



The BEST *of* FRIENDS

Fall
2021

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NEWSLETTER

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When You Renew Your Membership, You, Friends, KCPL, and Community Benefit

By Natalie Smith, *President*
Friends of Knox County Public Library

Fall brings cooler temperatures, changes in the colors of leaves, and the beginning of Friends of the Knox County Public Library's annual membership campaign. When this year's membership renewal package arrived in your mailbox, you may have noticed a few changes there as well: several membership categories were eliminated, many membership levels received new names, and new membership benefits were added. You may have been disappointed to find that the \$10 membership category is no longer available. As the price of doing business

has increased, we have found that it takes more than \$10 to maintain an individual membership. But while you're being asked to pay more for a basic membership this year, you will receive a new membership benefit: a \$5 coupon to be used for the purchase of books at Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop or at our online bookstore at knoxfriends.square.site.

We have also added membership benefits for those who join or renew at higher membership levels. These benefits include an additional \$5 Rothrock/online store coupon

for a second family member and Friends magnets, tote bags, and t-shirts. The magnet, tote bag, and t-shirt feature the artwork by Paris Woodhull that was unveiled on Friends t-shirts earlier this year. If you want the full amount of dues to support Friends, you may choose not to receive these additional

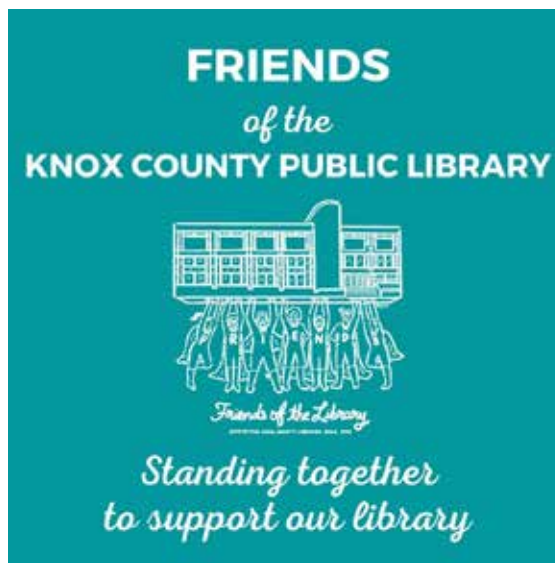
benefits by checking the appropriate spot on your membership renewal form.

Our new Forever Friends membership allows members to pay their dues over the course of the year. Forever Friends members will receive benefits that correspond to the membership level closest to the dues they pay during the year. Visit knoxfriends.org to set up your monthly payment.

For more than 50 years, the Friends have stood together to support the Knox County Public Library and to foster a love of libraries, books, and reading in our community. We are grateful that you've continued to stand by our side.

For More Friends News, See Page 3

- Giving Big with Big Give
- Filling Empty Stockings
- Friends and UT Theatre
- T-Shirts and Ornaments



Why Are They Friends?



Amy Counts

Amy Counts, Friends Treasurer: Public libraries have been an important part of my life since I was a little girl. My mother worked near a library; when she had to work late or weekends, she would drop me off at the library where I happily spent hours browsing and reading. When I was a young woman, my husband was in the Army, and we moved constantly. I always found the library first thing, borrowed books to read, and brought my children to reading hours. Now I borrow e-books and don't have to tote six or seven books with me on vacation anymore! Being a member of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library is a way of giving back to the institution that has given so much to me.



Al Horn

Al Horn, Friends Secretary: The library has always been there for my family and through the Friends I can give back to the library while indulging my love for books.



Scott Muir

Scott Muir, Friends Director: I strongly believe in giving back to my community. My parents instilled that value in me, and I have always done volunteer work in the many places I have lived. So why the Friends specifically? First, I love public libraries. I think they are often the heart of the community and serve such a valuable role in lifting everyone up. Second, I was a librarian for over 40 years, and I believe my skills and knowledge as a librarian will benefit the Friends.



Amanda Pagani

Amanda Pagani, Friends Director: I believe that libraries are one of the most important community resources we have. I also know firsthand that many people have obsolete ideas of what a library is, and I LOVE discussing all the new, amazing, and unique offerings. I am passionate about sharing how libraries benefit EVERYONE — even those who don't enjoy “reading books.” I also love seeing and showing how donations and tax dollars are being used and how we can connect our libraries to the community.



Natalie Smith

Natalie Smith, Friends President: My family and I love libraries, and the best way to show our library love is by being members of Friends of the Library.



Sharon Smith

Sharon Smith, Friends Director: Being a member of the Friends of the Library allows me to share my love and support for our library within a unified group effort. Our libraries are an extremely important part of our community as they create opportunities for learning and education for all ages. As a Friend, I enjoy creating awareness and advocating for the library to many people who may not realize all that is available free of charge right in their own neighborhood!

Thank You for Giving

Members Joining at \$50+ Level

Linda Behrend

Cardiovascular

Research of Knoxville

Stephen & Jennifer Collins-Elliott

Melinda Davis

Skip & Drew Farr

Nancy & Harold Goldberg

Charlie & Lynne Harr

Mary & Alan Jackson

Sherry & Jim Kasper

Mary & Carruth McGehee

Amanda & Mike Pagani

Sharon Sullivan

Sandra Tracy

Non-designated Gifts

Christine Boake

Dr. & Mrs. Robert H. Collier, Jr.

Connie Gonzalez

The Hargreaves Family

Brett Hayes

John & Tana Slater

Dale & Mary Ellen Kangas

Lynn & Frances Morehous

Peggy & Carl Pierce

Kristin Prough

Bill & Becky Schneider

Penny Tschantz

TurnToTheWonderful.com

Designated Gift: Books in the Community

Cheryl Erhart

Honoraria

Ed Hunter, in honor of Joyce York's 60th birthday

Joyce York, in honor of Jean Idell's 85th birthday

Memorial Gifts

Anonymous, in memory of Mazel Andrews

GINNA Mashburn, in memory of Martha Thomas

Sam & Beverly Steensen, in memory of Debby Jorgensen

Giving Big to Bring Diverse Books To a Diverse Community

Friends will again be among the many nonprofits that participate in the United Way of Greater Knoxville's Big Give on November 30. Big Give Knox, a 24-hour online giving campaign, promotes awareness of local nonprofits and allows donors to contribute to multiple organizations with one simple transaction.



Last year, Friends received more than \$2,700 from generous donors, and the United Way awarded Friends an additional \$535 in prize money. Our goal this year is to raise \$5,000 for our new Diverse Books for a Diverse Community initiative. All funds raised will be used to purchase new books that represent the diversity of our community and allow young readers to see themselves reflected in the books that they read. We hope you will give big during Big Give Knox to help us supplement the thousands of books we give away to local schools and organizations each year.

The Friends Find New Ways to Help Fill Empty Stockings

For the second year in a row, the *Knoxville News Sentinel's* Empty Stocking Fund (ESF) Distribution Day will be a drive-through event, and Friends will be unable to set up tables full of books from which participating families can choose. Instead, we will give families a \$10 coupon they can use to purchase books at the Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop, one of our branch sales, or our online bookstore at knoxfriends.square.site.

The Board of Directors has also approved a \$1,000 donation to be given directly to ESF. If you have contributed to our ESF book drives in the past, we encourage you to consider donating directly to ESF this year.



Support Friends by Paying What You Can at UT Theatre



Live theater is returning to the University of Tennessee's Clarence Brown Theatre with *A Christmas Carol*, a Knoxville holiday tradition. The December 1 performance will be Pay What You Can, and half of the evening's proceeds will benefit Friends of the Knox County Public Library.

To purchase tickets in person at the Pay What You Can price, patrons must go to the box office kiosk in the Clarence Brown Theatre lobby from noon until 5 p.m. on November 30 and from noon until curtain on December 1. In-person purchases are cash only, and only the full dollar amounts will be accepted. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of eight tickets. Beginning Tuesday, November 2, tickets costing from \$5 to \$100 may also be purchased online here: <https://tiny.utk.edu/pwyc2021>.

This is the perfect way to celebrate Christmas, live theater, and Friends in one fell swoop. At the performance, visit with a few Friends at our information table and register to win a copy of *The Annotated Christmas Carol* or some Friends swag.

**And
Coming
Soon ...**

Did you buy our inaugural Christmas ornament last year? Or did you forget to order the Friends t-shirt in the spring? Then you'll be happy to know that both will be available in Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop or online at knoxfriends.square.site. The ornament and t-shirt will feature art created by Paris Woodhull exclusively for Friends. A limited number of ornaments will be available and will appear soon on our website and social media.

Choices! Choices! Choices! KCPL's Collection Development

By Beth Fisher

Communications Committee

Every year more than 300,000 books are published by traditional publishers, and two million books are self-published or made available through “niche” or small publishers. That makes for a lot of books to choose from when it comes to stocking the physical and digital shelves of the Knox County Public Library System!

So how does KCPL choose what books and other library materials are added to its collection each year? An important goal is ensuring that public funds are spent wisely. These are a few of the things the collection experts at KCPL consider:

- Has the book received a positive, professional review from a major review publication such as *Library Journal*, the American Library Association's *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, or *Publishers' Weekly*? After all, a great review will help ensure literary and artistic quality.

- Is the book relevant to the present and future informational, educational, and leisure-time needs of library patrons? Is it important as a document of the times?

- Is the book written by a best-selling or world-renowned author? For instance, the library doesn't wait around for a good review before purchasing the next James Patterson hit!

- Is the book related to existing works in KCPL's collection (e.g., the next in a popular series)?

- Have there been requests from the public related to a particular topic or book? Is the requested item not available anywhere else in the community?



Melissa Kelley, KCPL's assistant director for Collection and Access Services, aims to ensure that the library offers the widest possible variety, mixing literary classics with popular fiction and meeting the non-fiction informational and educational needs of all library patrons.

- Is the book suitable for the library environment? For instance, the library doesn't purchase curriculum-related textbooks unless they provide the only coverage available in a subject area. Nor does it acquire books that are, for example, spiral bound, which are simply not library shelf “friendly.”

Melissa Kelley, KCPL's assistant director for Collection and Access Services, estimates that over 15,000 to 16,000 new and replacement titles are added to the library's collection every year. Her aim is to ensure the library offers the widest possible variety, mixing literary classics with popular fiction and meeting the nonfiction informational and educational needs of all library patrons.

One way she and her collection development committees do that is to track usage — which books or subjects are being accessed by patrons regularly



Melissa Kelley is surrounded by books in her office in Lawson McGhee Library.

Continued on page 5
Please see KCPL Adds Thousands



The Bearden Branch, like other branches in the Knox County system, lets its patrons know that new books have arrived.

KCPL Adds Thousands of New Books Every Year

Continued from page 4
and which are collecting dust. As for local authors, Kelley reports the committees make every effort to acquire titles by local authors and of regional interest that are produced by mainstream publishers and are reviewed favorably.

KCPL boasts three selection committees that work to provide a range of library materials with differing viewpoints and for different reading levels. These committees are composed of system and branch managers, all of whom have a master's degree in library information science. Kelley chairs the committee for adults. Fredda Williams, manager of the South Knoxville Branch, chairs the committee for children. Marilyn Jones, manager of the Farragut Branch, chairs the committee for teens. The committees meet twice each month, and their selections are collected by Kelley, who then turns them over to the library's acquisition department for purchasing.

Once a book has been ordered, a team works with Kelley to put new books on KCPL shelves. It includes Cindy Beckham, Tanner Biederman, Tiffany Boeckman, Jordan Collier, Candace DeCantillon, Jesse Housewright, Michelle Rogers, Renada Waldrop, and Sue Walker.

"The biggest challenge we face is keeping to our budget while at the same time making the very best

decisions we can on what we add to our collection," Kelley says. "It's not just about purchasing the latest best seller. That's easy. We also have to address gaps in our collection and make plans for replacing damaged or worn-out books — all with an eye toward making every penny count!"

Take a look at the display of new books available at your favorite branch library. Or explore KCPL's latest additions online. Go to <https://www.knoxlib.org> and click on Explore the Collection. There you'll find a lengthy list of new titles organized by genre and the reader's age. It's a list to warm a reader's heart. Now the choices are yours.



A dozen boxes of new books will be unpacked and processed by the KCPL staff before the material lands on library shelves.

Collecting: Preserving What Might Be Lost

By Jeff Johnson, *President*
Knox County Public Library Foundation

The incalculable value of open bookstores and library book sales is the opportunity to come upon a book that one never knew existed. Such was the case at the recent Friends' sale at the Sequoyah Branch Library, where I happened upon a book by Philipp Blom, *To Have and To Hold: An Intimate History of Collectors and Collecting*. I had never heard of Blom or his book, but the title intrigued me because earlier this summer, my wife and I took a car trip to the Delaware Valley with the express intention to visit Winterthur and Longwood Gardens, the homes of two tireless collectors, one of antique furniture and the other of all things natural.

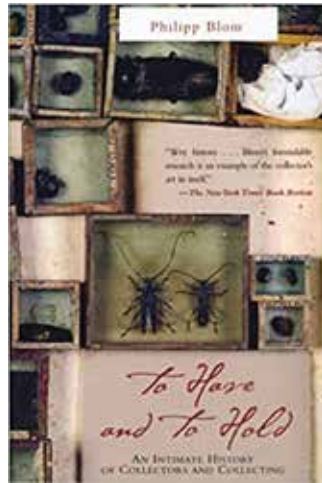
Winterthur was the 175-room home of the Henry Francis du Pont family. Besides its own beautiful gardens done in a naturalistic style, the house showcases du Pont's collection of almost 90,000 objects made or used in the United States between its colonial days and the beginning of the Civil War. Harry du Pont (as he was called) was born in the house in 1880 and lived there until his death in 1969. A son of the du Pont family of Delaware industrialists, Harry devoted his life to management of the estate and to collecting what is likely the largest group of American decorative arts anywhere. For the most part, the

furniture, artwork, and decorative items (such as silver made by Paul Revere) are displayed in the fashion that they were used by the family. Fresh flowers cut from the garden make the rooms come alive. Not only did Harry collect furniture, but he also constantly enlarged the house to accommodate woodwork, mantels, staircases, and entire rooms salvaged from early American houses slated for destruction. Winterthur has been open to the public since 1951 and today is home to graduate study programs and a research library that has been recognized as a center for American material culture.

Longwood Gardens was the home and vision of Harry's cousin, Pierre du Pont. The property, consisting of 402 acres, had been originally the home of the Lenni Lenape native tribe and then the farm and arboretum of the George Pierce family. As "Pierce's Park" in the late 19th century, the area was a popular place for picnics and family reunions and boasted one of the finest collections of specimen trees in the United States. When the park was threatened with destruction by a lumber

mill, Pierre stepped in and purchased the land in 1906. Little by little, du Pont transformed the park into a series of themed gardens, fountains, and arboretums to showcase an incredible collection of plants. The house at the center of the Longwood Gardens is comparatively modest for the scale of the rest of the property.

These two remarkable men were on my mind when I ran across Blom's book at the Friends' sale. First published in the United States in 2004 (Blom is a native of Germany), the book is the story of the passion for collecting. From tsars and kings, robber barons and industrialists, to folks with ordinary means, the desire to own what no one else can, or to own one of each kind, or to own specimens that contribute to scientific method and cultural research, is told through the centuries with humor, illustrations, and informed research. The historical value of these collections, whether of "unicorn horns," teeth, or books, is explained and their contributions to the origins of public museums and scientific classification systems are outlined. People who had the means, desire, and discipline to collect ended up preserving much of what may have been lost.



Jeff Johnson has a long history with the Friends of the Knox County Public Library. He has served our organization as president and is currently president of the Knox County Public Library Foundation. Jeff

recently retired after a 40-year career as an architect, 35 years of which were with McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Inc. Jeff is also a book collector and a member of the Grolier Club of New York City. He has contributed many essays about books and reading to *Best of Friends*.

Thanks for (Saving) the Memories: Lawson McGhee's Lab

By Deanne Charlton
Communications Committee

The Memory Lab, which opened at Lawson McGhee Library in 2019, is a free do-it-yourself space for library users to digitize their old videos, audio recordings, photographs, and slides. Van Walker, manager of the Sights and Sounds Department at LML, says the media brought in by users varies, with photographs and slides being most popular, followed by VHS tapes and miniDV videotape, and adds, "We've been getting between five to ten uses or so each month lately and have some regulars."

One repeat visitor to the Lab is Bill Talley. Recently retired, he is pursuing a project to digitize family photos. He says, "So far, I have digitized memories from my children's birthday parties to WWI photos from my grandfather. I'm working through old videotapes

as well." He commends Van and James Mauk at the Lab for being very helpful and adds, "(They) have shown me how to work the equipment. It's quite easy to use."

Friends member Peter Andreae is also a regular at the Lab, or as he might say, an irregular. He has spent part of the pandemic tackling "about 70 family photo albums, some boxes of slides, and various odds and ends of memorabilia." He makes a jpeg file for each photo, making corrections on some images, and hopes to move on to color slides "some day." Going a step further, he has created a web page where he can share the memories. He includes information from the backs of photos or notes in albums, adding, "Some of my relatives made better notes in their albums than others."

If you have old photos, films, or tapes and are interested in preserving the images on

them, you can get started by contacting the Memory Lab at sightsandsounds@knoxlib.org or 865.215.8714. They don't have the ability to digitize 8mm or 16mm film movies, but you can contact the Tennessee Archive of Moving Images and Sound (TAMIS) at tamis@knoxlib.org for information about what they can digitize.



Peter Andreae, co-chair of the Friends Sales and Distribution Committee, has begun working on digitizing about 70 family albums in the Memory Lab.



Bill Talley frequently visits the Memory Lab at Lawson McGhee Library as he works through the process of digitizing family photos and old videotapes as well.



Friends of Knox County Public Library

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Fall/Winter 2021

PROCEEDS BENEFIT KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Branch Sales Continue!

Burlington Branch Library

4614 Asheville Highway
November 19 and 20,
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Bearden Branch Library

100 Golfclub Road
December 3 and 4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Cedar Bluff Branch Library

9045 Cross Park Drive
December 10 and 11,
10 a.m.–5 p.m.