The Library Card: Everybody’s Passport

In Memphis, James H. Boyd has had a library card since September 1968, and four-year-old Mimi just signed hers. In Tipton County, Winnie the Pooh showed up for Storytime, and three-year-old Raven Taylor read 1,000 books before kindergarten. At Sumner County’s Portland Public Library, eight quilters working on their own sewing machines share patterns and fellowship.
By Don Reynolds  
President of Friends of Tennessee Libraries

As we enter another fall season, library Friends around the state continue to work enthusiastically and energetically to integrate their library thoroughly into the the life and work of their community. Throughout this newsletter, you’ll read about those activities. And check out the promotional video prepared by the Memphis Friends of the library at https://bit.ly/2P06JZf.

Unfortunately, there is also sad news about flood destruction to the Tellico Village library (p. 8).

But how good to read about how the state legislature and Putnam County have honored the good work of Joe and Connie Albrecht (p. 10).

Of special interest, the Friends of the Knox County Public Library asked newly elected Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs to declare September 19 Mary Utopia Rothrock Day (pp. 6-7). “Topie” was a singular presence of exemplary creative, visionary, productive energy who was an iconic personality in the library and community worlds of Knoxville, the state, the southeastern states, and the nation from 1916 until 1955. She practiced her credo “to integrate the library thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves,” a vision that the Friends of Tennessee Libraries continues today.

We are also pleased that Governor Bill Haslam and Secretary of State Tre Hargett have proclaimed October 21-17, 2018, as Friends of Libraries Week in Tennessee (p. 3). Since 2011, Tennessee’s governor has recognized library Friends as an important asset for local libraries, the only state governor to do so. FOTL has compiled a Tool Kit of sample proclamations, articles, and press releases, Tennessee Friends of Libraries Week — An Ideas Tool Kit (https://tinyurl.com/y7x7agk3).

Do you know an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee? Nominations for the TLA/FOTL Friend of the Year are due November 14 (p. 5).

Please let us know what your group is doing. We’d like to include that information on our Facebook page and in our newsletter. Send your news to Editor Martha Gill at marthagill491@gmail.com

Now we really need your help. As you will see on p. 11, we ask you please to send us your email address if you haven’t already. Your email address will facilitate quick and efficient contact with our members. We will not publish or share your email with others, but having your address will allow us to communicate information about FOTL to all our members quickly and efficiently. Please send your email address to our Membership Chair Cora Willis-King: cora.willisking@gmail.com. Thank you for sharing. And we promise not to inundate you with emails.

FOTL strongly supports the Tennessee State Library Standard that “Each Library has a Friends of the Library group.” Who needs Friends? Libraries serving the public do (p. 4).

Thank you for being an FOTL member. We appreciate your support for our mission of helping and supporting local groups. By the way, looking for fundraising ideas? FOTL’s new resources can help: Friends Fundraising Ideas at (https://tinyurl.com/FriendsFundraisingIdeas).

Upcoming Dates

October 12-14 Southern Festival of Books (Nashville)
October 21-27 Friends of Libraries Week
November Picture Book Month
November 11-17 Tennessee Ag Literacy Week
November 15 Friend of the Year nominations due
February 14, 2019 Deadline for Grants and Recognition applications
http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/awards-grants/
April 26, 2019 TLA Trustees/Friends Lunch, Chattanooga

The FOTL Outlook

CONTACT US

FOTL Officers
President
DON REYNOLDS
don.reynolds2030@gmail.com
Past President
SUSIE WEBB RIES
susiewries@gmail.com
President-Elect
DIANE JOHNSON
djohnson@sevierlibrary.org
Treasurer
MARJORIE KAUP HAINES
margehaines@aol.com
Secretary
DWIGHT SHEPHERD
dewhitesheep@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor
MARTHA GILL
marthagill491@gmail.com

Full directory online: www.friendstnlibraries.org
Click on “About.”
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 October 21-27, 2018, 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-third day of August, 2018.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State
Who Needs Friends?

By Don Reynolds  
*President of Friends of Tennessee Libraries*

October 21-27, 2018, is the 13th annual National Friends of Libraries Week sponsored by the American Library Association and United for Libraries.

It has been said that a community can't be great without a great public library. By the same token, a library can't be great without a Friends group.

Many trustees and library directors are nervous about having a Friends group, however, since they worry that Friends will interfere with their responsibilities.

Friends of the Library is a group of individuals who value public library services to the community and are willing to volunteer their time, talents, and efforts to promote and support the library's goals and objectives in whatever way will be helpful. **Library Friends are organized to help support the work of the library, not to engage in the work and responsibilities of the library board members or the library staff. Friends cooperate with both, but do not interfere with either.** The Friends' areas of focus are fundraising for special projects, advocacy about the library's services and needs, and volunteer work for library projects.

In Tennessee “A Comparison of Responsibilities” chart clearly delineates Friends activities in relation to trustees and the library director. See https://tinyurl.com/y7whrbxd.

At a time when community libraries are being used more than ever, offering new programs and technologies while budgets are shrinking, citizen Friends of Libraries are critical to the success of their libraries. Friends support the library and expand its effectiveness in the community. Friends groups also provide an opportunity for individuals to make a positive volunteer contribution to their community.

Friends of Libraries Week is an opportunity
- to celebrate work of existing Friends groups,
- to promote the library Friends group in the local community, inviting new members to join,
- for library staff and trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library (such as a fabulous lunch for all involved).

Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL), whose vision is “To help and support local Friends groups integrate their library thoroughly into the life and work of their community,” has an Ideas Tool Kit for celebrating FOL Week here: https://tinyurl.com/y7x7agk3.

Since 2011, Governor Bill Haslam has proclaimed Friends of Libraries Week in Tennessee and “encourages all citizens to join in this worthy observance.” Currently Tennessee is the only state whose governor recognizes the work of library Friends. Read his 2018 Proclamation:

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 lifelong 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.

Who needs Friends? Libraries serving the public do!
Do You Know the Next Friend of the Year?

In 2019, 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 2019 TLA conference in Chattanooga on April 6, 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.

- Each nominee 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 or sent by postal service to Susie Webb Ries at 3506 Richland Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205-2354 or by email to susiewries@gmail.com 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

**Recipients 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.

**Julie Webb.** See FOTL Newsletter Summer 2016.

**Friends of the White County Public Library and Friends of Smyrna.** See FOTL Newsletter Spring 2017.

**Connie Albrecht, Cookeville; and Martha Gill, Knoxville.** See FOTL Newsletter Summer 2018.
Salad Days in Stewart County

Thanks to Friends

The Shakespearean expression “salad days” has come to mean a better time, characterized by youth and enthusiasm. In Stewart County, “salad days” means a delicious lunch, prepared and served to the community by the Stewart County Friends of the Library.

Kathleen Mauldin, editor of the Stewart County Friends newsletter, shared these photos of the crowd that came to enjoy the Friends’ major fundraiser and of the many volunteers who made the event possible September 21.

FOTL President Remembers Mary Utopia Rothrock, Too

Editor’s note: Don Reynolds, FOTL president, has been a fan of Mary Utopia Rothrock for years. These biographical notes are an excerpt from what he wrote on Front Page: http://rothrock.pbworks.com/w/page/10247162/FrontPage.

Mary Utopia Rothrock (“Topie”) was a librarian, community activist, historian, author, editor, (and some would say feminist) who, as one of her colleagues wrote, “knows all the answers and is one of the smartest persons in the library profession.” She was active in her local community of Knoxville, Tennessee, throughout the state, the Southeastern states, and the nation with her substantial work with the American Library Association. Her career spanned the years from 1914 through 1955, always able to think ahead of her times.

After being invited at age 26 in 1916 to become the Director of the Lawson McGhee Library of Knoxville, Tennessee, she oversaw the building of a Carnegie-funded branch library (1918) for the Negro community who were not allowed by southern custom to use the main library in Knoxville.

In a 24 August 1930 newspaper-covered conversational debate with Knoxville Mayor James A. Trent, who wanted women to quit their jobs so unemployed men could have a job, Ms Rothrock said: “You assume that your jobless men could take the place of your employed woman. But could they. Society would be injured more by the mal-adjustment set up by men in women’s jobs, than it is by unemployed men. Women get their jobs and hold their jobs because they can do the work better than men. … When you deprive women of the possibility of economic independence, you have enslaved them. …” The mayor had nothing to say, reported the paper.

In 1933 she created the idea of regional library services to help local communities establish public libraries. This idea evolved into the present-day Tennessee Regional Library System begun in 1939.

In 1934 she accepted a position as Supervisor of Library Services with the Tennessee Valley Authority where she was responsible for building library book boxes to be attached to the saw filers/tool box and then using bookmobiles to distribute reading materials to the workers building the TVA dams, fulfilling her slogan of "Taking the Library to the Worker."

In her seminal and prescient 1937 article, “The Objectives of Rural Library Service” (in Rural America, published by the American Country Life Association, September, 1937), she wrote that the librarian’s role is “to integrate the library thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves.” With a tweak here and there, this article could be used in training workshops and library board meetings as a blueprint for customer service in rural and small communities (and larger ones too, for that matter).

Her 1946 ALA presidential inaugural address, "Libraries in a New Era," was a plea for librarians to become more actively involved with technology and non-print media.
Knox County Remembers Mary Utopia Rothrock

On a hot, sunny September afternoon, members of Friends of the Knox County Public Library gathered at Knoxville’s Old Gray Cemetery to honor Mary Utopia Rothrock, Knoxville’s first librarian, whose influence still enriches East Tennessee education, community outreach, political activism, and culture.

The afternoon was highlighted by a proclamation of September 19 as Mary Utopia Rothrock Day by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. His proclamation described Miss Rothrock as a “library science rock star” and dynamic leader who continues to inspire library advocates in Knox County to use, support, and tell others about the valuable services of their library system.

Jack Neely, executive director of The Knoxville History Project, shared highlights of Miss Rothrock’s life and legacy. Dressed in vintage attire, the Knox County Public Library’s Assistant Director of Marketing, Communications, and Development, Mary Pom Claiborne, assumed the role of Miss Rothrock as she spoke about the past, present, and future of the library system Rothrock nurtured.

Miss Rothrock (1890–1976), a visionary who dedicated her professional life and her forceful personality to building libraries as the centers of community in Knox County, the state of Tennessee, and the nation, was hired as Chief Librarian at Lawson McGhee Library in 1916 and remained in that post until 1934, when she became the supervisor of libraries for the Tennessee Valley Authority. She returned to the Knox County Public Library in 1949 and remained there until she retired in 1966.

At the end of the afternoon, several guests visited Miss Rothrock’s gravesite, which was decorated with a bouquet of fresh fall flowers. Friend Julie Webb echoed the emotions of the day as she recalled the many gifts Miss Rothrock gave Knox County and said, “Bless you, dear!”
Tennessee Crossroads Films S. Cheatham Public Library

Janet Walker, director of the South Cheatham Public Library in Kingston Springs, may show up on your television screen soon.

Director Walker was interviewed in August by Tennessee Crossroads, a show on Nashville Public Television, as part of a segment on “Main Street in Downtown Kingston Springs,” a community 20 miles west of downtown Nashville on Interstate 40.

“We had a wonderful time,” Walker said. “It’s great exposure for our library and I hope it promotes libraries all over Tennessee.”

Since 1987 Tennessee Crossroads has been traveling “the highways and byways of Tennessee, highlighting the personalities, crafts, places, foods and events that make Tennessee unique.”

Friends Help Buy STEAM Packs For White House

Like other Tennessee libraries, the library in White House, TN, is not just about books anymore. With the help of the library’s Friends group, 14 backpacks filled with items related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) have recently been added to the collection.

For example, a backpack might include a microscope, circuit board, magnetic drawing pad, an animation studio, flashcards, or building blocks. Backpacks have been filled with materials appropriate for different age groups and can be checked out for two weeks. Each item fosters learning and creativity.

Elizabeth Kozlowski, director of the White House Public Library, explains, “What is so great about these backpacks and just about all the items in them is that they were purchased with the help of our Friends of the Library group.”

For example, when a wish-list tree was placed in the library lobby during the month of December, patrons who purchased and donated an item on the tree received a year’s membership in
Mary E. Tippitt dreamed of starting a library in Townsend, Tennessee. Sadly, she passed away in 1995 before she could realize that dream. But her husband and family did just that to honor her memory. In 1997, after only two years of planning and organizing, the Mary E. Tippitt Memorial Library opened its doors and immediately became part of the thriving Townsend community. As Mary Newman, former library director, once said, “We may look small on the outside, but we’re big on the inside.”

Eventually they needed more space so, in 1999, with the help of the county, the library relocated to a bigger building. Over the next 15 years, the collection grew to over 21,000 volumes, with an active and productive Friends of the Library group and a robust roster of programs and services, including book clubs, Summer Reading Programs and a computer lab. Simply put, the library was a community hub for Townsend and the many visitors who stopped by on their way to the Great Smoky Mountains. In fact, in 2006, it was voted as a Top 10 Library in the United States by Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings.

Unfortunately, structural problems were discovered in 2015, so the family put the collection in storage while searching for solutions. Sadly, there were none, and the library was permanently closed.

In a continuing example of the Tippitt family’s generosity and commitment to libraries, they have donated the entire collection (approximately 20,000 books and other materials) to the Friends of King Family Library, Sevierville, TN, who will hold a sale to share the bounty. For two days — Thursday, October 11, and Friday, October 12, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day — books will be sold for only $5 a box (cash only). Proceeds from the sale will be used to support even more programs and services at King Family Library.

The Friends are humbled and grateful for the opportunity to be chosen to receive this collection. We expect a great turnout of book-lovers from all over the county and beyond. And we honor Mary E. Tippitt, the woman who loved books and libraries so much that she wanted to share them, and her family who made her dream come true.

The Mary E. Tippitt Memorial Library
10 Years Ago in the FOTL Newsletter

In the Summer 2008 edition of the FOTL Newsletter, Barbara Zuril, Fort Loudoun Regional Representative and then president-elect of FOTL, described the Mary E. Tippitt Memorial Library as the “Hidden Jewel Discovered in the Smokies.”

Shown here with Charles E. Tippitt, founder of the Tippitt Library, Barbara explained that the library was “unique in that it is not part of a regional system but an independent which was given to the people of Townsend in January of 1997” by Charles Tippitt and his children in memory of Mary, Mr. Tippitt’s wife and the children’s mother.”

On a tour of the facility, Barbara said that she was not prepared for “the sheer beauty of the library” whose ambience was “amazing” and whose atmosphere was “simply delicious.”

Barbara wrote, “Here, exists a sense of libraries as they used to be — refuges from the busy outside world, places of learning. Beautiful photographs from around the area decorate the walls [of the ground floor]. Upstairs the Children’s Library makes one want to be a child again. Color and artwork fairly sing out. Children of any age would undoubtedly be captivated.”

Ten years ago the library was part of Imagination Library and host of a summer reading program. An active Friends group of 95 helped support the library by sponsoring an annual golf tournament, a yearly book sale, and participation in the Fall Heritage Days Festival in Townsend.
Joe and Connie Albrecht Honored by State, Putnam County

On September 20 Connie and Jay Albrecht received a Tennessee House and Senate Joint Resolution in memory of Joe Albrecht (1941-2017), Connie’s husband and Jay’s father, from Senator Paul Bailey and Representative Ryan Williams.

On October 25, 2017, Putnam County lost a great leader, and the Tennessee Legislature recognized him when a joint resolution of the Tennessee House and Senate honored Joe Albrecht (1941-2017) on September 20. Joe’s wife Connie and his son Jay received the resolution.

Of the resolution, Jay said, “This is an incredible recognition of the life Dad lived, and it’s something he would have been very proud to receive. Thank you to everyone involved in the event last night [September 20] for this truly special remembrance!”

On August 14, the meeting room at the Putnam County Public Library in Cookeville was named in honor of Joe and Connie Albrecht. Among those attending the event were (from left) Chelsea Gifford, FOTL Board member and Putnam County Library children’s services librarian and assistant director; Phil Schaller, director; and FOTL members Martha Gill, Connie, Wanda Jared, and Julie Webb. Photo by FOTL Secretary Dwight Shepherd.

Knox Friends Caught Reading During Imagination Library Week

By Martha Edington, Knox County Friends Co-Chair, Communications Committee

Anything associated with Dolly Parton is likely to make people happy. That’s one reason Friends of the Knox County Public Library accepted the call when Tennessee’s Governor and First Lady issued their third annual challenge to get caught reading during Imagination Library Week (September 16-22). The photos of Friends accompanied by the hashtag #GotCaughtReading that appeared on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn attested to their love of and ongoing support for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Knox County and the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation (GBBF). And much to their surprise, one of those photos found its way to a billboard in Nashville!

Knox Countians watched with great interest when Dolly launched her Imagination Library in 1995 to bring books to the children in her home county and inspire them to read. After the GBBF was founded in 2004 to facilitate the expansion of Dolly’s Library to all 95 counties in Tennessee, Knox Friends were the original sponsor for the Knox County program in 2005 and continue to be a partner. By June 2017, it had enrolled 79% of eligible children.

Research shows that having books in the home has a positive, long-term impact on a child’s school success. So while Knox County Friends had fun with #GotCaughtReading this year, their participation also exemplifies their continuing commitment to early childhood literacy and especially to Dolly the Book Lady’s life-changing program.

Marilyn Jake reads one of Dolly’s books.

Maggie Carini, LeAnn Luna, Jane Raw, and Mary Pom Claiborne enjoy Imagination Library books.

On a Nashville billboard, Jean Idell of the Knox County Friends #GotCaughtReading.

On September 20 Connie and Jay Albrecht received a Tennessee House and Senate Joint Resolution in memory of Joe Albrecht (1941-2017), Connie’s husband and Jay’s father, from Senator Paul Bailey and Representative Ryan Williams.
Have You Sent Your Email Address to FOTL?

If you haven’t, please send your email address to us today.

We want to add your email address to our Listserv to so that we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently about FOTL. We will not publish or share your email address with others, and we promise not to inundate you with emails.

Please send your email address to
Cora Willis-King
cora.willisking@gmail.com

Membership Application

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❑ Individual</td>
<td>❑ 1-49 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ Family</td>
<td>❑ 50-99 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ Silver</td>
<td>❑ 100-499 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ Gold</td>
<td>❑ 500 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ Platinum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name _______________________________________________ Phone _______________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip ________________________________________________________________

TN County _______________________ E-Mail __________________________________

☐ Check here if you want to receive your newsletter electronically.

Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Send to Marjorie Kaup Haines, P.O. Box 681493, Franklin, TN 37068-1493.

Or join online: http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/support-us/join/
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

Reaching your library from home is easier than ever through the Tennessee Electronic Library. www.tntel.info