



Between Friends

Scientist, Gardener, Fisherman, Volunteer: Phil Baker

By Dolores Philpot

Raised in the Florida Keys where fishing is a key pastime for many, Phil Baker has kept up this recreational interest by fishing two to three times a month in good weather. While our area boasts good fishing spots, Phil, like any dedicated angler, has a “bucket list” of dream spots that he’d like to try some day. These include areas in Central and South America.

Another interest for this Friend of the Library (FOL) is vegetable gardening; he wants to become a master gardener. Phil also enjoys traveling. He has taken cruises to Mexico, Honduras, and Belize. Reading is another interest. This includes books on Phil’s hobbies as well as politics and science fiction, especially “hard” science fiction. This kind of fiction is a literary category that emphasizes scientific or technical detail, either currently accurate or theoretically possible. Trailblazing



Phil Baker

authors in this field have a scientific background, e.g., Isaac Asimov (biochemistry,) Arthur C. Clark (physics,) and Robert Heinlein (aeronautical engineering.)

This interest in hard science fiction is not surprising, as Phil has a science background. He has a Masters and PhD in microbiology from University of North Carolina and is a past Director of the Public Health Lab for East Tennessee. Retired in 2002, he

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A Reference All by Herself: Linda Marcus

By Dolores Philpot

Since the age of three, Linda Marcus is a local, graduating from Alcoa High School, and getting a Masters degree from University of Tennessee. Not surprisingly for a librarian, she likes books. “I have never met a book I didn’t like, with some exceptions.” She has diverse taste, reading science books e.g. archeology, anthropology, geology, geography, historical fiction, and mystery books. One preferred author is Oliver



Linda Marcus

Sacks, M.D., a practicing neurologist, who is known for his neurological case study books such as, Musicophilia, Awakenings, and Island of the Color

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BCFOL Officers:

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Don’t Miss the Spring Book Sale! April 19th - 21st!

President's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope this crazy weather hasn't gotten you as confused as I am. Yard work, spring cleaning, etc. have come much too soon. Thanks



to the efforts of Jane Bennett and Vivian Selecman, we have a beautiful new brochure/application. The Friends have accomplished a lot, and we want folks (prospective members) to see what we do.

We're also planning on taking BCFOL on the road, via a slide presentation and remarks about the library and Friends. We provide valuable services in the community and more people need to know

about us. Don't forget the next Book Sale, April 19th - 21st. Hope to see you there!

See you at the library,
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 and click on link!

Linda Marcus, continued from page 1

Blind. Another favorite writer is Simon Winchester, educated as a geologist, who has written many non-fiction books. Mystery authors Harlan Coben and Louise Penny are also on Linda's best-liked list.

Perhaps accounting for much of Linda's preference in books is her background in science. She has an undergraduate degree in Math and a Masters in Geography, with Climatology the topic of her

thesis. After graduation, she worked for TVA where she gathered data and monitored weather at nuclear sites. She is married to her husband, Kermit, and has three children and four grandchildren.

Working at the Blount County Library for about 10 years, Linda prefers to be in the Reference area, and now is on part time status. Helping students with their science projects is a special

delight for her.

Ms. Marcus is also an accomplished quilter. Taught 27 years ago by the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church's Quilting Group, Linda finds her math skills come in handy to design patterns. Disdaining machines, she hand stitches her quilts. They wind up as home decorations, presents to family and friends, and recently on display at the Library's Café area.

Phil Baker, continued from page 1

was able to devote more time to volunteering at the library. He was a FOL Secretary and then President for two years. Now, he empties the donated book bins,

sorts these books, works all book sales, and is in training to be an upstairs library book sorter too!

Phil came to east Tennessee in 1979, the year he married his

wife, Cheryl. His two children live out of town in Richmond, Virginia and Washington, D.C. However, his four grandchildren live in the area.

Plucking the Moon from the Bottom of the Sea

By Barbara Zurl

Growing up in the '50s and '60s, many of Life's Lessons were imparted by way of adages. Our parents told us that a stitch in time would save nine, that gift horses were never to be looked in the mouth, and that not all that glittered was gold. Above all, once we entered the work world, we knew better than to mix business with pleasure. What a surprise to learn, recently, that the mixing of those two things can, and actually does work when it comes to the business of Ex Libris.

The purpose of our program is to bring timely, interesting and entertaining bits of information to local residents who can no longer visit the library. Each of our team members create programs showcasing their particular interests, and so it was serendipitous for me to be talking about Lunar New Year at Shannondale Retirement Center on January 23, when the Year of the Dragon began. Not

everyone knows that fortune cookies, like chop suey, are not Chinese. Very few people know the difference between a Chinese Dragon, a Korean Dragon, or one from Japan. The folks from Shannondale do—now.



Knowing that retired folks are often great games players, and it being "Chinese" New Year, I decided to bring along my mahjongg set and tell them the history of the game and demonstrate how we play it.

Their interest was keen and rumor has it that a Mahjongg Club may get started. This sort of consequence to an Ex Libris pro-

gram is just what we delight in. For me the entire effort is designed to "continue a lifetime of learning." Just because the body slows down a little does not mean the mind necessarily needs to follow.

So what does this have to do with plucking the moon from the bottom of the sea? Picture being at a fundraiser and purchasing the very last raffle ticket. When the number is drawn—it just happens to be yours. In mahjongg the expression refers to drawing the very last tile and with it winning the game—something unforeseen, a surprise, a genuine pleasure. Each time we deliver one of our Ex Libris programs, we too are plucking the moon from the bottom of the sea.

For more information about Ex Libris (also known as Friends From the Library,) or the Maryville Mahjongg League, call Barbara Zurl at 865-977-5034.

News from other Friends...

Benton County Libraries lose state funding because their county funding was cut

*By Susie Webb Ries, President,
Friends of Tennessee Libraries*

In 2011, the Benton County Commission voted to cut the library's funding by 24 per cent. The lack of funding violated the Maintenance of Effort for state services which led to the recent removal of 6,500 books from the two Benton County libraries.

This is the first time in the 75 year history of the Tennessee Regional Library System that the



state library has been forced to reclaim state-owned books and

materials as well as access to R.E.A.D.S. e-books and audio book online services, technical assistance and consulting services from the Regional Library, weekly courier pick-up and delivery of interlibrary loan materials, and the allocation of \$10,745 provided by the state for purchases of materials.

Friends of the Benton County Public Library have launched a

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Use the Internet to Go Into Business

By Bonnie Holmes

Many Americans consider going into business at some time in their lives. However, investing in a business requires a lot of research and planning. Before jumping in, consider using one of the most interesting Blount County Library's resources, Reference USA.

A primary and necessary thing to research when considering starting a business is your competition. From the Blount County Library Home Page, click on "Electronic Resources." Next, click on "Reference USA" and sign in. This site will allow you to explore information on businesses in your area.

Click on "U.S. Businesses," followed by "Custom Search". Next, select "Business Type" and "Major Industry Group." You can use a Key Word, such as candy shop, or use the "Major Industry Group." Once you select the type of business, narrow the location by clicking on "Geography." Of course, the area you may need to search will depend on the type of business and the population that can support it.

If you know the name of a business that is similar to the one you

are considering, you can search for it by name. Click on the name to view the industry profile. For example, you would find Smoothie King under Health &



Diet Foods - Retail and Food (Health) Supplement Stores.

There is also a Competitors Report that lists similar businesses in the area. For example, you might be thinking of opening a winery and would be surprised to find there are eleven in the Knoxville Metropolitan area.

Searches by brand names can also be a useful way to determine

if a product is already being marketed in your area. Be sure to click on the Corporate Tree at the end of each search result for more complete product distribution. Although this is a useful feature, it is not complete. For example, Husqvarna chain saws sold in the Knoxville area do not display but Bernina sewing machines do.

Many individuals work out of their homes. In the Knoxville area, 3,220 are listed with 575 in Blount County. In Blount County, four are listed for tax preparation; sixteen offer automobile repair services; four upholstery; one shoe and boot repair; and one locksmith.

Location is a major consideration for many businesses. If you are considering empty space in a specific location, you could search an existing nearby business and click on the Nearby Businesses tab to see what other stores are in the area that might draw business to your place.

Once you are familiar with this reference tool, you can move quickly through selections, gathering all sorts of useful information for business, job hunting, locating services and shopping.

News from other Friends, continued from page 3

drive to raise \$10,000 to help overcome reductions in both county and state support for the county's two libraries, located in Camden and Big Sand.

When the County Commission reduced the library budget by more than \$25,000, Library Director Rhonda Tippitt had to

reduce staff, operating hours, and other expenses.

Library supporters also learned that the county had violated its Maintenance of Effort contract with the State Library and Archives. This contract, under state law (TCA 10-3), requires that member libraries in the

Regional Library System must maintain "the allocation of locally appropriated funds at a level not less than the amount appropriated the last fiscal year as well as the expenditure of locally appropriated funds at a level not less than the total" *continued on page 5*

Workday scheduled to beautify the Shakespeare Garden at the Blount County Library

Master Gardeners will be on hand Saturday, May 5 at 9 a.m. to assist Friends of the Library in beautifying the Shakespeare Garden and the pathway leading toward the front of the library. If you haven't ever seen the garden, you are in for a treat. The Leadership Blount Class of 2005 installed the garden as their class project. All of the plants in the gardens are from Shakespeare's plays, and are marked with beautiful plaques indicating the name of the plant and the Play and Act where it can be found. You can access the garden by exiting the library through the door to the right of the Children's section, or by crossing the bridge from downtown Maryville.

Some of the plants have done extremely well and are getting overgrown and are overshadow-



(L-R) Susie Epperson instructs intern Katie Barbarette, Master Gardener Janice Church and intern Colleen Girard on how to properly prune the roses in the Shakespeare Garden.

ing other plants. Also, some weeds have made their way into the beds and need to be removed. The Blount County Master Gardener Association did some initial work on the gardens and the pathway in the fall. They replaced a few plants, divided and moved some plants on the walkway, weeded, installed some new shrubs and pansies, and mulched the area. Funds for the

work are being provided by the Friends of the Library. Rosarian and Master Gardener Susie Epperson recently held a workshop on rose pruning for 18 of the Master Gardeners. After the workshop, they spent the afternoon trimming the 14 Knock-Out Roses located in the beds. This will re-vitalize the roses, and make it easier for the Friends to access the back of the beds for weeding

and relocating plants.

The plan is to have twice yearly workdays to keep the garden and pathway in tip top shape. If you can join us on May 5, bring your tools – we recommend gloves, pruners, weeding tools, shovels and wheelbarrows.

If you have questions about the event, contact Cindy Stuart at 980-2162 (or send an email to cstuart1@hughes.net.)

News from other Friends, continued from page 4

amount expended in the last fiscal year.

Although the State Library and Archives offered to compromise with Benton County if it would restore some portion of the cuts, the County Commission could not secure enough votes to restore any funds. The deadline passed on January 31, at which time the Reelfoot Regional Library discontinued services in

Benton County.

Library users in the county saw 6,500 state-owned books removed from the shelves. They are also losing access to the R.E.A.D.S. downloadable book service, computer technical support, and funds for purchasing materials. In all, regional services are valued at more than \$40,000 per year – far more than the County Commission saved by

cutting the budget.

The Benton County Friends group and other donors are working to raise \$10,000, the amount of money the state holds out as a compromise position that would return the books to the shelves and restore services.

(Story excerpts from Friends of Tennessee Libraries Newsletter March-April 2012. Visit online at www.friendstnlibraries.org; Title of article by Between Friends editor.)

If you couldn't read...

by *Bonnie Holmes*

- You might be a juvenile delinquent. Researchers estimated that 35 percent of academically low-performing children became delinquent compared with only about 20 percent of academically high-performing children. (Maguin & Loeber, 1996)
- You would probably earn a very low salary. "A study estimated that 17 to 18 percent of adults with "below basic" literacy skills earned less than \$300 a week, whereas only 3 to 6 percent of adults with "proficient" literacy skills earned less than \$300 a week (Kutner et al., 2007)
- You might be in prison. "More than 60% of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate. Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above fourth grade level. (www.begintoread.com/research/literacystatistics.html)
- You might be receiving food stamps. Three out of four food stamp recipients perform in the lowest 2 literacy levels. (www.begintoread.com)
- You might be a high school dropout. 90% of welfare recipients are high school dropouts. (www.begintoread.com)
- You might be in poorer health. "Limited health literacy is associated with poor health. Persons with limited health literacy skills are more likely to skip important preventive measures. When compared to those with adequate health literacy skills, studies have shown that patients with limited health literacy skills enter the healthcare system when they are sicker." (<http://www.health.gov/communication/literacy/quickguide/factsliteracy.htm>)
- You were probably in the 37% of children who entered kindergarden without the skills needed for lifetime learning. (American's Early Childhood 2009)
- You probably heard less than half the number of words spoken by your family per hour than in a professional family (Heart & Risley) and had few or no children's books in your home (McQuillan, Jeff. The Literacy Crisis: False Claims, Real Solutions. 1998)

Two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. The fourth grade is the watershed year. (National Center for Education Statistics Literacy Report)

SPRING 2012 DONATIONS

Patricia and William Aldridge
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B. Susan Thompson
Addison West
George Williams
Richard and Deborah Yarbrough

The Collectible Corner

by *Penny Myers*

CHILDREN

The May Gibbs Collection
Dean's A Book of Fairy Tales
Nursery Friends From France
Maria Mitchell - Girl Astronomer
Happy Hollisters Set (9 vol)

FICTION

Point Lace and Diamonds
(1891 - poems)
Beautiful like new volumes of
classics - some in slip-cases

HISTORY

Old (circa 1803) personal
photograph album with original
tin-type pictures
Portraits of Combat (WW II)
The Winning of the West (3 vol)
A Pictorial History of Black America
Encyclopedia of Southern Cultures
The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson
Battlefields of the South

NONFICTION

How Things Work
Journeys in Alaska (1885)
Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia
And the Crowd Goes Wild
History of the Ritual of the Methodist
Episcopal Church
Star Styles Costume Patterns
Fireside Book of Folk Songs

REGIONAL

Tennessee a History (1673 - 1932)
Industry and Technology in
Antebellum Tennessee
Descendants of John Houser
(1709 - 1763)
Robertson County's Heritage
of Homes
Churchill Tennessee Area
1754 - 1976
The Fox Fire Books (3 vol)
The Phosphate Resources
of Tennessee
Haints, Witches and Boogers -
Tales from Upper East Tennessee
History of Blount County Tennessee

Books for Soldiers Project Report

by Vivian Selecman

Books for Soldiers is a program operated by individual volunteers, who answer requests from our troops stationed all over the world for printed materials. As we have withdrawn from Iraq and are beginning to leave Afghanistan we don't have as many units operating in very isolated conditions, so requests for books have diminished to some extent. But there is still a need, and our dedicated people are still answering it. During the first quarter of this year, we sent 31 boxes, containing 22 DVDs and 452 books. This cost \$201.38 in postage, which was supplied by donations at the last book sale of \$217.00. We have a continuous need for new volunteers for this program. Please contact Myra Riesinger at the library if you are interested.

Below are quotes taken from two thank you letters that were recently received.



Dear . . . and Maryville community,

Thank you so much for the books you sent. My job over here is to go out to smaller Forces and build things, but with the draw down and all, my leadership is having a hard time finding things for us to do. I'm sure the books ya'll sent will help the time to fly by. I really appreciate ya'lls support, especially when it comes from someone close to home. I'm originally from Scottsville, Kentucky. Again, thank you for sending all those books. I really

*appreciated it and your support.
Ssgt. B. . . ., Aimee*

Dear . . .

Thank you so much for the box of books! I will make sure these get distributed to my squadron. We really appreciate your support, it is what keeps us going.

*Thanks again! Smsgt.
Lisa R.*

If you would more information about this project, please contact Myra Riesinger at the library, or contact Vivian Selecman at Selecman@msn.com.

SPRING at the LIBRARY with OPPORTUNITIES for FRIEND-LY VOLUNTEERING

Children's Summer Reading Program begins **June 2, 2012**. Friends are needed to serve food and help with activities and games. *Call Myra Reisinger to sign up: 856-3333.*

The library's Foundation Board is planning "Ten Years of Celebrating Sweet Success" on **Saturday, June 16, 2012** with children's events from 2 to 4 p.m. From 6 to 8 p.m., adults, at an entrance fee of \$10, will enjoy a program and light refreshments while getting library updates.

PATRON PARKING

***Please, please,
please, park in the
front lot only!!!***

**Thanks for your
courtesy to the
library staff.**



508 N. Cusick St.
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of the Library

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Don't Miss the Spring Book Sale! April 19-21!

Friends of the Library 2012 Spring Book Sale

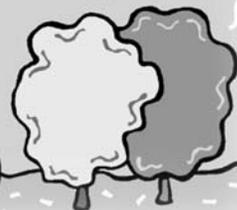
Thursday, April 19, Noon to 6 pm (for Friends of the Library Members Only)

Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 9 am to 5 pm.

Celebrate Spring with Books!!!

*Popular Titles and Authors!
Well Organized! Great Prices!*

**FOL Members Only
Thursday, April 19th!
12:00 pm to 6:00 pm**



**Maryville Dulcimer Club
performing Friday, 10am-12pm**



Blount County Friends of the Library

508 N. Cusick, Maryville TN www.bcfol.org



Lower Level of Library