On June 18th, members of the Blount County Friends of the Library gathered for the Annual Meeting. In the absence of the Board President, Secretary Diane Martin shared the report with the approximately 50 members in attendance, giving an overview of the income and expenses of the BCFOL. Per her report, about 83% of the monies raised through membership dues, gifts, and the Book Sales goes directly to support the programs, facilities and maintenance of the Blount Plan now to attend the BCFOL Summer Book Sale! July 18th-20th!
A Letter from the President

It was my first day in Kindergarten. Hooray! As I was on my way to a house of treasure, I envisioned a bright and shining revelation through books and toys. I wished for wonderful teachers who would reveal how to capture and live out all my desires.

I was wrong about the teachers - they wanted to conform and arrange my life to a set of behaviors and directions. Even though I didn’t like the restrictions, I couldn’t wait for story time, in spite of having to remain quiet and trying to sit still. Story time was a gift that would expose all my dreams.

My teachers helped me to control my imaginations, outlook and alternatives to think like a child. Upon being told that good behavior is the highest pleasure in life, I immediately asked whether candy and good behaviors are the same goodness. On receiving the answer, “No,” I might have regarded the absence of candy as the chief characteristic of behavior. A boy knows candy; he does not know the positive things that exclude it. It’s difficult to explain reality of behavior with reason to a child, if not impossible. Behavior is the instrument of virtue but can be construed as pleasure if you want it to.

“Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits”
-Mark Twain.

Books were my habit through coming of age and still are: they enhance the simple pleasures in my life.

Even today some folks feel my habit of fly fishing is celestially anointed and ranks along with golfing and other hobbies. Fly fishing, golf and reading books can become an aesthetically pleasing and all-consuming form of self-abuse, not necessarily in a negative form.

Recently a married couple visited us in order to escape the frigid north. They have been friends for about 40 years. The wife, an avid reader, is so civilized that she eats chicken with a knife and fork. She has this silly habit of passing through objects. Let me explain: while here early one dark morning, I woke to a thunderous crash. I quickly arose wondering if something was wrong. I rushed to our sun room and encountered that our friend, sleep still in her eyes and in her pajamas, had opened the door to let her little dog out to perform its morning duties. She then walked through the screen door, crashing it to the deck floor. Red faced, she apologetically exclaimed that she has this habit of walking through screens. I accused her not of having a habit, but of acting out the functions of a ghost.

This experience with Mary got me thinking about what barriers can do to us all. Sometimes too many artificial barriers separate us from logic and or the humor of life.

Whether for logic or humor, come to the gathering of serious readers. The “Friends of the Library” book sale on July 18th thru 20th is a good spot. The “Friends” volunteers have done such a wonderful job preparing them for your perusal. You will have all the books you care to see.

Find a collectible book at the Summer Book Sale on July 18th-20th!

See page 6 for a listing of material that will be available.
Following the BCFOL Annual Meeting on June 18th, freelance author Jennie Ivey, from Cookeville, TN, entertained the members and guests. Her lively manner energized the audience as she shared samples of her work from Guideposts Magazine, Chicken Soup for the Soul, and the Cookeville Herald-Citizen.

Mrs. Ivey delighted the members with stories of the world of writing and publishing. A former teacher, librarian, and newspaper reporter, she is the co-author of several books, including “E is for Elvis”, “Tennessee Tales the Textbooks Don’t Tell” and “Soldiers, Spies and Spartans: Civil War Stories from Tennessee.”

She travels throughout the state of Tennessee speaking to educators, librarians, and library groups, and teaching writing workshops. Her weekly Sunday column for the Herald-Citizen includes topics as diverse as Welcoming Grandchildren, Motels I Have Known and How to Cook a Groundhog. For more information on Jennie and where you may find her speaking next, visit www.jennieivey.com.
By Barbara Zurl

Ask anyone who knows me and they will tell you I love to cook. Though the process can be labor intensive and complicated, I have never looked at it as a burden. My interest in matters culinary began when I was a child. Growing up on an island was delightful. Before all of New York City spilled out across Long Island we had farm fields, orchards, berry patches and of course the wealth of the sea—fish, clams, scallops, blue claw crabs. My family appreciated all these things and cooking was a valued skill. I was four years old when I first grated my knuckles along with a piece of carrot destined for a salad. Learning how to never to repeat that mistake constituted Cooking Lesson Number 1.

Over the years I have researched much about different cuisines. Cooking bespeaks cultures and rich histories. Experience has taught me to follow recipes, but to also rely upon my judgment and trust creativity. I guess it was no surprise to me to realize that preparing an Ex Libris Program is not much different than cooking. First and foremost, you must know your audience. One would never dream of serving up Tuscan beans and chard (redolent with garlic, red pepper flakes and anchovies) at a five-year-old’s birthday party. On the other hand, Kool-Aid and Twinkies would not fly at a Charity Fund Raiser either.

Ex Libris offers eight distinct venues with very different tastes. All it takes is selecting your particular field of interest and serving it up with style. Like poetry? Stories about animals? How about the ever fascinating history of Blount County and East Tennessee? All of these are popular. Do you garden, quilt, paint, sing, collect antique glassware? Nothing whets the appetite like a good “show & tell.” Everyone out there possesses a recipe box filled with stories and memories. Why not bring these out and share them?

The table is set, the guests are out there – all we need are a few more good cooks.

For additional information on how to observe an Ex Libris Program or learn more about the project, contact Barbara Zurl, Program Coordinator at 865-977-5034 or e-mail at badger630@aol.com.

For those of you wondering how you make Gold Soup, it’s very simple. Take a good quality stainless steel pot and fill with two quarts of water. Bring to a rapid boil and add twenty-four carrots.
Basic Introductory Computer Classes

Starting Thursday, August 15, basic computer classes will be offered at no cost. The classes are Meet the Mouse, Email, and Internet Searching. Registration is required. Each of these one-time classes lasts two hours and is limited to an enrollment of 14 people. The instructor is Paul Hackulich. Participants with no previous computer experience who wish to take multi-sessions must first take the one-day, two-hour class Meet the Mouse.

The class schedule is as follows:

Thursday, August 15, 2-4:00 p.m., “Introduction to PC – Meet the Mouse” in the Computer Lab.
Thursday, August 22, 2-4:00 p.m., “Basic Email” in the Computer Lab.
Thursday, August 29, 2-4:00 p.m., “Internet Searching” in the Computer Lab.
Thursday, September 5, 2-4:00 p.m., “Introduction to PC – Meet the Mouse” in the Computer Lab.
Thursday, September 12, 2-4:00 p.m., “Basic Email” in the Computer Lab.
Thursday, September 19, 2-4:00 p.m., “Internet Searching” in the Computer Lab.
Thursday, September 26, 2-4:00 p.m., “Introduction to PC – Meet the Mouse” in the Computer Lab.

For more information, go to the Blount County Public Library Reference Desk or call (865) 273-1436 or 982-0981, ext. 4.

Shakespeare at the Library

On Monday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m., the Blount County Public Library will present “Twelfth Night,” a comedy written by William Shakespeare. The play will be performed by the Tennessee Stage Company, with Tom Parkhill as Executive Director. The performance will be INDOORS in the air conditioned Main Gallery area of the library, so if the hot weather of late July has previously deterred you from enjoying these amazing professional performances, come this year and enjoy the play in a cool environment!

Hot Summer Nights, continued from page 3

Thursday, August 22, 7 p.m., “Hugh Livingston.” will perform a concert on a box organ. For two years, he was the house organist at Knoxville’s Tennessee Theater where he played “The Mighty Wurlitzer” theater pipe organ between Saturday night movie features and played trumpet with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Livingston is a Blount County native and a graduate of Alcoa High School and Maryville College. He was the band and choir director at Alcoa High for three years and has worked in the music ministry of many area churches.

Thursday, August 29, 7 p.m., “Knoxville Opera Company.” Brian Salesky, Executive Director and Conductor, will accompany two opera performers who will sing excerpts from this coming season’s operas: “The Tales of Hoffman” (in his world of fantasy and demons, a poet pursues four mesmerizing women,) “The Elixir of Love” (a romantic comedy) and “Norma” (the story of a triangle of forbidden love.) All performances will be in the Reading Rotunda.

~ With Special Thanks ~

Former BCFOL members Bob and Marie Harris were recently selected for a Special Recognition from the Friends of Tennessee Libraries. They generously shared their award with BCFOL, stating that it is in “recognition of other volunteers whom [they] also know work tirelessly to improve the services Blount County Library provides our community.” Thank you Bob and Marie… and ALL the wonderful volunteers!!
Improving Your Digital Photography Skills!
By Bonnie Holmes

Most of us now own a digital camera and share many of our photos with family and friends. To improve your photography skills for free, use one of the Blount County Library’s electronic resources.

Go to E-Resources, Learn 4 Life, Language and Arts, and select Digital Photography. The site offers twenty-three 24-hour courses with four different start dates. Although 16 of the courses focus on Adobe’s Photoshop CS6, the remainder of the courses cover basic photography skills. Included are: Secrets of Better Photography, Discover Digital Photography, Mastering Your Digital SLR Camera, Photographing Nature with Your Digital Camera, Photographing People with Your Digital Camera, Travel Photography for the Digital Photographer, and Introduction to Digital Scrapbooking.

For these courses, new sessions start on June 19, July 19, August 21 and September 18. Each course offers sessions consisting of 2-4 hours weekly in a six-week format. Lessons and assignments are released each week.

Expert instructors conduct the course in an interactive learning environment, including discussion opportunities. On receiving a passing grade, students will receive a certificate of completion.

Using this resource is economical and convenient. Sign up for a course, grab your camera and start taking great photos!
Books for Soldiers Project

By Vivian Selecman
(Books For Soldiers Committee Chairperson)

As our troops have withdrawn from Iraq and are in process of withdrawing from Afghanistan, there have been fewer requests for books posted on the “Books for Soldiers” website. Our faithful volunteers have continued to fill those they can from our supplies. Since January, they have sent 36 boxes, containing 492 books and a dozen CDs. They have spent $210.97 in postage, while receiving donations of $268.00.

The first of May the website underwent a complete restructuring, so that we could not access requests for several weeks. It has now largely been restored, but there are fewer book requests. Although we have troops all over the world and many in isolated places, it appears there are more entities supplying these requests than there are needs. Therefore, we are gradually phasing out our active participation in this project.

We want to thank all of the wonderful people who have donated to postage for this project. We will continue in a low-key manner to collect donations at the July book sale to see us through the summer. If a decision is made in the fall to terminate the project for good, any leftover postage money will be donated to the general fund of the Friends of the Library.

Summer Donations

Omer and Betty Dyer
Marriot Business Services Employees
Gary Teper
Smoky Mountain Duplicate Bridge Club
in memory of Paul Hawkins
Bob and Marie Harris
in memory of Jane Doyle
Bob and Marie Harris
in memory of Margaret Ernsberger
James and Mary Murchie
in memory of Margaret Ernsberger

Collectible Corner
continued from page 6

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<td>Circling Windrock Mountain</td>
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Friends of the Library 2013 Summer Book Sale

Thursday, July 18, Noon to 6 pm (for Friends of the Library Members Only)
Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, 9 am to 5 pm.