

The Annual Conference Issue



Friends of Tennessee Libraries

newsletter

Fall 2023

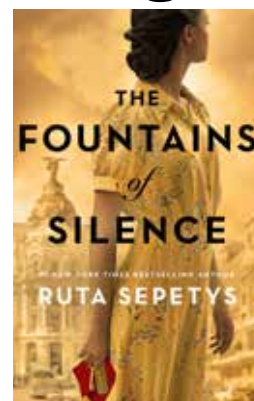
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Best-Selling Author Ruta Sepetys, Friends To Share Oct. 21 Spotlight



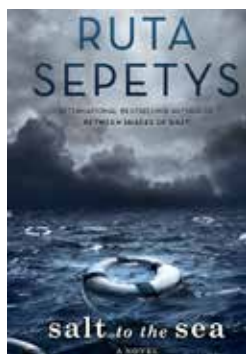
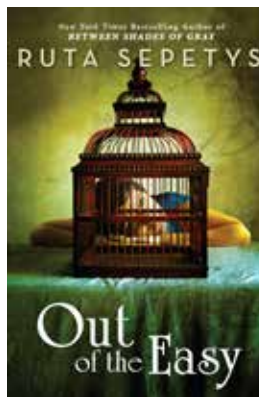
A writer whose work illuminates the past and Friends who love the libraries that light up our lives will meet at the Williamson County Public Library in Franklin on October 21 to celebrate the written word and observe Friends of the Library Week at FOTL's Annual Conference. Please join us.

Ruta Sepetys, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of five historical novels, will be the keynote speaker. Sepetys is considered a “cross-over” writer, one whose books are read by both students and adults in more than 60 countries and 40 languages. Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Young Adult fiction, she has told stories from Lithuania (*Between Shades of Gray*), Spain (*The Fountains of Silence*), East Prussia (*Salt to the Sea*), New Orleans (*Out of the Big Easy*), and Romania (*I Must Betray You*). Based on *Between Shades of Gray*, the film *Ashes in the Snow* is available as a DVD or on Roku and other streaming platforms.



Writing in *Book Riot* in May 2022, Neha Patel says that each of Sepetys' books “focuses on a moment in time that has been left off the pages of history books. Whether it is life in a Soviet work camp or under a brutal dictator, Sepetys brings these moments to life with characters who seem like people we know.” Reviewers have described her stories as nuanced, riveting, illuminating, captivating, memorable, and timely.

At the conference, members of Friends groups from across the state will also share stories of strategies that have led to successful projects. Winners of FOTL grants will be announced, and outstanding volunteers nominated by their Friends will be recognized. Please register to attend the conference on page 2. After the meeting, many Friends will slip into Nashville to enjoy the Southern Festival of Books.



Ruta Sepetys, keynote speaker at FOTL's 2023 Conference



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KATHY DOOLEY-SMITH
kat-ed@comcast.net

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dianeejohnson121@gmail.com

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svcsmith@yahoo.com

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MARTHA EDINGTON
msedington@bellsouth.net

MARTHA GILL

marthagill491@gmail.com

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MARCIA FLATT

marcia@mmacreative.com

Advisory Committee

SUSIE WEBB RIES

susiewries@gmail.com

CONNIE ALBRECHT

connie.albrecht@yahoo.com

Ex Officio

State Librarian & Archivist

JAMES RITTER

jamie.ritter@tn.gov

State Library Liaison

BESSIE DAVIS

bessie.davis@tn.gov

Tennessee Library

Association

RHONDA TIPPITT

rtippitt@sevierlibrary.org

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Our Libraries Light Up Our Lives



Saturday, October 21, 2023
Williamson County Public Library

What's New about FOTL's 2023 Meeting?

- What used to be the Annual Meeting is now FOTL's Annual Conference. We do more than meet. We confer with one another about what works as we strive to support our libraries.
- It coincides with Nashville's Southern Festival of Books because just as much as we love libraries, so do we love books and reading. After the conference adjourns, check out the festival in downtown Nashville at the Bicentennial Mall, Tennessee State Museum, and Tennessee State Library.
- Since our membership campaign kicks off in the fall, we're offering Friends who register for the Annual Conference a chance to renew their memberships at the same time. From the names of those who renew their individual or Friends group membership at the same time that they register for this year's conference, one recipient will be the winner of \$100.
- The Founding Mother Grant, created to honor the memory of Julie Webb (1926-2022), may be awarded for the very first time this year.

Register for FOTL's October 21 Meeting at www.friendstnlibraries.org

OR

by check and mail (see below).

Registration covering lunch is \$35.

Registration must be received by FOTL by October 15.

Detach this form and mail it with your check, payable to FOTL, to
**Kathy Dooley-Smith, President, 8204 Devens Drive,
Brentwood, TN 37027**

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ E-Mail _____

_____ **Renewal of my FOTL membership is included for a total of \$ _____.**
Please enter my name in the drawing for \$100.

FOTL Annual Conference

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Williamson County Library in Franklin

9:00 a.m.	Registration and Coffee
9:15 a.m.	Welcome – Kathy Dooley-Smith, FOTL President Paul Webb, Williamson County Commissioner and Library Trustee
	Business Meeting – Kathy Dooley-Smith, FOTL President Minutes Financial Report
	Introduction of TLA/FOTL Friends of the Year – Susie Ries
	Grant Recipients and Recognition Certificates – Janis Perry
9:45 a.m.	Sharing Success: Friends of Tellico Village Library
10:00 a.m.	How It Worked! Implementing eBay and Amazon Sales Janice Ware and Maxine Cleeton, Friends of the Brentwood Library
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Toolkit for Challenges Jessica Jeffers, Williamson County Library Director
11:30 a.m.	Lunch Assortment of sandwiches, salads, chips, fruits, drinks, desserts
12:15 p.m.	Building Relationships: Friends of Lewis County Public Library
12:30 p.m.	Friends 101: What Every Group Needs to Be Successful Kathy Dooley-Smith, FOTL
1:00 p.m.	Ruta Sepetys, <i>New York Times</i> Best-Selling Author
1:45 p.m.	Highlight from a Local Friends Group
2:00 p.m.	Roundtables on Relevant Topics Membership and Board Recruitment Building Relationships with Elected Officials Sharing Your Story Online Sales
2:45 p.m.	Door Prizes and Closing Remarks
3:00 p.m.	Adjournment

It's Not Too Late, but Only Days Remain . . .

. . . to apply for one of FOTL's \$500 grants or to nominate a stellar volunteer to receive a certificate and \$100.
Deadline for both is September 30. Recipients will be announced at the Annual Conference.

How to Apply for Grants

Go to our website at friendsTNlibraries.org.
Click on About and scroll down to
[Grant Application Guidelines](#).

Want to Honor Someone?

Go to our website at friendsTNlibraries.org.
Click on About and scroll down to Awards.
Continue down to [Recognition Awards](#).

Friends of Tennessee Libraries
4109 Forest Glen Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919-5214

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Online at Facebook
Website: www.friendstnlibraries.org

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

It's Time To Renew Your Membership or To Join

Become a Friend of Tennessee Libraries Today

(Membership year is January to December.)

Groups and individuals that join now will have memberships in good standing for the remainder of 2023 as well as for all of 2024.)

INDIVIDUAL

- Friend \$25/yr
- Good Friend \$50/yr
- Best Friend _____

(You choose: \$100 minimum)

ORGANIZATION

- 1-99 Members \$25/yr
- 100-399 Members \$50/yr
- 400+ Members \$100/yr

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

County _____

____ Check here if you want to receive your printed newsletter electronically.

Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Send payment to
Kathy Dooley-Smith, 8204 Devens Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027.