

Libraries and Books Bring Us Together

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The Big Read: It's the Biggest Book Club in Town



Knox Countians joined one of the biggest book clubs in the region's history on October 4 when the Knox County Public Library, in partnership with UT's office of First Year Studies, launched The Big Read of *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. A grant from the

of KCPL makes [The Big Read](#) possible.

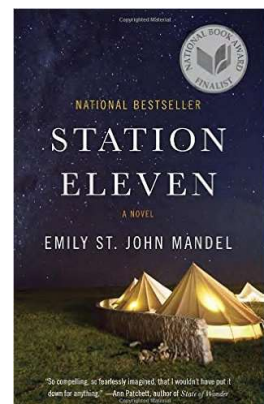
The international best-seller tells the post-apocalyptic story of a small band of actors and musicians 20 years after a flu pandemic has wiped out 99 percent of the earth's population. But reading *Station Eleven* together is just the beginning of what The Big Read can do for a community.

As readers follow the group's struggles to survive, they will surely begin to wonder how they would live in such a chaotic world. A full [calendar of events](#) organized by KCPL presses the community to confront that question through a variety of discussions and activities. Here are a few examples.

- **What does art have to do with survival?** The main characters in *Station Eleven* take music and acting from town to town because, they believe, "survival is insufficient." A panel representing the local arts community will discuss the relationship between the arts and survival on Wednesday, October 18, at noon in the Emporium.
- **What comfort does Shakespeare offer the post-modern world?** On October 23 at 6 p.m. at Lawson McGhee Library, Dr. Jennifer Horn of the Tennessee Stage Company will examine why *Station Eleven* characters turn to the Bard's drama.
- **Is our community prepared for disasters today?** A panel of emergency management professionals will address that question on Friday, October 27, at 4 p.m. in the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency on 605 Bernard Street. RSVP required.
- **Has Knoxville ever had to cope with deadly epidemics?** On Wednesday, November 8, at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, Jack Neely of the Knoxville History Project will survey such threats in Knoxville's past.
- **What would any of us do if civilization collapsed?** On Thursdays, October 12 through November 2, the Central Collective, 923 Central Avenue, will offer workshops on how to prepare for disasters. Tickets are available online at thecentralcollective.com.

Almost a dozen discussions of the book are scheduled for the public.

- Knox Area Transit, Knoxville Station at 301 W. Church Avenue will have books available while they last for KAT riders.
- The YMCA at 410 Clinch Avenue will host a discussion of the book in partnership with Union Ave Books.
- Hardin Valley Academy at 11345 Hardin Valley Road will open its doors to the public on Thursday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m.

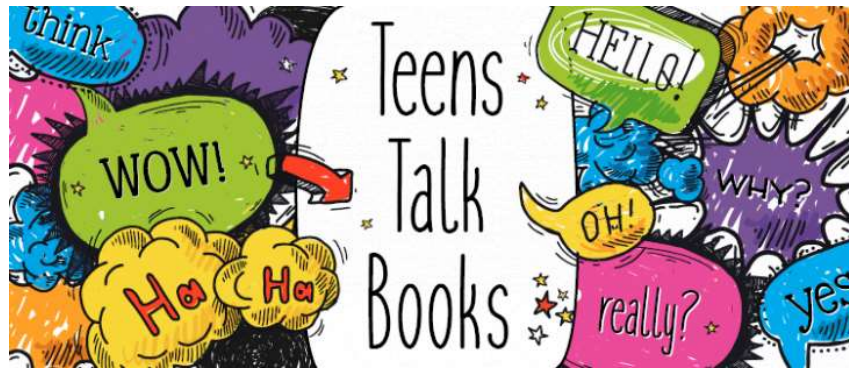


- Farragut, Halls, Sequoyah, Bearden, and Powell library branches will also host discussions.
- The community looking at *Station Eleven* extends to the Blount County Public Library and the King Family Library in Sevierville as well.

Most of these events are free and open to the public, but some have limited audiences, and a few require [reservations](#). Among them is discussion with dessert for members of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library only on October 17 at 7 p.m.

Knox County is one of 75 communities participating in the Big Read from September 2017 until June 2018. Knox County Public Library has participated in the NEA Big Read on five other occasions; most recently, KCPL partnered 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 the opportunity to bring both the university and the town together through a common text.

Teens Talk Books and More at the Library



It's an exciting time for teens at the Knox County Public Library. With activities like the Kerri Maniscalco author event in September; published lists of recommended reading on topics such as fantasy, reality, and adventure; and upcoming opportunities to talk about books, teens are in a library sweet spot.

Welcoming teen opinions and insights is what **Teens Talk Books** is all about. This in-person book club invites teens ages 13–17 to read and discuss current book selections at quarterly meetings. Moderators provide insight from their experience, seek input from teens, and guide discussions. At the inaugural meeting on Saturday, July 22, talk focused on the first selection: *Illuminae*, a sci-fi space thriller by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. Coming up: Teens can [register now](#) for the next meeting on October 28 at 2 p.m. at the Farragut Branch Library, where they'll share their favorite spooky or supernatural books with others.

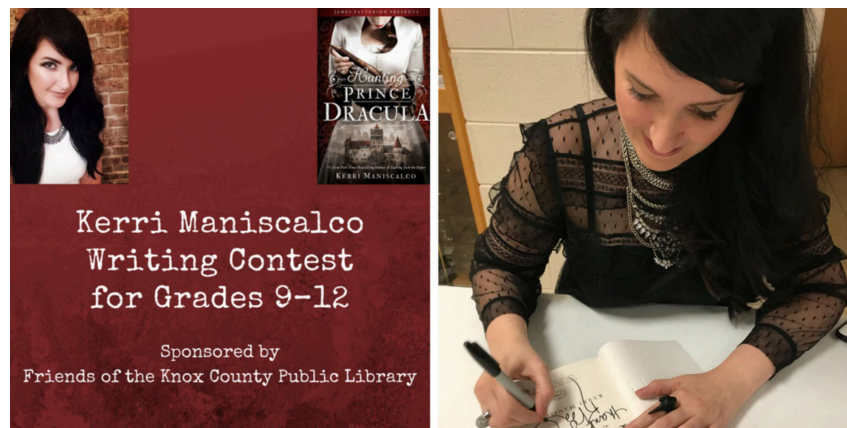
Teens who love to write can submit their short stories, poems, and

no more than 2,000 words long using the online [submission form](#). The next issue comes out October 20; the deadline for submission is October 13.

Sneak Peek Book Club is for teens who want the first glimpse of a new book. To register, teens fill out an [online form](#) that asks their age and genre preferences. The library then sends an advance reader copy (ARC) of an up-and-coming young adult novel to the branch nearest the teen reader, who then reads the book and writes a Sneak Peek review. Once a review is submitted, it's posted on the [library's website](#). Maybe the best news of all: Sneak Peek Book Club members get to keep the books!

Finally, help for homework and coursework is up and running on the KCPL website. Just click the links for any or all of these online resources: [Tutor.com](#) (homework help with live tutors that's free with your library card), [Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#) (information and opinions on today's hottest social issues), [Student Resources in Context](#) (topics, people, places, and events), and more. And if you just want help using the Knox County Public Library, check out this pdf — [Using the Library for a Research Paper](#) — that includes the basic steps of working on a research project for school.

Contest Encourages Knox County's Young Writers



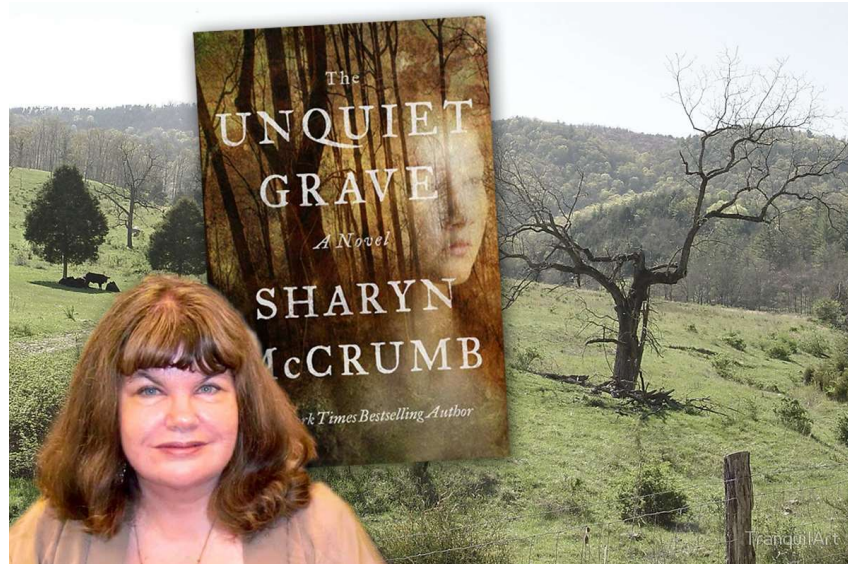
Author Henry Miller said that writing is its own reward, but three young writers will receive monetary rewards for their work as winners of the [Kerri Maniscalco Writing Contest for Grades 9–12](#). Friends is sponsoring the contest, which is being held in conjunction with the release of Maniscalco's new YA novel, *Hunting Prince Dracula*, to encourage our community's young writers. The contest is open to students in Knox County in grades 9–12.

Students may submit original prose that is suitable for young adults in any of the following categories: gothic, horror, murder, mystery, forensics, or historical fiction. The **submission deadline** is October

Two local writers will read the submissions and select several to give to Maniscalco, who will then choose the first-, second-, and third-place winners from the group.

The contest details and submission form can be found [here](#).

Sharyn McCrumb and the Greenbriar Ghost



Award-winning Appalachian author and *New York Times* best-seller [Sharyn McCrumb](#) will return to the the East Tennessee History Center on **Tuesday, October 10**, as part of a launch tour for her new book, *The Unquiet Grave*. Set in 19th-century West Virginia, the novel is based on the true story of one of the strangest murder trials in American history — the case of the Greenbrier Ghost!

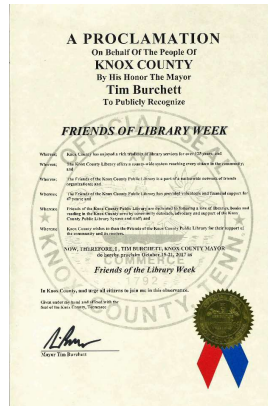
In the novel, McCrumb brings to life a series of fascinating characters that include a defense attorney, who was a pro-Union bridgebuilder and former slave owner, and the murdered girl's mother, who claims to have seen the victim's ghost — all told through the eyes of a young black lawyer on the cusp of a new century.

Sponsored by Friends and the East Tennessee Historical Society, the event begins with a light reception at 6:30 to be followed by a lecture and book signing at 7 p.m. The evening is free and open to the public.

McCrumb is best known for her Appalachian "Ballad" novels, set in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains, including *She Walks These Hills*, *The Rosewood Casket*, and *The Ballad of Frankie Silver*.

Saying Thanks to Friends of Libraries

support of their libraries and their communities.



In a proclamation designating **October 15–21, 2017**, as Friends of the Library Week in Knox County, **Mayor Tim Burchett** thanks “the Friends of the Knox County Public Library for their support of the community and its readers,” acknowledging that the organization has “provided volunteers and financial support for 47 years.” Mayor Burchett’s office oversees the Knox County Public Library, which has offered library services for over 125 years.

Governor Bill Haslam and **Secretary of State Tre Hargett** have also issued a proclamation encouraging all citizens to join them in the observance of Friends of Libraries Week. In part, the state proclamation recognizes that “Friends groups promote the joys and benefits of literacy, learning, and economic well-being for Tennesseans of all ages by investing time and effort in raising supplementary funds to enhance library resources and programming.” It further asserts that “the gifts of time and commitment by Friend of Libraries in Tennessee set a positive example of civic engagement that benefits both volunteers and their communities.”



Taking It to the (Open) Streets



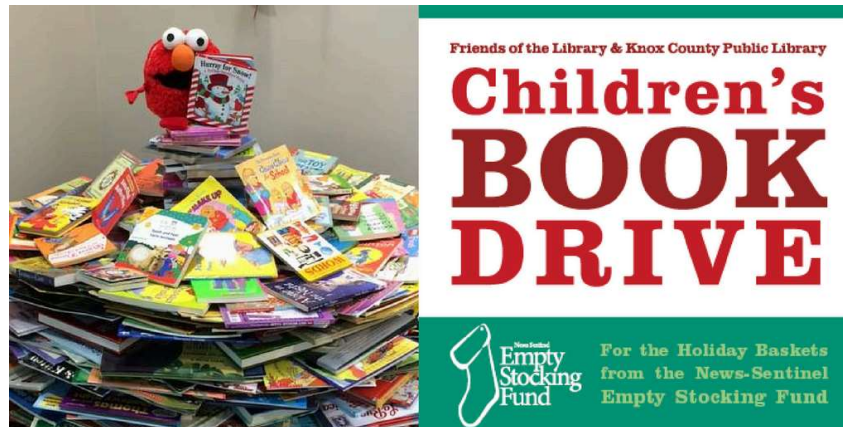
Friends will head for the streets on **October 29** from 2–6 p.m. to kick off the 2018 membership campaign at **Open Streets Knoxville**. The event, which will be held in **South Knoxville**, is designed to bring community groups and local businesses together and provide a safe place where people can gather and enjoy an afternoon of activities, fun, and connection with each other.

neighborhoods. Bike Walk Knoxville has hosted them since 2015 with support from the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the City of Knoxville.

Visitors to the Friends booth at Open Streets can participate in a relay race with books, draw favorite characters from books on the sidewalk with chalk, and register for drawings for a basket of books and a \$50 gift card from Union Ave Books.

Join the fun as we encourage our community to **step up** for the Knox County Public Library as a member of the Friends family in 2018.

Filling Empty Stockings, One Book at a Time



The **joy of giving and sharing** will take center stage when the **Empty Stocking Fund Children's Book Drive** gets underway later this month. This annual event brings members of the community together as donors of all ages bring new or like-new books to drop-off locations at [Knox County Public Library branches](#) and [Union Ave Books](#).

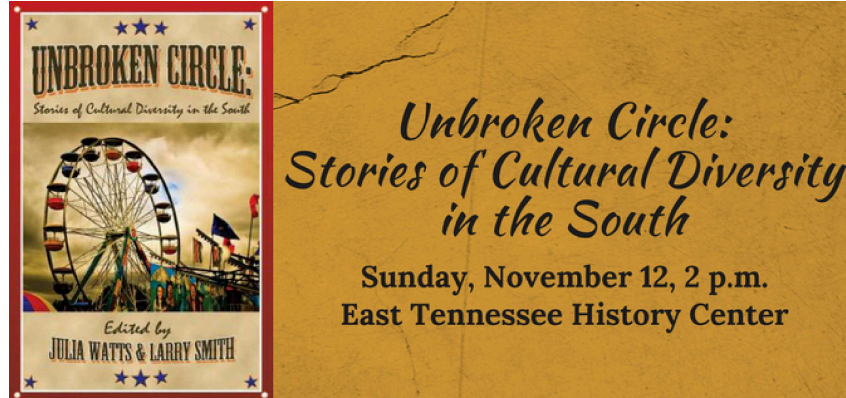
Area schools will also embrace the spirit of giving by holding book drives. And library staff and Friends volunteers will work together to ensure that donated books are ready for ESF Distribution Day on December 23.

Here's how you can be a part of this campaign to ensure that **every child** receives a new book this holiday season:

- **Collect gift-quality books.** For some children, their ESF gifts will be the only ones they receive.
- **Drop off your book donations** at any [Knox County Public Library branch](#) or at [Union Ave Books](#).

The 2017 holiday book drive will extend through **Thursday, November 30**. Please join us as we **share the gift of reading** and bring smiles to the faces of children all over Knox County.

Unbroken Circle: Conversations About Diversity



In a time when many conversations focus on drawing lines or building walls that separate, it becomes increasingly important to look for things that unite. The title of *[Unbroken Circle: Stories of Cultural Diversity in the South](#)*, an anthology of fiction and nonfiction stories by 26 authors, invites readers to embrace the circle, a shape that symbolizes openness, wholeness, and connectedness.

Friends, the Knox County Public Library, and the East Tennessee Historical Society will host **Julia Watts**, one of the editors of the anthology, and six of the anthology's contributing authors on **Sunday, November 12**, at 2 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center. The event is free and open to the public.

In her Introduction to *Unbroken Circle*, Watts, one of the 2017 inductees into the Friends of Literacy's East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame, speaks of the diversity of the South — its racial, religious, and gender diversity as well as the broad spectrum of age and economic status in the region. She notes that the pieces in the anthology are united by Southerners' love of stories and invites readers to pull up a chair and join the circle.

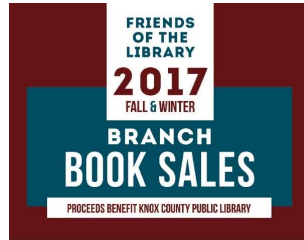
The six contributors who will be present at the event are:

- **James E. Cherry**, author of three volumes of poetry, a collection of short stories, and two novels;
- **Mahayla Smith**, past recipient of the Knoxville Writers Guild award for both short fiction and creative nonfiction;
- **Melanie Haws**, whose contribution to the anthology is her first published work;
- **Tom Ray**, a writer of fiction whose recent short story "Thumbing to Morristown" was published on [FICTION on the WEB](#), the oldest short story site on the web;
- **David Hunter**, whose first work was published when he was in his teens, was an editorial page columnist for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* for 27 years and is the author of 18 fiction and nonfiction books;

anthologies.

Copies of *Unbroken Circle* and of the individual authors' books will be available for purchase at the event. **Cash and checks only** will be accepted for payment.

Shop for a Cause — Your Library!



FRI. & SAT., SEPTEMBER 29 & 30
Powell Library | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FRI. & SAT., OCTOBER 6 & 7
Farragut Library | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FRI. & SAT., OCTOBER 20 & 21
Barkley Library | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FRI. & SAT., NOVEMBER 3 & 4
Gale-Bohl Library | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
THURS. & SAT., NOVEMBER 16 & 18
Kanes Library | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FRI. & SAT., DECEMBER 1 & 2
Harden Library | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



A new season of Friends **used book sales** at Knox County Public Library branches began last week at the Powell Branch, where the community's book lovers found bargains on books for all ages. Five additional sales are scheduled from October 6 through December 2.

If you're downtown, stop and shop at the **Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop** just inside Lawson McGhee Library. The

theme for October is Let's Go to the Movies, with specials on DVDs, CDs, books that became movies, and movies that became books. There's also a good selection of Halloween books for all ages.

Both Friends branch sales and Rothrock help fulfill the mission of Friends by bringing books to the community while raising funds for improvements at branches and for Friends for program support.

What's Coming Up

- **Movies on Market Square** — Friday nights through October 13 [MORE>>](#)
- **Kerri Maniscalco Writing Contest for Grades 9–12** — through October 31 [MORE>>](#)
- **NEA Big Read: *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel** — through November 13 [MORE>>](#)
- **An Evening with Author Denise Kiernan (SOLD OUT)** — 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>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *Imagine Me Gone*** — Monday, October 9, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **An Evening With Author Sharyn McCrumb** — Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Friends of Libraries Week** — October 15–21 [MORE>>](#)
- **Monumental Issues: Thinking About Monuments in Public Spaces** — Monday, October 16, noon [MORE>>](#)
- **Books Sandwiched In: *All These Worlds Are Yours: The Scientific Search for Alien Life*** — Wednesday,

Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)

- **Friends Membership Drive Kickoff at Open Streets Knoxville** — Sunday, October 29, 2–6 p.m. [MORE>>](#)

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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, Rasha 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.

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