



Friends of Tennessee Libraries

newsletter

Winter 2010

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**SUPPORT
LIBRARIES
TENNESSEE**

Tennessee Library Legislative Day 2010

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Jeanne Sugg: A Shining Example

By Martha Gill, FOTL President

The retirement of Jeanne Sugg, state librarian and archivist since 2005, is the occasion for her many admirers to speak of her contributions to the cultural life of Tennessee. Her exemplary professionalism, her indefatigable work ethic, her progressive leadership, her unflagging commitment to Tennessee libraries, and her personal grace have long been the causes of our admiration.

As president of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries for the last 18 months, I have witnessed Jeanne Sugg's seemingly tireless efforts on behalf of the state's libraries and their advocates. Wherever those who work for or love libraries gathered, Jeanne Sugg seemed to be there, to encourage, to energize, to praise, to help. She excelled—whether she was congratulating a Friends' group in Crossville for a decade of fundraising for a new library or meeting with members of the Tennessee Library



Jeanne Sugg, left, with Julie Webb at FOTL's annual meeting in 2009

Association to boost morale or briefing a Tennessee delegation to National Library Legislative Day in Washington. She shone—whether attending the nationally prestigious Arbuthnot Lecture at the Children's Defense Fund Haley Farm in Clinton or thanking Friends of Tennessee Libraries for their service to their communities. In the 20 years that she has been a part of the remarkable staff of the Tennessee State Library, she and her colleagues have grasped the

enormous potential of technologies like the Tennessee Electronic Library and broadband connections that are helping the state stretch its library dollars to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Her ability to research, understand, and put data to work is simply astonishing, the result both of professional training and of a disciplined and active mind.

Jeanne Sugg has inspired more than one Friend to renew his or her efforts as an advocate of our libraries. Let us continue to try to do as Jeanne has done—make excellence a habit.

Charles Sherrill Appointed State Librarian

Charles Sherrill, a Middle Tennessean with 25 years of experience as a library administrator, will begin his new job as state librarian and archivist on February 5. Secretary of State Tre Hargett announced the appointment on January 14.

Secretary Hargett said of the appointment, "I am pleased to have someone of Mr. Sherrill's background and skills in this esteemed position. Our goal is to increase the awareness of the great programs available to Tennesseans through the State Library and Archives. Our goal is to extend our outreach beyond our downtown Nashville location and I know Mr. Sherrill will provide excellent leadership and vision not only to TSLA, but also to libraries throughout our great state. I am sure Mr. Sherrill will build on the solid foundation that has been laid by Ms. Sugg and I expect the transition to be a very smooth one."

Mr. Sherrill has served as director of the Brentwood Library since 2000 and also works as an adjunct faculty member at Jackson State Community College. Prior

to becoming director of the Brentwood Library, he was the director of public services for the State Library and Archives. Before that, he served as director of the Cleveland Public Library in East Tennessee.

Upon his appointment Mr. Sherrill said, "My predecessors in the post have been great leaders and I hope I will be able to continue their tradition of excellence. The most critical missions of the State Library and Archives are the preservation of and access to Tennessee's historical collections and the support and development of public libraries across the state. Many talented people are already working on these priorities—and it will be my pleasure to join them."

FOTL takes pleasure in noting that Mr. Sherrill (Chuck) became a fan of FOTL's Facebook page while he was still director of the Brentwood Library. He has our congratulations and our pledge that we will join him in supporting our state's public libraries. We hope he will accept this public invitation to attend our annual meeting in Crossville on May 14.

Stand Up for the Libraries We Love

Tennessee Library Legislative Day 2010

Wednesday, February 24, 2010



9:30 – 9:50 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast – Nashville Public Library
Conference Center (Library doors open at 9:00 a.m.)
9:50 - 11:55 Morning Program – Nashville Public Library Auditorium
Noon – 12:30 p.m. Meet your Legislator at Doubletree
12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Legislative Luncheon – Doubletree Downtown Ballroom
1:30 – 5:00 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 attendee.)

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 Tennessee 38124-1074. If paying by credit or debit card, register online at www.tnla.org. Registration deadline: February 14, 2010.

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.

Sign Up for Legislative Day on February 24

What's Happening Then

Using the registration form on the opposite page, sign up by February 14 to join other library advocates in Nashville on February 24. The \$25 fee covers lunch.

After registration and a continental breakfast in the Nashville Public Library, the program begins at 9:50. Marci Merola, director of the American Library Association's Office of Advocacy, will be the keynote speaker.

From noon until 1:30 participants will have lunch with their legislators in the Doubletree Downtown Ballroom. The Tennessee Library Association will have invited all 132 lawmakers to lunch, but participants are urged to contact their own legislators by phone, mail, fax, or e-mail because nothing works so well as a personal invitation from a constituent. Here's what one person said when she telephoned her senator:

"I just wanted to invite you to have lunch with me and others from our area on February 24 at 12 noon at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Nashville. This is the annual Library Legislative Day, and I would be honored if you could join me. I always appreciate the work you do for your constituents."

Lunch is a social event, an occasion for friendly chatter. From 1:30 until 5 p.m., however, Friends can meet privately with legislators in their offices, but participants need to make these appointments in advance. These brief but important occasions give constituents the opportunity to impress upon their representatives the importance of libraries back home.



TLA members planning Legislative Day include, from left, Leah Allison, St. George's School, Collierville; Jason Vance, Middle Tennessee University; Vandy Owen, Tennessee State; Penny Frere, TENN-SHARE; and Larry Romans, Vanderbilt. Martha Gill represented FOTL on the committee.

Talking with Lawmakers

Let's go to Nashville to say thank you—and to remind our legislators that lots of us love libraries. Talking about needing money may be futile—the state cupboard is bare—but we can do the following:

■ **express our gratitude for the tax relief** that the lawmakers gave to Friends' used book sales in 2009.

■ **thank our lawmakers for their continuing support of the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL)**. It brings valuable and reliable resources to every library and home where there is a computer.

■ **tell our senators and representatives about how Friends are helping our local libraries** meet the challenges of the economic downturn. Show as well as tell: give your legislator a copy of your Friends' newsletter, poster, bookmark, or brochure that will help to convey how you, a private citizen, are working to meet the needs of your community. Tell stories that illustrate how your library enriches your community.

Getting in Touch Electronically

House e-mail addresses are constructed as follows:

<rep.firstname.last name@capitol.tn.gov>

Example: <rep.joe.armstrong@capitol.tn.gov>

Senate e-mail addresses are constructed in a

similar way:

<sen.firstname.lastname@capitol.tn.gov>

Example: <sen.jamie.woodson@capitol.tn.gov>

Your reference librarian can help you identify your legislators and can provide further contact information.

About the Keynote Speaker

Marci Merola, director of the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Library Advocacy, has been described as "a passionate advocate for libraries." She has made numerous presentations at advocacy workshops throughout the country.

Her official mission is to develop the resources, networks, and training needed by local advocates for libraries of all types. She is also the editor of <ilovelibraries.org>, ALA's website for the public.

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 14, 2010, in Crossville.

- 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 20, 2010. 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 20, 2010, to Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Crossville Invites Friends to New Library

The Friends and staff of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville will host FOTL's annual meeting on Friday, May 14, and the hosts have been busy making plans for the festive occasion.

The new library, designed by the Knoxville architectural firm of McCarty, Holsaple and McCarty, will be the star of the day, and groups will have the chance to tour the facility and to hear the story of how the splendid building came about. In addition, other informative activities are also in the works—an examination of how libraries in the state are meeting difficult economic times and roundtable discussions of issues of vital importance to all Friends like raising funds, revitalizing Friends' groups, and communicating effectively. Knoxville poet Judy Loest, a devoted member of her local Friends' organization who says that she is passionate about libraries, will speak, and architect Brian Pittman, also active in the Friends of Knox County, has been invited to attend the meeting.

Participants will enjoy a delicious catered lunch against a background of soft piano music. Outstanding volunteers nominated by FOTL members (see page 6) will be recognized.

John Nye, a member of FOTL's advisory committee as well as a trustee on the Cumberland County Library Board and a member of the Art Circle Friends, reports that the Crossville Friends have been raising funds for a new library for many years. Through membership dues and gifts, funds raised by the sale of grocery certificates which yield 5 percent to the Friends, book sales, and other activities, the organization has contributed over \$100,000 to the building and its furnishings.

The Class V library, which serves Cumberland County (population estimated at 55,000), has a staff of four full-time employees, eight part-time, and three part-time Title V workers. Mrs. Sue Randleman is library director; James Houston is assistant director.

Formed in 1984, the Friends' group numbers 369 individuals and 15 business members. Monthly meetings feature interesting speakers covering a wide range of subjects of interest to the community. Additional programs feature authors like Hoosier Philip Gulley and Tennessee writers like River Jordan and Susan Gregg Gilmore.



The Knoxville architectural firm of McCarty, Holsaple and McCarty designed the new Art Circle Public Library in Crossville. This drawing comes from the firm's website, <www.mhminc.com>.

The group publishes a monthly newsletter, *Among Friends*, and an occasional addition entitled *Focus on Friends*. The library offers a link to information about the Friends at <www.artcirclelibrary.info>. Many Friends contribute articles to local publications urging support for the library, and John is especially proud of the fact that there has been broad public support for Crossville's new facility. Friends serve on the Cumberland County Library Board of Trustees, the board of the Imagination Library, and the Cumberland Adult Reading Council. The Friends are also represented on the board of Friends of Tennessee Libraries and are involved in library advocacy at the state level. A large delegation from Friends of the Art Circle Public Library attends Library Legislative Day in Nashville each year. Because the economic downturn has imposed financial constraints on the staffing of the new library, more than 30 volunteers, many of whom are Friends, are helping to close the gap.

Please put the date and place on your calendar and plan to join the celebration of the new Art Circle Public Library. The program has been planned to permit participants to make the round trip in one day. The spring issue of FOTL's newsletter will publish a detailed agenda, beginning with optional tours as early as 8:30 a.m. and adjourning at 3 p.m.

Is your Friends' group a member of FOTL? Do you have a website? Notify FOTL of your web address at <gill333375@bellsouth.net>, and FOTL will share it with others online.

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**FOTL Presents Program
 At March TLA Meeting**

Frances Darnell, member of FOTL's advisory committee and a former president, is organizing FOTL's presentation at the TLA conference in Memphis March 17-19. How Friends add value to libraries will be illustrated with details about activities across the state. Board members who will join Frances on the program include Connie Albrecht, John Nye, Carol Harris, Peter McNeal, and Martha Gill.

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

Renew Today

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS	ORGANIZATIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-49 Members \$25/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Silver \$50/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Silver \$50/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 Members \$55/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Gold \$100/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Gold \$100/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-499 Members \$75/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Platinum \$500/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Platinum \$500/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 Members \$100/yr

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.