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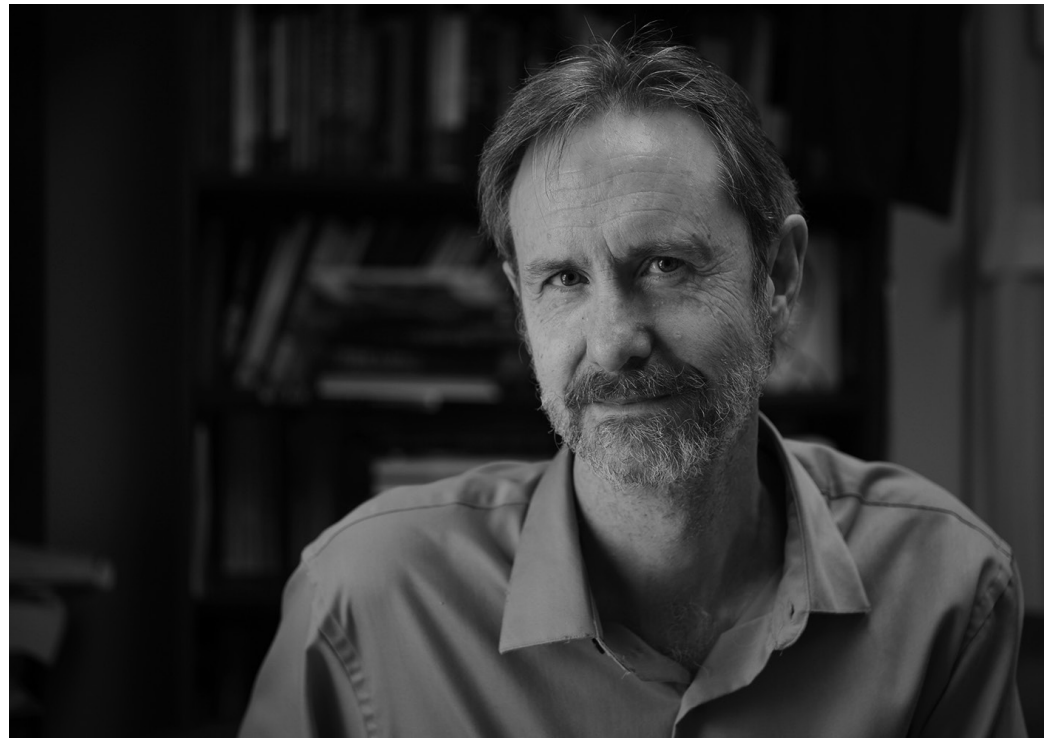


THE BEST OF *FRIENDS*

Knoxville, Tennessee

Winter 2014

Author Ron Rash Featured as March 4 Wilma Dykeman Guest Lecturer



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2014 USED BOOK SALE

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- 19 Books Sandwiched In**
Bob Galloway leads a discussion of *"You Can Tell Just By Looking": and 20 Other Myths About LGBT Life and People* by Michael Bronski, Ann Pellegrini, and Michael Amico. Noon, East Tennessee History Center
- 22 Great Cake Bake,**
Noon-5 p.m., Tennessee Terrace at UT Neyland Stadium
- 24 Story Time for Grown-Ups,** 6:30 p.m., Fountain City Branch Library
- 24 Muslim Journeys: Points of View** - book discussion, 6 p.m., Cedar Bluff Branch Library

MARCH

- 1** Burlington Branch used book sale, 1-5 p.m.
- 4: Ron Rash** (Author Event), 7:30 p.m., East Tennessee History Center
- 8-16 Annual Used Book Sale,** Knoxville Convention at the Holiday Inn, World's Fair Park
- 10 All Over The Page** book discussion: *Swimming in the Moon* by Pamela Schoenewaldt, 6:30 p.m. Lawson McGhee Library
- 10 Muslim Journeys: Points of View** - book discussion, 6:00 p.m., Cedar Bluff Branch Library
- 19 Books Sandwiched In** book discussion: *Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us* by Michael Moss. Noon, East Tennessee History Center

An Update on 2013-14 Objectives

By Martha Gill, President



When author Kate DiCamillo was named national ambassador for young people's literature, she said that by promoting reading she wanted "to get as many people into the room as I can." I love that metaphor. I want to get as many people into the Friends of the Knox County Public Library "room" as I can. Let me tell you about some folks who are already there.

Volunteer Friends Fill Emptiness

In December, partnering with the *News Sentinel's* Empty Stocking Fund, Friends delivered more than 7,000 books in new or nearly new condition to children and teens. In addition, volunteers distributed more than 1,000 books to adults.

Annual Used Book Sale

From March 8-16, hundreds of volunteers will offer the community thousands of books at bargain-basement prices during the 2014 Used Book Sale. More than a fundraiser, the sale gives Friends yet another opportunity to bring books and readers together and to introduce our organization to the community.

Ron Rash Headlines Book and Author Event

On March 4, another occasion will not only promote books and reading but also honor the memory of a tall woman. Ron Rash—novelist, short story writer, and poet—comes to town to deliver the Wilma Dykeman Memorial Lecture, established by Friends in 2007. The Friends of the Knox County Library and the Library Society of UT Knoxville: Supporting Libraries and Learning are partnering to sponsor Rash's appearance.

New Website Opportunity for Advocacy

The Knox County Public Library has launched its new website, bringing the public up-to-date information about its many services and products. More than a year in preparation, the new site is attractive, interactive, and comprehensive. I predict you will like it and use it often.

By the way, you may wonder why County Mayor Tim Burchett is welcoming you on the new website. Did you know that for the past decade the Knox County Public Library has fallen under the office of the County Mayor? By action of the Tennessee legislature, ours is the only library system in the state that is not governed by a board of trustees. (To find out more, visit connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/9739670/knoxville-hiring-process-changed.)

Today I encourage each of you to let the County Mayor know how important the library is to you. Drop him a note by mail or email (City County Building, Suite 15, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN 37902 or county.mayor@knoxcounty.org). Tell him about your favorite branch, how a reference librarian has helped you, how you and your family regularly check out books, music and movies or how you download them from our web site. Let Mayor Burchett know just how you value your local library!



YOU and the 2014 Used Book Sale

What if Friends had a book sale and all of our members participated in its success? What would such a stupendous event look like? What could all of our 1,200 members accomplish?

Maybe you have already cleared your nightstand and overcrowded shelves and carted boxfuls of book donations to your nearest library branch.

Or you sorted, shelved and packaged books all year long as a member of the Friends Sort Team.

Or you advocated for Friends and the library in any number of ways.

But now it's sale time. What can you as a Friend of the Knox County Public Library do now?

- Volunteer for a shift or two during the 10 days of set-up and sales. You should have received the volunteer request letter already. Sign up if you can help.
- Bring a carload of empty boxes with tops (liquor boxes are the perfect size) to the Friends@Rothrock Book Store in Lawson McGhee between now and the end of February. We need boxes for packing the thousands of books to be carted to the World's Fair sale site.
- Send us the names of some teens or youth groups needing service hours. They can help move books and load vehicles at curbside.
- Shop the sale. You can satisfy your own reading appetite as well as give the love of reading to others.
- Bring a non-member to attend the sale with you. Encourage him or her to become a Friend.
- Forward email information about the sale to family, friends and neighbors (coming to your email address soon.)
- Post an announcement about the sale in your church or work bulletin.
- Mention the sale on your Facebook page or on Twitter—often.
- Hang a few posters on your office bulletin board or neighborhood grocery community news spot. Posters are available for download from our website or in print at the Friends@Rothrock Used Book Shop.
- Send a thank you note to our sale sponsors via mail or email, or support them with your business.

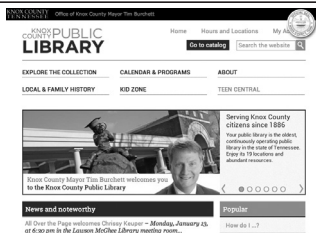
The Annual Used Book Sale is once again at the Knoxville Convention Center at the Holiday Inn on World's Fair Park Drive. See our website at www.knoxfriends.org for more information.

The sale is an opportunity for each and every Friend to show support for our organization and for the Knox County Public Library. Preparations for the sale are nearly done but the biggest job remains—getting customers to the sale site. The magic of a gigantic roomful of books for \$2 or less will take it from there!

What if each of us finds three acquaintances to attend the sale for the first time? Get them excited by telling them all about it. Make something happen!

Sponsors Provide Valuable Support

Friends recognizes the invaluable support of our sponsors who provide a wide range of advertising to this event. We are delighted to have WBIR-TV, the Knoxville *News Sentinel*, Comcast and Three Rivers Market as this year's sponsors. When the opportunities arise, we hope that you will thank these sponsors.



Knox County Public Library Unveils New Website

The staff at the Knox County Public Library has worked to produce a new website with a streamlined appearance and conversational style. The site offers the public an abundance of information and new ways to use the library's many resources.

According to Sally Lodica, Library Information Technology manager, the new website represents a collaborative effort of personnel from several areas within the system—reference, children's room, teens' activities, Sights and Sounds, the History Center and the branch libraries.

For more than a year, the staff pondered how best to organize the material and make it both attractive and useful. Each of you is invited to view the results of their efforts at www.knoxlib.org.

Book Sale Schedule

Saturday March 8,
11 a.m.– 6 p.m.

Sunday, Opens to the public, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

Monday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday, closed

Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
(half-price day)

Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
(half-price day)

Friday, 3-7 p.m. (bag sale for educators)

Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
(bag-sale day)

Sunday, 1-6 p.m.
(bag-sale day)

Ron Rash Is 2014 Dykeman Stokely Lecture Speaker

Author Ron Rash will be this year's speaker at the Friends of the Knox County Public Library's Wilma Dykeman Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, March 4 at the East Tennessee History Center at 7:30 p.m. The Library Society of UT Knoxville is the main sponsor of the Rash appearance, representing new cooperation between these two library support groups. Rash will be introduced by Jim Stokely, son of Wilma Dykeman and president of the Wilma Dykeman Legacy Foundation.

Wilma Dykeman Stokely (1920-2006) blessed the Friends of the Knox County Public Library with her knowledge, contacts with writers, and her passion for literature and the people who created it. In gratitude for her contributions to our organization and as a tribute for all that she meant to our community, Friends established the Wilma Dykeman Stokely Lecture Series. Her example guides the lecture theme selection: a love of literature and the arts, devotion to her southern heritage, fascination with travel, an interest in the world beyond Appalachia, and concern for social justice and the changes required to bring it about.

The lecture is free and open to the public; registration is required. Visit www.knoxfriends.org for registration information.

Books and Booksellers

Ron Rash: A Unique Appalachian Voice

By Jeff Johnson

The Appalachia of Ron Rash is the land we are familiar with: the beautiful mountains, the small hamlets, family farms and the legacies of the past. But to Rash, it is also the land of methamphetamine addicts, environmental destruction, ignorance and sudden, violent death. His second novel, *Saints at the River*, opens with a tourist family picnicking alongside a picturesque mountain creek, standard territory for regional novelists. Within a few minutes, however, a young girl is pulled under by the current and drowned, her body trapped under the rushing water by hydraulic force. Thus is ignited a showdown between the girl's family, political friends, protectors of the tourist industry and fervent environmentalists. In *The World Made Straight*, the young man at the center of the novel is caught, literally, in an animal trap as he attempts to raid a marijuana grower's crop and, figuratively, between his inherent intelligence and potential and the downward tug of ambitionless friends, a doubting father and his own bad impulses. Interwoven in the contemporary storyline is the Civil War-era journal kept by a doctor that recounts the tremendous struggles that existed in the mountain region during a conflict that not only divided families and communities at the time, but also created divisions that continue to resonate.

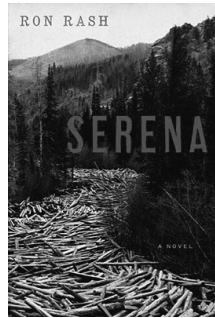
Rash's first book, a collection of short stories entitled *The Night the New Jesus Fell to Earth* was published in 1994. In the 20 years since, he has written four collections of poetry, four more short story collections, five novels and a children's book. His work has earned numerous awards including the prestigious Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award for *Burning Bright* and the 2004 Fiction Book of the Year for *Saints at the River* (given by both the Southern

Book Critics and the Southeastern Booksellers Association.) Rash has twice been a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and was awarded the James Still Award by the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Rash writes about the world he has always known. His family has lived in the southern Appalachian Mountains since the mid-eighteenth century. A native of Boiling Springs, NC, about 30 miles west of Charlotte, Rash graduated from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs and then from Clemson University. He holds the John Parris Chair in Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC.

Ron Rash's life may be about to change. A film version of his most ambitious novel, *Serena*, will be released in April. Directed by Danish filmmaker Susanne Bier and starring perennial Oscar nominees Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, the film was primarily filmed in the Czech Republic with some footage shot in North Carolina's Cataloochee Valley. A second film based on a Rash novel is also in the works. A smaller scale production, *The World Made Straight*, based on Rash's novel of the same name, is being filmed in Buncombe and Madison counties, NC, and features actors Jeremy Irvine (*War Horse*) and Noah Wyle (*E.R.*).

The novel *Serena* has received very positive reviews and was a *New York Times* bestseller. While Rash claims not to read reviews of his work if he can help it, his most recent short story collection, *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, has garnered reviews any author would be proud to have. *USA Today* stated, "A terrible beauty, to use Yeats' poetic phrase, colors many of Ron Rash's stories filled with violence, dark humor and surprise endings. His prose is spare, clean and often haunting."



Expanded Branch Sales Benefit Community

Last year Friends raised nearly \$20,000 from used book sales held at Farragut, Cedar Bluff, West Knox/Bearden, Powell and Burlington branches. These smaller sales are an important part of the Used Book Sale Committee's strategy to support all libraries in our Knox County system. The revenue from branch sales is split between the local branch and the Friends general account, the branch receiving income for special projects, material requirements, or additional programming.

Join a Branch Team

By bringing used books sales to library branches, Friends can offer patrons a chance to shop closer to home and to support their local library.

The easy access is a big plus for many shoppers. And with each sale, we build closer bonds to the branches and their constituency.

So, what's ahead? Branch sales will continue in 2014, so watch your email for announcements. Additionally, the Burlington branch is piloting monthly sales.

If you're interested in helping out at a used book sale, let us know! The Used Book Committee invites all members to **adopt a branch and get involved**. Member volunteers are needed to evaluate donations received at a branch, box up donated books for a future sale, promote an upcoming sale, set up for a sale, assist customers during a sale, and clean up after a sale. Contact the Used Book Committee at books@knoxfriends.org.

Friends Mini-Grant Program Supports Creative Programming, Unique Needs

By Beth Fisher

A major portion of Friends annual budget supports programs and services offered by the Knox County Public Library which might not otherwise be available because of budgetary or staff restrictions. Funds for mini-grants are raised through membership dues and used book sales. During the first half of the current fiscal year, Friends awarded more than \$12,000 in mini-grants.

Friends Mini-Grants (July-December 2013)

- **ColLibri System**—A Friends mini-grant purchased an innovative book covering apparatus for the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection in the East Tennessee History Center. In the past, librarians made plastic sleeves for rare books by hand. The ColLibri System closely wraps and seals books in archival covers. [\$3,099]
- **Computer Classes in Spanish**— Friends sponsored instructors and supplies for a program that teaches computer skills to Spanish-speakers and acquaints students with the resources and services available at the public library. The Dollar General Foundation also contributes to this program. [\$950]
- **Close Reads**—Books Sandwiched In and All Over the Page are two monthly book discussion groups that promote books and the love of reading. Our mini-grant supported honoraria for guest speakers, helped subsidize the cost of refreshments, and purchased books for the library that complemented book discussions. [\$616.82]
- **Spotlight on Sights & Sounds**—This grant funded a series of special events at the downtown library that included visiting performers and writers with a particular emphasis on Knoxville's unique blend of classical, jazz, folk, country and bluegrass music. Friends also funded new "stage" lighting that will enhance the atmosphere for future library events. [\$1,345]
- **Summer Library Club**—Our mini-grant funded a one-year subscription to Summer Reader, an online software initiative for readers of all ages. The program streamlines management and includes the collection of participant statistics and the generation of reports. [\$2,100]
- **Children's Reading Room Display Unit** —Our mini-grant purchased a unique and versatile modular unit for book display as well as a storytime and study space in the children's reading room at Lawson McGhee. The grant also purchased an oval display table. [\$1,628.02]
- **Outdoor Benches**—Two child-friendly benches were funded by Friends to provide seating outside the entrance to the Norwood Branch library. [\$386.75]



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I wish to join/renew my membership in the Friends.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____

_____ I want to learn more about volunteering.

_____ I want to receive my newsletter by email.

My favorite library branch is _____

Category of Membership

___ Library Lover (Students & Seniors): \$10

___ Bookworm (Individual): \$15

___ First Edition (Family): \$25

___ Mary Lawson McGhee: \$50

___ Calvin McClung: \$100

___ Mary Utopia Rothrock: \$250

___ James Agee: \$500

___ Business Membership: \$100

Make check payable to Friends of the
 Knox County Public Library

Renewals can also be made online www.knoxfriends.org