



Looking for the 2015 Friends of the Year

TLA, FOTL To Confer Two Awards

Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) and Tennessee Library Association (TLA), co-sponsors of the annual Friend of the Year Award, have agreed to make two awards possible for 2015: one for a recipient presenting libraries serving a population of up to 24,999 and another representing libraries serving a population greater than 25,000. Under the new plan, groups serving smaller populations will no longer be pitted against those serving larger communities.

The revised nomination form found on page 5 reflects this change. November 15 is the deadline for nominations.

Established in 2010, the award has gone to groups whose extraordinary dedication and achievements have made significant contributions to their community and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee. For example, the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville



Handsome trophies like this one given to Friends of the Williamson County Public Library in 2015 await two recipients of the Friend of the Year Award to be presented at the TLA conference in Kingsport on April 8, 2016.

worked for a decade to promote the building of a new library. Last year's recipient broke new ground by underwriting the publication of an original book created by the library staff.

Recipients of the awards will be announced at the 2016 TLA conference in Kingsport on April 8. All nominees will be recognized then, and each nominee will receive a year's membership in FOTL.

INSIDE

- 3 Guest Column by Diane Johnson
- 4 Carnegie Library Update by Marilyn Joiner
- 5 Nomination Form for Friend of the Year
- 6 Putnam County Library and Its Friends
- 7 Millersville Library Opening by Gerald Beavers

Clarksville To Host '16 Annual Meeting

Save the date: April 23, 2016. That's when Clarksville will host the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Stay tuned for more information about another Friendly gathering.

CONTACT US

FOTL Officers

President

DON REYNOLDS

<don.reynolds2030@gmail.com>

President-Elect

WILLIAM SUNDQUIST

<wsundquist@wgpaver.com>

Past President

SUSIE WEBB RIES

<susiewries@gmail.com>

Interim Treasurer

CONNIE ALBRECHT

<connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>

Secretary

DWIGHT SHEPHERD

<dewhitesheep@hotmail.com>

Newsletter Editor

MARTHA GILL

<marthagill491@gmail.com>

Full directory online:

<www.friendstnlibraries.org>



The FOTL Outlook

By Donald B. Reynolds, Jr.

FOTL President

Many thanks to Diane Johnson, our guest columnist on page 3, for her devotion to libraries and for her understanding that libraries today are as important as ever if not more so.

FOTL is searching for new board members. We are looking for a treasurer, a membership chair, a legislative contact, and divisional representatives from Middle and East Tennessee. If you would (or someone you know would) be interested in joining our volunteer team to help support library Friends in Tennessee, please contact me at <don.reynolds2030@gmail.com> or 865.475.2030 with any questions.

Be looking for FOTL at the Tennessee State Library Trustee Workshops.

October 5 Carson-Newman University

October 6 Art Circle Public Library, Crossville

October 7 Brentwood Public Library

October 8 Humboldt Medical Center Conference Center, Humboldt

Friends of Libraries Week, October 18-24, will be here before you know it.

Along with Governor Haslam's Proclamation for Tennessee last year, Brentwood, Knox County, and Sevier County issued proclamations in honor of Friends of Libraries Week. Will you persuade your city or county funders to issue an proclamation this year to recognize and support your Friends group?

Here's a sample from Brentwood:

WHEREAS, Friends of the Brentwood Library raise money that enables our library to move from good to great providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children's summer reading, and special events throughout the year, and

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present, and

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers' advisory and children's services, and

WHEREAS, the Friends' gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of the City of Brentwood, I do join with the board of Commissioners in proclaiming October 19-25, 2014, as Friends of Libraries week in the City of Brentwood and urge all citizens to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better. —Signed by Mayor Betsy Crossley



Libraries Are Special, Important as Ever

By Diane Johnson
Past President
Friends of King Family Library
Sevierville, TN

I love books and reading, so, naturally, I love the library. One of my earliest memories is going to our hometown library with my mother and brothers every Saturday with a cardboard box full of books to return and fill again. We could each choose our own books, which made the library an unusual argument-free zone. Every night we would all sit on my brother's bed in our pajamas while my mother read to us. Library Day was so exciting for me; it felt like Christmas every week.

Of course, I didn't know then that someday I would grow up, marry a boy from Tennessee and still get to go to the library every week. (He probably didn't know that my five bookcases full of books would be moving with me either!) And I didn't know I would also get to work with Friends! The Friends of Sevier County Libraries (King Family, Kodak and Seymour) are volunteer, non-profit organizations that exist to support our libraries and the hard-working people who staff them. We all work together to support and promote the library. We raise money that helps fund book, material and equipment purchases. We are major supporters of the annual Summer Reading Program,

Editor's note: Diane Johnson is past president of Friends of King Family Library. She is proud to work with the Friends of Kodak and Seymour libraries. This column originally appeared on August 12, 2015, in The Mountain Press and appears here with permission from The Mountain Press Editor Jason Davis. Diane can be reached at <djohnson@sevierlibrary>.

which over 3,500 people attended this year. The Kodak Friends sell the cookbook they published that includes priceless stories about Kodak's history and heritage. The Seymour Friends created and present two popular events—"How We Live: Then and Now" and "Summer Sounds and Sweets." The King Family Friends have presented free monthly Lifelong Learning programs for three years. Working together, we create and sell "Sevier County Memories," a calendar with historic photos from all over Sevier County.

We are often asked, "Why do we need libraries when we have the Internet?" You can ask any one of the over 7,500 people who visit our three branches in a busy week. Of course, libraries are still places where you can check out books and go to storytime, as in olden days. But now libraries are also technology hubs, resource centers and homeschooling sites. Many patrons don't have Internet access at home, so they come to use the computers. They create résumés to search and apply for jobs, communicate with employers and schools and learn new computer skills, which are constantly changing. Others come to study, get help with homework or attend a meeting. Still others gather in book clubs

and writing groups. Kids come to build a robot, record music, make a movie and use the 3D printer. Libraries today are community centers—still free and open to everyone.

We are blessed to have the support of our community. But, as with any vital and growing program, we can always use help. If you love the library like we do, here are three things you can do to help:

1. Volunteer at your local branch.
2. Join your local Friends group.
3. Tell your elected representatives

how you use your library and ask them to support it.

Now, if you'll excuse me, Harper Lee's new book is calling me and I must go. Thanks for reading!

President Don Reynolds adds:

Diane understands that libraries in the 21st century are going to be less about books and more about the services that library staff provide to their communities. **Miguel Figueroa** of the Center for the Future of Libraries (he spoke at FOTL's annual meeting last April) sums it up when he says, "the library of the future, whether the physical space or its digital resources, can be the place where you put things together, make something new, meet new people, and share what you and others bring to the table. It's peer-to-peer, hands-on, community-based and creation-focused."

Along with having expanded their offerings beyond books with computer and literacy training, meeting rooms, art galleries, cafés, "booktiques" selling used books, jewelry, and various items, check out this list of working new ideas and innovations in public libraries at <<http://tinyurl.com/IdeasandInnovations>>.



The camera caught Diane Johnson a long way from home this spring in a Berber village in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco.



Etowah's 100-Year-Old Treasure

Carnegie Library Building To Be Updated

By Marilyn Joiner

President, Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library

After 100 years of continuous service to this community and surrounding areas, Etowah Carnegie Library is receiving an update to the wooden window frames. The original wavy glass will be preserved, but restoration will stop the drafts coming through the rotting frames. A grant received from the Southeast Tennessee Preservation Society will help in this effort, while preserving the historical aspect of the building.

The red brick building was established in 1915 with an \$8,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, on property donated to the City of Etowah by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co. City Hall offices occupy the ground floor. In earlier years the lower level has been used as a clinic, a home demonstration facility, and from 1918 to 1922 it was the first Etowah High School. In 2003 the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

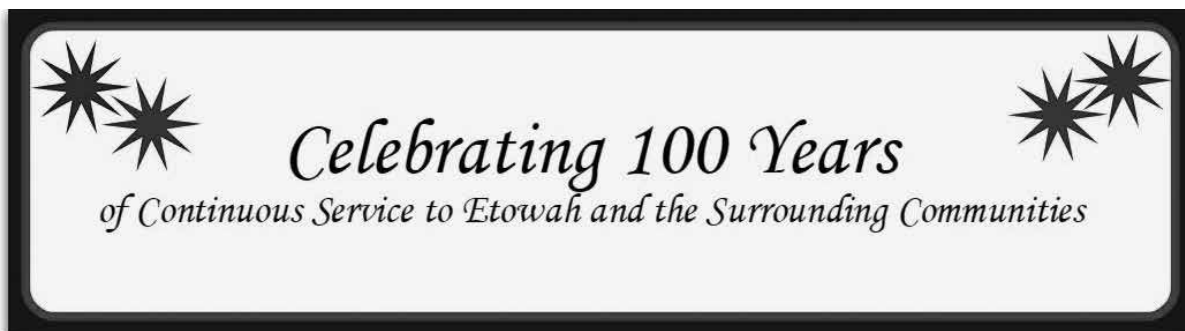
Andrew Carnegie built 17 libraries in Tennessee. Four are still functioning as libraries, and Etowah is proud to be one

of these. This library is a lively, vital part of the community, seeing up to 22,000 people come through each year (city population is 3,400). They come not only for books, but also for public computers, which are in heavy demand, as well as for programs, Wi-Fi, and social interaction.

A Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library group formed in 2010 to address the accessibility situation. There are 22 steps leading to the library entrance. Mr. Carnegie felt "one should ascend to knowledge to better oneself through education." The two lamp posts at the entrance are also typical of Carnegie libraries, to symbolize enlightenment.

The Friends work with book sales and yard sales as fundraisers, but realize accessibility is a long-term project that will take time, patience, and money. It is gratifying that people acknowledge the importance of saving this part of our city's history in a building that means so much to so many, and which daily proves its worthiness.

Editor's note: Marilyn Joiner may be reached at <knoobs@icx.net> .



Do You Know the 2015 Friend of the Year?

In 2016, 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 less 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 2016 TLA conference in Kingsport on April 8, 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.

■ Please be aware that each recipient 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 <MarthaGill491@gmail.com> or sent by postal service to Martha Gill, 4109 Forest Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 by November 15.

Nominee _____

Category by Size **Serving a population of 24,999 or Less** **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 _____

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.

Summer Outreach Receives \$3,000 Light the Way Grant Putnam County Library Wins National Award

The Putnam County Library's Books to You!

Summer Outreach project captured the attention of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Consequently, as the 2015 winner of the Light the Way Award, Putnam County Library received \$3,000 to help provide weekly door-to-door outreach to two underserved populations in the community.

According to *ALA News* (February 9, 2015), "Recognizing the success of an existing program in the school district, [Putnam County Library] will partner with teacher volunteers to provide a variety of reading materials for the traveling collection as well as food for the children. The program aims to foster community and trust between families, schools, and the library, while supporting the literacy need of the community."

The committee was particularly pleased by the library's reach into the community as a partner offering social services through its plan to provide food. The committee also commended the project for strengthening librarian-teacher relationships.

Stacie Netherton, interim director, says, "The Putnam County Library was so honored to be selected for this grant. We constantly strive to find new ways to connect with our community because above all, libraries are about service. We

were able to supply outreach books which were then delivered by a team of volunteer teachers who take the



Interim Director Stacie Netherton
Putnam County Library

books to underserved communities and read with the kids showing them that reading can be part of their summer fun. The best part is that the books then go home with the students!"

Editor's note:
See the ALA press release: <<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/02/putnam-county-library-receives-2015-light-way-grant>>.



And here's more good news from Putnam County: The organization of Friends of the Putnam County Library County was chosen as the Best of the Best among civic groups in this year's contest held by the Herald-Citizen newspaper. The Friends' response? "We feel honored!" Front row (left to right): Pat Phillips, past president; Judy Titsworth, president; back row: Nicole Pugh, director at large; Pat Rottmund, hospitality chair; Joanne White, book sale chair; and Andrea Batson, director at large.

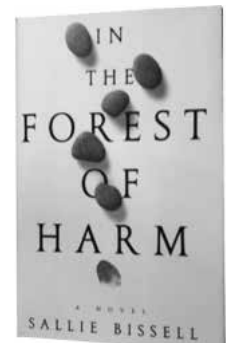
On the Books With TN Readers

Friends of the Library Association of Cleveland/Bradley County Public Library will present Sallie

Bissell, author of the Appalachian mysteries series featuring Mary Crow, at the fall luncheon on Thursday, September 24. Also the organization's third annual silent auction of rare and old books is scheduled for Sunday, November 8, in the library's Community Room.

Putnam County Library Friends will feature Denise Liernan, author of *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*, at dinner on September 19. Cookeville's St. Thomas Aquinas Church is the setting for the Friends' Dinner with an Author.

Is the Southern Festival of Books, slated for October 9-11 in Nashville, also on your calendar? Check out its impressive lineup of writers. It's free and open to all.



Millersville Library Opens August 24

By Gerald Beavers
FOTL Board Member

The Millersville Public Library became the fifth in the Sumner County Library system at the grand opening and dedication on August 24. Ceremonies were conducted by Sumner County Library Board of Trustees Chair Larry Hinton. Speakers included Millersville Mayor Tim Lassiter, County Executive Anthony Holt, and Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett. The dedication was attended by Red River Regional Director Becky Bailey and many other local dignitaries and supporters.

Library Director Ginger Graves is pleased with the beautiful new facility to meet the community needs. She said that between the “soft” opening on July 27 and the dedication the library has already issued approximately 250 library cards. Children and patrons have shown great excitement to

finally have this learning facility in the city. The staff is busy adding to the book collection and technology (see both books and computers below) to provide a wide variety of services to area residents.

The library opened too late for a summer reading program this year, but many other programs are in progress. Three children’s programs occur each week, and one young adult program meets every month. A big Halloween event is also in the works. The library participates in the Red River Regional Library system and the Tennessee Reads On-line program. The staff is still in the process of determining community needs and will develop programs, equipment, and purchase materials to meet those future needs as the opportunity arises.

The Millersville Public Library does not yet have a Friends organization, but Director Graves is working toward developing one. Friends of Tennessee Libraries stands ready to assist her in setting up a Millersville Friends organization.

The Millersville Public Library is a newly constructed facility. The proposal for the library was made to the City of Millersville in November 2012 and construction was completed in June 2015.



Speakers at the opening of the Millersville Public Library included (from top) Millersville Mayor Tim Lassiter, County Executive Anthony Holt, and Secretary of State Tre Hargett.



A Page from the Past: 1996 Friend of the Year

The year was 1996. Julie Webb was president of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries. The summer edition of the FOTL *News/letter* announced that the organization had chosen Dolly Parton as Friend of the Year. Mrs. Webb said, “Miss Parton’s Imagination Library symbolizes the mission of FOTL. Beginning as a small child, Dolly Parton used her imagination to dream up countless adventures. The rich heritage of storytelling in East Tennessee nourished that imagination and helped lead to her success as a multi-talented entertainer, singer, and songwriter. As a life-long ‘child’ of her community and as a means to encourage all

Friends of Tennessee Libraries NEWSLETTER



Summer, 1996

Volume 3, Number 2

Dolly Parton named “Friend of the Year”

its children to love books and stories, reading, and creative thinking, Dolly Parton’s gift [of Imagination Library] is exemplary of what it means to be a friend.”

Friends of Tennessee Libraries
7208 Scottsville Road
Lafayette, TN 37083

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 582

Online at Facebook.
Website: www.friendstnlibraries.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

TEL: Reaching Your Library at Home Is Easier Than Ever!
Go to www.tntel.info

Membership Application

Become a Friend of Tennessee Libraries

(Membership year is January to December.)

INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY		ORGANIZATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-49 Members	\$25/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 Members	\$55/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	\$50/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-499 Members	\$75/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold	\$100/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 Members	\$100/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum	\$500/yr		

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 FOTL Membership Chair Connie Albrecht,

1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501-2062.