

FRIENDS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Johnson City Public Library

Spring 2010

Spring Book Sale



Finally, spring is in the air which means it's time for our annual Spring Book Sale!

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

When: Saturday, March 27th

Where: Johnson City Public Library, Jones Meeting rooms

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

Special Preview: Friday night, March 26th, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm for FOL members

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!

At our sale, we will have Fiction, Non-fiction, Paperbacks, Hardbacks, Children's Books, Movies on DVD and VHS, and CD's.

Lend a Hand...



Friends, we need help setting up the book sale. We will be working on Thursday, March 25th and Friday,

March 26th from 9 am – 12 noon. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the book sale is welcomed and for more information should contact Ruby Elbasha, JCPL volunteer coordinator at 434-4474.

Board of Directors

President: Betsy Austin
Vice-President: Robbie Anderson
Treasurer: Charles Moore
Secretary: Susan Burkey

Spring Book Recommendations

Below are some recommendations from board members of the Friends of Library.

Betsy Austin - *A Dangerous Fortune* by Ken Follette and *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Experienced back-to-back, these two books offer a neat perspective on the upper classes of London and New York during the late 19th century. (Available as audiobooks from JCPL READS).

Rebecca MacPherson

I have not one, but six, books to recommend. The Young Adult series, *The Last Apprentice* by Joseph Delaney is a must-read for children ages 11 and up. Written in a journalistic style from the viewpoint of young Tom Ward, the newest apprentice to County Spook John Gregory, the books give you detailed insight into the life of a Spook: one who is dedicated to keeping the things that go bump in the night at bay. The life of a Spook is not easy. It can be deadly with witches,

banes, elementals, boggarts, rippers, witch assassins and ghosts to deal with on a nightly basis.

Each of the books in the series takes us through another phase in the apprenticeship of Tom Ward. With the help of his friend (and potential enemy) Alice Deane, the three go on various jobs to rid the counties of some really terrifying creatures. One thing I love about the series is that readers are shown the "actual" journal of Tom Ward at the end of each book. These notes go into more detail about the various herbs, medicines, and weapons that Spooks use to help them bind boggarts and concoct various potions.

The Last Apprentice series is an easy read: simple and straight forward. With the same feel as *Harry Potter* and *Percy Jackson*, I could easily see this series becoming the newest Hollywood franchise.

Becky McKnight - *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls.

Jeannette Walls offers a novel based on the life of her grandmother, Lily Casey Smith. In this captivating novel, we follow the life of Smith as she learns to break horses in childhood, journeys 500 miles on a pony as a teen, becomes a teacher, and runs a vast ranch in Arizona with her husband while raising two children, including Rosemary Smith Walls who is portrayed in the author's acclaimed novel *The Glass Castle*.

Wendy Oliver - *The Lost Quilter* by Jennifer Chiaverini.

This is the 14th book in the series about the Elm Creek Quilters. It is a flashback story about a young slave

woman named Joanna who ran away in 1859 and was taken in by the kind residents of Elm Creek Manor in Pennsylvania, only to be recaptured and returned to her cruel master in Virginia. Having left her infant son wrapped in a very special quilt with a family in Pennsylvania, most of the remaining story involves Joanna's efforts to escape her master and return to her son and a life of freedom. (Also available in print, large print and audio CD.)

Keith Moody - *Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict Between Faith and Reason* by Russell Shorto. Russell Shorto uses the bizarre journey of the dead philosopher's remains across Europe as a backdrop in an entertaining discussion of how we look at science and religion in a world full of uncertainty. Much of the dichotomy that we now see in faith

and reason can be traced back to Descartes' writings as well as influences of other scientist-philosophers whose stories are told as they are recalled in the journey of the bones. With our present proliferation of books that take one side or the other in the mind/body or faith/reason debate, Shorto's tale of how both sides coexisted for so long is evidence that the divide is not as great as we might think it is.

Dwight L. MacPherson - *Sbutter Island* by Dennis Lehane. A pulp detective tale and psychological thriller, *Sbutter Island* will keep you turning the pages—and guessing—all the way to the shocking end.



Friends at the Blue Plum Festival

The 11th annual Blue Plum Festival is happening in beautiful downtown Johnson City, and this year, The Friends of the Library are getting on board with a special book sale. So look for the FOL banner and drop by, say hello and browse through hundreds of titles covering all genres, tastes and styles. See you in June!

The Blue Plum Festival takes place June 4-6, 2010. For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.blueplum.org/>