** the use of the library's collection, resources, facilities, and services; **assist** in attracting donations of funds, services, and materials for the benefit of the library; **build** greater understanding of the library's valuable role in the community; and **recruit** and provide volunteers."

Drawing upon studies of other groups and with help from FOTL's Nolichucky Representative Dwight Shepherd, Diane Johnson and David Sarten, chair of the Board of Trustees, led the eight-month organizational process.

To build membership during the first year of operation, members have decided to levy no dues (though donations are welcome).

Trading Cards Show Talent, Celebrate Books

The Sevier County Public Library System recently invited students to celebrate books by designing trading cards (like baseball cards) featuring a favorite book or character. Over 1,000 students in grades pre-K through 8 participated. Jordan Roberts created the winning card in grades 5-8. Details?



Contact Robin Cogdill at <rcogdill@sevierlibrary.org>.

Dr. Bruce Wheeler Speaks To King Family Friends

"A library is the heart of a community," said Dr. Bruce Wheeler when he addressed the newly organized Friends of the King Family Library on May 31. "Far more students enter the Hodges Library [at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville] than go through the turnstiles of Neyland Stadium."

Dr. Wheeler, who recently retired as professor of history at the university, also cited records at the King Family Library in support of his thesis: circulation increased 104 per cent last year as 5,291 people came to the Sevierville facility. In the last quarter the use of the library in Sevierville increased 74 per cent.



Dr. Bruce Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler asserted that, in part because of his understanding of the importance

of a library, Charles Dabney was the University of Tennessee's greatest president (1887-1904). The first UT president to have earned a Ph.D., Dr. Dabney created a law school, allowed women to enter the university for the first time, and created a summer school for teachers. But his greatest strength, according to Dr. Wheeler, is that Dr. Dabney saw the library as the key to building the reputation of the school.

Dr. Dabney appealed to Andrew Carnegie to help him build that library. It took nine years for the university to raise \$40,000 to match Carnegie's gift, but in 1911 the Carnegie Library opened on the campus. (Its successor, the Hoskins Library, opened in 1931.) Dr. Dabney promoted the acquisition of books by post-Civil War writers from the South.

Dr. Dabney believed that "the library is the center of the community," and he worked to bring all people on the campus to it. "Our role as Friends of the Library is the same," Dr. Wheeler concluded.

Put These on Your Calendar

September 2011 Library Card Sign-Up

September 24-October 1, 2011 Banned Book Week

October 16-22, 2011 National Friends of Libraries Week

Tennessee's First Lady Promotes Literacy

Because Tennessee's First Lady Crissy Haslam believes in the importance of reading, she has traveled across the state to promote improving reading proficiencies among school children.

"Reading is the foundation upon which the rest of learning is built," she has said. "If children and families commit to reading at least 20 minutes each day, that's a tremendous step toward a brighter future."

In early March Mrs. Haslam pledged to work with the Tennessee Department of Education to support its Early Grades Reading Delivery plan, an effort that aims to help at least 60 percent of the state's third graders to reach a proficient level of reading by 2014 (news.tn.gov/node/7153).

Mrs. Haslam is working with 10 school systems to support early reading initiatives. In addition she is meeting with groups in other locations like Knoxville and Memphis to support a culture of reading. Mrs. Haslam's website tracks her travels.

FOTL President Susie Webb Ries has been meeting with Mrs. Haslam and other champions of literacy in Tennessee to stay informed about these initiatives and to explore ways in which FOTL



Tennessee's First Lady Crissy Haslam, shown here reading to youngsters at the Burlington Branch of the Knox County Public Library System, has toured the state to promote improving literacy rates among school children. Encouraging parents and other caregivers to read to or with their children for 20 minutes a day is part of that campaign.

can support them. FOTL and its members have long been financial supporters of summer reading,

for example, an initiative that Mrs. Haslam has endorsed. Volunteers are needed throughout the state to read to children, to mentor them, and even to tutor them as FOTL's Julie Webb does at a Knox County school.



In Memphis Campaign 'Real Men Read'

Peter McNeal, FOTL's regional representative from Memphis-Shelby County, participates in a Memphis campaign of volunteers, "Real Men Read," to promote early-childhood literacy. .

Tennessee's First Lady Crissy Haslam's website:
www.tn.gov/firstlady/

Reports from Regions Connect FOTL Network

Blue Grass Region

Representative Dick Fankhauser has been busy since he came on board in 2010. He has made contact with Friends in the area and provided valuable assistance to FOTL when the Annual Meeting was held in his home base of Brentwood.

Forked Deer

Crockett County Friends are busy, reports President Susan Davidson, with four book signings by local authors, a book review every quarter, two book sales, and support for Imagination Library.

Haywood County is recruiting members for a re-energized Friends of Elma Ross Library, reports President John Muether.

Lauderdale County Friends'

President Billie Morris reports that the third volume of the county's pictorial history is at the publisher's. Proceeds will fund costs of decorating the library's \$500,000 expansion.

Newbern Friends are supporting the library's summer reading program, reports Kelly Grijalave. So are Friends in Tiptonville, reports Sherry Darnell.

Friends of Somerville-Fayette

County hosted a book signing by Jeanne Sellers Lenzini, local author of *The Jitney Ride*.

Friends of McIvers Grant Public

Library have received a \$1,750 grant from the Libri Foundation to purchase children's books, and they continue to work to contribute to the capital campaign for construction of the new library.

Knoxville-Knox County

The Friends' annual book sale in March garnered over \$50,000 with the help of 150 volunteers. For the first time, Knox County Friends invited partners like Imagination Library and other groups promoting literacy to acquaint the public with their programs during the sale.

Memphis-Shelby County

The Friends have honored two of their members for outstanding

service. Antonio Quinn, who manages the Second Editions bookstore, was named award winner from the staff. The bookstore averages an income of around \$8,500 monthly because of the innovative and entertaining ideas of Antonio and his crew. Volunteer Jane Dutcher was selected for her contributions to the Cordova Branch, which she was instrumental in starting over 50 years ago. Jane recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

When the **Benjamin Hooks Central Library** marks its 10th anniversary in 2011, the Friends will fund concerts, community parties, guest speakers and other activities to celebrate the occasion.

Nolichucky

The region's future will be affected by the recommendation that it be eliminated from the Regional Library System. Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier counties will become part of the Clinch-Powell Region. Cocke, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins will become part of Watauga. Nevertheless supporters of libraries in Sevier County have stayed in touch with their state and local legislators throughout the budgeting process.

Reelfoot

Valentine's Day was the perfect occasion for **Humboldt Friends** to recognize their librarians. Humbolt Friends also brought to FOTL the idea for its fan (see page 12).

Upper Cumberland

Monterey Branch Friends are reaching out to many different groups. For senior citizens unable to go to the library, the Friends have established a Homebound Library. First, the Friends determine the reading interests of the homebound. Then they select and deliver a few books to them. When those books are due, the Friends return the books to the library and deliver more reading material to the seniors.

For autistic children who are eight years old or younger, Monterey Friends have established a play

group. Ausom Play Group meets every other Saturday morning and features an appearance by Sandra Johnson's therapy dog Webster (see FOTL's newsletter for winter 2011). To encourage kindergarteners to become library users, Monterey Friends attended kindergarten registration with a free book for each child along with information about the library.

Warioto

Erin Public Library kicked off the 49th Annual Irish Celebration in March with a breakfast and invited boys and girls to come costumed as leprechauns to Story Time.

At the **Dickson County Public Library** the Friends' book club, "Through the Mind's Eye," donates two copies of each book read by the group to the library, a total of between 16-20 volumes. At the 53rd annual Old Timers' Day, the book club also promoted the Friends and helped to kick off the library's summer reading program.

After three years of planning, construction has begun on the **Portland Public Library's** new addition. When completed, the library will be a state-of-the-art, 18,000 square-foot facility. Friends have opened a book sale in the library to support the growing library.

Friends of the Cheatham County Library held the popular salad luncheon, an annual fund raiser, in April. Each member donates three salads to the event which draws many customers from the community.

Friends of the Gorham-McBane Public Library in Springfield are stepping up their capital campaign to support a proposed expansion. They have also appealed to their state representatives for more library support.

Friends of the Stewart County Public Library continue to sponsor Imagination Library, having registered 69 percent of the children in their area.

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The Friends of Tennessee Libraries is a volunteer organization of individuals and groups dedicated to supporting Tennessee libraries and local Friends of Library groups through



- Establishing and helping Friends of Library groups succeed
- Communicating with libraries and trustees about the value of Friends
- Serving members as a communication network and clearinghouse for information
- Advocating for library funding and legislative support on a local, state, and national basis

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