Smyrna, White County: 2016 Friends of Year

For the first time since 2010, Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association have conferred the honor of Friend of the Year upon two groups, depending on the size of the community each serves. Though Friends of Smyrna Library represents a population of 25,000 or more, and Friends of White County Public Library serves a community under 25,000, both have made significant contributions to their libraries and to the advancement of libraries in the state.

The awards were presented by FOTL’s Don Reynolds and Susie Webb Ries at the Friends and Trustees Luncheon at the TLA conference in Knoxville on April 7.

Founded in 1987, the Smyrna Friends is a vibrant group of 92 members who routinely help to fund reading programs and volunteer hours of service to the library staff. In 2015 Smyrna Friends established the Spruce-Up Smyrna Library Campaign, during which they raised more than $100,000 for new carpet, paint, and renovations.

Organized in 2000, Friends of the White County Public Library established an outreach program that reads to all 1,950 elementary school students in the area. Members also staff and support a monthly outreach to middle schools in the county, and they promote and help maintain 14 Little Free Libraries across the county to allow all citizens access to reading materials 24/7. The efforts of the Friends have raised community awareness of the library and focused on key demographics to ensure literacy in White County.

Two other awards were also presented at the luncheon. The Linebaugh Library Foundation received the Making a Difference Award for outstanding contributions and continued support of the community. Based in Murfreesboro, the Foundation has taken the lead in raising funds for the first three years of the operating expenses ($250,000 per year) for the community technology center scheduled to open in September.

Susan Ross-Miceli was honored with the Trustee of the Year Award. Serving on both the Anderson County and the Betty Anne Jolly Norris Community library boards, she has supported and encouraged innovation that leads to improved library services.

Gavel Passes To Sundquist

William Sundquist has succeeded Don Reynolds as FOTL’s president.
The FOTL Outlook

This is Our Time

By William Sundquist, FOTL President

Greetings to each of you and thank you for the opportunity to serve Friends of Tennessee Libraries.

As the newly elected president I am honored for the opportunity to represent all the wonderful libraries in the Great State of Tennessee and look forward to meeting as many of you as I can during my term.

As we all move forward together supporting libraries in our state I would like each of you to know I truly believe this is our time.

This is our time because we have a solid foundation that we can stand upon and build. This is our time because we provide essential services to communities all over our state. And this is our time because libraries can unleash the human potential in each of us by simply being there with an open door.

Libraries are a solid investment in the future of our communities and state because they give all citizens the opportunity to educate and improve their lives with unlimited access to information; this is our time.

As we all stand at the threshold of the future and begin this journey, I ask for your continued blessing and support for one of the greatest institutional gifts of our democracy.

I look forward to sharing your passion and support of FOTL and I thank you for your support.

Past President Expresses Thanks And Welcomes His Successor

By Don Reynolds, FOTL Past President

Dear Friends and good people, this past year has been another active one for FOTL. Take a look at our 2016-17 Annual Report on our website at friendstnlibraries.org.

So, after serving this third year as FOTL President, let me once again thank each of our FOTL directors and FOTL members throughout the state for all their volunteer work and many kindnesses and support during these years. FOTL has worked hard to fulfill our Vision to help and support local Friends groups integrate their library thoroughly into the life and work of their community. FOTL exists only to be of service to our members. Thank you, dear reader, for being a FOTL member and a library Friend.

Friends members prove the African proverb: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Now, let us welcome William Sundquist from Chattanooga as he becomes FOTL’s 2017-19 president.

William is the Southwest Regional Sales Manager for The Whitacre Greer Company, a 100-year old boutique-type manufacturer of fired-clay paving and fire brick based in Alliance, Ohio. He lives in Chattanooga and has previously served as the Executive Chair of the Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library. FOCPL also operates SKILIB, an honor bookstore at the Chattanooga Airport. In addition, William has represented FOTL at the National Library Legislative Day in Washington for the past five years.
Buffalo River Workshop Pulls Advocates Together

How can Friends, trustees, directors, and commissioners pull together to support the library? On May 12 participants in a workshop organized by the Buffalo River Regional Library addressed that question and came up with some powerful answers.

Workshop participants proudly shared some of their strategies for making the community and its leaders aware of the services and needs of their library. Hosting an open house for county or city funders, making sure someone from the Friends is present at each public meeting of the funding body, and joining the Chamber of Commerce were among successful acts of advocacy shared by participants from the region.

Don Reynolds, FOTL’s past president, and Martha Gill, FOTL editor, contributed information about the FOTL network and how it can help groups to organize or revitalize and to establish themselves as a well-run, energetic, and positive contributor to the life of the community. Suggestions included the following:

- applying for one of FOTL’s $300 grants to support membership, fundraising, and advocacy
- nominating an individual or group for noteworthy service to the library
- establishing a communications committee to keep the public or social media aware of Friends and library activities
- creating a logo that instantly identifies the Friends
- publishing and circulating an annual report about Friends activities
- researching books about fundraising that are available through R.E.A.D.S.
- affiliating with FOTL and United for Libraries, both sources of information about what other Friends are doing
- making use of resources available on the FOTL website

Communication, long-range planning, and building relationships were common themes sounded by all presenters. Especially memorable was the question posed by Charles Curtiss, executive director of the Tennessee County Commissions Association: “What do people think when they see you coming?” Do they dread seeing you because you’re always complaining or asking for money? Or are they glad to see you because you are a positive, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic member of a community that values a vital library?
‘... the magic of reading brings me such joy.’

Dolly Welcomes Friends to Sevierville

March 20, 2017

Dear Friends of the Libraries,

Welcome to Sevier County! I am so sorry I can’t be there in person to welcome you but I’m spending some extended time in Los Angeles. I’ll be home soon and I can’t wait to see our mountains once again.

There’s hardly a day goes by that I don’t have my nose in a book. Like you, the magic of reading brings me such joy. I created the Imagination Library to hopefully inspire that same love for books in kids all across the world. I know you share that same dream.

So learn as much as you can but don’t forget to have fun. Remember, Dollywood is just around the corner!

Love,

Since 2003 Friends of Tennessee Libraries has been an enthusiastic supporter of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Maryann Bork, left, and Frances Darnell, right, traveled across the state conducting workshops to acquaint librarians and Friends with Dolly’s vision for Tennessee children.
Hosts, Presenters Make Annual Meeting Memorable

Dwight Shepherd, Kodak, and Nancy Rickenbach, Seymour, represented hosts, Sevier County Friends.

Lew Bolton, Joan Saas, and Millie Sieber of Smoky Mountain Storytellers entertained.

Larry Waters, Sevier County mayor; Marcia Nelson, Pigeon Forge Library director; Bryan Atchley, Sevierville mayor; and Vickie Kelly, King Family Library manager, said “Welcome.”

Diane Johnson, King Family Friends

Randy Yessler, Kodak Friends

FOTL Membership Chair
Connie Albrecht

Susie Webb Ries, FOTL’s past president

Janis Perry, FOTL regional representative

Dwight Shepherd, Guide to State Reports

Sharyn McCrumb, bestselling novelist

Connie Albrecht, Martha Gill, Julie Webb: 25 Years with FOTL

Martha Edington, Knox County Friends, Ways To Tell Your Story

Luke Copas, teenage author of books about the Titanic

Caroline Tippitt, SCPLS Teen Advisory Group

Gary R. Wade, Retired State Supreme Court Chief Justice

Lynette Sloan, director, Regional Libraries

Presentations developing the theme ‘Telling the Friends of the Library Story’ will soon be available in booklet form on our website: friendstnlibraries.org

More photos page 6.
Off Script:
Candid Moments from Annual Meeting at King Family Library

The Grand Reading Room, setting for Friday’s reception

Among Friends

Presidential Summit

Diane Johnson and Knox County Friends President Claire Serrell in the 3rd Floor Bookstore

From Putnam County: Connie Albrecht, Andrea Batson, Chelsea Gifford

Don introduces Luke to Sharyn, newcomer to veteran

Drawing for door prizes galore: The Copas sisters

Knox County Friend Jen Cooper with Susie Ries

Dr. Catherine Gilreath and Emma Ruth Catlett in the foreground

The King Family doorway to Friendliness

6                                                        Friends of Tennessee Libraries newsletter   Spring 2017
Three Groups Win $300 FOTL Grants

Three Tennessee groups have won $300 grants from FOTL to support projects in the coming year.

Advocacy Grant. To promote advocacy, Putnam County Library Friends in Cookeville will use its grant to pay start-up costs and to promote a new program making use of sensory stations in the library’s Children’s Department. Aimed at infants and preschoolers, sensory stations promote learning and development by providing a variety of tactile and often messy centers for young children to explore while they are having fun.

Fundraising Grant. Tipton County Library Friends in Covington will use the FOTL grant to help offset the cost of a cotton candy machine, which will enable the group to raise money during public events like Music on the Square and Heritage Day.

Membership Grant. Friends of the King Family Library in Sevierville will sponsor A Night at the Library in August to showcase the library’s many resources. The gala is intended to provide positive community relations, recruit and retain membership, and solicit donations for library programs. The grant will be used for mailings, program expenses, and advertising for the free event which will feature an acclaimed author, presentations, entertainment, and refreshments.

Certificates Honor Blount County, Norris Friends

At its annual meeting FOTL announced the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Larry Moore of the Blount County Friends and Becky Jolly of the Norris Community Library.

The nomination for Larry Moore read, “In the past two years, Larry has focused on book-sale activities. He collects books from the donation book bins. He works at the weekly sorting table. Larry collects empty boxes for book sales. He is a member of the book sale committee. He coordinates the pre-sale work days, and he arranges pizza and other food items for the work-days lunches. Larry also helps our treasurer during the book sale by setting up the cash drawer and summarizing the daily receipts. Larry is a very friendly, polite, and professional volunteer. He is a mentor to newer book sales volunteers. He provides both insight and guidance to our Friends organization. His friendly and professional mannerisms are always present when he is dealing with the public. Larry is a great volunteer, and he is very deserving of this award.”

The nomination of Becky Jolly read, “Becky Jolly is the treasurer of the Norris Community Library’s Friends of the Library group. Not only does she manages the Friends’ money for us; she also spends an incredible amount of time volunteering at the library. Once a week, she teaches a beginner’s computer class. She is also involved in many projects that we do, whether it be a program, helping box up weeded books, or cleaning out our storage. She is also our number-one volunteer for our summer reading program every year. If anyone deserves recognition, it would be Becky. We are so appreciative of everything she does to help our library.”

State’s Budget Includes Funds For New State Library & Archives

The state budget for the coming year includes funds for the building of a new State Library and Archives. The state will contribute $40 million and the Secretary of State’s office will provide $10 million; $50 million represents about half of the projected cost of the facility. The rest is expected to be covered by next year’s budget.
Groups Promote the Enrichment of Books and Art

Sequatchie County Friends Show Off Local Artists

In Dunlap, Sequatchie County Friends of the Library want to get people excited about the arts and the artists living among them. So the Friends sponsored an art exhibition that attracts up to 500 visitors to the show. Admission was free.

Art and the Library Exhibition ran from May 4-5 at the Dunlap City Hall Training Center. It continued as part of Valley Fest from May 6-7 for a small entrance fee.

Nina Hunt, chair of the Friends’ Art Committee, pays tribute to the artists and to the many volunteers who helped organize and set up the show. The artists pitch in and also help find other exhibitors as well. Jane Indyk is just such an artist. She was in charge of hanging the art work but also had a piece, “Orchids,” in the show. Linda Howard, also a member of the art committee, exhibited a watercolor of two children at the beach entitled “Summer Fun.”

Visitors to the exhibition are urged to vote on “the people’s choice.” Steve Pickett’s “New Girl Friend” (above) won that award last year.


Source of photo of Steve Picket and “New Girl Friend”: Sequatchie County Friends’ Facebook page.

Knox Partnerships Support Authors

Partnerships with other civic-minded groups have enabled Knox Friends to bring readers together with a parade of authors this spring: Amy Greene, Anne Lamott, and Nathaniel Philbrick.

One constant partner is the Knox County Public Library, source of a communications network. The East Tennessee Historical Society provides both a venue for events and an audience interested in the region and in history. Another constant partner is Union Ave Books, an independent bookseller.

Some partners are perfect matches for specific writers. The Library Society of UT Knoxville helped to bring Amy Greene, author of Long Man and Bloodroot, to deliver the Friends’ Wilma Dykeman Memorial Lecture. UT recently acquired Dykeman’s papers. First Presbyterian Church provided the setting for the appearance of Anne Lamott, whose books explore faith and spiritual life.
Newsletters Are Buzzing with Activities

The Friends of the Library Association in Cleveland-Bradley County featured C. K. Phillips, author of the thrilling Kents/Lander series and longtime resident of Cleveland, at the spring fundraiser on May 18. Tickets to the event, which included coffee and cookies, cost $15 for adults, $10 for FOLA members, and $5 for students with identification.

The newsletter from Friends of the King Family Library in Sevierville reports success from varied and innovative fundraising. The sale of 250 2017 calendars yielded $2500, and business at the 3rd Floor Bookstore and in the library lobby averages $200 a week. Working with the library staff, Friends made and sold baked goods and donated items and surplus used books to bring in more than $950 during the October 10 Mile Yard Sale.

Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library report that the organization’s recent quilt show was a “real hit!” The newsletter The Bookmark (April 2017) reports that 60 quilts were displayed throughout the library, and visitors were asked to vote for their favorite. Margaret Miller’s creation, modeled after the design called “Autumn Leaves” that won honorable mention at the Sears National Quilt Contest in the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair, was the winner. Mrs. Miller calls her quilt “Signs of Spring,” however, since she used pastel colors to complete her quilt in 2005.

Book reMarks from Putnam County Friends chronicles the group’s Coffee with an Author series that began in January with Megan Trotter, features writer and editor for the Cookeville Herald-Citizen and creator of a young adult novel, Andromeda.

February’s session featured Jeanette Keith, author of Fever Season: The Story of a Terrifying Epidemic and the People Who Saved a City, which details the 1878 yellow fever epidemic in Memphis.

The March event, held in conjunction with the Upper Cumberland Home Builders Association Home Show, starred Timothy Charles Davis, author of Hot Chicken Cookbook: The Fiery History and Red-Hot Recipes of Nashville’s Beloved Bird. The book includes more than two dozen recipes from Nashville’s best hot-chicken restaurants.

Putnam County Friends hosted its second Books and Brews on April 4 at the Red Silo Brewery. Dr. Calvin Dickinson and Dr. Kent Dollar spoke about their book Border Wars: The Civil War in Tennessee and Kentucky (Kent State University, 2015). Admission was free, and Friends provided appetizers, but attendees paid for their beverages.

Friends Heart KCPL, the Knox County Friends electronic monthly newsletter, reports that the group’s Sales and Distribution Committee is giving books and other materials to more than 30 local agencies like nursing homes, detention centers, and day care centers to fulfill its mission of outreach.

For more information, see http://www.knoxfriends.org/books-in-the-community/

The newsletter from the Stewart County Friends of the Library reports, “We now have Little Book Barns in front of Barrow’s Barbershop and Dover City Park! You are welcome to take a book to read and pass along and/or leave a book for someone else to try out. We want to make sure that our community has access to books 24/7.”
Fundraising Consultant David Baker Speaks at TLA Libraries, Friends Should Craft Gift Menu

David Baker, consultant who has provided comprehensive fund development services to public libraries, Friends, and foundations for more than 15 years, brought his seasoned advice to the Tennessee Library Association’s annual conference in Knoxville on April 7.

Mr. Baker of Giving Design has consulted with libraries in California, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia, Utah, Arkansas, and other states on such topics as capital and endowment campaigns, comprehensive fundraising efforts, planned giving, Friends’ formation and restructuring, development professional recruitment, and coaching and board training. Recently he spoke to the Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library about fundraising.

Speaking at the Friends and Trustees Luncheon, Mr. Baker agreed with Andrew Carnegie that libraries are the best kind of philanthropy. Because libraries are community centers, they and their needs should no longer be the community’s best kept secret.

Where do nonprofits find the billions of dollars that they raise each year? Foundations contribute 16 percent; corporations, 5 percent; and bequests, 8 percent. A whopping 71 percent comes from individuals.

To access those funds, nonprofits need to craft a gift menu for today, tomorrow, and the distant future. The annual fund fueled by book sales and membership drives addresses today’s needs. Endowments can provide for the future, but the climb to build them is steep.

Tomorrow’s special projects that are strategic and compelling can produce immediate and celebrated effects, and they can turn donors into stakeholders who benefit from what the projects bring to the community. Examples include underwriting programs that promote lifelong learning, financing engaging facilities in the library like maker spaces, updating and enhancing the library’s technology by opening a recording studio, or giving away books to support early childhood literacy. Carefully stewarded, funds for such projects can turn donors into stakeholders.

More information about Mr. Baker’s firm and his services can be found here: http://www.givingdesign.com/libraries

Rebecca Tischler, Williamson County Library reference librarian, has questions for Mr. Baker.
2017 Honor Roll Tennessee Friends of Library Groups

1. Friends of the Art Circle Public Library, Crossville (Cumberland County)
2. Friends of Audrey Pack Memorial Library, Spring City (Rhea County)
3. Blount County Friends of the Library
4. Bluff City Friends of Thomas Memorial Library (Sullivan County)
5. Friends of the Brentwood Library (Williamson)
6. Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library (Hamilton)
7. Friends of the Cheatham County Public Library
8. Friends of Clarksville-Montgomery County Library
9. Friends of the Clay County Public Library, Celina
10. Friends of the Cleveland Pub Lib (Bradley)
11. Friends of the Clinton Public Library (Anderson)
12. Friends of Colliedale Library (Hamilton County)
13. Friends of Colonial Burch Library (Shelby)
14. Friends of Colonial Heights Library, Kingsport (Sullivan County)
15. Friends of Elizabethton Carter County Library
16. Everett Horn Public Library Friends, Lexington (Henderson County)
17. Franklin County Friends of the Library
18. Friends of the Gorham-MacBane Library, Springfield (Robertson County)
19. Friends of Greenback Public Library (Loudon)
20. Friends of the Greeneville-Greene County Library
21. Friends of the Hamilton Parks Trimble Library (Dyer County)
22. Friends of the Hardin County Library
23. Hendersonville Library Friends (Sumner County)
24. Houston County Friends of the Library
25. Friends of the Humboldt Public Library (Gibson)
26. Friends of the Jefferson City Library (Jefferson)
27. Friends of the Library of Johnson County
28. Friends of the King Family Library, Sevierville (Sevier County)
29. Friends of the Knox County Public Library
30. Friends of Kodak Library (Sevier County)
31. Friends of the Lafollette Public Library (Campbell)
32. Friends of the Lauderdale County Library
33. Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library
34. Friends of Linebaugh Public Library (Rutherford)
35. Friends of the McMinn County
36. Friends of Memphis Public Library (Shelby County)
37. Friends of Mildred G. Fields Memorial Library, Milan (Gibson County)
38. Friends of the Monterey Branch Library (Putnam)
39. Friends of Nashville Public Library (Davidson)
40. Friends of the Oak Ridge Public Library
41. Friends of the Obion County Public Library
42. Friends of the Library of Perry County
43. Friends of the Pigeon Forge Public Library (Sevier)
44. Polk County Friends of the Library
45. Putnam County Library Friends
46. Friends of Sequatchie County Public Library
47. Friends of Seymour Library (Sevier County)
48. Friends of Signal Mountain Public Library (Hamilton County)
49. Friends of Smyrna Library (Rutherford)
50. Somerville-Fayette County Friends of the Library
51. Friends of the Spring Hill Public Library (Maury)
52. Stewart County Friends of the Library
53. Friends of the Tellico Village Public Lib (Loudon)
54. Friends of the Tipton County Public Library
55. Friends of the Vonore Public Library (Monroe)
56. Friends of the W G Rhea Public Library, Paris (Henry County)
57. Friends of the Washington Co/Jonesborough Library
58. Friends of the White County Library
59. White House Library Friends (Robertson County)
60. Friends of the Williamson County Public Library

Please come join us:
You are warmly invited to join Friends of Tennessee Libraries, to participate in Friends activities, and to unite in support of our state's libraries.
http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/support-us/membership-2/

From FOTL to YOU

You have made significant contributions to your local Friends. Take those skills to the state level by joining the FOTL Board. FOTL is looking for Friends like you to fill these roles:

- Membership Chair  ■  Newsletter Staff  ■  Regional Representatives

Questions? Get in touch with Don Reynolds: don.reynolds2030@gmail.com
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Reaching your library from home is easier than ever through the Tennessee Electronic Library.
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Membership Application

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

INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY ORGANIZATION
• Individual $15/yr • 1-49 Members $25/yr
• Family $25/yr • 50-99 Members $55/yr
• Silver $50/yr • 100-499 Members $75/yr
• Gold $100/yr • 500 Members $100/yr
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