Williamson County To Host Meeting
May 4-5, 2018

Williamson County Library and its Friends will host the 2018 Annual Meeting of Friends of Tennessee Libraries on May 4-5.

Library Director Dolores Greenwald and Debbie Eads, president of Friends of the Williamson County Library, are working with FOTL to design a gathering that will address the concerns of many Friends groups, give members a chance to get to know each other, and feed the imagination of readers. A Friday evening reception will welcome participants to Franklin.

Saturday events beginning at 9 a.m. will include breakfast and lunch, FOTL business, and a program that will focus on fundraising, both from the point of view of Friends and professional consultant David Baker. A special treat will be a visit by Robert Hicks, best-selling author of Widow of the South and The Orphan Mother.

Registration fee for the event will be $30.

FOTL and the Tennessee Library Association recognized Williamson County Friends as 2014 Friend of the Year. Among its many achievements is the publication of two books under its imprint, Academy Press.

Franklin Library: Center of 5 Branches
Williamson County's main library on Columbia Avenue, one mile south of historic downtown Franklin, is the center of a system that includes five branches — Bethesda, College Grove, Fairview, Leiper's Fork, and Nolensville.

The main facility was organized in 1939, and its current building was completed in 2003. Its rotunda is a special feature of the two-story structure.

Williamson County displayed its appreciation of its libraries, which also includes Brentwood, when County Mayor Rogers Anderson proclaimed January 2017 "Williamson Loves Libraries Month."

Gov. Haslam, Hargett Recognize Friends
October 15-21

Governor Bill Haslam and Secretary of State Tre Hargett have proclaimed October 15-21, 2017, as Friends of Libraries Week in Tennessee. Among their proclamation's tributes to Friends is this comment: “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 . . . .” A copy of the proclamation appears on page 3 of this issue.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries continues to promote the celebration as well and wants to know how Friends across the state observe the occasion.

On FOTL's website an Ideas Toolkit collects 2016 reports from FOTL-affiliated groups about the ways in which they have celebrated National Friends of Libraries Week.

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Greetings, fellow members of FOTL!

I do hope each of you had a wonderful summer with family and friends. As we move into the fall season, this is also the time we send out our membership renewals, and this year for the first time in many years we have a new membership chair.

I would like to publicly thank Connie Albrecht for her dedication and service to FOTL. She has been a driving force in the success of FOTL, and I cannot be more thankful for and appreciative of her time and dedication. Please join me in thanking Connie for her service!

As for what is coming up over the next few months, FOTL has had a Saturday board meeting at the State Library in Nashville. We really looked forward to this meeting and meeting location!

As declared by our Governor, October 15 – 21 is Friends of the Library Week in Tennessee. I encourage you to celebrate your local library that week with your friends and family.

Grants and Awards season will soon be upon us, and Friends of the Year nominations are due on November 15. Please visit our website and nominate your Friend or Library today!

The Friends of the Year award will be presented in Memphis on April 6, 2018, at the TLA/FOTL luncheon. This year there will be a separate FOTL registration for lunch only which will be $30. I highly encourage each of you to attend this special event.

I am thrilled to announce that the Williamson County Public Library will be hosting our annual meeting on May 5, 2018. The meeting will center around fundraising for Friends groups. More details will be forthcoming, but please make plans to attend.

My theme for my presidency is that this is “Our Time” for Tennessee Libraries. I understand that every day people from all over our state support their libraries with wonderful activities. If you have Facebook, please share those events on our Friends of Tennessee Libraries Facebook page. This is a great way to share in real time your library support for all of us to see.

And most importantly, THANK YOU for all your support of Tennessee Libraries. Because of you, everyone can enjoy a library; THANK YOU!
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 week of October 15-21, 2017 as

Friends of Libraries Week

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 eleventh day of August, 2017.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State
2017 Library of the Year: Nashville

“In the scope of its programs, services, and collections; the incredible reach of its efforts in cooperation with other public agencies, departments, and local businesses; and its work to identify and fulfill needs of both the mainstream and marginalized people of Nashville and Davidson County, the Nashville Public Library (NPL), the Gale/LJ 2017 Library of the Year, is a model for the nation and the world.”

In those words Library Journal (June 6, 2017) focused the world’s attention on the Nashville Public Library, selected for this prestigious award for many reasons. Here are a few cited by Library Journal.

- NPL’s culturally diverse programs and centers and its openness and hospitality reach out to everyone, “especially people who are marginalized, struggling, new to the community and this county.”
- NPL’s engagement with the local school system is “unique in the United State.” Examples include the early reading outreach program Bringing Books to Life; workshops for teachers, parents, caregivers, and families of pre-kindergarten children; and Limitless Libraries, a well-funded program of collaboration with school libraries.
- NPL’s distinctive use of puppets, puppeteers, and the NPL Puppet Truck is the core of storytelling at the library.
- NPL contributes to digital literacy through its basic computers and partnership with the Public Library Association, and its mobile computer classroom travels across Davidson County to reach senior citizens, families, and young adults.
- NPL has developed strategies “for inspiring community conversations.” These include its streaming local music library and NPL BoomBox; its eight-hour “Twitter takeover,” after the Orlando Pulse shooting, that was a conduit of Nashville messages during the local Pride Fest; a community survey of citizens’ concepts of identity and safe spaces; Truth Booth, into which guests may step to record their responses to the statement “The truth is . . .”; a collection of oral histories by Latinx Americans in Nashville; online videos in English, Spanish, and Arabic to help patrons who are not fluent in English to become more comfortable using the library.

Library Director Kent Oliver reacted to news of the Library of the Year award by saying, “A city with a great library is a great city. What I want to emphasize . . . is that the people who use, trust, and support Nashville Public Library make it great.”

Sources: https://tinyurl.com/ybhskwlu; https://tinyurl.com/y955pnrh
Do You Know the Next Friend of the Year?

In 2018, 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 2018 TLA conference in Memphis 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 Don Reynolds at P.O. Box, Talbott, TN 37871 or by email to don.reynolds2030@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 telephone

Nominator’s e-mail

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.
Julie Webb. See FOTL Newsletter Summer 2016.
Friends of the White County Public Library and Friends of Smyrna. See FOTL Newsletter Spring 2017.
Oak Ridge Library Offers Seed Exchange

By Joan H. Kearney
Circulation Clerk
Oak Ridge Public Library

The Oak Ridge Public Library hosted a seed exchange in March 2017. Seed donations were requested from local gardening centers and nurseries, and we also purchased a variety of vegetable seeds.

I found a lot of helpful information about hosting an exchange online and also attended one at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville, TN, to observe how they presented it.

With the help of staff and volunteers, we used coin envelopes to make packets of seeds. Basic seed information was written on the envelopes. We have since gone back through all the envelopes and added the year to assist in culling the collection.

We had speakers from a local urban demonstration farm but think a simple seed exchange would be just as effective.

A 15-drawer wooden card catalog located behind the circulation desk was used to store the seed packets. The seeds were divided in the drawers by type and then arranged alphabetically within type. A notebook, which was used by the patrons to browse our collection, was located on the catalog and contained a list of the seeds, a sign-out sheet for patrons, commercial seed catalogs, and the empty seed envelopes from donated seeds. Staff collected the requested seeds and the patrons were asked to sign in and indicate the seeds they are taking or donating. A small bucket was put on the catalog where donated seeds were placed until they could be processed by staff or volunteers.

Librarians and The Truth

The Knox County Public Library and its partners sponsored a series of meetings that explored the topic of “Truth and Consequences” in August.

Speakers like nationally known Wendell Potter and local journalist Jack Neely delved into the effects on society of erroneous statements posing as facts. Participants and speakers alike asked what remedies, if any, exist.

One answer: Ask a librarian.

Kent Oliver, director of the Nashville Public Library, had a similar response. In The Tennessean (August 29, 2017), he said that It is neither a platitude nor an exaggeration that “Librarians are the defenders of truth, knowledge and discovery.” Librarians are professionals who “work tirelessly to keep access to information open for all regardless of background or political affiliation.”

He continued, today “It’s essential that public libraries be seen as a neutral space where people can come in and get accurate information without partisanship being involved.”

Resources:
KCPL: http://tinyurl.com/y8gipht
Tennessean https://tinyurl.com/yfc8uyy

This 15-drawer card catalog was re-purposed to store seed packets like the one on the right.
For Outstanding Efforts to Support Their Library

Friends of Smyrna Library Win National Baker& Taylor Award

The Friends of Smyrna Library have been recognized with United for Libraries’ Baker & Taylor Award for outstanding efforts to support the library. The group received $1,000 and a clock from Baker & Taylor to honor its achievement of raising funds to improve the library’s aging facility. Because of the publicity the campaign received, a local real estate firm chose the project for its yearly volunteer day, and phase one was a collaboration between its employees and the Friends.

The Williamsburg (VA) Regional Library Foundation also received the Baker & Taylor Award for raising more than $750,000 to help pay construction costs for the new Stryker Center, which doubled the library’s community meeting space, added a museum-quality exhibit area, and created new administrative offices.

The year has been a big one for the Friends of Smyrna Library. In April it was named one of two recipients of the 2016 Friend of the Year Award given jointly by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association. Its “Spruce Up Smyrna Library” campaign was reported in the fall 2016 issue of the FOTL Newsletter.

Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library earned honorable mention from United for Libraries for opening the SkyLib Honor Bookstore at the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, raising funds for the library while providing a quiet space for reading in the library, and increasing awareness of the library. Friends of the Orion Township Library in Lake Orion, MI, also earned honorable mention.

Given annually since 2000, the Baker & Taylor Awards have recognized more than 45 groups for outstanding efforts to support libraries. More information about the award and award-winning programs can be found online at www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/friends/bakertaylor.

Six Things All Friends Should Know about Their Library

Friends of Tennessee Libraries is a statewide organization that supports a strong network of citizens who promote the value of libraries in their communities. If you are a Friend committed to that local goal, you need to match your personal enthusiasm for your library with a command of some facts that you can share with your community. Can you answer six questions?

■ How is your library funded? For example, does its financial support come from the County Commission? from state sources? from federal sources? all of the above?
■ What is the size of its annual budget?
■ How is the library system governed? Most Tennessee libraries are governed by a Board of Trustees, but not all are. What system prevails for your library?
■ What are the library system’s facilities? Do you have one library, or do you have a central library that supports branches? If so, how many branches does your system support?
■ Approximately how many patrons does the system serve?
■ What are some of its most popular services?

Don’t know the answers? Ask the library leadership.

This photo, reprinted from the fall 2016 issue of FOTL’s newsletter, depicts volunteers who worked together to spruce up the library last year.
Thanks to its Friends, Humboldt Public Library has a new look and offers an inviting setting for a 21st century service. The Friends group raised $35,000 for a brand new front covering (where there had previously been no outside shelter from rain/weather). The group also invested $20,000 in a beautiful Internet Garden, complete with benches and a trellis, so that patrons may have a comfortable place to enjoy free wifi even when the library is closed.

“These projects, which were completed this past spring, change the appearance of the 1950's War Memorial building, but keep the spirit of the original architecture alive,” according to Sarah Peden, Humboldt’s children’s librarian.

Pigeon Forge Awards College Scholarships

Many services provided by the Pigeon Forge Public Library are due in part to support from the Friends of the Library. In addition to helping fund children's programs and purchasing materials, the Friends of the Pigeon Forge Library also provides scholarships for local high school students.

The Pigeon Forge Public Library is pleased to announce two recipients of this year’s Friends of the Library Scholarships for 2017. The recipient of the second annual Friends of the Pigeon Forge Library scholarship is Mary Booth, a 2017 graduate of Pigeon Forge High School. Mary plans to attend Walters State Community College to pursue a degree in nursing.

The Friends also awarded the Joyce B. Brackins award to Liberty Wood. A 2017 graduate of Pigeon Forge High School, Liberty will attend the University of Tennessee with a major in pharmaceutical research.

“It is especially gratifying that the committee chose students who have spent time at our library from their earliest years,” said Library Director Marcia Nelson.

Pigeon Forge Library Promotes History

The Pigeon Forge Library staff, led by Marcia Nelson, director, and Veta King, historian, won the 2017 Community History Award from East Tennessee Historical Society for consistently insuring the preservation and documentation of the town’s history, and promoting community awareness of history through documentaries, public demonstrations, panel discussions, and historical markers.
Sevier County Observes National Friends Week

Sevier County Public Library System (King Family, Seymour, and Kodak branch libraries) will be spending the week of October 15-21, 2017, celebrating its Friends of the Library groups as part of the 12th annual National Friends of Libraries Week.

Each Sevier County location has its own Friends of Library group — Friends of King Family Library, Friends of Seymour Library (FOSL), and Friends of Kodak Library (FOKL). Each year, these three groups provide funding for the Summer Reading Program, book purchases, and other miscellaneous expenditures to help each library that the group supports.

The library system will serve thank-you refreshments at all three libraries October 15-21. On Tuesday, October 17, the library system will provide light appetizers and sweets for the Friends of Libraries at the Seymour and Kodak branches from 1-2:30 p.m. Refreshments for the Friends of King Family Library will be available from 6-7:30 p.m. in conjunction with their regularly scheduled Friends event.

“We want to show our appreciation and give our thanks for all the Friends do for our libraries. We hope all of our Friends members will be able to attend and enjoy with our deepest thanks. Our library would be much poorer without our Friends,” said Library Director Rhonda Tippitt.

“The funds they raise are a definite boost for the library each group supports. I think most patrons would be surprised to learn how many of the services and programs they enjoy are supported by the Friends,” Tippitt said.

The Friends of Seymour Library and Friends of Kodak Library are currently raising funds for an expansion of an existing library (Seymour) and a new library building (Kodak). The Friends of King Family Library has established a used book store that is operated by Friends of King Family Library volunteers. The 3rd Floor Book Store houses a large variety of used materials available for purchase.

Officers of Friends of the King Family Library are Dana Stevens, president; Sharon Duff, vice president; Beth Connatser, recording secretary; and Diantha Currier, treasurer.

Officers of Friends of Seymour Library are Lucy Henighan, president; Joyce Wooliver, vice president; and Nancy Rickenbach, secretary/treasurer.

Kodak officers are Randy Yessler, president; Carl Parson, vice president; Marye Rose, secretary; and Dwight Shepherd, treasurer.

Knox County Friends #GotCaughtReading children’s books in observance of Imagination Library Week September 17-23: (l-r) Rusha Sams, president-elect; Suzanne Lenhart, director; and Maggie Carini, president.

Knox County Reads Books for All Ages

Knox County Friends read. They read books for toddlers, books for teens, and books for grownups.

During Imagination Library Week (September 17-23), Knox County Friends promoted early childhood literacy by reading volumes from Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

On September 19 Knox Friends brought Kerri Maniscalco, bestselling author of mysteries for young adults, to town to launch her latest, Hunting Prince Dracula. Partners for the event included Knox County Public Library’s Teen Central, University of Tennessee’s Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature, and Union Ave Books.


Kerri Maniscalco
NEA Big Read Unites Knox County, Neighbors
Grant to Knox Friends Makes Event Possible

From October 4 through November 13, Knox County and its neighbors will participate in the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) Big Read made possible by a grant to the Friends of the Knox County Public Library on behalf of KCPL.

The focus of the community-wide read will be Emily St. John Mandel’s post-apocalyptic novel *Station Eleven*, which will be distributed, widely read, and vigorously discussed. A full calendar of events including book discussions, board games, and movie screenings will conclude with a visit from the author. Libraries in Blount County and Sevierville will join in, and so will freshmen at the University of Tennessee. This year’s collaboration with UT’s office of First Year Studies brings the university and the town together through a common text.

“We are pleased to work with the Library, UT, and a variety organizations to help our community turn its focus to one book. When we read one book together, we have a common experience that helps us unite and consider different perspectives,” said Maggie Carini, president of the Friends of the Library. “*Station Eleven* is a particularly powerful novel that can speak to people of all ages, from teens to seniors. It is a highly engaging and hopeful story.”

The post-apocalyptic novel has become an international best seller and was named best book of the year on multiple lists. Published by Knopf in 2014, it tells the story of a small band of actors and musicians 20 years after a flu pandemic has wiped out 99% of the Earth’s population. Like other books in the genre, it highlights the fragility of our existence, our violent nature, and our capacity to survive despite the inevitable hardships of starvation, loneliness, and chaos. But this is where the similarities taper off, for the story Emily St. John Mandel chooses to tell is not one of horror and mayhem that even she admits would befall the survivors in the immediate aftermath of a complete societal collapse. *Station Eleven* describes a world of hope, of people coping with nostalgia and loss, both in the present and the future, of the power of art and relationships to fulfill us, sustain us, and nurture us back to our best selves.

Knox County is one of 75 communities nationwide participating in the NEA Big Read from September 2017-June 2018. For a detailed schedule, please visit knoxlib.org/bigread.

Knox County Public Library has participated in the NEA Big Read on five other occasions; most recently, KCPL partnered with UT’s Clarence Brown Theatre for an exploration of Ernest Gaines’ classic novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*.

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens citizens’ understanding of their world, community, and themselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

For more information on this event, please contact Mary Pom Claiborne at (865) 215-8767 or by email at mclaiborne@knoxlib.org. A full calendar of events for the NEA Big Read in greater Knoxville can be found at www.knoxlib.org/bigread.

If You Have 501(c)(3) Status
There’s Another Way to Be a Friend

There’s more than one way to lend a helping hand to your library if your Friends group has 501(c)(3) status.

Beyond contributing money directly to your library to help support programs not covered by the budget, you can enable your library to win much-needed funds from grants. Many grantors require an applicant to be a registered nonprofit organization. Acting as a nonprofit fiscal sponsor, your Friends group can help your library to win grants.

Your library applies for a grant listing your Friends group as a nonprofit sponsor. If the grant is awarded, the library will meet the grantor’s requirement for reporting the use of funds.

Friends of Knox County Public Library has helped the Knox County Public Library gain several grants. The grant for the Big Read is among them.
Cultural Planning Specialist To Speak at TLA Luncheon

The featured speaker at the Tennessee Library Association’s luncheon for Friends and trustees in Memphis on April 6 will be Joy Bailey Bryant, managing director from Lord Cultural Resources, a firm whose mission is to collaborate with people and organizations to plan and manage cultural places, programs, and resources that deliver excellence in the service of society. Ms. Bryant is a cultural planning specialist who works with city officials, institutional leaders, and developers around the globe to plan cities creatively and to bring people to public institutions.

She has led teams for institutional and cultural planning on such projects as the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, the master plan for the Tennessee State Museum, and the communications plan for the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

FOTL President William Sundquist, whose professional life has been devoted to the architectural and design community, observes that because Memphis has one of the strongest design communities in the nation, FOTL wanted to secure a speaker who speaks to library design. “Additionally, given the historical significance of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination, FOTL wanted to include themes that would be respectful of this tragic event.”

The title of Ms. Bryant’s presentation will be “Dr. Martin Luther King’s Dream and the Cultural Design of Libraries.” President Sundquist observes, “Joy Bryant will offer an authentic voice to this historic moment.”

SAVE THE DATE: April 4-6, 2018
Tennessee Library Association Conference
Memphis Hilton
Conference Theme: “All In”
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.
<http://tntel.tnsos.org>

Membership Application

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

INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY
■ Individual $15/yr
■ Family $25/yr
■ Silver $50/yr
■ Gold $100/yr
■ Platinum $500/yr

ORGANIZATION
■ 1-49 Members $25/yr
■ 50-99 Members $55/yr
■ 100-499 Members $75/yr
■ 500 Members $100/yr

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