
The address is new, and so is the content. FOTL has successfully launched a new website that is up to date, informative, and helpful. You’ll find more details on page 6. Visit us often and whenever you like at <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org>.

What’s Inside?

3 Presidents Speak
5 Consider the Annual Report
8-9 Annual Meeting
10-12 What’s Going On among Friends
13 The Latest on Sales Taxes
15 FOTL Workshops
## Friends of Tennessee Libraries Officers 2007-2008

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**Here’s our new web address:** <www.friendstnlibraries.org>
Rising Waters, Real and Metaphorical, Threaten Libraries
By Martha Gill, FOTL President for 2008-2010

Hundreds of people recently labored for hours to save the resources of the University of Iowa's library from rising flood waters. According to a June 14 report on National Public Radio, the heroic library staff and throngs of volunteers from Iowa City created a fire line to transport the treasures of the library, manuscript by manuscript and volume by volume, to higher ground. And every time you renew your membership in the Friends of Tennessee Libraries or recruit a new member to FOTL, you join a fire line that struggles to protect the treasures of our state’s libraries. Thank you.

Retiring President Reflects on Friends

By Susan Chambers
FOTL President for 2006-2008

I recently received one of those chain e-mails which I usually just promptly delete. But since I knew the person sending it, I decided to take a look to see what it was about. Turns out, it was a very lovely story about friendship and how friends cross our paths and enter our lives at various times.

The gist of the story is that friends come into our lives sometimes for a reason, sometimes for a season, and sometimes for a lifetime.

So it has been for me during the past several years that I have been a regional representative, president-elect, and president of Friends of Tennessee Libraries. There have been many people whose paths have crossed with mine, and many have become personal friends. I hope they will remain so for a lifetime.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support during my two years as president. I know I could not have begun to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of that job without your encouragement and wisdom. Whatever small success I may have achieved on behalf of Friends of Tennessee Libraries, it could not have been attained without the hard work and determination of my wonderful Regional Board and Advisory Committee members.

While I’m looking forward to a little time off from FOTL, I shall remain a Friend for a lifetime of FOTL and of my local library. And I encourage and challenge each of you to make new friends--whether they be for a reason, a season, or a lifetime--for FOTL and for your local libraries, too. We can never ever have enough friends!

Thank you all for sharing your friendship with me. I look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces, as well as some new faces, at annual meetings and workshops for a long time to come.

Susan Chambers

10 Best Reasons for Joining FOTL

By Barbara Zurl, President-Elect and Fort Loudoun Regional Representative

1. To be able to be part of a larger group of Friends across the state who share a particular (Tennessee) set of circumstances affecting all libraries.
2. To be able to obtain via newsletter, website or individual contact from Regional or Metro Representatives the latest important news affecting libraries and Friends’ groups in Tennessee.
3. To learn through the above how other groups in the state are meeting the challenges of retaining and/or increasing membership, fund raising, programs, advocacy and utilization of volunteers.
4. To have access via the website to sample public service announcements, news releases, etc.
5. To be able to learn more about the preparation of newsletters (both large and small), annual reports, fact sheets and other publications to help promote your particular Friends’ group.
6. To have access to an FOTL team willing to conduct in-service and other programs for Friends’ groups.
7. To have the ability to attend and be part of Legislative Day and the FOTL annual meeting.
8. To have access to other like-minded Friends across the state who are willing to share resources (i.e., books left over from book sales).
9. To ensure that Friends’ groups from Bristol to Memphis and everywhere in between have somewhere to turn for assistance in creating a Friends’ group, revitalizing a Friends group or even re-organizing a Friends group which has disbanded.
10. To have the opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals who not only encourage but inspire. If our Tennessee libraries can’t depend on Friends, on whom shall they depend?
It looks like the “transformation” we seek for libraries and librarianship may turn out to be more of a “deskilling” of library jobs than an enhancement of the profession. More and more working librarians are “managed” by a new breed of library leader. Their model for the new public library is that dehumanized supermarket or the chaotic disorganization of the largest Barnes & Noble.

As this process unfolds, the once professional responsibilities of librarians are being dumbed down into the duties of retail clerks or the robotic responses of machines. Our circulation desks are disappearing. The humans who once greeted and discussed with patrons our wares and services as they dispensed them are being replaced by self-service. Those circulation clerks are either being terminated or sent to work elsewhere in the library.

Our reference services and the desk from which they were delivered are gone, too, replaced by wandering “librarians,” with or without an MLS. They are supposed to be proactive in searching out patrons in need but are too often summoned on walkie-talkies or terminals to come to the aid of only those who ask or to respond to the few inquiries that arrive online.

Of course, we need fewer and fewer of these librarians, because patrons are urged to do it all for themselves, via Google, PACs, or whatever they discover through our terminals or their own laptops and PCs.

Our catalogers began to disappear with the takeover of that function by OCLC, the nonprofit that aspires to be a corporation in this brave new retail library world. The standardized result of the effort is bypassed by patron and librarian alike, as they turn to the more friendly Amazons, Googles, et al., for the less precise, more watered-down “metadata” that has replaced what used to be cataloging. Apparently, users don’t miss the old catalog, except as a familiar artifact, which is testimony to how low this dumbing down has taken us.

In the new model, that most sacred of our professional duties, the selection of materials to build services and collections, is turned over to either small centralized teams of two or three librarians and clerks, or in extreme cases to an external vendor, usually a library book distributor.

The resulting “destination” libraries resemble the cookie-cutter design of the grocery store, aimed at making sure everyone who comes in goes out with “product” (books, CDs, DVDs, or downloads). What the patron takes is of as little concern to the storekeeper librarian as it is to the supermarket manager. The success of the enterprise is measured in the number of products collected by patrons, now called “customers.” It is no longer measured in the usefulness or impact of the service on the quality of life in the community served.

Many of the American Library Association-accredited LIS programs that once claimed to “educate” the professional librarians who run these libraries have been invaded by faculty from other disciplines, a great many of whom are far more adept at the politics and pedagogy of academic survival than they are at the principled professional practice of librarianship.

Now the progress of this deskilling has come full circle. Having discovered that the manager librarians of these supermarket libraries need fewer and fewer professional librarians to staff their simplified operations, the governing authorities are beginning to decide they don’t need a professional librarian to manage them. Some have been turned over to successful business types from industry, some to lawyers, some to academic administrators or fundraisers, and some to professional financial managers.

The most surprising part is that so few library leaders have raised their voices in alarm or outrage at this erosion of the standards to which libraries once aspired. It is frightening to think that we will stand quietly by and watch as professional librarians disappear from libraries and with them the quality of the services and collections in which we once took such professional pride.

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22 Librarians Complete PLMI
On May 23 in Clarksville, TN, 22 librarians graduated from the Public Library Management Institute (PLMI) to become certified public library managers. PLMI graduates studied a variety of topics on library management, leadership, advocacy, community relations, fundraising, partnerships, and public speaking. They also completed 15 library-related workshops and the three-year annual residency program at Austin Peay.
Consider the Annual Report  
By Barbara Zurl  
Fort Loudoun Regional Representative

In times of dwindling resources, maintaining, much less increasing a Friends’ membership is difficult; and yet it is at this precise moment that the need becomes more urgent than ever. What to do? Have you ever considered preparing and distributing a Friends of the Library Annual Report? Perhaps after reading this you might wish to do so.

More than likely your library, regardless of how large or small it may be, prepares one. Obtain a copy from your librarian. On looking it over you will see that it informs the public of a number of things, including how much it has provided the community and how many members of the community have taken part in what was offered. Generally, the Annual Report is a one-page document designed to be picked up at the circulation desk or in the reference department which validates the importance of the library’s existence.

Where to Begin?

Certainly, that would have to be at the beginning. Why does your group exist? Most groups exist to provide volunteer support for day to day library activities PLUS provide substantial financial aid to bring patrons programs, logistics and other support not available through city, town or county budgeting.

CONCISELY DESCRIBE YOUR MISSION.

What Are Your Goals?

Give some examples:

Raise Money to enhance library
Provide volunteers to perform a variety of tasks
Develop ways in which the talents of your volunteers can be utilized
Initiate an on-going relationship with the community

What Have You Done Over the Past Year?

Here is where keeping records pays off.

Time after time I have been told “we really don’t do all that much.” Rarely do I believe that. The problem here is simply that records have not been kept. Just think about it:

1. How many times has the Friends’ board met?
2. How much money has been given to the library?
3. How many book sales, bake sales, yard sales or other fund raisers have taken place?
4. How many volunteer hours were donated last year?
5. Do you have a newsletter? Do you have a website? Did you put out press releases or articles in local papers?
6. Does your Friends’ group make the Children’s Summer Reading Program possible? If so:
   How many children attended?
   How many books were read?
(These statistics are available from your librarian.)
7. What specific items (book carts, shelves, decorations, landscaping) were funded by the Friends?
8. Has your group created any outreach programs to the community? How many members of the community benefited from these?
9. What interesting programs were made possible because of you? How many people attended? (Again, check with your librarian as these statistics are maintained and reported each year.)
10. Do you have a book discussion group?
11. Have you built a new facility? Added on? Improved the existing building?
12. What are your membership numbers? Compare this number to the number of library card holders at your library. (Stats are available from your librarian or in the State of Tennessee Public Library Statistics document at your library.) This particular fact is very interesting as it can be used to point out:
   a. How much has been done by how many?
   b. You can point out how much more COULD be done, with more Friends.

Continued on page 6

See The Many Uses of an Annual Report
The Many Uses of an Annual Report  Continued from p. 5

So Why Are Friends Needed?

By now you can see that there is a wealth of information of which the public needs to be made aware. If you do not tell them, they will simply never know. Tell them that if it were not for the efforts of your group, many of things they have come to depend upon might well disappear. You know this is true. Ask your intended audience to join with you by becoming a Friend. Friends stick together to accomplish goals.

Think of your annual report as a hand outstretched to the residents of your town, city, county, welcoming them to become part of the solution in these times of limited resources.

“If a former librarian, I know how important a group like the Friends can be for a public library.” —Sue An Tippitt, Secretary, Friends of M. E. Tippett Memorial Library

If You’ve Got it, Tell Folks About It!

Once you have an annual report, get it out there! If you have a website, post it; if you send out a newsletter, include it; if you have access to your local Chamber of Commerce, place copies of the report. Make sure (after checking with your librarian) that copies are available at the circulation desk. Distribute it at book sales or other programs.

An annual report can serve you in two vital ways:

1. It can serve as your means to make your group known. Think of it as a resume or as a photo “glamour shot” showing you off to your best.

2. It can be a vehicle which allows your group to validate its importance to the library and the community.

I cannot say it loudly enough—have you ever considered the annual report?

Check FOTL Out Online

www.friendstnlibraries.org

In May the Friends of Tennessee Libraries unveiled its new website, complete with a calendar, a photo gallery, archived newsletters, links to other relevant websites, and a special destination for members only.

FOTL members and the general public can access the site at <http://friendstnlibraries.org> and click on any off its buttons.

The Members’ Area is available to FOTL members only, however. Members should click on that area and enter their names in order to discover the password.

Already available to members is a two-part handout that Sherry Jacober distributed at the annual meeting about how to set prices on special used books that are donated for sale.

Soon to appear will be a presentation on how to create and recruit corporate memberships.

Members are invited to suggest other materials that would be of use to Friends’ groups by contacting Martha Gill at <gill333375@bellsouth.net>.

By going to “Contact Us,” members can submit questions and comments which will be read and forwarded to people in the organization who can offer advice or commentary.

Another Online Bonus:
Learn & Discover From Tenn-Share

Between June 23 and September 1, a statewide online learning program will be available to anyone who signs up for Tenn-Share Learn & Discover at <http://tennshare.ning.com>.

Learn & Discover will introduce participants to new websites for music, photos, podcasts, and books. Anyone who completes all eight lessons in ten weeks can receive a certificate for eight hours of continuing education, but only librarians can compete for prizes, which include an mp3 player to the first 100 librarians who complete all 8 Tenn-Share Learn & Discover missions.

The team behind the program can answer questions at <LearnDiscover@gmail.com>.
Sometimes one is just plain lucky. For example, you may look down and see a shiny copper penny glistening in the sun. Or you are at a book sale and lo and behold there is a copy of Helen Hoke’s *Factory Kitty* which you had and loved as a child. It is not Ex-Library. It costs all of $2.00. Or you just happen to visit one of the libraries in your region or area and you come upon a true gem!

Such was my luck on Saturday, April 26, when my husband and I decided to avail ourselves of the Mary E. Tippitt Memorial Library’s book sale. METM Public Library is tucked away in beautiful Townsend, Tennessee; the gateway to the Smokies. Just last year they celebrated their 10th anniversary. The library is unique in that it is not part of a regional system, but an independent which was given to the people of Townsend in January of 1997 by Mr. Charles Tippitt and his children in memory of their wife and mother, Mary.

On that particular Saturday it was my good fortune to introduce myself and to shake hands with Charles himself, who was acting as cashier, and to meet his new wife, Sue Ann, a retired librarian, who was overseeing the sale of baked goods.

What could be better than a tour of a library by the man who brought the facility into existence? In my opinion, very little. What I was not prepared for was the sheer beauty of the library. The ground floor level houses Circulation, the main collection and computer area. The atmosphere is amazing. While everything looks neat and professional, the atmosphere is, to a book lover, simply delicious. Here, exists a sense of libraries as they used to be—refuges from the busy outside world, places of learning. Beautiful photographs from around the area decorate the walls. Upstairs the Children’s Library makes one want to be a child again. Color and artwork fairly sing out. Children of any age would undoubtedly be captivated.

MET Memorial Library houses a collection of over 21,000 books including non-circulating items and the Townsend Collection which includes books of local interest and genealogy. METM is part of the Imagination Library and hosts a well-attended Children’s Summer Reading Program. An active Friends group (95 members) helps support the library though its annual golf tournament, a yearly book sale, and participation in the Fall Heritage Days Festival in Townsend. Book Club meets monthly at the library.

The unique quality of this library has been recognized by the fact that in 2006 it was voted as a Top 10 Library in the United States by Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings. Without doubt I fully agree they deserve the honor. Why not take the time to see for yourself when you are next in the East Tennessee area. Check them out at <www.discoveret.org/metm-lib>. It is nice to know that across our state there are always Friends just waiting to say hello.

(And if you too are lucky, you just may get yourself a personal tour.)
Taking Center Stage at Annual Meeting

Technology, Books, and Volunteers

Do you know that a Flip is?
Do you know what happens to the value of a book if it literally stinks?
Do you know who the new regional representatives from Caney Fork and Upper Cumberland are?

You would know the answers to all of these questions and more if you had joined the FOTL faithful who attended the annual meeting in the Nashville Public Library on Friday, May 2.

Kevin Slimp, director of the Institute of Newspaper Technology in Knoxville and renowned expert on publishing, informed the audience with his review of new tools that make publishing easier. (A Flip is a video camera not much bigger than a deck of playing cards and costing between $139-159.) Mr. Slimp’s stand-up comedy also entertained the audience. He can be reached electronically, of course, at <newspaperinstitute.com>.

Sherry Jacober of the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville shared her expertise on how the condition of a book (its appearance and its smell), its age, and the public’s demand for it affect a book’s value. FOTL members can access her handouts on FOTL’s new website.

The audience was delighted by “The Frog Prince,” a Puppet Truck presentation by Nashville Public Library’s Wishing Chair Productions, in conjunction with “Bringing Books to Life,” a literacy initiative funded by the library’s foundation.

The assembly also approved new officers: Martha Gill, president; Barbara Zurl, president-elect; Wanda Jared, Upper Cumberland Regional Representative; and Lucy Szelenzieweig, Caney Fork.

Awards Honor Friends’ Devotion

“One in a million.”
“Helps out with everything.”
“Unceasingly works.”
“Avid library supporter.”
“Always available to help.”

These and other characterizations recur in the descriptions of those tireless volunteers recognized for their service at FOTL’s annual meeting on May 2. Those honored by certificates and $100 included Dr. Robert Armour, Putnam County; Jenny Rogers, Polk County; Joan McIntee, Vonore Friends; Paul Fuller, Chattanooga-Hamilton County; and Joyce Baur, Art Circle Friends, Crossville. A special posthumous award was made to Carol Darling, Cumberland County.

Tributes to these honorees appear on page 9.
‘Always available to help’: Honored Friends

Honored volunteers (from left) are Dr. Robert Armour, Jenny Rogers, Joan McInfee, Paul Fuller, Joyce Baur, and, accepting the posthumous honor for Carol Darling, Ginny Nixon.

Dr. Robert Armour (Bob) recently served as Building and Grounds chairperson for the Putnam County Library Friends in Cookeville. He was instrumental in leading the committee and the Friends’ board in obtaining a sign for the front of the Putnam County Library. The sign enables the library to post notices of events. Because of Bob’s persistence, the design and installation were completed, giving the Putnam County Library more visibility.

Bob served as chair of the By-Laws Committee that organized the Putnam County Library Friends and was the PCL Friends’ first president, serving two consecutive terms. He is an avid library supporter.

Jenny Rogers has unceasingly worked over the past two years to obtain charitable donations, state funding, and grants to make a library (two actually) a reality in Polk County, the only county in the state without a full-service library.

In the face of such opposition by uninformed county resident, Jenny has sought to make the value of libraries known to them so that all members of the community, both young and old, could have the opportunity to benefit from the stores of knowledge contained within libraries. This dream is about to become a reality thanks to her undying efforts.

Paul Fuller has made outstanding contributions to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Friends of the Library. Always one of the first to step up when volunteers are needed, he works diligently with the book-sale committee. He sorts books and loads boxes to be stored and then transported to the sale site. He helps with set-up and take-down and works during the sale. Paul volunteers in the book store in the main branch. He has served as vice president of the Friends’ Executive Council for the last four years, often taking over for the chairperson. Paul has gone out of his way to welcome new members to the Friends both at meetings and other events. He is always available to help someone who may need a ride to a meeting or an event. Paul has been a key speaker at several Friends’ or library-sponsored events.

Joan McInnee of Maryville helped start the Friends of the Vonore Public Library and continues to help with nearly every event held. Joan has been parliamentarian the last two years. She is the representative for and attends all seminars for the Imagination Library. Joan designs and produces flyers and programs for the Vonore Public Library, writes and produces radio-spot announcements, and participates in interviews for radio. She has been our main contact for speakers for all our events. She helps out with everything our Friends’ group does. She is active in our annual book/rummage sale.

All that she does is done with such gusto and with a smile. She is one in a million.

Joyce Baur, a former library director, has been very active in local Friends and FOTL for some time. Lately she has served as secretary and Caney Fork Regional Representative for FOTL. She has brought many interesting speakers to FOTL functions. She has conducted a very informative seminar on how to secure good speakers for programs.

Previous activities include serving three terms as president of Art Circle Friends in Crossville. During this time membership has doubled. She has served ably as program committee chair and is responsible for starting a successful book and author luncheon. She is imminently qualified to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Posthumous Tribute
Carol Darling, who died March 11, 2008, assumed leadership of the efforts to get a new library for Cumberland County in the fall of 2006, and in July 2007 she was elected chair of the Library Board of Trustees. With her leadership, hard work, and ability to work with people, land was purchased, county funds for building the facility were obligated, an architect was selected, and specific plans were developed. In addition, Carol was tireless in developing broad community support for the new facility and initiating a fundraising campaign for equipment and furnishings. The foundation she built was strong enough for others to carry on her work even as they mourn her untimely death.
Friends’ Groups Work Hard To Support Their Libraries

By Wanda Jared
Upper Cumberland

Clay County reports the success of another chili supper that raised funds and brought Friends together. Members will open a concession stand on the “roller-coaster-yard sale” this summer.

Fentress County Friends continue to focus on the Imagination Library. The group has had great success in working with local funeral homes to encourage people to support the matching funds needed for the program in lieu of sending flowers. Members have also attended meetings of the town’s civic groups to drum up support for the Imagination Library.

Monterey Branch Library Friends are busy planning their major fund raiser to be held September 20. For the third year Family Fun Day will be held in Whitaker Park where activities for all ages, including games, drawings for gift certificates at stores like Wal-Mart, and food will be featured. The children’s program, especially videos, will be the primary beneficiary of the event. The Friends also helped buy cookies for the librarian’s “Tea on Tuesday” series in May.

Overton County Friends have focused on providing funds for books, audio books, and DVDs for the library. They also use some donations to cover unexpected expenses. Members have also been asked to handle two funds at the library, one for those wishing to buy books as memorials and another to support beautification with flowers and landscaping as memorials. The group’s projects included serving a sit-down, catered dinner and a screening of the film Casablanca on Valentine’s Day.

Putnam County Friends provided refreshments for the combined City Counsel/County Commissioners’ meeting during which the architect presented expansion plans for the library. Members also helped with the library’s Spin-a-Tale-Weave-a-Story Day for grades four through six. During the day 25 artisans demonstrated their arts and crafts. Friends’ funds purchased large-print books, a new library sign (reported in the spring issue of the newsletter), landscaping for the front of the library, and a set of encyclopedia for the Baxter Branch. In February the Friends sponsored an author lecture series and partnered with WCTE-TV to produce the play Almost Maine.

Smith County Friends acquaint the public with their contributions to community life by setting up information tables at local events. Among those contributions were a grant of $1,000 for the automated check-out system for the Gordonsville Branch and the funding of tuition for training library workers. They have also sponsored the appearance of local authors at their meetings.

Knox County Will Poll Commission Candidates
By Suzanne Freeman
Knoxville-Knox County

In preparation for the August election, the Friends will ask candidates for the County Commission about their positions on financing the library system. Candidates’ responses will be published in a special edition of the Friends’ newsletter.

In the fall when Knox County focuses the Big Read on John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath, the Friends will sponsor essay contests and underwrite guest speakers.

Friends@Rothrock, the new book store in the system’s main library, is bringing in funds to help the Friends supply items on the library system’s wish list submitted by seven of the seventeen branches. Volunteers in two shifts staff the shop each day.

Continuing its support of the Imagination Library, Knox County Friends pledged $5,000 to the program for the next five years.

At the Friends’ annual meeting on July 8, Bonny Naugher succeeded Ginna Mashburn as president, and Suzanne Freeman was named president-elect. Judge Tim Irwin of the Knox County Juvenile Court was keynote speaker.

Branch Buddies, now 86 strong, continue to assist librarians with book sales and special programs.
The Cleveland Friends of the Library Association (FOLA) has donated $50,000 to the Cleveland Bradley County Public Library to add 17,000 square feet to the existing building. Making the presentation were Mary Jane Hardin, FOLA president; Judy Varnell, treasurer; and Andrew Hunt, library director.

Activities of the vigorous Friends’ group are tracked in an attractive newsletter and online at www.clevelandlibrary.org. The organization is also gearing up for the summer’s One Book, One Community event. The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis will be the focus of the FOLA’s Book and Coffee Series on Friday, August 15. Also on the FOLA calendar for October 8 is the annual fall luncheon.

Friends of the Tellico Village Library held the fourteenth annual book sale in April. Zeze Sullivan, chair of the sale and former librarian, promised that there would be a home for every usable book. For example, school librarians were invited to preview the books, and the Tellico Village Women’s Club underwrote a portion of the schools’ purchases. Unsold books were donated to local charities and to an organization that ships books to men and women in the military.

Friends of the Library in Chattanooga-Hamilton County is guaranteeing that the library will continue to flourish for another 100 years by establishing the library’s first endowment fund with the help of the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga. An endowment works like a permanent savings account whose principal remains intact; only interest income is spent.

The Friends’ organization is bringing revenue to the library by selling books on a worldwide market via the Internet. Friends’ volunteers select titles from donated books and volumes withdrawn from the library’s collection; these are sold on Alibris and Amazon. An art book on photography brought in $400; a first edition of Robert Heinlein’s Stranger in a Strange Land, $200, and a book of financial information, $300. [Editor’s note: See FOTL’s Members’ Area at <www.friendstn-libraries.org> for tips on pricing.]

The seventh White County Friends of the Library Blackberry Festival was held July 4 in conjunction with Sparta’s celebration on Liberty Square.

Summer reading for both teens and adults is in full swing at the White County Public Library, but Cathy Farley, library director, will be taking some time off as she and her husband Tim welcome their daughter scheduled to be born early in July.
Friends Make News

Funding Cuts Hours
In Chattanooga-Hamilton
But Programs Continue

By Pat Hilling
Regional Representative

Though library hours at all branches had been reduced because of the system’s funding crunch, the summer reading program “Star-ship Adventure @ Your Library” is in full swing. The library staff is especially reaching out to teens through book talks on works that deal with teenage issues and through Dungeons and Dragons games.

A new method of counting members of the Friends designates a family as two members instead of one. As a result the Friends now enroll 373.

The Friends’ first book sale at Northgate Mall in late February and early March netted approximately $20,000.

In April, the Friends delivered floral arrangements to each branch to be placed on or near the circulation desk with a poster reminding patrons of National Library Week.

The season’s films on the theme of faith will conclude July 15 at “Flick’s Cafe.” David Clapp, film library director, leads a discussion group about each movie.

On May 19, when the downtown library observed 100 years as a federal deposit library, Cynthia Etkin, senior program planning specialist for the Government Printing Office, spoke at the celebration.

Art Circle Friends
Thank Business Donors
By Joyce Baur

County businesses that have contributed to the Friends of the Art Circle Library were treated recently to a special “thank you lunch” at the First National Bank of Tennessee. Several firms have given a $1,000 annual contribution; other business contributions range from $25 to $500.

The Friends underwrite a variety of special projects for the library, such as $2,000 for a Teen Reading Collection. Recently added is a multi-copy subscription of monthly issues of BookPage for library users. It has proved so popular that the Friends agreed to add another 100 copies to the original subscription of 100 each month for adults, as well as 30 copies of a similar publication for young adults.

The spring book sale took place May 2, 3, and 4.

The annual dinner on Tuesday, June 3, featured author Michael Sims, whose specialty is popular science. Sims has won many awards for his writing, and his books have been translated into eight languages. His most recent is Apollo’s Fire. Sims grew up in the Homesteads, south of Crossville.

Plans for the new 30,000 sq. ft. library are making progress in spite of the unexpected and tragic death of our library board president, Carol Darling, who was spearheading the new library project. We mourn our loss.

Attic Treasures Show
Draws Huge Crowd

By Sandy Willis
Friends of Vonore Library

Sponsored by the Friends and supported by the Maryann Bork Memorial Fund, “Treasures in Your Attic” with Joe Rosson and his partner Rick Crane drew a standing-room-only crowd for several hours on April 26. On September 18 Avi Askey, owner of Overhill Gardens, will discuss native plans and trees, another event sponsored by the Bork Memorial Fund.

The Vonore Friends’ successful annual book/rummage sale brought in just under $3,000.

Barbara Zurl (left) visited with Bev Vogelzang, Librarian Reynelda Gentry, and Brenda Bloomfield at the Vonore book sale.

Plan Ahead:
October 19-25
National Friends of the Library Week will be here before you know it: October 19-25, 2008. Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) has some great ideas for your celebration—press releases, letters to the editor, book marks, proclama-
tions—at <folusa.org/shar ing/friends-week.php>.
New Tennessee Legislation Limits Number of Sales, Income

Some Friends Gain Sales Tax Relief

Does your Friends’ group sponsor more than four book sales a year?

Does your Friends’ group conduct continuous book sales?

Does your Friends’ group bring in more than $100,000 a year?

If your answer to any of the above questions is “Yes,” state law requires your Friends’ group to pay Tennessee sales tax on its earnings.

That is the message brought to the FOTL board in June by Genny Carter, public relations and data coordinator with the State Library.

SB 41-73, which was passed by the Tennessee Legislature and will be in effect for only the next four years as a test law, affects Friends throughout the state.

The law stipulates that “charitable entities whose primary purpose is fundraising in support of a city, county, or metropolitan library system” may have up to four book sales per year and may make up to $100,000 per year without paying sales tax.

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 67-6-102(6)(B) has been amended to read: “For charitable entities whose primary purpose is fundraising in support of a city, county, or metropolitan library system, ‘business’ does not include sales that the charitable entity elects to make in lieu of two semiannual temporary sales periods, provided that such sales do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) per calendar year and provided further that such election by the charitable entity shall remain in effect for not less than four (4) years.”

Jane Pinkston, assistant state librarian, adds, “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.”

Every charitable group raising funds for the library should complete a copy of a form letter available at <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6001.pdf>. That letter should be sent to the Department of Revenue, Use and Sales Tax Division, as indicated on the form.

A second form should be filed with the Department of State. Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming depending on whether the group anticipates raising less than $30,000 or more than $30,000.

Those groups anticipating raising less than $30,000 annually in support of the library should file a one-time exemption request form, which can be found at <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6042.pdf>.

Those groups anticipating raising more than $30,000 annually in support of the library should file a “New” or a “Renewing” annual form and fee. The “New” form can be found at <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6001.pdf>.

The “Renewing” form can be found at <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/forms/ss-6007.pdf>.

Any group with questions should consult Judy Bond-McKissack, counsel to Secretary of State Riley Darnell. She can be reached by e-mail at <judy.bond-mckissack@state.tn.us>.

SunTrust Offers $100 to Charities

SunTrust Bank Bank has extended its promotion of My Cause, which gives money to charities.

For each person who signs up for a new checking account by September, SunTrust will donate $100 to the charitable organization of that person’s choice under certain conditions. That person must accept and use a SunTrust Visa® Check Card at least once to activate the donation. Visit <suntrust.com/mycause> or a SunTrust branch for details.
‘The House Shook Side to Side’
13-Year-Old Recalls March Tornado in Lafayette

Editor’s note: When word of the tornado that struck Lafayette in March hit the media, FOTL members immediately thought of Frances Darnell, former FOTL president, who lives there. Fortunately Frances was unscathed by the storm, but such was not the case with some of her neighbors. Jasmine Clark, age 13, told her unedited story in an e-mail.

By Jasmine Clark

The brick house with I love u on the door was across the street and down the road a bit and over 1/2 of our house was lying in the front yard of that house.

You can see my sister Dalana looking through the mess for anything at all in one of the photos.

They were all in the closet together and actually picked up inside the tornado with the house and daddy was dropped about 200 yards down in the street, my sister Dalana & step mom Suzanne fell 3 houses down and I landed 2 houses down in the driveway of Angela Belton. I hope I never have to see or even hear what I did on that night again. It was so scary I can’t think it. The house shook side to side about 2 good times then it felt like the floor just fell out from under us & we were flying through mid air and the house was just falling apart. I was holding onto my sister and step mom we all had a hold of each other and it just sucked Dalana right out of my hands and sucked my glasses off my face then it felt like pieces of the house were attacking me from every direction the next thing I know I fell real hard in Angelas driveway then their truck fell right by me so I thought it was on me but it was just tin and wood from the house then I was throwing up from the stuff flying in my mouth. The smell of the tornado was so bad. I got up and started yelling for daddy dalana and suzanne for about 5-7 minutes our dog hunter came running to me cause I was away from them then my sister and suzanne came up and suzanne could hardly walk we saw my daddy trying to crawl up from the ditch with blood all over him. I have never been so scared in my entire life.

Our house is completely gone now. Daddy says we will rebuild and everything will be all right. I am 13, happy to be alive and from now on I’ll appreciate every little thing in life. My mama says she has 3 miracle babies now cause in one way or another God has seen fit to spare all of our lives. She has actually turned her living room at her house into Daddy & Suzannes storage unit until they can rebuild. She has collected collected clothes, food, etc., for when they get out of the hospital. This tragedy has pulled everyone together for the same purpose and I think it is just wonderful.

To replace a 100-year-old tree torn down by the storm on the grounds of the Macon County Public Library, the Friends, library trustees, and private donors ordered this sculpture from LargeArt.com.
Workshops presented by FOTL veterans are explaining the value of Friends’ groups throughout the state.

Responding to invitations from regional library directors, three long-time members of the FOTL board—Connie Albrecht, Frances Darnell, and John Nye—have led four in-service workshops for librarians and Friends this year and plan to conduct three more. They welcome additional invitations.

Already they have spoken to participants from the Upper Cumberland, Caney Fork, and Highland Rim regions as well as Metro-Davidson County. They are also booking requests from the Warioto region, UT Martin’s Academic Library Friends’ group, and the TLA Conference in April 2009.

Their workshops, lasting three to four hours, explore fundamentals about Friends’ groups: why Friends make a difference, what the values of membership are, how Friends support libraries, how Friends raise funds in support the library, and why that support is crucial.

A visionary leader of FOTL, Maryann Bork, has made these sessions possible. A generous legacy, evidence of Maryann’s energetic devotion to Tennessee’s libraries and their users, funds the organization’s workshops.

If you would like for FOTL to bring a workshop to your area, discuss the possibility with your regional library director, who in turn will contact Connie Albrecht, Frances Darnell, or John Nye.

(See page 2 for contact information.)

IDEA XCHANGE
Bumper Stickers and More

Get the name of your organization out there even as you tootle about town. Knox County Public Library has published an inexpensive bumper sticker that sells for $1 at the Friends’ book shop. “Check Out Your Public Library” the bumper sticker reads; that clever message is followed by the address of the Knox County Library’s website. Check out costs of printing bumper stickers at local printers or on line.

Get to know a Friend in a neighboring community. Good things may follow. Suzanne Freeman of the Knox County Friends met Barbara Zurl from Walland through FOTL. When the Knox County Friends’ book sale drew to a close with scads of left-over books, Suzanne telephoned Barbara, who in turn contacted Friends from Vonore in the Fort Loudoun Region to pick up as many surplus volumes as they could carry for their own book sale. Later, when Knox County Friends saw a draft of Barbara’s article about creating an annual report, Barbara’s neighbors crafted an annual report for the community.
Friends of Tennessee Libraries
7208 Scottsville Road
Lafayette, TN 37083

Bradley County Legal Action Expected
According to the Cleveland, TN, Daily Banner (June 30), the Friends of the Library in Polk County plan to file a law suit against the Bradley County Commission to force it to build a new public library. By September 2007 the Friends had raised $740,000 in donations or pledges toward that end. The commission refused to accept the fund, however. The chronology of the dispute can be seen at <www.clevelandbanner.com>.

• Make checks payable to Friends of Tennessee Libraries • Send to FOTL Membership Chair
Connie Albrecht, 1560 Country Club Place, Cookeville, TN 38501-2062.

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

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