



Between Friends

Don't Forget the April Book Sale

How would you like to own an original classic by James Fenimore Cooper? Now's your chance! The next book sale features an 1832 edition of Cooper's *The Pioneers* as well as hundreds of valuable books for collectors that you'll find nowhere else.

Now's the time to mark your calendar for the April book sale.



Thursday, April 17th,
12 Noon – 6:00 PM
(Friends of the library
members only)

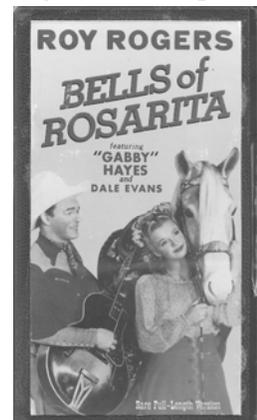
Friday and Saturday,
April 18th and 19th, 9:00
AM – 5:00 PM (open to
general public)

This sale will feature over 40,000 books, sorted by category so that it's easy to find what you're looking for. We also have a large selection of CDs, DVDs, VHS, and Books on Tape.

Our large fiction section has what you're looking for, including mysteries, suspense, Sci-Fi, romance, action and adventure, etc.

And there is a great nonfiction section with bargains in biography, textbooks, history, psychology, politics, art and music, finance and investing, and much more. We have lots of free books, too, so come join us and plan on getting a real bargain.

Like the old westerns? We have over 100 videos of the old west movies we all grew up with. Remember when you could spend all afternoon with Roy Rogers or Gene Autry for a quarter or less?



Be sure to look for special price reductions in all categories (look for the signs).

We hope you can join us. You won't be disappointed!

Books on Wheels, It's Back!

The Books on Wheels program has been revived!! There are currently two clients being served and more would be welcomed. This project is designed for the shut-ins in our community who like to read but are unable to travel to the library. A Friends volunteer, in cooperation with the library, delivers books as requested to the person, and spends a little time discussing the reading with him/her. If you are interested in this project, please contact Jane Bennett at 681-0248.

Friends of the Library Help out with Book Drive

This past fall, the Friends of the Blount County Public Library played a special role in the Reading Rocks! book drive, sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. With the kind permission of the Friends, Brownies Troop 1104 gleaned some books from the donated books in the book sale's "Freebie" section for donation to the drive.

Blount County Girl Scouts, who are part of the Little River Service Unit, gathered new and gently used books for the Everett Learning Center. Troop 1104, with the help of the Friends of the and many donations from troop families, donated 185 books! These books will help instruction at the center, giving reading practice to students who hope to improve their literacy skills. Even donated children's books will be useful, because some of those students have small children. Reading to them helps the young parents as well as the children.

Troop 1104 leader Jennifer W. Spirko, a former BCFOL board member, said, "The Friends have shown great generosity in giving these unwanted books a new life, hopefully making some new readers in Blount County.

"I want to personally thank the Friends for being a part of the book drive," Spirko said.

She added, "I bet most people in Blount County don't realize how much hard work goes into the Friends' activities, and how important that work is to the library and to our community."

The Reading Rocks! book drive extended throughout Tanasi Council, which includes Girl Scouts across much of East

Tennessee. The drive far surpassed the council's 7,000-book goal, gathering a record-setting 9,048 books! In some counties, books went to educational and service agencies and institutions, as in Blount; other books went directly to children via the Toys for Tots program. Additional sponsors of the book drive were U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander. Carpe Librum Booksellers (Knoxville), WBIR-TV, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, who administer Toys for Tots. Participating Scouts earned a special "Reading Rocks!" patch.

Troop 1104 is a new troop in 2007-2008, comprising eleven girls from four local elementary schools. Other service projects have included donating Girl Scout cookies to hungry families in the area. For more information about the troop or its activities, contact Jennifer Spirko, spirko@charter.net.

Donations and Gifts for January– March, 2008

Donations

Renate Margetin	Gail Palmer
Samuel Cheek	Lisa Duncan
Henry & Shirley Law	Joe & Becky Swann
Robert & Teresa Stewart	Mo & Norma Stokes
Dr. Timothy & Pat Thurston	
Richard & Deborah Yarbrough	
Andrea & Mackenzie Breeding	

In memory of Joan VanSickle Sloan's father
Bob & Marie Harris

In memory of Dr. Earle Crawford
Frank and Martha Bird

In honor of Neal Thompson
Frank and Martha Bird

Donations for Books for Soldiers
Gail Crawford
Betty H. Smith

Thank You !

Let's Meet Joan

Something different every day. Interesting people. Intriguing queries. Hard-working volunteers. Fascinating programs, speakers, concerts, festivals. Educational exhibits. Delightful artwork. Dedicated staff. Beautiful building. With all of this and more at the Blount County Public Library, what else could one ask of a workplace?

“I like to think that I have the most interesting job in town,” says Joan VanSickle Sloan, Community Outreach Coordinator for the library. “Whether interviewing prospective speakers or musicians, writing media releases, helping patrons with genealogy or reference questions, working with a committee to bring about a festival, partnering with a community organization to provide a service to the public, there’s something different every day.

“I love working with, and enjoy assisting people in making connections with resources or services that are helpful to them.

“For most of my career, I taught writing and English or administered noncredit programs at the college level. At the library, although I miss the interaction with young people that occurs in a classroom, I enjoy working with people of all ages, educational and economic levels. A public library is available and accessible to everyone. I like that, and, with a broad menu of programming, we try to offer something that interests everyone.

“When I was a little girl, my mother took my brother, sister and me to the local Carnegie public library in Emporia, Kansas, once every two weeks so that we could select and check out books. Early on, I discovered that a person can learn about almost any subject



or, through books, travel vicariously to any place or visit almost any art museum, church or cathedral, all without having to actually leave home. Books offer a window to the world. That started my love affair with libraries, and I’m still in love.

“Now, in addition to books and all the other resources available through technology, I have added love interests which include my husband of nearly 33 years, Bill; two sons and their wives, David and Tanya and Nathan and Misty; four stepchildren and their spouses, Eddie and Kathy, Sam and Barbara, Sherry, Rae and Mike; and eight grandchildren and spouses and seven great grandchildren; a large extended family on all sides, and a caring church family at Maryville Friends (Quaker) Church.

“I know that I am blessed to have such kind family, friends and co-workers; I am blessed with faith in a loving God, and I am blessed to be able to get to know so many of the wonderful Friends of the Library volunteers.

“If I can be of any assistance in helping find library materials or community services or resources, I’d love to see you at the library!”

The President's Corner

The Friends of the Blount County Library Organization is alive and well, and as of March 25, 2008, we have 971 in total membership, 306 in active individual memberships, and 278 (X 2) in active family memberships. Our highest membership, ever, was 1056 in August 2007. This membership number fluctuates monthly due to yearly membership dues expirations. We encourage you to renew your membership, if you haven't done so already, and ask your neighbors to join—this only makes our public library better!

The Friends (FOL) are always looking for good members who would be interested in serving on our Board of Directors. Our Board, beginning in July 2008, will consist of 4 Officers; President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and 10 Directors at Large. The four officers are normally chosen from past Board members, but the Directors at large are chosen from the general FOL membership. Usually, we seek out people who have a strong interest in the welfare of the library, love reading and being around books (bibliophils), and are willing donate at least 18-20 hours, or more, a year to monthly board meetings and other FOL activities. Most new board members come from the many volunteers we have working with our quarterly book sales. If you would like to consider being on our board in the future, please contact me (982-0762), or Phil Baker (977-1096).

Another area we are always trying to attract bibliophils who enjoy volunteering a couple of hours per month working with the library or FOL, is our standing or ad hoc committees which make the FOL engine go. Some of these bigger committees are: Public Relations and Publicity Committee. This is chaired by

Bob Heintz and includes putting out this quarterly newsletter, publicizing the FOL activities in the local newspapers and mass media outlets, and writing articles about members who are involved in extraordinary programs in our library. Our Membership Committee is chaired by Jerry Wagner, and is involved in keeping an accurate database of those who have paid their annual membership dues. This committee also keeps records of those who donate money to the FOL, and how the money is spent. This is an ongoing endeavor to keep every member updated in our files. The Used Book Sale Committee is chaired by Phil Baker. Their job is to empty the book drops of daily book donations, and relocate these donated books to the library's lower level (basement) where other volunteers classify and shelve the 40,000 + books we have for sale at every book sale. The Books for Soldiers Committee is chaired by Vivan Selecman and they select books that have been requested, mostly by chaplains, and box and ship these books to any and all servicemen, who request them, anywhere in the world. We get thank-you notes and letters every week from soldiers who have received our books. And volunteers who work in the main library work with members of the library staff shelving books and doing their jobs. We also have 7 or 8 other important committees who serve as the need arises.

Anyone needing further information as to what FOL is all about, what we do, and how to join, can log on to our web site, or pick up one of our new brochures at the front desk of our library.

Thank you!

Bob Ramger, President

Let's Meet Felita

I'm Felita Daniels, a member of the Friends of the Library and Art Director of our FOL newsletter. When I was eight or nine, I used to climb up into the cherry tree at Grandma's with a Perry Mason paperback. What's better than a sunny day, fresh cherries at your fingertips and a good murder? I wonder if anyone that read those paperbacks after me could mistake a cherry juice smudge for blood.

I had already gone through all the Nancy Drew books I could get my hands on. Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie were favorites too. Reading books, swimming and Girl Scouts were my favorite activities. In later years I worked on the school newspaper and joined the yearbook staff. I still loved mysteries. I tended to favor the subgenres of private eyes, cops & FBI agents more so than the amateur... but I'll venture into a cozy on occasion.

As a person grows, their horizons broaden and I began reading more non-fiction. Some work related, some fixer-upper house related, gardening, inspirational and cooking. My latest passions are investing, sewing and alternative/pro-active health. I always feel more confident in a new task or project if I can get my hands on a book about the subject before hand.

One of the ways I especially appreciate our library is the comfortable atmosphere and the different areas they have set up. Some days I run in during my lunch hour and use the wi fi to try and read and answer some of my emails. I appreciate that someone thought of putting in outlets for our laptops on the table so we aren't squinting at our dimming computer screens or just flat out running out our batteries.

I am the organizer for the Knoxville Investor's Business Daily Meetup Group. I research investing techniques and strategies and create a

PowerPoint presentation for the monthly meetings. Having a desk that I can spread various reference books out on while composing is really convenient. I'm sure college students appreciate not having to check out and lug five to ten books out while they are gathering their information also. I frequently see small study groups utilizing these areas.



My most favorite use of the library is the big glass alcove. If I'm lucky enough to get one of the foot stools, I'm in heaven. Probably once a month or so I go over to the library after work, pick out a book, sit and read it cover to cover. I might get up and stretch my legs, go over and get a steamer from the snack bar, but I'm content as a bug in a rug. The temperature is just right. The lighting is just right. You can glance out the windows and see people enjoying the greenbelt park area. Sometimes birds will be playing out in the landscaping.

Yes, I know I could check out the book and read it at home in my PJs and house slippers. But then I'd also think about needing to put a load of laundry in, or unloading the dishwasher, maybe I should get some weeds pulled before it gets dark, other things pull at my attention. When I'm at the library it is like a day at the spa, I've given myself permission to do nothing- but enjoy the books.

I frequently admit to others that I'm a bookaholic. I don't know if it's a word or not... but I think a love of reading is something that's with you the rest of your life. The Blount County Library certainly helps feed my cravings.

Ex Libris Library Extension Program

The Ex Libris Library Extension Program has been in existence since February 6, 2004 when our first reading took place at Morningview Transitional Center in Maryville. Since that time 121 programs have taken place with 881 people attending. Four facilities are currently being served: Morningview Transition Care Center, Wellington Place Assisted Living, Liberty Assisted Living and Asbury Place Health Center.

Ex Libris is a Friends outreach program which affords people no longer able to get to the library the opportunity of being in touch with the joys the library offers to all members of the community. Twice monthly, Ex Libris representatives visit the facilities and present 30 to 60 minute programs to residents. Programs consist of facts relating to a particular day in history, a holiday or a season. Stories (whether short stories, magazine or newspaper articles) are read. Everything from poetry (quite serious) to poetry (quite ridiculous), anecdotes, jokes, and general bits of information on a variety of topics are presented. Reminiscences of times past, favorite books or stories, movies, music and hobbies are shared.

The success of the program can best be gauged in two ways: the fact that Morningview just celebrated its 4 year Ex Libris anniversary and Wellington Place its first, speak for themselves. The addition of both Liberty and Asbury in 2008 attests to the value of the program. Overtures have been made by other facilities as well.

At present three people make up the Ex Libris team: Coordinator Barbara Zurl, Suzanne Ensslin and Janetta Baker. Speak to any one of these women and they will confirm the fact that Ex Libris gives them great joy. The positive feelings gained from

sharing with others the passions of your life far surpass the small amount of time it takes to prepare and deliver a program.

All of Tennessee takes pride in the fact that the Imagination Library for children, began right here in our state. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could carry the idea into the future, allowing folks at the other end of the spectrum to continue to enjoy the riches contained in our libraries?

We need your help. Persons wishing to learn more about this program and becoming part of the Ex Libris team, please contact:

Barbara Zurl, Coordinator
Ex Libris Project
P.O. Box 70, Walland, TN. 37886



Residents enjoying the presentation delivered by Janetta Baker, our newest member of the team.



Barbara Zurl discussing the origin of the umbrella, in a 2004 presentation.

Books for Soldiers Report

Thanks to the generous donors of postage in January that enabled us to send about 15 boxes of books. Since the first of this year, our busy volunteers have sent 52 boxes containing 844 books to our troops. We have received a few thank you letters. Here are two excerpts from a couple of them.

"I wanted to take a moment to send everyone a quick email to let you all know how thankful we are to have people who care as much as you all do. We have received your boxes filled with love and care. I have distributed the supplies and books amongst my Soldiers. It's always a great day when we receive mail here in Iraq. Mail is the one item that will always bring a smile to a Soldiers face no matter how hard the day has been.... While my husband and I are in Iraq, our children are staying with my husband's parents in Pennsylvania. They are having a wonderful time playing in the snow. This is a big change of scenery since we are stationed at Ft. Gordon, Ga. "Once again, thank you for all your kind words and prayers. You have definitely brightened my day! Thank you so much! I hope to hear from all of you very soon. Take care, God Bless!!"

" I just received the box of books that was sent to my unit and me from the Friends of the Library. First let me say "thank you all" from the bottoms or out hearts. It is really nice to know that they are people out there, such as yourselves, who support us and what we do. The books were real nice. There are about 4 of us just in my squad alone who loves to read, so we all were pleased. Also we put what books we didn't put away immediately for ourselves to read, in the company book shelves for the other Soldiers in our unit to read. And once we get through with what we kept we will add to the shelves also for the others to read. There is days where sitting in a Guard Tower or nights while waiting to roll outside the gate just is nerve racking. So pulling out a book when you have even just a few minutes to read takes you away from the stress and puts you into another world. "

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS?

A new "Between Friends" trivia quiz

In this issue of "Between Friends" we are inaugurating "Can You Solve This?", a new feature in the form of a quiz. In this issue, we are offering you a list of 12 great detectives or crime solvers from the wonderful world of fiction. We ask you to furnish the authors names.

In future issues the quiz will come from topics like entertainment, gardening, politics, science fiction, cooking or other generic reading areas. Send your responses to: Editor, Blount County FOL, 508 Cusick St., Maryville, TN 37804. Responses must arrive no later than one week after the last day of the quarterly FOL book sale, Saturday, April 26 in the case of this quiz. Two winners will be drawn from correct entries and will each be able to select six mystery books from the FOL collection. In subsequent quizzes winners will be able to select eight books from the FOL collection in that quiz topic. Answers will be included in your next issue.

Detective/ Crime Solver

Inspector Thomas Pitt
Charlie Chan
Hercule Poirot
Hamish Macbeth
Father Dowling
Porfiry Rostnikov
Father Robert Koesler
Nicholas Bracewell
Brother Cadfael
Inspector Morse
Sir John Fielding
Nero Wolfe

How You Can Help

You can support this program in two important ways. You can send a check to the BCFOL at 508 N. Cusick St, Maryville TN, 37804 with a note "books for soldiers postage donation", or you can become a volunteer. Volunteers must follow certain procedures, and must be willing to spend 2-3 hours once or twice a month. If you are interested, please contact Vivian Selecman at 379-2568.



508 N. Cusick St.
Maryville, TN 37804

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. postage paid
Permit #216
Maryville, Tennessee

Remember the Book Sale!
April 17, 18 and 19

Check out our new and improved web page!
www.discoveret.org/bcfol

Usually when you see those words it makes you think of books. This time it is our new and constantly improving website for the Blount County Friends of the Library. If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, please use the following link: www.discoveret.org/bcfol.

Another reason we want you to check out our new website is because we are in the process of encouraging our members to sign up for receiving our newsletter by e-mail. If you go to our web page, look on the left hand side and click on "Newsletter." This will lead you through the process of signing up. It's easy to do and will only take a minute. For those of you who worry about giving out your e-mail address you can rest assured that this information is internal to the BCFOL and is never sold or given out for ANY reason other than to send out your newsletter.

The more members we can get to sign up electronically, the more it will save us in printing and mailing costs. This is money that we can put directly back into the library. As an extra incentive, we are offering a coupon for one free hardback or two paperback books at our next book sale for those who register for the online newsletter. Please consider signing up today and thank you again for your membership. If you have any suggestions for our web designer please send an e-mail to the following address: seatea1@chartertn.net.