

FRIENDS NEWS



MEET THE DIRECTOR

Robin Westphal, the new director of the Johnson City Public Library, hails from northern Missouri, specifically the town of Chillicothe about 60 miles east of Kansas City, Missouri. If you've been through that part of the world you might recall (a good trivia question) that Chillicothe, Missouri, is, quite honestly and proudly, the home of "sliced bread."

"It was invented there," she says.

Robin brings to our library a background of growing up on the Great Plains, where the cold comes out of Canada, living in a rural part of the state (although she was born and raised an "eastern" Kansas girl), a music lover, and a fondness for non-fiction, specifically history. Some of her favorite authors: Erik Larson, David McCullough, and Nathaniel Philbrick.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University (the Wildcats) in political science and a master's of science degree in library sciences from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.

Robin noted that one of the things she looks forward to, living here in the east, is to visit some of the places that most Missourians (particularly those not living near St. Louis, a wholly different part of the state) hear about but do not get much opportunity to visit such as Charleston or Jamestown. But also to learn our local history and visit some of our local towns and get a handle on name

pronunciations. She is from that part of the country where the "Arkansas River" is the "Are-kansas" River and Missouri is not the same place as Missouri.

Because politics and history are in the front of every conversation, when asked about heroes from Missouri besides Mark Twain and Jesse James, Robin said, "While it is true, I had a 'George Brett For President' bumper sticker when I was young, it is easy to forget that one of America's most famous presidents was from Independence, Missouri, just next to Kansas City, and that was Harry Truman."

"I am, of course, an American League fan because of the Royals. We'll see how that bodes with having a home team being the Cardinals. Our part of the state did not necessarily recognize the St. Louis Cardinals."

She has two grown college-age daughters who were brought up on the general kids' books as well as their mother's tendency towards non-fiction. Robin attributes her reading habits, in turn, to her mother.

Robin should fit in well with our history-soaked Tennessee Mountain home.



ARTFUL AGING: APPALACHIAN MUSIC

Registration opens August 1. Classes September 5 for mandolin (taught by Roy Andrade) and Sept 7 for banjo (taught by Trae McMaken).

OPEN DOORS COFFEE HOUSE

The Friends has opened a "branch" sales office in the Open Doors Coffeehouse, 101 E. Eight Ave., at Roan Street. We appreciate their allotting space for our books. We, in turn, should stop by the Open Doors Coffeehouse for our java and tea.

FALL BOOK SALE

The 2017 Fall Sale is tentatively scheduled for October 27 and 28. We'll have the same extended hours with the Members Premier Sale on Friday evening and the public sale on Saturday.

MAKE A FRIEND

Ask a friend to join the Friends of the Library! Memberships start at \$15 and family memberships start at \$25.

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