



The BEST of FRIENDS

Summer
2021

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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Eileen Taylor
Coordinator
Myretta Black
Library Director
Mary Pom Claiborne
Library Liaison

NEWSLETTER

Martha Edington
Martha Gill



Peacock River Pavilion at First Methodist Church, Kingston Pike

In Person for the First Time since 2019

Friends To Meet July 19

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, then the hearts of Friends will surely be overflowing with joy at our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019!

Members will gather on Monday, July 19, at 6 p.m. in the Peacock River Pavilion at First United Methodist Church, 3316 Kingston Pike. Light refreshments will be served.

In a year like no other, the Friends still found ways to celebrate our love of libraries, books, and reading. We raised funds for e-materials for the Knox County Public Library. We opened an online bookstore. We attended a virtual conversation between novelist Wiley Cash and poet Frank X Walker at the Wilma Dykeman Stokely Memorial Lecture. We found ways to put books in people's hands through our Books in the Community program. We became stewards of Rosie's Little Library in World's Fair Park. And we Zoomed — a lot!

Taking care of business at the gathering, members will vote on the 2021–2022 slate of officers and directors submitted by the Nominating Committee. (See pages 2 and 3.) Please let Coordinator Eileen Taylor know by July 15 if you plan to attend: 865.215.8775 or info@knoxfriends.org.

Coordinator Unmasked

When Friends welcomed Eileen Taylor as its new coordinator on June 7, we wanted to know what brought her to us.

Friends: Tell us about yourself.

Eileen: I'm a native Floridian, born in Gainesville. Yes, you have to love me even though I'm a third-generation Gator. I got my bachelor's degree in psychology from Troy State University and my master's degree in social science from California State University. After graduate school, I moved back east to be closer to family and to enjoy a slower pace of life. Knoxville was suggested because of how beautiful it is, because of the lovely people, and because it's a great place to raise a family. It's been home for 16 years.

Friends: What led to a career in office management and accounting?

Eileen: Accounting was a way to pay my way through

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Eileen Taylor

To be voted on at the Annual Meeting

2021–22 Officers

President

Natalie Smith

President-elect

Bailey Foster

Past President

John Williams

Secretary

Al Horn

Treasurer

Amy Counts

Directors, 1st Term

Scott Muir

Tanna Nicely

Amanda Pagani

Directors

Filling a Two-Year Term

Brooke Everett

Cindy Gibson

Nominating

Committee 2020–21

Jen Cooper, Chair

Amy Counts

Martha Edington

Meryl Keegan

Natalie Smith

Slate Proposed for

Nominating

Committee 2021–22

Jen Cooper, Chair

Martha Edington

Bailey Foster

Meryl Keegan

Elnora Williams

Retiring Directors

Sarah Ford

Jane Row

Rusha Sams

Nominees Bring Strong Backgrounds to the Job

Brooke Everett: Love of Libraries, Workplace Skills

Brooke Everett's passion for libraries is complemented by her communication and organizational skills developed by her education and experience. Her graduate degree from the University of Texas School of Information instilled in her a deep understanding of libraries, and her professional work for a technology company has given her experience in project management.

In nonprofit governance, Brooke spent three years as assistant to the director at Knoxville's oldest Montessori school, where she participated in consensus building with the board and fundraising with volunteers.

The founding steward of the Edgewood Park Little Free Library, Brooke worked with the Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association and Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department to organize the structure's placement. Curating the collection helped her develop a new understanding of her neighborhood's tastes in reading. She is now helping Friends stock Rosie's Little Library.

Brooke lives within walking distance of KCPL's North Knoxville Branch, which she visits at least once a week, the only outing that she and her five-year-old maintained during the pandemic. Brooke is a fan of library audiobooks and print books that she has found when browsing the stacks and through KCPL's hold service. In the past she has attended author events and other programs organized by the Friends of the Library.

Cindy Gibson: Professional Leadership, Service with Our Friends

Cindy Gibson brings experience from professional and civic activities as well as from service to the Friends board. As treasurer and vice president of the Gulf Coast Speech Language and Hearing Association, Cindy disbursed funds, kept financial accounts, and worked with other board members to choose highly qualified speakers to present daylong in-service programs. As vice president, president, and past president of the Mississippi Speech Language and Hearing Association, she served the nonprofit board in various capacities, including keeping financial records, setting and achieving goals, developing conferences, and affiliating with a national organization.

As a member of the Gulfport Little Theatre group, she had "all the fun parts of plays" backstage, on stage, and in the tech booth; she also served as the board's treasurer and chair. For more than three years she has sat on her homeowners' association board, which she has served as secretary-treasurer; currently chair of maintenance, she oversees repairs made by the association.

With the Friends she has co-chaired the Head Start Reading program with Natalie Smith. She and her husband Harold coordinate book sales at the Cedar Bluff Branch. Cindy also sits on the Sales and Distribution Committee, works at Rothrock, and runs the online sales program at Cedar Bluff.

Scott Muir: Librarianship and Memberships in Friends

Scott P. Muir has devoted 42 years to corporate and academic libraries. Work in state-funded university libraries occupied more than 30 of those years. For two years he was founding president of the South Mountain Branch of the Phoenix Public Library, a new facility in his neighborhood. A mayoral appointee to the Phoenix Library Board of Advisors for seven years, he was president for two terms. He has experience as a library friend as well. Retired to Corryton, he is a new member of Knox Friends. A lifetime member of the Huntington Woods, MI, Friends, he was a member of the Gloucester County, NJ, Friends for seven years.

Tanna Nicely: Longtime Relationship with KCPL, Community Work

Tanna Nicely has had a long relationship with the Knox County Public Library System. Growing up in Mascot, she enjoyed checking out books from that tiny library where she loved reading books and seeing her name on the reader board each summer. Helen Grant offered Tanna a job as a library storyteller when she was working through UTK in the late 1980s; for three years she traveled among five libraries from Karns to Corryton over the summer. After she had kids of her own, for a number of years she continued to volunteer at the Mascot Branch Library, helping to grow their weekly story hour. Most recently, she had the opportunity to work once again on a Knox County/Knoxville Early Literacy Committee with a variety of people including KCPL's Mary Pom Claiborne.

Over the years she has worked extensively for the Old Sevier and the Mascot communities to bring issues to the Knox County Commission's attention and to advocate for a better environment in which to raise families. She has joined a variety of nonprofits to win support for projects like the Rotary Club's work for a community playground, Comcast Community Day, and Keep Knoxville Beautiful Work Day. Through her work with the Tennessee Farm Bureau, she has helped pass along grants to begin gardens in more than 50 East Tennessee schools. She is also active in her church.

As principal of South Knox Elementary School, Dr. Nicely has worked closely with her school's PTO to develop fundraising strategies aimed at providing technology, overhauling libraries (the group won an award for its vision!), and building a community playground. Her work with the redesign of the school library earned her a place on the Distinguished Administrator Honor Roll of the Tennessee Association of School Libraries (TASL). She has also organized fundraisers for the Knoxville Retired Teachers Organization and the Old Sevier Group.

Amanda Pagani: Financial and Administrative Library Experience

Amanda Pagani is an adept professional with a background of ten years in accounts receivable and payable as well as billing. Her versatile skills include customer service, finances, employee development, coaching, and leadership. Comfortable in situations that pose unique challenges, increased responsibility, and growth opportunities, she also brings administrative experience in an Illinois public library to the Friends of the Knox County Public Library Board of Directors.

Amanda has been claims research specialist with Southeastern Retina Associates since August 2020. In that position she has reviewed insurance denials, corrected claims and made appeals as necessary. She has provided customer service to physicians, insurance companies, and patients and managed accounts totaling \$8 million. She has also co-authored training manuals and policies for departmental procedures and has mentored and trained new employees.

As assistant director and bookkeeper for the Ida Public Library in Belvidere, IL (February 2017–July 2020), Amanda was responsible for all financial reporting to the city council, the director, and board members, and she advised the finance committee of the library board. She worked closely with the board treasurer as well as auditors, bank representatives, and even patrons regarding donations and services. She also enjoyed creating programming for children and adults. In addition she was successful in obtaining a grant for a new handicap-accessible door-opening device for patrons. Loving the library, she sees it as more relevant today than ever before.

Amanda currently volunteers with Amachi Knoxville, part of a nationwide group serving children of incarcerated parents.



Brooke Everett



Cindy Gibson



Scott Muir



Tanna Nicely



Amanda Pagani

The Mystery Novel: A Brief History of a Popular Genre

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

One of the most popular forms of fiction is the mystery and detective novel. The form has deep roots in Gothic novels, detective “memoirs” (mostly fictitious) and lurid true crime books of the 19th century. Edgar Allan Poe is widely credited with the creation of the full-blown mystery story with the publication of “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” in *Graham’s Magazine* in 1841. In one brilliant stroke, Poe combined (or invented!) a locked room mystery, brilliant amateur detective, narrator sidekick, bumbling police, misplaced suspicion, wrongful arrest, and the analysis of strange clues. While some of these elements had surfaced before, “Murders” was a tour-de-force story that introduced the character of C. Auguste Dupin, the gentleman detective who solves crimes for his own amusement. Poe subsequently used Dupin in two more mystery stories, one of which, “The Murder of Marie Roget,” lays claim to being the first mystery based on facts.

Full-length mystery novels soon appeared in Great Britain and the United States, one of the first being Wilkie Collins’ *The Woman in White* (1859) and one of the most heralded, his *The Moonstone* (1868). That the mystery novel could be a popular form of fiction became clear with the publication in Australia of *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab* (1886), which went on to sell over half a million copies worldwide.

In 1887, a novel serialized in magazines and then published in book form would change the genre and spawn an untold number of novels, radio plays, television shows, films, parodies, and copycats. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote *A Study in Scarlet*, which introduced the world to Sherlock Holmes. There is hardly a literate person alive today who would not recognize the pipe-smoking, eccentric, and sometimes drugged private detective of 221B Baker Street. It has been written that English literature created two characters that many people believed actually lived: Robinson Crusoe and Sherlock Holmes.

The first modern detective novel may be E. C. Bentley’s *Trent’s Last Case* (1913). As an antidote to the cold, analytical thinking of Holmes and his mimics, Philip Trent is fallible and, worst of all, falls in love with one of the suspects.

The 1920s and 1930s are often viewed as a Golden Age for detective fiction. The “queen of cozy,” Agatha Christie, published her first novel, *The Mysterious*

Affair at Styles, in 1920. She wrote more than 80 novels and short stories and sold an estimated 300 million books in her lifetime. Other well-known and prolific writers of this period include Dorothy Sayers, S. S. Van Dine, Earl Derr Biggers, Leslie Charteris, G. K. Chesterton, Dashiell Hammett, Erle Stanley Gardner, and Raymond Chandler.

The Mystery Writers of America began giving out their award for Best First Novel in 1946, and appropriately the first winner was Julian Fast’s army-based *Watchful at Night*, a novel he wrote while serving in the U.S. Army during the war. Postwar mysteries reflected the concerns of society at large. Throughout the forties until the present, subject matters have included every type of crime, drug addiction, sexuality, foreign intrigue, cybersecurity, space, atomic warfare, and big business.

The appeal of the mystery and detective novel may be summed up in this 1924 quote from writer R. Austin Freeman: “On one hand, it is a work of imagination, demanding the creative, artistic faculty; on the other, it is a work of ratiocination, demanding the power of logical analysis and subtle and acute reasoning... and a somewhat extensive outfit of special knowledge.”

The Knox County Public Library has an extensive collection of mysteries, and one could use the online guides for the Edgar Awards for Best First Novel and Best Novel as reading suggestions.



Jeff Johnson has a long history with 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*.

New Tennessee Library and Archives Opens in Nashville



The new Tennessee State Library and Archives

By Susie Webb Ries

Friends of Tennessee Libraries

The new Tennessee State Library and Archives, the state's foremost historical research facility, opened in Nashville in April. At 160,000 square feet, two-thirds larger than its predecessor, it offers state-of-the-art services for collecting and preserving books and records of historical value. It also allocates a great deal of space for the people who will use those materials.

The new building's Automated Storage and Retrieval System, fondly known as "The Robot," will store a vast number of books and original historical documents that include state and county records, censuses and genealogical information, military records, penitentiary records, newspapers, city directories and telephone books, bibliographies, ledgers, manuscripts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, broadsides, prints, postcards, oral histories, films, sheet music, and general reference materials. Original letters offer snapshots of Tennesseans'

everyday lives. Since few letters are written today, there is a studio to record oral histories and produce audiobooks. The building's innovative services include a blast freezer to kill mold and/or insects that arrive uninvited with a newly donated collection and a conservation lab four times larger than the previous one. The facility actively supports library and archival development throughout Tennessee.

The building also hosts the Accessible Resources Room, formerly the Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired. It provides a free lifeline to many by mailing audiobooks and players statewide. An Early Braille Literacy Center encourages visually impaired children to use their senses.

Most of the building's space is designed for the public's use, however. The reading room provides researchers, historians, archivists, genealogists, lawyers, and students a bright, comfortable area in which to use the collections. Digital scanners enable human beings to zoom in on a specific article. The new classroom and meeting rooms have space for up to 300 people. Meetings of Friends of the Library groups are welcome and encouraged.

See more photos of the new building on the Secretary of State's website. Better yet, schedule a tour of the building itself by emailing ask@tsla.libanswers.com.

COORDINATOR FROM PAGE 1

school. Being an office manager came as a natural skill.

Friends: What led you to Friends?

Eileen: An answered prayer?!? What I wanted to do next was really about service, mission, and community. I looked for a work home with a group focused on making a difference in people's lives. Hello, Friends!

Friends: What do you like to do for fun?

Eileen: I spend most of my time with my family. Together my husband and I have eight children, but Cole and Zane are the only ones still at home. We now have seven grandchildren. I am the lifeguard

for Knoxville Open Water Swimmers, who swim in the river at Suttree Landing on Thursday evenings; we also host a marathon open-water swim race every year called Bridges to Bluffs. I am an avid hiker and am adding backpacking this summer. Nature is my home.

Friends: Is there a favorite library story?

Eileen: I have memories. When my boys were small, we were always at the library. We were regulars at story time and loved the arts and crafts. It was a very special time for the boys and me. They both love to read, at least in part a result of the many positive experiences they've had with books, libraries, and stories they were read as young children.

Thank You!

Members Who Joined at \$50+ Level

Linda & Barney
Maccabe

Linda Phillips &
Kenneth McFarland

Non-designated Gifts

Doug Demott

Connie Gonzalez

Allen E. Johnson

Rodney and Dell
Lawler

Kristin Prough

Designated Gifts: Book Ball

Anonymous

Janet B. Bigelow

Eden & Chris Bishop

Melinda Davis

Barbara Gray

Nancy Hugh

Michael & Nancy
Lofaro

Jane S. Stroud

Memorial Gifts

Loudon Circuit Court
made donations
to Books in the
Community and
Empty Stocking
Fund in memory
of William David
Hunter

Sujana Chandrasekar
in memory
of Preethi
Chandrasekar

Sharon & Larry
Smith in memory of
Stanley Underwood



The Friends Are Stewards Of Rosie's Little Library

The founders of Rosie's Little Library have passed the stewardship of the popular book box on the World's Fair site to the Friends of the Knox County Public Library. Rachel and Jake Rodgers established the little library as a memorial to a baby that would never grow up, but the family, which now includes daughter Cate and son J. J., is moving to the Atlanta area, where Jake will join the staff of Pinecrest Academy. However, Rosie's Little Library will endure.

Its stock will be replenished by members of the Friends' Sales and Distribution Committee, assisted by others in the community who have come to cherish the memory of Rosie and the books that her little library shares.

Source: "Rosie's Little Library: A Legacy of Love" at tinyurl.com/jpjzxsnx.

Friends @ Rothrock Hours Return to Normal Schedule

The Friends' little shop with the big bargains in gently used books has announced its return to its original hours:

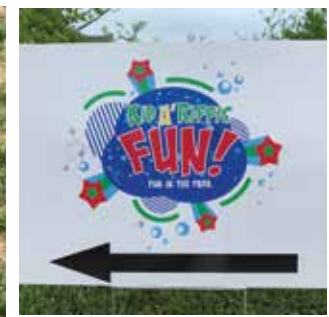
Monday through Saturday:
10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1 until 4:30 p.m.

Through the month of June, all the books that shoppers can put into a grocery bag will be priced at only \$5.

Kid A'Riffic Fun at the Park: Terrific

City of Knoxville parks are perfect places for this summer's family-friendly Kid A'Riffic in the Park. Kids can play, draw, paint, read, pick up take-home activities from the staff of Knox County Public Library, or just hang out with a friend. And Friends have been able to do one of their favorite things: put gently used books in the hands of young readers at affordable prices. The remaining sales will be held at Adair Park on July 14 and World's Fair Park on July 28.



Pop-Ups Appear at Kid A'Riffic Fun in the Park Events

Story Trails Inspire Kids to Read, Imagine, and Move

As part of this year's Summer Adventure, the Knox County Public Library has introduced Story Trails, a pop-up reading experience that encourages children to move and think in the great outdoors. The first trail debuted on June 2 at the City of Knoxville's Kid A'Riffic Fun in the Park at Suttree Landing Park; trails will be featured at Kid A'Riffic events through July. Each Story Trail allows children of all ages and their families to enjoy reading a picture book that has been placed page by page on storyboards along a trail. Readers follow the numbers to each story page where, after reading that particular page, they then see the prompts for ways they can get their bodies moving. Instructions in Spanish can be accessed by scanning the accompanying QR code.

What Mary Pom Claiborne, the library's assistant director of marketing, communications and development, loves about these "literary activities on the go" is

the prompts on each panel. "We designed the panels," she says, "to be used for interchangeable titles. To honor the copyright of the books, we can't redesign or print any part of the book. All we can do is take two copies of the same book and use the actual pages. The prompts on the panels had to be generic enough to fit any book. The prompts play off of movement

and imagination, reflecting the story — no matter what it is."

KCPL's Story Trails were inspired by a partnership between the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation

(formerly Governor's Books from Birth Foundation) and the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy that created the Storybook Trail Program featuring Imagination Library titles.

The first Storybook Trail was installed at Long Hunter State Park in 2016. The program now includes 18 trails throughout the state, including three locations near Knoxville: Norris Dam, Cove Lake, and Frozen Head state parks.



Each stop on a Story Trail features pages from a picture book along with prompts to encourage kids to think and move.





Friends of Knox County Public Library

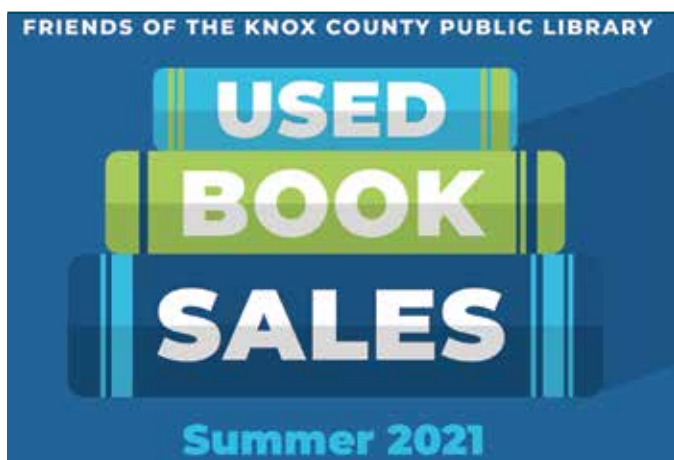
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Branch Sales Are Back!
Cedar Bluff Branch Library

9045 Cross Park Drive

Thursday, June 24: Members-Only Day, 2–7 p.m.
Friday June 25: Open to the public, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, June 26: Open to the public, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Burlington Branch Library

4614 Asheville Highway

July 9 and 10, 1–5 p.m.

Halls Branch Library

4518 E. Emory Road

July 30 and 31, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Bearden Branch Library

100 Golfclub Road

August 6 and 7, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Karns Branch Library

7516 Oak Ridge Highway

August 19 and 21, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.