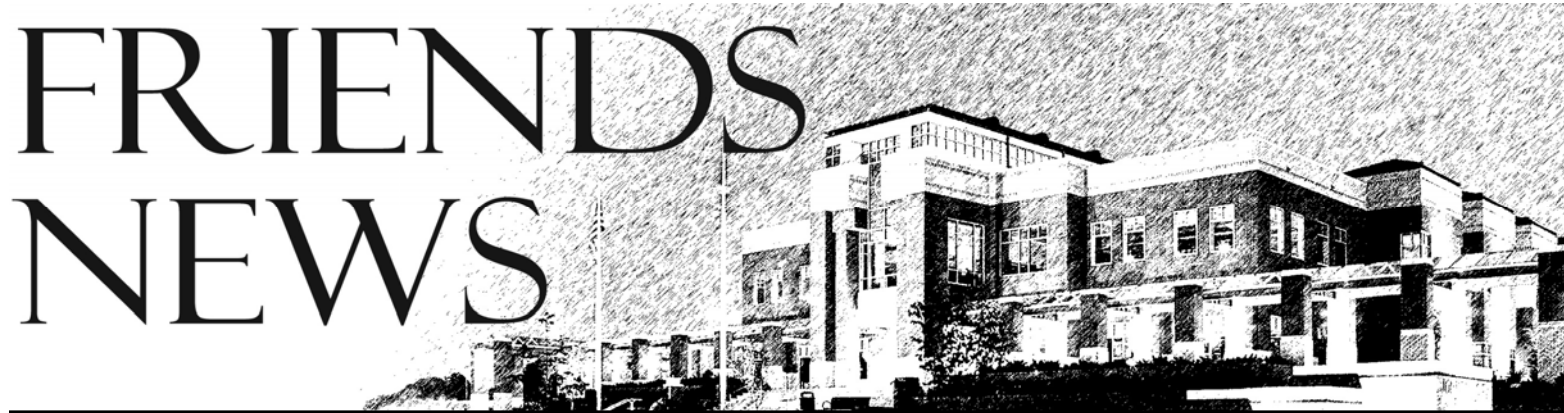


FRIENDS NEWS



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Johnson City Public Library

Fall 2006

Success Stories

Our spring book sale was a huge success. We raised nearly \$2000 in book sales and over \$600 in memberships. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We are very excited about our upcoming fall book sale, which commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Friends and honors National Friends of Libraries Week. Set-up for the fall book sale begins Friday October 27th at 10 a.m.

This year's summer reading program was also hugely successful. Partnered with Mountain States Health Alliance and sponsored by the Friends, the program had a tremendous response – over 2000 kids and 100 teens signed up! Everyone enjoyed the program (even the monkeys). The performances were taped to replay at the children's hospital. Betty Cobb and the folks in Children's Services put together a nice scrapbook illustrating the program's success. You'll want to check it out.

Plans are already being made for next summer's reading program aimed around a farm theme.

The Book Buddies program is also beginning another great year reading in area daycares and pre-schools. This is a wonderful program that brings the library to children. Book Buddies is always in need of more volunteers. It's just a twice a month commitment. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Linda Johnson at 434-4458.



Fall Book Sale

Our shelves are filling up with books again, which means it's time to have another book sale. Please plan on joining us for our special Fall Book Sale. If you'd like to donate books for the sale, please no encyclopedias, textbooks or magazines.

What: Friends of the Johnson City Public Library Fall Book Sale

➤ **Special Preview: Friday, October 27th, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** ◀

Public Sale: Saturday, October 28th 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Where: Johnson City Public Library, Jones Meeting rooms

Bring your membership card for admittance to the preview. If you can't find your card, we will have a member's list at the door. If your membership has expired, you can renew it at the sale!



Friends Board of Directors Officers 2006

President: Kathy Hall
Vice-President: Robert Sawyer
Treasurer: Charles Moore
Secretary: Linda Gallagher

Call for Volunteers

We need volunteers to help with the fall book sale! If you can help with set-up, during the sale or clean-up immediately afterwards, please e-mail us at friends@jcpl.net or call Kathy Hall at 676-9520.

You need no special skills or knowledge to volunteer and we'd love to get more folks involved in the sale.

Did You Know?

Gail Campbell, Adult Services Librarian, just celebrated her 30th anniversary at the library. A luncheon was held in honor of her dedication

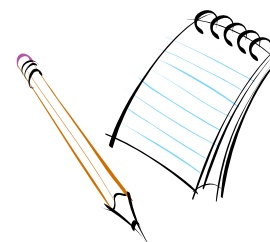


Get-to-Know

This installment of the Get-to-know series features a conversation with the FOL's first president, Martha Nan Meredith. Because this year marks the FOL's 30th anniversary, it seemed appropriate to probe the mind of our inaugural president. As you will see, Martha has a lively personality and a good sense of humor.

-Josh Archer-

- JA: First of all, I would like to thank you for setting aside time to do the interview.
- MNM: You're welcome.
- JA: How long were you the president of the Friends?
- MNM: I don't know if it was a year or two – probably no more than two.
- JA: What inspired you to participate in the Friends, especially taking on the job of president?
- MNM: I wasn't inspired to. I was told that I had to. Well, I think that we were all interested in furthering the aim of the library, especially with the town growing like it was. The population was getting big and we felt that a Friends group could help support expanding the library.
- JA: Were you always involved with the Library?
- MNM: I think that I really wanted to be a librarian when I was younger, but I got sidetracked with getting married and having children and all sorts of things.
- JA: Do you remember how many people started the Friends?
- MNM: No, but it was not a big group. I think that the Monday Club was involved and a few from the Junior Service League. It was really a diverse group.
- JA: I'm sure you were well received, right?
- MNM: Well, I don't think there were but two people that worked in the library. It wasn't a very big staff.
- JA: Well, I'm sure those two people appreciated the work that the Friends were doing.
- MNM: How many years has that been?
- JA: This is the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Friends of the Library.
- MNM: I thought it was back in the Seventies. The little ol' Mayne Williams Library at that time was beautiful, but you walked in and all of the windows would be up because they didn't have air conditioning. You walked up the steps and there in the front was a little beautiful wooden desk where you checked out your books. I can only remember a couple of people that worked the desk. There may have been more, but I don't think so. Ms. Street was one. Oh, gosh, she was really wonderful.
- JA: What activities were the Friends involved with during your presidency?
- MNM: I remember that we put the Dial-A-Story in, but that was really the Junior Service League that did that. I believe that it is still up and running.
- JA: Oh, it is. In fact, it is one of our more popular programs. (Phone 423-928-1159)
- MNM: I remember going to some city on a little trip and they had that (Dial-A-Story) at their library, and I thought, hey, that's neat - why don't we try to get that going at our library?
- JA: How did you spend most of your time as president?
- MNM: Probably trying to organize everything and gain support for the library. We were all thinking that we needed to expand the library.
- JA: What was the most rewarding aspect?
- MNM: Always, always, it was the people that I worked with. The people that I came in contact with were so helpful and supportive.
- JA: Did the Friends have a membership fee?
- MNM: Yeah, I think that we always have had a fee. It was probably something like a dollar, though.
- JA: What are you doing now?
- MNM: Well, let's see. I have my own business that I run, I volunteer a lot, am active in church, and I have lots of children and lots of grandchildren.
- JA: What is your favorite book?
- MNM: Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth*.
- JA: Is she your favorite author?
- MNM: Well, no. I kinda enjoy humorous authors, those that are very funny, very light. If the book doesn't make me laugh, then I don't want to read it.
- JA: Do you have any other book recommendations?
- MNM: Oh, gosh, I could make recommendations from now on. Let's see, Bartle Bull's *A Café on the Nile*, *The White Rhino Hotel*, and *Shanghai Station* are three really good books. *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson, which is a classic about the Appalachian Trail, and *The Wal-Mart Effect* by Charles Fishman are some others. My granddaughter is raving about John Grogan's *Marley and Me*, a wonderful little story about a young person and the world's worst dog.
- JA: Are you still involved with the library now?
- MNM: I was on the board for a long time – nine years or as long as they would let me before they kicked me out.
- JA: Ok, last question: if you could spend the day with one person, who would it be?
- MNM: Well, my husband who passed away a few years ago. That's who I would want to spend some time with.
- JA: Great answer.



Fall Book Recommendations

For fall book recommendations, I polled the staff at the library for their input. I thought it would be interesting to see what the staff is reading, seeing as how books surround them all the time.

Esther Pawlowicz, Acquisitions Librarian, suggests reading Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*, a series full of witty humor and fantasy. The first book in the series is titled *The Color of Magic*, which is about a tourist who hires the failed wizard to be his guide.

She also recommends *See Delphi and Die* by Lindsey Davis, the latest Marcus Didius Falco mystery. Davis is known for her humor, dense plotting, and well-drawn characters.

Linda Blanton is our Cataloger in the Technical Services Department. Linda is a mystery addict. Her current reading suggestions include mysteries by Conrad Allen, featuring shipboard detectives George Porter Dillman and Genevieve Masefield. These "light" historical mysteries take place on various cruise ships in the 1930s. These are a quick and enjoyable read.

For humor, you can't beat Dave Barry. His latest is *Money Secrets*. Linda has enjoyed reading him for years guaranteeing that he will make you "laugh-out-loud"

Linda has also started the 6th book in Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series. These books are an engaging blend of time travel, 18th century Scottish and American history, and lusty romance with Highlander Jamie Fraser and his wife Claire Randall.

Dunstan McNutt works part time at the Reference Desk. The best book he's read in a while is Tim O'Brien's *In the Lake of the Woods*. O'Brien blends historical events into his narrative of a failed senatorial candidate whose past came back to haunt him. To further muddy the waters, his wife goes missing while they were vacationing after the primaries - highly recommended.

Lydia Gwyn, Circulation Services, recommends one of the best books she read this summer: *The Light the Dead See*, a book of Frank Stanford's selected poems. Stanford's young career was

shortened by his suicide. Although an Oxford American reviewer called Stanford "the virtuoso of the Ozarks," his work has been relatively under the radar.

Lisa Williams, who is also a graduate student in UT's distance MLS program, works in the Reference Department. Her summer reading list included *Loredana*, by Lauro Martines, a sad and vividly written tale of star-crossed lovers in Renaissance Venice who run afoul of a brutal Inquisition - not for the squeamish reader. She also read *The Remedy* by Michelle Lovric, a fanciful romance full of twists and turns, stagecraft and statecraft, espionage, murder, fat children, lost love, quackery and potions, and hope sprung eternal.

Lisa's latest read was *The Calligrapher* by Edward Docx, a brilliantly written and scathing send up of modern life and foibles (with a few pot-shots at the chick-lit genre along the way). It's a book with a heart on its sleeve and a mighty big brain in its cranium.

Betty Cobb, Children's Services, recommends *Graduation of Jake Moon* by Barbara Park. Jake Moon, an eight-grader who lives with his grandparents, is trying to come to terms with his grandfather's Alzheimer disease. When you read this book you will see events unfold that make Jake appreciate his grandfather and respect him even with his debilitating disease.

Holly Russo, Adult Services Librarian, suggests her favorite book this year: *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* by Susannah Clarke, published in 2004. It is a literary work of fantasy. Politics, English society, and magic are headed for confrontation. Set in the time of Napoleon, this extraordinary tale is full of satire and wit. It is an extremely well written story that had her chuckling through its entirety.

Gail Campbell, who just recently celebrated her 30th anniversary, read *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith and really enjoyed it. Smith addresses race, sex, class, politics and history in her debut novel. According to Amazon.com, her wit and inventiveness make these heavy subjects "effortlessly light."

Gina Thayer-Coleman, our Circulation Services Manager, has been reading books by Mary Kay Andrews, a pseudonym for Kathy Hogan Trocheck. She's a southern writer whose characters Gina felt could be her best friends, next-door neighbors or co-workers; they are down to earth, no nonsense, strong Southern women. Gina highly recommends her books to anyone, (especially women) who wants a good laugh

Bobby Swanay, Adult Services Librarian, recommends *The Lincoln Lawyer* by Michael Connelly, which is a very well written legal thriller; "better than a Grisham novel," he says. Bobby also suggests reading *Hidden Empire* by Kevin Anderson, which is the first of seven in an epic sci-fi series. The science part is not heavy; the challenge is learning the huge cast of characters in this beginning book. It was enjoyable though, so he'll be going on to the next book in the series -recommended for fans of epic series.

The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian by Robert E. Howard is another good book. The Library recently added three Conan books containing all of the original Robert E. Howard Conan stories. Bobby greatly enjoyed reading these, as they practically invented the "sword & sorcery" genre.



Library Events

Call 423-434-4450

Community Helpers Day

A special program about community helpers will be held on Thursday, October 19th beginning at 10:00 a.m. for preschool and early elementary children and their parents and caregivers. A presentation by different occupations will begin at 10:00 AM. After the thirty-minute program everyone may view the booths set up by

many different professional careers and local community organizations.

CSI for Teens at the Library

A CSI Program especially for teens will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 2:00 pm. If you are interested in

learning more about how investigation is handled call to register.

Teen Mystery Night at the Library

A Mystery Night especially for teens, Tuesday, October 24th, at 6:30 pm. Call to register.

Youth Services Announces New Fall Storytime Schedule

For further information about all the preschool and school age programs at the library, contact the Youth Services at 434-4458 or visit www.jcpl.net.

Join us for a Special Book Sale Preview

We invite you to participate in a special preview of our fall book sale open to all Friends of the Johnson City Public Library members. We will be celebrating the Friends' 30th anniversary as well as honoring National Friends of Libraries Week. This special

event will take place on Friday night, October 27th starting at 6:00 p.m. and lasting until 8:00 p.m. During the preview FOL members will be able to shop the book sale before it is open to the public. There will also be refreshments. Hope to see all of you there.



Friends of the Johnson City Public Library
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