On the Road for Libraries

Celebrate TEL and take your Legislators to lunch. Pages 4-5

To Nashville Legislative Day
March 3

To Haley Farm . Annual Meeting
May 15

Pull up a rocking chair on the front porch, and join FOTL members Theresa Venable, left, and Barbara Zurl at our annual meeting.

Can you envision your license plate inside this frame? FOTL is working on its manufacture, and in the near future, we’ll tell you how you can purchase one at a reasonable price.
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Here’s our new web address: [http://www.friendstnlibraries.org](http://www.friendstnlibraries.org)
How Do We Love Libraries?

Let Us Count the Ways

By Gay Hurst
Knoxville Contributor

Now is the time for all good Friends to write to their elected officials. A letter or an e-mail, the message in writing, is still powerful. Our libraries need that power right now and you can provide it. Budgets are being slashed in these difficult economic times. What-to-fund and what-not-to-fund decisions can and should be influenced by us, the people.

Write to local, state and national (senators and representatives) officials. If you don’t know where to send your letters, your local library is the place to go. Or call the reference desk for the information. Of course, you could use the internet or call the government offices.

In writing the letter, be specific. What do you like about the libraries?

We can attend Library Legislative Day in Nashville on March 3.
We can display bumper stickers that profess our devotion to libraries.
We can take our children and our grandchildren to the library to get their first library cards.
We can support Imagination Library and encourage our young friends to enroll their little ones in that wonderful program.
We can help out with local summer reading programs.
The list could go on.

On January 6, making note of the birthday of the author of The Prophet, Garrison Keillor quoted Kahlil Gibran: “Work is love made visible.” Add your activity to the list above, and show your community, your state, your nation that you love libraries by working for them.

Seal Those Letters with a Kiss

By Martha Gill
FOTL President

All of us love libraries. That’s the compelling motive for our joining organizations like Friends of Tennessee Libraries that support them. Especially today those libraries need us to put that love into action. There are dozens of ways that we can work for libraries.

We can donate books for our Friends’ book sale.
We can help sort and sell those books.
We can ask our beleaguered librarians how we can help them as they struggle to do more with less financial backing.
We can write letters to the editor of our newspapers reminding the general public of the valuable and free resources in our libraries.
We can write to our legislators, both in Tennessee and in Washington, asking them to be mindful of the value returned to taxpayers by their investment in libraries.

In your opinion, how do libraries benefit everyone in our community? Give our elected officials a list of reasons for not only funding libraries but also for being generous in that funding.

To get you started thinking, here are some benefits we receive from our libraries:
1. Libraries can provide alternative entertainment for families during these hard times. Books, videos, and dvds at the library are less expensive than movies at the theater.
2. Libraries provide many free programs for children and adults.
3. People have access to the Internet at the library.
4. Libraries help the workforce with information about writing resumes, networking, and job searches.
5. Libraries provide financial advice through programs as well as through materials at the library.
6. Libraries support education. These benefits are just a few taken from the Diane Rehm Show, WAMU, on January 7, “The Role of Libraries in Economic Hard Times.” Her guests were Carla Hayden, executive director, Enoch Pratt Free Library and past president of the American Library Association; Jim Rettig, president of the American Library Association and the university librarian at the Boatwright Memorial Library at the University of Richmond, VA; and Ginnie Cooper, chief librarian for the District of Columbia Public Library. She is the former executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library.

You can listen to the full show at <http://wamu.org/programs/dr/09/01/07.php#24509>.
Legislative Day Tuesday, March 3

Advocates for libraries can meet their Legislators and celebrate both the past and the bright future of Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) on Tuesday, March 3, in Nashville. A registration form follows.

9:30-9:50 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast—Nashville Public Library Conference Center (Library doors open at 9 a.m.)

9:50-11:50 Morning Program—Nashville Public Library Auditorium. featuring Judith Gibbons

Noon-12:30 p.m. Meet your Legislator at Doubletree

12:30-1:30 p.m. Legislative Luncheon—Doubletree Downtown Ballroom

1:30-5 p.m. Meet with Legislators (Schedule appointments in advance.)

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

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

Name:_____________________________________________________________________

Home Address:_____________________________________________________________________

City:___________________________________ County:________________ Zip Code:_________

Telephone: (       )_____________________________E-Mail_________________________________

Library I will represent:__________________________________ County:________________

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

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

Please mark here if you would like a vegetarian lunch. ___________

Registration Fee: $25 per person. If paying by check, make check payable to Tennessee Library Association and mail with completed registration form to TLA, PO Box 241074, Memphis, TN 38124-1074. If paying by credit or debit card, register online at <www.tnla.org>. Registration deadline: February 17, 2009. No refunds will be given, but participant substitutions will be accepted.

For additional registration information, contact TLA at <arhuggins1@comcast.net> or 901.485.6952. For additional program information, go to <www.tnla.org>.
Editor’s Note: When you attend Legislative Day, thank legislators for giving tax relief to organizations like Friends of the Library. FOTL has tentatively published information about sales tax on Friends’ book sales, but now it’s official and bears repeating.

In an e-mail message posted on the TLA LISTSERVE on January 5, 2009, Jane Pinkston, assistant state librarian for planning and development, clarified the new law.

Effective January 1, 2009, a new law is in effect concerning charitable entities whose primary purpose is fund-raising in support of a city, county, or metropolitan library system.

TCA 67-6-102(6)(B) states that charitable entities whose primary purpose is fund-raising in support of a city, county, or metropolitan library system may make up to $100,000 per year without paying sales tax. This law is in effect for the next four years.

Charitable entities whose primary purpose is fund-raising to support libraries still must register with the Division of Charitable Solicitations. The entities will need to pay a fee to Charitable Solicitations if raising more than $30,000 annually.

Every charitable entity supporting a library and raising money through book sales should file two documents with the State of Tennessee—one with the Department of Revenue and one with the Division of Charitable Solicitations, as indicated below:

1) Department of Revenue

The new form now posted on the Tennessee Department of Revenue website <http://state.tn.us/revenue/forms/sales/f1319901.pdf> should be completed and submitted to:

Department of Revenue
500 Deaderick Street
Andrew Johnson Building
Nashville, TN 37242
615-253-0600,
TN.Revenue@tn.gov

If your fund-raising organization has already filed a letter with the Department of Revenue, please contact them directly to see if you need to resubmit the new form.

2) Division of Charitable Solicitations

Those anticipating raising less than $30,000 annually in support of a library should fill out a one-time Exemption Request Form found at <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6042.pdf>. Send to Department of State, Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming as indicated on the form.

Those anticipating raising more than $30,000 annually in support of a library should fill out a renewing annual form and pay the required fee. The forms can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6001.pdf or http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6007.pdf

Send to: Dept. of State, Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming as indicated on the form.

In Nashville on Tuesday, March 3, participants in the 2009 Library Legislative Day will celebrate the successes of the Tennessee Electronic Library and look forward to its future.

To demonstrate in very concrete ways that library-sponsored programs like TEL are making a difference in the lives of Tennesseans, the Tennessee Library Association (TLA) has collected stories that amuse, inspire, or convince others that the resources of TEL have benefited the state.

Library Legislative Day is also the opportune time to thank legislators for giving tax relief to organizations like Friends of the Library, whose reason for being is the support of public libraries. [See article below for details.]

Furthermore, Library Legislative Day brings together advocates whose unified voice has been and will continue to be raised in support of funding for Tennessee’s libraries. The day also gives participants a chance to meet and network with others who love what libraries do for communities.

The Friends of Tennessee Libraries proudly cooperates with TENN-SHARE, the Tennessee Association of School Libraries, and the Nashville Public Library to support TLA, the sponsor of Library Legislative Day. FOTL hopes to see YOU there. Registration form appears on page 4.
Tell Us Who Your Benefactors Are

FOTL To Recognize Volunteers for Outstanding Contributions

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

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 April 15, 2009, to Diane Vernon, P.O. Box 494, Decaturville, TN 38329.
Haley Farm in Clinton, TN
Serene Setting for Annual Meeting May 15

The setting is serene: 157 acres of pastoral landscape, an apple orchard set back from a busy highway. Yet the retreat is dotted with log cabins equipped with modern conveniences and two buildings designed by the famous architect Maya Lin, who created the plan for the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. To this unique setting just 30 miles north of Knoxville in Clinton, TN, members of Friends of Tennessee Libraries will come for their annual meeting on Friday, May 15.

Challenging times like these call for the kind of inspiration that the Haley Farm, now owned by the Children’s Defense Fund, offers visitors. The times also call for practical suggestions and solutions, offered up by advocates of Tennessee libraries. The annual meeting will strive to make both the inspirational and the practical available to those who attend. Details will follow in the spring issue of this newsletter and on FOTL’s website at this address: <www.friendsoftnlibraries.org>.

The lodge at the Haley Farm offers accommodations for overnight guests as well as space for meetings, dining, and rocking on the front porch.

Book talks occur frequently at the Langston Hughes Library. Lori Price, left, teacher at Anderson County High School, and some of her students, shown here with Librarian Theresa Venable, second from left, got together January 11 to talk about Sue Monk Kidd’s best-seller The Secret Life of Bees.
When Economy Staggers, Librarians Help

Editor’s note: Recently Jane Pinkston, assistant state librarian for planning and development, asked for examples of customer service provided by Tennessee librarians who are assisting economically disadvantaged patrons during this recession. Here are some of the responses, edited to prevent the report from being too long. These first-hand accounts speak to the dedication and responsiveness of public libraries, even in the smallest of communities. Share them with your representatives on Legislative Day.

Chester County Public Library
"We have always tried to purchase multiple books on resumes, jobs, and careers . . . and we offered computer classes and one class in composing a resume. Currently, we have a . . . high school senior . . . who is doing voluntary computer help every Thursday from 4-7 and on Fridays . . . We have advertised this in my monthly column, in our local newspaper, in our monthly newsletter, and on our sign out front. We try to offer assistance to persons who are trying to sign up for unemployment via the Web, but that is not always possible in a two-person library. We have posted instructions at each computer that give directions on how to get to the resume programs . . . sometimes even a little bit helps someone."

Humboldt Public Library
"All of our staff recently attended the customer service workshop Reelfoot Regional Library hosted. We came away with . . . a determination to meet all needs. We were already helping patrons fill out unemployment information, public housing information, job applications, resumes, etc. and we will be doing more of those with big smiles!"

South Cheatham Public Library
"We have Wi-Fi for our patrons. Many are using it to job hunt. Last week, I overheard a patron take a call on his cell phone and he informed them that he was at his temporary office at the South Cheatham Library. We have had this happen many times over . . . It is so wonderful to work with a staff that are already tuned in to customer service and our regular patrons can't say enough about the warm atmosphere in our little log library."

Elmer Hinton Memorial Library (Portland)
"The Portland Library is giving five computer classes a week on three different levels of knowledge, and each Friday we have set aside four hours to help people do their resumes. [We] put (the information) on a disk for them, [and give them] a hard copy on nice paper . . . .There were about 50 people signed up for computer classes and we had to bite the bullet to get them all in classes. We have never had this many before . . . ."

Clinton Public Library
"I was asked for help by an older gentleman to apply for unemployment. He had been sent over from Job Services to use the public computers . . . . this gentleman had quit school in 10th grade. He had no knowledge of computers and was intimidated by the thought of even trying to use one . . . . We found the area that held the form to fill out . . . fairly easily, but before we got through the first page, an e-mail address was requested and (we were) directed to create one if needed. So I opened a new window and we went to G-mail to create a new e-mail address . . . . That took 25 minutes! Back to the state site and the form. Finish page one and on to page two . . . . the last quest-"

For more on how libraries can help during a bad economy, FOTL Board Member Don Reynolds recommends <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/7ways.cfm>. The article originally appeared in The Consumerist (July 22, 2008).

H. B. Stamps Memorial Library (Rogersville)
"We all realize that, especially in our area, we are dealing with lower income households and people who do not always have jobs. We don't offer any resume building workshops at this point, but we do take the time to help people when they need the help [with resumes . . . with college apps and homework help as well]. Just last week I saw a gentleman sitting at one of the PAC's and he looked very frustrated. I asked him if everything was all right and he said he was trying to send a resume to a company. I sat with him and helped him through the process of uploading his resume from a floppy disk into his e-mail. It didn't take long, but I feel it is important from a community relations standpoint that we take the extra 10 minutes to help when we can . . . ."

For more on how libraries can help during a bad economy, FOTL Board Member Don Reynolds recommends <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/7ways.cfm>. The article originally appeared in The Consumerist (July 22, 2008).
Good Times For Kids

Though one out of every two eligible children in the state is registered for the Imagination Library, many more families with young children remain to be reached by this important pre-kindergarten literacy program, according to Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen. Shelby, Bledsoe, Stewart, and Weakley counties achieved the largest percentage increase for registering eligible children during the September 2008 enrollment period, according to the program’s newsletter Signpost.

He had no money—because he had no job—so I paid the $1.40 for him. All this took 1 hour and 45 minutes!

If you have more such recession stories to share, please send them to Jane Pinkston. Remember, public libraries’ statewide theme this year is "Customer Service in Tennessee Libraries." Even in hard times, we have much to offer our patrons.

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Assistant State Librarian for Planning and Development
TN State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Ave. North
Nashville, TN 37243-0312
Phone: 615-532-4628
Email: Jane.Pinkston@state.tn.us

Another Kind Of Food

“In hard times libraries are more important than ever. Human beings need what books give them better than any other medium. Since ancient nights around prehistoric campfires, we have needed myth. And heroes. And moral tales. And information about the world beyond the nearest mountains or oceans. Today, with books and movies more expensive than ever, and television entertainment in free fall to the lowest level of stupidity, free circulating books are an absolute necessity. They are quite simply another kind of food. For those without money, the road to the treasure house of the imagination begins at the public library.”

—Pete Hamill, columnist of the New York Daily News, as quoted from <www.ilovelibraries.org> and cited in Among Friends, monthly newsletter of the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library, Crossville
Friends Take Charge

The 2009 Annual Used Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of Knox County Public Library will run March 1 - 7 in the Knoxville Convention and Exposition Center at the Holiday Inn on World’s Fair Park in Knoxville.

During February, Library Lovers’ Month, the Knox County Friends will host a series of forums in various branches to focus on the pivotal role of the library in the community’s future.

The Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library report that a special basket of gifts was presented to the first baby of 2009, Brock Daniel Littrell. The gift consisted of a handmade blanket, books, a t-shirt, and other items that proclaim “Read to Me.”

Once again the Friends of the Library in White County pulled together a profitable three-day book sale to benefit the library. Friends also hosted a meal for county and city officials in the fall.

Chattanooga Friends’ book sale will run from Monday, February 16, through Tuesday, February 24, at Sears Court, Northgate Mall, in Hixon, TN. It will feature more than 30,000 books sorted into over 60 categories.

Proceeds from ClubLib 2008, the signature fund-raiser for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, will be used to expand materials for senior adults. An advisory group of seniors has also been established to help the library focus on this segment of its clientele. In previous years the event has funded collections for teenagers and for children.

Friends of the Tellico Village Library took a major step toward the expansion of the public library in September by acquiring two acres of land at 300 Irene Lane. That purchase crowned a process of several years during which property was sought, evaluated, and rezoned for the new facility. Major fundraising for the building is now underway.

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Keith McDaniel spoke at the annual meeting of the Friends of Tellico Village Library in October. Mr. McDaniel has produced such films as a series on Oak Ridge, his hometown, and “Clinton 12,” the story of the integration of the first public high school in the South after the U.S. Supreme Court decision Brown v. the Board of Education.

Living history was the theme of the Friends of Kodak Library meeting on January 27. Glenn Burchby, FOKL member, shared his experiences as a soldier and prisoner of war in World War II.

John Thomas, bookstore manager of the Friends of the W. G. Rhea Library in Paris, reports that the Friends’ membership has been updating its bylaws. Groups with a similar goal may discuss the process with him at <jwstreak@yahoo.com>.

The newly formed Friends’ group at Leiper’s Fork Public Library has elected new officers: President, Jean Dicie; Vice-President Robin Lockwood; Treasurer, Arlene Baker; Recording Secretary, Becky Payne; Corresponding Secretary, Katie Baker.

On the Media

- Tennessee Libraries on YouTube!
  Begin with <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0huG71Z740E>.
- Teachers’ guides to the PBS series on Dickens at <pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece>.
- Book Talk on radio station WYPL in Memphis.
  Contact Lillian Johnson at <johnsonli@memphislibrary.org>.
ARSL Conference Set for Sept. 11-13

Don Reynolds, member of FOTL’s board and director of the Nolichucky Regional Library, chairs the committee that is busily planning the national conference of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg on September 11-13. Staff, trustees, and Friends of rural and small libraries are invited to attend the meeting.

A number of notables have already committed to make presentations at the conference. They include Sally Reed, president of the Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA).

The mission of ARSL is “to provide a network of people and materials to support rural and small library staff, volunteers, and trustees to integrate the library thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves.”

FOTL Team Continues Workshops

With many workshops under their belts, the FOTL veteran team of Connie Albrecht, Frances Darnell, and John Nye have lots of future dates.

On their calendars are a gathering of all regional library directors yet to be scheduled, a presentation at the Tennessee Library Association’s meeting in April, an in-service in Montgomery County (Warioto Region) in May, and another in Sequatchie County (Caney Fork) after March. Workshops like those in the Upper Cumberland, Caney Fork, Highland Rim, and Forked Deer regions usually include trustees, Friends, and library staff.

Workshops are built around an agenda that provides information about how Friends’ groups fit into the context of the library system and how organizations have addressed membership, volunteer support for the library, fund-raising, and advocacy. Regional directors often invite the team to conduct in-service programs, but invitations have come from trustees and individuals as well. The directory on page 2 provides contact information for Connie, Frances, and John. Requests sent to Martha Gill, FOTL president, at <gill333375@bellsouth.net> will be forwarded to the team.

Carol Harris Represents Forked Deer

One of the great rewards reaped from FOTL workshops like those described above is the discovery of Dyersburg resident Carol Harris, who has joined the FOTL board as regional representative from Forked Deer.

Though she has been on the board only a few months, Carol has already fulfilled a representative’s mission by filing a timely report about Friends’ activities in her region and by sending news items to be posted on the website or in the newsletter.

Another recent and most welcome addition to the board is Wanda Jared, Upper Cumberland Region. Wanda’s husband Ed is FOTL’s treasurer.

Two regional representatives’ positions, Watauga and Highland Rim, are vacant.

Want to know more about FOTL? Contact Martha Gill at <gill333375@bellsouth.net> for a free PowerPoint introduction.
**Thank You!**
FOTL acknowledges with gratitude the following who have chosen gold or silver levels of membership.

**Gold:** Connie and Joe Albrecht; Susie Webb Ries; Charlotte Mayberry; Dorothy Stair; Dan and Brenda Davidson; Diane Nichols; Mr. and Mrs. John Nye; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gibson.

**Silver:** Joyce Baur; Jim and Martha Gill; Lt. Col. David T. Sites, USMC Ret.; Sen. Joe and Barbara Haynes; and Dr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Gleaves.

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**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.

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