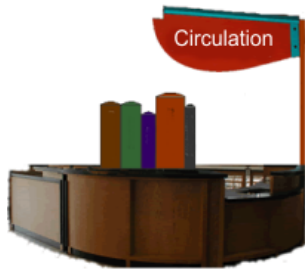


FRIENDS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Johnson City Public Library

Fall 2011

JCPL Circulation Desk



If we were comparing the Johnson City Public Library circulation desk to a big box store, the circulation desk would combine cashiers, the return desk, security, the company premium-card issuances, and the greeter all in one - as if circulation is the least of its duties. With a collection of about 185,000 items, the library circulation desk makes sure every item goes out the door attached to a name, collects late fees, arranges "layaway," sends to and receives from neighborhood regional branches, monitors the R.E.A.D.S, maintains the patron records, and is the complaint desk of convenience for the library's 276,000 patrons a year. Each item checked out from the library is handled twice - once going out the door and once coming back. In one year this manual-very-non-computer-driven task could add up to 455,000 items out and 455,000 back in, for a total of 900,000 item-touches!

The library is a very public intersection of public policy meeting public service. At the front line is the circulation desk. Almost all library patrons come to the circulation desk at one time or another and the people working behind that desk must balance serving their patrons who are, also, taxpayers

and donors while carrying out library policy. The Johnson City Public Library circulation desk performs this sometimes challenging balancing act everyday with expertise and good humor. As the economic doldrums continue, one benefit has been increased use of the library. Whether that traffic is to the computer lab, to the newspapers, or to the book stacks, all those people, 800 per day, make for a packed funnel through the front door, right past the circulation desk which is ready to serve each and every patron.

Save the Date!

**February 1, 2012
Author Brown
Bag Lunch with
Keith Donnelly**



The Friends of the Johnson City Library mid-winter brown-bag lunch will feature Keith Donnelly, author of three novels in the Donald Youngblood Mysteries series. Donnelly is a native of Johnson City, a Science Hill High School and ETSU graduate who lived for many years in New York City and now lives in Gatlinburg, retired from the publishing business. His Donald Youngblood series includes three novels already in print, (*Three Deuces Down*, *Three Days Dead*, and *Three Devils Dancing*) and a fourth which will be released mid-2012. Keith will be speaking at noon on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, and will have copies of his books available for purchase and signing. Friends of the Library board will provide beverages and desserts for the event.

We would like to invite all FOL members to attend the December 8th board meeting. Also, anyone interested in serving on the board is encouraged to come to this meeting. The Friends meet the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Jones Meeting Room at the library.

Fall Book Recommendations

The days are getting shorter and what better way to pass a winter's evening than with a good book! Here are some ideas from the Friends of the Library.

David Benner - C.S. Forester was well known for his Hornblower series of sea stories, but in 1943 he wrote a different kind of book entitled *The Ship*. This is a day on a British cruiser in the Mediterranean as it escorts a relief convoy to Malta in the early days of WW II. The book centers around the activities on the ship as it is attached by the Italian navy. Each department, from the bridge to the lone individual who keeps the propeller shaft lubricated, is visited. The emphasis is on the people not on warfare. Even if you have no interest in "war stories" this is an interesting and easily read book. This a a rare find in our library.

Kathy Hall - *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. I've just reread this book for a book club. I think I enjoyed it even more the second time. It's the story of young love against the backdrop of the Japanese American internment during WWII. We see the stories main

character Henry Lee both as a 13 year old boy during the war and at present time as a recent widower trying to come to grips with his wife's death and build a relationship with his son.

What I've listened too: *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland. An interesting novel about the woman who designed many of the famous Tiffany lamps. It was an interesting audio book from R.E.A.D.S. Just the right mix of story and information about the making of leaded glass pieces. I was so excited to hear that the Biltmore is having a Tiffany glass exhibit through January 2012. After listening to this book, I feel like I know some of those lamps well!

Becky McKnight - I recently revisited John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, as it was a selection for a book club. Oprah has also heralded it as one of the "Great Books" of the 20th century. The compelling saga takes the reader through two generations of the Trask

family which is a parallel to the biblical account of Cain and Abel.

Power Thoughts: 12 Strategies to Win the Battles of the Mind by Joyce Meyer. I chose this book merely because it was on the bestseller list. I was unaware of the author's following through her books and television show. Being "forever the optimist", I was immediately immersed in the positive thinking strategies and their implementation into daily living. By the way, every where I went with this book in hand, strangers would ask about it and comment on their love of Joyce Meyer and her work!

Wendy Oliver - *Three Devils Dancing* by Keith Donnelly. I've been a David Baldacci fan for years, and when I discovered the novels of Keith Donnelly, it was like finding Baldacci's literary brother. Donnelly's Donald Youngblood mysteries chronicle the action-packed and occasionally painful development of the main character's growth professionally as a private in-

vestigator as well as personally. The third book, *Three Devils Dancing*, allows us to learn more about Youngblood's personal history while participating in solving a real puzzler involving tattoos, female victims, the FBI, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Betsy Austin - *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simpson had me laughing out loud. It's one of my new all time favorites. The children and I have listened to a several audiobooks from *The Sacketts* series by Louis L'Amour. H. and W. (ages 13 and 8) look forward to picking up with the story each time we're back in the car.

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