“Contrary to popular belief, government isn’t broken; people just need to learn how to work the system and beat the odds.”
—Stephanie Vance, The Advocacy Guru

Calling Engaged Citizens to Nashville
On Library Legislative Day Feb. 21

How can members of Friends of Tennessee Libraries persuade state legislators that well-funded public libraries are essential to vibrant communities? For years Stephanie Vance, the self-styled Advocacy Guru, has helped groups learn how to communicate effectively with elected officials. Be there when Stephanie Vance reveals winning tactics to advocates on Library Legislative Day at the public library in Nashville on February 21.

Mark May 2 on Your Calendars

Friday, May 2, is the date for FOTL’s 2008 annual meeting, which this year will occur in Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street. Make plans now to join FOTL members from across the state. In addition to the election of officers and recognition of volunteers, Kevin Slimp, technology director for the Tennessee Press Association, will be on hand to give us valuable tips for “Creating Innovative Newsletters and Publicity Using the Latest Tools.” And Wishing Chair Productions, Nashville Public Library’s resident puppeteers and children’s theater performers, will present the afternoon program. More details will be on their way soon!
Our Mission
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.

DIRECTORY: Friends of Tennessee Libraries Officers 2007-2008

PRESIDENT
SUSAN CHAMBERS
615 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37219
615.862.5804, ext. 6044
<friendsofthelibrary@nashville.gov>

PAST PRESIDENT
CONNIE ALBRECHT
1560 Country Club Place
Cookeville, TN 38501
931.526.1317
<connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>

PRESIDENT-ELECT
JOHN NYE
94 Quail Ridge Drive
Crossville, TN 38555-5796
931.456.6389
<jens08@citlink.net>

TREASURER
ED JARED
1221 Woodlake Trace
Cookeville, TN 38501
931.528.2700
<ejared@ithf.org>

SECRETARY
PAT ROTTMUND
962 River Bend Drive
Cookeville, TN 38506
931.372.1691
<rottmund@frontiernet.net>

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FRANCES DARNELL
ROBERT GIBSON
DR. EDWIN GLEAVES
JOHN NYE
JULIE WEBB

FOTL on the Web:
<www.friendstnlib.net>

Friends of Tennessee Libraries Regional Representatives

BLUE GRASS
JACK VICARY
232 Lighthouse Terrace
Franklin, TN 37064
615.599.0905
<vicar12255@bellsouth.net>

CANEY FORK
JOYCE BAUR
P.O. Box 323
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578-0323
931.277.5269
<jwbaur@multipro.com>

HIGHLAND RIM
No representative

CLINCH-POWELL
THERESA VENABLE
Langston Hughes Library
CDF Haley Farm
1000 Alex Haley Lane
Clinton, TN 37716
865.457.6466
<tvenable@childrendefense.org>

KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY,
ADVOCACY CHAIR
SUZANNE FREEMAN
12106 Butternut Circle
Knoxville, TN 37934
865.966.7226
<dettyszud@tds.net>

FORKED DEER
NANCY FREEMAN
528 Johnson Grove Road
Bells, TN 38006
731.663.0531 (W)
<greenfrog412@yahoo.com>

FORT LOUDOUN
BARBARA ZURL
P.O. Box 70
Walland, TN 37886
865.977.5034
<Badger630@aol.com>

M rac- SHELBY COUNTY
PETER McNEAL
P.O. Box 1098
Memphis, TN 38101
901.230.6965
<William@memofourlibrary.org>

NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON CTY.
SUSIE WEBB RIES
3506 Richland Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
615.279.0680
<susieries@comcast.net>

NOLICHUCKY
DON REYNOLDS
315 McCrory Drive
Morristown, TN 37814-3196
423.586.6251
<don.reynolds@state.tn.us>

NOLICHUCKY
DON REYNOLDS
315 McCrory Drive
Morristown, TN 37814-3196
423.586.6251
<don.reynolds@state.tn.us>

REELFOOT
GAY A. NICHOLS
W.G. Rhea Library
400 W. Washington Street
Paris, TN 38242
731.642.1702
<gaynichols@charter.net>

STATE LIBRARY ADVISORY
COUNCIL LIAISON
FRANCES DARNELL
7144 Scottsville Road
Lafayette, TN 37083
615.666.2547
<darnell@nctc.com>

MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY
PETER McNEAL
P.O. Box 1098
Memphis, TN 38101
901.230.6965
<William@memofourlibrary.org>

SHILOH
DIANE VERNON
P.O. Box 494
Decaturville, TN 38329
731.852.4205
<diane@netease.net>

UPPER CUMBERLAND
ELINOR P. ROSS
1365 Sherwood Lane
Cookeville, TN 38501
931.528.1175
<eross@tntech.edu>

WARIOTO
No representative

WATAUGA
No representative

WATERTOWN
No representative

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
MARTHA GILL
4109 Forest Glen Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
865.525.8920
<mgill333375@bellsouth.net>

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTOR
BARBARA ZURL
<Badger630@aol.com>

STATE LIBRARIAN & ARCHIVIST
JEANNE SUGG
<Jeanne.Sugg@state.tn.us>

T LA PRESIDENT
JANE PINKSTON
403 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243-0312
615.741.3158
<jane.pinkston@state.tn.us>

STATE LIBRARY ADVISORY
COUNCIL LIAISON
FRANCES DARNELL
7144 Scottsville Road
Lafayette, TN 37083
615.666.2547
<darnell@nctc.com>
About Stephanie Vance and Advocacy

“Building upon their [the founders’] joint expertise in grassroots organization and development, communicating with elected officials and association management, Advocacy Associates seeks to help its clients understand how to utilize grassroots advocates to work the legislative system.” Thus the website of Advocacy Associates describes the origins and mission of the firm that Stephanie D. Vance founded with Jason Jordan, formerly of the American Planning Association.

Ms. Vance, who is the author of Government by the People: How to Communicate with Congress, worked for 15 years in assignments related to congressional communications. She has been associated with a prominent law firm in the District of Columbia and has lobbied for National Public Radio. Her experience has been rooted in a strong belief in successful advocacy that “requires bold planning, a strong network of supporters, smart strategy, and aggressive execution” (<www.advocacyassociates.com>). She will expound on that view at Legislative Day February 21.

Taking Care of Business: The FOTL Board

The Friends of Tennessee Library Board takes care of business when it meets quarterly, usually on the third Friday of the month except in December) in the Mount Juliet Public Library to plan and to learn about the activities of Friends across the state.

FOTL members in good standing are urged to be aware of their regional representatives (see Directory on page 2) and to keep those good folks informed about what is going on in local Friends organizations.

The comedian Paula Poundstone, who has become the national spokesperson for Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), has said, “If you haven’t been to the library lately, you’re overdue.” By the same token, if you haven’t paid your FOTL dues and talked to your regional representative recently, you’re overdue, too!.

Meet Pat Rottmund, who recently came on board as FOTL’s secretary. For some thirty years she and her husband lived in Pennsylvania, where Pat was an English professor at Harrisburg Community College, but she took early retirement when her husband’s work took them to Nashville, where Pat became a volunteer with the library. The Rottmuns decided to stay in the area when her husband retired, and they happily settled in Cookeville, where they have lived for four years. Pat became aware of the Friends at one of its book sales, and Connie Albrecht eventually recruited Pat as secretary for the Friends of Tennessee Libraries board. Pat is an avid reader and flyfishing woman who has been to all of the 50 states (except Oregon) and who loves spending time on her boat on Dale Hollow Lake.

At work at the December meeting of FOTL’s board are (from left), Julie Webb, a past president and current member of the Advisory Committee; Susie Webb Reis, regional representative for Nashville and Davidson County; and Treasurer Ed Jared.
**Friends in the Hot Seat: Blount County to the Rescue**

*By Barbara Zurl*  
*Fort Loudoun Representative*

According to Lady Blessington, “Friends are the thermometer by which we may judge the temperature of our fortunes.” Never were these words truer than back in August in Maryville, Tennessee, when the Blount County Friends of the Library came to the rescue and made a very special event possible.

On August 23, 2007, the last concert of the “Hot Summer Nights” series sponsored by the Friends was scheduled to bring nationally recognized Robinella to perform for the community. Everything was planned; excitement had been building.

Robin Contreras, who was born in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, and who founded Robinella and the CC Stringband back in 1999, was all set to bring her lovely voice and music back home to fill the night air. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans.

Now, it’s not what you are thinking. Rain was not the issue. Blount County had been suffering one of the worst droughts in its last 100-year history. The issue was heat. Local meteorologists forecast a 100+ degree afternoon. It only made sense to move the outdoor concert inside in the interest of good health and comfort.

The library’s Community Outreach Officer, Joan VanSickle Sloan, was faced with a problem. Hundreds of chairs would need to be set up within the library. Joan made just one phone call that Thursday afternoon—to Bob Ramger, president of the Blount County Friends of the Library—and explained the situation.

Within an hour Bob and 9 volunteers were at the library setting up more than 300 chairs. Volunteer Friends helped direct traffic, seated concert goers, and made the night a success. According to Joan, “This was the largest turn-out we’ve ever had for any library program. The Friends made this whole night possible for the community not only by financing ‘Hot Summer Nights,’ but by working so hard to get everyone seated comfortably.”

Once again, the true nature of being a Friend came to the fore. The Fort Loudoun Region of FOTL is proud of Blount County Public Library and their many Friends.

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**Williamson County Can’t Have Too Many Friends**

*By Mary Ella Bastian*  
*Vice President*  
*Williamson County Friends*

Williamson County Friends play a vital role in our beautiful library, the setting for FOTL’s annual meeting in 2007.

Friends hold three annual book sales and host the annual garden tour. Proceeds from these events are ultimately given to the library for a variety of uses. Some of the money purchases books, DVDs, CDs, and other items for the permanent collection. Money also funds well-attended events and programs.

The Jane Langston Continuing Education Fund, established in memory of the assistant director of the library for nearly 30 years, is administered by the Friends. It has enabled numerous library employees to complete library degrees and also sends library managers to attend meetings where they network and gather useful information.

In 2007 the Friends donated thousands of dollars for activities as well as books and materials like additions to the Young Adult collection and the purchase of compiled service records of Confederate soldiers from the county. Friends also provide yellow book bags in which patrons can carry their checked-out items to and from the library.

When Janice Keck, library director, appears monthly on radio station WAKM to discuss upcoming library events, the Friends pay for this air time. Friends interface with the board of trustees and host receptions for board members.

Considering the many volunteers who unselfishly give their time to the daily operation of the library, a $10 tax-deductible membership fee is quite a bargain.
Tennessee Library Legislative Day 2008
Thursday, February 21, 2008

Winning Tactics for Advocacy @ your Library

9:00 – 9:20 a.m.       Registration & Continental Breakfast – Nashville Public Library Conference Center (Library doors open at 9:00 a.m.)


11:30 – Noon    Meet your Legislator at Doubletree

12:00 – 1:00 p.m        Legislative Luncheon – Doubletree Downtown Ballroom

1:00 – 5:00            Meet with Legislators  
(Schedule appointments in advance.)

Sponsored by the Tennessee Library Association in cooperation with the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, TENN-SHARE, and the Tennessee Association of School Librarians and with support of the Nashville Public Library.

Registration  
(Please complete a separate form for each attendee.)

Name: ____________________________

Home Address: ________________________________________________

City:______________ County_________________ Zip code: ____________

Telephone: (        ) __________________  E-Mail _____________________________

Library I will represent: _____________________________ County:_______________

I am attending as a:  (Please circle one category only)
Library Friend       Library Trustee      Library User        Librarian       Library Staff     Other (specify)____________

Help us match you with your Legislators:
I live/vote in TN Senate District #__________ and TN House District # __________
(You can identify your District numbers by consulting your voter registration card, calling your County Election Commission, or visiting the Advocacy/Legislation page at www.tnla.org.)

Registration fee:  $25 per person.  If paying by check, make check payable to Tennessee Library Association and mail with completed registration form to: TLA, PO Box 241074, Memphis Tennessee  38124-1074.  If paying by credit or debit card, register online at www.tnla.org.  Registration deadline:  February 8, 2008.  No refunds will be given, but participant substitutions will be accepted.

For additional registration information contact TLA at arhuggins1@comcast.net or (901) 485-6952.  For additional program information go to www.tnla.org.
Even Small Groups of Friends Make a Difference

By Elinor Ross
Representative
Upper Cumberland Region

Clay County Friends plan to follow up their very successful chili supper with a social so that members can get to know each other.

Some faithful members of the DeKalb County Friends remain to help out at the library, but the organization is now inactive.

Imagination Library is the focus of the 12 active Fentress County Friends. During Imagination Library Week a representative from the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation visited the Friends, and a “Fun Day for Kids” featured refreshments. In lieu of flowers traditionally sent to funerals, the group, led by President Carol Watson, hopes to encourage residents to make donations to the early-childhood reading program that will be matched by state funds.

The Macon County Board of Trustees and Friends hosted a well-attended barbecue supper for their funding bodies, which include city and county officials and their spouses. Handouts distributed by the librarian at the event acquainted officials with statistics related to the way patrons use the library and the services that the library offers.

Monterey Friends are proud of a very successful “Family Fun Day,” a fund raiser that included a book sale. Proceeds from the event enabled the Friends to purchase a bike rack for the library and to offer a bicycle safety program for children. Kathy Hargis is president of the Friends.

Overton County Friends focus on outreach by buying rugs for their new library, purchasing large-print books for senior citizens, and providing films and cassettes for local schools. Cynthia Carmack is president of the Friends.

Pickett County Friends recently bought new shelves for the library, and since they began sponsoring the Imagination Library three years ago, more than 7,000 books have been distributed to children in the area. When the organization received a settlement of $10,000 in a class-action lawsuit, the Friends turned the money over to the County Commission to apply against the library’s debt in recognition of the commission’s cooperation with the Friends.

Putnam County Friends helped display “Dolls for Dolly” during Imagination Library Week and in November held its annual open house featuring a silent auction of donated coffee table books. Friends also treated the library staff to lunch on a work day and will fund a sign in front of the library with movable print for announcing library events. Book sales for Friends only are held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month and for the general public on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00-2:00.

Smith County Friends, organized only a year ago, have hosted three local authors who have read from their books, autographed them, and offered them for sale. The group hopes to increase the number of patrons who have library cards. Holly Hamilton is president.
Members Urged to Oppose Not-for-Profit Sales Taxes

By Barbara Zurl

Fort Loudoun Representative

At the September 2007 meeting of FOTL, Suzanne Freeman of Knoxville informed the group that Knoxville Friends of the Library have taken the initiative to contact their Tennessee state representative, Bill Dunn, regarding the problem of paying tax on monies raised by not-for-profit Friends groups. Mr. Dunn is set to introduce a bill or an amendment in this year’s session concerning this matter.

Following that meeting, after being apprised of the situation, Blount County Friends of the Library contacted State Representative Joe McCord requesting that he support Mr. Dunn’s initiative. Libraries within the Fort Loudoun Region were apprised of this action and a sample formatted letter was sent to them requesting them to similarly get on board.

According to the 2005-2006 Public Library Statistics issued by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, 120 Friends groups exist within the state with 18,615 members.

If members of every Friends group wrote to their legislators, if every Friend wrote a letter, just think about the impact we could make!

Please join with other concerned citizens within the state, fellow Friends, and let’s see if we can make a difference!

Kodak Friends Raise Funds with Amazon

When members of the Kodak Friends buy from Amazon on line, they actually support the building fund for the new main library in the Sevier County system. To the building fund, Amazon will donate a percentage of all purchases made through a link on the website of the Sevier County Library System (<www.sevierlibrary.org>). Customers must use that link in order to benefit the library fund.

SAMPLE LETTER

Re: Friends Groups Paying Sales Tax on Book Sale Proceeds

Dear Representative ____________:

The _____ Friends of the Library hosts ___ book sales a year to help raise money for the _________ Library. The current law specifies that when a charitable group like ours has more than two fund-raising events a year, we must pay sales taxes on all monies raised. This means that we pay approximately $_____ in quarterly taxes in excess of $______ per year since we average about $______ per sale. This money going to sales tax revenue would otherwise go directly back to the library to help support programs, activities, and certain equipment purchases. In other words, it would go back to the very community that makes our book sales possible.

All public libraries in Tennessee face the same problem. We understand that the Knoxville Friends of the Library has asked Representative Bill Dunn to introduce a bill or an amendment in next year’s session concerning this matter.

More than ___ members of our ______ Friends of the Library would be most appreciative if you could help us to rectify this problem by supporting this bill or amendment asking that tax-exempt groups with budgets of less than $200,000 be exempt from the sales tax.

Libraries are essential to the health and well being of communities. Friends groups work diligently to help our libraries bring the very best of services to our community. As our representative, please support this effort.

Sincerely,

Winter 2008

Friends of Tennessee Libraries newsletter
Memphis Friends Donate Books for Good Cause

By Lillian Johnson
PR Supervisor
Memphis Public Library & Information Center

Colorful READ posters featuring movie and music icons adorn the walls. New bookshelves and furniture punctuate the space set aside for this new library. The promise of self-discovery and inspiration abounds on every shelf—on every page. It is cause for celebration! However, the reason to celebrate has more to do with the users than the library itself.

For the first time in its history, thanks in great part to the Friends of the Memphis Public Library & Information Center, the Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center recently dedicated libraries. Friends provided 600 books for the openings at the detention libraries. The books were given to the Friends, and in turn, members sorted and selected quality, age-appropriate materials on a variety of topics and on all reading levels for the new libraries. According to Sherman Dixon, Friends book sale committee chair, the books will be replenished at the center as the need and donations permit.

“Anything we can do to enhance the lives of young people temporarily in detention is important,” said Rick Powell, administrator of juvenile detention services at Juvenile Court. “Reading encourages these kids to use their minds and improve their lives.”

The Friends were not alone in this worthwhile cause. New bookshelves were provided by KEN- RICH Manufacturing. The furniture, including sofas, love seats, and chairs, was donated by Memphis Furniture Showroom.

Look for Us on the Web

2. Click on “Register” under the Members Section.
3. Enter the necessary information and click “Send Registration.”
4. Then check your e-mail account for the confirmation e-mail.
5. Click the link in the e-mail, and your new account will be active!

Soon to come will be a forum for the discussion of issues of interest and concern to Friends across the state. What topics would you like to see discussed there? Notify Martha Gill at <gill333375@bellsouth.net>. Items to be placed on the calendar and photos to be included in the gallery should also be sent to Martha.
Newsletter Reports Invite New Members

Reports in newsletters actually promote membership in the Friends implicitly by conveying to the reader what the organization stands for and what it does. Who wouldn’t want to be a part of organizations that contributed to their communities in the following ways?

In 2007, 267 volunteers donated more than 10,000 hours of service to the library system in Chattanooga. The newsletter Volumes recognizes volunteers according to the level of their service from “Sentence” (10 hours) to “Encyclopedia” (over 2,000 hours).

Five volunteers achieved “Book” status (200+ hours): Paul Fuller, Seth Shaffer, Roy Stratton, Joe Word, and Mary Aleta Word.

Only one—Polly Stratton—logged more than 2,000 hours. Another organization, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Chattanooga, presented Polly with a President's Call to Service Lifetime Achievement Award, given to those who have devoted at least 4,000 hours of volunteer service in their lifetime. To date Polly has more than 5,500 hours to her credit, but she’s still counting!

The Art Circle Public Library Friends remind prospective members that this year they have organized two book sales, raised funds to support summer reading programs and the Fall Teen Read, purchased a teen book collection, and enhanced other library services by providing wireless internet cards, LCD screen protectors, web filters, and a subscription to Book Page. The Friends also sponsor community events and monthly membership meetings featuring community leaders. Over the past few years the Friends have contributed over $60,000 to the fund that will help Crossville build a new library.

Friends of the Knox County Public Library’s newsletter annually publishes a list of those items that the organization has purchased from the library system’s “wish list,” items and services not usually provided in the system’s budget.

The Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library will play an active role in planning and implementing events for the area’s upcoming Big Read of The Great Gatsby.

Thanks to the efforts of the library staff and Putnam County Friends Jane Whitaker, Sue Pogue, and Beth Thompson, the book store “Twice Told Tales” stays busy.

The Tellico Village newsletter recognized Ted and Judy Valentini as the group’s 1000th household to enroll in the Friends, an energetic and growing support system for the library.

White County Library Friends observed Children’s Book Week in November by reading to over 1,600 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Looking Ahead To Celebrating Friends Week

It’s not too early to be planning how your Friends group will celebrate National Friends of Library Week October 19-25, 2008. In 2007 those celebrations were varied but memorable, according to the November issue of the publication of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA).

Festivities of the Friends of Tellico Village, TN, lasted for a week that coincided with the group’s membership drive. A picnic for all Friends board members and all library volunteers kicked off the celebration and included its annual meeting featuring Dr. William Bass, founder of UT’s Forensic Anthropology Center popularly referred to as the “Body Farm.” Every citizen who renewed or opened a new membership in the Friends was eligible for daily door prizes.

Friends of Fort Worth, TX, who renewed their memberships as well as newcomers received a free 2008 Book Lover’s Calendar.

Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Library in Cadillac, MI, hosted an evening of Chocolate Delight. For $7.00 new members received a one-year membership and tempting chocolate desserts. Current members were also encouraged to extend their memberships and enjoy the company of new library fans.

County Commissioners in Conroe, TX, declared October 21-27 National Friends of Libraries Week, and local Friends marked the occasion by distributing bookmarks (available on FOLUSA’s website) to patrons.

Friends of Sara Hightower Regional Library in Rome, GA, held a reception for Jaclyn White, Georgia’s Author of the Year.

Friends of Allen, TX, raffled off a weekend of driving a Mercedes Benz.
Tell Us Who Your Benefactors Are

FOTL To Recognize Volunteers for Outstanding Contributions

Once again, every FOTL member has the opportunity to recognize those having a positive influence on Tennessee libraries. The nomination itself is an honor and will be appreciated by anyone recognized for service.

The following examples are representative of those in the past who have received certificates of appreciation at the FOTL annual meeting in the past. Now FOTL is searching for such outstanding individuals to be celebrated at the annual meeting on May 2, 2008, in Nashville:

- civic-minded individuals who have donated buildings to be used as libraries;
- foundations that have been established through the generosity of individuals;
- Friends groups that have completely renovated buildings;
- individuals donating many hours a year in such significant roles as library workers who extend the hours of local libraries, computer instructors, fund-raisers, coordinators of book sales, composers of brochures about library services, organizers of book and author luncheons, founders of Friends groups, editors of newsletters,

The awards will again include $100 cash. (Most of those honored in the past have chosen to present their checks to their local library or Friends group.) Guidelines include the following details:

- The nominator must be an FOTL member. (Enrollment may accompany the nomination.)
- An FOTL member may submit one nomination per year.
- Nominations must be based on achievements during the past two years.
- Nominees may be
  - a person
  - a Friends group
  - a business
  - other groups (e.g., a club, a foundation).
- Duplication of past winners will be avoided.
- Nominations must be returned by April 4, 2008.

Get busy and return your nomination for consideration.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION NOMINATION FORM
(For achievements during the past two years.)

If your nominee is an Individual, Librarian, Friend, or Benefactor

Name________________________________________
Address_____________________________________
Nominee’s phone number_______________________
Category_____________________________________
(individual? librarian? Friend? benefactor? other?)
Library_______________________________________
Library’s address_____________________________
Library’s phone number_______________________

In 100 or fewer words, describe the nominee’s contributions to libraries in the past two years. Attach that description to this form.
Nomination submitted by _____________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________

Telephone number__________________________________________

Mail by April 4, 2008, to Diane Vernon, P.O. Box 494, Decaturville, TN 38329.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries newsletter Winter 2008
StoryCorps Comes to Nashville Public Library

Adapted from Press Release
Nashville Public Library

Last fall, Nashville Public Library became only the second institution in the nation to host a “StoryBooth,” an outpost of StoryCorps, the award-winning national project that encourages Americans to listen to each other by sharing the stories of their lives in sound.

Select interviews gathered at StoryBooths—small freestanding recording studios placed in public spaces across the country—are broadcast on National Public Radio. The interviews also added to the StoryCorps archive at American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., building an oral history of America.

“We are thrilled to have been chosen as a StoryBooth location,” said Donna Nicely, director of Nashville Public Library. “This project underscores our library’s vision to preserve and share across generations the wisdom, culture and history of our community.

“Our city is rich with human stories that cross all cultural lines, from the brave stand of local students in the Civil Rights movement to the fascinating and colorful development of the music industry to the family stories of the people who live in our city today. Nashville is a great place to explore the fabric of America.”

The Nashville StoryBooth is located in the Nashville Room on the second floor of the downtown Main Library, 615 Church St., for one year. Interview slots are open to the public by reservation only. Reservations can be made by visiting <storycorps.net>. The library can assist those without computers in making reservations; they can visit any branch library or call 862.5800.

People participate in StoryCorps in pairs—often friends or loved ones—with one person interviewing the other. Any topic can be discussed, from funny family stories, memorable experiences and life lessons learned, to documenting participation in an historic time or event. A trained StoryCorps facilitator guides the participants through the interview process and handles the technical aspects of the broadcast-quality digital recording. At the end of the 40-minute session, the participants get a CD of their interview, and—with their permission—a second copy is sent to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress where it becomes part of the nation’s oral history archive.

Typically two speakers work together to record stories in a StoryBooth.

Select excerpts of interviews recorded in the Nashville StoryBooth may, with permission of the participants, be broadcast locally on Nashville Public Radio/WPLN (90.3 FM), and nationally on NPR’s Morning Edition or All Things Considered.

Media partners for the Nashville StoryBooth include Nashville Public Radio/WPLN (90.3 FM) and <wpln.org>, The Tennessean and <tennessean.com>. The Nashville StoryBooth is made possible through the generous contributions of Irene and Ridley Wills, Bridgestone/Firestone, and Ann Patchett.

StoryCorps has recorded over 10,000 stories since its inception.

Editor’s note: Thanks to Deanna Larson, Gillian Kocher, and Dan Klores with the Nashville Public Library for this report.
Are Your Dues Up to Date?
FOTL members were reminded by mail early in January that dues expire in December. Connie Albrecht, past president and current membership chair, appealed to recipients of her letter to renew their commitment to the mission of FOTL. The coupon on this page will also jog memories in case Connie’s letter got mixed up with holiday mail. FOTL needs you, and Tennessee libraries need FOTL.

TEL: Your Library at Home
Go to <http://access.gale.com/tel2/> Then select your county and proceed.

Membership Application
Remain a Friend of Tennessee Libraries
(Membership year is January to December)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS</th>
<th>ORGANIZATIONS</th>
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<td>$15/yr</td>
<td>$25/yr</td>
<td>$25/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Silver</td>
<td>Family Silver</td>
<td>50-99 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50/yr</td>
<td>$50/yr</td>
<td>$55/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Gold</td>
<td>Family Gold</td>
<td>100-499 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100/yr</td>
<td>$100/yr</td>
<td>$75/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Platinum</td>
<td>Family Platinum</td>
<td>500 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500/yr</td>
<td>$500/yr</td>
<td>$100/yr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name____________________________________ Phone____________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip_________________________________________________________________

- Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries - Send to FOTL Treasurer,
  1221 Woodlake Trace, Cookeville, TN 38501