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# THE BEST OF FRIENDS

Knoxville, Tennessee

Summer 2015

## Annual Meeting: Just Desserts

As another fiscal year draws to a close, *Friends* will gather to reflect on and to celebrate its achievements. In fact, the annual meeting will provide members with "Just Desserts."

Kay Hays, Annual Meeting Task Force chair, has planned a sweet event for Monday, July 20, at the East Tennessee History Center at 6:30 p.m. Bradford Catering will prepare tempting desserts and beverages for the assembly, and one of Knoxville's most popular writers will speak about another opportunity for the fellowship that loves libraries and reading.



Sam Venable

Sam Venable, who has written for the *Knoxville News Sentinel* since 1979 and whose witty perspectives have won more than three dozen national and regional writing awards, will be the featured speaker. The author of 12 books, Sam is currently the honorary chair of the Papers to Pixels fundraising project undertaken by the Knox County Public Library Foundation. *Friends* has invested \$10,000 in this project to digitize *The News Sentinel* for the Knox County Public Library's collection.

*Friends* will also take care of some business at the meeting. Members will vote on a slate of officers and board members (page 3) presented by the Nominating Committee.

### *Friends* Annual Meeting

**When: Monday, July 20**

**Where: East Tennessee History Center**

**Who: You and your companion**

**What's happening: Some business, some fellowship, Sam Venable, and something sweet**

**Desserts and beverages provided by:**



**Letter from the President, page 2**  
**Summer Library Club, page 2**  
**Nominating Committee Report, page 3**  
**Thank You, Volunteers, page 4**

**DATES TO REMEMBER****JULY**

- 13 All Over the Page** book discussion group: *After Visiting Friends* by Michael Hailey, facilitated by Chrissy Keuper
- 20 Friends Annual Meeting**

**AUGUST**

- 1 Burlington branch** book sale
- 7-8 Bearden Branch** book sale
- 13 All Over the Page** book discussion group: *The Wicked Girls* by Alex Marwood, facilitated by Becky Napier-Brown
- 15 East Tennessee History Fair** and book sale, Krutch Park
- 15 Smoky Mountain Film Festival**, Tennessee Theatre
- 17 Friends Board** meets
- 19 Books Sandwiched In:** Deputy Chief of Police Nate Allen leads a discussion of *400 Things Cops Know: Street-Smart Lessons From a Veteran Patrolman* by Adam Plantinga
- 28-29 Farragut branch** book sale

**SEPTEMBER**

- 5 Burlington branch** book sale
- 13 All Over the Page** book discussion group: *Under the Same Blue Sky* by Pamela Schoenewalt, facilitated by the author
- 21 Friends Board** meets.

**OCTOBER**

- 9-10 Cedar Bluff branch** book sale
- 12 All Over the Page** book discussion group: *Longbourn* by Jo Baker, facilitated by Judy Loest

**Letter from the President**

by **Bill Crosland**

What an exciting year for *Friends*! We have enjoyed widespread community support, evidenced by large enthusiastic audiences for our many events. Many partnering organizations have been eager to help us extend our resources, and we have experienced an incredible number of hours on the job by our volunteers. Abby Wintker Burris, our executive director, has worked tirelessly to help with all this activity.

The positive attitudes, efficient organization and coordinated effective activities run by each of our committees this year have been a joy to see, and you are all most appreciated. This year's board and officers have brought creativity as well as hours of dedication to governing our organization well in a year of radical change. Three of these directors complete their terms and are rotating off the board this year.

Pat Armstrong has been a volunteer at Rothrock Used Book Shop and at the annual used book sale for many years. He has been responsible for affixing permanent signage to *Friends'* mini-grant purchases in branches all over the county, as well as serving on the Membership Committee. Pat's experience and probing questions have consistently added to the value of our board meetings. He and his wife Jane have travel plans in their future.

Mary Ann Merrell has worked tirelessly to broaden *Friends'* concept of the book sales as a fundraising responsibility of the whole board rather than as an activity of the Used Book Committee alone. Though Mary Ann always credits the team for the committee's successes, her efficiency, patience and endurance constitute the dynamism. Mary Ann will continue to bring innovations and strategies as co-chair of the committee.

Victoria Creed has shared her extensive professional consulting experience in non-profit organizations with *Friends*. She has guided us toward a new understanding of governance of the board and the relationship of the board and committees. As chair of the Nominating Committee in 2014, she oversaw a complete revamping and upgrade of our recruiting process for board and officer positions. Victoria will remain as chair of the Board Development Committee.

My sincere thanks to all of our *Friends* members and volunteers. It has been an honor to be associated with, to learn from, and to serve each of you as president this year. Continue the fine work of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library and keep those standards high.

**Bam! Pow! Kaboom!****Summer Library Club Invites You to Be a Superhero**

The Knox County Public Library's Summer Library Club is chock-full of ways to inspire children to keep reading all summer. Reading incentives and rewards, great library shows by magician Michael Messing, Dr. Al Hazari, and the Knoxville Zoo's Zoomobile—everything is designed to show young readers that books and libraries are fun.

Helping children maintain their reading skills through the summer is important. That's why the largest mini-grant that *Friends* awards every year goes to the Summer Library Club. Check out the gorgeous Summer 2015 Children's Events calendar that accompanies this issue to see examples of your dollars at work!

Because this awesome summer program gets bigger and better every year, we're inviting you to join our Chip In campaign to ensure that every participant is rewarded for summer reading achievements.

If you'd like to be a superhero to Knox County's young readers, please use the enclosed Chip In envelope to make a contribution. If you'd rather donate online, just follow the link on our home page at [knoxfriends.org](http://knoxfriends.org) to our easy online Chip In form.

Children, parents, and teachers all over Knox County will thank you for being a Friend!



## New Candidates for *Friends* Board of Directors

Since the beginning of 2015, the *Friends* Nominating Committee (Bill Crosland [chair], Maggie Carini, Claire Serrell, Julie Webb and Elnora Williams) has conducted candidate recruitment for board positions. *Friends* members participated in the process by recommending potential candidates. Now, in advance of our annual meeting on July 20, the committee nominates the following to serve as directors for a three-year term (2015-2018):

**LeAnn Luna** – LeAnn holds a dual appointment with UT's Haslam College of Business as an associate professor in the Department of Accounting and Information Management and as a researcher with the Center for Business and Economic Development. Her position requires interaction with state and local government officials and the analysis of budgets, financial statements, and financial operations. LeAnn has served in a variety of volunteer roles for organizations such as the Dogwood Arts Festival. Most recently, she has been a trustee and board vice president for the American Taxation Association.

**Dale Pearson** – Dale is a recent graduate of the Duncan School of Law at Lincoln Memorial University where he added transnational law and contracts specialties to his MBA in finance. His lengthy business resume details comprehensive corporate experience; he has focused on finance and operations in several successful companies. Currently he is the planning, materials, and distribution manager of Keurig Green Mountain, Inc., one of the country's largest coffee roasters. Dale has been a scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America and an Upward Bound coach.

**Jane Row** – Jane, who recently retired as head of research services at UT Libraries, has a wealth of experience in library systems and planning that includes former positions with the 1982 World's Fair, Whittle Communications, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission. She has chaired library committees, served on university committees, and has helped organize special events. An avid tennis player, Jane has served as a board member and first female president of the Knoxville Racquet Club. Through Big Brothers/Big Sisters, she is currently mentoring a child at Pond Gap School.

**Rusha Sams** – A former English teacher and high school principal, Rusha has been interested in social media since retiring from the Knox County Public School system. Her travel blog, *Oh, the Places We See*, exploits Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram. Rusha is currently a trainer for Discovery Education and UT where she prepares teachers to be principals in rural counties. She has also served in prominent positions with First United Methodist Church, Blount Mansion and Leadership Knoxville, and she has participated in numerous Habitat for Humanity builds in the U.S., Nepal, and Lesotho.

3

## 2015-2016 Slate of Officers

Another duty of the committee is to nominate a slate of officers of *Friends* from among the elected members of the Board of Directors. The committee nominates the following:



Claire Serrell

**President: Claire Serrell** – Claire, who graduated with an English degree from Welles College in Aurora, NY, moved to Knoxville in 1977. Over the years, she has been actively involved in multiple *Friends* programs and leadership decisions as secretary of the board, a member of the Board Development Committee, and as president-elect. Claire is also involved in a number of local and state tennis associations.

**President-Elect: Kay Hays** – Kay's support of libraries began in the second grade; she was a page at the Burlington Branch throughout high school. After retiring from a long career with Bush Brothers & Company where she was executive assistant to the chairman, Kay began her *Friends* volunteer work at our used book sales. She currently chairs our annual meeting committee. Her hobbies include reading, collecting cookbooks, and travel and she is actively involved in her church.

**Secretary: Martha Gill** – A teacher with more than 30 years' experience, Martha has served as a president of *Friends* (2013-2014) and as a president of Friends of Tennessee Libraries (2008-2011), a statewide networking organization of public library volunteers.

**Past President: Bill Crosland** - Bill, who led *Friends* through the growth experienced in 2014-15, will continue to serve and advise as an invaluable member of the Executive Committee. Bill brought many skills and experiences gained as a Knox County teacher and principal to the management of *Friends*.

**Treasurer: Marye Rose** - Marye will continue to serve on the Executive Committee in the position she has held for several years. Her leadership is amplified because Marye somehow manages to attend and support almost 100% of *Friends* programs and events.



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(If we omitted your name, please accept our sincere apology!)