

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

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THE BEST OF *FRIENDS*

Knoxville, Tennessee

Winter 2005

Rachel Craig Becomes Coordinator of Friends

Reaching into a
background of
community service
and advocacy, the
new coordinator
brings high energy
and enthusiasm to
the Friends of
Knox County
Public Library.
See page 2 for
biographical details
and Ms. Craig's
hopes for the future.



Volunteer Fair Set for February 10

*Find out how volunteer Friends can put some
muscle into their support of the Knox County
Public Library. [Page 3]*

Selling the Library To the Community

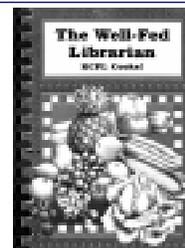
Series of Advertisements To Spread the Good Word [Page 3]



***Speaking Volumes
For the Book Sale
Feb. 27-March 5
[Page 5]***



***Habitat Honors
A Great Volunteer
[Page 4]***



***Hot Off the Press
[Page 4]***

Words Worth Reading Again

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from the January 6, 2005, editorial in Metro Pulse.

The dawning of the New Year in Knoxville heralds bright things to come. . . . What's next on the agenda is to address the continuing need to upgrade and, in the light of the demands of the future, perhaps restructure the education system here and in surrounding counties. . . .

Start with the K-12 schools and proceed through the colleges, the University of Tennessee, and its graduate schools. All need a thorough look with that future in mind. And in the center of any discussion of educational needs is the Knox County Public Library. Its central facility must be replaced and equipped to provide us and our children access to the amassed knowledge of this world. Provision of such broad access may sound like a staggering task, but our library's capable people are ready to perform it if we provide them with the resources of a new, thoroughly modern and adaptable building. We want it downtown. That's where the people are going to be coming. A new main library fits only in the core of the region, propelling as well as riding the momentum that is already swelling here. Let's get that new library started now, in 2005, so that we can keep that wave of Knoxville's headway surging into the years ahead.

New Coordinator Springs into Action

Rachel Craig, new coordinator for Friends of Knox County Public Library, sprang into action even before the dawning of 2005. Learning the job, bringing a back log of membership records up to date, updating a somewhat antiquated computer system, and figuring out how she and the Friends can meet the challenging days ahead for the library system are but a few of the tasks that she has already undertaken.

"It's an exciting time to be involved with the Friends and the library system," Ms. Craig says.

She has also tried to effect a smooth transition between her tenure and that of Susan Blair, who resigned the part-time position in November to take a full-time job with Team Health.

Ms. Craig feels that the diversity of her experience both at work and in the community has prepared her well for her new job.

Ms. Craig, whose energy and enthusiasm are apparent even in a casual encounter, brings to her new assignment a background in advocacy and community activity. For example, she is currently on the board of Knox Heritage, where she chaired the Preservation Advocacy Committee. She has served on the board and as secretary of City People, and is president of her neighborhood organization. She co-chairs a committee for the local chapter of the League of Women Voters and is active in the Council of Involved Neighborhoods (COIN).

Her educational background includes undergraduate and graduate degrees in statistics as well as a master's in planning from



Rachel Craig

the University of Tennessee. Most recently she was contract project leader for the Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment for Knox County's Engineering and Public Works and the county's Parks and Recreation Department. She has also worked for TVA and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Confessing to being "easily bored," she has not yet been bored by the multi-faceted work of coordinator demanding skills in organization, budget design, communications, project planning, and technology.

Among her immediate goals for the Friends is an aggressive approach to building membership. She hopes to reach out to the entire community in her search for members who will support the library system by going beyond merely paying their dues. The February 10 volunteer fair is just such an initiative (see page 3).

Membership Cards: In the Mail
Apologies are in order for the delay in mailing new membership cards. They are now on their way, however.

Board of Directors Experiences Changes

Maggie Carini has assumed the presidency of the Friends of Knox County Public Library following the resignation of Jim Ullrich.

Mr. Ullrich submitted his resignation in December, citing his need to focus on business concerns and his desire in retirement to see how far his recently purchased recreation

vehicle could carry him and his wife Flo. Clyde Letsinger, associate professor of accounting emeritus at the University of Tennessee, has assumed the duties of treasurer. Former treasurer Michael Beckner, who spends a great part of the year traveling, resigned from the post.

Coming onto the board of directors to fill the space vacated by Mr. Beckner is

Elnora Williams, principal of Sunnyview Primary School. Mrs. Williams is a resident of Powell. Suzanne Freeman, representative for Knox County on the board of Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL), is a vital link between the local and state organizations. Mary Pom Claiborne, the system's communications administrator, is chief library liaison.

Volunteer Fair: Matching Members, Library's Needs What's a Little Time Between Friends?

The Friends of the Library wants your ideas and energy.

A Volunteer Fair to match members' interests and talents with library-related needs is planned for Thursday, February 10, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center Auditorium. The Friends' board and committee chairs will outline projects underway and recruit volunteers to help make them successful.

No experience is required! The Friends can be a place for first-time citizen involvement or a chance to work outside your field of expertise. Someone will be at each of several tables to explain general objectives of each service or program. These will include the Summer Reading program, Imagination

Library, the Festival of Reading, starting a book club, Outreach in Headstart sites, the annual book sale, the Friends' newsletter and website, and more.

This will also be a time for members and the community at large to propose new programs and services. "Our mission—to foster a love of libraries, books and reading and to support the library system and staff—is broad," says Maggie Carini, FOL president. "We want to hear from people countywide about ways we can carry out these goals."

For more information, contact the FOL office at <folkpl@hotmail.com> or at 215.8775, or Allison Murray, Volunteer Fair chair, at <albee1129@yahoo.com>.

Library Legislative Day Slated for Feb. 15 in Nashville

Hundreds of advocates for public libraries will gather in Nashville on February 15 to thank legislators for their past support and to alert lawmakers to what needs to be done to improve Tennessee's library systems. Friends, trustees, and patrons are urged to participate in Library Legislative Day.

The event is sponsored by the Tennessee Library Association in cooperation with the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, TENN-SHARE, and the Tennessee Association of School Librarians with additional support from the Nashville Public Library.

Participants will garner information about the

Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and other vital programs. The day also features private meetings and lunch with lawmakers.

Information about registration at a cost of \$25 is available at <ahuggins@midsouth.rr.com> or 901.485.6952.

TV Ads to Highlight Services

In a campaign that is the first of its kind, Friends of the Library will present a series of four television ads scheduled to begin running in mid-winter on Comcast stations.

The television spots will feature children's story time, homebound services, business reference and collections, and special programs.

Each ad, to be presented by the Friends of the Library, is designed to help recruit new members and to tell the community about the outstanding resources available in the library system.

This campaign is made possible through the generous donation of time and services by Phil Hardison and his crew. Mr. Hardison

worked in the library's Sights and Sounds Department in the late 1980s. He has since become a filmmaker who produces professional television commercials for companies like Baptist Hospital and Goody's. With their cameras, lights, and equipment, Mr. Hardison's crew virtually took over Lawson McGhee Library for several days in order to tell the library's story in a compelling and professional way.

According to Mary Pom Claiborne, communications administrator of the library system and chief library liaison to the Friends, the willingness of so many people to donate time and talents to make these ads is a great testament to the appeal of the library.

More Words Worth Reading Again

Editor's note: In the August 29, 2004, edition of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Jim Ullrich pointed out the following statistics to demonstrate the use of the Lawson McGhee Library.

■ With a systemwide increase in circulation of 5 percent, more people than ever are using the library. Nearly 23 percent of all library cards were originated at Lawson McGhee Library. That's 23 percent of 193,924 cardholders or 45,225 people who have chosen Lawson McGhee as their library location of choice. . . .

■ The Lawson McGhee's Sights & Sounds Department has one of the biggest and most diverse collections of film, music and talking books of any public library in the Southeast The library's web site gets more than 250,000 hits each month.

■ Attendance is booming. . . . More than 1,000 people come into the building every day.

■ Ten thousand reference queries each month are handled by the Lawson McGhee reference staff

■ More than 115 took advantage of Lawson McGhee's free computer workshops in July, and 2,500 came into the main library for literary, music and lecture events in the past year.

■ For those who are unaware of the incredible amount of activity in our library system, it only takes a visit to be informed. The entire library system is at capacity, and Lawson McGhee is the center of it all.

Valued Volunteers

Three hours a week, Cam Ogle provides assistance that touches everyone at the Sequoyah Hills branch. She has organized and shelved picture books for young readers, filed periodicals for the librarians, prepared crafts for the children's story hour, and changed displays for the delight of all patrons. For lending a helping hand, she earns the applause of Clara Hardin, manager.

The Cedar Bluff branch will recruit and train volunteers next month. On Thursday, February 3, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 and on Saturday, February 5, from 10:30 until noon, the staff will show potential volunteers around the facility and acquaint them with opportunities for service. Kathy Martin, manager, hopes to find helpers who will devote small blocks of time to the library.

For over 10 years, after putting in a full day at an insurance office, Anne Bilbrey works one evening a week shelving books, checking shelves for accuracy, and creating book displays at the Fountain City branch. For a decade Russell Culpepper, manager of a local super market, has developed programs for children. Catholic High student Jessica Hoover works two hours a week creating interactive objects for a magnetic board designed to entertain and educate the library's youngest patrons. "The Fountain City branch loves its volunteers," says Elizabeth Nelson, manager.

Habitat Thrift Store Honors Julie Webb

What is a fitting tribute to a member of the community who has devoted hours of her time to your organization and whose lifelong love of learning has made her a staunch supporter of reading?

If the organization is the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store, you honor the communitarian, Julie Webb, by putting books in families' houses, for what makes a home more readily than books do?

In partnership with Knoxville's Literacy Imperative, the Thrift Store will honor Mrs. Webb by placing a two-foot-long shelf of books in every house built by Knoxville Habitat. A plaque attached to each library indicates that the books honor Mrs. Webb, who has been actively involved in the Habitat Thrift Store since its inception in the mid-1990's. "Julie Webb has done so much for the Habitat Thrift Store for so long," says Bert Sams, store director, "that we wanted to honor her in this way."

Until recently Mrs. Webb was volunteer coordinator for the 70-80 other volunteers who work in four-hour shifts at the store. Mr. Sams, who says that Mrs. Webb's work as coordinator was "no small feat," describes her as "part of the success of this venture; she has been a great ambassador for us."

The announcement of the tribute came as a surprise to the honoree, who, Mr. Sams says, was "totally in the dark about it" at a dinner held at the First United Methodist Church to honor Habitat volunteers on November 18. Some 70 appreciative people were there to see the unveiling of the plaque attached to the family library in Mrs. Webb's honor. The shelf of books includes a Bible as well as volumes on such subjects as history and home repair.

Habitat raised \$4,300 to provide enough books for families moving into Habitat



Habitat for Humanity honors Julie Webb by making a home a home with books.

homes for the next three years. Each library costs slightly less than \$100. Donations earmarked to further support the tribute to Mrs. Webb may be channeled through the Habitat Thrift Store at 2209 North Central, Knoxville, TN 37917.

In addition to her work with the Habitat Thrift Store, Mrs. Webb has been an active friend of local and statewide public libraries. A leader in One Book, One Community in Knox County, she has also served on the board of directors of Friends of Tennessee Libraries and is a past president of the Friends of Knox County Public Library.

Public Has Appetite for KCPL Cookbooks

A collection of recipes by the Knox County Public Library Staff Association is selling like hotcakes. *The Well-Fed Librarian* is now in its second printing.

In addition to the library staff, contributors to the volume include members of the Friends: John Z.C. Thomas, Jim and Martha Gill, Mary Starke, Maggie Carini, Suzanne Freeman, Patsy and Charlie Daniel, Gretchen

Beal, Susan Blair, Jim Ullrich, Pandey Anderson, Jerry Burdette, Corinne Patrick, Betty Catron, Ginna Mashburn, Margo Akerman, Paula Smartt, Mary B. Rayson, and Nancy Butler.

Copies may be ordered from Friends of the Library, 500 W. Church Avenue, Knoxville 37902, for only \$10 each plus \$2.50 for handling and shipping.

February 27-March 5 in the Candy Factory

Book Sale: Something for Everyone

By John Z. C. Thomas
Director

Cook books, poetry, CDs still in their original shrink wrap, volumes for the little ones in your life—these and more should bring droves to the 2005 book sale.

It promises to be the best ever. Already we have more books than we had all of last year, and donations continue to deliver something for everyone.

Once again, and maybe for the last time, the sale will be in the Community Room on the sixth floor of the Candy Factory in the World's Fair Park. Here's the line-up:

Members-only Preview

Sunday, Feb. 27, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

General Sale

Monday, Feb. 28-Friday, March 4,
11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Bag Sale

Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.-
4:00 p.m.

Clean Up

Begins Saturday, March 5, 3:00

We are particularly strong in cooking, history, mystery, poetry and philosophy, religion and children's books. Of course, other categories are well represented: fiction, romance, science fiction and westerns, games and outdoors, nonfiction, literature, drama, music and dance, art and architecture, regional, foreign language, large print, house and home and reference.

We also have a very large selection of CDs resulting from the settlement of a lawsuit. These are still shrink-wrapped and will probably cost a little more than our usual price for used CDs which is \$2.00.

Prices remain the same—\$2.00 for adult hardbacks, \$1.00 for adult trade paperbacks and 50 cents for mass-market paperbacks. Children's books will be \$1.00 for hardbacks and 50 cents for paperbacks.

Once again the *News Sentinel* and WBIR have agreed to be media sponsors. Of course, we could not put on the sale without the help of the Public Building Authority, which provides the space and moves the books.

One year we made over \$45,000. Let us do better than that in 2005.

WANTED: More Books and More Volunteers To Staff Book Sale



For 18 years John Thomas has carried the management of the book sale on his strong back, but he needs your help.

This might be the last sale in the Candy Factory since bids have already been received to rehabilitate it, and from newspaper reports few if any of them include space for non-profits. Given this possibility, we are attempting to make this the largest and best sale ever. Thus this year more than ever we are going to need volunteers. By now you should have received the "Request for Volunteers" letter. Volunteer early and often by returning the form to Jean Idell or by calling the Friends at 215.8775 as soon as possible.

And it's not too late to donate materials for the sale. Make room for more new books by clearing out the ones you have read (or never intend to read). Box the oldies up and take them to any branch library. From there they will wing their way to the Candy Factory sale.



Jean Idell schedules helpers.

Bound by Books

The last time Helen and I saw each other, we were fifteen years old. When we met again last fall, her beautiful red hair was beautifully white, and my hair-colored hair was still hair colored only because of the miracle of chemicals. Once we were past "Whatever happened to" and "Do you remember," once the photos of children had been exchanged, we drifted into a conversation about books. Helen recommended a series of novels by a writer who now lives in the North Carolina mountain town where Helen and I last saw each other. I told her about a writer whose novels are set in those same mountains, and Helen wrote later that she had found one of his books in her public library. That drift was natural. When we were classmates so many years ago, Helen and I walked past the public library (it was an Andrew Carnegie library) every day on our way to and from school, and we went inside often. Both of us still remember its cool shadows and its open shelves. At school we helped out in the library there; after shelving books and collecting overdue fines, we read the new books, loving their smoothness and their inky smell. That happy reunion with Helen made me realize how many of my friendships even today, so many years later, are bound by books—well, fed by food, I must admit, but always bound by books. —Editor

Want to save us a bundle? Call 215.8775 to say that you'll take your newsletter on line instead of in the mail.

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**Music at the Rothrock
 Every Tuesday Evening at
 6:30 at Lawson McGhee**

Jan. 18: Southerly Winds,
 a classically elegant woodwind
 quintet

Jan. 25: Opera Evening,
 a preview of The Midako

Feb. 1: William Boyd Group,
 funk-infected jazz by some saucy
 young musicians

Feb. 8: Opera Evening, Opera
 Studio's preview of the Rossini
 Festival

Feb. 15: Rhea Sunshine in an
 evening of poetry and song

Feb. 22: Austin East Jazz Band
 directed by Dorothy Brice

6 New Library Services

Patrons can now receive e-mail notices and check out books on their own at Lawson McGhee and Fountain City. Both services are designed to make the library experience more cost-effective and convenient. Ask a librarian!

Finding TEL

Tena Litherland, a past president of the Tennessee Library Association, describes the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) as a collection of thousands of reputable, accurate, timely full-text periodicals, journals, and some reference books that Tennessee citizens can access around the clock from their computers at home or from their library..

Here's how to find TEL.
 From home, go to your library's website; click on the TEL logo.
 Or go to the State Library at
<http://www.state.tn.us/sos.statelib/tel/>.
 Password: Elvis.

JOIN THE Friends!

Life is so much sweeter if a friend is there to lend a hand or provide encouragement when the going gets tough. Those who befriend the Knox County Public Library provide that support.

Past Friendly accomplishments include supporting the Summer Reading Program, spearheading One Book, One Community, bringing a noted author to the podium, and purchasing shelves for the new East Tennessee History Center.

Join other Friends today. Fill out the application below and send it with your check made out to Friends of the Knox County Public Library, 500 W. Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Folio \$500+

_____ Calvin McClung \$100-\$249

_____ First Edition (Family) \$25-\$49

_____ Mary Utopia Rothrock \$250-\$499

_____ May Lawson McGhee \$50-\$99

_____ Bookworm (Individual) \$15-\$24

_____ Library Lover (Senior 65+) \$10-\$15