Thoughts on Books

Books let us into their souls and lay open to us the secrets of our own.

William Hazlitt

By Jennifer W. Spirko

Summer means reading and rewards at the Blount County Public Library, and this summer, the children's reading program has the fun theme of Rompin' Stompin' Reading Roundup. And the Friends of the Library are helping to make it happen, supporting prizes and programming.

You may have noticed the whimsical statues in the entrance and gallery areas. Local artist Steve Russell crafted these characters out of license plates.

Children and youth who keep track of the books they read will receive prizes, including toys for youngsters and an iPod Shuffle for teens, as well as restaurant gift cards, movie passes, mall gift cards, a Visa gift card and smaller prizes.

Special entertainment fills the summer program, as well, including "Buffalo Bill" David Nelson, Tennessee's Cowboy Poet Laureate; storyteller Faye Wooden; and an original puppet show by the Children's Library staff.

Our January Book Sale raised over $13,000 for the Children's Library. Thanks for helping our Library encourage kids to read.

Pick up some new (used) books!

The next book sale will be held July 19-21. Thursday, the sale kicks off at noon and is open until 6 for Friends members only. Memberships will be available to purchase at the door. Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21, the sale continues from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, open to the public.

We have a wide variety of books available, as usual, including some special collectibles. The collectibles have proven a very popular feature of book sales this year, with treasures including antique volumes, first editions and autographed books.
President's Corner

By BCFOL Board President Bob Ramger

The Friends of the Library organization needs help from its members! We need several volunteers to help with two different ongoing projects.

Every now and then (on average, 3-4 times a year), we receive a phone call from an individual who would like to donate books for our book sales, but can not deliver the books to the library because of some health or mobility problem. Several of us Board members have used our trucks to go to the home, pick up the books and deliver them to the book drops at the side of the library. If we had a few people with trucks or vans who could pick these books up, it would free up us regulars to do other jobs with the BCFOL.

The second project is to help with serving drinks and, sometimes, food at special events sponsored by the library. Such events include, for example, the GALA held at the library to kick off the Summer Reading Program for children and teens (see p. 1). This event happened on Saturday, June 2, where several hundred people were served cowboy grub (hotdogs) and drinks at noon. We had about eight BCFOL volunteers helping out, but we could have used a few more hands.

Coming up, we'll need another eight-ten volunteers to sell water and other items at the performance of Shakespeare's Much Ado about Nothing, to be produced by the Tennessee Stage Company's Shakespeare on the Square troupe on the library lawn in Julv.

If you would like to volunteer in one of these ways, please call the library (982-0981) and leave a message for the Friends. We'll get back to you promptly.

Our annual meeting of the Friends of the Library membership will be held on Tuesday, June 26, at 7 p.m. in the library's meeting room. Next year's officers and board members will be voted on, and our special speaker will be Sue Jenkins. Sue had a nice article in The Daily Times June 3 about her hiking in the Smoky Mountains and attaining the 900-mile club. She will talk about her experiences as she starts her second round of 900 miles of trails in the National Park.

When I first came on the BCFOL Board in 1999, the Friends of the Library had about 270 members. In the May 2007 Board meeting, our membership committee chair, Jerry Wagner, announced we had 967 members. We are excited about this increase, and are always looking for new members — especially those who wish to volunteer for our many activities. Remember, the first half-day of our quarter book sales, held on Thursday afternoons, are reserved for BCFOL members only! By the way, the Board, in our May meeting, decided not to allow book dealers to come early and buy before the sale's official opening, Thursday noon. This way, our loyal, local members will have a fair shot at our best books.

The April sale grossed over $12,000 for our collectible books, raised $1,075. Book dealers accounted for $1,670, and we paid sales tax for the first time, to the tune of $1,126. At the beginning of each book sale, we estimate we have close to 40,000-50,000 volumes of books available to our customers — all donated by the folks of Blount County!

The next book sale takes place July 19-21, and we again have a selection of collectibles.

The book sales are a fun project, and we could use your help in the future, to shelve books during the week and, of course, to buy books at the sale. Come visit our sale on the lower level of the library, and you will be surprised at all the people who are enjoying browsing our shelves.
BCFOL Donors. Thank you for your generosity!

Recent donors include: • In honor of Foothills Elementary School staff and faculty, by the second grade teachers Blount County Photo Club Warren P Bagley Mackenzie and Andrea Breeding Samuel Cheek Roy and Dorothy Crawford Lisa Duncan Omar O. and Betty Dyer Betty Frost Elizabeth J. Gilmore Jane A. Hudson Sam and Sharon Kyker Henry and Shirley Law Robert and Jean Maxey M.O. & Norma Stokes Joe and Becky Swarm Tim and Pat Thurston Memorial donations: In memory of Janet Porter, by Tim Baird In memory of Paul Lyndon, by Ronald & Beverly Rae Dalia Larry, Julie, & Amelia Durand Ted and Jean Flickinger Bob & Marie Harris Bob & Elaine Julian Jane Quails Lowell & Carol Sneed Carroll & Martha Sterne Beatrice Susan Thompson Bobbie & Bernadette Williams Walland Elementary School staff

Donations may be sent to: BCFOL, 508 N. Cusick St., Maryville, TN 37804. You will receive a thank-you note and the knowledge that you help enable the Library's work to continue!

Many thanks to those who contributed to the newsletter Phil Baker, Charles Butera, Mary Connia, Bob Ratnger Joan VanSickle Sloan and Carole Trammell If you have an idea or information you think should be in the next edition, please drop a note at the Friends Office at the Library or email friendsbcpl@hotmail.com

Special thanks to generous Book Sale volunteer

It takes a lot of work from a lot of people to make our quarterly book sales succeed. Sylvia Galde has gone above and beyond, adding to her donation of time and effort a monetary donation of $55 dollars for supplies for the January sale.

Book Sale Committee member Marie Harris says of Sylvia that she "has been a weekly volunteer in the sorting and shelving of used books for two years."

Marie adds, "We are fortunate to have such a dedicated worker in our preparation and execution of the quarterly sales."

Book sales are the Friends' chief source of revenue, which we then use to support the Library. The next sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, July 19-21, in our usual venue, the Library basement. Sylvia, Marie and other volunteers have been working very hard to prepare the books and the space for you!

Library Director Ragles honored by Chilhowee Club

Kathy Pagles, director of the Blount County Public Library, was named one of Blount County's "Women Who Matter" by the Chilhowee Club in May. The BCFOL join the Chilhowee Club in applauding her work.

Kathy has worked tirelessly to continually improve the Library's collections and facilities. Among her many tasks is serving as one of the Library's liaisons with the Friends to help us help the Library as much as we can.

Community Outreach Coordinator Joan VanSickle Sloan observes that this award carries particular resonance because of the long relationship between the Chilhowee Club and our Library. The Club was one of the organizations, along with the Tuesday Club, that started the very first Blount County Public Library.
First Methodist Church honors local heroes

When the congregation of Mary-voile First United Methodist Church wanted to remember the fallen heroes of September 11, 2001, they also wanted to honor our local emergency service workers who put their own lives on the line every day.

The result is a generous donation of 23 books added to the Library's collection, each of which bears a placard inside the front cover noting the donation. The notes read, "copy presented by First United Methodist Church in honor of Blount County Sheriff's Department, Blount County Fire Department, Alcoa Fire Department, Maryville Fire Department, Alcoa Police Department, Maryville Police Department, Rural/Metro Ambulance Service, Blount County Volunteer Rescue Squad." This notice also appears in the catalog listings for each of the 23 books.

The donated books can now be found on the library shelves. They include:

- Ancestor Stones by Ammatta Bolles;
- Before I Go by Riley Weston;
- Death Angel by Martha Powers;
- Death's Witness: A Novel by Paul Batista;
- Egypt's Sunken Treasures, edited by Franck Goddio, et al.;
- For One More Day by Mitch Albom;
- Forgotten New York: Views of a Los Metropolis by Kevin Walsh;
- Haters by Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez;
- The Joke's Over: Bruised Memories: Gonzo, Hunter S. Thompson, and Me by Ralph Steadman;
- Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer;
- Mozart's Sister by Nancy Moser;
- Scary Stories by Barry Moser (illus.);
- Scoop by Rene Gutteridge;
- Season of Betrayal by Margaret Lowrie Robertson;
- This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women by edited by Jay Allison, et al.
- Tutankhamun's Tomb: The Thrill of Discovery by Susan Heuck Allen, et al.
- Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai;
- Villa Air-bel: World War II. Escape, and a House in Marseille by Rosemary Sullivan;
- What Are You Afraid Of?: Stories About Phobias edited by Donald R. Gallo;
- Whistling Past Dixie: How Democrats Can Win Without the South by Thomas Schaller;
- Winter Birds by Jamie L. Turner.

Meet the Board\textsuperscript{r} Trent Gilmore

Trent Gilmore joined the board last summer, after having been approached by a board member. He recalls, "I really enjoyed and appreciated the way everyone worked together on the first book sale with which I was involved this past July."

Trent teaches at his alma mater, Alcoa High School, where he is Choir Director and General Music Teacher. He graduated from Maryville College in 1986.

He grew up in a big family — he is one of eight children — and he now lives in West Knoxville, while

\textit{THOUGHTS ON BOOKS}

Books tap the wisdom of our species - the greatest minds, the best teachers - from all over the world and from all our history. And they're patient. ~ Carl Sagan

\textbf{See Gilmore, p. 5}
Meet the Board: Carole Trammell

Carole Trammell joins the board as an at-large member and member of the Publicity Committee.

She first became active in the Friends early in 2006. "I got involved because of my love of books and my desire to volunteer somewhere in my community," she says.

A retired special-education teacher, Carole also stays busy working part-time with National School Products. She lives in Louisville with her dog Laney. She has a sister who lives in Gatlinburg and a niece in Seymour.

Carole also stays busy with her favorite pastime, reading. She especially loves historical fiction, but her favorite book is the bittersweet 20th-century classic *The World According to Garp* by John Irving. She also enjoys scuba diving.

She says, of her work with the Board, "I hope the friends can get the message out about how wonderful our library is so the community will continue to support it and it will grow."

Carole has an important message to communicate to our community: "We have a fabulous resource in our library — please support it by using it and giving something back."

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Meet the Board: Jean Flickinger

Jean is a longtime Friend of the Library who has been with the group since its inception.

She serves as an at-large member of the Board and holds a Life Membership in the Friends.

She hopes that the Friends can "Help the Library" and "Encourage people to read." She loves reading herself, particularly historical fiction, mysteries and biographies.

A Maryville resident, she has been married to her husband Ted for 54 years. They have five children and six grandchildren. In addition to reading, she also loves gardening.

Jean is a retired teacher, having taught first grade in Ohio and in Washington, D.C.

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THOUGHTS ON BOOKS

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

~John Greenleaf Whittier

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Gilmore, cont. from p. 4

maintaining his roots here in Blount County and Alcoa.

Music is not only his profession, but a favorite hobby; Trent says his favorite pastime is playing the piano.

He also loves reading. One recent book he really enjoyed was the inspiring and topical memoir, *The Audacity of Hope*, by Sen. Barack Obama.

In working with the Friends Board, Trent says, "My chief goal is to support the Blount County Library in any way possible."

One message that Trent would like to communicate to our community, he adds, is that "it is important to support our Library."
Meet the Board: Charles W. Butera

Charlie joined the Friends Board last summer as Assistant Treasurer. He is also one of the tireless workers who help out with the quarterly Book Sales.

He joined the Friends of the Library three years ago, inspired in part by the county's beautiful new facility and improved services. As a Friend, he said, he "wanted to keep it going."

In fact, we have the new library to thank, not only for Charlie's participation in the Friends, but for his presence in Blount County! He relates that a visit to the new library four years ago with his wife "was a major factor in our deciding to settle in this area."

Now, Charlie lives in Oxford Hills with his wife, Merle Ann Beer, a nurse with Maryville Health and Rehab Center. Between them, they have nine grown children in various parts of the country, including Hawaii, and eight grandchildren.

An American history buff, Charlie is retired from the federal government. After a stint teaching high school in D.C., he worked as a Federal Investigator for 30 years, mostly as a Special Agent for the U.S. Treasury Dept. His assignments included the IRS Inspection Service, charged with maintaining the integrity of the tax system; U.S. Customs Service, as Special Agent-in-Charge of Liaison and Foreign Investigations; and details to the Secret Service for presidential assignments with Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. He also served with the Office of the Inspector General, Agency for International Development. He trained for this career at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington, B.C.

This work followed his service in the U.S. Navy aboard USS Dayton and USS Albany in the immediate aftermath of World War II. At Georgetown, he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant/Infantry USAR, in the ROTC program. He then served 28 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, including periods of active duty, retiring as a colonel.

Upon retirement, Charlie embarked on a new career as a volunteer and, later, part-time employee with the American Red Cross Disaster Services. "This work involved participating in and directing disaster relief efforts, on site, throughout the U.S.," he explains. His work has garnered him numerous accolades and thanks. The end of the 2004 hurricane season also saw the completion of Charlie's 22 years of involvement with the Red Cross Disaster Services. A 1995 article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch discussed his work in that area after the devastating floods of that year and in 1993; the newspaper described him as "gentle and soft-spoken" but diligent and highly trained in the task.

As Charlie now devotes some of his diligence and training to serve the Friends of the Library; he also works for the Maryville Food Connection, which, he says, "involves transporting food, in bulk, from Second Harvest in Knoxville to the (local) Food Connection, which feeds the needy in our community on a regular basis."

He celebrates our community and Library: "Having traveled extensively throughout the U.S., I can say unequivocally that this library and its management are a clear reflection of what is good about this community and should be supported in every way possible."
Meet the Board: Mary Cormia

Mary Cormia is a longtime book lover who has served the Board as an at-large member and currently as secretary, as well as lending her talents to the official Friends Scrapbook.

She reports that she loves books and she loves people, and she has "found both at the library." She makes time for volunteering despite staying active with many hobbies, including tennis, quilting, bicycling and, of course, reading. She also treasures time with family.

A favorite pastime is traveling, both in the U.S. and abroad. She loves visiting new places and also visiting family members around the country. She and her husband Frank spend several weeks a year in Sanibel Island, Florida. Among her adventures, Mary has biked in both Europe and New Zealand.

A retired Maryville schools teacher, Mary has lived in Maryville since 1977, having lived also in Ohio and Indiana. She is a native of California.

She and Frank have four grown children. Two living in Texas, one in Virginia and one in West Tennessee. They have five grandchildren.

Mary sees one of the chief goals of the Friends as continuing to fund special projects of the Library and to encourage the donations, organization and sales of the used books. She enjoys her association with other Friends members. She also enjoys "our occasional 'finds,' and seeing the wonderful books being 'recycled' at the sales.

As for her own reading, Mary especially loves historically based books, both fiction and nonfiction.

If she could get one message out to the Friends membership, she says, it would be, "Be involved. We have a great Library and wonderful community!"

Call for Volunteers!

We want you to know that we appreciate all the ways you help, including your membership dues and your purchases at Book Sales. But if you would like to be more directly involved with the Friends, there are lot of other ways you can help.

We have some particular needs at this time:

- Drivers with trucks or vans to pick up book donations from donors.
- Friendly faces to help serve food and drinks at library events, including festivals, children's activities, and the upcoming Shakespeare performance.

We also have ongoing needs:

- Book sale workers to sell books and take new memberships/renewals at sales.
- Used-book sorters and stackers — book donations come in all the time!
- Workers to sort, box and mail Books for Soldiers.

If you would like to help out, please contact the Friends at 982-0981 or friends@cppi@hot mail.com

The Case of the Book that was not a Book

A Book Sale Mystery solved!

A Friends volunteer discovered a fake book in with a cache of donated books. The "book" was, in actuality, a storage box made to look like a book, and had presumably been included with the real books by accident.

Inside the false book's hidden compartment were some personal belongings — and one important piece of information. An address, located out of town.

A thoughtful volunteer dropped a note to that address, and after a few weeks, an area woman brought in the note. She had relocated to Bleant County, and the Friend's note had been forwarded to her by the postal service. Her "book" and its contents were returned, and she was thanked for donating the "real" books!

Occasionally, family pictures — with no identifying notes — turn up at book sales. We try to post them at book sales. Have a look at our next sale! Do you know any of these folks?