



Friends of Tennessee Libraries *newsletter*

July-August 2013

Volume 20, Number 4

FOTL Grants Support Local Projects



Photo by Paul Boyer

The Woodpickers, local musicians, perform at Seymour Public Library as part of the Friends' series on East Tennessee culture, designed to bring new members into the organization.

Friends of the Seymour Public Library dreamed of a series of programs about the culture of the area that would bring more people into the organization. From FOTL the group won a \$200 grant to help make that dream come true.

Once again FOTL offers three \$200 grants to support projects related to advocacy and fundraising as well as membership drives.

Innovative Friends can apply for those grants by November 15. See page 5.



Photo by Paul Boyer

The audience enjoys the performance, part of a novel approach to attracting new members to Seymour Friends with the support of a \$200 grant from FOTL.

Do You Know the Next Friend of the Year?

Do you know a group or an individual who is a member in good standing of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and who deserves recognition for having made a significant contribution to a Friends' group and the advancement of libraries in the state?

If you do, then perhaps you know the 2013 Friend of the Year, to be honored in 2014 by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association. Nominations are due by November 1. See page 5.

Established three years ago, the award has gone to groups that exemplify the dedication and achievements seen



Photo from Friends of Benton County on Facebook

in three recipients. The Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville, named the first Friend of the Year, worked for a decade to bring a new library to the community. Friends of the Kodak Public Library, a small but devoted group that continues to support its library and community, won the award in 2012.

This year the award went to Friends of Benton County Library who stepped up to preserve state services to the library by raising \$22,000 in four months when funds were slashed.

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The President's Annual Report

FOTL Looks Back and Looks Ahead

By Susie Webb Ries

In the past year Friends of Tennessee Libraries has pursued its traditional role, strengthened and benefited from its affiliation with Tennessee Library Association (TLA), and continued to broaden its outreach to include other groups with common goals.

FOTL activities since May 2012 in include the following:

- Creation of a new FOTL website: <www.friendstnlibraries.org>.
- Establishment of a new configuration of the FOTL board of representatives to align with the reconfigured regions of the state library system. Amended the by-laws accordingly. Recruited and elected new board members to fill those positions.
 - FOTL board meetings in September 2012, December 2012, March 2013, and June 2013.
 - Participation in Tennessee Legislative Day and National Library Legislative Day.
 - Publication of seven issues of its newsletters, all of which are archived on the new website: May-June 2012, July-August 2012, September-October 2012, November-December 2012, January-February 2013, March-April 2013, and May-June 2013. Complimentary copies were sent to legislators in Nashville and Washington.
 - Maintenance of Facebook page (we've been "Liked" by 500 friends).
 - Second annual award of three \$200 grants to Friends' groups, to be used to promote membership, advocacy, and fundraising.
 - Annual Meeting held in Dover with speakers Catherine Whitehead, publishing rights director; Patsy Caldwell, cookbook author; Eileen Wirsig, CPA; and Cate Beauman, self-published author. All speakers were from the Dover area.
 - Certificates of Appreciation and an award of \$100 presented at the Annual Meeting to Carol Harris of Dyersburg, Marie and Bob Harris of Maryville, Wanda Jared of Cookeville, Dwight Shepherd of Kodak, and Bev Vogelzang of Vonore.

FOTL activities in affiliation with the Tennessee Library Association include the following:

- FOTL members Martha Gill and Carol Harris in panel discussion on advocacy at Tennessee Library Legislative Day, February 19, 2013.
 - FOTL presence at Tennessee Library Legislative Day.
 - Donation of \$500 to TLA for Tennessee Library Legislative Day.
 - Presentation of "Beyond the Used Book Sale: Tennessee Friends Innovate" at the 2013 TLA Annual Conference in Chattanooga on March 26, 2013.
 - Host of the Friends and Trustees Luncheon at 2013 TLA Conference.
 - Presentation of Friend of the Year Award, jointly sponsored by FOTL and TLA, at the 2013 TLA Annual Conference in Chattanooga, April 26, 2013, to Benton County Friends of the Library.
 - Engagement of speaker Steven Smith, dean of University of Tennessee Libraries, for the Friends and Trustees Luncheon at 2013 TLA Conference.
 - FOTL representation on the Tennessee delegation to National Library Legislative Day, May 8, 2013.

In the coming year FOTL will continue to pursue our goals:

- Focusing on revitalizing local groups and establishing new ones.
- Ongoing communication through our newsletter, website, Facebook, and workshops.
- Training for improved local and state advocacy.
- Linking friends' groups to improve public awareness of Tennessee libraries.



Present at the June meeting of the FOTL board in Mt. Juliet Public Library were (standing, from left), Gerald Beavers, Middle Tennessee; Connie Albrecht, membership chair and member of the Advisory Committee; Dot Childs, East Tennessee; Wanda Jared, Middle Tennessee; Doreen Flash, Middle Tennessee; Theresa Venable, East Tennessee; Martha Gill, past president; Michelle Kenley, Middle Tennessee; (seated) Susie Webb Ries, president; Julie Webb, member of the Advisory Committee; Carol Harris, president-elect; and Ed Jared, treasurer.

Two Newcomers Join FOTL Board

Michelle Kenley of Columbia, TN, attended her first meeting of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries' board on June 14. She was elected to serve as one of five representatives from Middle Tennessee at the FOTL annual meeting in May.

At the June meeting of the board, Carolyn Stark of Jackson, TN, was elected as a representative from West Tennessee. She joins Debbie Moore of Dyersburg. Two positions remain open on the board, one in West and one from East Tennessee.

Membership in FOTL: Group or Individual?

As a devoted library advocate, you are in a quandary. You are already affiliated with Friends of Tennessee Libraries through the group membership of your local Friends. (Membership dues are based on the number of members in your group.) But having scanned the membership coupon on page 8, you notice that there are affordable individual or family memberships as well. Should you also enroll as an individual?

We suggest that the answer to the question "Group or Individual Membership?" is not "Either/Or" but "Both/And."

Affiliated with a group, you already have access to our Members Only resources on our website. One copy of our newsletter is mailed to your Friends' group six times a year. But if you want your own copy of that newsletter, you need to have an individual membership. Then news about other Friends and state and national issues that may affect your local library will come to your mailbox directly. An individual membership personally connects you to an organization that advocates for libraries at every level and helps to support FOTL's mission.

Nominations for Friend of Year Due Nov.15

In 2014, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association will recognize an individual or a group earning the designation of "Friend of the Year."

The recipient must be a member in good standing of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries. An individual must hold an individual membership, and a group must be enrolled as a group. (See membership categories on page 8.) The individual or group must have made a significant contribution to a Friends' group and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee. The deadline for nominations is November 15.

Describe in no more than 200 words the nominee's service, achievements, and contributions to a Friends' group and/or to the advancement of libraries or education through libraries. The description and the following information should be sent to Martha Gill, past president of FOTL. It may be e-mailed to <marthagill491@gmail.com> or sent by postal service to Martha Gill, 4109 Forest Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919, by November 15.

Nominee _____

Nominee's mailing address _____

Nominee's telephone _____

Nominee's e-mail address _____

If nominee is an individual, is that nominee an individual member of FOTL? _____

If nominee is a group, is that group a member of FOTL? _____

Name of nominator _____

Nominator's mailing address _____

Nominator's e-mail _____

Nominator's telephone _____

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:	

Need \$\$ for That Project? Apply for \$200 Grant

Does your Friends group want to increase its membership, raise funds, or support advocacy? FOTL might be able to help.

For the third year FOTL is accepting applications for a \$200 grant to underwrite one new project in each of three categories: membership, fundraising, or advocacy.

From <www.friendstnlibraries.org> local groups can download the application form depicted here. Completed forms must be received by **November 15**.

Applications should be mailed to Dwight Shepherd, 10405 Alex Bales Road, Kodak, TN 37764-1089 or sent by e-mail to <dewhitesheep@hotmail.com>.

Grants will be awarded by January 15, 2014.

From West Tennessee Trimble Friends Host Film Night

An estimated 90 spectators enjoyed an outdoor movie brought to them by the Friends of the Trimble Public Library on Saturday, June 22. Before sunset Trimble residents staked out their preferred spots on Parks Plaza, and after sunset kids watched the film from their blankets on the grass as adults sat nearby.

In the Dyersburg *State Gazette* on June 27, David Butler reported that "Family movie night at Trimble's Parks Plaza [was] a success." He continued, "The weather could not have been any better for this outside venue. It was as if preordered breezes kept Parks Plaza nice and cool throughout the movie" (<http://www.stategazette.com/scripts/search/simple.php?query=Family+ovie+n ight+at+Trimble%27s+Parks+Plaza&s=stories>).

From the concession stand Friends sold treats to go along with the movie.

Carol Harris, FOTL's president-elect, reports that the Trimble Friends organized very recently and that "They just took the ball and ran with it. Their initial fundraising was to help with the cost of implementing Verso, a library management system. I am so impressed with this group. Their attendance is good and they just pull chairs up to the table, divide the work, and get the job done." Carolyn Stark, FOTL's new regional representative from West Tennessee, is associated with the Trimble group.



From Middle Tennessee Family Adds Music To Fundraiser

The Hester Family Band, seen above, generously donated its bluegrass tunes to the Cheatham County Library Friends' fundraiser on June 8, when the audience also enjoyed donated baked goods. That event followed the Friends' annual salad luncheon that brought in \$1,216 on April 19. Each member of the Friends made at least three large dishes for the popular occasion in Ashland City.

Summer reading programs are in full swing at the South Cheatham Library. Guests enticing children to read include a magician, a singer and puppeteer, a storyteller, and lots of critters.

Snowbird Lands in Gallatin

To promote children's summer reading in Gallatin, Friends sponsored a visit from Snowbird. To encourage adults to read, Friends offered a free bookbag to the first 200 adults who signed up to read.



Snowbird encouraged youngsters at the Gallatin Library to read during summer vacation. Photo from Snowbird's Facebook page

Putnam Garden Blooms

Putnam County Friends provided refreshments at the June 8 garden party when the Putnam County Library celebrated landscaping at the library by Cookeville's master gardeners. For the garden the Friends also helped to purchase a bench dedicated to the memory of Dale Stapp, children's librarian who died in June 2012.

Robert Hicks, author of *The Widow of the South*, will speak at the Friends' annual author dinner on September 20.

Monterey Friends Regroup

According to President Judy Monosky, the Monterey Branch Friends have been "doing a bit of re-organizing." As a result, the group meets quarterly now. In May members held a book sale with encouraging results.

Farley Counts on Friends

Friends of the White County Library fund the summer reading program and help staff it as well. Librarian Cathy Farley says that she counts on the Friends to help with all of the programs they support.

Chattanooga Friends Hold July Book Sale

From July 13-22 Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library will be busy at the group's book sale at Eastgate Town Center, 5600 Brainerd Road.

FOTL May Go Green

Future issues of FOTL's Newsletter can be sent to members electronically. If you prefer that method of delivery, please notify Connie Albrecht, membership chair, at <connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>.



Photo from Sevier County Library Facebook page
All three Friends groups in Sevier County cooperated to provide over \$3,000 to support the county library system's summer reading program. At Kodak, Dig into Reading was all about worms.

From East Tennessee In Sevier County Three Groups Work Together

Friends from the King Family Library in Sevierville, Kodak, and Seymour worked together to stage a successful week-long book sale in May. During the past year the three groups have divided approximately \$12,000 equally among them, the proceeds from various sales in the libraries and online.

All three groups also joined to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War held at the King Family Library. Members helped set up and take down settings for the event, assisted with children's activities, demonstrated toys of the Civil War era, and provided displays of Confederate currency. Of particular interest was the presentation of a Sevier County resident's account of his experience as a soldier.

The Library System and its foundation are including Kodak and Seymour Friends in discussions about future building projects for their libraries.

In Knox County Publications Increase

Friends of Knox County Public Library have added new lines of communication, thanks to the vision and the skills of its Communications Committee chaired by Maggie Carini.

The Friendsider is intended to enhance internal communication among officers, directors, and committees. It contains timely details about committee and board meetings, alerts about events and projects sponsored by the Friends, and library resources. It is sent each week electronically via MailChimp to the organization's working team listed in a dedicated address book maintained by the Friends' part-time coordinator Abby Wintker.

The monthly electronic publication *Friends ♥ KCPL* reaches over 1,000 members, partners, and community leaders via MailChimp.

In July the 11 volunteers on the Communications Committee—writers, editors, artists, and designers—saw the result of many months of labor when the new website was launched at www.knoxfriends.org.



Every month *Friends ♥ KCPL* reaches over a thousand members.



The Friendsider goes out electronically each week to approximately 70 recipients.

Friends Online

By Martha Gill
FOTL Newsletter Editor

Every morning I scan the Internet for news about libraries and their Friends to post on Facebook for Friends of Tennessee Libraries' followers. Much of what I see is timely for a day or at most a week, but some of it has lasting value. Here are a few online resources that bear watching long after the Facebook posting dims.

■ The *Tennessean's* interview with Kent Oliver, director of the Nashville Public Library, is a must-read: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130707/COLUMNIST0401/307070032>.

■ According to the Pew Research Center, parents consider libraries important in their children's lives. There's good material here for lawmakers: <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/05/01/parents-children-libraries-andreading/>.

■ Friends can help spread the word about how the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) increases citizens' access to knowledge, as this article in the TLA journal explains: <http://tnla.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=543>.

■ Each month First Lady Crissy Haslam continues to encourage families to read together by choosing a new book and suggesting activities related to it: <http://tn.gov/firstlady.read20/>.

■ FOTL is a partner with Raise Your Hand Tennessee, a statewide collaborative effort to find volunteer mentors, tutors, and readers for children: <http://www.uwtn.org/RaiseYourHandTN.aspx>.

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Website: www.friendstnlibraries.org

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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

TEL: Reaching Your Library at Home Is Easier Than Ever!
Go to www.tntel.info

Membership Application

Become a Friend of Tennessee Libraries

(Membership year is January to December.)

INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY

- Individual \$15/yr
- Family \$25/yr
- Silver \$50/yr
- Gold \$100/yr
- Platinum \$500/yr

ORGANIZATION

- 1-49 Members \$25/yr
- 50-99 Members \$55/yr
- 100-499 Members \$75/yr
- 500 Members \$100/yr

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

TN County _____ E-Mail _____

_____ Check here if you want to receive your newsletter electronically.
Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Send to
FOTL Membership Chair Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501-2062.