

SO MANY WAYS TO BE A FRIEND[Read ♥ in your browser](#)**What It Means to Be a Friend**

Having you as a partner is a big deal for the Friends, one that we hope you value as well for a variety of reasons.

Yes, you know that **we sell gently used books**. Lots of Friends devote hundreds of hours to that enterprise because they love books and reading and because they support the library. It's also fun, and it raises funds to support library programs not covered by the system's budget.

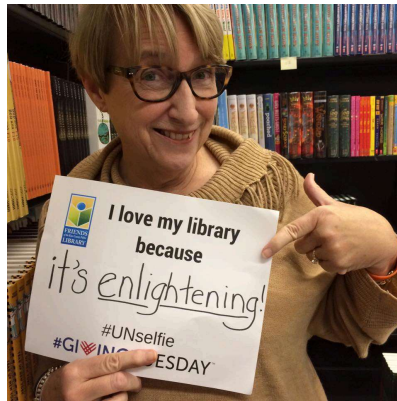
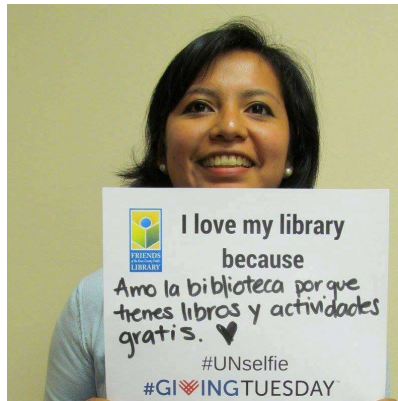
But **we also give books away**. Our Shoebox Libraries fill the vacant minutes and hours in waiting rooms and community centers. Just last week one of our volunteers delivered books to nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. And, of course, we put books in Empty Stockings. Our campaign is currently underway.

We talk to folks, too, about **what our library system contributes to the community**. We tell our neighbor whose 10-year-old son loves opera about that delightful film *Breaking Away*, and the neighbor checks it out of the library for his boy. We **invite friends to go to Books Sandwiched In** this month because the topic is a civics lesson in itself and the reviewers are intelligent voices in Knox County. We **write letters to the editors** of our local newspapers about how much money families can save by using the resources of their library. We circulate publications like this one.

And in a nonpartisan way **we fulfill our citizenship**. We talk to the

County Commission in October about the **efficient and productive stewardship of public funds** exhibited by Myretta Black, library director, and her staff. Sharon and Marye Rose, co-chairs of the Friends' Advocacy Committee, urged commissioners to visit the branch libraries in their districts. Dave Wright, chair of Commission, said that he knows about the summer reading programs at the Mascot, Corryton, and Carter branches in his district.

So you see that Friends does more than sell books. That's why your partnership and your membership will be **a big deal for Friends, the library, and your community.**



Join the Friends Family Today

Giving the Gift of Reading



Last year, patrons at the Fountain City Branch Library and students at Webb Lower School collected so many books for the **Empty Stocking Fund Children's Book Drive** that they built book trees. They and other members of the community are joining together again this year to help ensure that children in the Knox County area receive **the gift of reading** in their families' holiday baskets.

The annual ESF book drive is all about **sharing the joy of reading** with children. Donors of all ages bring new or like-new books to drop-off locations at **Knox County Public Library branches** and **Union Ave Books**. Area schools embrace the spirit of giving by holding book drives. Library staff and Friends volunteers work together to ensure that donated books are ready for ESF Distribution Day on December 23.

This year's greatest needs are **board books** for infants and toddlers and **books for middle and high schoolers.**

readers, visit knoxfriends.org.

KCPL in the 21st Century — 'As Popular As Ever'



In the 21st century the landscape of library use in Knox County has shifted, but the library is “as popular as ever,” according to the director of marketing and community relations at the [Knox County Public Library](#) (KCPL). Mary Pom Claiborne (shown above) conveyed that message to the Knox County Friends’ Board on October 17.

Knox Countians recognize KCPL “as **an educational, informational, recreational, and cultural center** through a wide variety of resources, services, and programs,” according to Claiborne. Since it was established in 1886, the Knox County Public Library has grown to 19 locations including Lawson McGhee, 17 branches, and the East Tennessee History Center. Today 1.5 million have visited the library, 135,946 library card holders have checked out 2.7 million items, and the reference desk has answered hundreds of thousands of questions. Though the staff numbers have declined, the number of hours that the library is open has increased.

Nowhere are the **shifts in the library landscape** more apparent than in technology. Though circulation of the print collection has declined, use of downloadable books continues to increase. A total of 338 public-access computers make possible a significant increase in computer usage. Circulation is flat, but the number of items checked out by individual patrons has increased.

In the future, several aspects of the library will keep KCPL “in the hearts and minds of the public,” Claiborne predicted. Digitization of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, made possible by the Library Foundation’s successful Papers to Pixels campaign, has seen a huge jump in library traffic. The [Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound](#) (TAMIS) is a remarkable collection that Claiborne hopes will someday become available online. And the library will emphasize its capacity to create content as well as to make content accessible. [Joe Linzer recently mapped Knoxville Area Transit \(KAT\) routes](#) using the Knox County Public Library computers downtown and Moovit, an app on his cellphone. That’s a dramatic and practical example of the content creation that the library can facilitate.

Going Digital at the Library



Halls Branch patron Fern Lea (pictured above) was waiting at the front door when the library opened on a recent Saturday morning. **Why does she frequent the library?** To use the computer, to do genealogical research, to read the books, and to find out about events at the East Tennessee History Center. She recently attended the Papers to Pixels luncheon there, where she chatted with Sam Venable, honorary chair of the campaign to digitize all the issues of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* from 1920 to 1990.

Lea is just one of the many Knox County Public Library patrons who **use computers both in the library and at home** for everything from research to getting help with homework to **downloading ebooks** to reading magazines to streaming music. And for those in need of training, the library offers **free workshops** on computer basics, Internet and email, office apps, and mobile devices as well as **help by appointment**.

It's a digital world, and your library is ready to help you navigate it.

Recognizing Friendship



From left: Governor Bill Haslam, Julie Webb, Secretary of State Tre Hargett.

thought that she was going to meet with Governor Bill Haslam to talk about the funding of public libraries in the state. Imagine her surprise, then, when **the governor honored her with a proclamation** "as an exemplary volunteer, supporter of our libraries, and advocate for education in Tennessee."

In the middle of Friends of Libraries Week, Webb was recognized for having founded the **statewide network of Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)**, for having served as its second president and for continuing to share her experience and wisdom on FOTL's advisory board, for having been **an early supporter of Imagination Library**, and for her **continuing service** to Knox County Friends and the Knox County Public Library Foundation.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett and State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill joined the governor at the ceremony. Also present were Webb's daughter, Susie Webb Ries, immediate past president of FOTL; Don Reynolds, FOTL president; and other members of the FOTL Board, who conspired to surprise Webb with the Governor's recognition.



The shelves at the **Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop** are filled with seasonal and holiday fiction, craft books, and cookbooks as well as specially priced **gift-quality books** for all ages. **Visit our website** for the latest information about store hours and other special items on sale. Rothrock — it's the little book shop with the big bargains!



WHAT: The Friends **Annual Used Book Sale**

WHEN: Saturday, **April 1**, through Tuesday, **April 4**

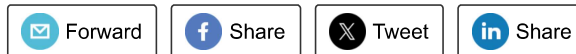
WHERE: The Jacob Building at **Chilhowee Park**

WHY: To support our Knox County Public Library

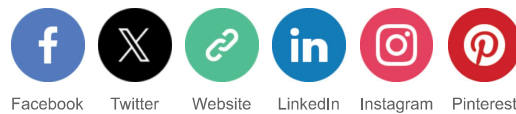
WHAT'S COMING UP

- **Empty Stocking Fund Children's Book Drive** – through November 30 [MORE>>](#)
- **Cedar Bluff Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, November 4, and Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!*** – Monday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Books Sandwiched In: *Free Speech: Ten Principles for a Connected World*** – Wednesday, November 16, noon [MORE>>](#)
- **Karns Branch Used Book Sale** – Thursday, November 17, and Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Bearden Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *Girl at War*** – Monday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)

Share Friends ♥ KCPL



Connect With Friends Online



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Friends♥KCPL is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Communications Committee of Friends of the Knox County Public Library. Members of the committee who contribute to the e-newsletter include: Martha Gill (Chair), Peter Andreae, Deanne Charlton, Martha Edington, Beth Fisher, Paula Hickey, Rusha Sams, Suzanne Shea, and Joyce York.

About Friends of the Knox County Public Library: Friends is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a love of libraries, books and reading in the Knox County area. The organization raises funds to sponsor community outreach programs, represent the interests of Knox County library patrons, and support a variety of services offered by the local library system that would otherwise not be available due to budget or staff restrictions.

Friends of the Knox County Library has this e-mail address either from our membership roster or from email sign-up sheets. If you are receiving this message in error, please accept our apologies and unsubscribe below. Thank you.

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 Friends of the Knox County Public Library
 500 W. Church Avenue
 Knoxville, TN 37902

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