

Fall 2026 Newsletter

BOOK

Friends
of the
Library

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The President's Letter

by Wanda Scanlon – FOL Board President

"This has been the busiest summer, the days have flown by....".

I must have heard this comment dozens of times as I have gone about my daily tasks and I'm in full agreement. Despite First Thursday being on hiatus until September the Friends have been busy. I'm going to use this forum to brag about our hardworking volunteer's accomplishments since our last newsletter.

The board decided to have our first evening event in June with a concert in St. Luke's Parish featuring a cocktail buffet and music by Rev. Jesse and the Holy Smokes. With 125 in attendance, the event was a smashing success, and we received many positive comments and requests for a repeat next year. We added 9 new members to our roll, including some folks that can't attend First Thursdays because they work during the day. We feel outreach events like this are a way to keep the face and efforts of the Friends before the public as well as have a good time as we aid JMCL in programming efforts.

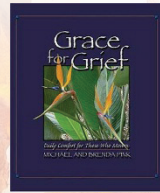
If you visited the library lately you've noticed dinosaur pupus and archaeology displays in tune with the Summer Reading Program theme: Unearth A Story. The Friends are proud to have sponsored this event again with a \$5,000 donation. The program had 482 participants, 150 programs, and 2,700 attendees. Nothing pleases us more than seeing the Children's and Teen areas bustling with excitement and activities. Adults were also included with programs on and off site. An active library should be a dynamic space for connection and a growth place for ideas. We experienced this firsthand this summer. Congratulations to the staff for another successful year. We look forward to next year.

In June Catherine Carls, Melissa Moore and I attended an Ebay workshop focused on selling books for charity online. Online sales are something the bookstore volunteers have been discussing for years. It was a LOT of information and even MORE trial and error, but the Friends now have an E-bay bookstore with a few items. The items online are around \$40. Our goal is to augment profits on more valuable items to fuel our funding. We remain committed to making books available to our local patrons at much lower prices. There remains plenty of inventory available on the Second Editions bookshelves where the books are much less expensive. The Main and North Second Editions bookstores will always be open and we expect that they will continue to provide the bulk of our funds. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer in the actual and online stores- if you are looking for something to do this Fall or Winter. Please contact us if you are interested. You can work as much or as little as you wish and we always have a good time. Encourage anyone in your circle to donate unwanted books, including estate donations. Books can be brought to either branch and we gladly give a receipt for tax purposes if requested.

We have a wonderful line up for First Thursday Reviews beginning September 3. I look forward to getting back together again. We start coffee at 11:30 and the program is noon-1 pm. Snacks and coffee are provided; many of our members go to lunch afterwards to continue visiting with each other. To quote one of my favorite 1960's songs, I hope to "See you in September".

FALL 2026 FIRST THURSDAY NOON REVIEW

Coffee starts at 11:30 am and the meeting at 12-noon. All events are held in the conference center of the downtown library branch. Be sure to sign up for door prizes.



September 3rd Pam Kirk McCarty

A local author and founder of the help group Grace for Grief, which meets at First Methodist Church the 3rd Sunday of the month for parents who have lost children, Pam will present her book- *Grace for Grief: A Mother's Journey of Love and Loss*. A Jackson born and raised resident, Pam is a retired elementary school teacher and former professor at the University of Memphis.



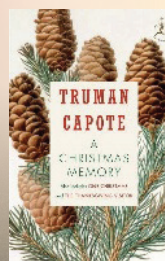
October 1st Dr. Bob Raines

A retired Professor at Jackson State Community College, Bob will speak about the Hatchie River Conservancy, a newly created organization dedicated to protecting the Hatchie River watershed. Bob is also a musician and part of the acclaimed band The Dirt Pilgrims. You can read about the conservancy at <https://www.hatchieriver.org/>



November 5th Fran Chandler

An internationally ranked and decorated tennis player, Fran will talk about growing up in Jackson and her family's contributions to tennis. A pharmacist by day and athlete in her free time, Fran was inducted in the Tennessee hall of Fame in 2007. October 20, 2023 was proclaimed Fran Chandler Day. She has played on tennis courts all over the world. You can read her bio at <https://tshf.net/halloffame/chandler-fran/>



December 3rd David Mc Call

David McCall, the Director of the Ned will present a reading of Truman Capote's short story, "A Christmas memory."

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES

October 10, 7:30 pm Annual Fall Concert, The Ned

Featuring the Sharel Cassity Quartet and Richard D. Johnson, sponsored by the Jazz Foundation of West Tennessee. For more information consult <https://www.thejazzfoundationofwesttennessee.org/> at The Ned. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, and \$15 for students.

October 18-24 National Friends of Libraries Week

Check out resources and ideas at https://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek. This is a good opportunity to become a new member. Stop by the library, put a check in the mail, bring your money to a Thursday noon review program, we will gladly accept your membership fee and any donation you are willing to make to help us support Jackson Madison County Library.

Children's Day/Book Day – El día de los niños / El día de los libros

From Kindergarten through High School, the American Library Association has created events and resources that are a bridge between the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking worlds. Nurture cognitive and literacy development for all children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds in your own community and celebrate children's books. <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/resources/dia>

"If the library doesn't have the book you really want. . ."

If the library doesn't have a title that you want, they will order a copy for you. Simply let the staff know. There are a few stipulations - including price and content - but they will try their best to assist you with the request. It takes about 5 days to get the book in.

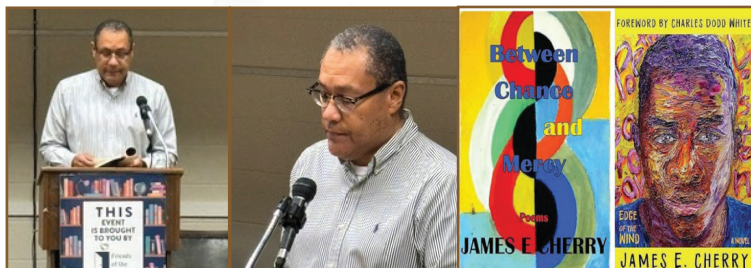
LIBRARY NEWS LIBRARY NEWS LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program 2026 – May 30 – July 31 – by Shayne Plunk

482 registered participants and 2,700 attendees participated in over 150 programs. The participants, especially the children, read in excess of 85,000 pages.

We were very pleased to see a great many new faces of all ages at summer reading this year. We had so many great partnerships, like with the state parks-- Middle Fork Bottoms, Natchez Trace, Pinson Mounds, and Cypress Grove. Kids and adults alike enjoyed our walk around Middle Fork Bottoms Park, and presentations from park rangers from the other parks here at the library. We had a great time hosting game shows at the library like Family Feud, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Wheel of Fortune, and Jeopardy. We even finished our teen and adult summer reading program with a spin-off of Supermarket Sweep, where teams got to come and run around the library's stacks to grab popular books and have a great time.

Spring & Summer Photo Gallery



On April 2, James Cherry read from his latest book, *Between Chance and Mercy*. James is a local novelist and poet with many accolades, including 2016 Finalist for Fiction from Foreword Review for *Edge of the Wind* and nominations for a NAACP Image Award, a Lilliam Smith Book Award, and a Next Generation Indie Book Award.



On May 7, Larry J. Daniel presented an overview of his scholarly production and talked about his latest book, *Richmond Views the West - Politics and Perceptions in the Confederate Capital* that was awarded the 2025 Fletcher Pratt Award and the 2026 Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award.



The June 11 FOL Social was attended by 125 people who enjoyed the music of St. Luke's own Rev. Jesse and the Holy Smokes.



The Children's Garden and Stage @ Liberty Garden Park – A report by Tammy Buchanan-Anderson

The Friends of the Library recently contributed \$500 towards the completion of the stage planned at the southeastern end of Liberty Garden Park.

The Liberty Garden Park Conservancy is continuing to accept sponsorships for the Children's Garden Stage to commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11 and America 250. The park's information is listed under the City of Jackson's "Recreation Parks" web page and you can visit the Conservancy's site at <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyGardenPark/>. Nothing beats a walk through the park, which was established as a Living Memorial to 9/11 and in remembrance and appreciation of those who serve and sacrifice. The park embodies the spirit of resilience, hope, healing, and sustainable growth.

IMPORTANT LIBRARY ANNIVERSARIES

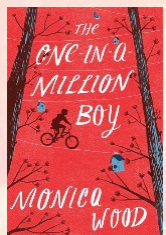
2026 is the American Library Association's 150th anniversary! Since 1876, the ALA has been championing access to information, defended free speech, contributed to strengthen democracy, and helped transform lives by promoting literacy. From Carnegie free libraries to traveling libraries, from record restoration to preserving open digital access to information, the ALA remains a vital element of modern life. Check it out at <https://ala150.org/>

One important resolution passed by the ALA Council during its 2026 Annual Conference in Chicago, "calling for the adoption and recognition of the Librarians' and Library Workers' Bill of Rights, a landmark framework affirming the dignity, safety and professional rights of library workers across all sectors."



Save the Date. On October 20, 2027, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries association will celebrate 60 years! Did you know that they have been partnering with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library since 2003? With the rest of the world, we mourn the passing of this extraordinary singer and philanthropist.

Starting in 1995, she sent one book a month to children aged birth to five years living in Sevier County where she grew up. Her program quickly expanded to the entire United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland. Today, her program has gifted well over two hundred million books. Dolly Parton never forgot that her daddy could not read and she truly believed in the power of words and stories to shape young minds. FOL Jackson will too celebrate the power of words and stories next year, during Library Month! Be ready!



Our Members Are Reading. . .

Cindy Kennon, avid reader and President of the Reading Between the Lines book club, presents her reaction to prolific novelist Monica Wood's 2016 novel, *The One-in-a-Million Boy* (Mariner Books, 2016, Houghton Mifflin, 416 p.), winner of the Nautilus Award and the New England Society Book Award.

This book is a heartfelt and memorable story about grief, friendship, and the unexpected ways people can change one another's lives. The novel follows an 11-year-old Boy Scout who forms an unlikely friendship with a 104-year-old woman, and after his death, his father continues the relationship. The story is emotional without feeling overly sentimental, and it beautifully shows how kindness and human connection can have a lasting impact. It was delightful to experience the relationship and bond that was created between 104-year-old Miss Ona Vitkus and a quirky 11-year-old Boy Scout who is obsessed with the *Guinness World Records*. As he records her life story for a school project, their relationship grows into something special and unexpected. The boy finds "Miss Vitkus to be "extremely inspiring in her magic powers and amazing life events." When she shares with him stories and secrets that she hasn't thought about in years, he devises a plan to help her set a world record. While they work toward this goal over a few months, they form a relationship that is unique and touching and will have a lasting influence on other people in their lives. I really appreciated *The One-in-a-Million Boy's* message about forgiveness, second chances, and finding hope after loss. All the characters are realistic and deeply relatable, making it easy to become invested in their journeys. Despite sad moments, the story left me feeling hopeful and grateful. It made me realize what a lasting impact small acts can have. It is a thoughtful, uplifting novel that I know I'll remember for a long time.

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

PATRONS

Rayna Bomar \$200
Bobbie and John Mays \$100
Dr. Ken and Robbie Newman \$100
Dr. Edward and Gerry Palmer \$100

BENEFACTORS

James Cherry \$50
Drs. Jennifer and Larry Daniel \$50
Victoria S. Lake \$50

SPONSORS

Sara Kruszka \$25 in honor of the Tennessee Room
George Scott \$25
Caleb Vivio \$25

REGULAR (NEW AND RENEWAL) MEMBERS

Dedra Barham / Friends of the Blount County Library
Vickie Cochran
Dr. Milton and Debbie Cravens
Bill Floyd
Tony and Rene Jordan Darleen and Frank Lawrence
Greg Milam
Linda Lodes
Bill and Ginny Skinner
Emily Tupa
Jeffery Young, III
Kathy Isabella Young

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411 E. Lafayette, Jackson, TN 38301. Or join electronically at
www.jmclibrary.org / About Us / Friends of the Library / Friends
Membership. Current members' dues and Book of the Month
membership card will be due for renewal in October 2024.

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

Check all that appeal!

- ☐ Book Sorting & Stocking at the Second Edition
☐ Main Library ☐ North Branch
☐ Adult \$10
☐ Patron \$25
☐ Benefactor \$50
☐ Sponsor \$100
☐ I am interesting in volunteering

**We welcome students looking to build their
resumes and get needed volunteer hours!**



This Card Belongs To:



**Membership
Card**

Members are entitled to one free
book each month (up to \$2), plus a
free book during their birthday
month.

Birthday Month:

Store Hours

Main Library
Mon. - Thu.: 9 am - 8 pm
Fri. & Sat.: 9 am - 5 pm

North Branch
Mon. - Fri.: 9 am - 6 pm



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<https://www.friendstnlibraries.org/>

ALA American
Library
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<https://www.ala.org/>

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