



The BEST *of* FRIENDS

Summer
2018

Friends of the Knox County Public Library • 500 W. Church Ave. Knoxville, TN 37902 • 865.215.8775 • Fax 865.215.8772 • www.knoxfriends.org

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NEWSLETTER

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Annual Meeting: July 16 Celebration



Members can celebrate a year with Friends at the annual meeting for members on Monday, July 16, at 6 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street.

Event coordinators Marye Rose and Sharon Smith have planned a menu featuring light hors d'oeuvres from Bradford Catered Events.

Alan Sims, who is known as Knoxville Urban Guy for his blog "Inside of Knoxville," will be our guest speaker.

Members will also vote on the 2018–19 slate of officers and directors recommended by the Nominating Committee. Please see page 2 for profiles of the nominees for the Board and a recap of Sarah Ford's profile as Sarah becomes the nominee as the Friends secretary.

'Urban Guy' Alan Sims To Speak to Friends

Go downtown and you'll likely find Alan Sims hunting for news. Surprisingly he finds a lot, though the footprint of downtown equals the size of West Town Mall and its parking lots. Building and development, music and live theater venues, 75 restaurants, art galleries, movie theater, coffee shops, retail, and parks inspire a vibrant energy.

Insideofknoxville.com covers it all, and since 2010 it has become Sims' identity. He spends about 60 hours a week researching, interviewing, taking photographs, placing ads, and writing five weekly stories for his

readers. He's won multiple awards for this blog, which recently surpassed 100,000 page views. Plus he hosts a podcast, does news pieces for WVLT, and appears on Fox 43 with Jack Neely on "Knoxville Then and Now."

You might say that exhaustive workload

SEE URBAN GUY ON P. 5



The Nominating Committee, chaired by **GINNA MASHBURN**, has submitted the following slate, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

2018–19 Officers

President

Rusha Sams

President-elect

Sharon Smith

Secretary

Sarah Ford

Treasurer

LeAnn Luna

Past President

Maggie Carini

2018–21 Directors

Bailey Foster

Viren Lalka

2018–20 Director

Shirley Underwood

Meet the Nominees for Office and Board

Knoxville native Bailey Foster brings experience in communication, advocacy, strategic planning, and project management to both her professional and volunteer work.



A graduate of Davidson College (B.A. English) and Columbia University (M.A. in non-fiction writing), she has worked in publishing, retail management, marketing, software development and training, management of multimillion-dollar contracts, and client relationships. Most recently she was responsible for developing a public communication and advocacy campaign for the Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office.

As president of the PTO Board of Directors of a Montessori School Board in California, she oversaw the board's growth and development as a fundraising body and a member of the community. She is currently a volunteer in Friends @ Rothrock, and she is a founding member of Community Defense of East Tennessee, a local grassroots organization that offers strategic community support to people facing criminal charges and their families.

Viren Lalka spent his Indian summers ("the real summers back in India," he says) as a child immersed in books. He would read about two books a week, eat watermelon and roasted corn, and play cricket all summer long. In high school he was editor of the *Magazine for Young Rotarians*, and in college he was editor of the college bulletin called *The Pod*. Active in student government in college, he was also secretary of the Debating Society. His love of books came from his dad, who was self-taught in English and who had a decent library at home. "My fascination with libraries and the world of books is part of my DNA," he says. A practicing accountant by profession, he is also a reader of mostly non-fiction. His passion is history, politics, and the arts. His goal is to read at least two books per month, and he hopes to share his love of reading with the Friends.



Shirley Underwood does not remember a time when she did not love books and libraries. Reading is a passion and a major driving force in her life. Following her many years as an educator in Knox County Schools, she continues to share her love and enthusiasm with a wide range of audiences. An energetic worker who can effectively communicate with groups or individuals, she is dedicated to the belief of the Friends of the Library that libraries change lives. One of her personal goals is to encourage everyone, especially those citizens of all ages who do not take advantage of one of the community's most valuable resources — its libraries — to visit, to utilize, and to read.

Sarah Ford has become a familiar face at many Friends activities, including helping with the annual sale and taking charge of this year's Powell branch sale. With an M.S. in Human Resources from UT, she worked as a teacher for several years and then ventured into the business world with a variety of jobs. Among her varied volunteer roles she was secretary of the Eaton Elementary School PTO, where she helped to raise money for the school, including purchasing books for her classroom. She has worked with United Way campaigns and the American Cancer Society and is currently working with a literacy program through Lincoln Park UMC that provides books for disadvantaged children in the community, a project helped along by donations from the Friends. As the mother of a librarian, Sarah is passionate about books and libraries. After working at her first annual sale, Sarah remarked, "This setting has to be, at least in part, my version of heaven."

Jon Meacham To Speak in Knoxville July 8

Renowned presidential historian and Tennessee native **Jon Meacham** has a message of hope for Americans in tumultuous times.

Meacham will appear in Knoxville on **Sunday, July 8**, at 7 p.m. at **First Presbyterian Church** downtown as the guest of Union Ave Books and Friends of the Knox County Public Library. He will discuss his new book, *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander will join the author on stage.

Tickets for Meacham's appearance are \$35 and can be

purchased at Union Ave Books or online at jonmeachamknoxville.brownpapertickets.com. The ticket price includes a copy of the book.

In *The Soul of America*, Meacham helps his readers understand the present moment in American politics by looking back at critical times when hope overcame division. He tells us that what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" found a way to prevail during dark times.

First Presbyterian Church, Knox County Public Library, East Tennessee Historical Society, and WUOT are also partners for this event.



Jon Meacham argues that hope has overcome division in American history.

(Photo by Heidi Ross)

MANY THANKS TO THESE DONORS FROM MARCH TO MAY

\$50+ dues level:

Kristie & Richard Atwood (new)
Anne Hart (new)
Lisa & Mike Kaufman (new)
Jean & Brian Bonnyman
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Liz & Andy Dake
Phyllis Eldridge
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Alisha & Blake Linehan
Sue & Robert Murrian
Peggy & Carl Pierce
Mr. & Mrs. Don Preston
Larry & Chris Warren
Anna & Doug Woerner
James & Linda Yates

Summer Library Club Gift:

Anonymous

Non-designated Gifts:

Ronald Foresta
Hortense Jones & Ray Millard
East Tennessee Foundation, Beall Family Fund
GFWC Ossoli Circle
UT Campus Chest (1st Quarter disbursement)
75 households for Kroger Community Rewards (Kroger 2nd Quarter)

Honoraria Gifts:

Martha & Jim Gill in honor of Maggie and Tim Carini's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Memorial Gifts:

In memory of Ann Charlton by Anonymous

In memory of Bill Crosland by Laurie Pearl

In memory of LaVerne Maddix by Martha & Jim Gill by Laurie Pearl

In memory of Barbara McGehee Annual gift by Mike & Lori Murphree

In memory of Laura Thompson by Anonymous by Chad & Lisa Fontanarosa by Charles & Jeanette Johnson by Becca & David Ubben by Robert & Lois Young

In memory of Jay Wilkinson by Martha Edington by Martha & Jim Gill

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jametta Alston	Nate Dale	Brandy Hayse	Sandra McMinn	Doris Simpson
Terri Anderson	John Daniels	Liza & Ian Helling	Jeri McNeany	Janice Smith
Claudine Auble	Jake Davis, Jr	Ann Henry	Ernest Miller	Rachel Smith
Jennifer Baldy	Stacy Davis	Janelle Honeycutt	Sheryl Moshinskie	Tina Smith
Marilyn Benson	Kristie Dean	Jennifer Hughett	Lynne & Denny Mullins	Zarina Smith
Jeffrey Bircheat	Ann Denoziere	Lisa Hyde-Berkan	Sharon Murphy	Linda Smithson
Alexis Bishop	Doris Dickman	Jessica Jackson	Diana Nearhos	Michael Sobiech
David Bivens	Christine & Josh Durbin	Ann Jarrett	Chris Newton	Wanda Sobieski
Marie Bliss	Joyce Feld & Charles Glisson	Sophie Jefferson	Kate Nixon	Laura Spargo
Terry Bonine	Brooke Flanigan	Mary Jeffries	Jeannette O'Neal	Aaron Stanley
Leah Boruff	Julie Foncea	Nicole Jones	Trena Palumbo	Stacy Stewart
Ash Bramblett	Cindy Gilkey	Cathy Keebler	Amy Paul	Tricia Sudbrink
Jeremy Branham	Pat Gillespie	Tammy Kiewiet	Marilyn Paulk-Hillard	Paul & Jayne Sykes
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Marissa Brown	John & Janet Gross	Olena Korotych	Sherry & Andrew Polnicki	Annette Thomas
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Aimee Carter	Bud Hamilton	Samantha Laska	Annette Powers	Audris Trammell
Michelle Castleberry	MJ Hamilton	Monica Lauber & Amy Perkins	Carri Quarles & Nathan Eggers	Terri Trent
Suzie & A.L. Clark	Vicky Hamlet	Nancy Maland	Kelsey Rose	Chris Trombley
Suzanne Coile	Linda Haney	Rebecca Maples	Heather Roussin	Betty Tudor
Thomas Colabella	Clara Hankins	Jim Marshall	Jessica Runyan	Shirley Underwood
Sherri Collins	Donovan Harrington	Brett Martin	Kristin Samples	Aimee Ward
Maurita Cook	Jackson Harrington	Judie Martin	Margaret Scanlan	Oscar Washington III
Steve Costaney & Dawn Schaefer	Brooke Haskins	Jo Martyn	Elena Schuch	Erica White
Charles & Laura Cummings	Christy & Kenneth Haynes	Holly Matthews	Hannah Schultz	Bethany Williams
			Heather & Chris Schwarzen	Morgan Wilson
				Emily & Amanda Zeller

Thanks to You: Friends Mini-Grants Support Library

Thanks to you, a young boy met Pete the Cat at the Children's Festival of Reading, gave him a hug, and told him he loved him. Happy parents shared photos and stories from library programs and special events on social media. Teens talked about books and life with their peers. Community members discussed books. Thanks to you, Friends supports our library system by awarding mini-grants for library programs and equipment. In the fiscal year that begins July 1, Friends will provide funds for:

- The Children's Festival of Reading.
- Summer Library Club reading incentives and family-friendly programs at library branches.
- Events and programs for teens that promote a love of literacy and help foster a sense of community.
- All Over the Page and Books Sandwiched In, two monthly book discussion groups.
- Reading Close to Home on the work of Robert Penn Warren.
- Holiday visits by Santa to library branches.
- Film screenings presented by the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound (TAMIS) during the East Tennessee History Fair.
- How's Business, a new book group developed in partnership with the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center.
- The McClung Historical Collection's new oral history project.

Volunteers Make 2018 Annual Book Sale Look Easy

Nesma Abdelnabi
Traecyln Albright
Peter Andreae
Jane Armstrong
Pat Armstrong
Gloria Austin
George Bernard
Sue Bernard
Judy Blackstock
Judy Bridges
Patty Bruns
Kaye Bultemeier
Emma Burklin
Blake Byrd
Pat Capato
Maggie Carini
Ann Caudill
Priscilla Cho
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Glen Daugherty
Sandi Daugherty
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Katie Evridge
Salina Fang
Beth Fisher
Sarah Ford

Suzanne Freeman
Nora Gainer
Gabrielle Garner
Cindy Gibson
Harold Gibson
Martha Gill
Connie Gonzalez
Sherrill Gregory
Sharon Griffith
Cheri Hall
Shirley Harrison
Lee Ann Hawkins
Mollie Hawkins
Jonathan Herrmann
Lauren Herrmann
Paula Hickey
Don Hinton
Joni Hirschhaut
Angela Hoffman
Angela Holland
Cori Holmes
Al Horn
Sharon Hudson
Beverly Hutchinson
Jean Idell

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Linnae Johnsen
Jeff Johnson
Susan Johnson
Gabrielle Jones
Keith Jones
Jack Jordan
Janet Jordan
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Tammy Kiewiet
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Marnie Page
Marilyn Parsons
Laurie Pearl
Elizabeth Peters
Peggy Pierce
Shyrl Plum
Elaine Powell
Jim Prince
Joyce Richman
Ernie Roberts
Marye Rose
Jane Row

Bert Sams
Rusha Sams
C. Mathaus
Schwarzen
Heather Schwarzen
Jack Schwarzen
Mary Hannah
Schwarzen
Claire Serrell
Ellen Shelton
Dave Silvus
Vim Silvus
Gabby Simcic
John Smartt
Mary Ellen Smethells
Linda Smith
Sharon Smith
Nancy Stewart
Brook Stillson
Lisa Sullivan
Robin Susano
Alana Tarver
MaryAnn Taylor
John Thomas
Mary Thorpe
Merikay Waldvogel
Chris Warren
Monica Waterman
Sagan Weinstein
Erica White
Janena White
John Williams
Kaye Yarnell
Sarah Yeow
Fred Young
Hazel Zook



'URBAN GUY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

energizes Sims, a self-described introvert. Since becoming a city dweller in 2009 he's likely met everybody who's anybody in the downtown revitalization movement. He says he's learned a lot about urban planning and is driven to record it; "I profile people and their businesses so the Jack Neelys in a hundred years from now will know the history of that business."

Holding graduate degrees in psychology and library science, Sims was a guidance counselor for Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge and later a librarian there. But when researching downtown Knoxville as a place to live, information was scarce, so eight years ago, his dream of writing became a reality and his blog was born. Growth is Alan's mantra, or as his hero Bob Dylan says, "he not busy being born is busy dying."



Friends of Knox County Public Library

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Chip-In Campaign Underwrites Summer Library Club

Maintaining their reading skills through the summer is critical to children's long-term success in school, and libraries can help. That's why the largest mini-grant that Friends awards every year goes to the Knox County Public Library's Summer Library Club.

This year's Summer Library Club is filled with reading, special events, and visits to cultural and educational attractions that will keep kids engaged in learning and show them how much fun Knox County Public Libraries are.

As a member of Friends and a lover of libraries, books, and reading, you can show your support for this outstanding program and help ensure that it continues year after year by contributing to our 2018 Chip-In Campaign. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution, or donate online by following the link at knoxfriends.org.

Michael Messing performs magic for a full house at the Burlington Branch as Summer Library Club gets underway throughout the KCPL system.

