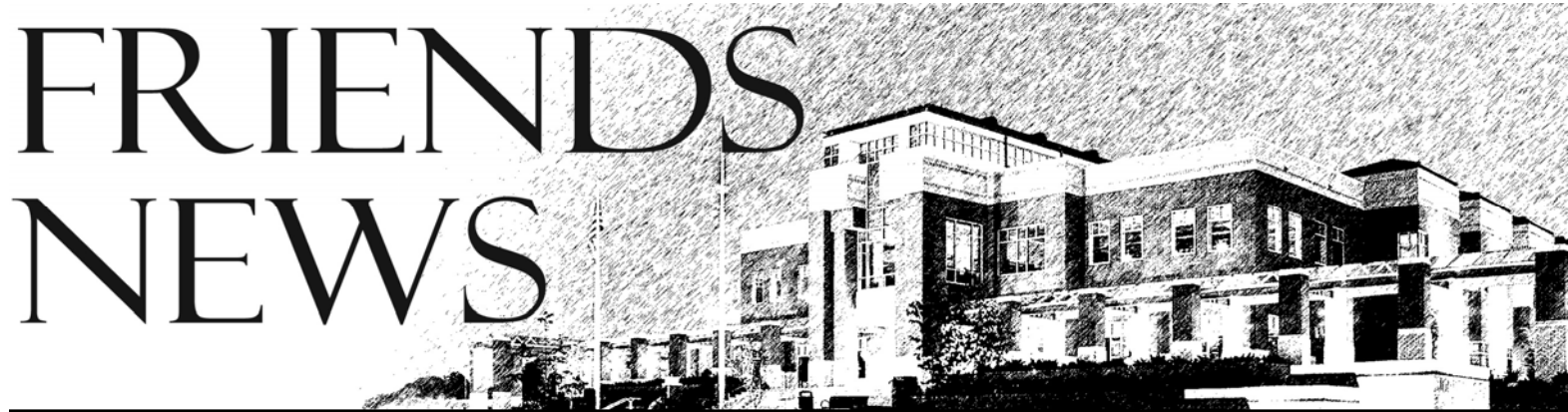


FRIENDS NEWS



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Johnson City Public Library

Spring 2007

Letter from the President



On behalf of the Board of the Friends of the Johnson City Public Library, I thank you for your generous support and concern for this unique public institution.

When I was a youngster we were blessed in our house with having plenty to read. My mom and dad were avid readers and we kids were expected to look and learn and listen and explore the world either by reading about it or going out there into it. I am proud of my little library at home, but I am very proud of our public library. As far as I know, within the city government, there is nothing else organized or funded like the public library.

My first book sale must have been in the early 80s. I arrived ten minutes early—this was at the building next to the Maine Williams library, since covered by Munsey Methodist's parking lot—and was surprised to discover the crowd waiting in line. Outside. In the rain! For a book sale? I was impressed.

The Friends of the Public Library have been in business about 30 years. That is quite a record.

Thirty years ago things were much different but one or two things are still the same—the library, for example. New location. Same vision.

The Friends—you—have helped keep this institution going through thick and thin. With your continued interest, the future is looking better.

We appreciate your generosity. We will do our best to make you proud of your membership in the Friends of the Johnson City Public Library.

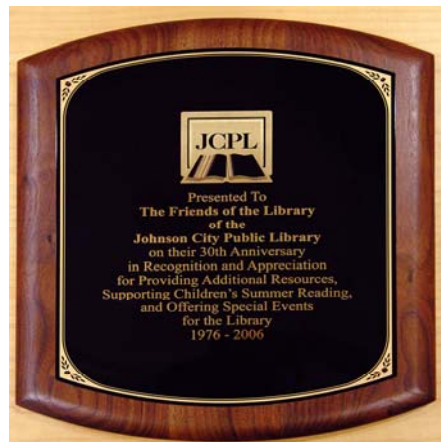
Thank you,
Charles Moore, Co-President

Did You Know?

The Friends were recently honored in commemoration of our 30th anniversary.

Mayor Steve Darden proclaimed October 22 – 28: Johnson City Friends of the Library Week.

Nelson Worley, Library Director, also presented the Friends with a plaque, recognizing all the great things the Friends do for the library.



Spring Book Sale



Our shelves are overflowing with books, which means it's time to have another book sale. The spring book sale is set for mid-April, so there's still time to donate – please no encyclopedias, textbooks or magazines. The book sale will feature an 80's theme. Those of you brave enough to pull out your old denim jackets, padded shirts, leg warmers and high-tops will receive a gift.

There will be a special preview sale for FOL members only. 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!

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

When: Saturday, April 21

Where: Johnson City Library, Jones Meeting Rooms

Time: 9:00 am until 2:00 pm for the general public

Friends Preview:

Friday, April 20, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Get-to-Know

This installment of the Get-to-Know series features Bill Brown, facilities manager at the library. Bill has recently been chosen Employee of the Year. After reading the article on Bill, you'll see why.

Bill has worked for the library just under two years. His duties as facilities manager include maintaining the building repairs and grounds keeping.

Some of Bill's friends who did subcontracting for the library introduced him to the job. They told Bill about an open position and, having the necessary qualifications, he applied and interviewed for the job.

Bill lives in Kingsport, Tennessee, and has been there most of his life, only leaving for about one year to bask in the limelight of Los Angeles, California.

I asked Bill what living in L.A. was like, and he replied, "Well, it was nice in a strange kind of way. Anything you wanted to do you could do it in California but, on the other hand, anything that you did you had to wait in line – in other words, it was crowded and the people there are not friendly at all. I did meet some nice people, but I'm glad to be back in the south."

Bill has never been married and he has no children, which allows him the free time to explore the outdoors – Bill loves to fish, camp, travel, and hike in that order.

I asked Bill what would be the first item that he'd buy if he won the

lottery. His reply, "River frontage, ocean frontage."

Bill's favorite foods include beef and potatoes and brewed tea, so it should come as no surprise that he loves Cracker Barrel. His favorite type of music is Southern Gospel, his favorite musician being Bill Gather.

Bill likes to live by his favorite quotes: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and "Two things people judge your character on are your word and your work. Try to do your best at both." The first is from the Bible, but the second, well, that's from Bill, himself.

Although Bill works for the library, don't expect to see him doing much reading there – he is mostly into magazines like *Popular Mechanics*, as well as various "How - To" articles.

As you can see, Bill's work ethic is admirable, which is one of the many factors that awarded him the title of Employee of the Year. He is also very humble. Upon my congratulating him on

his success at the library, he replied, "I'm not worthy of anything and I'm not deserving of much either, but I do think it a great honor to be chosen Employee of the Year. I will strive to do better in the following years, to excel in my job, and to make the Library a pleasant place to visit and to enjoy."

If you get the chance, tell Bill how much you appreciate his service to our library. Without people like Bill, our library wouldn't be the place that it has grown to be.



Friends Board of Directors

Josh Archer
Betsy Austin
Susan Burkey
Shirley Cecconi
Joan Dressel
Linda Gallagher – Treasurer
Mary Gavlik
Kathy Hall – co-President
Kay Herd
Karol Johnson
Becky McKnight - Secretary
Charles Moore – co-President
Jim Reed
Robert Sawyer – Vice President
Deborah Turner

e-mail - friends@jcpl.net

Barter Theatre Performances

For the third year in a row, the Friends of the Library sponsored performances by the Barter Players at the Library.

On February 24 the Barter Players presented two free performances of "*American Tall Tales*." The audience was treated to wonderfully "embellished" stories cooked up for fun and learning. Children delighted in four lively legends that included a spooky Jack O'Lantern yarn and the fable of Purvis Wesley, the "King of Rock & Roll."

On March 31, the Players returned with two performances of "*James Towne: A Likely Story*." It was the adventurous tale of John Smith and how he helped found Jamestowne in the new world. The play was written just in time to celebrate the 400th anniversary of America's first permanent colony and brought to life a rich and exciting celebration of the beginnings of this nation.

The performances were well attended and great fun for children of all ages. The Barter Players perform all over the East Coast from Maryland to Florida.

Spring Book Recommendations

For the spring book recommendations, I turned to the Friends board of directors again. It's been a year since we last heard from them, so they should have had time to discover some new and exciting books.

Charles Moore just attempted *One Bullet Away* but found it too tactical. He has since started reading *Revolt In The Desert* by T.E. Lawrence in an effort to look back a ways into war and conflict in the mid-East.

Susan Burkey

highly recommends *The Mitford Series* by Jan Karon. It is wonderful, wholesome reading in a North Carolina setting that even mentions Johnson City from time to time. You become instant friends with the characters and can't wait to read and re-read the entire series. Also wonderful listening when traveling so get the CD's for the whole series.

Becky McKnight just finished Tayari Jones's *The Untelling*. She was at ETSU last week for a book reading and signing. She's a black author who grew up in Atlanta. She's taught creative writing at several colleges including ETSU. The book concerns the life of young ghetto girls and the damage done to a family who loses the father and youngest child in a car accident.

Kay Herd recently finished *Water For Elephants* by Sara Gruen, which tells the story of a 93-year-old man living in a nursing home and how he feels about being there. It also backtracks to his youth and why he worked in a circus and what went on in the circus in the 30's and 40's. As a child of that time, Kay remembers going to the

circus and carnivals that came to her small village. It gives her a new insight on what it was like to work in a circus at that time as well as bringing back a lot of wonderful memories of her growing up years.

She also just finished Danile Silva's *The Confessor*. This is a novel about the Catholic Church's part in the Holocaust and how it affected the church today – an interesting novel with some historical background.

James Reed recommends several books. The first is *Six Frigates, the Epic History of the Founding of The U.S. Navy* by Ian W.Toll. *Six Frigates* is a detailed look at our founding fathers' struggles to build six warships, which fought the Barbary pirates and the War of 1812, thereby establishing a world class navy. Next, James recommends *The Rising Tide*, a novel of World War II by Jeff Shaara. For WWII buffs, the story covers the U.S.'s entry into

the war and the battles up to the Italian campaign. Its mixture of real persons and fictional characters on both sides of the war makes for great reading.

Lastly, he suggests picking up *The Civil War Trilogy* by Michael and Jeff Shaara, a father-son collaboration. The trilogy includes *Gods and Generals*, *The Killer Angels*, and *The Last Full Measure*. All are a mixture of real persons and fictional characters on both sides of the "War Between the States." This is a must read for Civil War buffs.

Kathy Hall has several books to recommend, both in-print and on audio. As for the books in print, she recommends checking out *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards, an interesting and thought-provoking book about a set of twins separated at birth by their father when he discovers one of them has Down's Syndrome.

The writing is very well done. Next, she suggests *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman. Kathy says she'd normally rather have a root canal than read a non-fiction book about economics; however, this is a book that everyone should read to get a true glimpse of the direction our world is heading.

As for the audio books, she recommends *One For My Baby* by Tony Parsons and narrated by Gerald Doyle. Don't let the title fool you - this is a great book, especially on tape. The narrator does perhaps the best job she's ever heard. The story is both funny and touching. Next on her list is *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson and narrated by George Guidall. She's listening to this right now and enjoying it. The author does a great job of drawing you into the many characters involved in a murder trial on a small island outside of Seattle in the 1950's.

Karol Lynn Johnson recommends *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith (2005), which is a novel set in contemporary academia featuring a bi-racial marriage: women are strong; men yield too easily to temptation; and children have diverse coming-of-age experiences.

Robert Sawyer suggests *Nature Girl* (2006) by Carl Hiaasen, a black comedy, mystery, and satire set in South Florida written by a long-time columnist for the *Miami Herald*.

Josh Archer recommends *The Street* by Gerry Adams, a book that chronicles the lives of residents of Belfast. It is somewhat like Joyce's *Dubliners* without the epiphanies, although some of Adams' characters do experience life-changing events. Adams' attention to detail in addition to his eccentric characters creates an interesting weave of life in Ireland – highly recommended by the lover of short stories.





Friends of the Johnson City Public Library

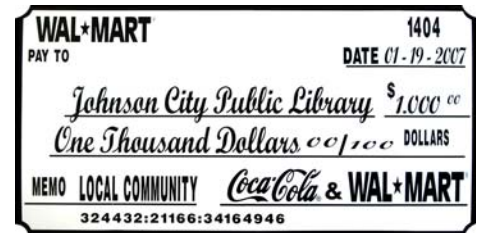
Spring Book Sale
April 21, 2007, 9 am to 2 pm

Special Friends of the Library Member Preview Sale
April 20, 2007, 6 – 8 pm
Don't miss it!



Our proceeds from our last book sale were dramatically increased through the matching community grant program Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. so generously sponsors. Robert Sawyer, Vice-President of our

board of directors was on hand at the opening of the new Wal-Mart on West Market Street to accept a \$1000 check awarded to the Friends.



Friends of the Johnson City Public Library – Contact us through the library at 423.434.4450 or e-mail us at friends@jcpl.net

Friends of the Johnson City Public Library
100 W. Millard St.
Johnson City, TN 37604