Please Save These Dates

**February 24, 2010**
Tennessee Library Legislative Day

Nashville Public Library
9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Luncheon
Nashville Doubletree
Noon-1:30 p.m.
Appointments with Legislators

**May 14, 2010**
Walk This Hall to FOTL’s
Annual Meeting
Crossville’s
New Art Circle
Public Library

What’s Inside?

3  FOTL Workshop in Clinton
4-5  Legislative Day and TEL
6-7  What Friends Are Up To
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<th>District</th>
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Here's our new web address: [http://www.friendstnlibraries.org](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org)
Standing and Building Together

By Martha Gill, FOTL President

A month ago, I was fortunate to see Spike Jonze’s film *Where the Wild Things Are* with three wise children, but I’m not sure it’s a kiddies’ film. It seems to me to be a film about human nature for grownups, a work of art about our deepest human longings: to build wonderful things together.

Whether Max is creating an igloo in his front yard or constructing fantastic structures of twigs on his island of escape, he is a creative force. And when the center does not hold at home, he sails away to warm himself among marvelous creatures who welcome him. Later he finds that comfort back home at the kitchen table.

Like Max, members of FOTL long to build wonderful things. Knox County Friends work hard every day so that some day in the perhaps distant future there will be a new central library downtown. The Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville have labored for ten years to realize a dream coming true, a new library just a stone’s throw and a century away from their old one.

And like Max we love to be together. Whether we’re attending a workshop led by Connie Albrecht, Frances Darnell, and John Nye in November or enjoying a book-and-author event like the successful annual meeting in Crossville in October or traveling to Crossville’s new library for our annual get-together in May, we crave each other’s company and comfort.

Let us continue to try to build wonderful things—a library, a room in a library, a community that loves reading—and to stand together in events like Tennessee Library Legislative Day on February 24, 2010.

FOTL Workshop Travels to Clinton

Sponsored by the Clinch-Powell Regional Library and the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, a workshop at the Clinton Public Library on Thursday, November 5, lived up to its promise: it examined “What Friends Can Do for Your Library.”

Susan Simmons, director of the regional library, opened the program by explaining how her responsibilities fit within the statewide system of regional and metro libraries. Then FOTL veterans Connie Albrecht, Frances Darnell, and John Nye addressed the issues of how Friends’ groups help libraries, how those groups relate to trustees and library directors, how a Friends’ organization can be established, and how an existing Friends’ group can be strengthened.

The meeting was well attended by library staffs from the area as well as representatives from Friends’ groups.

A legacy established by the late Maryann Bork, a former president of FOTL, helps to finance such workshops, which are usually requested by library directors. Inquiries about the availability of workshops should go to Connie Albrecht, FOTL membership chair, or Martha Gill, FOTL president.

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To Nashville for the Libraries We Love

Legislative Day Feb. 24: Save the Day

Before you go
■ Identify your legislators. If you don’t know who they are, ask your local library for help in finding out.
■ Do your homework. Start collecting data and stories to share with your legislators.
■ Before the end of January 2010, notify your legislators, preferably by e-mail, that you are coming to Nashville for Library Legislative Day. Invite them to lunch (your treat), and make an appointment for a private audience after lunch.
■ A day or two before the event, send another e-mail telling lawmakers that you are looking forward to seeing them.

While you’re there
■ Enjoy a pleasant lunch. Thank lawmakers for their support of the Tennessee Electronic Library.
■ In your private meeting, tell stories that help lawmakers understand how your library benefits your community. Quote real estate agents who have told you that prospective buyers ask about the library. Recall what librarians have told you about how the library is helping people find and apply for jobs. Have on hand numbers—numbers of children, teens, and adults who participated in summer reading; numbers of library card holders; circulation figures. Mention how your powerful Friends’ group is working to close the gap between funding and demands for services by raising funds or contributing services.

Here’s a story
The library is no longer just a repository for books. In many communities it is a job center and even a pantry. For example, the Sevier County Public Library System is offering free fax and copying services for people seeking employment. Like many other libraries in the state, the system also offers patrons the use of computers for creating resumes and filing online job applications. The system is also clearing overdue fines for any patron who donates non-perishable canned or dried food items or jars of peanut butter that will help stock the shelves of those in need during the holiday season. Two food items will clear any amount of overdue fines on each library card during the Food for Fines promotion.

Registration forms for Library Legislative Day will be available in the winter issue of FOTL’s Newsletter and soon will appear on the FOTL website.
10 Ways You Can Use Tennessee Electronic Library

By Sue Maszaros
Special Projects Coordinator
State Library & Archives

1. Looking for information about your Great Uncle Marvin Smith? Go to HeritageQuest Online and search census records and family history books.

2. Want to review local coverage of the Swine Flu of 2009? Look for Swine Flu or H1N1 in the Tennessee Newspaper Collection.

3. Know someone who needs to practice for the ACT or GRE? Find practice exams, skill building courses, and e-books in LearningExpress Library.

4. Want to read your favorite magazine online? Go to Gale’s PowerSearch and use the Browse Publications Tab to search for favorite magazine (like Wired, The Economist, or Real Simple). Use the RSS button to subscribe to this magazine and have new issues sent directly to your e-mail inbox!

5. Want to learn about the debate on alternative energy? EBSCO’s Points of View Reference Center can provide both the pro and con sides of this and over 250 other current event topics.

6. Do you need to write a resume or prepare for an interview? Use the Job Search and Workplace Skills Learning Center in LearningExpress Library.

7. Know someone who has been recently diagnosed with cataracts or Type 2 diabetes? Look to Gale’s Health and Wellness Resource Center for more information about these conditions.

8. Need to review the latest Man Booker Prize winner, Hilary Mantel, for your book club? Consult Gale’s Literature Resource Center.

9. Would you like to see original footage from some of Martin Luther King’s most famous speeches? Go to EBSCO’s Points of View Reference Center and use the Advanced Search to find these videos.

A Crossville Work of Art Soon To Be Unveiled

Billed as Cumberland County’s “new community living room” by the Art Circle Public Library Foundation, Crossville’s library will offer 33,237 square feet of building space, 37 dedicated computer stations, a Book Reader’s Cafe, and a children’s library with a story-time carousel. The annual meeting of Friends of Tennessee Libraries will convene in its large meeting room on Friday, May 14, 2010. In the photo at left, construction continues; on the right, Sandra Purcell, chair of the Cumberland County Library Board of Trustees, and Joe Reynolds, trustee, give Jim Gill, center, a tour of the interior.

There’s Good News in Friends’ Newsletters

**Bradley County Friends** are making good use of their new library. With Junior Auxiliary, Friends co-sponsored the Teddy Bear Picnic for children on September 19. On September 23 the board of the Friends of the Library Association hosted a special reception for members only. On October 20 Friends were invited to meet guest author Sam Pickering before his speaking engagement at Arnold Auditorium. A native Tennessean, professor of English at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, and author of several collections of personal essays, Mr. Pickering was featured speaker at the Friends’ annual author event. Professor Pickering’s unconventional teaching style was the inspiration for the character of Mr. Keating played by Robin Williams in the film *Dead Poets Society.*

**Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library** threw what has come to be known as the best party in town on November 7, its signature fundraiser ClubLib. Throughout September patrons had opportunities to “lunch and learn” with local city council members and the area’s state legislators.

**Crossville’s Friends of the Art Circle Public Library** featured Philip Gulley, Hoosier author and Quaker pastor, at the group’s annual dinner October 14. His gentle humor about life in a small town engaged almost 200 guests. Contact information is available at <philipgulleybooks.com>. Gene Skipworth, director of Kids on the Rise, a Crossville program for public school students, was featured speaker at the November monthly meeting of the Friends. (See <Kidsontherise.org>.) The Friends’ annual holiday brunch is scheduled for December 3.

**Friends of the Tellico Village Library** continue to make progress toward the construction of a permanent library. Working with the East Tennessee Community Design Center, the Facilities Committee is moving toward a final conceptual design that will guide an architectural firm, yet to be identified, to prepare a final plan. Construction updates were given at the annual meeting in October, an event also featuring popular writer Sam Venable, columnist for the Knoxville News Sentinel, as guest speaker.

Mary Higgins Clark, her daughter Carol Higgins Clark, Jon Meacham, George Hamilton, Eric Jerome Dickey—all have been the focus of the Meet the Author series from WYPL studios in the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library. in Memphis. Book Talk is both a radio and television show. The radio show is nationally syndicated through podcasts at <wyplfmbooktalk.blogspot.com> where information about future taping and discussions can also be accessed.

**Friends of the White County Public Library** held their fall book sale October 1-3.
Regional Reports Reveal Spirit

Manny Buzzell reports that license-plate frames are selling well in Blue Grass. Friends and associates of Jack Vicary, Manny’s predecessor who brought this project to FOTL, are urged to send good wishes to Jack at his home, 232 Lighthouse Terrace, Franklin, TN 37064.

Sequatchie Public Library in the Caney Fork Region celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 20 in the Dunlap City Training Center. Theresa Venable hosted a book talk about Dear Senator: A Memoir by the Daughter of Strom Thurmond, written by Essie Mae Washington-Williams and William Stadiem, in the Langston Hughes Library at the CDF Haley Farm in Clinton on November 1. January 10 the topic of discussion will be Donna Brazile’s book Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics.

McIver’s Grant Public Library Friends in Dyersburg stay busy, reports Carol Harris. In August the first annual Mad Hatter Tea Party welcomed girls ages three-six. As part of Dyersburg’s annual downtown festival, McIver’s Board of Trustees and Friends worked together to provide the food court. A pet show and story hours on the library steps entertained youngsters. The Lauderdale County Library in Ripley will release a beautiful 200-page pictorial history of the county in November. Proceeds from its sale will go to the library. December brings the annual tour of homes.

Friends of the Tiptonville Public Library recently conducted a membership drive and raffle. Crockett County Friends held a reception to attract new members in October.

Friends of Elma Ross Public Library in Brownsville hosted author William Stewart in November. This group is thriving but continues to seek ideas for increasing interest in its organization.

Barbara Zurl maintains close contact with Friends in her region and works to establish networks in East Tennessee. An informational program about the Blount County Ex Libris Library Extension Program in July drew an audience that included Friends from Knoxville and Becky Haile, library director from Tellico Village. Barbara also promotes library causes through Facebook.

The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party in Dyersburg defined elegance.

Two of McIver’s best Friends are Mrs. Dianne Donner, trustee and recent chairman of the group’s barbeque, and Wayde Jackson, pit boss.

It’s hard to keep pace with the busy Friends in Knox County. Their daily book sales are successful, and they have partnered with sponsors who agree to buy books from that collection to be given to two local elementary schools. Shoebox Libraries, bringing resources to those unable to come to the library, continue to grow. To show appreciation for library staffs during National Friends of the Library Week, the Friends arranged to have lunch delivered to personnel in all branches.

Peter McNeal from Memphis-Shelby County reports that post cards promoting the Memphis library sell briskly in the Second Editions bookstore.

In April Susie Webb Ries attended a workshop at the Brentwood Library where three volunteers outlined the phenomenal success of the Brentwood online book sales.

In Gatlinburg in September the Association for Rural and Small Libraries held its annual meeting, which drew enthusiastic attendance from across the nation. Don Reynolds, FOTL regional representative for the Nolichucky Region, chaired the conference planning committee.

Wanda Jared in the Upper Cumberland Region reports vigorous activity among Putnam County Friends, who have a successful monthly book sale and who in September hosted the annual author’s dinner featuring John Egerton as speaker. Wanda keeps in touch with Friends in her region by telephone or in person.

More FOTL online at Facebook and <www.friendstnlibraries.org>

To contact a regional representative, see p. 2.
Welcome new FOTL board members, from left, Nancy Barrineau, secretary; Manny Buzzell, Blue Grass; and Doreen Flash, Warioto. Not pictured: Gay Hurst, Knoxville-Knox County; and Cora Feintuch, Chattanooga/Hamilton County.

Staying Up to Date

Members of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) can purchase a minimum of 24 copies of the Book Lover’s 2010 Calendar for $2.50 each plus 10% for shipping. They make great gifts, additions to your book sale, or incentives for new members. Telephone 800.722.7202; ask for Michael Rockliff.

Membership Application

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

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Name_________________________________________ Phone______________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________
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.