



## Meeting in Cookeville Builds FOTL's Network



Attorney Jim McCarten takes follow-up questions from Bonny Naugher, Joe Albrecht, and Ed Jared.



Ellen Myrick says marketing begins with the clarification of priorities.



Bernice Durbin shares a laugh with author Jennie Ivey, whose wit reminded the audience of Erma Bombeck.

The setting—the Progressive Savings Bank in Cookeville—could not have been more accommodating for the crowd of over 70 Friends. The program achieved the perfect balance of information, entertainment, good food, and fellowship. The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries on May 11 set a new high standard for such events.

An outstanding program engaged the audience. Ellen Myrick gave useful advice about marketing. Jim McCarten clarified demands placed on non-profit groups by state and federal laws (see page 7). Author Jennie Ivey was the delightful combination of witty writer and dynamic speaker. Readers lined up to purchase her books. Deserving Friends were also honored with certificates and \$100 (see page 6).

Outstanding among many who contributed to the success of the event were Connie Albrecht, former FOTL president; Wanda Jared, FOTL's Upper Cumberland representative; Ed Jared, FOTL treasurer; Joe Albrecht; the Putnam County Friends; and Judy Titsworth, their president. Steve Rains, owner of Cookeville's Progressive Savings Bank, made the spacious upper level of his building available for the meeting.

A directory of people registered for the meeting along with their contact information was included in everyone's packet.



Over 70 Friends registered for the meeting. Here are a few. More appear on page 7.

# Board Members Attend Annual Meeting



Among FOTL Board members at the annual meeting in Cookeville on May 11 are, from left, Wanda Jared, Pete McNeal, Connie Albrecht, Ed Jared, Theresa Venable, Genny Carter, Julie Webb, Dwight Shepherd, and Susie Ries. Not pictured: Martha Gill, Gene Harris, Larry Price, and Claire Serrell.

## FOTL Officers

**PRESIDENT SUSIE WEBB RIES**  
<susieries@comcast.net>

**PRESIDENT-ELECT CAROL HARRIS**  
<carolclarkharris@gmail.com>

**PAST PRESIDENT MARTHA GILL**  
<marthagill491@gmail.com>

**TREASURER ED JARED**  
<ejared@ithf.org>

**SECRETARY NANCY BARRINEAU**  
<nancy.barrineau@att.net>

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**CONNIE ALBRECHT**  
<connie.albrecht@yahoo.com>

**SUSAN CHAMBERS**  
<friendsofthelibrary@nashville.gov>

**FRANCES DARNELL**  
<fdarnell@nctc.com>

**SUZANNE FREEMAN**  
<lettysuz@tds.net>

**JULIE WEBB**  
<juliedwebb@aol.com>

## FOTL Regional Representatives

**BLUE GRASS DICK FANKHAUSER**  
<fankhauserdi@comcast.net>

**CANEY FORK** No representative

**CHATTANOOGA GENE HARRIS**  
<geneharris4517@yahoo.com>

**CLINCH-POWELL THERESA VENABLE**  
<tvenable@childrensdefense.org>

**FORT LOUDOUN DOROTHY CHILDS**  
<dotchilds@gmail.com>

**FORKED DEER SYLVIA PALMER**  
<spspalmer9@gmail.com>

**HIGHLAND RIM** No representative

**KNOXVILLE-KNOX CTY CLAIRE SERRELL**  
<miramar5050@aol.com>

**MEMPHIS-SHELBY CTY PETER McNEAL**  
<mrpete38118@yahoo.com>

**NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON CTY LARRY PRICE**  
<larryprice2@nashville.gov>

**NOLICHUCKY DWIGHT SHEPHERD**  
<dewhitesheep@hotmail.com>

**REELFOOT** No representative  
**SHILOH** No representative

**UPPER CUMBERLAND WANDA JARED**  
<wjared@tntech.edu>

**WARIOTO DOREEN FLASH**  
<doreenflash@sbcglobal.net>

**WATAUGA** No representative

## NEWSLETTER

EDITOR MARTHA GILL  
<marthagill491@gmail.com>  
ASSISTANT EDITOR JAMES D. GILL  
<jd\_gill@bellsouth.net>

**STATE LIBRARIAN, ARCHIVIST**  
CHARLES SHERRILL  
<chuck.sherrill@tn.gov>  
**STATE LIBRARY**  
**PR & DATA COORDINATOR**  
GENNY CARTER  
<genny.carter@tn.gov>

**TLA PRESIDENT**  
DINAH HARRIS  
<dhtla@gmail.com>

# Looking Back and Looking Ahead

## President's Report June 2012

*Editor's note: President Susie Webb Ries presented this annual report at the TLA Leadership Conference in June.*

Friends of Tennessee Libraries has pursued its traditional goals, has strengthened and benefited from its affiliation with the Tennessee Library Association, and broadened its outreach to include other groups with common goals.

### FOTL activities since May 2011

- FOTL Board meetings in September 2011, December 2011, March 2012, and May 2012
- Donation of \$1,000 to the Benton County Friends
- March meeting held in conjunction with TLA Conference in Knoxville
- Participation in Tennessee Legislative Day and National Library Legislative Day
- Publication of summer 2011, fall 2011, winter 2011, and two spring 2012 issues of its newsletter; two more published electronically
- Maintenance of FOTL's website and Facebook page (we've been "Liked" by 403 friends)
- Planning and achievement of the SOLD OUT 2012 Annual Meeting in Cookeville with dynamic speakers: marketing director Ellen Myrick, author Jennie Ivey and attorney Jim McCarten
- Workshop on "Re-energizing Friends" held with Friends groups at the Seymour Branch Library in Sevier County
- First award of three annual \$200 grants to Friends' groups to be used in the areas of membership, advocacy, and fundraising
- Expanded publication of newsletter from four times a year to six times a year to accommodate changing deadlines for awards
- Strategic planning begun by FOTL Board online through GoToMeeting



Participating in a team-building exercise at the TLA Leadership Conference in June are: seated from left, FOTL President Susie Webb Ries, now Past President Wendy Cornelisen, Karyn Starts-Brink, and, standing, TLA Executive Secretary Annelle Huggins.

- We have 160 Friends: 31 Family members, 82 Individuals and 47 Organizations

### FOTL activities in affiliation with the Tennessee Library Association

- Presentation of "Transformations: How Change Came to Three Groups of Tennessee Friends" at the 2012 TLA Annual Conference in Knoxville on March 23, 2012
- Presentation of Friend of the Year Award, jointly sponsored by FOTL and TLA, at the 2012 TLA Conference in Knoxville on March 23, 2012. Recipient: Friends of Kodak Library
- Arrangement of author/speaker Karen Henley at the Friends and Trustees luncheon at 2012 TLA Conference
- FOTL presence at Tennessee Library Legislative Day, April 9, 2012
- FOTL representation on the Tennessee delegation to National Library Legislative Day, April 23, 2012

- FOTL presentation on Advocacy at the Public Library Manager Institute, Fall Creek Falls, May 9, 2012

### FOTL in the coming year will continue to pursue our stated goals of:

- Establishing and helping individual Friends' 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

**One additional challenge for FOTL** is to determine a new configuration of the FOTL board of representatives to align with the newly reconfigured regional library system. The board is looking at possibilities and will announce a plan for restructuring, which will require a change in by-laws, to the membership.



# ***FOTL, TLA Seek 2013 Friend of the Year***

In 2013, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association will recognize an individual or a group earning the designation of "Friend of the Year."

The recipient, either an individual or a group, must be a member in good standing of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and must have made a significant contribution to a Friends' group and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee.

Now you have the opportunity to nominate a group or a person deserving that honor. The deadline for nominations is November 15.

**Purpose:** To honor an outstanding member or group of individuals of a Friends of the Library group for exceptional leadership and/or achievements in the current calendar year. The overall accomplishments or distinguished service of the individual or group to Tennessee libraries will be considered.

**Sponsors:** Tennessee Library Association (TLA) Honors and Awards Committee and TLA affiliate Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)

**Who May Nominate?** Anyone

**Who Is Eligible?** Recipient(s) must be a Friends' group or a member in good standing of Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL).

**Criteria:** Nominee(s) must have made a significant contribution to the advancement of libraries or education in Tennessee in the current calendar year. Nominee should be one who performs outstanding service related to the activities of a Friends' group. Recipient may be an individual or group but must be a member in good standing of FOTL.

**Nomination:** Please attach a detailed description, limited to 200 words, of the nominee's service, achievements, and contributions to a Friends' group and/or to the advancement of libraries or education through libraries.

**By November 15, 2012:** Mail this completed information and the nomination to

Martha Gill, past president of FOTL,  
4109 Forest Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.

Or send the material by e-mail to <marthagill491@gmail.com>.

***A leader of the winner of  
the 2012 Friend of the Year  
award speaks on page 7.***

**PLEASE PRINT the following information:**

**Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Nominee's telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's e-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**If nominee is an Individual, is that nominee a member of FOTL?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If nominee is a group, is that group a member of FOTL?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of nominator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nominator's telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

# Need Funds to Implement Campaigns? Look to FOTL

Does your Friends' group have a great idea for a project but no funds to implement it? Friends of Tennessee Libraries can help you underwrite projects designed to increase membership, raise funds, or support advocacy.

FOTL offers three grants of \$200 each, available to members of FOTL in good standing, as they design projects of advocacy, fund raising, or membership drives for the coming year.

From the Friends' website <[www.friendstnlibraries.org](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org)> local groups can download instructions and an application form. Applications must be received by November 15. They may be sent by mail to Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501, or by e-mail to the following: <[connie.albrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:connie.albrecht@yahoo.com)>. Please note that the grants are designed to support new projects, not to pay for projects already completed.

Grants will be awarded by January 15, 2013.

Once the grant has been awarded, the winning Friends' group must follow up with an evaluation of the project within 30 days of the project's completion. That form is also available on the FOTL website.

Failure to return the evaluation form could result in the group's having to return the grant money or could diminish the group's chance of receiving another grant.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries GRANT APPLICATION	
Applicant must be a Friends Group that is a member in good standing of Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Applications must be received by November 15 to be considered for a grant to be utilized in the following calendar year. ALL GRANTS WILL BE FOR \$200.	
1. Application Date:	
2. Friends Group Name:	
3. Tax Exempt Status?	
4. Area Served:	
5. Contact Person:	
6. Telephone:	
7. Mailing Address:	
8. City/Zip Code:	
9. Email Address:	

10. TYPE OF GRANT REQUESTED (One grant per application.)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Fund Raising:</b>	To assist with the expense associated with fund raising for your Friends group.
<b>Advocacy:</b>	To assist with expense associated with advocating on behalf of your community library.
<b>Membership:</b>	To assist with expense associated with retaining existing members and securing new members.

11. Project Title:	
12. Project Budget:	
13. Project Starting Date:	
14. Project Ending Date:	

15. Describe how the grant will be used:

16. Date Application Received:	
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This application may be filled out utilizing Excel software or print out copy and print or type responses to questions.

## Here's a Marketing Idea That Doesn't Cost \$\$

*"Marketing is everything, everything is marketing."*

*Ellen Myrick's thesis resonates with Friends who attended the FOTL Annual Meeting in Cookeville on May 11. With that mantra in mind, consider this idea from the Newington, CT, Friends:*

*"On Election day, Newington Friends sit at polling places displaying library flyers and brochures and offering applications for library cards. This helps the library by increasing the number of registered library patrons. It benefits the Friends by increasing their exposure" (FOCL Point, Newsletter of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries [Spring 2012], p. 7).*

# Outstanding Friends Earn FOTL Rewards

## Paul Boyer, Seymour Friends

An unincorporated hybrid straddling three counties—Sevier, Blount and Knox—Seymour is both semi-rural and a quick commute to Knoxville. A vibrant Friends group rallied Sevier County to build a branch library and then petered out in 2010. Only Paul Boyer kept the spirit of the Friends alive, bringing it back from extinction in the spring of 2011. Paul serves on the Sevier County Library Board, championing the needs of the Seymour Branch. As Lions Club president, he generated significant contributions to the summer reading program. As a Blount County resident, he proves that the library will succeed only when everyone pulls together.



## Diane Johnson, King Family Library

*(In her absence Dwight Shepherd accepted the award on Diane Johnson's behalf.)*

Careful planning and effective follow-through are hallmarks of the way Diane Johnson leads the Friends of the King Family Library and serves on the Sevier County Public Library System and the Nolichucky Regional Library boards. She founded and chaired the Friends of the King Family Library Steering Committee that led in 2011 to the existence of the new Friends organization. In chairing the Public Relations Committee for the Sevier County Public Library System Board, she organized forums to share with and learn from community organizations. She arranged the library-supporting citizens to effectively give convincing presentations to the Sevier County Commission. In all her faithful diligence, her goal is to bring together people and strong libraries. She continues to be successful in doing that. She deserves this honor.

## Sandra Johnson, Monterey Friends

Sandra Johnson, president of the Friends of the Monterey Branch Library, and her therapy dog Webster



spend most of their time promoting the library. The librarian calls them “a one-woman-and-dog cheering squad for the library.” Sandra became responsible for the weekly StoryTime when the library was shorthanded. For two years she

and Webster have conducted StoryTime at the library and at the local Head Start Center each week. They started two new classes for children: “Awesome Art” for autistic children and Art 4 Art for four-year-olds. Sanda also revamped the book sale and increased its revenue.

## Friends of the Humboldt Public Library

*(Humboldt Friends were unable to attend the meeting since they were key players in the Strawberry Festival on May 11.)*

Two years ago this group organized and has been busily working since then to meet needs in the library. They have installed two large screen televisions (working on a third), a lobby fireplace, replaced all windows in the Children's Library, applied for grants and spoke before the mayor and aldermen asking that our leaking roof be fixed. They constantly advocate for us in the community and are in the process of establishing a foundation. Each fall they host a “Fall into Friends” membership drive, a movie night at a local theater for members, a game night for members, spring and fall book sales, and much more! They have made a great difference in their library!



Accepting the award on behalf of the Sort Team from Knox County Friends are Sandi and Glen Daugherty, Jean Idell, and Peter Andreae. More than 30 volunteers make up the team.

## The Sort Team, Knox County Friends

It is with appreciation for, and recognition of, the critical difference they make to the Knoxville community at large, and the Friends of Knox County specifically, that the Used Book Sale leadership and Sort Team is nominated for this award. The expression “It takes a village” is manifested throughout the calendar year as preparations for the Annual Book Sale takes place. The Sort Team, all of whom are subject specialists, will this year have sorted and processed by subject/category an estimated 3,500 boxes of books for the annual sale, affording the public over 100,000 books to select from! This effort represents countless hours of hard physical labor in the basement of the main library (in 2011 over 1,720 hours alone with 30+ volunteers) as a devoted and well-trained Sort Team. Their efforts produce a successful book sale that provides direct financial underpinning for the Friends, enabling the organization to make significant monetary grants to the Imagination Library, the summer reading program, and the annual Children's Festival of Reading. The Sort Team and Used Book Sale leadership team provide invaluable reading materials to support the community outreach of Shoebox Libraries, the annual Knoxville *News Sentinel* Empty Stocking Fund book drive, branch book sales, and the Children's Festival of Reading while stocking the shelves of the Friends@Rothrock, the bookstore that brings in annual revenues of over \$20,000. Devoted to the cause of literacy and reading, this tireless group of Friends works to fulfill a vision of Knoxville and Knox County as a reading community all year long!

## Effective Marketing Begins with Groups' Self-Analysis: Ellen Myrick

"Marketing is everything, everything is marketing," asserted Ellen Myrick as she addressed FOTL's Annual Meeting on May 11. Based on her experience with Myrick Marketing & Media, LLC, Ms. Myrick advised Friends to analyze their organizations and to develop their marketing plans accordingly.



Clarifying the group's priorities and developing a mission statement that is compatible with them are essential tasks. So is identifying the group's assets.

Communicating the message through brochures, a website, and the social media follows. Other promotions like posters, tee shirts, and FOTL license plate frames reinforce the message.

Engaging with the community is also valuable. For example, Ellen recommends that Friends create a speaker's bureau made up of Friends who are willing to

address groups in the community. Having a presence at any library event, especially one that the Friends have helped to sponsor, takes advantage of another opportunity for distributing brochures and invitations to join.

"It never hurts to ask," said Ms. Myrick, for a free booth at a local event, in-kind donations with local businesses, window and wall space in area businesses and community centers, and the loan of expertise like document and website design as well as printing.

Furthermore, "It never hurts to give" to the community. Examples include donations of books and book marks that identify the Friends as benefactors of the community.

The speaker cited several helpful resources including the American Library Association ([ala.org](http://ala.org)), the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations ([ala.org/altaff](http://ala.org/altaff)), Hubspot, and Pinterest/Ellen Myrick. "Send me a link to your cool idea, and I'll post it there as well!" she promised.

She added, "If you haven't already 'liked' FOTL on Facebook, do so now! Get great ideas from your fellow Friends groups and share your success stories there."

## Attorney Cites State, Federal Laws for Non-Profits

Friends can support their libraries and stay out of trouble at the same time if they are aware of state and federal laws that pertain to them. This reassurance



came from attorney James M. McCarten, partner in the firm of Burr & Forman LLP, who spoke at FOTL's Annual Meeting on "Protecting Your Library, Your Friends Organization, and Yourself: Doing Things Right and Avoiding Federal and State Penalties."

Non-profits are subject to state corporate law (TCA 48-51-101 and following) and to state law on charitable solicitations (through the Secretary of State's office). Charitable solicitations cannot be made unless the organization is appropriately registered

through the Secretary of State's office. State law also governs the non-profit's charter and its bylaws. Forms for non-profits can be found at <[http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/forms.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/forms.htm)>.

Non-profits are not always tax-exempt. Federal laws require that organizations must ask for tax exemption on Form 1023 or Form 1024. Once 501(c)(3) status is granted, Form 990 must be filed annually with the IRS.

To protect their boards of directors, Mr. McCarten also strongly advised Friends to seek insurance.

*Editor's notes: FOTL adds that many Friends seek the advice of public-spirited lawyers when they apply for 501(c)(3) status. When they want to be sure that they have complied with state regulations, they should consult the Secretary of State's office. Do Friends in Tennessee owe sales tax on their sale of used books? Consult TCA 67-6-102(6)(B) for exemptions. Look for more on insurance and state sales tax in our next issue.*

**Author Jennie Ivey  
welcomes readers  
to her website,  
which she describes as  
"a work in progress."  
Links to her publications  
can be found at**

**<<http://www.jennieivey.com>>**





## **Webster the Therapy Dog: A New Take on Friends**

**By Sandra Johnson  
Monterey Library Friend**

Imagine spending an afternoon at the library. What could be better? Now imagine spending that afternoon with your dog. Fantastic! That's exactly what you can do with a therapy dog. But the best is you are not the only one to benefit.

My three-year-old Yorkie, Webster, is a therapy dog who volunteers at the Monterey Library. Every Wednesday he and a good book are the main attractions at StoryTime, provided by the library, for the Monterey Head Start program. Immediately following that, we move to the library where he and I do StoryTime for pre-school aged children. Two of the many topics we emphasize are "Safety with Dogs" and "Bullying." There is nothing more dangerous than sending a child outside to play when he is nervous around dogs. Webster and I talk with those children, give them tools to use when coming across a strange dog, and allow them to interact with Webster until there is a comfort zone achieved. When focusing on bullying

we try to provide the children with the means needed to protect themselves against bullying, as well as allowing them to determine whether or not they are behaving as bullies themselves.

For library activities, having a dog present helps the children focus better and be more active participants in any program. In StoryTime we try to focus on areas important to the children. Doylene Farley, manager of Monterey Library, often uses Webster when she feels he can help get a point across.

While training is involved in producing a therapy dog, the rewards far exceed the efforts. You benefit by building a much closer bond with your dog and the library benefits in numerous ways. I feel every county in Tennessee should have a least one therapy dog dedicated to the library system, and ideally, each library should have its own individual therapy dog. The rewards, especially to the children, prove themselves every time you walk through the door with your dog. Webster is my friend, and I'm very proud of him!

## **Two Promote Reading On World Book Night**

Participating in the nation's first World Book Night, Colleen Shannon, president of Friends of the Seymour Library, and David Phillips, branch manager, handed out paperback copies of two best sellers, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers, on April 23.

The mission of World Book Night, which began in Great Britain in 2011, is to encourage reading, especially among people who are not devoted readers. The initiative worked with one girl who showed an interest in *The Hunger Games*. Her mother said, "You read the book, I'll take you to the movie." Other teens pleaded with their parents to let them read the book because, as one boy said, "A whole bunch of kids are reading it."

One recipient of *Zeitoun* accepted the book, a true story of how a New Orleans family fared during Hurricane Katrina, because she was living in Mississippi when the storm struck.

Distribution of the books took place at the Seymour Boys & Girls Club, located in Seymour Heights Christian Church, where parents came to pick up their children.

Thousands of volunteers across America like Colleen and David were given 20 copies of books to distribute. The American Library Association, other non-profits, booksellers, and many businesses underwrote the cost of the books.



photo by Anna Garber  
David Phillips and Colleen Shannon on World Book Night

## News Notes from Across the State

# No Summer Vacation for Friends

**Chattanooga Friends of the Library** and the local Writers' Guild celebrated books on April 10 as authors from the area gathered to introduce themselves and their work and to share their passion for the written word. President of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild Lantz Powell said, "The library is a local treasure that should be respected by the community at large" (quoted in the newsletter *Volumes* March/April 2012).

**Friends of the Kodak Library** received a grant of \$1,694.94 from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to support summer reading programs. The funds will be shared throughout the Sevier County Public Library System.

Kodak resident Erska Rhea Smith, author of *Flyin' Bullets and the Resplendent Badge* about her father Sevier County Sheriff Ray Noland, was guest speaker at the May 22 meeting of the Kodak Friends.

### TLA Honors Martha Gill

At its conference in March, the Tennessee Library Association (TLA) presented honorary life membership to FOTL's Past President Martha Gill "In recognition of significant, sustained contributions to librarianship in the State of Tennessee."

In response to the presentation of this honor, Martha thanked TLA "for making certain that until the end of my days I will continue to associate with some of the best people I know, people who believe, as I do, that education and free access to information and ideas are essential to our communities. And thanks also to Friends like Frances Darnell, Julie Webb, Connie Albrecht, and the late Mary Ann Bork and John Nye for teaching me how to be a Friend to you."

From the Forked Deer Region come these reports of Friends' activities by FOTL representative Sylvia Palmer.

**Elma Ross Friends** in Brownsville will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Haywood County Library and the 20th birthday of the Elma Ross Library. The group continues to work closely with Imagination Library.

**Friends in Lauderdale** met on April 17 at Sugar Hill and welcomed entertainment by Bill Butner, harpist, and Teresa Queen, violinist. To date the sale of the first three volumes of the pictorial history of the county, supported by the Friends, has raised over \$50,000.

**McIver's Grant Friends** continued to support the construction of a new library with a donation of \$5,900, the result of a successful book sale and a soup-and-white-beans event. The Fancy Nancy Tea Party occurred in May.

**Newbern Friends** raised over \$2,000 at their Fun Run.

**Somerville Friends** are gearing up for their September book sale.

**Tiptonville Friends** support the library personally and financially. Volunteers help to shelve books, and Friends donate funds for expenses not covered by the library's budget.



Across the state Friends are making dreams come true. They are working with their libraries to encourage reading by providing funds that support summer reading programs. Musicians, magicians, and critters from the zoo are among the special presentations that bring youngsters, teens, and grown ups into the library. Incentives and rewards keep them reading, thanks to the funding of Friends like you. Thank you! You are supporting literacy as well as your library.

**Friends of the Library-McMinn County Library** officers for 2012 are Kathy Rhodes, chairperson; Lynn White, vice-chairperson; Marilyn Joiner, secretary; and Dr. Joyce Baker, treasurer. Members of the board include Bunny Browder, Carolyn Grimmett, Debbie Hamilton, Carole Haynes, Joy Runyan, and Laura Rust. Ex officio directors emeriti are Mimi Jones and Dr. Genevieve Wiggins.

**Knox County Friends** will celebrate volunteers and hear an update on the library from Director Myretta Black at the annual potluck supper on July 16.



New officers of the Friends of the King Family Library in Sevierville were elected at the group's annual meeting on May 31. From left, they include Kate Carlyle, president; Leslie Leduc, secretary; Ann Butler, historian; Dana Stevens, treasurer; and Bonnie Voit, past president. Absent, Diane Johnson, vice president. Guest speaker at the annual meeting was Dr. Richard Dew, who retired after 30 years as a family-practice physician and is now volunteer medical director of the Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic in Sevierville. The Friends' Lifelong Learning program continued in June with a presentation on how to grow, harvest, and cook with herbs by Kate Carlyle, who describes herself as a master gardener and amateur chef.

## Raise Your Hand To Volunteer

Raise Your Hand Tennessee, a statewide collaboration recruiting volunteers to read to, tutor, and mentor children, is underway in cooperation with United Way and many other partners.

Writing in the *TLA Newsletter* (Vol. 18, Issue 2), State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said that the drive is intended to draw attention to the importance of reading to young children in an effort to help “children enter kindergarten ready to succeed, read proficiently by 4th grade, make a successful transition in and out of middle school, and graduate from high school on time.”

On June 21 Secretary of State Tre Hargett, whose office oversees Tennessee’s regional library system, was in East Tennessee to walk the talk by reading to a group of



little ones and their mothers at the Cedar Bluff Branch of the Knox County Public Library System.

For more information on how your library can be involved, go to [www.raiseyourhandtn.org](http://www.raiseyourhandtn.org).



## Why Friends of Kodak Succeed

By Emma Ruth Catlett

*Friends of the Kodak Library*

*Editor’s note: Accepting the 2012 Friend of the Year award from co-sponsors Friends of Tennessee Libraries and the Tennessee Library Association on behalf of the Friends of the Kodak Library, Emma Ruth Catlett, now in her nineties, moved the audience with her eloquent acceptance speech on March 23.*



On behalf of the members of Friends of Kodak Library, I want to thank the Tennessee Library Association and Friends of Tennessee Libraries for honoring us with the Tennessee Friend of the Year Award. Receiving this award from two groups that have such a long history of working to support libraries all across the State of Tennessee gives it a prestige that truly humbles us.

We were somewhat surprised to learn that we had even been nominated for this award, let alone selected to receive it. We are a small group, only 45 members, that serves a small branch library. Like all Friends of the Library groups, we just do what we can to support our local library. We do this because we know the difference a well-equipped library can make to every member of its community.

I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our members. As all of you know, no matter how good an idea you may have for a project, without individual members willing to get behind it and carry it out, it will not succeed.

We have also been blessed to have a branch manager and staff, a Library System Staff and administration, and a County Library Board that fully embrace us as partners in working together for the betterment of our branch and our system as a whole.

We have also been fortunate to be able to partner with other organizations and businesses in our area. We have representatives with us today from two special groups that we enjoy working with, Friends of King Family Library and Friends of Seymour Library. They support the other branches of the Sevier County Public Library System. We all join together to carry out projects that would be too big for any one of us alone. I would not be surprised to see both of those groups accepting this award in the future.

Another key to success that we have achieved has been our memberships in Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) and Citizens for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Foundations and Friends (ALTAFF). Those memberships have allowed us to stay informed and up to date on a variety of issues. They have also let us know about things that other Friends groups are doing. We can get inspiration for projects for our group from these other groups.

These are perilous times for our libraries. Library services are in greater demand because of the economy. That same economy is causing funding bodies to forgo increases to already tight library budgets, or worse, to cut already inadequate budgets.

Our libraries need Friends now more than ever. They need Friends to act as volunteers. They need Friends to fund programs. They need Friends to advocate to both the general public and to funding bodies on their behalf. Libraries make a world of difference. Friends can make a world of difference to their libraries.

Knowing that we have made a difference for our library should be honor enough for any Friends group. Receiving the Tennessee Friend of the Year Award is an honor without compare. So again, on behalf of Friends of the Kodak Library, thank you very much for this great honor.

# Nashville Library Partners With Public Schools

By Stephanie Hamm  
and Tricia Bengel

Nashville Public Library

In 2009, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean asked Nashville Public Library to take the lead in a new partnership between the public and school libraries, with NPL recommending specific steps to improve the school libraries, to foster resource sharing between the two institutions and to improve student access to learning materials. Many of the Nashville schools did not meet minimum state standards, had old and irrelevant material and did not fit the academy model that the district had implemented.

Through collaboration between Nashville Public Library and Metro Nashville Public Schools, Limitless Libraries

was born and has been taking the school libraries by storm.

As Limitless Libraries began, NPL was charged with collection development and purchasing for school libraries to meet state standards for volumes and quality of materials, but also providing school delivery of NPL materials to registered patrons to their school library. A pilot project with 3 high schools and a 9th grade academy began in 2009. City funding was expanded to carry the program forward to all 16 area high schools in the 2010-2011 school year. The 2011-2012 school year brought further expansion to the program as it now includes 35 middle schools and 3 exceptional education schools.

Collection development assistance and guidance are provided to all participating school locations by Limitless Libraries staff members. Schools are encouraged to get rid of old

material in order to make room for new and relevant material that suits student interests and the school curriculum. Since the material purchased by Limitless Libraries has been introduced into the school libraries, dramatic increases in circulation have resulted—on average, a 64% increase from last year.

Currently, Limitless Libraries serves over 63% of MNPS middle and high school students with over 15,000 of those students being first-time library card holders. Student ID cards now serve as their Nashville Public Library card, making a truly effortless transition from their school library to the public library. Limitless Libraries sends approximately 7,500 items to the 54 school location monthly. The

materials range from popular YA fiction to audiobooks and non-fiction material. Students also have access to

Interlibrary Loan material to assist in their research. However, a sixth grade Goodlettsville Middle School student put it best: "It's fun to read as it just takes you to another place and boosts your imagination. I'm raising my reading grades since Limited Libraries started."

Limitless Libraries is a first of its kind. Besides providing direct collection development assistance to school libraries, Nashville Public Library is reaching one of the most difficult patron types, teens. The two organizations, which rarely collaborated before Limitless Libraries, have created a groundbreaking program. When school was in session, students flocked to their school library in the hope that their Nashville Public Library materials

had arrived.

For more information, see <http://www.library.nashville.org/schools/about.html>.



## Memphis Program Wins National Prize

Out of 305 applications from individuals and institutions all over the nation, the National Book Foundation has named a reading and mentoring program in Memphis one of five recipients of an Innovations in Reading prize.

The Memphis program began on a small scale in 2007 when Real Men Read was created and developed by Inger Upchurch, manager of the Cornelia Crenshaw Memorial, one of 18 branches of the Memphis Public Library and Information Center in Memphis. When the program began, two librarians visited four centers every other month, reaching 30-50 children. Today, two librarians facilitate the program, but each librarian goes out weekly with one of 25 guest readers to seven centers twice a week to reach 160-257 children a month.

The storytime and mentoring program for children between the ages of three and five who are enrolled in urban child-care centers intends to help them become lifelong readers by engaging them in the joy and excitement of reading. It also is designed to promote self-esteem in African-American children as African-American men from both blue- and white-collar professions read to and mentor the youngsters.

Peter McNeal, FOTL's Memphis representative, is one of those guest readers.

For a complete list of prize winners, who have been awarded up to \$2,500 each by the National Book Foundation, see [http://www.nationalbook.org/innovations\\_in\\_reading.html](http://www.nationalbook.org/innovations_in_reading.html).

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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

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Go to <[www.tntel.info](http://www.tntel.info)>

**Membership Application**  
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(Membership year is January to December.)

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- Individual Silver \$50/yr
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**Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries. Send to FOTL Membership Chair Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501-2062.**