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Friends of the Knox  
County Public Library  
500 W. Church Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
865.215.8775  
FAX 865.215.8772

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# THE BEST OF FRIENDS

Knoxville, Tennessee

Fall 2006



## Kostova Comes Home

The acclaimed young writer Elizabeth Johnson Kostova has created a work of fiction that readers can sink their teeth into, and on November 14 she is coming back home to Knoxville to talk about her best seller, *The Historian*. Do you have your ticket? See page 3.

### Month of Sundays

Four mini book sales in the Rothrock Cafe produce promising results. Page 2.

### Picture That!

Catch a glimpse of scenes at the Friends' annual meeting on July 11. Page 4.

### Hot Chocolate With That?

Reel fun on Market Square Mall keeps the Friends popping. Page 5.

### Beck Beckons

The Friends' board meets in October at the Beck Cultural Center. Page 6.

### Branch Buddies Debut at Opening

Buddies help to welcome guests at the grand opening of a grand facility. Page 7.

## To Many Givers, Many Thanks

When they renewed their membership, the following supporters made generous donations of \$100 or more to the Friends:

Molly Biscoe  
 Sandi Burdick  
 Mrs. Charles Cochran, Jr.  
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 Jack & Patricia Watson  
 Julie Webb  
 James & Linda Yates

## Carpe Librum Offers Renewal Discount

Carpe Librum, independent bookseller on Kingston Pike, offers a 25% discount on one item to Friends who renew their membership.



A satisfied customer, Leah Lyons, age 10, smiles about the books she bought at the Friends' first Sunday sale.

## A Month of Sundays, Years of Reading

"An experiment worth the effort."

That's what John Z. C. Thomas, the Friends' expert book seller, calls the four mini-book sales billed as A Month of Sundays at Lawson McGee Library.

Proceeds from fiction and children's books totaled \$1,176 and broke down this way: \$363 on September 24, \$333 on October 1, \$264 on October 8, and \$216 on October 15. Children's literature was the leading seller.

John says because that the sale was not difficult to put on, it could be repeated with ease, possibly in May, though perhaps non-fiction might be added to the offerings. Sunday works well for the sale since throngs of patrons pour into the library then. John does not rule out a weekday engagement at lunch, however, to attract new customers, those who work in downtown Knoxville.

John and Dave Patterson, book sale chairman, will soon complete their study of the optimum location for the annual book sale.



Pat Daley was among the volunteers staffing the October book sales.

## Former Knoxville Crafts Much-Praised Novel

People who knew Elizabeth Johnson and those who know Elizabeth Kostova only through her novel *The Historian* will come together when the author appears at the East Tennessee History Center on Tuesday, November 14, at 8 p.m. Limited seating is still available for the event sponsored by the Friends of the Knox County Public Library.

Friends of the Library and library staff may purchase tickets for \$20; the general public will pay \$25. Tickets are available at all libraries in the system or by check made out to Friends of the Knox County Public Library and mailed to 500 W. Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902.

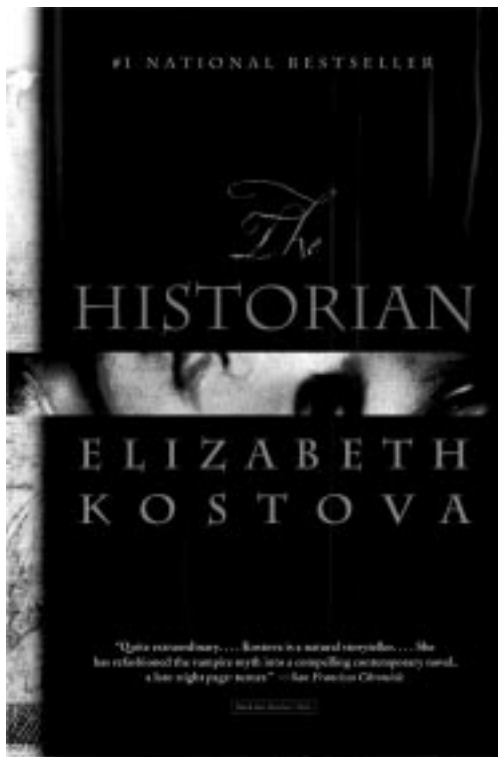
The former Knoxville's work has been widely praised for its thorough research, its eloquent prose, its compelling narrative voices, its magical recreation of settings in Eastern Europe, its hypnotic story line, and its thoughtful exploration of the past and the nature of evil. *The Historian*, which some readers have found superior to another best seller, *The Da Vinci Code*, has been recently issued in paperback by Little Brown.

Carpe Librum Booksellers will have copies of the novel available for purchase at the book and author event.

### For a Generous Program, A Generous Gift



Knox County Imagination Library Coordinator Amy Nachtrab (left) accepts the Alcoa Foundation's donation of \$10,000 from Bonny Naugher, the Friends' president-elect, as Library Director Larry Frank looks on. Over 12,000 local children are enrolled in the program, making Knox the leading urban county in Dolly Parton's statewide program that provides a free, age-appropriate book a month to enrolled children from birth to age five.



A work in progress for many years, the novel opens when a 16-year-old girl finds an intriguing book containing the word “Drakiulya” in her father’s library. Thereby hangs the tale of her investigations into the origins and significance of that artifact.

The novel is destined to become a film as well as a continuing favorite with readers.

Here is how *The Historian* begins:

“The story that follows is one I never intended to commit to paper. Recently, however, a shock of sorts has prompted me to look back over the most troubling episodes of my life and of the lives of the several people I loved best. This is the story of how as a girl of sixteen I went in search of my father and his past, and of how he went in search of his beloved mentor and his mentor’s own history, and of how we all found ourselves on one of the darkest pathways into history. It is the story of who survived that search and who did not, and why. As a historian, I have learned that, in fact, not everyone who reaches back into history can survive it. And it is not only reaching back that endangers us; sometimes history itself reaches inexorably forward for us with its shadowy claw.”

## Portrait of the Artist As a Young Woman

In 1982 Elizabeth Johnson left Webb School to enroll in Warren Wilson College where she hoped to explore a more diverse curriculum than high school could offer and to become more independent, but she was already known among her peers as a writer. In the May 1983 edition of the Webb School student newspaper *Spartan Spirit*, Elizabeth described who she was and how she wrote:

“I’m the sort of person who often has her head in the clouds and her shoulder to the wheel at the same time. . . .

“Usually a short story or a poem simmers in my mind for a long time. A piece of work starts with some detail—anything; someone with funny glasses, a conversation I overhear, anything that strikes a particular note in my mind—and sometimes I even think, Aha! That would be good in a short story (or a poem). If it is truly a tiny detail I let it sit and ripen (or fester) for a while. Eventually it gathers other details that have some obscure connection or association with it in my thoughts, rather the way a magnet draws pins and nails to it. When the original idea has gathered enough pins and nails it becomes a big uncomfortable lump in my brain and I start thinking about how to get rid of it. . . . The most interesting way to get rid of these sharp collections of associations is to put them through the transformation that makes them short stories or poems.”

**Among Friends**

**1** Among those attending the Friends' annual meeting in the East Tennessee History Center on July 11 were (from left) Steve Cotham, director of the McClung Collection, and speakers Fred Brown and Jeanne McDonald.

**2** Directors Mary Starke and Jean Idell greeted members.

**3** Julie Webb (right) and Bonny Naugher inspected the Carl Sublett painting given by the Friends to the History Center to honor Mrs. Webb and her late husband Robert.

**4** Patricia Watson (left), former library director, congratulated Ginna Mashburn on her election as president of the Friends.

**5** Larry Frank, current library director, and Maggie Carini, immediate past president of the Friends, discussed future projects. County Mayor Mike Ragsdale designated July 11, 2006, as Maggie Carini Day in recognition of Maggie's work with the Friends.

**6** Dottie Stamper, who volunteers at the North Knoxville library, represented Branch Buddies at the meeting.

**7** Mary Rayson, Marnie Page, and Lucie Polk were in the audience to hear speakers Fred Brown and Jeanne McDonald.

# Friends Meet To Honor, To Learn



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## Film Fans Brave Falling Temperatures



Friday the 13th brought young Andrew Sanders (second from left) good luck: he won a \$25 gift certificate for Bliss at the screening of *Grease*. Caps and coats kept Andrew, Jessica, and Lisa Sanders and their friends toasty during the movie on Market Square Mall. Kelley Segars projects that the Friends' income from concessions will be \$2,000 by the conclusion of the series in October.

### Wanted: New Members As Well as Renewals

"Make new friends, but keep the old" goes a cherished campfire song, and that is the goal of the Friends' membership drive which has begun.

Membership Committee Chair Marnie Page explains that members will be asked to renew their commitment to the Friends on the anniversary of their joining the organization. To that end 264 renewal notices have gone out this fall; a promising 182 renewals have been recorded. A second reminder will be mailed to those whose dues have not been received.

New members are being sought as well. Brochures about the Friends will be strategically placed in the community, and current members are urged to supply Rachel Craig at 215.8775 with names and addresses of people who might be interested in becoming Friends.



Fortified with hot chocolate and popcorn, Betsy Coyle (right) and Aundrea Kinzalow enjoyed *Grease*.



For valorous service at the Friends' concession stand, Gordon Clem received the first annual Kelley Segars Award from President Ginna Mashburn.

### Recruitment Training Succeeds

Maggie Carini reports that a series of recruitment training sessions in October has spread the good word about opportunities for volunteers. Meetings have been held at the South Knoxville Branch, in North Knoxville at the Fountain City Branch, and in East Knoxville at the Burlington Branch. A similar session is scheduled for West Knoxville in January.

### Branches Mark National FOL Week

During National Friends of the Library Week October 23-27 two branches recruited new members of Friends of the Knox County Library. Trudy Dryer and Connie Gonzalez, with help from other volunteers, promoted the Friends organization at the West Knoxville branch, and the membership drive at Cedar Bluff, led by Amy Lam, occurred on October 25.

### FOL Funds Award For Library Staff

Friends of the Knox County Public Library will join Simon Malls to underwrite a \$50 gift certificate to the library system's Employee of the Month.

## Other Resources at the Beck Center

The William H. Hastie Room memorializes the first black governor of the Virgin Islands (1946) who became the first U.S. federal judge (1950).

The Pioneer Stairway remembers men and women who were Knoxville's "firsts."

The Postage Stamps Exhibit features all U.S. postage stamps commemorating individuals or events from African-American experience.

The Austin High School Collection contains all of the school's year-books, class pictures from 1894, graduation programs from 1888, and hundreds of photographs.

6



### Meet Paul Brown, New Board Member

Paul Brown, who is assignments editor at WBIR, is a newcomer to the board of the Friends of Knox County Public Library.



Avon W. Rollins, Sr., executive director of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, welcomes Friends' board member Dave Patterson.

# Beck Center Beckons

Fulfilling its commitment to become familiar with all facilities under the umbrella of the Knox County Public Library, the Friends of the Library board held its October 16 meeting at the Beck Cultural Center.

The center places the history of African-Americans in Knoxville in the larger context of America history.

Knoxville's museum of African-American history and culture was founded in 1975 and bears the name of the late James and Ethel Beck, prominent members of the community. Founders of the Ethel Beck Home for Orphans, the Becks left a legacy which made possible the establishment of the center in the

house where the Becks lived at 1927 Dandridge Avenue.

The center's website at <[www.discoverer.org/beckcec/welcome.htm](http://www.discoverer.org/beckcec/welcome.htm)> enables the visitor to take a virtual tour of the facility. Of particular interest is the Library-Research Center, whose shelves display 1,100 books related to black history; 50 of those volumes were authored by black Knoxvilleians. In addition the center contains hundreds of videos recording the oral history of African-Americans in the area.

The Links Exhibit recognizes achievers from Knoxville like nationally known poet Nikki Giovanni, author of the famous poem "Knoxville, Tennessee."



President Ginna Mashburn (right) conducted the Friends' board meeting on October 16 at the Beck Cultural Center.

# Burlington Buddies Make Debut

Mary Rogers, Karen Dhyanschand, Brett Burdick, Jama Antol, FOL Past President Maggie Carini, and Pat Donaldson teamed up to serve refreshments at the grand opening of the new Burlington Branch on October 17.



## Friendly Volunteers Want to Help

Contrary to doom-sayers' predictions, libraries are not a thing of the past.

Solid proof of the library's relevance to its neighbors and patrons is the high-tech Burlington Branch that opened its doors for the first time on October 17. And the Burlington Branch Buddies on hand to welcome those celebrating the new library are very much in the future of the Friends of the Library.

The growing team of Burlington Buddies consists of communitarians who love libraries.

For example, shortly after Pat Donaldson moved to Knoxville from Denton, TX, she learned about the buddy system when President Ginna Mashburn touted the program at a Town Hall East meeting. Then, Pat's neighbor Karen Dhyanschand, Burlington's first buddy, laughingly claims that she strong-armed Pat to join the team.

Similarly Mary Rogers, came into the fold because Dottie Stamper, a North Knoxville buddy, urged her to join.

Brett Burdick, who lives in the Fourth and Gill neighborhood and works as a product-development engineer out of his home, found his niche as a buddy when he

was shopping around for an opportunity to support his community.

Jama Antol is mother of nine-year-old Sophia, who is already a committed reader—Sophia checked out a bag full of books on Burlington's opening day. For preschoolers as well as library patrons of all ages, Jama hopes to lobby for an enriched collection of audio-visuals in the branch because she appreciates the wonderful video collection in the main library.



Becky Stout

Already on the lookout for new team members, the Burlington buddies recruited Becky Stout at the opening of the new branch. A resident of Holston Hills, Becky joined the group because, she said, "I love the library. I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't read."

The Burlington Buddies will lend a hand whenever Jeff Johnston, branch manager, and Linda Helms, assistant manager, call on them. The new staff of Julie Piller, Valerie Knight, and Emily Marshall can also count on the buddies.

## Children Love Book Buddy Hound

The Burlington Branch's mascot, Book Buddy Hound, is a favorite with young readers like Dreama, age nine, and her brother Christian, age seven.



## What's New In Burlington

With 12,000 square feet the new Burlington branch triples the space and multiplies the offerings that were available at the old site. Patrons will also enjoy a well-equipped computer lab and a community meeting room.

## Gallery Features Artist's Work



Two walls of the Cynthia Finch Community Meeting Room in the new Burlington Branch are lined with the portraits and landscapes created by local artist JoAnn Parsley.

**Would you like to be a Branch Buddy in your neighborhood?  
Call Rachel Craig at 215.8775.**



500 West Church Avenue  
 Knoxville, TN 37902-2525  
 (865) 215-8775

Fax (865) 215-8772  
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8

**Benefits of FOL membership:**

- The knowledge that you nurture the love of books, reading and libraries
- Admission to the "Members-Only Preview Day" of the annual Used Book Sale (two adults, children free)
- Our quarterly newsletter that keeps you informed of FOL and library activities
- Volunteer opportunities to join your energy with that of other book lovers



**Membership:**

- \_\_\_ Library Lover (Seniors & Students): \$10
- \_\_\_ Bookworm (Individual): \$15
- \_\_\_ First Edition (Family): \$25

**Sustaining Membership:**

- \_\_\_ Mary Lawson McGhee: \$26-\$99
- \_\_\_ Calvin McClung: \$100-\$249
- \_\_\_ Mary Utopia Rothrock: \$250-\$499
- \_\_\_ Folio: \$500+

*All dues and contributions are tax-deductible.*



500 West Church Avenue  
 Knoxville, TN 37902-2525  
 (865) 215-8775

*Clip and return*

**I wish to join/renew my membership in the Friends of the Library.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

