

***Bringing Books, Authors, and Readers Together***

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**Excitement, Horror, and Mystery With Kerri Maniscalco**



Kerri Maniscalco's photo by Kelli Maniscalco @ Dogwood Lane.

Scary stuff comes early to Knoxville this year when Young Adult author **Kerri Maniscalco** visits Knoxville's West High School on September 19 at 7 p.m. Friends, the **Knox County Public Library's Teen Central**, the **Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature** at the University of Tennessee, and **Union Ave Books** are joining together that evening to celebrate the release of Maniscalco's *Hunting Prince Dracula*.

In this widely anticipated sequel to *Stalking Jack the Ripper*, bizarre murders are discovered in the castle of Prince Vlad the Impaler, otherwise known as Dracula. Could it be a copycat killer, or has the depraved prince been brought back to life?

Maniscalco, a James Patterson Presents author, grew up in a semi-haunted house outside New York City, where her fascination with Gothic settings began. *Stalking Jack the Ripper*, debuted at no. 1 on the *New York Times* YA best-seller list. Both novels incorporate the author's love of forensic science and unsolved history.

This author event is **free** and **open to the public**. Copies of Maniscalco's books will be available for sale, and the writer will sign books after she speaks.

To celebrate the release of *Hunting Prince Dracula* and to encourage young writers in the community, Friends invites all currently enrolled Knox County students (public, private, and homeschooled) in grades 9–12 to enter the **Kerri Maniscalco Writing Contest**.

Contestants can submit original prose suitable for young adults in any of these categories: Gothic, horror, murder, mystery, forensics, or historical fiction. For information on contest rules, judging, and prizes, click [here](#).

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Lorelei Hix, reader and writer.

Author Kerri Maniscalco's Gothic mysteries have quite a following of young adult readers. As the Friends began to plan for the young writer's appearance in Knoxville on September 19, Marissa Mills, chair of the Author Events Committee, decided to consult someone from Maniscalco's audience. She couldn't have found a better representative than eighth grader Lorelei Hix.

"History is really my calling," Lorelei says. That's one reason she thinks Maniscalco's books are very good. The historical settings of the writer's books appeal to Lorelei's taste. She loves learning about other times and cultures. Lorelei also appreciates Maniscalco's strong female protagonist, Audrey Rose, and the author's exploration of early forensics. The prospect of meeting the author is exciting, especially because Lorelei has heard that Maniscalco is setting her next book in America.

Lorelei has not been a devoted reader all her life, however. Until third grade she didn't like to read at all though she lived in a house where one room was dubbed "The Library" with parents devoted to reading the books there. But then Lorelei's cousin recommended a book by **Rick Riordan**, author of 20 best-selling books for young readers, including the Kane Chronicles and the Percy Jackson series. Ever since, Lorelei has been hooked on books. She has also become a writer. She is working on a high fantasy novel about Jesla, who is transported to a different world when her family falls on hard times.

J. K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, knows that Lorelei's experience of coming late to a love of reading is not uncommon. She has said, "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." Riordan's books were the right books for Lorelei.

*Stalking Jack the Ripper* and *Hunting Prince Dracula* may be "the

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## A Journey Through the Gilded Age With Denise Kiernan



Denise Kiernan's photo by Treadshots.com.

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Friends, the [Knox County Public Library](#), [Union Ave Books](#), and the [East Tennessee Historical Society](#) will host an evening with best-selling author [Denise Kiernan](#) on Thursday, October 5, at the East Tennessee History Center. A reception will be held at 6 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. by Kiernan speaking about her latest book, *The Last Castle: The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation's Largest Home*.

**Tickets** for this event are **\$10 each** and will be available on September 13 on the [Friends website](#), at Union Ave Books, or at the [Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop](#) just inside Lawson McGhee Library. Ticket holders may purchase copies of *The Last Castle* at a **discount of 10%** at the event.

In *The Last Castle*, Kiernan takes readers on a well-researched journey through the Gilded Age. Spanning wars, financial crises, and great tragedy, the author tells the true story of Biltmore House and its occupants, George, Edith, and Cornelia Vanderbilt.

Kiernan is an author, journalist, and producer. Her last book, *The Girls of Atomic City*, was a *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and NPR best-seller.

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## Roses for Mary Utopia Rothrock on Her Birthday



Top: Yellow roses of appreciation for Mary Utopia Rothrock at Old Gray Cemetery. Bottom left: Topie's Votes for Women pin. Bottom right: The East Tennessee Historical Society's Pillars of Support.

Mary Utopia Rothrock (1890–1976) is not a household name, but it's time to renew the fame of this visionary whose legacy Knoxville and Knox County enjoy. In honor of her birthday, September 19, here are roses of appreciation for Miss Rothrock.

- In [\*Fresh Eyes\*](#), a collection of Rothrock's essays when she was a Vanderbilt freshman, her great-niece Laura Keane describes her as "a library science rock star. In 1938, she won the [national] Lippincott Award, which is the highest citation for a librarian. And she got her first managerial job in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the age of 26. In 1916, this was no small feat."
- Rothrock's beginning salary as head of the Library in Knoxville was only \$1,380 a year, but the local branch library system and the statewide regional library system that she envisioned are priceless.
- [Laura Keane](#) writes, "The pin pictured was given to me by my mother, who got it from Aunt Topie. I know Aunt Topie agitated strongly for women's rights."
- Recognizing the richness of this region's culture, she helped to found the East Tennessee Historical Society and is among its Pillars of Support. She was named the first historian of Knox County in 1967 when the post was created by the state legislature.

Mary Utopia Rothrock was the Knox County Friends kind of woman. Thank you, Topie.

**Teen Titans Put Their Power Behind  
Library Card Sign-up Month**



What's the only thing more powerful than a Teen Titan? A library card! ¿Que es lo unico más poderoso que un Titan Adolescente? ¡Una tarjeta de la biblioteca!

The message is clear in any language — a library card is a powerful tool. As a library lover, you already know that the value of a Knox County Public Library card goes beyond books. It also provides access to a variety of online resources such as magazines, newspapers, databases, and music. Recent additions for cardholders include [Kanopy](#) and [Lynda.com](#).

Join the Teen Titans during Library Card Sign-up Month. Encourage your friends and family to transform their lives by becoming KCPL cardholders. You can download a [library card application](#) or [share this link](#) on the KCPL website.

## What If? The NEA Big Read



If society's systems were to fail during a pandemic, would people revert to savagery, or would their better natures prevail?

That is the question raised by the novel *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, the focus of the Knox County Public Library's [National Endowment for the Arts Big Read](#) program. Unlike many books in the post-apocalyptic genre, *Station Eleven* describes a world of hope, of people coping with nostalgia and loss, and of the power of art and relationships to sustain us.

KCPL, the Big Read will feature dozens of events, including book discussions, board games, and a movie screening. The full schedule of events will soon be available online.

The Big Read will kick off at noon on October 4 on the stage on Market Square. UT Chancellor Beverly Davenport, Knox County Chief of Staff Dean Rice, and KCPL Director Myretta Black will speak, and UT's small ensemble and the Tennessee Stage Company will perform. One hundred free copies of *Station Eleven* will be distributed.

The community read will conclude with author Mandel's appearance on November 13 in Cox Auditorium on the UT campus.

Knox County is one of 75 communities nationwide participating in the NEA Big Read from September 2017–June 2018. KCPL has participated on five other occasions, most recently in partnership with UT's Clarence Brown Theatre for an exploration of Ernest Gaines' classic novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*. This year's collaboration with UT's office of First-Year Studies provides an opportunity to bring both the university and the town together through a common text.

Maggie Carini, president of the Friends, says, "We are pleased to work with the Library, UT, and a variety of other organizations to help our community turn its focus to one book. When we read one book together, we have a common experience that helps us unite and consider different perspectives. *Station Eleven* is a particularly powerful novel that can speak to people of all ages, from teens to seniors. It is a highly engaging and hopeful story."

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## Summer Library Club: 'This was REALLY Fun!'



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If you asked 8-year-old Whitley Sams what she thought of the Knox County Public Library's [Summer Library Club](#), you'd get one word: "Awesome!"

Kids could register in the **Readers' Program** (ages 4 to 11) or the **Listeners' Program** (Infant to age 5) and color in spaces on their [Passport](#) totaling 20 hours of reading or listening. But to hasten progress toward those 20 hours, readers and listeners could visit Ports of Call in Knoxville — like **Mabry-Hazen House**, the **Knoxville Museum of Art**, or **Ijams Nature Center** — to log in an extra hour per visit.

Impressed by the influx of young readers touring historic homes, Executive Director of **Blount Mansion** David Hearn said, "We definitely saw an increase in local families visiting this summer and participating in our scavenger hunt, all thanks to the Summer Library Program." Kids could also attend any of 100 SUPER programs (like ones with chemist **Dr. Al Hazari**, magician **Michael Messing**, or the **Dollywood Penguin Players**) and color in another hour on their Passport suitcase.

So what was in it for kids besides the reward of reading? Each completer received a certificate of achievement and a [Reward Book](#) filled with coupons from area businesses. In addition, listeners took home rubber duckies and readers took home Cityscape Craft Kits containing paper models of four historic Knoxville homes. Not to be left out, teens and adults read all summer, too. With the slogan "Build a Better World," the [Teen Summer Reading Program](#) rewarded those who logged in 20 required reading hours in the Passport Program or visited places like **Ramsey House**, **Westwood**, and the **Women's Basketball Hall of Fame** to earn extra time on task. Their reward? Coupons for "eats and treats" from area merchants like **The Tomato Head**, **Papa John's**, and **Rita's**. Through the [2017 Adult Library Challenge](#), adult readers could log in four books, earning them some cool Knox County Public Library swag!

If numbers indicate success, then all four Summer Library Club programs have bragging rights for completers: Listeners — 2989; Readers — 2328; Teens — 582; and Adults — 438. But the best assessment may be the one from 4-year-old Luke Selecman, a listener who grabbed his rubber ducky and said, "This was REALLY fun!"

Summer Library Club programs are at the top of the list of KCPL's well-known and widely subscribed programs. Friends is proud to support this annual venture that helps to encourage reading among all age groups.

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## Literary Adventure



*Guest contributor Meryl N. Keegan shares her experiences at the inaugural Laughing Heart Literary Festival.*

Last month, my friend Wendy and I hitched up a camper and headed to Hot Springs, N.C., for the inaugural **Laughing Heart Literary Festival**. The appeal to attend was not only the list of authors in attendance and the beautiful setting of Hot Springs, but also the mission of the nonprofit [Laughing Heart Literary Project](#) to “cultivate literary communities, develop literacy programs, and provide forums through events and workshops for educational opportunities in Appalachia.” As Friends of the Knox County Public Library, we share this sense of promoting literacy in our region.

The festival was a four-day event during which the authors held open conversations. Between the conversations, the authors gave writing workshops to the attending budding writers and helped them with their manuscripts. (In my case, as a nonwriter, these breaks provided ample opportunities to read a newly discovered book, hike a bit of the Appalachian Trail, eat at the Spring Creek Tavern, and rest in the French Broad River!) Writers and nonwriters came together to discuss common themes, such as what defines an “Appalachian writer” and our mutual love for the place in which their novels transpire. Throughout the conversations, I realized the need and appreciation for such community and felt proud to have it with Friends.

Authors included Robert Morgan, Terry Roberts, D.G. Martin, Amy Greene, Susi Gott Seguret, Trent Thompson, Julia Franks, Wayne Caldwell, and Jill McCorkle. There was a musical performance by Keith Flynn and a talk on the importance of our independent bookstores by Malaprop’s Manager Melanie McNair. Two of these authors, [Amy Greene](#) (2017) and [Robert Morgan](#) (2016), are alumni of the Friends-sponsored Wilma Dykeman Stokely Memorial Lecture Series.

On the last day, there was a final reading by attendee writers. They were all wonderful and moving, and we found we had another

novel category. She has won numerous other awards, including being a finalist for the Ron Rash Fiction Award and being a runner-up for the Thomas Wolfe Fiction Prize. The novel was released on September 1. Adams read the first chapter and, like the other authors, left us all hanging.

I came home with a stack of books and a new appreciation for the authors who entertain and teach us about our region through their writing and who share the mission of Friends. The purveyors of the festival assured us that it would happen again next year. I would encourage anyone and everyone who is a lover of Appalachian literature and culture, a writer, a reader, or a teacher to attend and/or to support this organization, other literary initiatives, and the Friends of the Knox County Public Library.

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## What's Coming Up

- **Kerri Maniscalco Writing Contest for Grades 9–12** — through October 31 [MORE>>](#)
- **Library Card Sign-up Month** — September 1–30
- **Movies on Market Square** – Friday nights from September 8 through October 13 [MORE>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*** – Monday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Imagination Library Week** — September 17–23
- **Book Release Celebration with YA Author Kerri Maniscalco** — Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Books Sandwiched In: *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*** — Wednesday, September 27 [MORE>>](#)
- **Powell Branch Used Book Sale** — Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **NEA Big Read: Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven*** — October 4–November 13
- **An Evening with Author Denise Kiernan** — Thursday, October 5, 6 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Farragut Branch Used Book Sale** — Friday, October 6, and Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)

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Shop at Rothrock Used Book Shop

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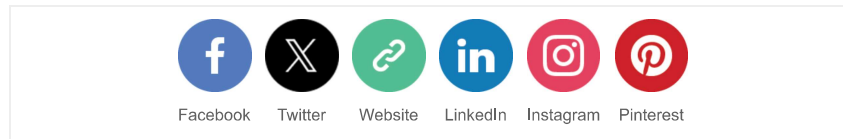
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## Connect With Friends Online



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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 (co-chair), Martha Edington, (co-chair), Deanne Charlton, Beth Fisher, Ryan McCray, Stacey McCray, Rusha Sams, Claire Serrell, 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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