

# BOOK ENDS

## Friends of the (Jackson-Madison County) Library Newsletter

Summer, 2016

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### The President's Corner

by Perry Burrows, President,  
*Friends of the Library Board*

Hello Friends, we have enjoyed a very eventful spring of programming. Ranging from the rare and forever memorable to the provocative and artistic, the spring quarter proved enjoyable and educational. We had speakers in January introducing their new books, and in history making visitors from Memphis who were a direct link to the present when the 1968 Sanitation workers from Memphis shared their direct encounters with a full house at Jackson State Community College when they hosted one of our Black History programs.

We shared in an interim creative writing with Lane College, the community-at-large, the West Tennessee Griot, and Friends. Diverse, creative, insightful. Published professional professors shared their poetry with us during National Poetry Month in April. Finally, Spring Symposium II brought in the great Filipino writer

### New A/V Materials at the Jackson- Madison County Library:

(from Mike Baker,  
Media Librarian)

#### Music CDs

*Wonderful Crazy Night*  
by Elton John

*Hag the Best of Merle  
Haggard*  
by Merle Haggard

*Purple Rain*  
by Prince

*The Sirens*  
by Chris Potter

*Cleopatra*  
by The Lumineers

#### DVDs

*Norm of the North*

*The Revenant*

*Krampus*

*Trumbo*

*Sisters*

#### Audio Books

*The Gangster*  
by Clive Cussler

*A Few of the Girls*  
by Maeve Binchy

*The Travelers*  
by Jump Lahiri

*Thereby Hangs a Tail*  
by Spencer Quinn

*See Me*  
by Nicholas Sparks

Cecilia Brainard from UCLA for two very well attended events.

In the winter we made arrangements with Beers and Associates to have a photographic and historical history of Jackson and the Madison County published as a fund raiser for future program funding needs of Friends. *Jackson & Madison County: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow* by Harbert Alexander and Thomas L. Aud sold many copies just before Christmas and to date has sold over \$8,000 in income directly to Friends' Programming Account. There are still about a dozen boxes of books available at the main library for \$39.95 per copy, tax free. If you have not received one, this is the time to get it! We can arrange to mail them for you using USPS Priority Mail to insure delivery. When we have the zip code to which they are going, we can get you the shipping fee required.

Due to circumstances beyond my control and a relocation to the Greater Memphis Area within the next few months, it has become necessary for me to resign from my position with the Friends of the Library. A search committee has been set up to find my replacement for this third year of my term. If you think of anyone, you can help the committee by dropping a note to

the downtown library addressed to the Search Committee.



## Library Director's Column

by Dinah Harris

The last Library Board meeting included a "State of the Library" report. The Friends of the Library, The Library Foundation, and I all gave reports on the work that has been done over the last three years. In my report, I took the Long-Term Vision of the library that was developed in 2012 and conveyed how we are now reflecting that vision.

**Our funding** has increased by 31% since 2012-13. We have received over \$25,000 in technology grants from the Library Services and Technology Act. Two or three other smaller grants for specific use have been secured as well.

**Our community image and our communications** have come a long way as well. You that were here in 2012 know the difference between now and then. Our library is much more welcoming, organized, and relevant to the lives of our citizens. As I heard someone say before, "Not only is the OPEN sign on, now the YES sign is on as well. "

Our computer lab has been expanded twice and is located on the second floor;

moving it there solved several problems. It scattered the people using the library more evenly across our space and also positioned staff on the second floor. In fact, every piece of furniture, every shelf, and every chair was placed strategically to increase security, reduce panhandling, and provide better service. Our new attitude is expressed by our new logo which reflects the diversity of our service area and the different foci of the library: technology, literacy, and community.

**Our guests** seem much happier now, and we encourage them to communicate with us so that we know what we can do to provide even better service. One comment we have received recently involves the location of our adult fiction collection. As a result of the communication, we may eventually move all fiction to the tall shelves under the balcony and place non-fiction on the shorter shelves on the main floor. We care about how you feel, and we want to hear from you.

**Our staff** is attending monthly training in the Walt Disney method of customer service to help us learn how to serve our guests better. Staff is also becoming more of a cohesive team, and our guests benefit greatly from this as well. Our volunteers have provided much help over the last three years. Last year alone, we had 28 volunteers who helped at the Main Library and the North Branch. In addition, the Tennessee Room has a

dedicated crew of six volunteers who donated over 1200 service hours last year alone.

**Our relationships** in the community have grown. Our relationship with our funding bodies (City of Jackson and Madison County) has become more cooperative and supportive. We have reached out to other organizations supported by the City and County and offered our assistance. This summer we will be working with two community organizations to provide offsite summer reading programs for youth. We are constantly reaching out to the school system to provide eBooks for the students use.

**Our programming** has become more attractive and higher quality in the last three years. The Children's Librarian's schedule was corrected where she could spend all her time focusing on her specialty. A Teen Librarian was added and allowed to do the same. As a result, our programming is flourishing. The Friends of the Library are our main venue for Adult Programming. I do not know what we would do without you! We have also been using qualified volunteers from the community to offer specific programming such as journaling and gardening.

**Our facilities** have always been clean and functional; now they are safe and well maintained as well. Our technology has progressed by leaps and bounds.

Wi-Fi printing, free scanning to USB, self-check stations, video-conferencing, laptops for classes, iPads for kids and tweens, a Maker Space, and two Minecraft servers have all been added in the last three years. The real big improvement is that we now have gig-a-bit internet service!

**Our materials and collections** are now being chosen by our guests, a very diverse collection development team of library staff, and several standing order plans which ensure we get the most current and popular books. Our collection has been inventoried and added to the State Library Catalog. Our guests also have access to eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, online classes, genealogy resources, and coding classes through links on our newly designed website.

How do we know all this is working? We compared actual hard statistics from the last quarter of 2012 to the last quarter of 2015. The number of items

checked out increased by over 40%. The number of card holders increased by 8864. The number of eBooks and audiobooks checked out through R.E.A.D.S. (Regional eBook and Audiobook Download System) increased by 251%.

Where to now? The Library Board Chairman, Terica Smith, has appointed a strategic planning committee to work on the big picture for us. In the meantime, we will work on moving the library forward by adding mi-fi devices for checkout, updating our phone system, adding more study carrels, adding a white board to the board room, adding more elements to our maker space area (I will try to do a detailed article on this area in the near future.) We may possibility add a green screen for video production, a 3-D printer, and practical skills classes such as sewing.

It is such an exciting time to be in the library world; I love being a part of it!



# Ulysses S. Grant

Portrayed by Dr. Curt Fields

## “Grant at Shiloh”

Friday, May 20, 2016 at 12:00PM

Jackson-Madison County Library Program Center

Come and join us as we welcome General U.S. Grant (portrayed by Dr. Curt Fields).

Dr. E. C. (Curt) Fields, Jr., has been an avid and lifelong student of the American Civil War. His interest in portraying General Ulysses S. Grant was driven by that study and his deep respect and admiration for General Grant.

For more information please,  
call: 731-425-8600  
visit: [www.jmclibrary.org](http://www.jmclibrary.org)





## **Library Foundation News**

*by Amy P. Dietrich, Chair*

### **Jackson Madison County Library Foundation What is the role of the Foundation?**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Foundation raises funds to assist the library in achieving its annual and long range goals which are not met by annual appropriations.

#### **HISTORY:**

The Foundation was established in 1999 through a joint effort of the Friends of the Library and the Jackson Madison County Board of Trustees. The purpose of the foundation was “to raise funds to help the library in its annual and long range plans which are not met by annual appropriations. These will include, but not be limited to, capital improvements and projects for the main library and any branch library or other properties under the purview and control of the Jackson Madison County Library, collection maintenance and support, staff development activities, and other special needs.” \*

\*document: *The Jackson Madison County Library Foundation: A Brief History*

#### **PROJECTS:**

Books of Madison County: 2011-2012

This program has served as our major fund raiser since its inception in 2011. The original purpose was to familiarize our community with the library, showcase local authors, dine under the stars, and raise funds for the library. Our most popular feature was Meet the Authors.

#### **2013: Rick Bragg**

The program was expanded to include afternoon presentations by local authors, continue our evening format, and introduce a featured author.

#### **2014: Mark Greaney**

Same format as 2013

#### **2015: Francis Mayes**

Due to the overwhelming response in ticket sales, the event was moved to the Fairgrounds.

#### **2016 ??? WAIT AND SEE**

Attendance has doubled since 2011. Annual Book Sale:

Foundation Board members and Friends of the Library work together on preparation and operation of the Book Sale. Profits from the sale are divided equally between the two organizations.

## Board of Trustees News

*by Terica Smith, Board Chair*

During our April meeting, “State of the Library” was presented by the stakeholders of the JMCL. Dinah gave an excellent report on how far the Library has come under her management and an even more impressive report about where the Library is going. We have established a Long Range Planning Committee to develop a plan to keep this momentum and propel the Library forward even further. The committee consists of Elaine Christian, Greg Jordan, and Amy Dietrich. Please contact them if you have any suggestions or input for the Long Range Plan of the Library.

It was great to hear the reports of the work the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation have done for the library. Even though everyone may be aware of the work each stakeholder is doing for the Library, it was great to hear a comprehensive report. It made it clear that the JMCL has tremendous support. As we continue to make progress, it is important that we all continue to work together. The Friends and the Foundation both presented written reports and those are available if you are interested in receiving a copy.

During the May meeting, we will be nominating new leadership for the Board of Trustees. My term will come to an end in June. It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve this great library and community in this capacity since 2009. I look forward to watching the library continue on this trajectory. I wish you all well.

## Tidbits from the Tennessee Room

*by Jack D. Wood,  
Tennessee Room Librarian*

Like the library in general, much of the work done in the Tennessee Room is unseen by the public. It involves the acquisition, processing, storing, and indexing of historical and genealogical materials by staff and volunteers. One project that I previously wrote about in *Bookends* (Winter 2013) is the Timberlake Collection. We received four individual donations of materials that had been rescued from the house just prior to its demolition in the mid-1960s.

Each comprises a section of the collection, consisting of documents, letters, postcards, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Also in this collection

is a compilation of information and material gathered by Timberlake researcher, Sherry Taylor. Volunteer, Linda Freeman arranged, filed, labeled and transcribed the collection, with guidance and help from Assistant Tennessee Room Librarian, Evelyn Keele, who is fine tuning the finding aid.

Volunteer, Jimmy Wilkins has been steadfastly scouring microfilmed Jackson Sun newspapers for obituaries to enter in a comprehensive index, starting in 1936. To date he has listed over 33,000 obituaries covering 1936–1957. His index has already been used many times by staff and patrons trying to find their relatives.

From time to time the Tennessee Room receives a question about a fire that occurred in Jackson, often it is related to a person's ancestor or relative. Volunteer, Mandy Williams is working on the Jackson Fire Department fire log books, which we acquired a short while back. Up to now one needed a date in order to effectively search the records. Mandy is extracting information into a spreadsheet that will allow us to search by name of owner, name of resident, address, and date, along with some other keywords. So far, it is complete from July 1920 to May 1925.

The Lawrence-Sorenson Funeral Home records have been indexed by Volunteer, Sandra Kelly. The 4260 records are inventoried in two alphabetically arranged donation groups. These will be interfiled and re-boxed in acid free boxes.

Volunteer Annette Cooley is continuing to process the Winston-Seward genealogy collection. It is filled with descriptive files and documents on various individuals of this family, as well as a great many photographs and a small sampling of sheet music.

Assistant Tennessee Room Librarian, Evelyn Keele has completed the World War I Ladies Auxiliary Collection just in time for the centennial of World War I (2014-2019). This collection has already been used by a UT Martin history professor and one of her students. It will also be featured as part of a library display in November 2016 to coincide with the World War I symposium that will be held in Jackson that month.

One of the most recent additions to the Tennessee Room is a real eye catcher. It is an aerial photograph of downtown Jackson, believed to have been made in the early 1950s. It was donated by Regions Bank when they recently closed their downtown office.

The photograph measures over six feet long and four feet high. It is a black & white photo that was hand colored with oil colors. Moore Studio photographer, Mitch Carter is looking into the background of it to see if it might possibly have been colored by Mrs. Moore. We believe it originally was displayed in Holland's Department Store downtown. You can see it on the Tennessee Room blog at [http://jmclibrary.org/genealogy\\_blog.php](http://jmclibrary.org/genealogy_blog.php).

Better yet, why not visit the Tennessee Room and enjoy the original...but be prepared to stay a while. Mitch Carter says it takes about an hour to look at.

### **Children's Department News**

*by Jennifer Brewer, Children's Librarian*

If you get a chance, you've got to stop by the Main Library and check out all the fun changes we've made in the Children's Department. We are thrilled and the kids are having such a good time.

First, we finally got our new, improved shelving. It's brighter, sturdier, and shorter. The place looks so much more cheery now that we have more light coming in from the big

window in the corner. Little ones can reach all the books now, and it is much easier to find little people who try to hide in the stacks now.

We've added a wooden train table to entertain the toddlers and it is a huge hit. We also added i-Pad tables for the preschoolers. For the big kids, we have a whole section devoted just to them. The "Tween Zone" is for those kids too big for puppets and train tables, but not yet old enough for the Teen Room. We have board games and an i-Pad area for them.

We should be well-prepared for a summer full of children, now. Spread the word that our Summer Reading Program will begin on June 4. Children can come anytime from that Saturday on to get signed up. The game will be a reading bingo-card with enough reading challenges to last throughout most of July. Kids can participate to win jump ropes, water bottles, and books of their own. Our big shows in the Program Center will be Friday afternoons at 3 p.m. As always, the program is free and open to anyone willing to come in, read, and have a good time. The biggest thank you goes out to the Friends of the Library. With your help, the Summer Reading Program is fully funded each year. Thanks so much!





The Children's Department has added an area just for "Twins" (8-12 year olds), they have also added new shelving.



## What's Up in the Teen Room

by Jessi Rieger

*Young Adult Library Services Manager*

Spring has been busy in the Teen Room! We've done some redecorating: new carpet, better study tables, a more library-friendly furniture arrangement, and we even painted some mountains on the walls! Our Teen Council continues to evolve. They recently planned their first full event, which will be a Movie and Game Day for kids and teens on Friday, May 27!

With summer approaching, the big news on the horizon is the summer reading program. This year's theme for teens is "Get in the Game: READ," which is focused on movement, gaming, sports, the Olympics, and health. To coincide with this theme, the teens programs, will be Live-Action Pacman, Candy Olympics, video and card game tournaments, a program to make and drink healthy smoothies, a Hunger games-themed program called the Library Games, and a fun wrap-up party with outside water-play (teens should bring a towel and change of clothes).

These will be happening in the Program Center of the Main Library on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., starting June 7! All teens are welcome to join us for the fun! Of course, a summer reading program wouldn't be a summer reading program without a reading component,

so the plan for teens to read this year is to keep a reading log, available at either Library location starting June 4. Every 150 minutes of reading will earn a teen a chance to win one of our grand prize bundles! The drawings for the bundles will be during the Wrap-Up Party on July 12.

Summer is looking like it will be a ton of fun for the teen room. I'm hoping to see new faces, as well as familiar friends, during the summer months. Our Summer Reading Kickoff is June 4, which is going to be a big day at the library! I hope to see you there!



### The Seven Wonders of the World Presented by Elaine Christian

Benefiting the Jackson Madison  
County Library Foundation

May 17, 2016 at 5:30 pm

Holy Family Hall  
Saint Mary's Catholic Church  
1665 Highway 45 Bypass  
Jackson, TN 38305

Cost: \$30

Wine and international hors  
d'oeuvres will be served

Tickets available at the Jackson Madison County Library:  
433 E. Lafayette St., Jackson TN or call 731.425.8600





New Preschool iPad Tables



Remodeled Computer Area



New ADA Compliant Computer

# Friends of the Library Board *feel free to contact us*

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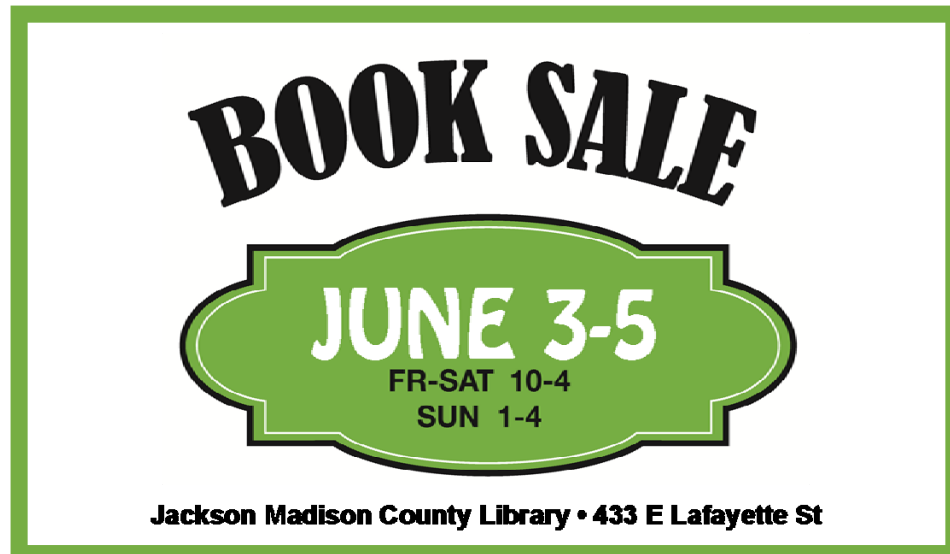
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**BOOK SALE**

**JUNE 3-5**  
FR-SAT 10-4  
SUN 1-4

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