



Friends of Tennessee Libraries *newsletter*

May-June 2013

Volume 20, Number 3



FOTL Launches New Website

A Remodel at the Old Address:

www.friendstnlibraries.org

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FOTL's website has had a complete remodel.

Julie Webb recollects our beginnings. We record our early affiliation with Imagination Library. We publish our bylaws.

We archive our newsletters going back to Spring 2007.

We offer grants and awards. We feature advice For Members Only: tips on organizing a new Friends' group, revitalizing an existing one, and advocating for libraries (password: exlibris). We link Friends across the state.

We ask for your support in return.

Our blogs reflect on what makes TLA our good Friend and what libraries and their Friends are doing to stop the summer slide.

Every day we reach out to you on Facebook. Every two months you receive a printed newsletter. Now our website is an abiding resource.

It is, quite simply, another value for FOTL members.

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Advocacy Past and Future

By Susie Webb Ries, FOTL President

There are many different ways to advocate for libraries.

In April, at the Tennessee Library Association's annual convention in Chattanooga, FOTL presented a story of helpful and heroic actions recently taken by three Friends groups. At our annual Trustees and Friends Luncheon, we presented awards for Friend and Trustee of the Year. Read more about our presentation, the awards, and our speaker on page 4.

For this event, the Chattanooga Library hosted a reception and had tours of its (out-of-the-box) thoughtfully reorganized space. The circulation desk now serves coffee along with its other duties. An employee described himself as a "Baristalator"! The Fourth Floor, which for the last 30 years was simply a storage area, has been cleared out and set up as a collaborative space for innovations, complete with a 3D printer.

On May 4 Friends of Tennessee Libraries had its Annual Meeting in Dover, TN, a town with a population of about 1400. It was attended by 60 people who traveled from as far away as Sevierville or Memphis. There were four speakers—two authors, an executive, and an accountant—all of whom live and work in Dover. It was a dynamic meeting. See pages 4-5.

During both of these events, I was reminded of what great opportunities these face-to-face meetings are for networking with library-loving friends AND for establishing new relationships. Gatherings like these generate great energy and spark new ideas like nothing else.

Three days after our annual meeting, several FOTL members went to Washington, DC, for the annual National Library Legislative Day to meet with our legislators and/or their aides—the people we elected/hired to make policy and spend our tax dollars. That day was preceded by a day of preparation designed to help us understand the issues we would discuss during our 15-minute appointments with them. Among those issues was funding the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the 2012 level of \$184.7 million. LSTA is the primary source of annual funding for libraries in the federal budget but has sustained deep, across-the-board cuts since March 2013. Part of the Tennessee delegation visited Representative Jim Cooper. See page 7.

While these trips for advocacy are behind us, many opportunities are in front of us during these challenging budget times. We'd like to hear *your* stories about what you value about your library: innovative programs, unique collections, community meeting places, knowledgeable staff and/or a good cup of coffee. Whether you are reading to people who cannot physically get to the library, promoting a summer reading program, raising money, meeting with fellow Friends in your own library branches or attending a statewide or national library meeting, we are *all* advocating for libraries.

Tell us what you *love* about libraries. What matters to you? How do you show that? Please let us hear from you—use our new website (www.friendstnlibraries.org) to reach us.

FOTL Welcomes Newly Elected Board Members

The FOTL board welcomes new members who were elected at a brief business session at the annual meeting in Dover on May 4. **Laura Sheets will succeed Genny Carter as liaison with the State Library and Archives. Gerald Beavers, current president of the Montgomery County Friends, will be one of five board members representing regions in Middle Tennessee. Succeeding Peter McNeal, Jacqueline Wallace and Sally Smith will work together to represent Memphis-Shelby County Metro. Not pictured are Michelle Kenley, Middle Tennessee representative; and Debbie Moore, West Tennessee representative.**



Laura Sheets, Liaison with the State Library & Archives



Gerald Beavers, Middle Tennessee



Jacqueline Wallace, Memphis-Shelby County

Friend of the Year and Trustee Honored at TLA Conference

History will record that the Friends of the Benton County Library is 2013 Friend of the Year and that Larry Hinton, chair of Sumner County Library Board and Portland Area Library Foundation, is Trustee of the Year. Both honors were conferred at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon at the Tennessee Library Association's conference in Chattanooga on April 25.



Susan Tyner (left), current director of Benton County Library, and Rhonda Tippett (right), former library director now serving Sevier County as director, accepted the 2013 Friend of the Year Award on behalf of Benton County Friends from FOTL President Susie Webb Ries

In a community of only 16,000, Friends of the Benton County Library raised over \$22,000 to prevent the system from losing its affiliation with the state's regional library system when local government failed to honor its Maintenance of Effort contract with the state. Working with state and local officials, using social media, contacting news outlets, and mobilizing local residents to become advocates, the Friends and their community stood up for their library. Fundraisers included a silent auction and a radiothon.

Luncheon speaker Steven Smith, dean of the University of Tennessee Libraries, emphasized the importance of librarians' technological skills and a strong service ethic as they assist students in completing their studies.

During Larry Hinton's tenure on the Sumner County Library Board and Portland Area Foundation, three large libraries have been built in the county. An accessible and dedicated advocate, he continues to promote libraries as community benefits.



Larry Hinton, right, receives congratulations from State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill and FOTL's Susie Webb Ries as he accepts the Trustee of the Year Award.



Captions: A Day To Remember

Photo 1: Mary Ann Jordan, president of Stewart County Friends, welcomed FOTL.

Photo 2: The spacious Stewart County Visitors' Center accommodated a large crowd.

Photo 3: Cate Beauman, author of four novels available from Amazon, explained why and how she entered the self-publishing field.

Photo 4: Mary Lou Easter, editor of the Stewart County Friends' newsletter, delighted the crowd with numerous door prizes.

Photo 5: Catherine Whitehead spoke of her work protecting authors' international book rights.

Photo 6: Eileen Wirsig, CPA, helped Friends understand the operation of 501(c)(3) organizations.

Photo 7: Patsy Caldwell has entered her second career as cookbook author.

Photos 8 and 9: FOTL President Susie Webb Ries admires some of the door prizes gathered by Mary Lou Easter, Marie Wallace, and other Stewart County Friends.

Photo 10: Stewart County Mayor Rickie added his welcome to Mary Ann Jordan's.

Photo 11: A panel representing Friends from Benton, Montgomery, Stewart, and Henry counties provided insight into their operations. From left were Susan Hubbs, Gerald Beavers, Kathy Mauldin, Jackie Starcher, Donna Winders, and Connie McSwain.

A Day to Remember: Dover, May 4, 2013



Friends Hailed for Their Excellent Service

At its 2013 annual meeting Friends of Tennessee Libraries recognized four individuals and a couple for their outstanding service with certificates of appreciation and a cash award of \$100.

Carol Clark Harris, founding member of the Friends of McIver's Grant Public Library, a member of the American Library Association, and president-elect of Friends of Tennessee Libraries, was hailed for her numerous contributions to her local Friends in Dyersburg and to FOTL. Carol completed the 501(c)(3) application for McIver's Grant Friends with the assistance of a local attorney. She raised more than \$1 million in contributions and pledges for the new library in Dyersburg. She supports and is involved in all Dyersburg Friends' fundraising. Carol understands the importance of reading and is tireless in her efforts to improve the quality of life in her community. She is an asset to West Tennessee and persons who have the opportunity to work with her.

Marie and Bob Harris have shown their love of libraries by devoting thousands of hours to organizing and perfecting the Friends of the Library book sale in Maryville. Through their vision and leadership the Blount County Friends' book sale has doubled in revenues, thereby enabling the Friends to help fund numerous library projects. The genius of this team is that they never "tell" book

sale workers anything. They lead by example. Because of the Harrises, approximately 50,000 books are organized by category. Friends know the system works because many customers say they come to the Blount County sales because they are so buyer-friendly.

Wanda Jared accepted the challenge when asked to replace the resigning vice president of the Putnam County Library Friends. The group was in the middle of selecting a speaker for the annual Dinner with an Author night. Wanda immediately contacted a speaker and planned a very successful event. She then began her task of organizing the Coffee with an Author series that the PCLF group sponsors and hosts in the first quarter of each year. At three different events Wanda showcased authors that entertained each audience. When Wanda is given a task, she always goes above and beyond what is asked of her. She is a good example to all members of any organization. (Incidentally Wanda is also a representative on the FOTL board from Middle Tennessee.)

Dwight Shepherd believed in the dream of a community library in the Northview area of Sevier County even when he was young. He organized the Friends of the Kodak Library charter and has served in most of the offices and board positions over the years. He coordinated money-raising events and book sales, carried books, set up shelves, motivated volunteers, and even manned shovels, rakes, and paint

brushes. That dream came true when the Kodak Library opened.

He was an invaluable advisor and consultant to both the reorganized Seymour Library Friends and the new King Family Library Friends. He has shared his experience and motivated others through newsletters and articles. The Friends of Tennessee Libraries has recognized his interest in library development, and he serves on its board.

Dwight has worked countless hours as coordinator of the successful Sevier County Library book sales and is a mentor and teacher to all three branches of that system. Sharing his love of books and libraries with everyone he meets, he is the very definition of a Friend.

Bev Vogelzang has been an instrumental part of the Friends of the Vonore Public Library since it was founded 12 years ago. Over the years, she has held various positions as charter chair, treasurer, volunteer coordinator, and a member of the Maryann Bork Committee.

In addition, Bev has always volunteered to be the chairperson of the annual book and rummage sale, which is the only fundraising event sponsored by the Friends. Through her efforts, the FVPL donates all of the proceeds from the sale to the library. In turn, additional books, software programs, library equipment, and supplies have been purchased over the years for the library. This is only possible because of Bev's dedication to the FVPL and the greater Vonore community. She indeed deserves a certificate of appreciation.



Bob and Marie Harris



Wanda Jared with FOTL's Connie Albrecht



Dwight Shepherd

Newbern Friends Have Fun Raising Funds for Library

For many years Friends of Tennessee Libraries have raised funds through used-book sales, but recently Friends in Newbern, a Dyer County community of 3,000, asked, "Is there another way?"

And here is their answer: For two years the Reading Run has brought more than funds for the Newbern library. It has engaged an entire community.

In 2012 and 2013, near Dr. Seuss' birthday and coinciding with the national Read across America initiative, Newbern children ages 14 and under have put the rubber to the road—or the track—to raise money for their library.

On March 23, 106 participants included 9 youngsters between the ages of 10 and 14; 24 between 7 and 9 years; 24 in the 5-6-year range; 12 4-year-olds; 18 3-year-olds; and 19 between 1 and 2.

The event has drawn rave reviews: "a great community event that also raises money for a great cause—our community library." "It was so refreshing to see the way the families used this day as a way to encourage and support one another."

The Reading Run succeeds for several reasons: the community responds to the clarity of its purpose—to support the library and to promote children's exercise.

The praise for organization and publicity is due to the hard work of Team 2012 and Team 2013, who pay attention to details over a period of six months and who wisely seek support from Newbern at large both at the



Team 2013 included JoAnn Maupin, Jane Tosh, Katie Russler, Janet Swartz, Kelly Campbell, and April Dodds.

planning stages and during the race itself. Work is parceled out to cover eight different responsibilities: Registration Forms, Sponsorship, Awards, Art Design, Publicity, Accounting, Facility Manager, and Race Coordinator.

A low entrance fee and wide distribution of the registration form through schools, the library, and the Internet encourage widespread participation.

Both individual and business sponsorships are sought "for the future leaders of Dyer County" and recognized regardless of the level of the donation.

Everyone receives a ribbon bookmark, and medals are given to first, second, and third-place runners.

Careful attention is paid to the management of the facility, where volunteers from clubs and churches from the community are visible and important to the smooth operation of the race. T shirts this year sported winning designs submitted by children.

Using the high school track and football field gives participants access to the concession stand, restrooms, sound equipment, and cleaning supplies.

Press releases to local media, flyers around town, and follow-up photos for the newspaper help to establish the event as an ongoing project for 2014.

Scrupulous accounting of income and expenses reveals funds to support the Summer Reading program and to purchase equipment and furniture for the library.

The 2013 Team is already looking ahead to 2014, when once again the Reading Run will encourage children to exercise, support the library, and establish the Friends as a vital, visionary, and effective community force.

Editor's note: This report is adapted from the FOTL presentation made by Martha Gill, past president, at the Tennessee Library Association's conference in Chattanooga on April 25. For more information, contact Kelly Campbell at <indymindy15@yahoo.com>.



A \$200 grant from FOTL helped Seymour Friends to develop a series on East Tennessee culture designed to draw new members to the group. Nancy Rickenbach, left, and Colleen Shannon show participants at the annual meeting in Dover the brochure and poster advertising the series.

FOTL Grant Funds Series

"How We Live: Then and Now," a series of 10 monthly programs exploring the people and culture of East Tennessee, has been developed by Friends of the Seymour Library. In June, for example, the Woodpickers, described as "an old-time music group," performed.

Future topics include genealogy, crafts, and industry. A potluck dinner in December will conclude the series, publicized with a \$200 grant from FOTL. See FOTL's website for future grants.

A Visit to Jim Cooper



The Tennessee delegation to National Library Legislative Day May 7-8 asked senators and representatives like Jim Cooper to support legislation that would improve the state's public and school libraries. Standing, from left, are Kent Oliver, director, Nashville Public Library; Julie Webb, FOTL advisory committee; Congressman Cooper; Vivian Wynn, Tennessee delegation coordinator; FOTL President Susie Webb Ries; Susan Earl, director, Brentwood Library; and Ruth Kinnersley, Tennessee Library Association. In front are Jonathan Rummel, representing Secretary of State Tres Hargett, and Cara Huwieler, Brentwood Library.

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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>](http://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 _____

Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Send to FOTL Membership Chair Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501-2062.

