

'Tis the Season To Be a Friend

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Books Sandwiched In: Come to the Table



LEFT: Jackie Clay (left) and Ronni Chandler led the discussion of *Rac(e)ing to Class: Confronting Poverty and Race in Schools and Classrooms* on October 26. RIGHT: Dr. Stuart Brotman and an attendee continued the conversation about *Free Speech: Ten Principles for a Connected World* on November 16.

Books Sandwiched In is more than a **monthly discussion of books** sponsored by the Knox County Public Library and its Friends. It is also a **citizens' forum**. Sessions have addressed such issues of concern to Knox County residents as urban planning, education, discrimination, and free speech. The future lineup will continue that tradition.

After a brief hiatus during December, KCPL will partner with the University of Tennessee's College of Arts and Sciences for a miniseries featuring books that look at diversity through a variety of lenses, according to Emily Ellis and Nicole Barajas, reference librarians who coordinate the program.

The coordinators see Books Sandwiched In as embodying librarianship to its fullest. On one hand, the reviews foster traditional literacy in the community. On the other hand, discussions invite participants to think critically about books and apply those ideas to real problems in the community, thus promoting cultural, political, information, and media literacy.

Culture in Crisis, a personal study of Appalachia that continues to attract national attention. For example, CNN and NPR have sought Vance's insights into the way the region voted in the 2016 presidential election.

The discussion for **February 22**, yet to be announced, will focus on black identity in America.

On **March 22**, Dr. Rebecca Klenk from UT's Department of Anthropology will review *Bad Feminist: Essays* by Roxane Gay. The witty author, who romps through contemporary American culture, confesses to love what many feminists reject.

A March bonus will occur on the evening of **March 28**, when Dr. Michelle Commander of UT's Department of English and the Africana Studies Program will guide a discussion of Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, a novel that combines slave narrative with time travel.

On **April 26**, KCPL will partner with Centro Hispano to welcome Patricia Robledo, the City of Knoxville's business liaison. She will lead a panel discussion about immigration inspired by a reading of *The Book of Unknown Americans*, a novel by Cristina Henríquez.

Some past sessions focused on the private lives of individuals, and people unable to attend may listen to them as podcasts online. Dr. Annette Mendola's review of Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal* drew a record-breaking crowd of over 100. A podcast of this event, like that of many others such as the Knox County Mayor's review of *I Heard You Paint Houses* by Charles Brandt, can be accessed through the library's [website](#). Melissa Brenneman, reference librarian, records each session.

Whether members of the audience munch on the lunch that they bring to Books Sandwiched In or not, many will find the civil and intelligent discussion about books a nourishing one. The Knox County Public Library and its Friends invite all to the table.

Celebrating With Jack and Jill



Marking 50 years of helping local boys and girls succeed, the **Knoxville Chapter** of **Jack and Jill of America** celebrated with festivities at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 22, 2016. At the **Children's Literacy Gala**, literacy indeed carried the evening as attendees read aloud from notable children's books. Friends of the Knox County Public Library was represented at the event by member

Obama and illustrated by Loren Long.

Founded by Philadelphian Marion Stubbs Thomas in 1938, Jack and Jill's charter group of 20 mothers has grown into 230 chapters nationally, serving 40,000 families with children ages two to 19. The Southeast Region, consisting of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, currently has 43 chapters. All promote leadership development, cultural awareness, and community service. Presently, the regional focus is **"Embracing Our Past, Enriching Our Present and Empowering Our Future."**

The Knoxville Chapter plans monthly age-group activities for the Royal Teens, Primary/Intermediate, and Whats 'N Whys. All programs and activities incorporate civic, cultural, social, and educational goals. Dr. LaToya Myles is President of Knoxville's Jack and Jill chapter; she is also a longtime member of Friends.

Next month, we will share some exciting news from Jack and Jill Knoxville.

Why I Am a Friend of the Library



People and libraries are the signposts of my life.

When I was too young to stay by myself while my mother worked as a nurse, she paid our neighbor Mrs. Young to look after me. During the summer Mrs. Young took me to the public library every week. That trip (along with the box of Dubble Bubble gum that she distributed liberally) was the best part of my summer.

I still have the mahogany bookcase that my dad gave me when I was eight for my growing collection of books. I invented my own cataloging system (a mystery to me today).

As a newcomer to high school, I found a group of friends by volunteering to help out in the library. We were geeks then, and we're geeks now.

My mentoring high school teacher found me a summer job in the city

That summer job led to employment in the college library, where I marked the spines of new books with their call numbers.

When I began teaching, the legendary high school librarian educated me along with my students by acquainting us with her library's impressive collection.

When my firstborn was three years old, we began visiting the South Knoxville branch library, where Jonathan pored over every book about dinosaurs in the children's collection. Decades later, when Jonathan's firstborn was five years old, I took Mary Ellen to the Fairfax, VA, public library to get her first library card.

The summer before I began a job teaching English in middle school, the school librarian filled in a gap in my education by bringing me sacks full of young adult books to read. She delivered them to my front door.

Years later, the beloved Julie Webb asked me to help promote an author event sponsored by the local Friends. That task was another signpost.

My life has taught me that caring about reading, books, and libraries is rewarding. That's why I support our mission.

—Martha Gill

Join Friends Today

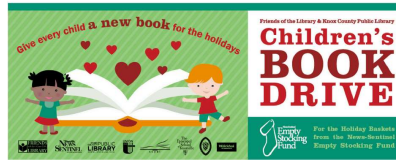


Book Lover's calendars. Knoxville Remembered calendars. Books, books, and more books. And if you can't make up your mind, gift certificates. The [Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop](#) at Lawson McGhee Library is ready to help you with your holiday shopping.

Shop at Rothrock, the little book shop with the big bargains. You'll be supporting both Friends and the Knox County Public Library!

Fund
SATURDAY and
Webb School of
Knoxville

December 10, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
517 Union Ave. in Downtown Knoxville

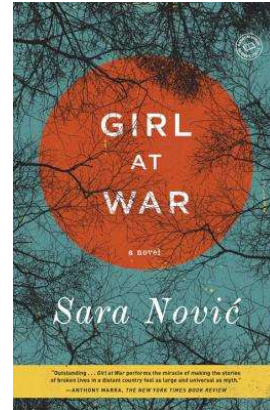


Knoxville are partnering for the final event of this year's Empty Stocking Fund Children's Book Drive on **Saturday, December 10**, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Stop by Union Ave Books to donate new or like-new books, get your store purchases gift wrapped, and enjoy treats from the holiday bake sale.

Join Casey Fox for the final **All Over the Page** conversation of 2016 on Monday, **December 12**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lawson McGhee Library meeting room for a discussion of ***Girl at War*** by Sara Nović.

As the Development Manager for the Knox County Public Library, Fox works to raise private funds to underwrite programs that fall outside the core services of the library. She also helps produce outstanding library events like the Children's Festival of Reading, Movies on Market Square, and the Knoxville Stomp.



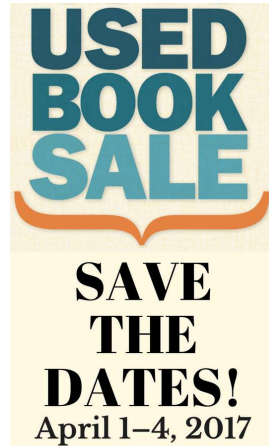
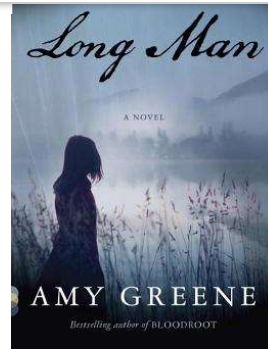
Friday, **December 23**, is the **News Sentinel Empty Stocking Fund's** annual holiday basket distribution day at the Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park.

Friends volunteers will be on hand to help recipients **choose books for their families** — books that, you, our friends and partners, provided through your **generous donations**.

Because of **your support**, we will bring smiles to the faces of children all over Knox County with the **gift of reading**.

The 2017 **Wilma Dykeman Stokely Memorial Lecture** will be presented by **Amy Greene**, author of *Bloodroot* and *Long Man*, on March 23 at the East Tennessee History Center. *Long Man* was selected by *The Washington Post* as one of top novels in 2014.

Greene was born and raised in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. She currently resides in Kentucky.



WHAT: The **Annual Used Book Sale**, with thousands of beautiful used books and much more for sale at **amazingly low prices**

WHEN: Saturday, **April 1**, through Tuesday, **April 4, 2017**

WHERE: The Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park (easy access with ample free parking!)

WHY: To support our wonderful Knox County Public Library

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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.

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