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THE BEST OF *FRIENDS*

Knoxville, Tennessee

Winter 2013

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2013 USED BOOK SALE

SATURDAY MARCH 9: FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MEMBERS ONLY DAY 11 a.m – 8 p.m.

(Memberships will be available at the door, new or renewing!)

SUNDAY MARCH 10: SALE OPENS TO PUBLIC 1 – 6

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURSDAY MARCH 14: HALF PRICE DAY 11 – 8

FRIDAY MARCH 15: HALF PRICE DAY 11 – 8

Thank you to our teachers! We will offer all area teachers and librarians bag sale prices, 4 – 8 p.m. on Friday. Please bring ID.

SATURDAY MARCH 16: BAG SALE WEEKEND! (\$5/BAG) 11 – 8

SUNDAY MARCH 17: BAG SALE WEEKEND! (\$5/BAG) 1 – 6

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Store
- Specials: Poetry and African-American writers/topics
- 28** E-reader help session, Bearden Branch

MARCH

- Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Store
- Special: Gardening
- 9** Members Only Day at the 2013 Annual Used Book Sale
- 10** 2013 Annual Used Book Sale opens to the public
- 14 – 17** 2013 Annual Used Book Sale continues

APRIL

- Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Store
- Special: Gardening
- 14 – 20** National Library Week
- 25 – 27** Tennessee Library Association Conference, Chattanooga

MAY

- 4** Friends of Tennessee Libraries Annual Meeting, Dover, TN
- 7-8** National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC
- 18** Children's Festival of Reading, World's Fair Park

JULY

- 15** Friends Annual Meeting

The President's Perspective

By Glenn R. Walter

At the 2013 annual meeting of the *Friends* membership, I assumed the role of president from Elnora Williams, who has served this organization so ably over the past two years.



While some of you know me, others may not. So, I thought I might tell you a little about myself and what *Friends* means to me.

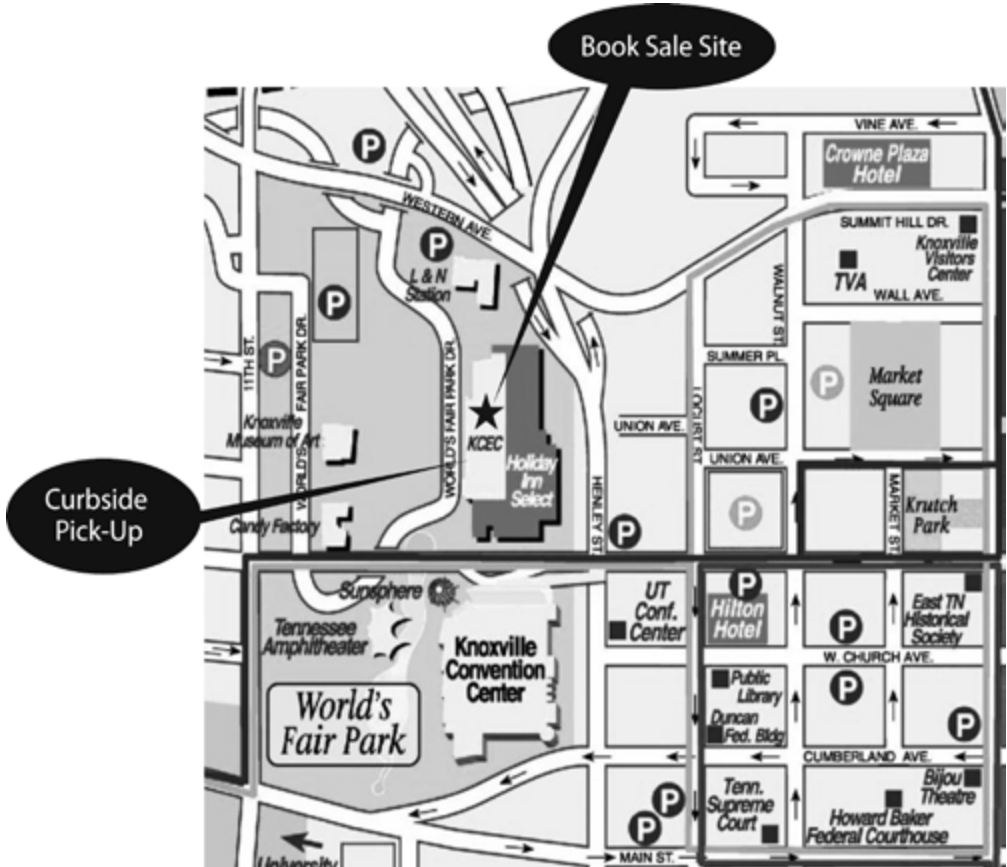
Originally from a small town near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, I came to East Tennessee in 1984 to attend law school at UT and have practiced law in Knoxville since 1987. While in law school, I was assigned to help coach the Webb School legal team in their mock trial competitions. That's where I met Ginna Mashburn, a teacher-sponsor of the team. It was Ginna who years later pleaded, prodded and pushed me to join *Friends*.

As it turned out, the next thing I knew, I was elected to the *Friends* board. I attended my first meeting about six years ago but at the time, I knew little of the organization or its goals. Since then — and despite having been associated with other organizations and boards, both large and small — I have come to realize *Friends* is the most active and conscientious group of volunteers I've worked with.

The time and effort that people invest in all phases of our activities is impressive. Additionally, regular Board meetings produce excellent ideas and strategy, and committee chairs work tirelessly to implement the organization's activities, communications and programs. Truly, the strength of *Friends* comes from our many volunteers who accomplish so much by giving unselfishly of their time.

For everyone who gives of themselves to *Friends*, I say thank you. For those of you who would like to become more involved, we welcome you to participate on one of our many committees. Just let a board or committee member know of your interest. We'll be happy to find the right place for you.

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New Finale for The Greatest Show on Earth 2013 Annual Used Book Sale Ends With BAG SALE WEEKEND!

By Mary Ann Merrell

The 2013 Annual Used Book Sale is just around the corner. This year, the sale has been extended to offer more weekend hours and to let us convert our famous Saturday bag sale into a wonderful *weekend* event. Additionally, Members Only Day will have extended hours.

Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Members Only Day

The sale opens to the public on Sunday, March 10, closes Monday through Wednesday, then reopens Thursday, March 14. The final day of the sale is Sunday, March 17. Once again, the sale will be held at the Knoxville Convention and Exposition Center at the Holiday Inn on the World's Fair Park.

During the book sale, most books for adults will sell for \$2 or less and books for children will be \$1 or less. The sale will include a wide selection of affordable movies, magazines and music. Additionally, our Special Collections, located on the right as you enter the main sales area, will feature rare and over-sized books priced between \$3 and \$20. Special Collections will also include reference books perfect for school and home libraries.

Volunteers from *Friends* will once again offer drive-up curbside service to help load purchases into cars.

Since we expanded the hours of the sale, we have also changed the discount schedule. This year, everything is half-price on Thursday and Friday (March 14-15), including books, DVDs and other materials as well as the books in Special Collections. And we're delighted to announce that "bag sale day" will now be Bag Sale Weekend (Saturday and Sunday, March 16-17). This year you'll have *two* days to take advantage of the bargain of the century — a bag of great books for only \$5. To top it off, "box" sale prices of \$20 to \$25 will be offered in Special Collections.

For book sale hours, directions to the sale, or where to find convenient parking, visit www.knoxfriends.org.

Why support and promote this event?

Proceeds of the 2013 Annual Used Book Sale will benefit the Knox County Public Library in critically important ways. During the past 40 years, *Friends* membership dues and income from used-book sales have provided the Knox County Public Library and its patrons with more than \$1 million of financial support for extended child, teen and adult programs, events and materials, and professional development opportunities for staff.

Help us make this year's used book sale a success by not only shopping at the event but by promoting it as well. Look for a used book sale flyer to come in your email sometime in mid-February. Please take a moment to forward the flyer to your family, friends and coworkers. And if you'd really like to help, download the printable poster that's available online and pin it up at work or wherever you can.

Lend a virtual or traditional hand and help us get the word out!



A family laden with treasures at the 2012 sale.

Don't Miss Members Only Day

A ticket is required to attend Members Only Day at the 2013 Used Book Sale. If you have renewed under the new January to December membership cycle you should have already received your ticket. If your membership is not up to date, renew at *Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Store* or online at www.knoxfriends.org. Tickets will be mailed if memberships are purchased before February 21. You can also renew at the book sale. Just stop by the *Friends* membership table during the sale.

Our Sponsors

Friends urges our members to support and thank the corporate sponsors who are helping us reach out to the community during the 2013 Used Book Sale: the Knoxville *News Sentinel*, WBIR-TV Channel 10, Comcast, and Three Rivers Market.

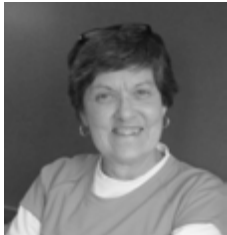


Q and A with Three Volunteers



Jean Idell, Suzanne Freeman, and Mary Ann Merrell have together invested more than 50 years in *Friends*. Quite simply our used book sales would not happen without them. Why do they do it?

Freeman: The Face of *Friends*



Suzanne has served *Friends* in a variety of capacities. She was secretary to the board for several years and president in 2009-10. Now a director, she has co-chaired the Used Book Committee for the past three years.

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What prompted you to join *Friends*? Julie Webb recruited me to replace her as the *Friends* liaison to the board of the *Friends* of Tennessee Libraries when she took up her duties as its president.

How long have you worked the Annual Used Book Sale?

I have worked the sale every year since becoming a member of *Friends* more than 10 years ago. When I began, the sale was held at the Candy Factory with John Thomas at the helm.

What are your duties at the sale? I back-up Jean, who staffs the sale and keeps all our supplies and volunteers straight, and Mary Ann, who makes all the “executive” decisions.

What is the hardest part of the job at the sale? Trying to get Jean and Mary Ann to do less work!

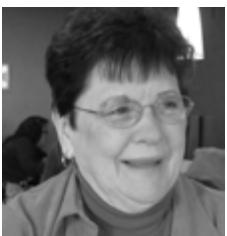
What is the best part of the job? Being the public face of *Friends* and working with the volunteers, whom I call “my people.”

Do you have a favorite story about the sale? Two years ago, we arranged for Giggl to buy the books left over after a sale. The company sent a tractor trailer truck, and I got to ride in the cab with the driver to help him maneuver the streets of Knoxville back to the loading dock at the Convention Center. What fun it was to sit up there in that mammoth vehicle! Mary Ann had recruited some boys from Knoxville Catholic High School to help load the books into the truck. Between them and help from two other volunteers, we loaded that truck in record time.

What kind of books do you like to read? I have a hard time settling on one type of book, but I do enjoy history and historical fiction.

Why should people join the *Friends*? The library is a wonderful community treasure. *Friends* members have the fun and reward of knowing that we help this institution thrive in our neighborhood. I get so much out of volunteering that I always encourage people to join us.

Jean Idell: Indefatigable



Jean, co-chair of the Used Book Committee, has been with *Friends* since 1990 and has served several terms on the board. For 21 of her years with *Friends* she has worked at the Annual Used Book Sale, coordinating and supervising the Sort Team. She also schedules volunteers for the *Friends* @ Rothrock Book Shop.

What prompted you to join *Friends*? I was a member of *Friends* of the Library groups in California and Texas. I love to read books, and *Friends* is a wonderful organization.

What are your duties at the sale? Before the sale I call and schedule the volunteers. At the sale I supervise the volunteers and work at the checkout desk.

What is the hardest part of the job at the sale? Making sure everything is running smoothly, and telling Mary Ann and Suzanne that I do not want to go home when they tell me to!

What is the best part of the job? Getting to see and visit with all the wonderful volunteers that work with me and greeting the customers that keep coming back every year.

Do you have a favorite story about the sale? We found a retirement letter in a donated book from one of my best

friends in high school. It was a letter from when she retired from the FBI. I sent it to her, and we have stayed in touch all these years.

What books do you like to read? I read inspirational fiction, suspense and some best sellers.

Mary Ann Merrell: Marvelous Manager



Mary Ann is a member of our Board and co-chairs the Used Book Committee where she helps organize the Annual Used Book Sale, branch sales and the daily operations of the Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop. She also helps organize the Empty Stocking Fund book drive, the Children's Festival of Books and other book-distribution events.

What prompted you to join the *Friends*? I used to work in several retail book stores. Part of my job was to do book fairs that helped schools raise funds for their libraries. The wonderful librarian at West Hills Elementary, Mary Lett Robertson, introduced me to *Friends* more than 20 years ago. I also loved coming to the Annual Used Book Sale to buy books for my daughters. It was the best deal in town for parents whose children love to read but often lose library books.

How long have you worked the Annual Used Book Sale? Memory fades, but at least 15 years. I judge time by the ages of my children and the first time I remember buying so much that my arms were breaking by the time I got to my car. That was also the first time I helped set up the children's section.

What are your duties for the sale? Before the sale I recruit sponsors, help develop publicity materials, organize volunteer schedules, square away the accounting requirements and logistics for the event's location, and contract labor, trucks and teams of volunteers to get the boxes to the site. Then I help create the layout for the sale and a plan for how it will be set up, seeing things through until the final

Why should people join the *Friends*? It's a wonderful organization that puts time and effort into raising funds for all branches of the library. It's also a wonderful way to meet people and make them friends for life. I plan on working with *Friends* as long as my body will let me.

book is unpacked. Oh, and of course, I plan the food for our volunteers! During the sale I monitor volunteers to ensure they are where they're needed and that they have everything they need to enjoy their experience at the sale. I also assist shoppers and straighten the book displays.

What is the hardest part of the job? Trying to get Jean Idell to go home.

What is the best part of the job? When I actually can get Jean to go home! Seriously, the sale offers a special opportunity for those who love and value reading to be able to afford great books for their home libraries.

Do you have a favorite story about the sale? A shopper came in to look for a special book to give her husband for his birthday. She was there for quite a while because it had to be the "perfect" book since he was difficult to shop for. She ended up finding what she thought would work. When she opened the book she saw that it had been inscribed by the author to someone whose name was the same as her husband's!

What kind of books do you like to read? I still love reading children's and young-adult books. (It's great being a grandmother!) I also love biographies, especially memoirs, and tales of travel, history and fiction. I enjoy a good mystery every now and then, too.

Why should people join the *Friends*? *Friends* are great stewards of the funds they raise through membership and book sales. We truly make a difference in the level and the quality of so many special library programs — something that would not happen without our support. I doubt most members of *Friends* realize how far their support goes.

Challenged by Your E-Reader?

Is the Nook, Kindle, or iPad that you received during the holidays still in its wrappings because you don't know how to use it? The Knox County Public Library to the rescue!

With a Knox County library card, you can gain access to the library's growing collection of thousands of e-books for children, teens, and adults.

The library system offers help sessions that demonstrate how to install and register the required software and download an ebook to your device.

One such help session is scheduled at the Bearden Branch Library for February 28 at 6:30 p.m. Others are in the works for March. For more information about e-readers, troubleshooting, and download support, contact the Lawson McGhee Reference Department at 215-8700.

Want Library Help 24/7? Check Out TEL

It's 10 p.m. Your middle schooler has a project due tomorrow. Or you have to review a biography for your book club. You have a computer, but you know that many Internet resources are not reliable and the reference department at the library is closed. What can you do?

Dial up the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL), which is administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives. It's a virtual library accessible from home 24/7 or from any Tennessee public library. TEL gives you free access to more than 400,000 reliable electronic resources, including magazines, scholarly journals, podcasts, videos, ebooks, test-preparation materials, Tennessee primary source materials, and more. Its databases offer help to students struggling with homework, consumers looking for health information, genealogists searching for missing relatives, leisurely readers looking for the next novel, and much more. Check it out at www.tntel.info.

Books and Booksellers

Reading about Writers

By Jeff Johnson

Over the last several months, several biographies and memoirs of well-known writers have been published. Reading about the lives of writers, especially when they write about themselves, can be fascinating when one is a reader of their fiction. The themes, subject matter, settings and characters that are explored in a writer's fiction can usually be traced to his or her life story. What may seem an unlikely circumstance in a novel can turn out to be based on actual occurrence. An unlikely character was even more outlandish in real life.

Richard Russo, author of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction, *Empire Falls*, and his most recent novel, *That Old Cape Magic*, has written a book titled *Elsewhere: A Memoir*. While the book gives an outline of Russo's upbringing and work, its real emphasis is on Russo's mother, Jean Russo. Readers can see the shadow of this excessively needy (and, as it turns out, mentally unstable) woman in the character of Francine Whiting, the manipulative and cunning town matriarch of Empire Falls, Maine, and in the professorial mother of writer Jack Griffin in *That Old Cape Magic*. *Elsewhere* reveals that Russo's mother used her son's moving out of state for college as her way to leave her parents' house — she moved with him! Russo's mother and the intellectually snobbish Mary Griffin share their place of final interment, a pond on Martha's Vineyard.

A second "character" in *Elsewhere* is the failing mill town of Gloversville, NY, where Russo was raised. Russo readers will recognize the obviously named Gloversville (whose glove-making mills began to falter after World War II when the formalities of social life no longer required "party gloves") as the source of inspiration for the towns of Mohawk (Russo's first novel) and Empire Falls. Russo's fans will appreciate *Elsewhere: A Memoir*, but those who are dealing with elderly parents will also gain insight from the book.

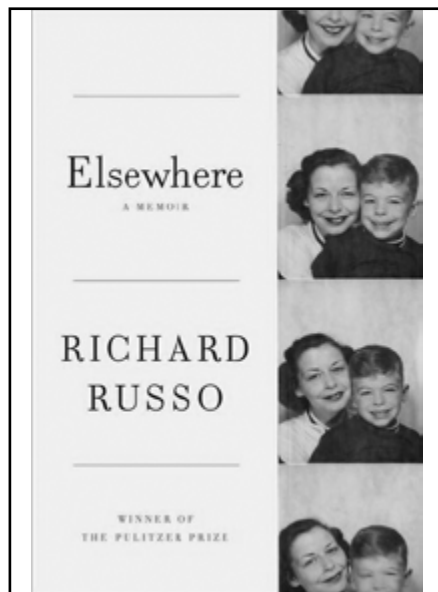
A favorite writer of mine, Paul Auster, recently published *Winter Journal*, another memoir. Auster is best known as the author of *The New York Trilogy*, a series of three only thematically related "detective" stories entitled *City of Glass*, *Ghosts*, and *The Locked Room* and the more recent — and more accessible — novels, *The Brooklyn Follies* and *Sunset Park*. Auster's memoir is at times both humorous and chilling as he recounts his life as focused on bodily sensations including beautifully written early childhood reminiscences, his out-of-body experience in an automobile accident and his anxiety attacks. Ironically, Auster's first book, published when he was

35, was also a memoir, *The Invention of Solitude*. Now in his 60's, Auster has given us the chance to compare the man he was becoming with the man fully formed.

David Foster Wallace did not live long enough to write his memoirs. The life of Wallace, dead by his own hand at the age of 46, is chronicled in the newly published biography *Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story* by D.T. Max. Knowing the way Wallace's life ended as one begins his biography makes each bout of depression, episodes of which began when Wallace was in early college, even more poignant. Max has used interviews with Wallace's family, friends, and colleagues to paint the picture of his life; and the boyhood stories are both warm and familiar to those of us young in the 60s and 70s. Intellectually brilliant, Wallace graduated from Amherst with two summa cum laude majors in philosophy and writing. His senior thesis in writing became his first novel, *The Broom of the System*. *Infinite Jest*, included in the *Time* magazine list of 100 best English-language novels since 1923, and the posthumously published *The Pale King*, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 2012, are considered his two legacy novels. Wallace's life story, which touches on his tennis playing, his love of humor and irony, and his struggles with depression and suicidal tendencies, portrays themes that he explores numerous times in his fiction.

If one wishes to leave the realities, the modernism and the post-modernisms of the 20th and 21st centuries, one can do no better than to pick up either of the two new biographies of Charles Dickens: Claire Tomalin's *Charles Dickens: A Life* and Robert Douglas-Fairhurst's *Becoming Dickens: The Invention of a Novelist*. While the number of biographies of Dickens would probably equal the number of times UT has presented *A Christmas Carol* in December, modern biographies will sometimes go into the subject's more hidden life whereas biographies written decades ago would not. Besides prurient interest, new biographies also have the advantage of newly published academic studies and revelations. Each new biographer also has the opportunity to focus on specific aspects of a grand subject's life, as does Douglas-Fairhurst.

Each of the books discussed above is available from the Knox County Library System, both in hardcover and in audio book form, and from Union Avenue Books (unionavebooks.com), 951-2180. Some of the titles are also available in downloadable ebook form from the library.



Book Club Stays Together 20 Years

By Martha Gill

Attached to a recent *Friends* membership renewal came this note from Lori Murphree. She wrote, "My book club has been meeting for 20 years. We often use the library for our books and we are now downloading books to read and listen to. Our club includes both men and women — making for some interesting reading choices!"

Intrigued by Lori's note, we wanted to know more. Here's what we found out.

When their sons were toddlers, Lori and her neighbor, Lisa Victory, belonged to a neighborhood babysitting co-op. Though the women later moved away from each other, they decided to start a book club when their sons reached second grade. They called it The Substance Over Image Book Club.

Lori says their sons are now almost 30 years old and the list of books read by their club runs to seven pages!

A secret to the longevity of the Substance Over Image Book Club may be that its members are both men and women. Members include Charles and Barbara McGehee (Barbara's a retiree from the Knox County Public Library), and Nancy and David Banks. Lori and Lisa's husbands (Mike and Gerry, respectively) are also members and their interests range from World War II to economics. Each month the members take turn hosting the club in their homes, and the host gets to pick the book for that month.

The mix of men and women in the club has dramatically broadened the group's perspective. They've read National Book Award winners like *The Shipping News* and *Cold Mountain*, books for kids like the first Harry Potter and *The Giver*, as well as a western or two like *Riders of the Purple Sage* and *All the Pretty Horses*. Currently they're delving into *Playing with the Enemy*, a true story about baseball, World War II and German POWs, and Cheryl Strayed's *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*.

Lori reports that the men have been good sports about reading books such as *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Help*. As for the men's choices, she found herself deeply moved by *Flags of Our Fathers*, the story of the battle for Iwo Jima. "I doubt I would have ever picked up that book if it had not been chosen by one of the men in our club," Lori says.

Lori laughs that the book club has had to learn several valuable lessons over the years. First, reading other people's choices is essential. "It's a sign of respect and it's a way of showing you care. You just might learn something, too." Also, don't pick a book you haven't read yourself, even if it's recommended by others. "I once selected *Sea of Grass* because I remembered the movie was haunting and evocative," Lori confesses. "It was a terrible pick. I don't think there was even one line of dialogue in it. Fortunately, the group was forgiving!"

Another lesson learned by the club is to make sure the book is available at the library before picking it. It's also important to see what formats are available — print, tape, CD, even downloadables for the Kindle or iPad. As the library enters the digital age, so does the Substance Over Image Book Club, 20 years after its beginning.



Members of the Substance Over Image Book Club include (from left) Charles McGehee, Nancy Banks, David Banks, Lisa Victory, Gerry Victory, Lori Murphree and Barbara McGehee.

The Substance Over Image Book Club recommends these titles:

A Civil Action
by Jonathan Harr

Three Came Home
by Agnes Keith

In the Sanctuary of Outcasts
by Neil White

A Painted House
by John Grisham

Dewey by Vicki Myron

I Capture the Castle
by Dodie Smith

The Imperial Cruise
by James Bradley

The Fly Boys
by James Bradley

Dorie: Woman of the Mountains
by Florence Cope Bush

Lincoln's Admiral
by James P. Duffy

Angela's Ashes
by Frank McCourt

Rocket Boys
by Homer H. Hickam

The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea
by Sebastian Junger

I Am Hutterite: the Fascinating True Story of a Young Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Heritage
by Mary-Ann Kirkby

The Endurance Expedition
by Kristin Johnson

Unbroken : a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption
by Laura Hillenbrand

My Dog Skip by Willie Morris

Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family
by Miep Gies

The Devil in the White City : Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America
by Erik Larson

Is there a story behind your book club? Let us hear from you at info@knoxfriends.org.



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I want to receive my newsletter by email.

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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