‘What’s In It For Us?’
A Valid Question
By Barbara Zurl
Fort Loudoun Representative

A few weeks ago I picked up two of the new FOTL license plate frames. With great pride I watched my husband affix them to our two vehicles. There it was for all to see — everywhere I went—from my doctor's office parking lot, to the gym, to the grocery store: SUPPORT TENNESSEE LIBRARIES. This, I thought, expressed just what every Friend of every library in the state of Tennessee was seeking.

Imagine my shock in speaking to various members of libraries and Friends’ groups to have them ask, when I questioned how many of these new frames they wished to order, “What's in it for us?” After my initial surprise, and on reflection, I concluded that this is a valid question.

What is in it for a library or local Friends’ group? The $10 paid for the frame does not go into their coffers — and all of us are being greatly impacted by these difficult economic times. The more I thought about it, however, the more I realized that indirectly the money does go into their coffers.

Continued Page 3

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FOTL’s Annual Meeting May 15:
The People, Place, Purpose

FOTL’s annual meeting in Clinton will attract those who love books (novelist Catherine Landis, left), those who want to hear about Friends’ best practices, and those drawn to the beautiful Haley Farm.

A panel will explore how specific groups of Friends recruit members, run a daily book sale, update their bylaws, sell books on line, or operate an independent library.

A representative from the state library will demonstrate how to use the media to sell the library in economic hard times.

A professional who helps select books for the Imagination Library will look at what in the world is new in children’s literature.

Visitors will see the Langston Hughes Library and the Riggio-Lynch Interfaith Chapel designed by famous architect Maya Lin.

Continued Page 3

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Advocates Should Tell Their Stories

Library Legislative Day’s keynote speaker Judith Gibbons, retired field services director at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, described libraries as unique, community-centered, dynamic places of opportunity that open the world to their patrons. To convey that message, Ms. Gibbons advised advocates to “Tell stories that make you proud of your library.” Statistics are important, but stories engage the heart.

No better example of that premise is Susan McFarland’s story.

Pages 4-6

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Page 5
## Friends of Tennessee Libraries Regional Representatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLUE GRASS</td>
<td>JACK VICARY</td>
<td>232 Lighthouse Terrace, Franklin, TN 37064</td>
<td>423.949.7753</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicar12255@bellsouth.net">vicar12255@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANEY FORK</td>
<td>LUCY SZELENGIEWICZ</td>
<td>349 Lumina Lane, Dunlap, TN 37327</td>
<td>423.949.7753</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lucys@bledsoe.net">Lucys@bledsoe.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHATTANOOGA/HAMILTON COUNTY</td>
<td>PAT HILLING</td>
<td>1832 Oak Cove Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379</td>
<td>423.332.6390</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pathilling@comcast.net">pathilling@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLINCH-POWELL</td>
<td>THERESA VENABLE</td>
<td>Langston Hughes Library, CDF Haley Farm</td>
<td>865.457.6466</td>
<td><a href="mailto:venable@childrensdefense.org">venable@childrensdefense.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORKED DEER</td>
<td>CAROL HARRIS</td>
<td>2532 Old Fowlkes Rd, Dyersburg, TN 38024-8842</td>
<td>731.285.0928</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikeandcarol@bellsouth.net">mikeandcarol@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT LOUDOUN</td>
<td>BARBARA ZURL</td>
<td>P.O. Box 70, Walland, TN 3786</td>
<td>865.977.5034</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Badger630@aol.com">Badger630@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIGHLAND RIM</td>
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<tr>
<td>KNOXVILLE-KNOX Cnty.</td>
<td>ADVOCACY CHAIR</td>
<td>SUZANNE FREEMAN, 12106 Butternut Circle, Knoxville, TN 37934</td>
<td>865.966.7226</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jettysuz@tds.net">jettysuz@tds.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY</td>
<td>PETER McNEAL</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1098, Memphis, TN 38101</td>
<td>901.230.6965</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mrpete38118@yahoo.com">mrpete38118@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REELFOOT</td>
<td>GAY A. NICHOLS</td>
<td>W.G. Rhea Library, 400 W. Washington Street, Paris, TN 38242</td>
<td>731.642.1702</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SHILOH</td>
<td>DIANE VERNON</td>
<td>P.O. Box 494, Decaturville, TN 38329</td>
<td>731.852.4205</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dianev@tds.net">dianev@tds.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>UPPER CUMBERLAND</td>
<td>WANDA JARED</td>
<td>1221 Woodlake Trace, Cookeville, TN 38501</td>
<td>931.528.2700</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wjared@tntech.edu">wjared@tntech.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY</td>
<td>SUSIE WEBB RIES</td>
<td>3506 Richland Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205</td>
<td>615.279.0680</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susieries@comcast.net">susieries@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOLICHUCKY</td>
<td>DON REYNOLDS</td>
<td>315 McCrory Drive, Morristown, TN 37814-3196</td>
<td>423.332.6251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:don.reynolds@state.tn.us">don.reynolds@state.tn.us</a></td>
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**Here’s our new web address:**

<http://www.friendstnlibraries.org>
Whistling and Crowing for FOTL

By Martha Gill, FOTL President

On what happens to be St. Patrick’s Day, I am about to reject an Irish proverb that I was taught in my Southern youth: “A whistling woman and a crowing hen will surely come to some bad end.” I will be the demure Southern lady no longer. Well into my seniority now, I intend to crow and whistle about Friends of Tennessee Libraries.

For years FOTL has invested hundreds of dollars in Library Legislative Day. This year was no exception. FOTL underwrote that event, sponsored by Tennessee Library Association in cooperation with TENN-SHARE, the Tennessee Association of School Librarians, and Nashville Public Library, to the tune of $500. We publicize the event and encourage our members to attend in order to acquaint state lawmakers with the needs and community benefits of Tennessee’s libraries. This year, several FOTL members attended Legislative Day at their own expense.

Complimentary copies of FOTL’s newsletter inform state legislators four times a year. FOTL sends a representative to participate in Washington's National Library Legislative Day.

Annually FOTL has contributed hundreds of dollars to the state’s summer reading programs.

Each year FOTL honors deserving members of Friends’ groups and rewards each recipient with $100. FOTL’s annual meeting brings together Friends from across the state to share ideas.

Devoting several days of their lives a year, Connie Albrecht, Frances Darnell, and John Nye conduct workshops for Friends’ groups across the state because they know how much libraries need their Friends. No FOTL board member receives compensation for traveling to Mt. Juliet for the organization’s quarterly meeting or for attending the annual meeting.

Understand that FOTL is not wealthy. It relies almost exclusively on modest membership dues and the good will of magnanimous donors to do its volunteer work.

I resolve to continue to whistle and crow about the activities of FOTL.

That noise will surely come to some good end—the survival and flourishing of our Tennessee libraries.

What’s in FOTL for You?

Continued from page 1

This year any Friends’ group or library holding more than two book sales, selling daily in Friends’ book stores or selling books daily on line has a great tax benefit so long as their annual sales do not exceed $100,000. I would dare to say that includes all Friends’ groups. How did this fortuitous change in tax law come about? Through the efforts of many members of FOTL. They led the way, did the work and enlisted local Friends groups to join in the task of seeking legislation which would benefit libraries.

What about those libraries which do not hold book sales? Why should their group members spend the $10 for the license plate frame? How do they benefit? Well, to them I pose a question. Where can you get advertising 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for less than $.03 a day? (For those sticklers, the cost is less than .0273 cents a day.) Think about the cost amortized over time.

Libraries and Friends want to make their communities aware of their existence and importance. How better to advertise the need for support than on your automobile, truck, golf cart, or ATV for that matter? Think about how many people see your vehicle on weekdays AND on the weekend. Think about your local commissioners, representatives, and Chamber members and the impact it could make for them to see the same message being advertised on hundreds of cars!

The one-time investment of $.0273 cents a day will bring some revenue into Friends of Tennessee Libraries so that they can continue working for every library and every Friend across the state. Funds are needed to allow projects such as Legislative Day to take place—where represent-atives of FOTL meet one-on-one with legislators and bring the concerns, needs and importance of libraries to their attention. Funds are needed to provide hand-outs and resource materials at workshops across the state. Funds are needed simply to meet the ever-rising costs associated with bringing information to Friends throughout Tennessee.

When the notion of these license plate frames was first presented at an FOTL quarterly meeting, I thought this to be the best idea since Gutenberg’s invention of movable type. How many frivolous license plate frames, not to mention bumper stickers, do you see out there every day—expressing such sentiments as “I’d rather be flying”? How many millions of dollars are spent each year through impulse buying without benefit to the community?

It seems to me that every librarian, every employee of a library, every Friend of the library, and especially every parent of a child who either participates in the Imagination Library or any children’s reading programs (all free to library patrons, thanks to Friends’ monetary support) should be lining up to order their FOTL license plate frame.

What’s in it for them? Quite possibly the direction and fate of their library.

To paraphrase one of my philosophy professors back in Stony Brook, New York: we, at FOTL, are not trying to sell license-plate frames saying SUPPORT TENNESSEE LIBRARIES to make money. We are trying to make money to keep on supporting Tennessee libraries.

Contact your regional representative (page 2) to purchase a license-plate frame.
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 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 15, 2009, at the Haley Farm in Clinton

- 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, 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 April 15, 2009.

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

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Library’s address</td>
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<td>Library’s phone number</td>
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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 April 24, 2009, to Diane Vernon, P.O. Box 494, Decaturville, TN 38329.

If your nominee is Local Friends’ Group, Business, or Other

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Telephone number
Agenda for FOTL’s Annual Meeting
Friday, May 15, 2009, at the Haley Farm

8:00-8:45 EDT  Registration and Coffee
8:45-9:00  Short Business Meeting and Election of Officers
9:00-10:45  Best Practices: Advocacy, Membership, and Fund-Raising
Panelists: Suzanne Freeman, FOTL Advocacy Chair
Maggie Carini, Knoxville
John Thomas, Paris
Polly Stratton, Chattanooga
Blanie Scroggins, Mary E. Tippitt Library, Townsend
Cap Purvis, Tellico Village
11:00-11:30  Books for Children
Jinx Watson, Associate Professor, Retired, Information Science, UTK
11:30-12:30  Promoting Your Library in Hard Times
Genny Carter, Public Relations and Data Coordinator, State Library
12:30-1:30  Lunch
Catherine Landis, author of Some Days There’s Pie (See page 6.)
Certificates of Appreciation
Diane Vernon, Shiloh Representative
Adjournment
2:00  Walking Tours of the Haley Farm to see two buildings designed by architect Maya Lin, creator of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington

A block of ten rooms has been reserved for FOTL at the Comfort Inn of Clinton (Exit 22 off I-75) for Thursday, May 14. Non-smoking rooms with two queen-sized beds are available at a special rate of $80.99 for reservations made by April 20. Continental breakfast is served from 6-10:00 a.m. General Manager is Trish Lay at 1.800.276.7415 or 1.865.457.2255. A limited number of rooms in the lodge or in nearby cabins are also available at the Haley Farm at the rate of $75 per person. Neither alcohol nor smoking is allowed at the Farm. To reserve lodging at the Haley Farm, contact Ken Libby at 1.865.457.6466.

Carpooling is encouraged.

FOTL 2009 Annual Meeting: Friday, May 15, at the Haley Farm in Clinton
Registration fee is $35. Registration deadline is April 22. Detach on the dotted line and mail with your check, payable to FOTL, to Ed Jared, FOTL Treasurer, 1221 Woodlake Trace, Cookeville, TN 38501. FOTL is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Name________________________________ Telephone____________
Address_____________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip_________________________________ E-Mail________________
Dietary Restrictions__________________________________
Catherine Landis Hailed As New Southern Voice

Catherine Landis, author of Some Days There’s Pie (St. Martin’s Griffin 2002), has been favorably compared to Lee Smith, Jill McCorkle, and Fannie Flagg. The Tampa Tribune described her first novel as “Extraordinarily engaging . . . a new voice for Southern America.”

A native of Chattanooga and a graduate of Davidson College, she now lives in Knoxville with her husband and their two children. She proudly proclaims herself to be a lover of libraries, and her narrator Ruth, who comes from Summerville, TN, recalls, that her

Mama’s daddy had not believed in school, as if school were something you could believe in or not, although he sent four of his children there, and these four he chose at random, like God pointing a finger. Mama was not one of the four. But her brother Glen was, and he had taught her to read, which changed her life. (15)

Everyone whose life has been changed by reading will enjoy meeting this writer at FOTL’s annual meeting May 15. Registration deadline is April 22.

How To Get To the Haley Farm

Haley Farm, once owned by the writer Alex Haley and now owned by the Children’s Defense Fund, is 30 miles north of Knoxville off of I-75. From I-40 East in Knoxville, travel approximately 14.5 miles north on Interstate 75 to Exit 122. Take Exit 122 (Clinton/Norris). Proceed to stop sign and turn left onto Highway 61. Continue straight through traffic light and turn left onto Frank L. Diggs Drive (just past People’s National Bank next to Shell Gas Station). Go to the first intersection and turn right onto Sinking Springs Road. Proceed on this road 1/10 of a mile, turn left at the second driveway, and follow gravel driveway to gate entrance. A map is available at <http:://maps.google.com>. Type in Haley Farm, Clinton, TN.

A Story Making Us Proud of Libraries

Editor’s note: The audience that heard Susan McFarland speak on Legislative Day on March 3 responded to it with a standing ovation. Here is her story:

“After being laid off from my office secretary job, I was distraught. With no college degree how could I get anyone to believe that I could do anything at my age?

“A friend suggested Certified Pharmacy Technician and it sounded great, but I had not studied or taken a test in 30 years! I went to my local library and researched the job. After ordering my textbooks online, I went to a website where I could take a practice exam. I studied hard and took the practice exam many times at my library.

“When it came time for the real test, I was calm and collected. I passed with flying colors, and I have the paper to prove it. I have had the joy of a whole new career for the past six years. A big thank-you to my local library for helping me attain a whole new beginning! ”

In an e-mail, Susan, a single parent, added that the library had also helped her raise her son. Without Internet at home, her boy had to complete all projects at the library where “Never did we encounter a rude or mean librarian—quite the opposite. They were always so helpful and kind. Thanks to them, my son is in his second year of college. He is the first in our family to go.”

Susan calls librarians “the silent heroes of education” who have changed her family tree forever.

See photos of FOTL members at Library Legislative Day: <www.friendstnlibraries.org>.”
Secretary of State Re-Appoints Jeanne Sugg

Jeanne Sugg and Secretary of State Tre Hargett attended Library Legislative Day in Nashville on March 3.

From Nashville comes the welcome news that Jeanne Sugg has been re-appointed as state librarian and archivist by Secretary of State Tre Hargett at Library Legislative Day on March 3. Announcing the re-appointment, Secretary Hargett praised Mrs. Sugg’s “many years of valuable experience within the State Library and Archives.” He added, “She has demonstrated her commitment to the division and I am pleased she will continue to serve in this important capacity.”

Mrs. Sugg pledged to “continue to work passionately to ensure that the Library and Archives effectively and efficiently preserves the documents and records that are important to this state and will continue to promote the statewide development of libraries.”

Friends’ News Travels

Knox County Friends’ annual book sale, staffed by almost 100 volunteers, ran from March 1-7; the thriving daily bookstore in the main library suspended operation for that week alone. Friends also sponsored the Jazz Festival March 4-7 and continued to supply reading materials to various Shoe Box Libraries in the county for the underserved in locations like detention centers, jails, and nursing homes. Other recent activities of the group included a letter-writing campaign to elected representatives in Washington asking for support of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA); four county-wide forums led by Larry Frank, director, about the state of the library; and a visit with Knoxville native Minky Worden, activist and editor of China’s Great Leap: The Beijing Games and Olympian Human Rights Challenges (Seven Stories 2008).

Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library conducted the spring book sale February 20-March 7. Readers throughout the county are participating in the Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Multiple copies of Twain’s The Adventures of Tom Sawyer along with discussion guides are available at libraries.

Putnam County Library Friends once again have sponsored a series of talks by local authors on Sunday afternoons at the main library. Featured at the free and public events have been James Rennell, co-author with Professor Jann Cupp of I Wish I’d Said That, an examination of what 15 people in the Old Testament have said; Dr. Barbara Albers-Jackson, creator of the graphic novel Rama, An Adaptation of the Ramayana Legend; and Dr. Wali Kharif, author of Reminiscences and Reflections: African Americans in the Kentucky-Tennessee Upper Cumberland Since the Civil War. The Friends also sponsored a poetry contest for Putnam County fifth and sixth graders.

On March 19, members of the Friends of the Tellico Village Library held their first fund raiser, Library Libations, to benefit the proposed new library building on the 1.6-acre plot purchased last September by the Friends. The event featured tasting 10 wines and hors d’oeuvres. The Friends’ 15th annual book sale at the Tellico Village Community Church Christian Life Center is scheduled April 16-18. Over a thousand neighbors are now members of the Friends.

Friends of White County Public Library held its annual spring book sale March 5-7.

Diane Brown (left), president of the newly formed Art Circle Public Library Foundation, receives a check for $15,000 from Ginny Nixon, president of the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville. This contribution from the Friends will be used to help furnish the new library building now under construction and anticipated to open in the fall. The Children’s Library in the new building will be named for the Friends in recognition of their contributions to a building fund over the last several years. This fund was made possible by some major donations of stock, the sale of Kroger gift certificates, memorial gifts, IRA charitable donations, ExxonMobil volunteer awards, and many generous membership contributions. Diane Brown is the mother of the late Carol Darling, whose tireless and enthusiastic work revived the community’s dreams of a new library to meet the challenges of the 21st century in Cumberland County.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries newsletter
Friends of Tennessee Libraries
7208 Scottsville Road
Lafayette, TN 37083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Stay in Touch; Save FOTL $$
A new postal service regulation requires the post office to notify FOTL of changes of address—at the cost of 50 cents per subscriber. If you have moved since the receipt of your last newsletter, please notify us of changes in your mailing address before the post office has to do it for you—at FOTL expense. Send your new address to Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501 or <connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>.

Membership Application

Renew Today

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.

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