



# Between Friends

## Friends of the Library take part in the Christmas Parade



Harry and Lee Downey, family and friends, celebrate aboard the Friends of the Library Float at the Maryville Christmas Parade.

On December 11, 2010, Harry and Lee Downey, along with family and friends, participated in the annual Maryville Christmas Parade. While traveling the parade route on the Blount County Friends

of the Library Float they handed out books and candy to children, and distributed brochures featuring information and dates for the 2011 book sales, as well as applications for joining the Friends.

### BCFOL Officers:

**President:** Larry Moore  
**President-Elect:** Jerry Wagner  
**Secretary:** Cindy Stuart  
**Treasurer:** Harry Downey

### Members at Large:

Sandy Goodson, Jane Bennett, Bob Ramger, Phyllis Williams, Melanie Tucker, Larry Ackley, Leigh Caldwell, Garry Ernsberger, Myra Reisinger, Sally Gross

**Newsletter Editor:** Jane Bennett • **Newsletter Designer:** David Clabough

**Website:** [www.bcfol.org](http://www.bcfol.org)

## Friends of Tennessee Libraries

### An Active Network of Advocates

*By Martha Gill  
President of Friends of Tennessee Libraries*

Because of its membership in Friends of Tennessee Libraries, the Friends of Blount County Library is part of an active statewide network of library advocates.

The Friends of Tennessee Libraries is a volunteer organization of individuals and groups dedicated to supporting Tennessee libraries and local Friends of Library groups through...

- Establishing and helping Friends of Library groups succeed;
- Communicating with libraries and trustees about the value of Friends;
- Serving members as a communication network and clearinghouse for information;
- Advocating for library funding and legislative support on a local, state, and national basis.

FOTL strives to stay in touch with the Friends of Blount County Library through its quarterly newsletter and its website. Barbara Zurl, FOTL's Fort Loudoun Regional Representative, conveys news of Blount County Friends to FOTL and in turn communicates FOTL news to Blount County.

Several FOTL-supported events scheduled for the coming months

*continued on page 2*

**Don't Miss the Winter Book Sale! January 20th - 22nd!**

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and will have a healthy and prosperous new year. I'm grateful for the many dedicated "friends" whose efforts support our fine library. Membership continues to rise and several new friends have volunteered for additional service.



If you have not visited our website lately, check it out at [bcfol.org](http://bcfol.org) and see what your friends are doing to enrich our community and consider helping a program such as ex libris or books for soldiers. The library is always in need of folks to help shelve books or help in the cafe. A special thanks to our webmaster, Walt Smith, for setting up and maintaining our site.

The next book sale is January 20th-22nd – come and enjoy!

Sincerely,

*Larry Moore*, President

# facebook

### Check Out Our Facebook Page

*If you have a facebook account, log in. In the search box, type in Blount County Friends of the Library, then click "Become a Fan."*



*If you don't have a Facebook account visit our Web Site: [www.bcfol.org](http://www.bcfol.org) and click on link!*

## Friends have a Private Book Sale just for the Library Foundation

*By Larry Moore and Phil Baker*

The library is in need of expanding its spaces, especially the children's section. To raise awareness of this need, and the potential additional spaces available in the library basement, the Library Foundation hosted a "hoedown in the lowdown" in October in the basement and the Friends had a book sale for them. The book sale area was open for three and a half hours and many of the foundation members bought books. Entertainment was provided by two local groups, Pistol Creek Catch of the Day and Sisters of the Silver Stage.

Doug Overby, who sponsored a bill providing sales tax-free status to the proceeds raised at the Friends book sales was recognized, as well as Joy Bishop who has worked tirelessly to bring the idea of a quality, community-based library to reality.

### *Advocates, continued from page 1*

may be of interest to Blount County Friends.

Tennessee Library Legislative Day will occur in Nashville on Wednesday, January 26. As change comes to state government, FOTL will join the Tennessee Library Association (TLA), TENN-SHARE, the Tennessee Association of School Librarians, and the Nashville Public Library in helping advocates to sharpen their skills of communicating their support of libraries to legislators. Delegations from across the state are urged to attend.

FOTL will play a role in the Tennessee Library Association's annual conference in Murfreesboro on Friday, March 25. FOTL officials will present a program on partnerships that have helped Friends' groups to add value to their libraries. FOTL will also host the Friends' and Trustees' Luncheon during which an award co-sponsored by FOTL and TLA will be presented for the first time to the Friend of the Year, an individual or a group, for making a significant contribution to a Friends' organization and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee.

FOTL's annual meeting is slated for Friday, May 13, in the Brentwood Library. Some presentations will spotlight Tennessee writers, and others will offer ideas that will energize Friends' groups. Outstanding Friends will also be recognized. From Blount County, the Ex Libris Library Extension Program won such an award from FOTL in 2010, and in 2009 Phil Baker was the recipient. The honor consists of a certificate and \$100.

Details about all of these events will be published in FOTL's forthcoming newsletters and on its website as well as on its Facebook page.

Questions? Please let me hear from you by e-mail [gill333375@bellsouth.net](mailto:gill333375@bellsouth.net) or telephone (865.525.8920).

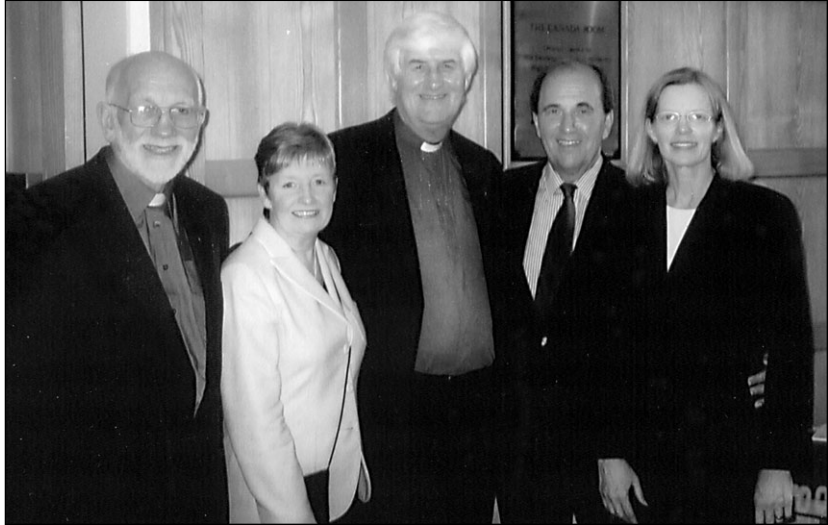
# Hope and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland

## A Report by one of our *Published Friends*

By Dr. Ronald Wells

The conflict in Northern Ireland has been going on – in its most recent phase – for about forty years. But the enmity behind it goes back for many centuries. The reasons are complex, but a short sentence is this: the conflict was about the desire of one community (called Unionist and Protestant) to continue to be part of the United Kingdom, as opposed to the other community (called Nationalist and Catholic) which wanted to be part of the Republic of Ireland. These two communities have lived, and are living, in the same area, sharing the same space, but not agreeing what nation they live in, or want to live in. The euphemism they give to this conflict is “The Troubles.”

The violence is now largely over. The Peace Agreement, signed on Good Friday in 1998, provided a peace process in which all former enemies can now be represented by their elected political leaders in the seat of the government in Belfast. While this is much applauded, political change can only go so far. What is needed to restore peace fully is a comprehensive view of all of society that will take into account how the conflict occurred at all, and how to heal the memories of those who suf-



L-R: Gerry Reynolds, Ms. Valerie Newell, Dr. Ken Newell, Dr. Ronald Wells, and Dr. Barbara Wells.

fered either personal injury or the loss of a loved one to the violence. This taking account, and holding politicians to account, must be done by groups who have social power, in which their members are people dedicated to bringing the newly found peace to a reality. The name we give these groups – churches, fraternal associations, neighborhood associations – is “civil society,” that is, organizations to which people belong that are neither personal nor political.

For some thirty five years I have been studying the efforts of people

and organizations who were trying to stop the violence and to bring in the peace that was so elusive. In three previous books (*Conflict and Christianity in Northern Ireland* (1976), *People Behind the Peace* (1995), *Friendship Towards Peace* (2005), I have written about the courageous and moving efforts of those people who dared to stand up to the violence and hatred in a society where so much had gone so terribly wrong. So what happens now that the peace has (more or less) come? It is

*continued on page 4*

## Biography – Wells

Dr. Ronald Wells came to Maryville in 1998, to accompany his wife, who became Professor of Sociology at Maryville College. He had for thirty years been Professor of History at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has authored fifteen books, five about Northern Ireland. He also collaborated with the legendary journalist Alistair Cooke on a book, *America Observed* (Alfred Knopf and Penguin, 1986). He now is mostly retired, and continues to write. He has a part-time position at Maryville College, where he is Director of the Annual Symposium on Faith and the Liberal Arts.

This fall he and his wife traveled to Northern Ireland for two book launches, the main one in Belfast on October 30 and one at Coventry Cathedral in England on November 3.



## Ex Libris Reaches Milestone

by Barbara Zurl

As the year 2010 drew to an end the women of the Ex Libris Library Extension Program celebrated reaching a milestone – just over 3,700 people have now attended Ex Libris sessions. The factor most responsible for his extraordinary number is the addition of a seventh facility at which programs are delivered. Beginning on October 12, 2010, Maryville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center (MHC) joined the ranks of Ex Libris partners.

Just as people have unique personalities, so do the nursing and assisted living facilities served by Ex Libris. MHC is unique in that its resident population is the largest of the venues we serve and also that it is home to a number of artists. Each year a

### THE EX LIBRIS TEAM

Linda Arnold  
Janetta Baker  
Suzanne Ensslin  
Alice LaFoy  
Sharon Laney  
Dolores Philpot  
Joan Worley  
Barbara Zurl,  
*Program Coordinator*

regular Art Show is put on at the facility, with the artists present, describing their works. The array of offerings was truly amazing – from watercolor to pastel to oils. One lady in particular stood out – probably because she had painted for years for

the American Greeting Card company. More than likely you have seen her work over the years as many of her paintings have been used as Christmas cards!

We in Ex Libris continue to be amazed at the wonderful surprises we encounter as we go forward bringing the richness of the library to those members of our community no longer to get there themselves.

Anyone interested in learning more about Ex Libris, wishing to observe a program, or considering joining the project is invited to give me a call at 865-977-5034 or e-mail me at badger630@aol.com.

Who knows what 2011 will have in store? May the New Year bring health and happiness to all our Friends.

### *Ireland, continued from page 3*

in the institutions of civil society, as mentioned above, that we have hope that the healing of people and society might begin to happen.

In my new book, *Hope and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland: The Role of Faith Based Organizations* (Dublin: The Liffey Press, 2010), I take up the theme of what one scholar has called “building the social infrastructures of peace.” I write about the organizations with feet on the ground who are doing the good work of bringing people together and trying to heal the hurts, the losses and the memories of so many who suffered. The organizations whose work I explain and analyze include: The Corrymeela Community, The Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland, The Irish School of Ecumenics, The Clonard-Fitzroy Fellowship, and Healing Through Remembering.

The book concludes with my distilling the work of activists and scholars who speak of “imagining hope.” By that they mean that it takes work to not be trapped into one’s memory of the past, but to be able to imagine one’s past anew. It takes hard work to imagine a different future that one had previously expected. In short, when we remember differently we look forward differently; the opposite is also true, as we look forward differently – to peace and community understanding – we imagine our past differently too. Therefore, while this book is specifically about the long-suffering people of Northern Ireland, it has implications for all societies and nations where conflict, based on religious, racial and ethnic differences, has left a trail of broken people and social instability behind. This book suggests that hope for peace and reconciliation is not a naive hope, but one that could be realistically attained if there is the will to imagine peace for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

Readers interested in buying this book can order it locally at the Maryville College Bookstore. The book is also easily available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Fall 2010 Donations

George and Pat Blackburn  
Blaine and Ann Gooden  
Robert and Alice Hirche  
Elizabeth Holley  
Robert and Joy Hurm  
Phillip and Alice LaFoy  
Phil and Amy Large  
Jane Qualls-McGuire  
John and Betsy Quinn  
Jim and Libby Ratledge  
Linda J. Sontag  
Carroll and Martha Sterne  
Marzel and Nancy Stiefel

### Life Members

Boyd and Wanda Anderson  
Kay H. Waters

## Volunteer Corner

by Leigh Caldwell

*This little corner of the paper will spotlight volunteers...those wonderfully delightful people who make a difference in the community and the library in particular.*

Mary Cormia's assigned section of the Friends Book Sale rivals most lending libraries' Children's area. Sitting at a low round table, in a child-size chair during this interview, I was transported back in time to the Newberry Room of my hometown public library.

Mary is a walking dichotomy; soft spoken yet an obvious bundle of energy. She was born and raised in California and graduated from Occidental College. While studying for her degree in Education, she attended a Dance at Cal Tech, she met Frank. It was love at first sight for both; Mary and Frank have been happily married for over fifty years.

During her student teaching days, Mary was assigned to an elementary school in South Pasadena and had the good fortune, when hired full time, of being assigned the very school and class where she did her practicum. Mary spent the next five and a half years teaching and enjoying children there.

Mary put her professional life on hold to experience the joys of raising a family. Mary and Frank are proud of their three sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren. They moved to Chillicothe Ohio where they stayed for four years. Later they moved to southern Indiana to a little town named Newburgh, on the river, just down the pike from Evansville where they stayed for nine years. During those years, Mary and Frank would traverse the country, taking a different route each time to visit their remaining family still in California. This gave them an opportunity to explore our great country, educate their children, and enjoy, as has been

sung so many times, the purple mountains/amber fields... She believes she has only missed a couple of the states in all her journeys...yes, they have seen from sea to shining sea, more than once!

Mary and Frank moved to Tennessee in 1977. Mary went back to work as a Substitute teacher for five years. Obviously, she was a definite



Mary Cormia

favorite. While she was practically working full time as a substitute anyway, she readily accepted an offer to resume teaching as permanent staff in Maryville for another nine years.

Mary has the heart and soul of everyone's favorite teacher. Her eyes sparkle when she speaks of her experiences in the classroom. One of many enjoyable practices in which she engaged was to have her class read a book, then show a movie based on the book, then have the students write a paper on the differences and what they liked or disliked about the two.

Retiring from teaching in 1996 didn't slow Mary down a bit. As a Member of St. Andrews Episcopal, she is very active and heavily involved with the Outreach Program at her church. It was just last year she stopped playing tennis in Maryville competitively after thirty years in an interclub league. Mary is an accom-

plished quilter and belongs to one of the local quilting clubs. Her love of books doesn't stop at the library; she is a voracious reader and is a member of not one, but three book clubs!

Ever the outdoorsy person, she camped a lot in her younger days and started serious bicycle riding once she retired. One of Mary's favorite local rides is the Old Walland Highway to the Townsend Bike Path, connecting with the beauty of Smoky Mountain National Park.

She and Frank have been on six international bike travel excursions, including pedaling their way around New Zealand, France, Italy, and Canada. Of course one of her more memorable trips, was to pedal on Prince Edward Island just so she could see the House made popular by Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*.

Travel for her isn't limited to biking. Over the years, she has been blessed to be able to be tourist extraordinaire in places such as China, Greece, Turkey, Ecuador, Peru, Galapagos Islands, the Scandinavian capitals, Lake Louise and Banff, just to mention a few.

Their Christmas tree is filled with ornaments collected during their travels. Every year while decking their hall, Frank and Mary hang exquisite baubles and reminisce about each trip from where the ornament originated. What a lovely tradition.

Another yearly custom they enjoy is traveling to Sanibel Island in the Gulf of Mexico every January where they stay at the same place each time. Many friends and relatives join them on bike rides or kicking up the sand and collecting shells while in the southern climes.

During the Book Sale, take time to visit Mary's "little store." It is so organized, finding the books of your desire is so easy that, well, even a first grader could do it.

## What in the world are all those people doing on those computers?

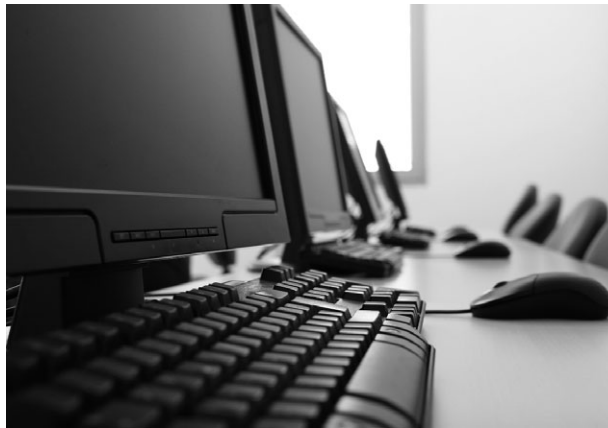
One sees hundreds of people at Blount County Library on a given day, and might think, "Ah, READERS utilizing the enormous resources that only books offer. What an amazingly literate community!"

*That would be wrong.*

Maybe not the literate part, but definitely the book part.

Patrons come to the library to get movies and recorded music, listen to WWII Code Talkers, Shakespearean plays and live musicals of everything from dulcimers to operatic arias, drink lattes and munch warm scones, find books, certainly, and... use the computers which are ubiquitous in the reference department.

*What are they doing there?* Browsing, one sees on the brightly lit screens email, ads, company bill paying sites, rpgs going on (role playing games like Warcraft and Facebook's FarmVille), chess, backgammon, mahjongg, tv shows, a job application, unemployment insurance form, job searches, a Wikipedia entry, personal essay, a foreign language lesson, obit, coupon sites, etc. If it is allowed, it will probably be found opened on a library computer at any given moment. Of course, if it isn't allowed (what is clearly posted at the first screen) and someone is caught peeping at porn etc. that viewer is reprimanded and must leave. One person even



accused the librarian of discrimination after his reprimand.

Why do people need to use library computers anyway? Don't people all have personal computers at home? Actually, some people have never owned a computer and some for various reasons have lost the use of theirs for a period of time or are saving money to buy a replacement.

One patron relates that her home computer crashed just before she was due to give her grandchildren a promised trip to DisneyWorld. She couldn't afford to buy a new computer and take the trip at the very same time: the grandchildren won. She finds the library computers her "best thing" until she saves up enough to buy a new one. She checks her email, gets coupons, plays Canasta on Pogo, etc.

Another patron, Loretta Howard, who coordinated the library's World War II Code Talker Program, has used the power point program on the computers to organize a traditional

Buckskin Program and a set of Native American Bibliography Resources which can be used by grade school children through senior citizens.

Kathleen Christy, Head of Reference, says that a new method of signing-in was recently inaugurated which has freed up those



who, before, had to do time consuming check-ins at the reference desk for each computer. Today a patron simply logs in on a vacant computer, enters a library card number, and begins. If someone does not have a library card, he must turn in a driver's license at the desk and be assigned a computer. One gentleman without a

library card had chosen a computer, turned in his driver's license, and turned around to go to the computer and someone else was already using it. He finally did get another computer but was so flustered that he left his driver's license at the library when he went home.

Feedback otherwise about the new sign-in method is "hands down positive," or worth "a high five." The reference librarians are freer to really give more personal assistance to those who need extra help. They relate some of these stories. Librarian Kathy Thompson remembers a gentleman who called for a language course and told her she had

been a "ton of help." Another plea, and PLEA would be the real way to write that, came from a student who had a paper due on lyric poetry the next day. Searching through reference books, then poetry sites, the paper was written and copied out (copies are twenty

cents each). Another person was looking for history of horses. A reference librarian helped him search and after finding material, he decided he wanted to learn about the domestication of animals as well. Still another wanted to find the history of the nutcracker as it fitted into Russian history.

*continued on page 7*

Computers, continued from page 6

Lisa McDaniel Tipton says that people who don't have strong computer backgrounds come to the librarians especially for help in applying for a job on line and setting up email accounts. There is also a brochure the librarians have created for people needing to file for unemployment on line, which is the easiest way to file and one strongly suggested by the

unemployment powers.

Children are allowed to use the computers with the proper card numbers, but if younger than 12 must have someone over 18 in the library somewhere who is with them. The children's section of the library also has computers, some with the library's bibliography and some with games appropriate for viewers up to age thirteen.

A library in the year 2000 something is not just about books; it includes valuable information, personal amusements, and economic resources. Just ask the mother applying for a job at the computer with baby sleeping peacefully in its infant seat beside her, the gentleman in the three-piece suit checking his email, or the young teenager writing a lengthy term paper.

## Books for Soldiers Project Report

by Vivian Selecman

In the last quarter of the year we slow down the stream of books a little because of all the Christmas mail that goes overseas. As of December 7th we have sent 21 boxes, containing 40 CDs and 475 books. We spent \$170 in postage but we have received \$385 in donations, so we will begin sending more in January. Special thanks to Gail and Tim Crawford and W. and Cathy Howard for their generous donations.

We send packages all over the world through this program, and hundreds of our troops gain a little respite from harsh living conditions through the magic of the printed word. They appreciate knowing that complete strangers care enough to send things to them.

Here are excerpts from a few thank you letters we have received:

*"Blount County Friends of the Library, Thank you all for the books and support. The books helped develop a nice library for the men and MWR room. It is much appreciated all that you do for us. - Tim"*

*"Sir, Let me begin by saying thank you for the books. I know the men*



*enjoyed them. When I opened your note I smiled; I have been to Maryville before. It has been almost 10 years since I was there last. My best friend from high school was going to college there and I went to visit him one weekend. While I did not see the library that weekend it was a very nice town. I guess it is a small world. Thank you again for everything. - William"*

*"Friends of the Library, Thank you so much for the books that you sent to us here in Iraq. Although they are used, they will be read and used more. I am here, in Tikrit, Iraq with three other Air Force personnel. We are stationed with the Army and forecast weather for pretty much anything the Army uses that flies. These are all great books and we are even allowing the Army soldiers we work*

*with to borrow the books too, as we've set up an almost de facto library here. So just wanted to let you know that the books are going to good use and we thank you for sending them to us. It is great to know that there are people back in the states that are rooting for us and care about us enough out here to send us these wonderful books. Thanks again for your support and God bless! - Jonathan"*

*"Thank you Books for Soldiers Volunteers. Thank you so much for your generous donation of books to me and my soldiers! All of the books will be put to good use and will help to keep the spirits of the soldiers high. Thank You! Sincerely, - John"*

We really appreciate all donations of both time and money for this project! Donations may be mailed to Friends of the Library, Books for Soldiers, 208 N. Cusick St., Maryville, TN 37804.



508 N. Cusick St.  
Maryville, TN 37804

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

**Don't Miss the Winter Book Sale! January 20-22!**

## Friends of the Library 2011 Winter Book Sale

**Thursday, January 20, Noon to 6 pm (for Friends of the Library Members Only)**

**Friday, January 21 and Saturday, January 22, 9 am to 5 pm.**

### *January Sales Features*

**Black History - Books, Authors**

**CLASSIC MYSTERIES:**

*Agatha Christie,  
Earl Stanley Gardner*

**CRAFT/QUILTING BOOKS**

*More Surprise Boxes*

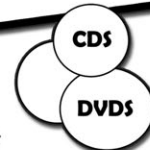
*Christian Fiction Boxes*



**Books and  
much more!!!**

**Collectibles!**

**Friday and Saturday  
Jan. 21st and 22nd  
9:00am to 5:00 pm**



**FOL Members Only  
Thursday, Jan. 20th  
12:00 to 6:00 pm**



**Blount County Friends of the Library**

508 N. Cusick, Maryville TN [www.bcfol.org](http://www.bcfol.org)



**Lower Level of Library**