

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting: A Night of Music, Food, and Community

By Crystal Ellwood

The annual Friends of the Library meeting was a celebration of community and culture held on Monday, July 22. This year's event was a testament to the richness of our organization and the support of our members.

Serenaded by the melodies of a keyboard and bass duo, Sam Adams and Nickolas Jernigan, the ambiance was further enhanced by a delicious dinner provided by Real Good Kitchen.

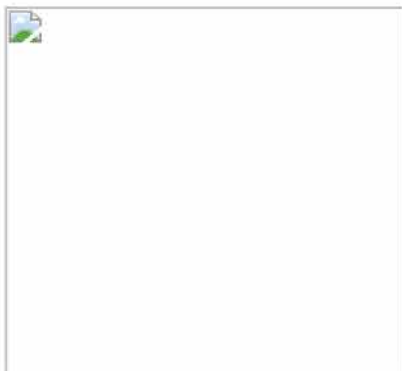
A highlight of the evening was the heartfelt thoughts from our outgoing president, Cindy Gibson, who reflected on the achievements of the past year and expressed gratitude to all who contribute to the library's success. Following this, we were treated to a presentation by TAMIS (Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound). They showcased clips from their digitized collection, offering glimpses of East Tennessee's history and even international treasures from Sicily and Germany.

The business meeting that followed elected four new board members who will lend their skills and help guide our organization in the coming years. Stepping into the role of our new president is Scott Muir, who delivered a short and sweet acceptance speech, outlining his vision for the future and his commitment to our library's mission.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making this year's Friends of the Library meeting a resounding success. Your support ensures that our library remains a vibrant hub of knowledge and community.

Q&A with incoming president Scott Muir

By Susan Alexander



A new year for Friends of the Library launched with the annual meeting in July. We talked with incoming president Scott Muir about his background and his plans for the year.

Q: Tell us about your background.

Muir: I was a librarian for nearly 42 years, working in corporate, consortium, and mostly academic libraries. In the last half of my career, I focused on leadership and management. I worked with Friends organizations in a number of cities. I was appointed by two successive Phoenix mayors to the Phoenix Public Library Advisory Board where I served for seven years, including two terms as Board President.

What do you like to read? Favorite books?

Muir: I now read some nonfiction and mystery books. I really enjoyed the Sue Grafton alphabet books. I used to be a big science fiction reader.

If you were having dinner with three authors, who would you invite?

Muir: I was a theater major in undergraduate school. I'd choose Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, and William Shakespeare.

How long have you been a member of Friends? When did you join the board?

Muir: I joined the Board and Friends about the same time, in 2021, after I retired to Knoxville. I grew up in Oak Ridge. I am a strong believer in community service and I love libraries. My parents were members before me. My mother, Mary Muir, is the Friends Liaison for the Norwood Branch. My late father, James R. Muir, was on the board years ago.

What do you see as top priorities for Friends in the coming year?

Muir: We need to take a deeper dive into our budgets and spending. We need to identify a chair for the Sales and Distribution Committee. We need to continue the work underway by the Organizational Assessment and Strategic Planning Committee.

Seeking help for annual book sale

By Cindy Gibson

Looking for volunteer opportunities? Consider the annual Friends Used Book Sale September 19-21.

The annual sale is important to the Sales and Distribution Committee as a major fundraiser in support of Friends of Knox County Public Library program and in support of funding for Knox County Public Library.

The sale for the third year will be held at Central United Methodist Church at 201 East Third Avenue.

Many,many volunteers are needed from September 16 through September 23. Here's what needs to be done:

- Monday, September 16: set up tables and wipe down. Begin putting sticks and clips on tables
- Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons: load and unload boxes of books. One team will be at Lawson McGhee Library (downtown) and the second at Central UMC. This shift will run from 1 p.m. until approximately 4:30.
- Wednesday: set up book sale, putting books on tables, setting up checkout areas, setting up break room- work in 2-3 hour shifts from 9 am to 4 -5 pm
- Thursday morning: complete setup and prepare for the Members Only Sale from 3 to 7 p.m. Annual sale volunteers get to do a pre-opening shopping from noon to 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday afternoon: Members only sale needs volunteers to help customers, straighten tables and be available where needed.
- Friday and Saturday work shifts to help customers, straighten tables and be available as needed. three shifts- 9:30a.m.-noon, noon- 2:30p.m.,

2:30- 5 p.m.

- Monday, September 23: clean up, box books for recycling or return to downtown, load U-Haul with sales materials to return to downtown. 9 a.m. until finish.

Many hands make light work! [Click here](#) to volunteer. If you have questions, contact our volunteer coordinator, Jean Idell, idellj@bellsouth.net or call or text-her at 865-789-9081.

Friends at Three Rivers round up for Friends

Friends of the Knox County Public Library applied for Three Rivers Market's Nourishing Change program and were selected as the June recipient of this fundraiser. Customers of Three Rivers Market generously "rounded up" their totals in June, with \$5,353.07 being raised. The Friends will direct these funds to next year's Children's Festival of Reading. A huge thank you to Three Rivers Market for offering this program to give back to the community and to the generous customers for their support!

Support Imagination Library at Sept. 18 luncheon

By Kaitlynn Copinger

It's almost time for the biggest fundraiser of the year for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County!

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) supports early childhood literacy by mailing a new, age-appropriate book to children every month from age 0 to 5, at no cost to the family. Here in Knox County, about 19,000 children participate, an impressive 73% of the eligible population.

To quote Dolly, "You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children."

You can help get more books into more children's hands — and have fun while doing it — by attending the [Annual Seeds of Imagination Luncheon](#). It will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at Cherokee Country Club in Knoxville.

Now in its sixth year, the luncheon provides about one-third of the Knox County program's funding. Last year, nearly 250 business and community leaders attended, raising \$90,000 to fund books for 6,000 Knox County children for a year.

In addition to mingling and taking in the beautiful views across the Tennessee River toward the mountains, attendees enjoy complimentary prosecco, a silent auction that last year featured nearly 50 items, and a delicious lunch prepared by the talented chefs at Cherokee Country Club.

Kelle Jolly, the "Tennessee Ukulele Lady," who was honored last year as a 2023 Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellow with the National Association of Black Storytellers and South Arts, will provide the entertainment. Denise Dean, the Executive Director of East Tennessee Freedom Schools, will be honored with the 2024 Seeds of Literacy award.

Tickets are \$125. Reserve your spot today for the [2024 Seeds of Imagination Luncheon](#) and help Knox County's youngest residents develop a lifelong love of reading!

The third annual History Hootenanny celebrates music

The music of East Tennessee will be the centerpiece of the third annual History Hootenanny on August 17. Guests can enjoy live music, music-themed children's activities, a Friends of the Library used local history book sale, Knoxville walking tours, shuttles to the Historic House Museums of Knoxville, and more. It's a free event organized in partnership by the East Tennessee Historical Society, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, and Tennessee Archive of Moving Image & Sound.

Among the music-focused programs are film screenings at the Tennessee Theatre, including:

- At 11 am: "An Unforgettable Ride: How Klondike Kate and Dolly Shaped Pigeon Forge Tourism" Encore screening of the popular video essay made by TAMIS archivist Janine Winfree from archival footage and photographs.
- 12:30 pm: "The Reed Sisters: An American Story" Nearly 50 years ago the Reed Sisters, a teenage Filipina-Hawaiian Country-Western Rock and Pop group, entertained audiences in East TN with their homegrown musical variety show. Documentary filmmaker Rachel Nanstad wanted to find out what happened to the Reed Sisters and discovered more than she expected.
- 4 pm: "Keepin' It Country with Carl and Pearl Butler" follows the country music duo from their beginnings in Happy Holler to the height of their fame in Nashville and beyond.
- At 5 pm, Wyatt Ellis and his All-Star Bluegrass Band will celebrate the legacy of the Knoxville Sound, blending old and new music in their performance, sponsored by Friends.

Hope to see you there!

In remembrance

Friends remembers longtime member John Z. C. Thomas, who passed away July 29. He was a Knoxville resident for more than 50 years. A reception will be held at Knox Heritage on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 3:30-6:30 pm. To celebrate his life, donations to Second Harvest Food Bank, [136 Harvest Lane, Maryville, TN 37801](#) or Positively Living, Choice Care Network, [1925 Ailor Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37921](#) will be appreciated. Online condolences may be left at www.berryfuneralhome.com.

Shop at Rothrock!

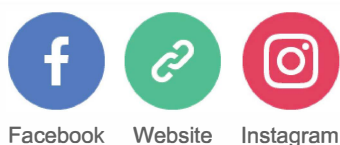
Rothrock is open Monday to Saturday from 10:30am - 4:30pm and Sundays from 1:00pm - 4:30pm. Start shopping today!

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Our mailing address is:

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

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