



# The BEST *of* FRIENDS

Fall  
2020

Friends of the Knox County Public Library • 500 W. Church Ave. Knoxville, TN 37902 • 865.215.8775 • Fax 865.215.8772 • www.knoxfriends.org

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Myretta Black,  
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## NEWSLETTER

Martha Edington  
Beth Fisher  
Martha Gill

## *When You Join Friends, You Are* In the Middle of Something Wonderful

A couple of years ago, we asked Friends Board member Laurie Pearl why she was a Friend. She first mentioned her love of books. Then she added, “Some of my best friends are Friends of the Library.”

Pearl is not alone. For 50 years, members of Friends have found new friends and strengthened old friendships. And we’ve connected with a community that loves and supports our library and acknowledges its value as a center of excellence in an informed society.

In these times of great uncertainty, our connection with this community of friends and Friends is more important than ever. Our library needs us more than ever, and together we can keep it strong as it evolves to meet changing needs.

Because of you, Friends has continued year after year to find ways to make our mission statement — to foster a love of libraries, books, and reading in the Knox County area through community outreach, advocacy, and support of the Knox County Public Library and staff — more than words on paper. It’s a big job, but any job is easier when you’re among friends.

Next month, you will receive an invitation by mail to renew your Friends membership for the coming year. We hope you’ll say yes because your continuing Friendship will make a difference to our organization, our library, and our community. A strong library is essential to the short- and long-term health of Knox County and its residents. And with you in our circle of Friends, we can do much more for the library that brought us together.



## Give Big on Big Give Knox December 1

After shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, we all need an opportunity to pause, reflect on our blessings, and determine how we can best give to others during the holiday season. Big Give Knox and Giving Tuesday on December 1 provide just that opportunity.

Last year, United Way of Greater Knoxville made donating locally on Giving Tuesday much easier with the Big Give Knox campaign. More than 120 local nonprofits, including Friends of the Library, were the beneficiaries of over \$140,000 in donations made online during that first Big Give Knox. Friends received nearly \$2,000 from generous donors; United Way awarded Friends an additional \$2,000 for receiving the most online donations between 2 and 3 p.m. Friends of the Library is among the nonprofits participating again this year.

SEE BIG GIVE KNOX PAGE 2



## Friends Mark 50 Years with \$50,000 Library Gift

The 50-year history of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library began with an organizational meeting at Church Street Methodist Church on September 29, 1970. Inspired by the work of those visionary Friends and their successors, Friends marked its golden anniversary by donating \$50,000 to the library on September 30 in a ceremony at Lawson McGhee Library. The gift also reflects the Friends' appreciation of a creative library staff in a vital system responsive to the needs of the community.

President John Williams thanked the generous donors who made the gift possible during a pandemic that cancelled most of the Friends' fundraising activities, and he pledged Friends' support of the library's efforts to meet the community's growing need for electronic materials. The donation will enable the library to add 850 ebooks and audiobooks to its collection, thereby cutting down patrons' wait for the materials.

Library Director Myretta Black said, "We are immensely pleased to have the support of the Friends



Natalie Smith, Dave Silvus, Sharon Smith, Jean Idell, Rusha Sams, Amy Counts, John Williams, Sarah Ford, Tracey Wiggins, Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Library Director Myretta Black, Peter Andrae, and Brewton Couch attended the presentation of the Friends' gift of \$50,000 to KCPL on September 30.

of the Library. This gift will help us provide much-needed resources in e-media, which is growing in popularity daily. Truly, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who care about our community and the health of the library system."

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs congratulated the Friends on their anniversary and added, "This is a caring community, and that is personified in the Friends. Truly, this long-running public-private partnership helps make us the best that we can be. We are a better community for it."

Visit "50 Years of Library Love" on the Friends' website ([KnoxFriends.org](http://KnoxFriends.org)) to hear what other members of the Knox County Public Library staff have to say about what Friends have contributed to the library system through the years. Speakers from KCPL include Nelda Hill, assistant director of public services; Wendy Rogers, Farragut Branch staff member and teen services; Steve Cotham, manager of the McClung Collection; Mary Pom Claiborne, assistant director of marketing, communication, and development; and Erin Nguyen, manager of children's services.

## Big Give Knox Builds On Last Year's Success

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Brewton Couch, United Way's chief strategy officer and a member of the Friends Board of Directors, said, "United Way started Big Give Knox to amplify the message of all Knoxville

nonprofits on Giving Tuesday. We had heard that some local nonprofits had stopped participating in the nationwide day of giving because of the noise of so many nonprofits all asking individually for donations. This was a way to help everyone get the message out, as well as allow people to donate to multiple organizations with one simple transaction."

Couch continued, "United Way is excited to build on the success of the first year and hopes to have more community participants in this opportunity to give back. Nonprofits face tremendous challenges due to the pandemic. More than any other year, our nonprofits need the community's support to continue to do the good work that they provide."

Friends of the Library hopes you'll give big during this year's Big Give Knox!

## Members Joining at \$50+ Dues Level

James & Jessica Cantu

Michael & Nancy Lofaro

Connie & Don Graham

Grace Loy

Meryl Keegan & Greg Wilson

John Murphy

Nancy Larson

Muriel Sirett

## ***We Thank Our Donors, a Giving Community Supporting Our Library***

### **Non-designated Donations**

Lee & Lorraine Alber  
 Alison Andersen  
 James Anderson  
 Peter Andreae & Suzanne Lenhart  
 Cathy Andrew  
 Anne Armstrong  
 Norma Bedelle  
 Elle & Bryan Benson  
 Janet B. Bigelow  
 Christine Boake  
 Barbara Boulton  
 George Brown & Nissa Dahlin-Brown  
 Robert E. & Carla Brown  
 Patty Bruns  
 John & Jan Brynda  
 Gina Buffum  
 Emma Burklin  
 Tom & Georgann Byerley  
 Blake Byrd, Jr.  
 Katherine Cameron  
 Scott Carpenter & Peg Hambright  
 Brooks & Carroll Carter  
 Alan & Nancy Cheatham  
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 Gordon & Sara Clem  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert H. Collier Jr.  
 Mike & Christine Collins  
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 Vicki L. Evans  
 Brooke Everett  
 Sharon Evers  
 Charles & Teresa Faulkner

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 Judy A. Fleenor  
 Sarah Ford  
 Dianne & Gary Forry  
 Bailey Foster & Marcia Tobin  
 Casey Fox & Jesse Mayshark  
 Kathryn Kinnard Freeman  
 Todd Frommeyer  
 Barbara Froula  
 Harold & Lucinda "Cindy" Gibson  
 Martha & Jim Gill  
 Helen Grant  
 Elizabeth Greene  
 Christine Griffin  
 Christine Hamilton  
 Donna Hardy  
 Charlie & Lynne Harr  
 Hilary Havens  
 Kay & Tom Hays  
 Tom Heffernan & Judy Jennings  
 H. Hendrix  
 Jonathan & Lauren Herrmann  
 Angela Hoffman & Seth McConchie  
 Donna Hollis  
 Al & Brenda Horn  
 Lisa Horstman & David Whittle  
 Nancy Howell  
 Mona Hurt  
 Jean Idell  
 Marilyn & Robert Jake  
 Diane & Greg Johnson  
 Lyn & Jeff Johnson  
 Dorothy M. Jones Living Trust  
 Jack & Janet Jordan  
 Gregory M. Stein & Jeanette M. Kelleher Family Fund  
 Rachele Joy  
 Dale & Mary Ellen Kangas  
 Sherry & Jim Kasper

Mary M. Kedl  
 Anne R. Killefer  
 Knox County Public Library Foundation  
 Jennifer Kolman  
 Marie Leonard  
 Tena & Steve Litherland  
 Ginna & Bob Mashburn  
 Cile (Lucile) Mathews  
 Elizabeth & Fred McBee  
 Sherry Morgan  
 Donald Mossman  
 Mike & Lori Murphree  
 Any Nail  
 Ann H. Nelson  
 Sally Newkirk  
 Brenda Newman  
 Richard & Sandra O'Rear  
 Janet & Bill Osteen  
 Katelin Padgett  
 Laura Painter  
 Laurie Pearl  
 Joseph & Carol Pelliccia  
 Judy Penry  
 Jonathan Perry & Sherry Jared  
 Elaine & Phil Powell  
 Elizabeth Preston  
 Mr. & Mrs. Don B. Preston  
 Kristin Prough  
 Betty Reddick  
 Elaine Reed  
 Marye K. Rose  
 Beth E. Sanderbeck  
 Susan Seagraves  
 Paul & Claire Serrell  
 Mark Siegel  
 Will Skelton  
 Sharon & Larry Smith  
 Ann Strange  
 Jane S. Stroud  
 Laura & Robert Thurman  
 Paige Travis  
 Penny Tschantz  
 Betty Tudor  
 Erin Walker

Candy & Jim Wansley  
 Julie Webb  
 Dr. Gregory J. Wiggins & Tracey Wiggins  
 Helen Wilds  
 Kristin Yarnell  
 James & Linda Yates  
 Joyce York  
 Phil & Tammie Zacheretti

### **Books in the Community**

Judy Blackstock

### **Honoraria Gifts**

Amanda Rigell, in honor of Arianna Banack  
 Anonymous, in honor of Charlotte Artis

### **Memorial Gifts: *Martha Thomas Skinner***

Joyce Whitten Abbott  
 J. Desmond (designated for Empty Stocking Fund)  
 Pam Farmer  
 Martha & Jim Gill  
 Michael & Cammy Glover  
 Lynn Kleinfelter  
 Phyllis & Michael Sullivan  
 Jenny Thomas  
 John Thomas  
 Ruby Lee Thomas

### **Other Memorial Gifts**

Patricia Brown, in memory of Roger Daley  
 Michael Ishibashi, in memory of Orvalyn "Orvie" Houghton (designated for Books in the Community)  
 Stanley Kimmett Family, in memory of Maria Weiss  
 Mary J. Starke, in memory of Martha Jane Bogle  
 Mariya Strauss, in memory of Bee DeSelm



### Friends of Knox County Public Library

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## Friends' Role in 2020 Empty Stocking Fund To Change



In 2019, volunteers helped recipients of food baskets to choose toys and books for their children. That practice will change.

The uncertainties of COVID-19 have changed the way the *Knoxville News Sentinel's* Empty Stocking Fund will work in 2020. As a result, the Friends' role in the event will change, too.

The *Knoxville News Sentinel* plans to distribute food baskets without human contact by way of a drive-by system. Thus recipients will not be able to select toys and books for their children as they have in the past.

Friends' President John Williams understands the need for contactless interaction. "We are thankful food baskets will continue to be distributed, so in lieu of our participation in book gifting this year, the Friends Board has approved a \$1,000 disbursement to the Empty Stocking Fund. We hope that this will

help kick-start the 2020 ESF campaign, and we look forward to resuming our work together next year."

Tess Woodhull, *News Sentinel's* executive assistant for advertising and special projects coordinator, expressed the newspaper's appreciation for the Friends' action. "Thank you so much for the generous gift! We are happy to be able to continue to provide food baskets to those in need this holiday season in light of the pandemic. We are so grateful for the Friends of the Library's continued support and look forward to continuing our partnership!"

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### Coming Soon: Online Book Sales!

**If you've missed our book sales, we have great news! Friends will soon have a new e-commerce website for online book sales. Shoppers will be able to buy bags of books in specific genres at a fixed price. Volunteers will pack the bags from our existing stock of gently used books, mark each bag with the buyer's name, and transport the bags to one of four pickup locations: the Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop at Lawson McGhee or the Burlington, Cedar Bluff, or Halls branch libraries. Details will appear soon on our website and social media.**