



Friends of Tennessee Libraries *newsletter*

January-February 2012

Volume 19, Number 1

FOTL Awards Grants to Two

Friends in Putnam County and Dyersburg have secured grants from Friends of Tennessee Libraries in a new FOTL initiative designed to empower local groups.

Putnam County Friends (PCLF) won two \$200 grants. One will help fund an author to speak on subjects of interest to people attending the home show sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Upper Cumberland. The large venue will enable the Putnam Friends to promote the library to a wide audience.

A second \$200 grant will underwrite "Dinner with an Author," a popular PCLF event in the community and a major fundraiser for the Friends, who have brought writers like Amy Greene and Susan Gregg Gilmore to the Cookeville area in the past two years. The event has enabled PCLF to donate at least \$16,000 a year to the library for special projects like summer reading programs.

The Friends of McIver's Public Library in Dyersburg will invest \$200 in printing and mailing materials about the Friends' membership drive.



Libraries Transform
TLA · 2012

FOTL Has Role In TLA Meeting

Two events at the Tennessee Library Association (TLA) annual conference in Knoxville on March 21-23 will be of interest to Friends.

The second prestigious Friend of the Year award, co-sponsored by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and TLA, will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday, March 23. Online registration is available at <tnla.org>.

In keeping with the conference theme of transformations, FOTL will present a program on how three groups have dealt with change: one Friends' group that has organized recently for the first time, another that is trying to revitalize its membership, and a third that in the past decade has become a pace-setting non-profit in a major city.

Put May 11, 2012, On Your Calendar For FOTL Meeting

On Friday, May 11, members of Friends of Tennessee Libraries will once again gather for FOTL's annual meeting, this year in Cookeville at the Progressive Savings Bank.

Features of the meeting include programs that will be relevant and useful to Friends.

Ellen Myrick of Myrick Marketing and Media in Nashville will bring two decades of experience in the book industry and in marketing to address the topic "How to Market Friends' Groups."

Jennie Ivey, author of the entertaining book *E Is for Elvis*, will educate the audience about the Elvis Presley alphabet.

Nashville attorney Jim McCarten will discuss do's and don'ts for 501(c)3 groups.

In addition, FOTL will recognize outstanding Friends in Tennessee with Certificates of Appreciation. The procedure for nominating recipients of these awards, which include \$100 to each winner, is explained on page 5. Help FOTL recognize your benefactors and volunteers.



*Tennessee
Loves Libraries*

In February gather and share stories of your library with state legislators and other funding bodies. Details at <<https://tnloveslibraries.wordpress.com/2011/11/15/tennessee-loves-libraries-in-february-2012/>>.

Thinking about Membership: Reach Out to Someone

By Susie Webb Ries

President, Friends of Tennessee Libraries

This January my book club turned 25 years old. I can easily remember the age of it because I left the first meeting early to go home and feed my three-week-old son. He turned 25 in December.

Our first book was *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. We made a rule early on that all were welcome to attend the meetings even if we hadn't read the book.

I think that's one of the reasons we've lasted a quarter of a century through marriages, births, divorces, losses

of parents, marriages of children and even the loss of a spouse: all are welcome to attend, no matter what else is going on in our lives.

I will forever be grateful to the then new friend who asked me—a newcomer in town—if I might be interested in joining a book club that was starting. The group is comprised of people I probably wouldn't have met otherwise. Now we are all dear friends.

It's nice to be asked to join a group of friends. If you are wondering how to grow your Friends membership, consider reaching out to someone(s) whom you would like to get to know better. They might be waiting for such an opportunity and I bet it will be a beneficial opportunity for all involved.



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Change to Regional Libraries Will Affect FOTL—But How?

The board of Friends of Tennessee Libraries is carefully considering how forthcoming changes to the regional library system, scheduled to begin implementation in April, will affect FOTL's structure. The organization of FOTL's board is based on 12 regional libraries, which will be reduced to nine in 2012. A number of proposals have emerged though no decision has been made pending further discussions and details about the state's actions to eliminate one regional library in each of the three grand divisions of Tennessee.



Blue Grass Representative Dick Fankhauser confers with President Ries and Nashville-Davidson County Representative Larry Price.



Nolichucky Representative Dwight Shepherd, Treasurer Ed Jared, and Memphis-Shelby Representative Peter McNeal discuss FOTL business.



Sylvia Palmer, a resident of Dyersburg, represents Forked Deer.



Among FOTL board members planning for 2012 and beyond are Upper Cumberland Representative Wanda Jared, Advisory Committee member Julie Webb, Membership Chair Connie Albrecht, Secretary Nancy Barrineau, and President Susie Webb Ries.

Another Tennessee Writer Speaks Up for Libraries

Editor's note: Wayne Zurl is the author of the Sam Jenkins mysteries, stories about a retired New York policeman who finds himself still solving crimes after his retirement to Tennessee. Wayne's novel A New Prospect was named best mystery in 2011 by Independent Publishers. Sam Jenkins' creator grew up on Long Island, NY, and retired after 20 years with the Suffolk County Police Department; he and his wife Barbara have lived in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee for over a decade. Barbara has served FOTL as representative from the Fort Loudoun Region. More information about Wayne and Sam Jenkins can be found at <<http://www.waynezurlbooks.net/index.html>>.

By Wayne Zurl

Author of the Sam Jenkins Stories

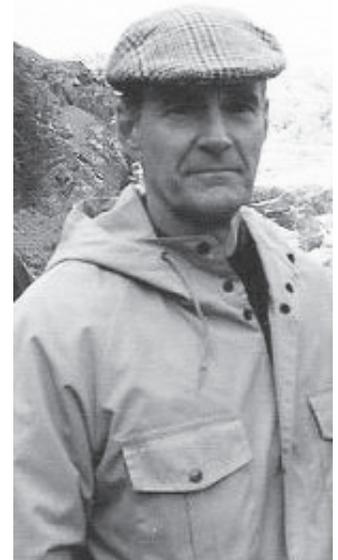
No one can argue this fact. Economic times are tough. An average family with 2.4 children struggles to purchase food, clothing, and other necessities. A new novel costs \$26.95. Fifty-page-long children's books might carry a price of \$18.95. Not everyone can afford new books. Everyone should read . . . or be afforded the opportunity to read—especially children. Catch 22?

Being familiar with the novel of the same name isn't necessary. Everyone knows the concept. What can happen to adults when they don't exercise their brain by reading? What in a child's mind gets stifled when they don't read? Is there an over-the-counter remedy for those problems?

It's called the public library, and it's the cheapest medication for a lazy mind the world can offer.

Need a vacation and can't afford one? Try the library. Bernard Cornwell transports you back to Saxon England. Rudyard Kipling sends you to India in the colonial days of the British Raj. James Michener can get you free passage on a schooner sailing to Tahiti. And that only cracks the surface of possibilities.

I like libraries.



Reynolds Writes ARSL Booklet

“Library directors and staff must understand and practice the principles of servant leadership.”

Thus begins the booklet “The Librarian as Community Leader,” written by Don Reynolds, retired director of the Nolichucky Regional Library, for the 2011 conference of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries’ in Frisco, TX. The 16-page publication is rich with information and advice especially for the director of the small and/or rural library. “If the library director is terrific, so will be the library. If the library director is unpleasant, the library will be an unpleasant place.”

For many years Don served FOTL as representative of the Nolichucky Region.

Language in Preschool Can Have Lasting Effect

Research from Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College asserts that in preschool the use of “sophisticated vocabulary and analytic talk about books, combined with early support for literacy in the home,” favorably affects students’ reading comprehension in fourth grade.

Professor of Education David Dickson, author of the study, advises parents to look for the preschool teacher’s use of rich language in conversations with preschoolers.

Details about the research can be found at <<http://news.vanderbilt.edu/author/Jennifer-wetzel/>>.

Newsletters Part of FOTL’s Network

It’s a good day when FOTL’s mailbox, physical or electronic, contains a newsletter from some of Tennessee’s Friends. These publications are a little bit like those wonderful cookbooks published by women and men who really cook: they contain time-tested recipes for dishes that real people relish. Ideas for advocacy, fundraising, and membership building are contained therein. Here are some recent examples:

Raising Funds

The Art Circle Public Library Foundation in Crossville invited supporters of the library to purchase \$25 gift cards to include in their holiday mailing to family and friends. The cards read, “In celebration of the holiday season, a gift has been made to The Art Circle Public Library Foundation in your honor. This gift will be used for the purchase of books and equipment for the Children’s Library.” Foundation Chair Diane Brown pointed out that purchase of the gift cards—a minimum of four required—would help the library meet increasing demands for books, computers, and programs not covered by the library’s operational budget. Since the library opened in 2010, patrons, many of them children, have made over 100,000 visits to the facility.

Friends of the Cleveland Library Association promoted the sale of a commemorative brick at holiday time. Engraved bricks, costing \$100 each, are displayed in the new outdoor seating area, which now features two new benches and over 200 inscribed bricks. The Friends are helping “to build a better library, brick by brick.”

Book sales continue to be a source of both fun and profit for Friends. The newsletter published by the **White County Public Library** (and sponsored by John Hunter of Hunter Funeral Home in Sparta) reports a result of over \$2,700 at the end of a three-day sale in late autumn and pays tribute to “the dedicated crew of Friends who pull this fundraiser together time after time.”

Promoting Communication

Friends of the Tellico Village Library are in the process of creating a Yahoo! Group communication list for more easily keeping members up to date about activities, membership renewals, and acknowledgments. The newsletter *Friends and Library News* sent members to <www.groups.yahoo.com> for information. In this unique community volunteers deliver approximately 3,500 newsletters to Tellico Village residents’ home newspaper boxes; another 150 are distributed to supporters and non-residents.

Friends of the Library in Cleveland are collecting e-mail addresses in order to convey their newsletter electronically to members who choose that format in the future.

Celebrating Authors

Susan Gregg Gilmore, author of *The Improper Life of Bezilla Grove*, has spoken to Friends in Cleveland. With Tellico Village Friends, P. M. (Trish) Terrell discussed her award-winning novel *River Passage*, based on her ancestors’ journey from Virginia to Tennessee via flatboat in 1779-80.

Help FOTL Reward Your Benefactors

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 who in the past 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 11, 2012, in Cookeville:

- 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, fundraisers, coordinators of book sales, composers of brochures about library services, organizers of book-and-author luncheons, founders of Friends' groups, editors of newsletters, or organizers of summer-reading programs.

Outstanding Friends may also be recognized posthumously. 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.) Nominations by people who do not have **individual** memberships in FOTL will be disqualified.
- An FOTL member may submit one nomination per year.
- Nominations must be based on achievements during the past two years.
- Nominees may be
 - a living individual
 - an individual recently deceased
 - 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 March 15, 2012.

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 _____

**If your nominee is Local Friends' Group, Business,
or Other**

Name _____
President of organization _____
Address _____
Phone number _____
Category _____
Library _____
Address _____

In 100 or fewer words, describe the nominee's contributions to libraries in the past two years. Attach that description to this form.

Name of Nominator, FOTL member _____
Address _____

Telephone number _____

Mail by March 15, 2012, to Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501.

Manager of Second Editions in Memphis Entertains Customers with Music

By Marcey Evans

Friends of the Library Supporter

Second Editions, a gently used bookstore located adjacent to the main lobby of the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library in Memphis, is decorated with a piano, bistro tables and chairs. Occasionally the store's manager, Antonio Edwards, invites some of his musician friends to play the store piano for customers, and when they are unavailable, he might play a few songs himself.

For the past three years Second Editions has garnered \$100,000 each year for the Friends of the Library—funds that go directly to fund library programs. On the flip side of the same coin, brisk sales translate into 70,000 fewer books, magazines, and other materials in landfills.

Edwards is part of a grass-roots green effort that at its core promotes literacy and recycling. In addition to library customers who drop their donations in repurposed Memphis City Beautiful boxes at branches to feed Second Edition shelves, Edwards cites many repeat store customers who buy books and then turn around and donate their purchases back to the store.



Antonio Edwards, manager of Second Editions Bookstore, at the keyboard.

BI-LO Helps Chattanooga Friends

Every time Chattanooga customers shop at BI-LO, the Friends of the Library there will benefit if shoppers are enrolled in the grocery store chain's Boosterplus Program. BI-LO will match one percent of those purchases in support of Chattanooga Friends.

At the annual luncheon of the Friends in November, Susan Gregg Gilmore was featured speaker. The Chattanooga resident has published two novels, *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen* (2009) and *The Improper Life of Bezellia Grove* (2010).



Volunteers Angela Gibson, left, and Angie Crabtree helped fill Empty Stockings with books in December when Friends of the Knox County Public Library joined forces with the Knoxville *News Sentinel* to provide over 3,000 families with food, toys, and books. Knox County Friend Lauren Fox is in the background.

Knox County Friends Fill Stockings with Books

Friends of Knox County collected over 3,000 books to be distributed to children whose families received baskets from the Knoxville *News Sentinel's* Empty Stocking Fund in December. Successful partnerships with individuals and groups closed the gap of donations created when Borders, formerly an important contributor to the book drive, closed. For example, the Literary Club at Webb School of Knoxville contributed 1,626 volumes to the project. The University of Tennessee's Athletic Department also offered free admission to swimming, volleyball, and basketball events to donors contributing a book to the drive, a campaign that brought in almost 1,000 volumes.

Friends helped to celebrate the 125th birthday of the Knox County Public Library by sponsoring a reception for author Marianne Wiggins, author of *Evidence of Things Unseen*, a finalist for the National Book Award in 2003. The author spoke in Knoxville at the East Tennessee History Center on January 24.

Knox County Friends' megabook sale is slated for March 10-17. Friends@Rothrock, the Friends' daily bookstore in Lawson McGhee Library, remains a bonanza. Currently all a customer can fit into a plastic grocery bag costs only \$5. Book sales on a smaller scale have also been successful at library branches.

The Knox County Friends' website is visible at <www.knoxfriends.org>.

News from the Regions

Editor's note: In Tennessee, libraries in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis are classified as metros. See page 6. All other public libraries in the state are part of the regional system.

Clinch-Powell Region

The Clinton Public Library and the Children's Defense Fund Langston Hughes Library will sponsor a program on black history at the Clinton Public Library on February 12. Details are available at <www.clintonpubliclibrary.org> or 865.457.0519.

On February 19 the African-American Read-In will occur at the Children's Defense Fund Haley Farm.

Nolichucky Region

John Alexander, recently named Kodak library manager, paid tribute to Kodak Friends in a letter in November to the editor of the *Mountain Press* after the newspaper



Photo by Dwight Shepherd
Dylan Foster, an eighth grade student at Northview Middle School in Kodak, spoke to the Friends of Kodak Library in September about the book he has written, *My Friend Sammy*, which tells the story of his best friend, who has Down Syndrome.

hailed the accomplishments of that Friends' organization. Mr. Alexander wrote in part, "I have a feeling that the Friends of the Kodak Library are not surprised by what they have helped this community to accomplish, but they should be quite proud of those results and the lives they have inspired by providing them easy access to books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, and the Internet. During their first decade they have built a very strong foundation for a vision that has an exciting future."

Friends of the King Family Library launched the new year with an introduction to yoga on January 12, part of its Lifelong Learning Program. The event consisted of some history, concepts, explanations, and demonstrations.

Friends of Seymour Public Library held a fundraiser at nearby Zaxby's on January 16.



Photo by Dwight Shepherd
Volunteers like Susan Sarten and Cathy Dronen from the King Family Library in Sevierville and Nancy Rickenbach from Seymour Friends worked together at the mini book sale during Family Literacy and Gaming Day at the King Family Library in November. Friends from those two libraries as well as the Kodak Library supported the event.

Warioto Region

Cheatham County Library

Friends have recruited four new volunteers to learn how to sell books on Amazon.

Clarksville Montgomery County Public Library Friends conduct monthly book reviews.

Gallatin Friends and the local Arts Council hosted "Christmas at the Library" in December featuring music, refreshments, and a special bearded guest in a fur-trimmed red suit.

Houston County Library is bringing together poetry and the public on the first Saturday of each month. Interactive events feature local and visiting poets and the occasional local celebrity.

Find FOTL Online

Explore FOTL's website:

<www.friendstnlibraries.org>.

Several Friends' newsletters are "In the News" there.

Newsletters from Stewart County Friends and from Blount County Friends are excellent examples.

Almost daily FOTL also posts items related to libraries, literacy, and reading on Facebook. Please join us there. We want to boost our fan base!

**TLA Site Updates
TN Library News**

Thanks to the Tennessee Library Association (TLA), everyone can keep up with news of Tennessee libraries online: <www.scoop.it/t/tennessee-libraries?page=2>.

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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

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 11, 2012
FOTL Annual Meeting
In Cookeville

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 MEMBERSHIP

- Individual \$15/yr
- Individual Silver \$50/yr
- Individual Gold \$100/yr
- Individual Platinum \$500/yr

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

- Family \$25/yr
- Family Silver \$50/yr
- Family Gold \$100/yr
- Family Platinum \$500/yr

ORGANIZATIONS

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Send to FOTL Membership Chair Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501-2062.