

Published by the
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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info@friendsoftheknoxcolib.org



THE BEST OF *FRIENDS*

Knoxville, Tennessee

Spring 2008

FRIENDS OF THE KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Used Books to Sale

Coming Soon!

Friends @
Rothrock
USED BOOKS



Numbers Tell the Tale of the Sale

\$52,741.03

Total income from the
2008 book sale

125,000

Number of books for sale
on opening day

200

Number of you
who pulled it off

High Spots of 2008 Book Sale—and the Future

By Maggie Carini

Chair of the Book Sale

The annual book sale is our most dramatic and engaging Friends' project. We are a large and increasingly successful channel for used books in our community. A growing segment of greater Knoxville thinks of the Friends as THE place to take books they no longer want. As a result, the scope of our outreach is huge.

The sale provides steady and sufficient income to fund special library programs. It's an enormous advantage not to have to hunt grant money or scrounge for other income sources. AND, perhaps more importantly, we are bringing reading material to increasingly broad segments of our population.

The very first thing that happens when donations arrive at the Friends' sorting area is that staff members from Lawson McGhee and the McClung Collection scan the shelves. Thus, hundreds of books are added to the library collection—a major contribution to our community.

For years we have been delivering unsalable books to various local missions, to the Health Department waiting areas, to some of the senior citizen towers and to Knox County and Brushy Mountain prisons. This past year we stepped up the prison donations, delivering hundreds of paperbacks that inmates can read in their cells. In addition, we donated a set of reference books for the libraries of each of the county's two facilities.

Meanwhile, more books than ever came in this year—approximately half as many again as the year before. We opened the sale with an estimated 125,000 books. About 65% were privately donated. A phenomenal 113,000 books were sold. (More about the remaining 12,000 later.)

As well, more people came to this year's sale than ever. We instituted an educator's discount on Tuesday and Wednesday—traditionally our slower days—which meant steady traffic every single day, despite some periods of heavy rain and snow.

We have every reason to believe that greater awareness of our sale and scope will continue to bring about an increase in the number of donations. We will institute several changes to better manage this volume of books:

- **the opening of Friends@Rothrock: Used Books for year-round sales**
- **initiating online sale of special collection books**
- **continuing partnership sales such as Children's Festival & Bloomsdays**
- **pursuing flea market and small book store dealers for interim sales of over stock**
- **better sorting and categorizing for next year's sale**



"Not another box of books!" declares Maggie Carini before opening a thank-you gift of tulips at the Friends' appreciation dinner March 14.

2008 was our first year to manage the book sale more or less by committee. It was a pretty awesome job by many people, a fact which only underscores our respect for what John Thomas and Jean Idell did virtually by themselves. Particular commendation goes to the Sort Team, a group of volunteers who met on average twice each week to arrange the incoming books on shelves. As the shelves fill, books are boxed and stored for the sale. This year the Sort Team, the backbone of the entire project, processed nearly 3,000 boxes of books.

We learned a lot this year and will begin small corrections immediately. Literally. The sorting process is already well underway!

What happened to the 12,000 books left over will shape our thinking for the future. We had made our budget for the coming year, we had moved a nearly impossible 18,000 books in \$5 boxes in one short snowy day, we had bolstered the inventories of a number of small business owners in the region, and we had sent hundreds of readers home with new titles.

What next? We decided to share. In a telephone blitz over the weekend, the Friends made new friends among a number of social service agencies and other library systems in our region. We selected an array of books to literally create small libraries at Lakeshore, Sertoma, Wesley House, and Summit Hill Senior Tower. Many more volumes were donated to the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store, Hillcrest Nursing Home, KCDC, Halls High School, the Vonore/Greenback libraries, and the Ex Libris project of the Blount County Friends. The last big pile went to the Knox Area Rescue Ministries for sale in their Thrift Store.

This final strategy of Book Sale Week vastly advanced the capacity of all three parts of our mission—the support of books, reading, and libraries. A grande finale.

Help Wanted

To Recycle Books Daily

The Friends are about to take used book sales to a whole new level in a brand new location! On Friday, April 4, Friends@Rothrock: Used Books will open in Lawson McGhee Library space formerly known as The Rothrock Café.

Many Friends' volunteers will be needed to manage the bookshop in much the same manner as the Annual Book Sale. Workers will greet customers, straighten and restock shelves and handle sales. Every volunteer will initially be paired with a volunteer who has already worked a shift and knows the routine.

Which of the following shifts could you cover once per month?

Monday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

4:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

4:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday Noon – 5:00 p.m.

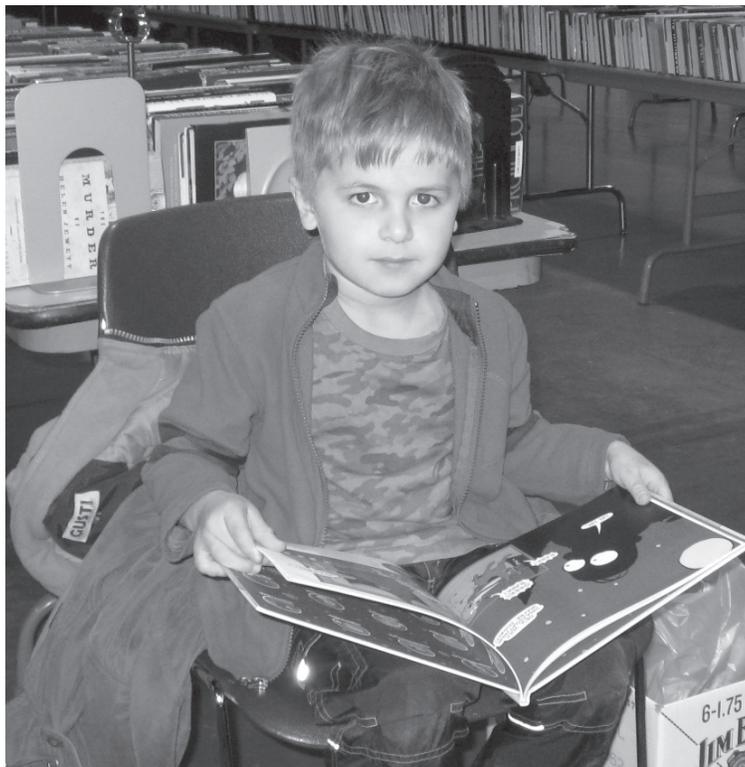
Saturday Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Free parking will be available in the Locust Street Garage. To volunteer, or to ask questions, contact Maggie Carini by email (preferable) at <hometownmed@comcast.net> or by phone 607-3122.

Lots of fiction, mysteries and romances, some history and biography, always some children's selections, a choice of specialty magazines – these will be the staples on the shelves, costing from 50 cents to \$2. Special themes will be featured each month, and the Sort Team will identify books related to library programs.

The Friends' book sale grows the next generation of readers like Dmitry (on the right) and serves older readers as well. Volunteers made the annual sale a phenomenal success and can continue their good work at Friends@Rothrock: Used Books.



Friends@Rothrock? Why That Name?

Born and raised in West Tennessee, Mary Utopia Rothrock (1890-1976) was called "Topie" by her friends and, a TVA historical sketch says, the red-haired young woman was "a firecracker." A graduate of the New York State Library School, she came to Knoxville in 1916, recruited as the chief librarian. She established the first branch libraries in Knoxville, essentially created the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection by persuading the widow of Mr. McClung to donate his private library to Lawson McGhee, and wrote a history of Tennessee that many fourth graders studied. When TVA began in 1933, the authority hired her to bring libraries to the remote areas where it was building a power system. She installed libraries in stores, post offices, even filling stations because, she said, "Wherever they live or work, the library follows." By the late 1930s TVA libraries circulated an estimated 13,000 books a month, and in 1938 Topie Rothrock won the 1938 American Library Association's Lippincott Award for the most outstanding contribution to librarianship in America. Soon after Larry Frank came to direct the Knox County Library System, he created The Rothrock Café in honor of that library pioneer, and in keeping her name for a book store, the Friends call down her blessing upon a new enterprise.

<www.tva.gov/heritave/books/index/htrn>



500 West Church Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37902-2525
865.215.8775

FAX 865.215.8772
E-mail <info@friendsoftheknoxcolib.org>

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Sign and Cover by Nikki Doyle

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

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City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Method of Payment

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Visa® MasterCard®

Expiration Date _____

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Category of Membership

___ Student or Senior: \$10

___ Individual: \$15

___ Family: \$25

Sustaining Membership

___ \$100-\$249

___ \$250-\$499

___ \$500+

___ Corporate Friend Donor