



Friends of Tennessee Libraries *newsletter*

Spring 2007

Volume 14, Number 2

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Put May 11 and Franklin On Your Calendar

The author of *The Messenger of Magnolia Street* will be the keynote speaker at FOTL's annual meeting in the Williamson County Public Library. For other details about the program, see page 5.

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“The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contributions to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.”—Carl Sagan in *Cosmos* (quoted in <quotegarden.com/libraries.html>)

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John Nye Extols Tennessee Friends

Interview by Scott Cohen

Reprinted from *Tennessee Library*

In your opinion, what is the role of a Friends of the Library group?

One Friends group explains its role as follows:

Friends are civic-minded citizens who know that any community becomes a better community when its libraries are improved.

They lobby for and help raise funds to support enhancement and expansion of public library services. They host book sales, literature programs, cultural gatherings, and specialized workshops for the community.

Many Friends work directly with the library staff as volunteers, helping deliver library services on a personal, one-to-one basis.

Others work to insure that all segments of the community get the maximum benefit from the public library by staging community and civic programs at the library. Still other members of the Friends may wish to take on specific projects within the library depending on where there is a particular need.

The work (and play) of a Friends group is as varied as its membership, and the scope of its projects limited only by those members' imaginations.

Most of all, though, Friends stand ready to volunteer their time, talents, funds, and influence when needed, to promote, improve and expand library services – and to improve the quality of their communities."

A Friends group is not involved in the management or the policy-making decisions of the library. Its role is support only

You are on the advisory committee of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries organization. What does this organization do?

The Friends of Tennessee Libraries website (<www.friendstnlib.org>) outlines what it does:

State Friends organizations are dedicated to supporting and strengthening library services and programs throughout the state. Support can come through strengthening efforts in advocacy, promotion of literacy programs, increasing library awareness through providing support and encouragement for local groups, and through awards programs.

Specific reasons for forming our statewide organization include the following:

- To promote Friends of Library groups in all types of libraries within local communities.
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among

Friends groups within the state.

- To emphasize the role of Friends of Library groups for legislative action and financial support.

- To generate and support initiatives for improved library service.

- To identify and develop new nonprofessional leadership within the state.

- To promote wider knowledge of libraries' functions, needs, resources and services.

- To publish and distribute resource material for use by local Friends.

- To publicize and reward outstanding Friends groups, projects and programs.

- To increase the general public's awareness of the important role of Friends and the services they perform for the library.

- To facilitate participation in

achieving national objectives in the support of library services.

- To strengthen the total state library program through the participation of Friends along with trustees in state library professional meetings.

- To publicize activities specifically available for Friends groups that will provide support for library development and enhance citizen advocacy wherever appropriate.

What are the greatest challenges facing public libraries today?

I believe the greatest challenge facing libraries today is the need to make legislators and those who influence the funding of libraries aware of the value of library services to their communities. I further believe this message can best be spread by enthusiastic local users of library services."

About the Author and His Subject

Scott Cohen, library director at Jackson State Community College, interviewed John Nye for the Tennessee Library Association's publication *Tennessee Libraries* (Vol. 56, No. 4), which can be accessed at the following: <www.tla.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr+98>.

John Nye retired early from his career in computer marketing in 1989. He and his wife, Bettie, moved to Crossville, TN, in 1992. As a member of Friends of the Art Circle Public Library, he has served on the Art Circle's board and as president of the Friends. At the state level John has served on the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries (TACL). In addition to his work as a member of FOTL's advisory committee, he also tutors adults wishing to improve their reading skills.

John says his retirement has been greatly enriched by his work in literacy and library advocacy.

"Libraries are the center of democracy. They serve the rich or poor, young or old, highly educated or those barely able to read. Libraries exist to serve the interests and needs of all who enter without regard to status or background. They are the true center of communities."

—Susan Chambers

President, Friends of Tennessee Libraries

Tell Us Who Your Benefactors Are

FOTL To Recognize Volunteers for Outstanding Contributions

Once again, every FOTL member has the opportunity to recognize those having a positive influence on Tennessee libraries. The nomination itself is an honor and will be appreciated by anyone recognized for service.

The following examples are representative of those who in the past have received certificates of appreciation at the FOTL annual meeting in the past. Now FOTL is searching for such outstanding individuals to be celebrated at the annual meeting on May 11, 2007, in Franklin:

- civic-minded individuals who have donated buildings to be used as libraries;

- foundations that have been established through the generosity of individuals;

- Friends groups that have completely renovated buildings;

- individuals donating many hours a year in such significant roles as library workers who extend the hours of local libraries, computer instructors, fund-raisers, coordinators of book sales, composers of brochures about library services, organizers of book and author luncheons, founders of Friends groups, editors of newsletters, or organizers of summer reading programs.

The awards will again include \$100 cash. (Most of those honored in the past have chosen to present their checks to their local library or Friends group.) Guidelines include the following details:

- The nominator must be an FOTL member. (Enrollment may accompany the nomination.)

- An FOTL member may submit one nomination per year.

- Nominations must be based on achievements during the past two years.

- Nominees may be
 - a person
 - a Friends group
 - a business
 - other groups (e. g., a club, a foundation).

- Past winners will not be eligible for this award.

- Nominations must be returned by April 6, 2007. Get busy and return your nomination for consideration.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION NOMINATION FORM (For achievements during the past two years.)

**If your nominee is an Individual, Librarian,
Friend, or Benefactor**

Name _____

Address _____

Nominee's phone number _____

Category _____

(individual? librarian? Friend? benefactor? other?)

Library _____

Library's address _____

Library's phone number _____

In 100 or fewer words, describe the nominee's contributions to libraries in the past two years. Attach that description to this form.

Nomination submitted by _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Mail by April 6, 2007, to Diane Vernon, P.O. Box 494, Decaturville, TN 38329.

**If your nominee is Local Friends Group, Business,
or Other**

Name _____

President of organization _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Category _____

Library _____

Address _____

The Annual Meeting Is for You If

You Like to Read or Want Friendly Help

Has your Friends' membership leapt forward recently?
Or does your Friends' group need help recruiting members?
Have you arranged a successful book-and-author event?

Or would you like to plan such a gathering?

Are you a fan of Southern literature?

Do you love to visit communities that offer history, great food, and exciting shopping?

If you belong to any one of the above categories, you should plan to attend the annual meeting of Friends of Tennessee Libraries on May 11 in Franklin, TN.

Just south of Nashville and easily accessible from Interstate 65 or major state highways, Franklin takes pride in its "small-town charm" and "big-city sophistication." Its historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated by the National Trust as a Great



American Main Street. Visitors can request a guide to the area online at <williamsoncvb.org>..Once you arrive at the site for the annual meeting, the Williamson County Public

Library, at 1314 Columbia Avenue, you will enjoy sessions like these:

■ Friends will share their tips for recruiting new members.

■ A panel will discuss what to do (and what not to do) when planning a book-and-author event.

■ River Jordan, author of the novel *The Messenger of Magnolia Street*, will be keynote speaker. Check her website at <rjordan.net/river_jordan.htm>.

A playwright as well as a novelist, River Jordan also teaches and speaks to groups on "The Power of Story."

■ Volunteers selected by FOTL for their outstanding contributions to their Friends' groups will also be recognized with a certificate and an award of \$100. (See page 4 for a nomination form.)

Don't delay. Send in your registration today.

Registration

Sign me up. I'm coming to the Williamson County Public Library in Franklin on May 11, 2007, for the FOTL Annual Meeting.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State and Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send the registration form with your \$25 registration fee to
Ed Jared, FOTL Treasurer
1221 Woodlake Trace
Cookeville, TN 38501

Registration fee must be received by April 27, 2007.

Blount County Mirrors The Changing Profile Of Libraries



By Betty Vawter

The Blount County Public Library in Maryville, Tennessee, is proving to be a destination of choice in the community since its new facility, reflecting community input and offering increased space for both traditional library resources and creative programming, opened in 2002.

Kathy Pagles, director of the library, said, "We knew we were building a place to gather. Libraries are places for people to exchange ideas."

And that happens every day at the Blount County Public Library. Its Bookmark Cafe serves hot and cold coffee drinks, fruit smoothies, ice cream, and other snacks for patrons while they enjoy the library. Casual seating and study tables meet the needs of different users.

Pagles said a series of events before the first book was checked out in 2002 awakened the library staff to the building's potential. The Foundation for the Blount County Public Library sponsored a week of activities that included demonstrations and displays by local fire and police departments, programs on local history, and demonstrations by local artists and crafters.

"Their fresh perspective opened our eyes. We saw what people did when they came into the building," Pagles said.

One result was recognition that the building, especially the reading rotunda, is an outstanding performance space. Since that time, area choirs, handbell groups, and others have performed. A recent Saturday afternoon featured a 12-

member harp ensemble from Maryville High School.

The library sponsored a series of Hot Summer Nights concerts on Thursday evenings from July through early September last year. These included a performance on the lawn of *The Taming of the Shrew* by Knoxville's Tennessee Stage Company. Five hundred people attended.

The library space also is ideal for displays which change monthly. Recently, the Sea Scouts brought in a restored wooden sailboat with a 17-foot mast.

A community outreach coordinator has been added to the library staff to facilitate community programming and ensure its quality.

When the library was in the planning stages, architects with McCarty Holsaple McCarty of Knoxville interviewed community

leaders and held public meetings to learn what the community needed from the facility.

Pagles said citizens expressed the desire for the building to be welcoming, comfortable, and lovely but not monumental. The resulting facility, accessible to the popular Maryville Greenbelt trail, relates to the love Blount Countians have for the outdoors and the nearby Smoky Mountains with its soaring ceilings and many windows. Primarily brick, the building includes some Tennessee marble and aluminum in salute to area natural materials and manufactured products. Maryville's past also is associated with brickyards. A clock tower is reminiscent of those on the Blount County courthouse and at Maryville College.

The library at 508 Cusick Street on the edge of downtown Maryville includes 65,000 square feet of space on the main level and another 28,000 square feet of unfinished space on the lower level for future development. The audiovisual

area on the main floor already has outgrown its space and will be one of the first areas to be relocated when the lower level is completed.

Meeting space

having been identified as a

community need, the present Blount County Library offers four meeting rooms accommodating 18 to 125 people. Homeowners associations, a newcomer group, beekeepers, realtor organizations, and banks are just a few of the organizations or groups that have used the facilities. Rental rates are available for both profit-making and nonprofit groups.

How does your library meet the changing expectations of library patrons? Contribute a profile of your facility to the next issue of the FOTL newsletter.

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Making Friends with F.O.L.U.S.A.

By Barbara Zurl

Fort Loudon Representative

F.O.L.U.S.A.—Friends of Libraries USA—is an organization to which many Friends groups belong. But just how well do you know your friends? How do you access all the resources F.O.L.U.S.A. offers your group? Where do you begin?

For starters, have you been to <www.folusa.org>? You do not have to be a member to get to the website, but if you belong to F.O.L.U.S.A., your group will receive a User Name and a Password. Write these down. You need to know them in order to get into “The Friends Zone.” Once inside The Friends

Zone you can access a wealth of information about such topics as conferences, contests, grants, awards, fundraising items, sample by-laws, policies, and mission statements. CHECK IT OUT. You will be astounded at all that is available to you—once you enter The Friends Zone!

Have questions and wonder how other groups have handled exactly the same situation? If so, and if you really make friends with F.O.L.U.S.A., you can sign yourself up for LISTSERV. Just go to the website, click onto Idea Sharing and click onto LISTSERV to learn how to sign up. Once on LISTSERV you can

post a question which will go all across the country to everyone who is also signed up. Responses will come back from Anchorage to Altoona to Athens (Tennessee, that is) on how that particular Friends group has dealt with the situation you are facing.

In addition to Idea Sharing, you can click on Resources, Advocacy, and Outreach. CHECK THESE OUT.

One final word: If you prepare a newsletter, be sure to put F.O.L.U.S.A. on your mailing list. It will feature local Friends groups, and it is really nice to see little ole Tennessee getting national billing!

Website Advertising Can Fatten Book Sale Profits

By Barbara Zurl

Fort Loudon Representative

A sure way to increase traffic and sales at your book sale is to take advantage of the free advertising available to non-profits from <www.booksalefinder.com>.

Booksale finder will list your information on its website which shows booksales across the country. Just click on the website, click on the state you are looking for, and find a complete listing. Once you have entered your event, potential buyers can then click on YOUR sale for all sorts of information.

Revenues for Blount County Friends of the Library increased dramatically by utilizing Booksalefinder. Calls came

from buyers in Virginia, Georgia, West Virginia and Missouri (who attended the book sale and made rather large purchases). After working with this site, Blount County saw its highest income ever in January 2006.

Libraries and Friends groups also have the option of purchasing larger, banner style ads at very reasonable rates. Experience in Blount County has shown the success of these ads.

A hearty thank you goes to Carol Anderson, past president of the Kingston Friends of the Library who was so enthusiastic about Booksalefinder that she requested the information be shared with all FOTL members who were not aware of it.

Blount County Mirrors the Changing Profile of Libraries

Continued from page 6

Public-use computers with Internet capability have increased from 10 in the old building to 26 in the new one.

The library also has expanded its programming for young adults. Mystery nights have attracted 60 to 100 youngsters from ages 12-18. Participants in a summer reading program competed for an iPod.

A strong friends group sponsors a quarterly book sale. Blount County Friends of the Library recently purchased a self-checkout station for the library.

Increased patronage indicates that the library and its expanded offerings have been well received in the community. Between June 30, 2002, when the new Blount County Public Library had been open one month., and the end of the 2006

fiscal year, the number of library cards has grown from 57,000 to 75,000. Total circulation in 2006 was 661,000 compared to 547,000 in 2002.

The number of people attending programs at the library in 2002 was about 5,300. In 2006, more than 19,700 people attended programs. Total attendance in 2002 was 276,600; total attendance in 2006 was 399,000.

Ray Oldenburg, an urban sociologist best known for his book *The Great Good Place*, identifies first places (home), second places (work), and third places or “great good” places as spaces that allow people to put aside their concerns and enjoy the company and conversation around them.

The Blount County Public Library has become a community building fulfilling that role.

Polk County Library(ies) Near to Becoming Reality

By Barbara Zurl

Fort Loudon Regional Representative

The Fort Loudon Region in East Tennessee is proud to announce that two full-service public libraries will soon become a reality for the residents of Polk County!

In a communication with Jenny Rogers, president of Polk County Friends of the Library, we have learned that the Polk County Friends group is very near to raising the last amount of money needed before groundbreaking in June can occur.

According to Lynette Sloan, regional library director, Polk is the only county in the State of Tennessee without a full-service public library. Polk County is unique in that its geography has greatly impacted its services. Sixty-seven percent of the county is National Forest—preventing a good tax base from which to draw for libraries. In addition, of the 16,000 residents in Polk County, one-third are “above the mountain” on the east side of the county, and two-thirds are on the west side of the mountain “below the mountain.” The physical location of county residents pretty well determines the area in which they spend most of their time.

As a result of this unique situation (the geographic divide down the center of the county created by the moun-

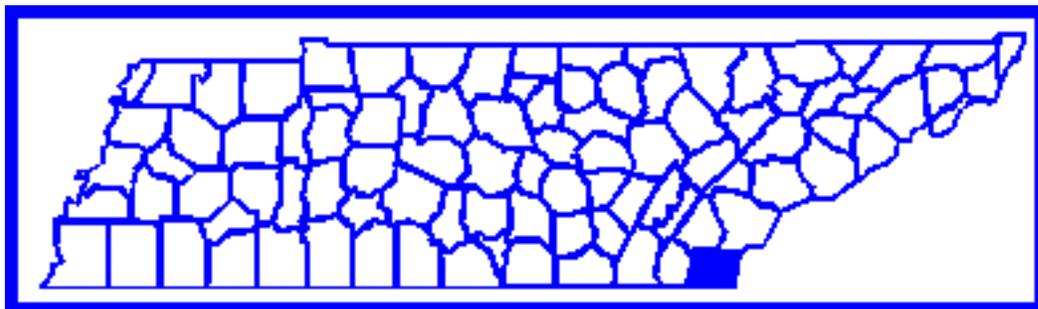
tainous Cherokee National Forest and the 30+ minute circuitous route between the population centers on each side of the county), the state has given the okay for two 2500-square-foot public libraries to be built at different locations in the county. For five years now, the Polk County Friends of the Library have been hard at work trying to raise the monies needed to make this dream come true.

To that end an appeal is hereby being made to Friends groups across the state as well as individuals in position to lend a financial hand, to make a donation to this group. Perhaps at your group’s next Book Sale you could set aside something for Polk County! Wouldn’t it be nice to know that you or your group lent a helping hand to make it possible for Polk County to join her sister counties within the state so that she can take pride in providing residents with the jewel of the community—the library?

If you can help or if you would like additional information about this effort, please feel free to contact Jenny Rogers at 423.338.7669.

Any donations can be made to Polk County Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 31, Ducktown, Tennessee 37326; or by e-mail at <jennyrogers61@yahoo.com>.

The map showing Polk County, Tennessee, printed here, is found on the website <www.tngenweb.org/polk>.



Service Clubs Support Reading In Chattanooga, Knox County

Wanting to offer a permanent benefit to the youth of the community, the Kiwanis Club of Chattanooga plans to honor each of its distinguished speakers at its weekly meetings by purchasing a new children’s book for the library. According to the newsletter *Volumes* (January/February 2007), David Clapp, library director, says that this project will help the system replace books that have been worn out by generations of devoted young readers.

Bonny Naugher, president-elect of the Knox County Friends of the Library and liaison with the county’s Imagination Library office, reports that members of the Knoxville Rotary Club will visit local Wal-Mart stores in the spring to enroll children in the Imagination Library.

Elements of the Whole ‘Story’

Whether a volunteer has given a half-hour or a thousand hours of service to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, he or she is sincerely appreciated and recognized. For contributing to the library’s “story,” volunteers are now applauded for their levels of service which have been classified in a novel way as follows:

- up to 10 hours—“Sentence”
- from 11 to 50 hours—“Paragraph”
- from 51-100 hours—“Page”
- from 101-200 hours—“Chapter”
- 200 hours or more—“Book”
- 1,800 hours or more—“Encyclopedia!”

One volunteer has risen to the level of “Encyclopedia!”

Public Libraries: Good for Business

The Gallo brothers made their first bottle of wine in 1933 from a recipe that they found in the Modesto, CA, public library, according to National Public Radio (*Morning Edition*, March 7).

In 2007 here in Tennessee, public libraries and businesses recognize their natural alliance in promoting sound practices leading to a community's economic growth.

■ For example, the Memphis Public Library and First Tennessee Bank have formed a unique partnership by creating a facility as a resource, referral, and distribution center for Mid-South business. "Located in the Business/Science Department of the [Memphis] Central Library, the Small Business Center is geared to serve the potential small business owner, the recently licensed entrepreneur and the established small business operator"

(www.memphislibrary.org/ftsbc/center2.htm).

■ A growing bank of business members has joined Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville; their annual dues range from \$25 to \$1,000+.

■ Databases accessed through the Tennessee Electronic Library also offer business-related materials. For example, General Business File International and General Business File ASAP help patrons to "Analyze company performance and activity, industry events and trends as well as the latest in management, economics and politics." Infotrac is another resource.



In January, Friends' President Ginna Mashburn (right) happily presented a check for \$10,000 to Amy Nachtrab, director of Knox County's Imagination Library, as former County Commissioner Larry Clark, staunch supporter of the program, looked on.

Imagine: A Birthday in Knox

When Knox County's Imagination Library program celebrated its second birthday on January 27, representatives of Knox County Friends were on hand with a whopping present: a donation of \$10,000.

Bonny Naugher, president-elect of the Knox County Friends and liaison with the Imagination Library, reports that the celebration was specially designed to appeal to the youngest participants with games, puppet shows, music, mascot Buddy Bookhound, ventriloquist Gene Cordova, refreshments, and t-shirts for little ones.

In Knox County enrollment stands at 13,500, one of the largest groups of subscribers in the nation; the county claims the highest number of registrants per capita in any urban county of Tennessee.

Wal-Mart Boosts Imagination Library

All 95 counties of Tennessee will benefit from Wal-Mart's donation of \$100,000 to the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation (GBBF), which sustains Imagination Library programs across the state.

In a February 21 news release, Governor Phil Bredesen said, "Wal-Mart's contribution will go a long way toward putting quality books into the hands of Tennessee's youngest citizens—children who may not have otherwise been exposed to books and reading prior to entering Kindergarten. We are pleased to have Wal-Mart on board and look forward to celebrating the fruits of their sponsorship of this important program for many more years to come."

Dennis Alpert, senior manager of public affairs for Wal-Mart's state and local government relations, affirmed the company's recognition that early childhood education can lead to a stronger workforce and economy for the state.

Financial contributions to GBBF go toward a grant for economically distressed counties where the foundation covers the full cost of monthly book orders. The foundation also uses corporate sponsorships to cover the cost of related projects; for example, donated funds allowed the foundation to purchase full sets of Imagination Library books for all 672 Voluntary Pre-K for All classrooms and 918 Head Start classrooms in Tennessee.

Volume on Wonderful Books Qualifies As a Wonderful Book in Its Own Right

By Barbara Zurl
Regional Representative
Loudon County

Picture it: A Saturday morning in December—Lexington, Kentucky; temperature of 31 degrees, wind chill factor making it feel more like 15; snow swirling; a huge *unheated* used book shop; thousands of books there for the buying. Of course there were the usual collections of Best Sellers, Mysteries, Children's Lit., Classics. And then there was a title which beckoned like a glowing fire, shedding warmth and light: *The Most Wonderful Books – Writers on Discovering the Pleasures of Reading*, edited by Michael Dorris and Emilie Buchwald. Resistance was futile! The book *demande*d being taken down from the shelf.

Oh, yes, Don Leeper, illustrator of the cover was clever! In lovely pastel colors a nostalgic scene was presented – a livingroom straight out of the '50s/60s – a braided rug, a glowing lamp, a book case filled with volumes. Could anyone *not* open the book? Certainly not me.

Fate had selected page 255, "Across the Marsh" by Jane Resh Thomas:

"If you set me down in the dark vestibule of the Washington Square Library in Kalamazoo, Michigan, a beautiful building with ivy-covered walls, I would recognize the holy place at once. The entry's unique aroma and the coolness of the slate floor and stone walls are still in my bones. Past the gothic door, I would sit beside the fireplace and stand again at the leaded windows, looking out across the golden marsh. I know the place by heart, for every week when I was a child I tottered the mile

home from the library under the beloved burden of as many books as I could carry."

Done deal! This book had found a new home. Happening upon this book was my good fortune. Sharing it with any and everyone who loves books, libraries, reading, is my duty. And so I suggest to you that if you can find a copy of this book, get it. (If you are reading this newsletter, you fall into one of the above categories of persons who would appreciate this book.)

Fifty-seven essays are contained in the volume. Each is unique and will speak to you in some manner. In addition, this is a book which can be quoted and used to inspire Friends Groups, community leaders, and just about anyone who wishes to remember the true joy of reading.

How is it possible that this book has been around for a decade and it took being in an unheated building in Kentucky, during a snowstorm, to get this book into my chilblained hands? I guess some things are simply meant to be.

The Most Wonderful Books is published in Association with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, ISBN 1-57131-216-1, Milkweed Editions, Distributed by Publishers Group West. [Editor's note: The book is listed on Amazon.com.]

10 Books Some Readers Can't Live Without

To mark World Book Day on

March 1, over 2,000 readers replied to an on-line survey in the United

Kingdom and Ireland to identify 10 books the nation cannot live without:

1. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (20%)
2. *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkein (17%)
3. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (14%)
4. Harry Potter books by J. K. Rowling

Lexington Library Stays Busy in Feb.

By Diane Vernon
Shiloh Regional Representative

February was a busy month at the Everett Horn Library in Lexington as the facility continued to open its doors to the community.

The observation of Black History Month centered around the library's annual "Local African-Americans of Achievement" display, which features approximately 20 Black Americans with ties to Henderson County. It is our hope that this exhibition will pay tribute to local black citizens for their achievements and also inspire others of all races to reach for their dreams.

Also during the month of February, free assistance in filling out federal Income tax forms was available to library patrons. Representatives from AARP were on hand at the library on Tuesday evenings, an occasional Thursday, and one Saturday.

Other events included preschool story time on Tuesday, February 6, at 10 a.m. On February 14, Friends held a Valentine's craft and bake sale in the library lobby, and on February 15, Robert Dalby, author of "Waltzing at the Piggly Wiggly," discussed his book with the Library Book Club.

5. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (9.5%)
6. *The Bible* (9%)
7. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte (8.5%)
8. *1984* by George Orwell (6%)
9. *His Dark Materials* [a fantasy series] by Philip Pullman (6%)
10. *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (5.5%)



Photo by Suzanne Freeman

Praising the Tennessee Electronic Library at Legislative Day were (front row from left) Susan Chambers, Joyce Baur, Frances Darnell, Julie Webb, Susie Ries; (back row from left) Ed Jared, John Nye, Jack Vicary (member of the State Advisory Board from the Blue Grass region), and Suzanne Freeman.

At Legislative Day in Nashville

Raising Their Voices for TEL

Library advocates supporting the Tennessee Electronic Library at Library Legislative Day on February 27 were happy to learn that early in March the Tennessee Senate Finance Committee voted unanimously to restore \$1 million for TEL to Governor Bredesen's budget. The request for TEL did not appear in the original budget request.

The fight for TEL was to continue March 13 when budget hearings before the House Finance Ways and Means Committee began.

Penny Frere, executive director of TENN-SHARE, reports that when Senator Diane Black from Gallatin moved to reinstate the funding, Senator Black spoke of the good reports she had heard from libraries in her district. Senators Rosalind Kurita of Clarksville and Raymond Finney of Maryville supported the request as well because, they said, they had learned that TEL is a "phenomenal resource."

Jeanne D. Sugg, state librarian and archivist, praised library advocates for their support, which she said was instrumental in the process of restoring funding for TEL.

Newsletter Notables

Dr. Bill Bass, retired forensic pathologist from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and author of the mystery novel *Flesh and Bone* (with co-author Jon Jefferson), will be featured speaker at the **Friends of the Art Circle Public Library's** annual meeting on May 15. Dr. Bass is the founder of the forensic installation that has come to be called the Body Farm at the University of Tennessee.

Art Circle Friends and the Crossville Arts Council sponsored four sessions of a poetry-writing workshop for third and fourth graders in the fall. Crossville Friends also report that sale of Kroger certificates added \$2,000 to the library's building fund last year.

The Friends of Knox County Public Library book sale in March

brought in over \$50,000, a phenomenal tribute to the Friends and to John Z. Thomas, who after 20 years plans to retire as the organizer, manager, and inspiration of the event.

Friends of White County Public Library will read to over 1,600 students during National Library Week, April 23-28.

In December, the holiday gift from Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield and his wife Lanis called attention to the library's book donation program. Their holiday gift of money will add books to the children's collection at the **Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library**. The Littlefields' gift has inspired other donors to follow their lead.

Friends of the Tellico Village Library and Bruce Martin, a State Farm insurance agent, have formed a unique partnership. Whenever Friends clean up the roadside of Highway 321, Martin makes a contribution to the library. He also bears some of the expense of

printing the Friends' newsletter and subscribes to magazines chosen by the library manager.

Members of the Friends of the Kodak Library are raising funds by selling gift certificates from Honey Baked Hams. FOKL receives 20 percent of each \$10 or \$25 certificate sold. On May 19 FOKL will also participate in Heritage Day by joining the Northview Optimist Club to provide food for the event, which puts the area's culture in the spotlight.

Members of the **Kodak Friends** are saddened by the recent loss of three good Friends: Bob Rose, a dedicated member of the board of directors and husband of Marye Rose, the group's president; Emma Fareich, donor of many books for FOKL's very first book sale, an event that inspired the group to continue with book sales; and Audrey George, an early member of FOKL, along with her husband Ted, and one of a group of community members who pledged money to sustain FOKL in its early years.

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