



Between Friends

Friends of the Library welcome New Board Members

By Dolores Philpot

The new Board members have a lot in common. They are all from someplace else, are well educated, and have a variety of interests besides the FOL. These include volunteering, gardening, pets, music, traveling, hiking, nature and needlework. Most are retired, but all seem to be busy in their chosen pastimes. What an energetic group!



Left to right: New President Jerry Wagner, Karl Gombert, Denise Robertson, Maria Stefanovic, and Secretary Diane Martin. Photo by Dolores Philpot.

Diane Martin, Secretary: Diane is from Elkhart, IN and received a BS and MS from Purdue University in Engineering. She later received an MA from Bastyr University, and an MBA from UT. Ms. Martin worked for Alcoa 31 years, first in Lafayette, IN, and then in Alcoa, TN, using her engineering and management skills in several capacities. Married to Nelson Martin (also a retired Alcoa), they have three dogs. Diane retired in 2010 and now she spends her time volunteering at the Blount County Library, the Blount County Animal Center, and for the

Master Gardeners (MG) with a special interest in Monarch butterfly gardens. Other interests are landscape design and installation.

Karl Gombert: Karl was born and raised in Ft. Wayne, IN. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in music education and music history from Ball State University, and Michigan State University. Mr. Gombert served two years in the U.S. Army as a trumpet player with the 77th Army Band at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Starting as a Junior High music instructor, Karl

continued on page 2

A word from our New President, Jerry Wagner

I was pondering about what to write in this initial letter to all my friends of Blount County Library rather than winging off on this thought or that and what I really want to say expressing my goals. I kept staring at the home page of my computer and all I got was "Acer" the name of my laptop. Then it came to me!

First I want to say sincerely that I consider it an honor to serve the next two years as President of the "Friends". I also want to thank all the



Jerry Wagner

fellow volunteers and board members for their community support, challenges and unending service that contributes to the efficiency of managing the volumes of books for the quarterly book sales. Come to the library basement on Tuesdays and you will see unity in action, where everything is done out of love and devotion. I have been an avid reader since childhood and couldn't find a better place to volunteer in my retirement.

continued on page 3

BCFOL Officers:

President: Jerry Wagner

Secretary: Diane Martin

Treasurer: Larry Moore

Newsletter Editor: Jane Bennett • **Associate Editors:** Bonnie Holmes, Dolores Philpot

Newsletter Designer: David Clabough • **Website:** www.bcfol.org

Members at Large:

Jim Byrd, Garry Ernsberger,
Regina Greene, Karl Gombert
Sandy Goodson, Sally Gross
Denise Robertson, Myra Reisinger,
Marie Stefanovic, Cindy Stuart

Don't Miss the Summer Book Sale! July 19th - 21st!

A fond farewell from our former President...

Dear Friends,

I am not sure where the last two years have gone, but I feel pretty good about our growth and accomplishments. Book sales have continued to gain in popularity and productivity. Friends have purchased a new, sorely needed PC, and produced a new brochure highlighting our areas of service. We have finally located a recycling company for books we cannot give away.



Personally, I have enjoyed learning more about current Friends and have made new ones. I look forward to Tuesday mornings sorting and shelving books; the fellowship and energy from working with folks who believe in, and have fun with what they do, has been a highlight of my week.

I feel very good about our new president, Jerry Wagner. He has been a Friend longer, knows far more about the membership, and how to handle this growing database than I ever will. He believes strongly in our work and will do a great job. Thank you for the privilege of associating with such wonderful folks.

See you at the library,
Larry Moore

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!

New Board Members, continued from page 1

went on to become a music Professor at Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA.

Karl and his wife moved to Maryville in July of 2005. Now retired, he plays fiddle, mandolin, bass, and dulcimer, playing with friends and several dulcimer clubs.

Marie Stefanovic: Marie is originally from New Jersey. She spent 12 years as an army wife, living in Germany, and Suriname. In 1989, her husband retired from the military and they and their two sons moved to Maryville. Ms. Stefanovic accompanied her husband when he taught in Europe for a semester in 2005 and 2010. Living in Macedonia, they were able to tour almost every country in Europe.

Two years ago, Marie retired from her job as an optician. Now, she enjoys hiking in the Smokies, playing bridge, volunteering at the Pregnancy Resource Center, reading, going to exercise class-

es and participating in various Church activities. Marie does a lot of traveling, especially to Colorado and NYC, where her sons live.

Denise Robertson: Denise is from Indiana and received her undergraduate degree from Ball State in History and Political Science, with a minor in Library Science. She has a master's in Library Science from Indiana University, and is also a Certified Records Manager (retired). Ms. Robertson was the Geology/Engineering Librarian at the University of Houston before managing a library for Mobil. Then, she worked in Records Management.

Denise and husband, Bruce, moved to Blount County from Houston, in 2009. When not traveling the world, Denise's other interests are books and information. She volunteers about 10 hours/ week for the BCPL Reference Desk, and organizes the "Freebie" section of the FOL Book Sale. Also, she

helps with other projects: indexing the Dean Stone/Daily Times "Snapshots of Blount County History" books and indexing and imaging the Reference department's family files.

Regina Greene: Regina is from Guatemala and was a pediatrician in her native country. She moved to Maryville, Tennessee in 1997, leaving her medical career behind. Ms. Greene worked in Blount County Children's Library and organized Spanish story hours and activities for elementary school children and homeschoolers for a few years. In 2005, she moved with her family to a little Caribbean island off the coast of Honduras and practiced scuba diving for a couple of years. In 2007, Ms. Greene and her son, Nicholas returned to Maryville. Regina now works at Edward Jones Investment as a Financial Advisor, with an office in Alcoa. She likes to read for fun and education and enjoys nature and needlework.

The Groundhog's Day Men's Book Club

Men's Book Club Reflections

by Bob Ramger

We met for the first time on Groundhog Day, 1992 – I think. There were five of us guys who decided that men could read books too!

Before this monumental decision, we guys, and our wives, would meet once a month, start off with a few (or more) drinks, eat a great meal prepared by the host family, and play bridge till it got very late at night. The guys generally talked about football, hiking, investing in what stocks, while our wives talked about grandkids and interesting books they had been reading in their women's book clubs.

One evening one of the boys said, "Hey, have any of you guys read a good book lately?" Surprisingly, or maybe, not so surprisingly in retrospect, all of us men were in the middle of reading a good book about history, or sea battles, or the mistreatment of Indians (Native Americans). I was into a great book on why the American Civil War started, and who was to blame. Some in the group of men suggested that we five read a common book and meet once a month and discuss it – just like the women do! We asked ourselves: "CAN MEN DO THAT? Let's try."

So, we selected a book, Rollo May's

The Cry for Myth, read it and met to discuss our personal views on the read. I was really shocked at how differently each one of us interpreted this book.



The next day I felt as though I should go back and re-read the thing to see the points the others talked about that I didn't catch the first time.

This book club, named "The Groundhog's Day Men's Book Club," for the lack of a better title, has been going on now for the last twenty years, and stays strong. Four of the original five have been replaced with thirteen new, avid readers. Our latest book, Audie Murphy's To Hell and Back will be

reviewed by the group and, then, possibly re-read by several.

The thing I think I appreciate most about this group is the fact that about half of the titles we choose to read, ten a year for a total of 200 books, I probably never would have picked up to read on my own. Usually, on those I wouldn't choose on my own, I would get about halfway through the read and say, "This really isn't that interesting for me to keep going." But, since I was going to participate in a discussion of the book, I kept plowing through the thing. After I finally read the entire book, and discussed it with the others, I often times said, "Hey, this was a very interesting book after all. I am glad I read it!"

Joining a book club takes a bit of extra time and dedication, but at the end of each book, I will say, "I'm sure glad I am part of it all." I've heard at least two of the guys say that this is the first time in their lives, growing up, and in all their adult years, they have ever bonded with a group of guys the way they have with this group. Now that is a great idea when you really think about it!

I have to leave now – I've got a book to read!

Jerry Wagner, continued from page 1

You know you're in resignation if you don't find yourself looking forward to anything or if you are content to see things remain the same as you have experienced. I'm embarking on a new challenge as your president. I want to further my goals to support the Blount County Library, which by the way is amongst the finest I've seen! So after sitting in my chair staring into space considering my previous career which

centered on aerospace and automotive materials management, I wonder, "what have I gotten myself into?" "My wife was a librarian and here I am volunteering in the library! I am pondering over how I can utilize statistical analysis to further efficiency, quality and process controls in this new environment. With all that, my mission for this year is to contribute those skills and to facilitate the continued improvement of fund

raising for the library programs.

Without reservation, I wish to extend my total support to the library and its goals to be the center of Community and County through providing and meeting the education, cultural needs and daily living requirements of Blount Countians.

Jerry Wagner, President,
*Blount County Friends
of the Library*

A Picture Begins a Thousand Words

By Janetta Baker, Ex Libris

I am always looking for great topics for Ex Libris programs. I search all sorts of sources, from magazines to books to newspaper clippings. One recent discovery was from the American Profiles insert in The Daily Times newspaper. The focus of this particular issue was about Dan Robbins, the man who designed all the Paint by Numbers in the early 1950s. And here is where it got really interesting!

While talking with my husband, Dale, about the article and its potential for a program for Ex Libris, he informed me that his mom, Suzanne Baker, had done a Paint by Number painting when he was little. Pleasantly surprised, I asked if he thought she still had it. He shrugged his shoulders and said, "Maybe." After that, on a visit to our hometown of Benton, Illinois, I remembered to ask my mother-in-law if she still had the picture. Smiling, she pulled the beautifully framed painting out of a closet to show me. She recounted to me how much fun she had in doing it. I was so excited and asked if I could borrow it for my program. She said, "Sure."



I designed a program around this painting.

My first "showing" was at Liberty Assisted Living Facility. I was going to wait to show the painting until the end, but in my excitement, wound up showing it to them right away. I've never had a program be a bigger hit. Everyone was so impressed with my mother-in-law's

painting. They just couldn't believe what a fantastic job she had done on it. Most of the residents remembered someone who had done Paint by Number pictures or had seen one. I couldn't wait to take it on the road to my next venue.

Well, this continued at each facility I showed it. Wonderful discussion ensued from the residents of all our facilities. I had the grandest time sharing it with everyone and bragging on my mother-in-law. After each program, I couldn't wait to go home and call her to tell her how much everyone was enjoying her painting.

I do not know what I will find to follow up on this great success, but I certainly will have fun searching for the next one.

For more information about Ex Libris, (also know as Friends From the Library, please call Barbara Zurl at 865-977-5034. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to join this amazing volunteer program and share their interests, be they musical, dramatic, literary, artistic, or any combination therein.

News from other Tennessee Friends...

Benton County Friends Support Their Library

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

The libraries of Benton County have gotten approval to have the state-funded books and services returned to their libraries. In the last issue, we reported that County Commissioners cut the library system's budget by 24 per cent, an action which caused a violation of the Maintenance of Effort contract with the state. As a result, in February the state removed books and services valued at \$40,000—far more than the County Commission saved by cutting the budget. Fortunately a compromise sug-



gested by the Benton County Friends of the Library was accepted by the

Commissioners and the State Library System: If the Commissioners would reinstate the amount needed to secure the Maintenance of Effort waiver, the Benton County Friends and the Save our Library Campaign would raise and donate that amount this year and next. This gives the county two years to get their finances in order.

(This is a follow-up of an article entitled, "Benton County Libraries lose state funding because their county funding was cut," in BCFOL Between Friends Spring 2012)(To read the entire FOTL article, go to www.friendstnlibraries.org)

BCFOL Annual Meeting held on June 26, 2012

Ice Cream: Yum! Statistics: Wow! Friends Activities: Whew, there are many!

Many Friends and their friends filled the library's meeting room for the BCFOL Annual Meeting, June 26, 2012. Officials reported on the many facets of the Friends volunteering. 12,571.25 volunteer hours were clocked, equal to about six full time employees the library and the county could ill afford to hire. As of June 2012, 1164 people belong to the Friends.

Income from the quarterly book sales, dues, and donations support the library with equipment (and matching grants for equipment,) programs such as the Edible Book Contest, Hot Summer Nights, Shakespeare on the Lawn, etc., operating expenses, and



supporting the BookMark Café.

Volunteers spent 6200 hours working at the book sales, serving on the Friends Board, distributing books and programs to nursing homes (700 programs to over 6,000 people) and assisted living centers, boxing books for the Republic of Georgia, sending books

to soldiers, attending library book club, writing newsletters, and arranging publicity and designing ads for the annual book sales.

The highest point of the evening, besides the physical high of the sugary treats of ice cream sundaes, was Larry Moore's Power Point presentation which he plans to take to organizations all over Blount County. He says he doesn't think 1% of the population is enough to show how important the library is; therefore, he plans to encourage all Blount County residents to join the Friends and show their support of this library and its efforts to further literacy.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries Annual Meeting

Annual Meetings for the TN Friends of the Library might conjure up images of 90-year-old, white-haired ladies sitting around sipping tea and discussing the filing of books alpha or decimal. Well, not this one in Cookeville on May 11 at the Progressive Savings Bank.

Beginning with a bountiful breakfast of many casseroles, rolls, and fruit, the meeting was divided into three parts: *Marketing Friends*, *Writing as a Profession*, and *Protecting Your Group* from those who might even sue over a wrongly colored apple seed.

The session on *Marketing* was presented by Ellen Myrick, who owns her own Cookeville marketing/media company. She explained how to get the word out about what the Friends do. She provided a worksheet explaining how to prioritize by developing a mission statement and identifying the competencies of the Friends' Boards and at-large members so as to make the best use of the volunteers.

A printed brochure was another suggestion, but she also stressed that

it should be on the website and Facebook page too. In fact, she really got the group going when she asked how they used Facebook. Seems that there are numerous facets to Facebook, including having a Fan page AND a Group page, side bar ads, YouTube videos to include, links to Pinterest and Scoop.it.

Twittering was another option and the best suggestion for publicizing the book sales was to put what is featured, "free books, romance novels," etc. as the first words.

She explained that the Friends should go to other events and talk about the Friends and their book sales, have booths at local events, and put up posters wherever possible.

Writing as a Professional was presented by Jennie Ivey, wife of a local Cookeville surgeon, recently a Harley rider along with her husband, and, for our purposes, a professional writer with much advice about how to get published. In fact, she was hilarious as she shared her lifelong journey to becoming published ("getting paid for her

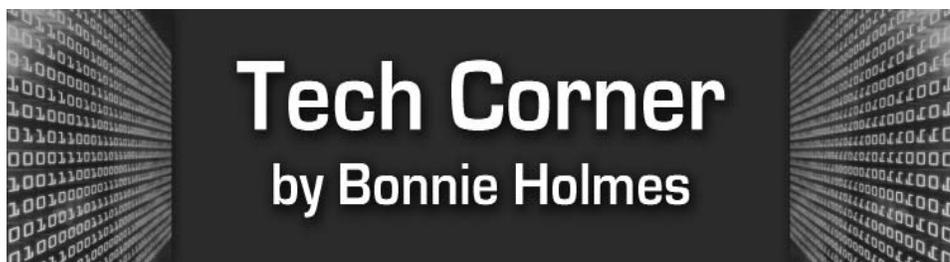
writing.") She earned her first paycheck, \$500, for a 12th grade essay writing contest entry: "Freedom is Not Free." She says that just getting published is an ego boost. Furthermore, she stressed the importance of being a reader first!

Today Jennie Ivey writes a Cookeville newspaper column about any topic she chooses. She has written several books with a former professor including *Soldiers*, *Spies*, and *Spartans* (in this book one finds young Civil War soldiers like 12-year-old drummers and a 16-year-old girl who had her eye put out and finger cut off by a Confederate soldier during his raid of her Scott County home, all the while she was battling him with an ax.)

Jennie Ivey also writes for the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of inspirational books.

In one recent article for the mothers/children issue she writes about her mother reading to her. She stressed the importance of this. This writer is truly an amazing and inspiring person.

continued on page 7



Tech Corner

by Bonnie Holmes

Check Out the Library's New Renovations

The Blount County Library recently put a new face on its website making it easier to find resources, current programs and events, answers to frequently asked questions, and your account.

- The new website provides library hours, holidays and a map to its location.

- The sitemap is an excellent index with links to library resources, programs, services, and questions.

- From the right side of the front page, you quickly can log in to your account by clicking on "Go to Catalog", clicking on Blount County Public Library, and, then, clicking on "My Account."

- The home tab provides communication from the director.

News & events offers a monthly program and events calendar, a one-page newsletter detailing those programs and events, and a link to sign up to receive the emailed newsletter.

- Just For Kids includes homework and links to quality sites for children as well as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

- For electronic resources, the E-Library tab covers general information about databases, links to electronic resource subscriptions, a guide and links to digital versions of books and audio recordings, and two library pho-

tographic collections.

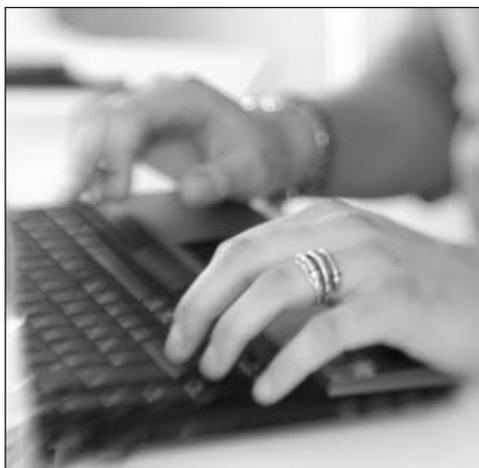
- The Resources tab provides information by topic, teen programs, career development programs and resources, reviews of new books, weekly updates

of new material received by the library, information on and a link to ELF which is a handy program to remind by email you of your due dates, photo collections, and special services.

- Special services offered by the library include reserve books, interlibrary loans, access to the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, special Blount County Library services for the disabled, the Health Resource Center, Business Resources for small business start-up and other business advice, and the public access computers located in the library.

- About Us covers library hours and directions, a list of library departments with phone numbers, information on

meeting rooms, the Bookmark Cafe, library policies and fees, the Library Board of Trustees, a link to the Blount County Friends of the Library, and a photo gallery of library features.



The Collectible Corner

by Penny Myers

COLLECTIBLES FOR JULY 2012 SALE

BIOGRAPHY

George Washington (2 vol)
Nurse and Spy in the Union Army (1865)

CHILDREN

Book Trails for Baby Feet (6 vol)
Book Shelf for Boys and Girls (9 vol)
Childcraft (12 vol)

FICTION

Novels of Mark Twain
Poetical Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Britannica Great Books (54 vol)
Black's Reader Services Classics (57 vol)

HISTORY

The Image of War 1861 – 1865 (6 vol)
The Civil War Reenactors' Encyclopedia Stride Toward Freedom (Martin Luther King's first book)
The Story of Civilization (10 vol)
Durant

NON FICTION

Godey's Lady's Book
The Long Trains Roll
Classic Cars
Practical Business Administration (12 vol)

REGIONAL

Reflections from Our Past (Heritage High)
Terror of Tellico Plains
Market Square (Knoxville)
Manhattan Project
Tall Tales from Old Smoky
These Storied Mountains
A History of Tellico Plains – 10,000 BC to 2001 AD
1830 US Census of Blount County Tennessee

SCIENCE

Fatigue Durability
Applied Electricity (10 vol)

You will want to check over the excellent condition multi-volume sets we have. In addition, we have received a good number of old books (100 years or older) which will be featured in the regular Collectibles section for those who would like to own a little piece of history.

Books for Soldiers

By Vivian Selecman (Books For Soldiers Committee Chairperson)

The Books for Soldiers program has been an important project for the Friends of the Library for the last seven years. But, as our troops have withdrawn from Iraq and are beginning to leave Afghanistan, fewer are stationed in isolated desert areas. With other amenities available, the requests for books have become fewer. Our dedicated volunteers have found it harder to find requests for a variety of books for larger groups which we can most easily fill. However, they are continuing to do a wonderful job of seeking out these requests and filling them.

In the months from June of 2011 to May of 2012, they have sent 134 boxes, containing 82 CD or DVDs and 1876 books. They spent \$796 in postage, out of donations of \$975.

Since the beginning of record keeping for this program in 2005 we have sent over 24,000 books and 500 CDs or DVDs to our men and women over-

seas. These were contained in 1300 boxes, and about \$7500 has been spent for postage. Early records are missing, but the first major donation was for \$250 from members of the Blount County Newcomers club to get this program



started. Since then we have provided collection jars at each book sale, and many people have made individual donations. As long as donations continue to exceed expenses, we can continue.

We have received many cards, letters and e-mails of thanks from these troops. We have received certificates and three flags in appreciation. Nearly

20 people have participated as volunteers in the program over these years. Currently there are about seven who continue to send boxes on a regular basis, some as frequently as every week and some once a month. It requires

time and dedication to continue in this work. The volunteer must first search the BooksForSoldiers website for a request, fill the box from the supplies in the basement of the library, return to the website to inventory what is being sent, print out this inventory for our records, print out our standard letter to include and add any personal comments, prepare the box for shipping, fill out customs

forms, and stand in line at the post office. This takes at least three hours, and the only reward is in knowing you are helping someone who is sacrificing everything for you. The thank you letters are rewarding but few, as these are busy people!!

We are always in need of new volunteers.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries Annual Meeting, continued from page 5

After a catered lunch, *Protecting Your Group* was presented by James McCarten, of Burr&FormanLLP, a Cookeville tax lawyer well-versed in such questions as "Do we have to pay sales tax on our book sales?" He spent an hour and a half explaining the ins and outs of state and federal sales tax laws.

Was the entire group asleep after the huge lunch and dry subject matter? No! He, too, was very funny, and actually had a contest with prizes to keep everyone entertained. Furthermore, he shared the dangers of not being officially "non-profit" including huge fines for noncompliance, plus the substantial liability insurance costs.

The entire day proved that Friends, with whom BCFOL attendees networked before and after the speakers, are eclectic and energized bibliophiles who are determined to make each Friends group the best possible.

SUMMER at the LIBRARY *with opportunities for* **FRIEND-LY VOLUNTEERING**

Children's Summer Reading Program is in Full Speed right now. Need help with activities and games.

Julius Caesar: Shakespeare on the Library Lawn,
Monday, July 30 at 6:30.

Need help assisting with parking, crowd control, assisting in seating people, helping the actors get in and out of the library for costume changes.

**Please call Myra Reisinger at 856-3333
to sign up for these volunteer opportunities.**



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

Friends of the Library 2012 Summer Book Sale

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

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

COLLECTIBLES
Elizabeth Barrett Browning
George Washington
Mark Twain

FICTION ★ VHS ★ DVDs
★ CD ★
★ TAPES ★ VINYLs

AUDIO BOOKS

NON-FICTION

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

 **Blount County Friends of the Library**
508 N. Cusick, Maryville TN www.bcfol.org

 **Lower Level of Library**

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