



TN Legs Day: What You Need To Know about It

1. It's scheduled for March 5 in Nashville.
2. It's free. Even breakfast is free.
3. But you can reserve a lunch for \$10.
4. The event will bring you up to date on legislative issues affecting Tennessee's public libraries.
5. You should schedule a meeting with your legislators to tell them about your great library and its needs.

**Agenda and
registration, page 2**



FOTL's Annual Meeting Slated for April 26 In Chattanooga

The Chattanooga Public Library has been hailed as the Library of the Future. Its innovative director, Corinne Hill, graces the cover of the professional *Library Journal*. And members of Friends of Tennessee Libraries will have the opportunity to explore that library and to hear from the Librarian of the Year when FOTL's annual meeting convenes on April 26 in the Chattanooga Public Library.



William Sundquist, Chattanooga representative on the FOTL board, has worked with local Chattanooga leaders to design an informative and stimulating program. Marj Fleming of Launch Point Leadership will make a presentation about successful strategic planning, a challenge to all groups large or small. Her talk will be followed by a free exchange of questions and comments. Corinne Hill and her assistant Nate Hill will share their views of the library of the future, and Chuck Sherrill, state librarian and archivist, will speak on the state's new minimum standards for libraries. Networking with other Friends will be the order of the day.

You will want to be there. The \$30 registration fee includes breakfast and lunch. See page 3 for the complete agenda.

**THERE
IS
MORE
INSIDE**

- 4 Libraries Connect Children to Authors
- 5 FOTL Awards Three Grants
- 6 Williamson County Goes into Publishing
- 7 Frances Darnell Honored with Luncheon,
Sculpture

2014 Tennessee Library Legislative Day Advocates to Meet in Nashville March 5

Getting in Touch With Legislators Before March 5

Advocates are advised to schedule appointments with their legislators BEFORE coming to Nashville for Tennessee Library Legislative Day on March 5. Online information about how to identify legislators and how to contact them can be found here:
<www.legislature.state.tn.us>.

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Our full directory is online:

<www.friendstnlibraries.org>.

Click on "About."

Tennessee Library Legislative Day is a dedicated day for librarians, staff, trustees, friends, and library users to gather in Nashville and voice their support for libraries. The purpose of this event is to show legislators the importance of libraries for Tennesseans.

This year's event on March 5 is free, but advocates are asked to register so relevant materials can be prepared for them. The event begins at Nashville Public Library's main library in downtown Nashville before moving to Legislative Plaza for visits with legislators.

Participants can register for Library Legislative Day at the Tennessee Library Association's website: <www.tnla.org>. At that site people can also reserve a lunch box at a cost of \$10.

2014 Library Legislative Day Schedule of Events

Registration and Pastry Breakfast (Sponsored by Cengage Learning) 9:30–10 a.m.

Conference Center, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Orientation 10:–11:30 a.m.

Conference Center, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

- Welcome Remarks, Ruth Kinnersley, TLA President
- Comments from Secretary of State Tre Hargett
- Legislative Update by TLA Legislative Committee

members

Afternoon Visits 1–5 p.m.

■ Legislative Plaza, Union & 6th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37244

■ Visits with legislators: participants are encouraged to schedule afternoon meetings with their legislators before March 5.

**Register for Tennessee Library
Legislative Day at <www.tnla.org>**

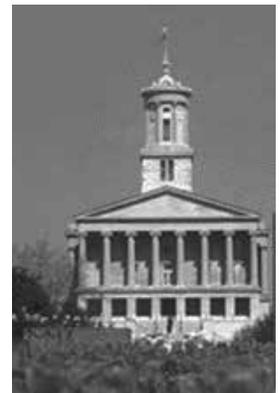


Photo of capitol from
http://www.tnmuseum.org/Exhibits/Tennessee_State_Capitol/

ALA Launches Mobile Alert

Meanwhile, back in Washington, DC, the newest advocacy tool from the American Library Association allows ALA to build up a mobile list of grassroots supporters. At a basic level, Mobile Commons allows ALA to send text-message updates to those who sign up for this opt-in service.

According to Susan Earl, Brentwood Library director and a former president of the Tennessee Library Association, what's really cool about Mobile Commons is the text-to-call feature. Whenever ALA has an action alert, staff can send a text message to mobile

subscribers asking them to contact their legislators. From there, subscribers can simply text back the word "call" upon which point they'll receive a call from ALA. They'll first hear a brief set of recorded talking points and—*voilà*—they'll automatically be connected to their legislator's office. No fuss, no hassle.

How do you sign up? It's easy. Simply text the word "library" to 877877. You'll be prompted for your address so Mobile Commons can connect you to the right legislators for action alerts. Or you can sign up online at <districtdispatch.org/textalerts>.

Schedule for 2014 FOTL Annual Meeting



Saturday, April 26

Chattanooga Public Library

1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402

- 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:30-9:15 Welcome
- 9:45-10:00 FOTL Business Meeting
- 10:00-10:15 *Break*
- 10:15 - 12:15 **Marj Fleming**, Launch Point Leadership
Library Strategic Planning
Talk followed by Q&A session
- 12:15 Buffet Lunch
- 12:45-1:15 **Chuck Sherrill**, Tennessee State Librarian & Archivist
- 1:15-1:30 *Break*
- 1:30-2:30 **Corinne Hill, Nate Hill**, Director & Assistant Director
Chattanooga Public Library
- 2:30-3:00 FOTL Recognition Awards
Door prizes
- 3:00 Adjournment

Coming in our next issue: Nominate a deserving individual or group for an FOTL award to be given at the annual meeting.

**Register online at <www.friendstnlibraries.org> OR
by check and mail (see below).**

Registration covering both continental breakfast and lunch is \$30. Registration must be received by FOTL by April 19. Detach this form and mail it with your check, payable to FOTL, to Ed Jared, FOTL Treasurer, 1221 Woodlake Trace, Cookeville, TN 38501-3075.

Questions? Check out our website at <www.friendstnlibraries.org>.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail _____

_____ Check here if this is the first FOTL Annual Meeting you have attended.

What Happens When Writers Visit Schools?

Connecting Children with Authors

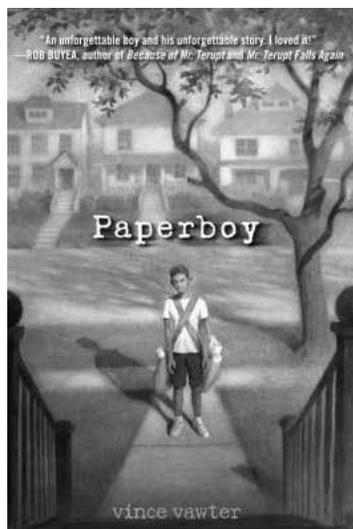
By Betty Vawter

Senior Editor Emerita, University of Southern Indiana
Resident of Louisville, TN

Seeing children talk with a published author is special. No doubt young readers are motivated to love books even more when they get a behind-the-scenes look at what they are reading.

Since the publication of my husband's first novel in May 2013, I have had the delightful experience of observing what a great job libraries do of connecting children with authors. Public libraries and school libraries are sources of inspiration for both the listener and the author in these get-togethers.

Random House markets *Paperboy* by Vince Vawter as a middle-grade novel. The book is the semi-autobiographical story of an 11-year-old boy living in Memphis in the summer of 1959. When the boy takes over his friend's paper route for a month, he looks forward to using his baseball skills to throw the paper, but he is intimidated to interact with subscribers on collection day because of his stutter.



Paperboy, now in its sixth printing, is scheduled to come out in paperback in April. Foreign rights to the novel have been sold in Turkey and Germany.



An in-person visit by an author is the most obvious way of engaging readers. At Webb School of Knoxville, the Middle School Book Club met at the invitation of head librarian Tena Litherland in the library's Alumni Room for a luncheon and conversation with Vince. The setting alone made the event special. An intimacy developed between the 20 or more students and the author as they ate together and talked. The students' questions left no

doubt they had read the novel closely:

"Did you really not like to use commas when you were a boy?" "Why did you choose to leave out quotation marks in your book?" "Did Mam go with your family when you moved from your house?"

After the session, Vince signed books. Author visits offer students at Webb School the opportunity to begin building their own collection of signed books, an interest they may pursue beyond childhood. Vince also signed the library's "author wall," a lasting indication of his book talk at the school.

Lemuria Books of Jackson, MS, collaborated with librarians, faculty, and speech therapists at three schools in the city's northern suburb of Madison to connect Vince with students. In the three school libraries, he spoke to more than 200 students, some of whom face challenges of one kind or another

with their speech. The therapists told Vince they were eager for the children to hear from a person with a speech disability who had a successful career and rewarding life with family and friends. Some students asked what the paperboy did when confronted by bullies making fun of his stuttering. Vince answered by discussing a scene in the book. Later, he received a thank-you note that said, "You really inspired us to find our voices and to not be afraid to communicate."

At one Madison school, some speech students were younger than the recommended age for the middle-grade novel. They learned new terms during the discussion with the author. Now they know the definition of "headline" and what it means to "throw the paper." The discussion further confirmed for the author the changing role of newspapers in today's culture. Vince spent 40 years in the newspaper business, retiring as publisher and president of the *Evansville Courier & Press* in Indiana.



Tena Litherland, Webb School librarian, and Vince Vawter in front of the Author Wall photographed by visiting writers.

See Author Visits, p. 5

Grants To Boost Work in Vonore, Sevierville

FOTL grants designed to help Friends boost membership, advocacy, and fundraising will support the efforts of two different groups.

Friends of the Vonore Public Library hope to increase membership by 25 per cent with an FOTL grant of \$200. The Vonore campaign, "Making New Friends," will attract new talent to the group through the direct mailing of a membership brochure as well as a letter from the organization's president that details the importance of the Friends' support of their small community library. Of particular importance is a systematic needs assessment and a campaign to increase the size of the library.

Among the group's current membership of 80, 13 bring new energy and talent to the work of a small but committed group of volunteers whose accomplishments are already impressive though the budget is tight. During the past year, volunteers assisted in the upkeep of the library garden; decorated the library for special holidays; set up new book shelves; shelved books; assisted at the library desk; helped organize and manage a summer reading program that increased participation by more than 100 percent and included 14 special activities for children (all put on by volunteers); and began regular story and craft hours for children at the library.

Friends of the King Family Library in Sevierville will put a \$200 grant from FOTL to use in the creation of a 2015 calendar. Using the vast archives of the Sevier County Genealogy and Historical Center, a committee of Sevier County Friends of the Library representatives, the History Center staff, and the Sevier County Historian will select archival photographs and write captions. Written materials would be added to support

and enhance the language of the photographs. The calendar will also include information about the King Family Library and its programs. The Friends hope that the calendar will not only raise funds, but will also provide historical information about the county to the public and help educate them about the rich history and resources available at the library. Once completed, the calendars would be offered for sale at all three branch libraries (King Family, Kodak and Seymour), Friends of the Library Book Sales and other library and community events.

King Family Friends will also invest a \$200 FOTL grant in the furtherance of the library's Geek the Library campaign. "Geek the Library" is the catch phrase for this national community awareness campaign intended to serve as a reminder of the important role libraries serve in their communities. The work "geek," used as a verb, gives a techno-twist to the phrase, and reminds people that everyone is passionate about something . . . and the library supports it all. The campaign is comprised of three phases: 1. Create awareness, 2. Generate engagement, 3. Encourage action. King Family Library is one of the first four libraries in the state to begin implementation of the Geek program. Phase One has already begun using posters and other materials in the library to create awareness and encourage curiosity. The Friends of the King Family Library will use the grant funds to encourage advocacy by providing PR materials to support the library's "Geek the Library" community awareness campaign. Funds from this grant will move the campaign outside the library walls through the use of public relations materials, perhaps a billboard, to engage the curiosity of the larger public.

Author Visits cont. from p. 4

Video chat is another tool that libraries use to connect readers and authors. Vince recently had the opportunity to video chat with students at Public School 146 in Brooklyn, NY. *Paperboy* had made the finals of the Mock Newbery contest sponsored by the school library. Students were eager to know about the writing process and the inspiration for the story and characters. They learned that Vince wrote the book in an upstairs bedroom—no special equipment needed other than a computer. They also learned that the story was based on the neighborhood and the people that Vince knew when he was a child. Perhaps now one of the students at P.S. 146 is in an upstairs bedroom creating a story about family and friends. Author visits—in person or by video chat—can demystify the art of writing.

The Memphis Public Library and Information Center uses its radio station to connect readers—young and old—with au-

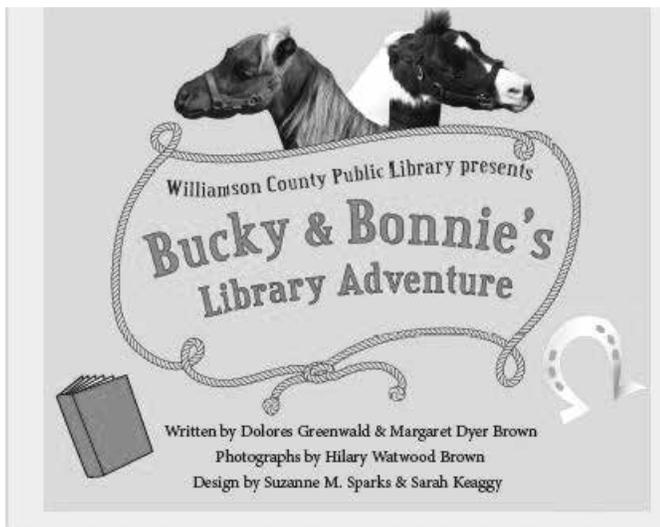
thors. Stephen Usery of WYPL FM 89.3 recorded a 40-minute interview with Vince. The audio podcast is available here: <<http://wyplfmbooktalk.blogspot.com/2013/05/podcast-vincevawter.html>>.

Although *Paperboy* is on the shelves of the juvenile section in libraries, it really is a novel for all ages. Recently Vince blogged on his [website \(http://www.vincevawter.com/\)](http://www.vincevawter.com/) about an email from a reader in Seattle who said, "I'm about halfway through, and I wanted to let you know how much I'm enjoying this story. Last night I couldn't put it down, and I had to chuckle as I remembered that it's not my book—it's my 4th grade son's!"

In the fall Vince spoke to the book club at the Hernando Public Library in Hernando, MS. Many club members had lived in or around Memphis for most of their lives. One even had a son who had delivered papers years ago in a neighborhood near to the action in the story. Clearly, libraries serve an

***Paperboy* has been chosen
a 2014 Newbery Honor Book.**

Williamson County Public Library Launches Academy Park Press Publishing Initiative



Dolores Greenwald, Margaret Brown, and Suzanne Sparks are proud authors.

By Jeffie Nicholson

Adult Services Manager

Williamson County Public Library

The Williamson County Public Library has become one of a few libraries in the country to have its own publishing imprint. The library established Academy Park Press in 2013 and released its first book in December. *Bucky and Bonnie's Library Adventure* was written and created by library staff and then printed via Ingram's Library Sparks.

Library Director Dolores Greenwald participated in the 2013 Leadership Franklin class. Her group's community project included the miniature horses, Bucky and Bonnie. Her group's goal was to raise awareness of the library and the City of Franklin Parks System. They accomplished this goal with a contest, a city-wide search for the miniature horses in the city parks during National Library Week in April. Participants looked for Bucky and Bonnie and then submitted their pictures to the library in order to win prizes. As part of the project, Bucky and Bonnie visited the library to borrow books and have their pictures taken for publicity to promote contest.

Academy Park Press's first publication comes from the idea that this first visit gave Dolores. Library staff were captivated by the miniature horses when they visited and enthusiastically embraced the idea of a children's book featuring Bucky and Bonnie. The owners of Bucky and Bonnie at the DD Mini Farm were also excited at the prospect of their miniature horses starring in a children's book and agreed to let them participate.

A publishing team was formed and began working toward the creation of the book. This team consisted of Dolores Greenwald, Cataloguer Margaret Brown and Technical Assistant Suzanne Sparks. Together they became the co-authors of

Bucky and Bonnie's Library Adventure. They took a six-week online InDesign course over the summer and began writing the book. Hilary W. Brown photographed the miniature horses with library staff during their 'library adventure' in September. The book was sent to Ingram's Library Sparks for publishing in late November and the books were received at the library on December 3.

Bucky and Bonnie held their first book signing at the library on December 8. A special horseshoe stamp was provided so that they could autograph their books. Over 60 copies of their book were sold at the book signing. A crowd of 48 attended the book signing and met the delightful stars of the book.

"The creation of our first book and the development of our publishing program has been a labor of love and illustrates how libraries of today can move forward in new and exciting ways to serve their patrons," said Dolores Greenwald.

The Friends of the Williamson County Public Library are selling hardcover copies of the book for \$16.99. Funds from the sales benefit Leadership Franklin and the Friends of the Library in a 50-50 split. The book can be purchased on EBay, Amazon.com and the library website, www.wcpltn.org.

Plans are currently underway for a second publication. The library staff plan to keep their skills sharp by creating a cookbook of library staffers' favorite recipes that will be sold by the Friends.

NOTE: In order to meet a deadline for publication and the book signing, the book was sent on in to Library Sparks without the library taking advantage of a preview draft prior to printing. That said, the only change that would have been made was to change the book pages from matte to glossy.



Photo from Tennessee State Library and Archives Facebook page
 In photo aft left, state library leaders paying tribute to Frances Darnell (seated) on November 21 included Dr. Edwin Gleaves, state librarian 1987-2005; Chuck Sherrill, current state librarian; Jeanne Sugg, state librarian 2005-2010; and Lynette Sloan, director of regional libraries



Photo courtesy of Macon County Times
 The Macon County Library Board of Trustees presented Mrs. Darnell with a sculpture, created by local artist Linda Johnson and entitled "The Ageless Word, in tribute to Mrs. Darnell's devotion to Tennessee libraries. The art work will be on display in the new addition to the Macon County Public Library.

Frances Darnell Honored with Luncheon, Sculpture

On November 21, Frances Darnell, a library trustee in Macon County for 20 years and a dynamic leader in the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, was honored at a luncheon "in recognition of her long time commitment to libraries as patron, trustee, and advocate." Friends, family, and distinguished guests from local and state levels of leadership were present to thank Mrs. Darnell for her service. Among those dignitaries were current and past state librarians, Judge John Wooten, County Mayor Shelvy Linville, and Secretary of State Tre Hargett, whose office administers regional libraries.

Frances Darnell's leadership in Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) is legendary. Diminutive in stature but dynamic in action, as president, past president, and advisor of the organization, she has mentored many of her successors and colleagues on the FOTL board. As an enthusiastic supporter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, she and another FOTL leader, Maryann Bork, conducted workshops across the state to familiarize Tennesseans with the merits of the program as a contribution to the development of early-childhood literacy. (See photo at right.)

Connie Albrecht, former FOTL president and current member of the advisory committee, recalls, "Frances Darnell was president of Friends of Tennessee Libraries when I came on the board as Upper Cumberland Regional Representative. After I had served for about a year in this position, Frances and Maryann Bork came to see me in Cookeville and

requested permission to nominate me as president for the next FOTL election. They were very persuasive and I accepted. This was the beginning of a personal friendship and partnership in serving FOTL. Frances, John Nye and I traveled across Tennessee presenting workshops and meeting with groups on 'How to Start A Friends Group.' Frances is the type of volunteer that every community needs. She is dedicated and ambitious and always finds a way to accomplish her goals. No one is more deserving of this recognition."

Julie Webb, FOTL founding member and current member of the advisory committee, said, "Tennessee libraries and Friends are far richer and more effective for one and all, thanks to Frances Darnell. She is our national treasure."



This photo of the late Maryann Bork, Dolly Parton, and Frances Darnell comes from FOTL's website <www.friendstnlibraries.org>.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries
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Lafayette, TN 37083

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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.)

- | | |
|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-49 Members \$25/yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 Members \$55/yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$50/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> 100-499 Members \$75/yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$100/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Members \$100/yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$500/yr | |

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City/State/Zip _____

TN County _____ E-Mail _____

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