Defining the Friend of Year

What are the Tennessee Library Association and Friends of Tennessee Libraries looking for in a Friend of the Year?

The nomination form on page 5 reads, “The individual or group must have made a significant contribution to a Friends group and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee.” Consider two examples.

For a decade Friends of the Art Circle Library in Crossville worked to persuade a community that it needed a new library and labored to raise money to help build that library. Art Circle Friends won the first Friend of the Year award in 2011. Last year’s recipient, Williamson County, broke new ground by underwriting the publication of an original book for young readers.

Stories of other winners are archived in FOTL newsletters cited on page 5. And this year we will be writing about winners since TLA and FOTL have agreed to present two awards depending on the size of populations served: 24,999 or fewer and more than 25,000.

November 15 is the deadline for nominations.

Need Help with a Project? Would $300 Grant Help?

Though the deadline for applying for one of FOTL’s $300 grants is not until March 1, it isn’t too early for your Friends group to be making plans. Go to our website for guidelines and online application forms: <www.friendstnlibraries.org/awards-grants/grant-application>.

FOTL To Offer In-Service

FOTL President Don Reynolds and Editor Martha Gill look forward to conducting a Friendship Workshop for library directors in the Holston River Region on Wednesday, November 4. Registration for the event in the Greeneville/Greene County Public Library begins at 9 a.m. Topics to be covered before the 3 p.m. adjournment include the following:

What Is a Friends Group?
Creating a New Friends Group
Revitalizing a Friends Group
Tips and Tricks for Good Fundraisers
What FOTL Offers Members

Is April 23 on your calendar? Stay tuned for details about the Friends Fair at FOTL’s annual meeting in Clarksville.
The FOTL Outlook

By Don Reynolds, President of Friends of Tennessee Libraries

FOTL was pleased to be part of the Tennessee State Library & Archives trustee training workshops (p.10). Friends should never lose sight of the fact that the library board of trustees is responsible for setting the policies and programs for the library, and these workshops gave FOTL a chance to explain to trustees what Friends are and how they can help and support the local library. Each participant received a copy of FOTL’s Tool Kit for Building a Library Friends Group <http://tinyurl.com/BuildingLibraryFriendsGroupToolKit>.

Many thanks again to Governor Bill Haslam and Secretary of State Tre Hargett for the 2015 Governor’s Proclamation of Friends of Libraries Week, October 18-24 (p.3), as part of the national celebration. This week is a good time to recognize and celebrate the the work of volunteers in libraries. We are looking forward to hearing about the week’s activities throughout the state.

At our September 18 Board of Directors Meeting, FOTL adopted The Ethical Dozen for Friends of the Library (p.4). Tennessee is the first state to adopt an ethics statement for local groups to use as a model for their work. In Working Ethics: Strategies for Decision Making and Organizational Responsibility, Marvin T. Brown writes, “Although this may sound odd, the purpose of ethics is not to make people ethical; it is to help people make better decisions.” With ethics statements from the American Library Association to help trustees and library staff, FOTL developed this dozen for Friends to make better decisions.

Mark your calendars for April 23, 2016: FOTL’s Annual Meeting. We are delighted that the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library Friends, trustees, and staff have agreed to host the meeting. We are planning a Friends Fair to describe successful programs and fundraisers local groups have used and others could borrow. FOTL is searching for a treasurer, a membership chair, a legislative contact, and division representatives from the West, Middle, and East divisions of the state.

If you (or someone you know) would be interested in joining our volunteer team to help support Friends of Tennessee Libraries, please contact President Don Reynolds at don.reynolds2030@gmail.com or 865.475.2030 with any questions.
STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Friends of Tennessee Libraries and local Friends of Library groups across the state are dedicated to the support of libraries as institutions essential to democracy and life-long learning; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Tennessee Libraries support local Friends groups help their libraries integrate the library thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Friends groups advocate for funding that will provide libraries with the necessary print and electronic materials, expert assistance in research, technology equipment, and services for all ages from the very young to the senior citizen; and

WHEREAS, Friends groups promote the joys and benefits of literacy, learning, and economic well-being for Tennesseans of all ages by investing time and effort in raising supplementary funds to enhance library resources and programming; and

WHEREAS, Friends groups also volunteer many hours of work to help libraries provide services and materials to their patrons; and

WHEREAS, the gifts of time and commitment by Friends of Libraries in Tennessee set a positive example of civic engagement that benefits both volunteers and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the October 18-24, 2015 as

Friends of Libraries Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-sixth day of August, 2015.

Bill Haslam
Governor

Shelley W. Neighbors
Secretary of State
The Ethical Dozen
for Friends of the Library
ADOPTED BY FRIENDS OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES 18 SEPTEMBER 2015
“Friends can make the difference between a mediocre and an outstanding library.”
Jean A. Ashfield, Friends of Library Handbook

Friends support and help their library’s staff and trustees integrate the library thoroughly into the life and work of the community they serve.

1. Friends of the Library is a group of individuals who value public library services to the community and who volunteer their time, talents, and efforts to promote and support the vision, mission, and objectives of their library in whatever way will be helpful.

2. Friends organize to help support the work of the library, not to engage in the work and responsibilities of the library trustee board members or the library staff. Friends of the Library cooperate with both, but do not interfere with either. Friends recognize that they do not perform a decision-making role for the library: they are familiar with and support the policies of the library. Friends provide input into the library’s long-range planning process and remain knowledgeable as to the status of the plan.

3. Friends support quality library services in the community through fund raising, volunteerism, and serving as advocates for the library’s program.

4. Friends work to ensure that the public has equal access to information, both as a Constitutional right and as the best way to sustain a democratic way of life.

5. Friends subscribe to and believe in the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View statements. <http://tinyurl.com/LibraryRightsFreedomsEthics>

6. Friends recognize that authority rests with the whole Friends board assembled in public meetings and shall make no personal statements or promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board. They support the actions taken by a majority of the board and clearly differentiate personal opinions from board decisions.

7. Friends do not interfere with the library operations of the library staff.

8. Friends promote the library program to the public.

9. Friends conduct fundraising which complements the library’s mission. Friends’ activities support library board long-range plans and policies. Friends decide how to spend their funds after conferring with the library director.

10. Friends follow legal, professional, and ethical practices in making decisions. They scrupulously avoid personal conflicts of interest and do not condone them in others. They say nothing in a board meeting that could be construed to violate anyone’s civil rights.

11. Friends serve as advocates for local, state, and national library issues and represent the library program to legislators and funders.

12. Friends are open and welcoming to suggestions, questions and communications from the library staff, trustee board members, and the public.
Do You Know the 2015 Friend of the Year?

In 2016, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) and the Tennessee Library Association (TLA) will present two Friend of the Year awards based on community service areas: one representing libraries serving a population of 24,999 or below and another from libraries serving a population greater than 25,000.

November 15 is the deadline for nominations.

The winning nominees will be announced at the 2016 TLA conference in Kingsport on April 8, but all nominees will be recognized on that occasion, and each nominee will receive a year’s membership in the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the opportunity to work on an FOTL project of their choice.

Will you nominate the person or group to receive an award?

■ The individual or group must have made a significant contribution to a Friends group and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee. The deadline for nominations is November 15.

■ Please be aware that each recipient must be a member in good standing of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries. An individual must hold an individual membership, and a group must be enrolled as a group. (See membership categories on page 8.) Nominees not meeting this requirement will not be considered for the award.

■ Describe in no more than 200 words the nominee’s service, achievements, and contributions to a Friends group and/or to the advancement of libraries or education through libraries.

■ The description and the following information may be e-mailed to <MarthaGill491@gmail.com> or sent by postal service to Martha Gill, 4109 Forest Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 by November 15.

Nominee__________________________________________________________________________________

Category by Size      ____Serving a population of 24,999 or Fewer             ____Serving More Than 25,000

Nominee’s mailing address______________________________________________________

Nominee’s telephone___________________________________________________________

Nominee’s e-mail address________________________________________________________

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

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

Name of nominator______________________________________________________________

Nominator’s mailing address______________________________________________________

Nominator’s e-mail_______________________________________________________________

Nominator’s telephone___________________________________________________________

Winners of the Friend of the Year Award

The Friends of Tennessee Libraries website details the achievements of recipients of the Friend of the Year Award, co-sponsored by the Tennessee Library Association and FOTL. See relevant newsletters at <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/home.newsletters/>.

Friends of the Art Circle Library, Crossville. See FOTL Newsletter June-July 2011.
Friends of the Kodak Library, Sevier County. See FOTL Newsletter May-June 2012.
Friends of Benton County Library. See FOTL Newsletter May-June 2013.
Friends of the Tellico Village Public Library. See FOTL Newsletter May-June 2014.
Friends of the Williamson County Public Library. See FOTL Newsletter Spring 2015.
Editor’s note: The following editorial appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel on September 3, 2015. It is reprinted here with permission from Editor Jack McElrory.

The effort to build a new state museum has snagged headlines and funding, but another important cultural and educational institution has a stronger case for a new home.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives has outgrown its 63-year-old facility. In fact, state Librarian and Archivist Charles A. Sherrill says there is no room to store the records of next year’s session of the General Assembly or the 1,000 or so boxes of material expected to be generated by Gov. Bill Haslam.

The state already has spent $10 million on design and related costs for a new library and archives, but the remaining $90 million needed for construction of the 165,000-square-foot facility has not been appropriated. In contrast, design work has yet to begin for the proposed new State Museum.

Haslam should include funding for the facility, which is the repository of all official state documents, Supreme Court cases, county records and other documentation that reaches back to before statehood, in his budget proposal next year.

A new building for the Tennessee State Museum has received $120 million in state funding. Haslam’s former chief of staff, Mark Cate, is leading a fundraising effort for another $41.75 million needed for a new home on the Bicentennial Capitol Mall. The current museum is so small that only a fraction of its holdings are available for display to the public.

The State Library and Archives is in similar straits. The current building is cramped and plagued with a mildew problem. Built in 1952, the building has no proper wheelchair access — those using wheelchairs must use the delivery entrance — and no space for educational activities.

The State Library and Archives is used by a variety of people. Scholars and writers can research the holdings. According to Sherrill, the largest bloc of users is made up of people researching their family genealogy. The Library and Archives contains on microfilm all the official records from every one of the state’s 95 counties, plus is the home for the papers of the Tennessee Historical Society, which include diaries and other documents.

Attorneys make up the second-largest group of users. The Library and Archives holds all the records of the state Legislature, so lawyers can go there to determine the legislative intent behind Tennessee laws. The state Supreme Court records also reside there.

A new building on the Bicentennial Capitol Mall with an automated storage and retrieval system was designed in 2007, but was a casualty of budget shortfalls caused by the recession. Plans call for exhibit areas to showcase the holdings, classrooms and meeting spaces, a library for the blind and physically challenged and other modern amenities. Parking, which is virtually non-existent at the current building, will be available for patrons.

Haslam did not include funding for the new Library and Archives facility in the budget he presented earlier this year and did not recommend using end-of-year surplus funds for the project. The governor and the state Legislature should find the $90 million required to build a new Library and Archives building worthy of the splendid history of Tennessee.
Public Library Trustee Certification
Graduate Recommends the Program

By Gerald Beavers
FOTL Board Member
In May 2015, I was elected to the Clarksville/Montgomery County Public Library (CMCPL) Board of Trustees as one of the two Red River Regional Library board positions. Although I had attended the CMCPL Trustees meetings for the previous four years as president of the local Friends organization, I was now entering a new area of responsibility and decision-making. I was naturally filled with excitement about a new opportunity to serve my local library but also with questions about duties, responsibilities, and protocol. I was looking forward to my orientation session with our director once my appointment was approved by the County Commissioners for my term beginning July 1 and had begun a list of questions.

At the end of June I received a letter from our Regional Library Director Becky Bailey announcing the new “Lighting the Way for Your Library” Tennessee Public Library Trustee Certification program that would begin July 1, 2015. The program is designed to assist library trustees in making policy and decisions as well as to understand trustee responsibilities. Trustees successfully completing the program receive a certification valid for three years. The program is self-directed and self-paced, can be completed in a series of steps within a year from start to finish, will fit around the real-world lives of volunteer trustees, and is online to be completed within the comfort of one’s home. While “Lighting the Way” was perfect for me as a beginning trustee, I have learned from experienced trustees that the program was beneficial to them because it expanded some knowledge and reinforced other knowledge.

The certification program consists of ten “courses” on topics central to serving as a trustee.

Advocacy
  Types of Advocacy
  Cultivating Your Commissioners

Finance
  Budgeting for Trustees
  Monitoring Library Finances

Personnel
  Director Employment
  Performance Management

Planning
  Types of Planning
  21st Century Libraries

Policies and By-Laws
  Internal Policies (By-Laws)
  Public Library Policies

The certification program can be completed entirely on-line, from registration to completion and certification. It is user-friendly for those not comfortable working in this environment with a great Frequently Asked Questions page and a link site for personal assistance. The lessons are presented by the Regional Library directors in a video PowerPoint presentation for nine of them, and as a written document for the tenth. Each video runs for approximately 30 minutes. There is a five-question quiz at the end of the presentations with a passing score of 80 percent.

Trustees completing the certification program will have “stronger knowledge in all areas of library operations…Knowledge gained in this program could keep trustees from making an error that would result in bad publicity or, at worst, a legal problem. Even seasoned board members may have missed changes in laws or library ethics…” (Tennessee Certification Program Website: http://tsla.libguides.com/trusteeccert). Library trustees are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful training and learning opportunity to assist them in serving their libraries.
Brentwood Friends
Befriend the Arts

By Wanda Graham
FOTL Representative;
Brentwood Friends Vice President
And Newsletter Chair

Because Friends of the Brentwood Library take art to heart, library patrons can enjoy art exhibits, purchase original creations, and even borrow paintings to decorate their homes.

Elaine Rohrig, chair of the Friends’ Art Committee, explains the arrangement unique to the Brentwood Library. It begins with the library’s Gallery Wall and its Showcase. “Every month the Gallery Wall of the Brentwood Library displays the talents of a different local artist. Oils or acrylic paintings, watercolors, pen and ink drawings, pastels, collages, or photography—whatever medium sparks people’s interest, the Friends have featured it on the gallery wall of the library. The paintings and photography in the gallery are only a sample of the creations by any artist. Patrons can find artists nearby whose style they like and contact them to see the creators’ full portfolio.”

In addition, the Library Showcase in the lobby displays artwork/collectibles for a month. “Patrons can purchase unique gifts exhibited there for birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. Jewelry, wood, clay, fiber, glass, and metal items are treasures to be cherished by the recipient. Patrons are encouraged to peruse the changing exhibitions as they begin to plan holiday giving,” Elaine Rohrig says.

In exchange for the opportunity to display their creations in the library’s space, the artists generously donate one of their pieces to the circulation art collection. “No other library that I know of offers this wonderful service,” says Art Chair Elaine Rohrig. From the Art Lending Library patrons can check out unique art for 90 days. The collection not only brightens up the library’s décor; it also decorates patrons’ homes.

The Friends’ Art Committee sets up, takes down, and procures new art work for both the gallery and showcase. Among the artists whose varied work has found a home in the gallery are Guy Smith, landscape photography; Larry Richardson, oil landscapes; Matthew A. Fulkerson, varied art forms; Gordon Hester, realistic oils; Judith Anderson, oil landscapes on glass; and Jill Smith, realistic oils. Other artists include Pauline Rogers, landscapes and floral watercolors; Kim Napie-Williamson, oil landscapes; David L. Morel, photography of high voltage power lines depicted in landscapes; Lindsey Kernodle, naturescapes in acrylic; Selvi Rajaram, painting on glass; and Bobetta Tusa, acrylics.

The May exhibit featured fine art exploring the box form by Nancy Roark, Susan Moody, and David Heustess, all teachers at Vanderbilt University’s Sarratt Art Studios and the Sarratt Youth Art Institute. The exhibit revealed how boxes can be created and celebrated as beautiful objects in their own right and how fine art craftwork delivers ornamental wares significant to society and the community.

Other Glass Showcase exhibitors have included Janet Petrell, “Zipper Works”; Meaghan Muir, pottery; Roy Overcast, pottery; Jim Weaver, portraits on wood; Francie Owens, handcrafted items; Judith Kittredge, jewelry; Laurie Overcast, functional pottery; Jim Weaver, portraits on wood; Francie Owens, handcrafted items; Judith Kittredge Bracken, jewelry; Laurie Davis, “Tangled Tiles”; Larry and Tracy Rogers, pottery; and Andre Churchwel, MD, ink/pastels.

The Friends’ dedicated committee led by Elaine Rohrig is making the Brentwood Library a center for learning how to enjoy art as well as a center for enjoying reading.
Campaign Underway Will

‘Spruce Up Smyrna Library’

By Rebecca Lucier Cowan  
Chair, Fundraising Committee

The Friends of Smyrna Library have initiated a campaign to refurbish Smyrna Public Library. The library is a true asset to the town of Smyrna for its extensive and innovative children’s programming, its community outreach, its genealogy section, its well-stocked shelves of current and classical fiction and nonfiction as well as computer access; computer, GED, ESL classes; book clubs; special guest speakers and authors. It has served the community with few physical improvements since it was built.

Smyrna Public Library was founded in 1960 as part of the Linebaugh Public Library System. The library moved to its present location on November 8, 1999, and is currently situated in the middle of beautiful J. J. McWilliams Old Rock School Park, surrounded by Yoshino cherry trees.

Since 2001 Smyrna Public Library has served 2,418,713 people. On an average day, 1,130 patron feet, 92 chairs and 16 book carts make their way across the floor. Time and the high level of traffic have taken their toll. The population of the town has doubled since the library was built, and the patronage has increased triple fold.

Issues of the economy in the last decade have made it impossible to keep up general maintenance under present funding restrictions.

Appointed in 2014, the Spruce Up Smyrna Library Committee began the investigative process to determine the needs, costs, availability, and logistics of refurbishing the library. It was determined that it would be necessary to raise $100,000 to revitalize the library, starting with the well-worn carpet.

In keeping with the tree theme, the Spruce Up Committee launched the campaign on April 24 by planting a Yoshino cherry tree in the park next to the library. Community leaders and well-wishers attended and made the initial contributions to the effort. Since then members of the community and community organizations have held special events to raise money for the campaign—a birthday party where guests made donations in lieu of presents, a community fish fry, in-kind donations and special discounts, memorial donations. So far we have raised over $50,000. We are halfway to our goal!

It is our intention through this campaign to create a comfortable, attractive space where our community can connect, learn, and grow, and where imaginations of every age can be nurtured. All proceeds will benefit Smyrna Public Library’s ongoing efforts to improve and renew our shared space throughout so we may welcome the next two million patrons and beyond.
Sometimes a single photograph like the one to the left suggests the big picture: the 2015 Trustee Workshops were held in October in four different locations for library trustees like John Hagler of Bradley County along with regional library directors like Beth Mercer and officials from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Members of Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL), equipped with their Toolkits, were invited to the party in Jefferson City (October 5), Crossville (October 6), Brentwood (October 7), and Humboldt (October 8).

Each session followed a similar format to define elements of a successful trustee’s tenure. After a welcome video message from Secretary of State Tre Hargett, Lynette Sloan, director of regional libraries, spoke on how trustees can make a difference. Chuck Sherrill, state librarian and archivist, outlined how trustees can handle political, personnel, and public relations disasters. Members of a panel reviewed their service on boards of foundations.

FOTL President Don Reynolds and Editor Martha Gill spoke about “The Care and Keeping of Friends Groups” in Jefferson City; Martha followed up in Crossville, and Past President Susie Webb Ries spoke in Brentwood and Humboldt. Their presentations covered how to organize a new Friends group or revitalize an established one, how Friends work successfully with library directors and boards of trustees, and what FOTL offers Tennessee groups.

As this throng in Humboldt suggests, hundreds attended the workshops, designed by Tennessee State Library and Archives to give boards of trustees the tools that they need to succeed. Among those tools are an understanding of their responsibilities, awareness of how to handle challenging situations, and the support of a Friends group.
Around and About with Tennessee Friends

Friends of the Knox County Public Library will once again add books to the Knoxville News Sentinel's Empty Stocking Fund. For over 100 years the local newspaper has provided food to disadvantaged East Tennesseans in December, and for several years members of Knox County Friends have joined the effort by providing books for children during the holiday season. Within the Friends' organization the Used Book Committee, the Sort Team, and the Board of Directors are working together to collect 3,000 books for children. Anabel Lino, a director of the Knox County Friends, chairs the drive supported by Union Ave Bookstore, schools, and individuals in the community. More details are available on the Friends' website: <Knoxfriends.org>.

Friends of Stewart County report in their newsletter that the popular salad luncheon in the fall yielded over $2,000. The group also sponsored music on the library lawn on October 3 to benefit United Way and welcomed First Lady Crissy Haslam when she visited the library October 15. At their annual Hallowe’en event on October 31, Friends will give away the ever-popular glow-in-the-dark vampire teeth and register children for Imagination Library.

Friends of the White County Public Library will step up to read to every elementary school classroom in the county during the week of November 2. According to the White County Public Library newsletter (October 2015), over 100 volunteers are being recruited to bring books and the joys of reading to children in seven schools.

By Dwight Shepherd, FOTL Secretary and Kodak Friends Treasurer

It is with sadness that Kodak Friends report that W. C. “Dub” Julian has passed away. Dub’s support of a library in Kodak predates the formation of Friends of Kodak Library, going back to the official start of the project under the Northview Community Association. He and Glenna were charter members of FOKL and among the first to join the Circle of Friends giving program that helped finance the building program. He helped with the landscaping of the property after the building was completed. Dub was involved in many FOKL projects throughout our existence. His display of antique toys was a highlight, especially for kids, of every Kodak Heritage Day. Although his health was declining, Dub was able to be part of Kodak Heritage Day this past June and was at the FOKL Family Picnic In the Park in July. Of course, Glenna has played a vital role in FOKL throughout the years, serving on the Steering Committee that created FOKL, as an incorporator on our state charter, and as a vice-president and a director on numerous occasions and countless other activities.

Sheila Holmes Pennycuff of Knox County’s Farragut Branch Library wrote on Facebook, “Dub Julian was a great man and will be missed by many in the greater Knoxville area. Just last year, he and his wife and friends taught programs on the monarch butterfly at the Farragut Branch Library. He gave of his time and talents to libraries, Master Gardeners, the Sevier County Senior Center and many others. He and his wife Glenna are true gems!”
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

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**Membership Application**

**Become a Friend of Tennessee Libraries**
(Membership year is January to December.)

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