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.
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, New York Times 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.
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.)

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<td>Friend $25/yr</td>
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(You choose: $100 minimum)

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.