2016 Annual Meeting Presentations
Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library
APRIL 23, 2016
At the April 23, 2016 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, presenters described a **Friends Fair** of programs and activities from their local Friends groups. Summaries of those presentations are included in this booklet to share with folks who could not attend.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quotes &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifelong Learning Program / Historic Calendar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kroger Plus fundraising / underserved outreach / proclamations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Creative Hands and Minds Contest and Adult Writing Contest</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horror Writers “Young Adults Write Now” Endowment Program</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book publishing project</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County commission dessert / Rothrock Book Shop / Shoebox Libraries</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used book store / Internet book sales</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas tree art sculpture from donated books</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scout project to purchase furniture for teen area</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips for a Facebook Page and web site</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Electronic Library</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.E.A.D.S. Regional eBook &amp; Audio Download System</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library for the Blind &amp; Physically Handicapped</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Awards and Recognition</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Awards and Recognition</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Hosts</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The library is not only a diary of the human race, but marks an act of faith in the continuity of humanity.”
~ Vartan Gregorian

The Sun from La Fontaine’s fable, *The North Wind and the Sun*, illustrated by Brian Wildsmith.

Thank you, Julie Webb.

The most recent statistics show that the national average of public library per capita support in the U.S. is $35.47. The highest state per capita support is Illinois at $59.98.

In Tennessee per capita library support is $16.74, making us #49 in the nation [Mississippi is #50 at $15.82; North Carolina is #45 at $19.88].

Latest Estimated Value of Volunteer Time per hour

$23.56 (National) - $20.92 (Tennessee)

https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time
PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

Diane Johnson, Friends of King Family Library, Sevierville
Lifelong Learning program / Historic Calendar
For more information, contact Diane Johnson at djohnson@sevierlibrary.org

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM

Goals: Offer free monthly introductory classes on different topics (held 2nd Thursday of month with summer off)
Welcome and introduce the community to the library and the Friends

Beginning: 3 Friends formed a committee to select classes, audition presenters, and track results. An attendee database was maintained - they (and Friends) receive first notice of all new classes. The library kept the sign-up list at the Circulation Desk for class registration. Every attendee completed an evaluation which was used to improve the program. First class was “Nature Photography Made Easy.”

Results: 50 classes were held (from genealogy to fishing, bookbinding to paper marbling, bread-making to stained glass). 1100 people have attended (many repeats and many have become Friends). Majority of classes were “sold out.”
All classes were advertised with flyers (see attached sample) and in the local newspaper.

A 2015 FOTL $300 Advocacy Grant, was used for The iPad and You: Assistive Technology taught by the Dean of Walters State Community College. Every participant received a copy of iPad for Dummies.
HISTORIC CALENDAR PROJECT

Goals: Fundraising
Highlight Sevier County Public Library System’s History and Genealogy Center
Add rare, historic Sevier County photos to History Center archives
Advertise the Friends groups and Sevier County libraries

Beginning: The committee was formed in 2014 - one representative of each Sevier County Friends group, 2 library and 2 History Center staff and the Sevier County Historian. We did an extensive PR campaign (flyers, newspapers, radio, TV) to solicit rare or never published photos from the community. All photos were scanned into History Center archives. The committee selected 13 photos (featuring the library on the cover - see attached sample below), wrote descriptions and donor information for each month. All photo contributors received the calendar as a gift. The back page contains Friends and library location and contact information.

Results: “Sevier County Memories” has been published twice - 2015 and 2016. Price is $10. Calendars are available at library branches and some local retail locations. We did PR at launch (October) and highlighted one or more photos in later articles. We print a limited number of calendars in order to sell out completely - 300 copies for 2015, 400 for 2016. All remaining calendars are marked to half-price in January. All calendars have sold out both years.

A 2014 FOTL $200 Fundraising Grant, used to defray cost of materials. The Smoky Mountains Historical Society was our sponsor for the 2016 calendar - $400 covered all material costs.

NOTE: This project is made possible by the excellent partnership we have with the Sevier County Public Library System. The library does the creative and printing work for us at no cost!
Andrea Batson, Putnam County Library Friends
Kroger Plus card fundraising / outreach to underserved / city & county proclamations
For more information, contact Andrea Batson at andrea.batson@yahoo.com

Kroger Community Rewards: Your Friends group can register with Kroger to receive rewards based on purchases. Individuals will need to register online their Kroger Plus cards online and designate your group as the recipient. Kroger awards money quarterly. If your group has earned less than $25 in a quarter, Kroger will carry that balance over to the next quarter. The downside is that there are many school and church groups who are also taking advantage of this fundraising program. However, it is easy to start and easy to promote to your members. This program varies regionally. Go to Kroger.com for more details.

Coffee With An Author: Our Friends group hosts author speaking events 3-6 times per year. Friends board members provide snacks and a local caterer donates coffee. The only expense is a $50 honorarium for the authors. Sometimes authors will donate that back to our Friends group, but often they are happy to have a reward for their efforts. Our March coffee is usually held at the Upper Cumberland Home and Garden Show, so we get a different venue and added (and free) opportunities for promotion. We average 45 people per event.

FOL Week Proclamations: In conjunction with National Friends of Libraries week, our group sought local proclamations from our city and county. We advise that you contact your local officials a month or two ahead of FOL week to allow time for everyone to prepare. Also, make sure local media is there to cover the signing of the proclamation. With very little effort and no expense, our Friends group enjoyed increased visibility with local officials and the public at large.

FOTL 2016 Annual Meeting Presentations, Clarksville - 6 of 24
I discussed a Youth Creative Writing Contest & Art Contest (partnered with Houston County Arts Council) for students in 2nd-12th grades, and I also discussed a new Creative Writing Contest for Adults (18 years and older).
~ contest
~ rules
~ score card/blind judging
~ publication of winning entries for both writing and art
~ reception for all who enter

I will be happy to share additional information with anyone interested.

Horror Writers “Young Adults Write Now” Endowment Program
For more information, visit www.horror.org or email libraries@horror.org

The Horror Writers Association (HWA), the premier organization of writers and publishers of horror and dark fantasy and home of the iconic Bram Stoker Awards®, will be offering endowments to libraries to fund teen writing programs as part of its ongoing dedication to furthering young adult literacy.

The Young Adults Write Now fund will provide up to five endowments of $500 each per year for selected libraries to establish new, or support ongoing, writing programs. The program is currently open to United States libraries, but will be expanded in the future to include other countries, as part of the HWA's global presence. Membership in the HWA is not a requirement.

RULES
Membership in HWA is not necessary in order to apply.
1. The application period each year will run from September to December, with recipients selected in January.
2. Funds will be distributed based on the result of a competitive selection process coordinated by the HWA's Library & Literacy Program team.
3. The Library & Literacy team will select up to 5 recipients from the applications.
4. Applicants must fill in and submit the Application Form designed for that purpose; the Application Form will be published at http://horror.org/libraries/ but will also be made available by contacting libraries@horror.org.
5. Eligibility: Public and community libraries will be eligible. The Applicant must outline how the endowment would be used (a 'Plan') and describe the goals and history (if applicable) of the writing program. In selecting the recipients, the team shall focus primarily (but not exclusively) on advancing the writing of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction (essays). An emphasis on genre fiction (horror, science fiction, fantasy) in the plan is desired but not required. The Applicant shall demonstrate that the writing program will be regular and on going.
6. Recipients receiving funding will be able to use the monies for anything relating to the proposed/active writing program, including but not limited to supplies, special events, publishing costs, guest speakers/instructors, and operating expense. Monies may not be used to fund other programs or expenses for the library.
7. Recipients are required to provide the Library & Literacy Committee with a report of how the monies were used within 12 months of receiving the endowment.
8. Endowment recipients agree to provide bios and photographs to HWA for use in promoting the endowment program; and recipients will also agree to reasonable requests for interviews regarding the assistance provided by the HWA.

HWA is dedicated to promoting the horror genre and providing education to both the general public (via our appearances at conventions and book festivals, our annual StokerCons, and our iconic Bram Stoker Awards®) and to writers. The HWA's website features special pages dedicated to Young Adult Horror (http://horror.org/category/youngadult/) and Librarians (http://horror.org/libraries/). Through its Library & Literacy Program, HWA partners with the American Library Association on various programs, and many of its members are regular guest speakers at libraries and schools.
Friends of the Williamson County Public Library supported the library's publication of two books for young readers. WCPL director Dolores Greenwald (left) and Friends president Debbie Eads presented the book publishing project.

Inspired by the Provincetown Public Library in Massachusetts, Williamson County Public Library Director Dolores Greenwald reached out to Ingram Books to explore doing something similar as the library being a publisher. “The motivation … was the desire for the library to move in the direction of being content creators, not just content curators,” said Greenwald.

The library staff wrote a picture book about two miniature horses - a popular local topic, **Bucky and Bonnie’s Library Adventure**, and piloted the publishing process from first edits to the final book using IngramSpark, Ingram’s ebook and “on demand POD” platform. Academy Park Press - an imprint for library-created works - launched the book release party in December 2013 to great success. The real life horses 'signed' the books with horseshoe stamps and the Friends sold many copies of the titles. Publishing their own book gave staff at WCPL the experience to expand their program. Williamson County has a strong local author community.

For more information read this article in *Library Journal*.  [http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/publishing/the-public-library-as-publisher/](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/publishing/the-public-library-as-publisher/)

**Friends of the Knox County Public Library**

County commission dessert / Rothrock Used Book Shop / Shoebox Libraries

For more information, contact Martha Gill at marthagill491@gmail.com

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**Dessert was served** by Knox County Friends to County Commission in November, following the advice of the late John Nye, who advised to get to know funders before budget time. Our president told a compelling story about why she loves libraries, and commissioners’ responses indicated that they know something about our library and what the Friends do to support it.

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**Rothrock Used Book Shop**, named in honor of our hero Mary Utopia Rothrock (late director of the library, 1916-1934 and 1949-1955), is one revenue stream overseen by four co-chairs of our Used Book Committee. Volunteers staff the store, and monthly specials are featured. Other used book sales include those at library branches, special events like the East Tennessee History Fair, and the annual sale, this year scheduled for June.

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**Shoebox Libraries** are designed to provide reading and audio material to people who cannot access a traditional library - small (shoebox-size!) libraries are set up and maintained in various locations throughout the county.
Thousands of books are sold at our twice-yearly general book sale with especially low prices in May and October. These take place on a Friday and Saturday at the Central Library and are visited by myriads of Mid-Southerners.

More current books, in near pristine condition, are sold all year long in our fabulous Second Editions Bookstore off the lobby of the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library at 3030 Poplar and is now open 7 days a week. There, volunteers help our only paid staff to assist a constant flow of customers, who get amazing value for their dollars. The average cost is $3 per book. Friends members also get 10% off the first week of each month. 20 to 30 special sales are held year-round, including categories such as signed copies, mysteries, cookbooks, science fiction, coffee table books, Judaica and many more popular groups. Sales at Second Editions set a record last year and they continue to grow.

Only the best of the thousands of donated books end up in Second Editions and have amazingly low prices. The range of books is comparable to library categories, such as hardback and paperback fiction, mysteries, science fiction, fantasies, romance and more. Our children’s materials, begin with first readers through young adults. There is even a graphic novel section. Non-fiction is equally extensive and includes special sections for Southern authors and books about the South, Pulitzer Prize winning books, History and Religion, Large Print, coffee table beauties, Afro-American materials, cookbooks and many more. We always have a large range of sets of encyclopedias, in wonderful condition and fabulously low prices. We have extensive collections of music on CD and LP, plus audiobooks, and magazines.

OUR AVERAGE SALE PRICE IS AROUND $3!

Every penny of profit goes back to our Library system. See our Friends of the Library page for more information about how these funds are generated. http://www.memphislibrary.org/support/friends/

Check out Second Editions and start saving big bucks on a wide range of reading materials to educate and entertain you and your entire family. Consider joining our family as members of Friends and/or volunteering to help in the Store.

The fastest growing revenue stream is from internet sales through Amazon.com. The Friends MEMFOL Books currently has over 7,000 volumes listed and the inventory keeps growing. More than 4,000 books were sold to customers nationally last year, nearly doubling last year’s sales.
Hello, my name is Tess McNeely. I am a teen volunteer from Lewis County Public Library, and I created a six foot tall book tree. If you haven’t seen it, here is a picture:

The book tree is a great project for a library with some open space for Christmas time. I started out by laying down a circle of about fifteen equally sized hardback books. Once I laid down the bottom layer, to make a new layer, I laid down a set of books on top on those books like you would lay bricks. I need to, after a few base layers, push the books in slightly and more gradually after each layer so that it can created the angle for the tree. After that I just go up from there. Also as I started using different books with different sizes, I realized that some books are not as thick as others, and I had to created width to books that weren’t as thick. I did this by using thin juvenile books to the smaller book so that it would be the same size as the bigger one.

Halfway through my project, I realized that I was going to run out of hardbacks so I started to use paperbacks. Paperbacks do not do well in the bottom, weight bearing portions of the structures. It began to cave in so I scrounged up more hardbacks. Since the tree was a hollow structure, the top wasn't going to hold. It was suggested that I put a small children’s table in the middle. I did that and it really helped because the tree supported a lot of the weight. There was a layer of books with the pages facing outward, and then I just went up as I normally would had. Once at the top, I used paperbacks some because they are smaller than most hardbacks.

I then decorated it with lights and ribbons and glitter sticks that you put in a Christmas tree. It was a very extensive project that took roughly eight hours to complete. It would definitely be easier with multiple people to help achieve the tree. Here are a few pictures of the process of building the tree.
For my Girl Scout Silver award, I had to create and finish a project that was both sustainable and filled a need in my community. I decided that I wanted to put furniture in the teen area of my local library. I then met with the children’s librarians and the library director, and we set a fundraising goal.

I made a GoFundMe first so that relatives and other interested parties could donate. I also baked cupcakes and had several large sales at church, the library, and through Facebook. The former made $350.70 and the latter made $1,569.66. I then talked to State Representative Joe Pitts, and he donated $1,000 to the cause.

My final stop for fundraising was the Friends of the Library. After talking to them about my project, they donated over $1,500, allowing me to finish my project.

I was able to purchase 8 saucer chairs, an 8x11 rug, a cafe table and chairs, and 2 MOD loungers. I set it up and the community response has been great! I think the teens at my library loved it, and I think that other teens could do the same for their library. Furniture was purchased through The Library Store.

Read the newspaper stories about the project here:

Ava Ploeckelman (left), 14, of Northeast High School, sits in one of the chairs she raised money for as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project.
(Photo: Ray Howze / The Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville, TN)
A good investment of time, Facebook helps to connect Friends to other Friends and to the worlds of books and libraries.

- Basic maintenance includes one or two postings every day: original or shared content made up of clear, dynamic photos and brief text (250 characters).
- Content that engages the viewer includes humor, contests, information about coming events, glimpses from behind the scenes, features about leadership, cute kids, and cats. Examples: your own events, your volunteers, links to other Friends’ groups, and links to the worlds of books and libraries.
- Paying a modest fee can increase the reach of your page, and every week Facebook provides you with valuable information about your viewers.
- Sharing your news with FOTL will spread the word about your group through Facebook, our newsletter, or our listserv.
- FOTL’s website offers a wealth of information for Friends (friendstnlibraries.org), and the website of the Knox County Public Library is one to emulate because of its rich content (knoxfriends.org).
Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL)

www.tntel.info

The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) is a virtual library that Tennessee residents of all ages can access from home, school, or smartphone - anywhere with an internet connection. TEL provides access to millions of articles, language learning tools, World Book Encyclopedia, test preparation materials, federal census records, Tennessee primary source materials, and more. World Book [http://www.galesupport.com/telGeo/telGeoLink.php?db=WB&uname=tel_s_tsla](http://www.galesupport.com/telGeo/telGeoLink.php?db=WB&uname=tel_s_tsla) offers unique content and features for patrons of every age, ability, and interest. Using the same expert information found in the World Book, these easy-to-navigate websites offer 24/7 access on smartphones, tablets and personal computers.

Kate Smith, Red River Region

R.E.A.D.S.

For more information, contact Kate Smith at kate.smith@tn.gov

Tennessee Regional eBook & Audio Download System

http://reads.lib.overdrive.com

The Regional eBook and Audiobook Download System (READS) offers thousands of digital ebooks and audiobooks to patrons of public libraries that belong to the Tennessee Regional Library System. These digital titles can be downloaded to your personal computer and then transferred to various portable devices such as MP3 players and ebook readers.

There is also a READS libguide with new information at [http://tsla.libguides.com/READS](http://tsla.libguides.com/READS), where there are links to sign up for the READS newsletter, the Facebook Page, statewide statistics, and tutorials for patrons and staff. This guide will help use READS.
The Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped provides popular reading materials to people with print disabilities. Disabilities which make someone eligible for the service include blindness (of course!); low vision (if a person needs large print, they are eligible for any of our services; manual dexterity problems that prevent someone from reading print comfortably (including the inability to hold a book and turn pages, or the inability to tilt one’s head enough to comfortably read, due to arthritis or something like that); and reading disabilities. (This is the only disability which requires a physician’s signature certifying the disability; other disabilities require a certifying signature from a health care or social work professional who is not a member of the applicant’s family.)

The kinds of reading material we loan to patrons are just like those found in a public library or bookstore: popular fiction and nonfiction books and magazines for all ages. This means we have mysteries, romances, cookbooks, history, gardening, sports, children’s and young adult books, etc., except ours are in audio, braille and large print formats.

We loan players for the audio books. All of our materials are sent to (and returned from) the patrons via “free matter” mail, so there are absolutely no user fees for the service. We are publicly funded with federal and state tax dollars.

Lastly, if a patron has high-speed internet access, whether it be at home or on a public computer, such as at the library, they can register for our BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) website and download any of our audio and braille titles. The audio books will play on a smartphone or tablet, including Kindles, but can also be downloaded to a USB drive and played on the digital talking book players that we loan to patrons.

Please feel free to visit the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped when you are in Nashville. Our hours are 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, central time, Monday through Friday. We are located in the Tennessee State Library & Archives building at 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville TN, 37243.

Should you wish to have a library display, community presentation, or a booth at a community event, please do not hesitate to call me. You may reach me on the library’s toll-free telephone number 800.342.3308, or on my direct line 615.741.3917.

In addition, we also have available:
1) Braille bookmarks that say “Reading is for Everyone” in both large print and braille
2) Brochures explaining NewsLine for the Blind and Learning Ally
3) Posters with various images, including patrons reading audio books and patrons reading braille books - all ages, (Well, NOT infants!) in various sizes:
   a. 8 ½” x 11” wall posters
   b. 17” x 22” wall posters
   c. 8 ½” by 11” free-standing posters
After our **Friends Fair** program, there were many questions asking for material about fundraising projects. ALA United for Libraries President-elect Susan Schmidt spoke at the TLA Annual Conference on April 8th in Kingsport about fundraising and foundations. She shared the following materials.

**What are your fundraising options?**

- Year ‘round or special?
- Book Sales
- Direct Mail Marketing
- Memberships
- Events (Large and Small)
- Donations
- ‘Millennial’ Special Events
- Endowment (perpetuity)
- Foundation
- Corporate Foundation Grants
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Make online giving easy and safe
- Community Grants
- Wish Lists
- Websites
- Internet
- Charitable Giving Campaigns
- Planned Giving Programs
- Auctions/Raffles
- After-Hour Events
- Building Campaigns (bricks, “Giving Tree”, meeting rooms, bathroom stalls!)
- Museum Pass
- Take it outside of the library
- ?
- ?

360° Fund Raising | Budgets & Funding
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/05/budgets-funding/360-fund-raising-budgets-funding/

United for Libraries has a list of **Fundraising Ideas**
http://www.ala.org/united/friends/ideasharing/fundraising

FOTL has deposited a copy of **Even More Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends** by Sally Gardner Reed in each Regional Library professional collection. Both it and **101+ Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends** are available as a free PDF file to those who join the United for Libraries Division of the American Library Association.
http://www.ala.org/united/membership

There are many good ideas and strategies for major gift fundraising in this “every library should own” **Beyond Book Sales: The Complete Guide to Raising Real Money for Your Library** edited by Susan Dowd. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2013. Check the Table of Contents at http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=4234 This book is also available through R.E.A.D.S.


Explore more with Sue Hall and learn about all **12 must-know facts about library fundraising**

**Beyond Book Sales: Examples of Fundraising Event**
The Small Community Advantage in Library Fundraising


Of particular interest:

Also, here are three additional titles of fundraising ideas specifically for libraries. Borrow through Interlibrary Loan.


Seussapalooza
The Friends of the Roslyn Library in Roslyn, Washington, raises about $10,000 each year in a community of less than 1,000 people with their Seussapalooza event which features a silent auction, homemade chili and cornbread, a dessert dash, and eclectic entertainment. Most of the money comes from the auction items, which range from a haircut to a week's lodging at a condo near Disney World or a local airplane ride, plus lots of handmade items, like iron works, honey, local huckleberries, duck calls, etc. Lots of people dress up in "Seuss-y" costumes. It is kid-friendly, but not kid-oriented. There is beer and wine. The entertainment ranges from bluegrass or jazz music to silly dog tricks or unicycling. We do it near Dr. Seuss's birthday in early March, and it is a good chance for people to get out after a long winter.

For photos, click here!
https://www.flickr.com/photos/roslynlibraryphotos/sets/72157632933661167/

Merchandize Sales
The Wyoming Libraries have used their fabulous graphics on shirts, shorts, glasses, mugs, and bags which they sell through the Cafe Press web site.
http://www.cafepress.com/wyominglibrary
Paper Ornaments (made from used books)


The Spring Hill Public Library's Friends of the Library and Friends of the Humboldt Public Library have made great Vintage Paper Ornaments to raise funds.

Savings Coupons through Library Card

Carry your Wilton Library card proudly and receive discounts and complimentary offerings from Wilton restaurants and businesses in September thanks to a partnership with the Wilton Chamber of Commerce and Wilton Library celebrating Library Card Sign-Up Month. From September 1st through 30th, present your library card at any of our participating local merchants and get discounts or complimentary offerings, just for showing your card! We've partnered with more than 20 Chamber members to offer you everything from a glass of wine with dinner to a week of free karate lessons. Don't have a Wilton Library card yet? Now is the time to visit the library and sign up. It’s free, fast and easy to get your Wilton Library card … and receive a special gift certificate courtesy of Peachwave for all new Wilton Library cardholders during September. Click here for a printable list of participating merchants (when viewed on a computer you can click on the links to their websites).


Chocolate Lovers' Delight

How sweet it was. When you hear the words devilish, delightful, delectable, decadent and downright delicious it can only describe one thing. Yes, it's chocolate! The Friends of the Sodus Library held their Annual Valentine Chocolate Sale and once again it was a huge success. There was quite the array to choose from; pies, cakes, cookies, muffins, fudge, candy, brownies, and a few craft items added to the fun.

The sale was held on February 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and 14th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. so that everyone could stop, even after work. You could treat yourself to a cup of coffee or tea in our Café along with an individually wrapped cinnamon bun, muffin, or cookie while you looked (and drooled) over the assortment. We asked for donations of Valentine treats and baked goods with an ingredients list on the items. Donations could be dropped off at the library starting the day before the sale. Besides tasting great, everything was wrapped with ribbons ready for gift giving or just a special treat. This Valentine fund-raiser has become a fun mid-winter event for those who bake, buy, or both! Please call the Sodus Community Library at 315.483.9292 with any questions about this event.
At the Tennessee Library Association Trustees/Friends luncheon on April 8 in Kingsport,

Friends of Tennessee Libraries presented A Friend of Libraries Recognition to Food City

In appreciation for the support of community public library services through the Food Club cereal box promotion, “Read any Good Books Lately?”

Along with trying the Food Club “Essential Choice Vanilla Almond” cereal, hopefully all library staff will thank their Food City managers for promoting the community’s public library.
The Tennessee Library Association and Friends of Tennessee Libraries joint Friend of the Year Award was presented to Julie D. Webb at the Tennessee Library Association Trustees/Friends luncheon on April 8th in Kingsport.

The award honors a group or individual that has made a significant contribution to a Friends organization and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee.

Mrs. Webb is FOTL’s Founding Mother, being the prime mover for its creation in 1991 at the instigation of TLA President-elect, Patricia Watson, then Director of the Knox County Library System. She also served as FOTL’s second president (1994-1997).

In 1996, Julie Webb recognized the power and importance of the Imagination Library when she announced that Dolly Parton had been chosen by FOTL as its first Friend of Tennessee Libraries. “Miss Parton’s Imagination Library symbolizes the mission of FOTL,” Webb said. “…Dolly Parton’s gift [of the Imagination Library] is exemplary of what it means to be a friend.” Mrs. Webb continues to give FOTL the benefit of her experience and wisdom by serving on its advisory board.

Julie Webb has also been a leader in the Friends of the Knox County Public Library. She currently serves on its nominating committee and has persuaded many to join the organization. She also sits on the Knox County Public Library Foundation Board, which recently raised more than $600,000 to help fund the Knoxville News Sentinel’s “Papers to Pixels” campaign to digitize its newspapers from the years 1922 through 1990.

Julie also worked closely with her late husband, Robert, who founded the Webb School of Knoxville in 1955.

Leader, mentor, and library supporter, Julie Webb has taught and continues to teach Tennesseans how to advocate for public libraries.

Thanks to Charlie Daniels of the Knoxville News Sentinel for this wonderful original caricature.
At the Annual Meeting, FOTL President Don Reynolds surprised Riley C. Darnell (left) with the second (Dolly Parton was the first) “Friend of Tennessee Libraries” Award for his work as Tennessee Secretary of State (1993-2009), “In recognition of and appreciation for outstanding accomplishments, dedication, and commitment to excellence in the advancement of library services and education in Tennessee.”

During his watch, Secretary Darnell also supported the birth and development of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries.

Our special invited surprise guest at the meeting was Tre Hargett (at podium in photo below), current Secretary of State (2009-present), who spoke appreciatively about Secretary Darnell’s work and legacy for establishing and providing modern library services for the citizens of Tennessee through the State Library & Archives. Those services continue, are being re-envisioned, and grow today through Secretary Hargett’s dedicated plans and efforts.

The library community in Tennessee is greatly indebted to these two public servants who have supported and worked diligently to improve library services throughout the state. We are most fortunate for their terms as Secretary of State.
Annual Meeting Hosts

Many, many thanks to the local arrangements team from the Friends of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Library who hosted our meeting with incredibly friendly hospitality.

Standing from left:
Jacqueline Crouch, Gerald Beavers, Kate Smith, Heather Mendoza, Anne Black, Jan Hodgson
Seated: Linda Nichols
(not in photo) Derek Schaaf
Vision Statement
To help and support local Friends groups integrate their library thoroughly into the life and work of their community.

Mission Statement
The Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) is a volunteer organization of individuals and organizations 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 communication network and clearinghouse for information;
- Advocating for library funding and legislative support on a local, state, and national basis.

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