Our group of ten volunteers has really worked hard this year! From July 1 of 2007 to June 1 of 2008, they sent 213 boxes to our troops overseas. This included 3,510 books, 40 CD or DVD’s, and uncounted magazines. They went to Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Bosnia, and other places all over the world where we have military personnel. We have received about 25 thank you letters by mail, which are displayed on a bulletin board during the book sales. We have also received about 20 letters via e-mail. Numerous recipients send their thank you notes directly to the website also, so we are assured that this project is really appreciated.

We have spent $1,145.50 on postage for these packages. During the book sales, we have been asking the public to donate money for postage, and that has increased from about $250 last July to $350 this last April. We mail at the lowest rate, media mail, and try to send mostly paperback books to save. A couple of our volunteers prefer to carry the cost of mailing themselves as their donation, so money spent doesn’t exactly equal money received. Donations are always welcome!

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 Selectman at 379-2568.
Volunteer Opportunities

Shelvers are desperately needed this summer. If you have been trained to shelve, you are needed, NOW. This summer, the Library is offering three summer reading programs— one for kids, one for teens, and a new program for adults. This means the number of books which must be reshelved in their proper places will be even greater than normal. The library will not have additional funds in fiscal year 2008-09, so volunteers are needed more than ever to keep the cycle going (check out, check in, shelve; check out, check in, shelve; etc.) So, if it’s too hot to walk or work in the garden, grab a cart and SHELVE. You’ll be glad you did and we’ll be so appreciative. If you have not been trained to shelve, please contact Kathy Pagles, the Library Director, at 273-1406. She will set up an appointment to begin that process.

Do you want to try something truly DIFFERENT? VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED in the Bookmark Café this summer. Related experience is recommended. The Bookmark Café volunteer is a fast-paced, multi-tasking position that keeps you on your toes! Excellent customer service skills, ability to multi-task, and cash handling knowledge are a plus!!! Please contact Jennifer (273-1407) or Kathy (273-1406) for details.

A Volunteer Coordinator is crucial to any successful volunteer program. Library staff are already loaded with current responsibilities and more and more people are coming to the library every day. To help ease that additional burden, we need to find a well-organized and efficient person to contact potential volunteers (who have filled out applications), record their vital information, arrange for training and placement, and track hours worked. We have had two great coordinators in the recent past, but both have moved on to jobs which better suit their current circumstances. Please contact Kathy at 273-1406 if you are interested.

Donations and Gifts for April– June, 2008

Donations
Frank and Alice Barton
Lynn and Haroldine Shasteen
Jim and Van Callaway
Omer and Betty Dyer
Larry and Suzanne Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Borden
Robert & Edwena Rubright
Joyce Halley
Janis Hickle
Darrell Terrell

In memory of Inez Buchanon
Frank B. Bird

Donations for Books for Soldiers
Mary Holt

Thank You!
Reflections  Bob Ramger, Past President

When I was asked to write a short article on reflections and accomplishments of the FOL over the past two years, the first thought that came to mind was - the strength of our Board of Directors! Phil Baker, as one of our VP's, and chair of the Used Book Sale committee, has been a guiding light to everything that has gone right with our quarterly book sales. His endless hours working downstairs has enabled the Blount County Friends of the Library to become the talk of the State's FOL organizations. Because of the efficiency and well organized flow of books coming in and out of our shelves, our book sales have been the talk of book buyers from all over the southeast for several years now. Thanks Phil, for your dedicated work in making the BCFOL such a raging success.

Another Board member I've been most blessed with is our board secretary, Mary Cormia. Mary is the epitome of efficiency in recording exactly what has been discussed and voted on during our board meetings. Because I have a slight hearing deficiency, I have to wait and read Mary's copy of the minutes (usually Emailed within 24 hrs. after the meeting) to find out everything that was said during the meeting. She has been a very stabilizing entity to our organization over the past several years. Thank you, Mary, for your strive for perfection in the position of recording and corresponding secretary.

Thank you, Bob Heintz, for editing our quarterly newsletter. I think the last two editions of the newsletter were some of the best ever produced. Also, I want to thank the following people for their special contributions to the FOL: Bob and Marie Harris, for their devoted work in coordinating the book sale volunteers, and organizing our large array of donated books in such an amazing way. We have had many positive comments from book sale customers - especially from out-of-town and out-of-state folks, who say how well organized our books are displayed for these sales. The credit, in large part, goes to Bob and Maria; Jerry Wagner, chairing the Membership Committee, and streamlining our computer data base on the FOL membership standings. We would be at a total loss without Jerry's computer expertise; Gary Fowler, FOL treasurer, in keeping our financial records in order. Thanks Gary! Jean Flickinger, our Social Committee chair, in supplying and serving refreshments for all the receptions the Friends have had in the past several years. Thanks Jean, for being the Hostess with the Mostess for the FOL!

We will miss our outgoing Board members, Charles Butera, Jean Flickinger, Rosemary Gartner, Trent Gilmore and Joan Lyndon, for their strong support in the decision making process of the Friends of the Library.

Along with the above mentioned items, we, as an organization, can be very proud of the special programs we have funded the past two years. These programs are listed in the Annual Report, put together by Phil Baker, and given out to those FOL members who attended the Annual Meeting on June 24. For those of you who would like a copy of this report may pick one up at our July 17-19 book sale.

In closing, I would especially like to thank the many volunteers who have helped us shelve the donated books every week, and staff the book sales every quarter. Isn't this a wonderful way to contribute to making this a better community by supporting the best library program in the world?

Thanks for Jobs Well Done!
Let's Meet Jean

A familiar face at the Blount County Public Library is that of the Children’s Librarian, Jean Closz. She joined the library staff thirty three years ago at the original Harper Memorial Library building in downtown Maryville. Jean first worked initially in the processing department with Evelyn Merriman, and gradually expanded to include experience in most of the library’s varied positions. The children’s library seemed to be the best fit for her, and as former children’s library staff retired, Jean assumed the position of Children’s Librarian.

Jean grew up in a household full of books: antique, popular, used and new, both owned and borrowed from the bookmobile. Her mother and two sisters were avid readers. Jean enjoyed many childhood favorites and a great respect for books. As her family moved from Maryland, to Indiana, to Missouri, the books were always packed with care and accompanied the family. Jean’s passions include books and movies (storytelling), music, collecting bears and dragons, travel, animals, writing, art, and her family.

With a lifetime of living with books it suddenly became obvious that libraries were the type of work environment that was the most fulfilling for Jean. As her positions changed within the library and the address changed two more times over the next few decades, the job at the library could never be considered to be dull. Many changes have kept the work exciting, challenging, and rewarding.

The children’s library has seen many transformations during the last few decades. Jean began an outreach from the children’s library to visit all the kindergartens in area school systems each year. Children were introduced to our public library and all the story hours, special programs, and resources available to everyone in Blount County. Jean continued to present these traveling programs for twenty years. When the library relocated to the present location on N. Cusick Street, additional children’s staff was provided over the next few years. The outreach work to schools is now presented by library assistant, “Ric” Vogt, and Jean offers story hour visits to daycare centers. Vicki Wilson, Ric, and Jean present story hours and tours. Nancy Underwood maintains the Imagination Library program. The whole staff presents special programs and learning experiences for kids.

The position of Children’s Librarian has allowed Jean to express herself and help others through story hours, special programs, puppetry, crafts and displays, and opening the world of books to the children of Blount County. Working with the state library programs, she has participated in the Tennessee Library Association conferences, and the Children’s/Young Adult Roundtable that serves the libraries across the state. Jean has participated in the workshops and planning process for the state supported summer reading programs for eighteen years. She will serve as the secretary for the Roundtable during 2008-2009. There are numerous new ideas and challenges that await the remainder of Jean’s career. It has been a wonderful experience working, sharing, and learning in the library world.
Let’s Meet Julia & John

John and Julia Ernst have loved the Blount County Library since they arrived in Tennessee in 1991. Julia began using her Library Science MBS degree to volunteer in the Reference Department one half day per week. The staff was very friendly and shared great lunches with her. During the retroconversion, Julia found volunteers, including her elderly mother, to help with the labeling. Boy, did that give her a working knowledge of the collection!

Now John and Julia find most of their books at the FOL book sales. They recommend titles to each other. In the first few months of retirement, John studied a Western Civilization Textbook and became interested in medieval Europe and the Reformation or any history of Christianity. So when Julie mentioned the Oprah book choice, "Pillars of the Earth," John had it on his bookshelf.

When John hiked to an abandoned Civil War town in the Smokies, Julie had her favorite author, Sharon McCrumb's historical novel, "Ghost Riders" to check out for him.

The couple does use the computers to search for health information. For instance, John was able to down load a whole manual from the Celiac Sprue Association to set him on the way to gluten free living. John also counts on consumer information in the reference department.

Both John and Julia enjoy the activities supported by the library such as the annual fall Storytelling day, Christmas music performances, and summer Shakespearean plays. This summer Julia has signed up for the July Spanish class.

Blount County Library has surely been a jewel in the lives of both John and Julia Ernst.

July Book Sale

Mark your calendar now for the next used book sale. 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.

Thursday, July 17, 2008, 12 Noon - 6:00 PM
(Friends members only, but nonmembers may join at the door)

Friday, July 18, 2008, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, July 19, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(open to general public)

In addition to the great bargains you’ll find in every category, this sale will feature:
Special Box Sale – all of the books from our special section that you can put in a box for only $3.00/ box. Friday and Saturday only.
Collectibles - features hundreds of unique selections that have special value to book collectors.
The Path of Donated Books

From You
Each weekday morning one of our Friends of the Library volunteers collects books and other materials that you have brought to our collection bins located on the side of the library.

To Us... Staging
The materials are taken to the library basement, domain of the Friends, and set spine up, on a long table for identification and categorization by other Friends volunteers.

Placing
The materials are then shelved in their proper place ready for the next book sale.

To You... selling

From You...
Whereupon the cycle may be started again with the donation of books you have completed for a future Friends of the Library book sale.

Volunteers All
1. Lewis Simerly
2. Carole Trusty
3. Sandy Goodsen
4. Bob Harris
5. Bob Harris
6. Gary Fowler
A Welcome to Phil

Dear Friends,

It’s a great honor for me to be serving as your next president. What has impressed me the most about working with the Friends of the Library and the Library staff is their dedication and self-sacrifice to make sure the library is the best it can be for the whole community. I look forward to serving as your president and I encourage everyone to become a part of this great endeavor. As library programs change to meet the future, the Friends of the Library, with your help and imagination, will be there to meet the challenge.

Phil Baker

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Answers to “Between Friends” Spring trivia quiz

In the Spring issue of “Between Friends” we inaugurated “What do you Remember?”, a new feature in the form of a quiz. We offered a list of 12 great detectives or crime solvers from the wonderful world of fiction. We ask you to furnish the authors names. Unfortunately, no one took us upon this challenge of recollect. Here, for those interested but baffled, are the answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detective/ Crime solver</th>
<th>Author answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Inspector Thomas Pitt</td>
<td>Ann Perry</td>
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<td>Charlie Chan</td>
<td>Earl Derr Biggers</td>
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<td>Hercule Poirot</td>
<td>Agatha Christie</td>
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<td>Hamish Macbeth</td>
<td>M.C. Beaton</td>
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<td>Father Robert Koesler</td>
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<td>Nicholas Bracewell</td>
<td>Edward Marston</td>
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<td>Brother Cadfael</td>
<td>Ellis Peters</td>
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<td>Inspector Morse</td>
<td>Colin Dexter</td>
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<td>Sir John Fielding</td>
<td>Bruce Alexander</td>
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<td>Nero Wolfe</td>
<td>Rex Stout</td>
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This issue wants you to name this famous author

He was born in Petrovichi, Russia in 1920. His family immigrated to this country in 1923 and he began writing at age 11. He wrote over 500 books that informed, entertained, and spanned the breadth of human knowledge in science, history, astronomy, mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology and religion. He sparked the imagination of young scientists everywhere. For fifty years he wrote both fiction and non-fiction, but he is best known for his contributions to the genre of Science Fiction with such books as Fantastic Voyage, the Foundation series, and his stories about robots, such as I, Robot. Who is he?

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, July 19 in the case of this quiz. Two winners will be drawn from correct entries and will each be able to select eight books from the FOL collection. The answer will be included in your next issue.
Remember the Book Sale!
July 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: seateal@chartertn.net.