Friends Welcome New President

by Leigh Caldwell

Please welcome Larry Moore as President of the Board of Directors for Friends of the Blount County Library. How a person who spent his entire life connected with the waters, bays, inlets and sounds of the Atlantic Ocean ended up in a land-locked state four years ago is still a mystery to most.

Larry spent his formative years in Boston, summering with his younger brothers in a cottage probably built in the 1800’s, on a tiny island off the coast of Marblehead. Sailboats, motor boats, rowboats, it didn’t matter which kind; the brothers were usually on one of them. The locale and cottage conjure halcyon days of a land steeped in history and stalled in time. Larry and his brothers share ownership of a cottage on the same island they spent their childhood.

After twenty five years in Boston, Larry followed the lure of warmer waters off the coast of Florida. It was in Miami Larry received his Masters Degree in Bio-Chemistry. Instead of being the Marine Biologist he thought he would be, he applied his business acumen and opened an Insurance Agency for State Farm. Larry had a lucrative career with the company for over thirty years.

Although Larry gives the humor credit all to his wife, he can mesmerize and entertain you with his antics and stories of life lived with one toe in the water. Much of his leisure time he spent racing sailboats such as the One Design classes of J-29’s, Catalina’s and Flying Scots or going on excellent adventures on the high seas in schooners to Bermuda, Antilles and parts of the Caribbean.

Larry is the type of person who believes in giving back to society. One of those ways was to participate in a program in Florida named continued on page 3

Farewell to a Friend

We sadly bid farewell to a beloved Friend and Board Member, Marilee FogleSong, who died on May 18, 2010. Not only was she an active Friends board member after moving to Maryville, she also served 3 years as president of the Windsor Manor Association and helped in funding the building of an orphanage in Zimbabwe.

Her brother Robert FogleSong (husband of Blount County Librarian Barbara FogleSong) writes fondly of his sister for this issue: “Marilee was born on November 13, 1936, a Friday, so she always looked forward to celebrating her birthday on Friday the 13th.

When Marilee started kindergarten, she was enrolled in the wrong school by mistake. The school boundary went down the middle of our street and we were continued on page 2
President’s Message

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to former president Phil Baker and the other retiring board members. Blount County is blessed with a modern, vibrant library due to the efforts of an excellent staff and a dedicated volunteer group. We should never take either for granted.

The incoming board is a mix of new and familiar faces which I believe will result in fresh ideas and continued, steady guidance. Despite the economic slump, current “friends” membership, about 1050, has never been greater. I'm excited with the opportunity to expand ways in which the library can serve our community. This is where you can help; if you have an idea to improve what we're currently doing or introduce us to something new, please let a staff or board member know. If you've been a “friend”, but never volunteered to help with a special program, or assist at a book sale, take a chance! I guarantee you'll learn something and meet some wonderful people. Thank-you for your past and future help.

Sincerely,
Larry Moore, President

A tribute to Marilee Foglesong

Nov. 13, 1936 - May 18, 2010

I first met Marilee Foglesong here at the library when our Young Adult program was just an embryo. Barb Foglesong, Marilee’s sister-in-law and a library employee, mentioned that Marilee was moving here from New York and having experience working with teens in a library setting, would probably be interested in helping with the program. Little did we know at the time the extent of that experience. She had served as head of the entire Young Adult program for the city of New York, and this experience along with her vibrant personality made her invaluable to us as a member of the Teen Planning Committee. She was always willing to do anything we asked of her, and her love of teens and of reading shone through in everything she did. Marilee was instrumental in bringing award-winning author Richard Peck – a personal friend – to the library for the dedication of the new Teen area in 2007.

As a member of the Friends of the Library, Marilee worked the book sales and served as a Director for the 2009-2010 year.

Marilee’s smile and her presence will be missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing and working with her.

~ Judy Haun

Foglesong, continued from page 1

on the wrong side. She cried for days because she was looking forward to going to school with her friends who lived across the street.

After teaching in Peoria and LaHarp, Illinois, Marilee figured out that teaching was not her game. She enrolled at the University of Illinois, earned her Master’s Degree in Library Science, and went on to serve libraries in Madison, WI, Philadelphia, PA, S.Salem and Tarrytown, NY and finally New York City.

In Philadelphia, Marilee read to the blind on her own Saturday morning radio show. She was also a union leader for AFSME and represented fellow union members when they had grievances with the city.

In NYC, Marilee was the head of the Young Adult librarians and was responsible for 108 branches in all parts of the city. Her first boss was George Stephanopoulos who is now on Good Morning America. She also sat in budget planning meetings with Rudy Giuliani when he was mayor and had high tea at Mrs. Astor’s home (Mrs. Astor was in some high position at the library).

Marilee learned about the importance of cultural diversification at a young age. She always surrounded herself with people of color and different ethnic and religious backgrounds. When she retired, several hundred people attended her retirement party.”
“Straight.” For almost two years he worked tirelessly, 24/7, keeping as many as eight adolescent boys at a time on the straight and narrow off drugs and alcohol. Now in Maryville, not only a leader of our volunteer organization at the library, he volunteers as a Mentor for teenage boys at Heritage High School.

Larry and his wife, Suzanne, raised four sons; Larry and Suzanne do have the joy of a true Princess, their four year old granddaughter. Larry’s mother, to whom he credits his love of books, moved last month just down the pike from Larry’s home. No household would be complete without a master, and the master of the Moore household is a White West Highland Terrier named Zac, who rules the roost.

Larry’s interest in sailing has never waned, but he has discovered the wonders Tennessee. If you can’t find Larry with his nose in a book or doing woodworking, he is probably Fly Fishing, Hiking, Biking or Kayaking in the Great Smoky Mountains. Hail to the Chief!
Introducing our new Treasurer, Harry Downey

by Leigh Caldwell

Harry Downey is the newest Treasurer for the Friends of the Library Board. Judging by his background, he isn’t afraid of a little extra work.

Harry and his family emigrated from the Netherlands to Canada when Harry was a teenager. Harry comes from a large family, with five brothers and three sisters. While in Canada he had various businesses, and worked closely with one of his brothers in Retail.

Harry must have heard the expression, “Go west young man, go west!” He moved to Phoenix in 1975, became interested and successful in the Residential Realty Business. So interested, Harry received his Board Certification in Residential Realty. Throughout his thirty year career he was a valuable member of the Arizona Board of Realtors and held the position of Chairman on the Professional Board of Standards for Realtors. His extra-curricular activities didn’t stop with the realty business. Harry worked tirelessly for years with the Tempe United Way as member of its Board of Directors and Drive Chairman. He devoted many years with Tempe YMCA on their Board and as Financial Director. Harry also volunteered for the City of Mesa’s Senior Center. He was very active with Grace Community Church and held the position of Superintendent of Sunday School, a school which had thousands of students. Harry attended Mesa Community College and tutored American Business Law.

Four years ago Harry and his lovely wife of fifty years, Lee, moved to Tennessee. Lee and Harry have four daughters, two sons and eight beautiful grandchildren. Harry and Lee are active participants in Beech Grove Baptist Church’s Car Care Ministries, a program which assists the underprivileged in basic car maintenance.

Harry’s “little extra work” for the Friends of the Blount County Library include, but are not limited to, overseeing the Biography/Autobiography stacks for the quarterly book sale, assisting Lee with checking donated puzzles for any missing pieces, and participating with the annual Blount County Friends of the Library float in the Alcoa/Maryville Christmas parade. And last, but certainly not least, will be giving his time and attention accounting for every penny for the Friends of the Library.

Caldwell joins Friends’ Book Sale Volunteers

Dorian Leigh Caldwell was lured to Tennessee by its mountains, beauty and mild weather. Soon after moving to Maryville from Florida and while on a stroll through her new neighborhood she met a delightful woman who volunteers with several organizations. Leigh was introduced to and joined the rank and file of volunteer book sorters extraordinaire with Friends of the Blount County Library. She holds a Private Investigator license in Florida and is currently a Director at White Hat Solutions, LLC, a corporate investigations and security consulting firm, owned and operated by her husband.

Never knowing what she wanted to be when she grew up, Leigh has vast experience in the corporate arena. She has worked as an investigator and information technologist and later as CEO of Consolidated Security Services, a uniformed commercial guard company in Denver, Colorado. She is a former Geophysical Exploration Technologist. Leigh managed front offices for Psychology and Osteopathic practices, as well as Corporate, Civil, and Criminal Law firms. She has more than fifteen years experience in the hospitality industry and ran a gourmet catering company in Colorado. Leigh attended Ohio State University and later, majored in nursing at Arapahoe College in Colorado.

Leigh is an artist. She paints and sells greeting cards she’s created from those paintings. (One can view samples of her oil paintings at: www.fozzyandthemoose.com.)

She is an accomplished skier, enjoys sailing, sewing and baking cookies. Leigh and Greg, her husband of 23 years are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Her attention to detail and sense of humor make Leigh a most welcome addition to our volunteer book sale staff.
Larry Ackley was born in Syracuse, New York. After living in both Pennsylvania and Florida, he graduated from high school in Hollywood, Florida. He served three years in the US Navy and was assigned two years to a destroyer working as an electronic technician. Larry attended the University of Florida and obtained a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering.

After graduating from college, Larry worked for Radiation Incorporated in Melbourne, Florida and the State of Florida in Tallahassee, Florida before accepting a position with TVA in Knoxville in 1971.

Larry worked with TVA as an electrical engineer and retired from TVA in 1995. He and his wife, Judy, moved back to Florida and he worked for Alachua County as a Capital Project Coordinator and retired in 2005. Larry and Judy relocated back to Maryville, Tennessee in 2008 to be closer to their two children and their families.

Larry has been volunteering at the Blount County Library for over a year and his duties have been associated with both the Library and Friends of the Library. Larry is looking forward to learning more about the Friends of the Library and is excited about being on the Friends of the Library Board.

Alice LaFoy is Ex Libris’ newest member

In February this year, our Ex Libris team welcomed its seventh and newest member, Alice LaFoy. Alice comes to us with yet another dimension to offer to our public – music. Working with the team, Alice has made holidays such as St. Patrick’s Day and Easter even more memorable. Recognizing that our area has a rich heritage of mountain music, a program entitled ‘Amazing Grace and other Hymns’ was developed and its reception has been nothing short of...amazing. All of us are truly enjoying this cooperative enterprise.

Alice LaFoy introduces herself to us: “I am originally from Birmingham, AL and moved to E.TN after my husband graduated from Pharmacy School. We’ve always loved the mountains and wanted to live near them and raise our two children in this area.

In my early 20’s I worked for Social Security, but left the working world to be a stay-at-home mom. I volunteered in the Blount County school system and then became a teacher’s assistant.

I much prefer volunteering and that is why I am always looking for a way to use the talents God has given me, and also serve others in doing so. Ex Libris sounded like a wonderful program to me when I first read about it in the BCFOL newsletter. I have a special place in my heart for those in nursing homes or assisted living programs. I grew up visiting my grandmother in the nursing home every week, and really feel comfortable around these wonderful people. I learn so much from the elderly.

I’ve been playing piano since second grade. My parents felt it was important for me to take lessons and I have had them in various forms from a traveling bus full of electric pianos to private lessons in someone’s home. I began playing in church at about the age of 12. I’ve played for school choirs, youth choirs, and children’s choirs. I love to play at home just for enjoyment. I also play the dulcimer and I own a harp, although I need lots of practice on that instrument before I will say that I can play it.

I have heard my own Dad sing so many songs over the years, songs he remembers from childhood. I just know there are other people out there who love music as much as I do. Those we visit with the Ex Libris program might not be able to tell you who the President is, but they can tell you the words to ‘Amazing Grace’ or ‘I’ve Been Working on the Railroad.’ I am so glad to have found this way to give back.

Thank you to those people who had the idea and followed through with it.”
Books for Soldiers Project Report

by Vivian Selecman

For the year from June of 2009 to June of 2010, as many as 12 different people have worked at sending packages. Volunteers have sent a total of 265 boxes of books, mags, CDs & DVDs. They sent 105 disks, 3,950 books and about 200 magazines. Generous donors have given $1,800 in postage money, and we have spent $1,460.50.

The last quarter of the year the Books For Soldiers program has slowed a little due to illness affecting two of our more prolific volunteers. However, we did manage to send out 35 boxes, including 490 books, and used $185.40 of postage money.

Some people are faithful senders every week or every two weeks; some once a month, and some only occasionally as they are able. Every single person’s contribution is deeply appreciated, as attested by the many thank you letters we receive.

We always need volunteers for the program to select, pack, and send books. If you want to help, please call me at 379-2568 or email me at Selecman@msn.com.

Quotes from ‘Thank You’ letters received: “We would like to thank you and the members of your library group for the care package that was sent. It’s always nice for our soldiers to receive support from our fellow Americans. There are many soldiers who don’t receive packages all the time – just seeing a package with a soldier’s name makes that individual happy. We all want you to know that it is wonderful to be supported and thought of by all of you. Please keep us in your prayers and we will continue to keep all of you in ours. Thank you again and God Bless.”

“Thank You! To everyone at the Blount County Library I would like to thank you for all the books. You are supporting the reading habits of roughly 16 people and what they don’t take go into a community library for our platoon. We are at a small base but have quite an extensive collection of books now. I am glad you are allowed to use some of the donated books for the Books for Soldiers program, as most of us believe it or not do like to read.”

“Once again I’d like to sincerely thank the Blount County Tennessee Friends of the Library for your package of paperback books. I cannot count the times I’ve listened to the blue grass and gospel music that was sent earlier. And about all else it warms my heart to know the DVDs, CDs (I copied the music to my laptop) and all the books have been passed along, perhaps to a weary traveler passing through our Passenger Terminal or even perhaps to a rotational person like me, reading the print on their precious off-time.”

Ex Libris Summer Report

by Barbara Zurl

Ex Libris Wins State Honor – On May 14, 2010, Friends of Tennessee Libraries held their Annual Meeting at the newly dedicated Art Circle Public Library in Crossville, TN. At that meeting, Blount County’s Ex Libris Extension Program received an Award for Outstanding Library Volunteer Service.

Ex Libris, a community outreach program supported by BCFOL, has been in existence since February, 2004. What began as one volunteer reading to residents at the Morningview Transitional Care Center once a month has now evolved into Ex Libris or Friends FROM the Library, a team of 7 volunteers delivering bi-monthly programs at 6 area facilities including Asbury Place, Asbury Health Center, Liberty Assisted Living, Morningview Transitional Care Center, sterling House and Wellington Place.

The volunteers include Linda Arnold, Janetta Baker, Suzanne Ensslin, Alice LaFoy, Dolores Philpot, Joan Worley, and Barbara Zurl, Coordinator. To check out this program or volunteer, please call me at 977-5034 or email her at badger630@aol.com

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Discovering the Past

by Bobbie Briggs

Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? These questions, which can be both philosophical and factual, frequently come to mind as we muddle through the search for personal identity at some point in our lives. Alex Haley, author of Roots, addressed both aspects of that search in this way.

“In all of us there is a hunger, a yearning deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.” Fortunately for Blount County residents, the Genealogy and Local History Department of the Blount County Public Library (BCPL) offers an excellent opportunity to research the factual side of these universal questions.

Enter through the main library doors, take a right past the check-in desk and you will soon encounter the section of the library designated for genealogy and local history. The focus of this 800 plus volume collection is on books pertaining to Blount County history, local family history, and other family history records which are in some way related to Blount County. Local authors and biographies of local historic figures are also featured. Other books include information about local and state cemeteries, wills, death certificates, and journals. All of these books may be used for research within the library. The Archives Room includes rare yearbooks from Blount County high schools, Maryville College, and a partial collection of Maryville city directories.

The card catalog provides an index to the vertical file and family records. Files with newspaper clippings, information on local schools, businesses, and churches are available as well as family files, which contain information donated by people researching those families. Both microfilm and print indexes of many types of records are available. Among those documents are census reports; birth, marriage, and death records; funeral home records; military service records; court and church records; and newspapers/obituaries. Records on CD-ROM from the Latter Day Saints are also accessible.

The technology provided by BCPL efficiently supports ancestry research. Microfilm records from local newspapers, court records, and census schedules can be photocopied to archive paper; and, through the use of a digital scanner, genealogy researchers have the option of emailing microfilm records to their home computers. Online resources such as HeritageQuest and Ancestry Library Edition can be used at no charge.

While the technology, books, and files of the BCPL’s Genealogy Department are exceptional, at the heart of this program’s success are the members and volunteers of the Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society. This organization began with 50 members in 1985; and as it now celebrates its 25th year, it has 271 members. Current president Lorene Smith was a Founding Member in May 1985. Volunteers meet at BCPL on Thursday mornings to assist anyone needing help. They answer questions by letter, email, or phone; make a yearly cash contribution to the library; purchase books for the local history section; and bind books as needed in that section. They file numerous newspaper clippings, church and family history records, and other historical data in the Family Records file or the Miscellaneous file. They present programs, hold workshops, and assist the reference staff when needed. Perhaps their most helpful contribution is maintaining a collection of files with free forms such as “Genealogical Research - How to Begin,” “Basic Genealogical Resources/What They Are/How to Find Them,” and “Resources Checklist.” These documents help people begin their family research and organize information as they proceed. The knowledge and assistance of these volunteers is key to the success and popularity of the Genealogy and Local History Department of BCPL.

Searching for our roots, discovering our family trees leaf by leaf and limb by limb can be an exciting yet tedious process. This journey can be thorough and complex or simple and quick, depending on the depth of interest each individual researcher invests in the search. Daniel Webster wrote, “Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world.” The resources, staff, and volunteers of the Genealogy and Local History Department of BCPL help make discovering the past a much more pleasant and engaging experience.

Summer 2010 Donations

Sue & Wilson Borden
Mr. & Mrs. Omer Dyer
Elizabeth Gilmore
Robert & Judith Halvorsen
Darrell Terrell
Donald Walker

Memorials

Carl & Julie Falk
in memory of Frank B. Bird

Alice & Bob Hirche
in memory of Bob Heintz
Don’t Miss the Summer Book Sale! July 15-17!

Friends of the Library Summer Book Sale

Thursday, July 15, Noon to 6 pm (for Friends of the Library Members Only)

Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17, 9 am to 5 pm.

Collectibles

1946 Alice in Wonderland 2 vols
Strive Toward Freedom 1st edition
by Martin Luther King
and 1966 faux leather The Hobbit

Christmas in July • Books on Writing
• Books on School Summer Reading
Lists • American Heritage Magazines

Friday and Saturday
July 16th and 17th
9:00am to 5:00 pm

Books and much more!!!

FOL Members Only
Thursday, July 15
12:00 to 6:00 pm

Lower Level of Library

Send questions or comments to the Editor, Jane Bennett (classeecar@charter.net) | Creative Director, David Clabough (david@sealost.com)