

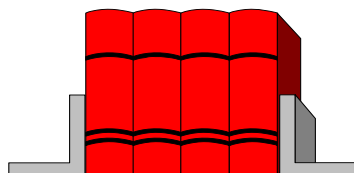
Winter, 2014

Inside this Issue

Pages

- 1-2 **President's Corner**
by Perry Burrows
- 2 **Library Director's Column**
by Dinah Harris
- 3 **Children's Dept. News**
by Jennifer Brewer
- 3-4 **Lantonio Jackson Interview**
- 4-5 **Debby Merritt Interview**
- 6 **Brooke Smith Interview**
- 7 **You Hang There**
by Perry Burrows

Bookends



The President's Corner

by Perry Burrows, President, Friends of the Library Board

I send fall greetings to all of the friends of the library and I'm glad to send out some good news in this edition. We have had two very some very talented writers and historians in our September and October First Thursday lunch events, and there are others planned to bring us together in unity and a common cause in the next few months.

We had an opportunity come our way that the board members voted 100% to adopt which should cover the costs of many high quality programs for the next few years when combined with annual grants.

The Friends of the Library were approached by Mr. Ron Beers of Beers and Associates of Alabama to be the non-profit organization to sponsor the publication of a high quality coffee table book about Jackson and Madison County that will be for sale in late 2015. This is costing the Friends of the Library nothing on either end of the program and assures us a significant income stream for our programming needs.

I personally checked with several of his references (associated with the books he brought us as samples), and all of them were highly impressed with Ron and his company's work, giving him the best of recommendations. He does like to employ local writers and photographers, when possible, so if you know of a writer or photographer who would like to pick up some extra income, please let me know by email and I will get the contact information to Mr. Beers. He needs someone to write the preface to the book, by-lines to stories, edit stories and profiles, etc.

New A/V Materials at the Jackson- Madison County

Library:
(from Mike Baker,
Media Librarian)

Music CDs

Sketches of Spain
by Miles Davis

Anomaly
by Lecrae

Moonshine in the Trunk
by Brad Paisley

747
by Lady Antebellum

JHUD
by Jennifer Hudson

DVDs

Captain America The Winter Soldier

Godzilla

Divergent

Noah

Chef

On

Audio Books

The Forsaken
by Ace Atkins

The Choir Director 2 Runaway Bride
by Carl Weber

Bones Never Lie
by Kathy Reichs

Skink No Surrender
by Carl Hiaasen

The Giver
by Lois Lowry

The Friends of the Library has also been notified that our April 24, 2015, literary conference guest, Liberian-American Dr. Christopher Abani has accepted our invitation to Jackson. Dr. Abani is an award-winning poet, novelist, humanitarian, and essayist. He will be here for one session at 1 p.m. to speak to, and work with, students from all of the colleges in the county (and possibly more). I will be personally meeting with faculty and staff from the main schools to encourage their involvement; several have already committed.

The entire community is invited to hear him speak that night. Abani is a dynamic and driving force on the stage and in workshops; Jackson is highly honored to have him in our city. Donations, large and small, can be accepted at any time to help defray the expenses involved with this program and may be sent to the FOL, Main Library, specified for the April Guest Event. Each will be recognized by name on the evening program. I will keep you informed in subsequent issues and details as the program develops.

Thank you to everyone associated with the Jackson-Madison County Library for the exceptional work that is done daily to keep our library system one of the best! Our future society is directly influenced by the success of the academic world within which the library revolves.

Library Director's Column

by Dinah Harris

January 8 will mark my two year anniversary of being the director of the JMCL. We have worked diligently the last two years to make improvements for our guests, and we are constantly looking for ways to continue improving. A few areas of improvement since the last newsletter are as follows:

- Our public copier now allows guests to scan documents to a flash drive at no charge.
- We added Wi-Fi printing. If you need to print something from your smart phone, tablet, or laptop, it can easily be accomplished.
- We added Zinio, a database of over 20 full-text magazines. You can find the link on the library's database page. They can be downloaded to your smart phone, tablet, laptop, or personal computer.
- Our capital funds this year were designated to update the sound system in the Program Center. Some of the work has already been done, and I believe you all will be very happy when you hear the difference.
- We have also been approved for a grant of \$10,354 to apply toward technology improvements in the library.

I am also happy to report that according to our annual data collection report, our usage increased greatly during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. We checked out 29,000 more items than we did the previous year. The computers were used over 9,000 more times than the previous year, and program attendance increased by 1,200.

We are increasing the amount of programming offered at the library, so be sure and pick up a monthly calendar of events at the circulation desk when you visit.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank the Friends of the Library for all you do for the Library and our guests. Ya'll are wonderful!



Support Your
LIBRARY

Children's Department News

by Jennifer Brewer, Children's Librarian

The Children's Department has been a bustle of activity, even with school back in session this Fall. Preschoolers and home-schooled children spend the mornings here and when the school busses drop children off in the afternoons, we are busy school kids. We love watching children and families enjoy the library.

With the summertime rush over, we've had time to focus on enriching our book and dvd collections. Come check out the new children's biographies, picture books, and movies we've added. Remember, also, that if you notice something missing from our inventory, we'd love for you to tell us. Let us know if there's a new book that your child is waiting for, too. Often, we can order your requests right away and make sure you are the first to check them out.

We have added about twenty board games to the Children's collection, too. For now, they are not to be checked out, but kids are welcome to come to the library to play them. If you know a child who would like to bring a friend to learn to play Checkers, Clue, Monopoly, or even Twister, bring them in. We've watched some fun afternoon Go Fish marathons going on.

Preschool Story Times are Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:30 at the Main Library and at 10:15 and 11:00 on Thursdays at the North Branch. We are doing an alphabet theme this year. This week we did E is for Elephant and next week we'll learn F is for Fall. Bring the kiddos for fun and learning and even new friends.

Interview with Lantonio Jackson, Library Operations Manager

What is your title at the Library?

My title as of now is the Library Operations Manager.

What are some of your duties?

Due to the nature of the job I wear many hats.

I order and catalog materials, help out at the front desk for both the main library and the north branch.

I help maintain the catalog which means there could be errors that come up with someone looking for a title and the record isn't correct or someone could be trying to check out and the item isn't recognized at all in the system.

I enjoy my work because sometimes I get to play detective.

Have you worked in other libraries?

In this instance I am what you would call a late bloomer. This is my first experience working in a library system, before this I was in school for Music Education but decided that it wasn't for me. I've been with the Jackson Madison County Library for five years now and love every moment.

Are you taking any courses that deal with libraries?

At the moment I'm in my third semester going towards getting a masters in Library Science, after this semester I'll be half way done. It's been an eye opening experience because it allows me to get a better



understanding of the inner workings of the library from a different perspective.

What do you feel are the greatest challenges facing the JMCL in the next few years?

One of the greatest challenges will be how libraries will continue to be relevant when it comes to providing information when information has become available across multiple devices but doesn't mean that everyone will have access to these devices. In 2014, people still come to the library everyday for some form of information.

Our materials are being available in formats other physical copies such with books and magazines are available via digital download and movies and TV shows available via streaming.

Staying up to date with trending technology will cost money so funding will be an issue in the future.

Please list a few of your favorite books. Do you read them in print or on a device?

I'm a fan of young adult books as well as a fan of comic books and Japanese manga. I generally read manga on my phone or computer because I've been reading it for years and it wasn't always available here in print.

I enjoy reading Darren Shan's *Vampire's Assistant* series which is a take on a teen's adventure in the world of vampires. Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson* is another series I generally read in print, I love this series because as a child I had a fascination with Greek Mythology and Riordan mixes.

Please list a few of your favorite movies.

I'm a huge movie buff. I generally watch action/adventure or comedy movies. I love the comedies like *Airplane*, *Rush Hour*, *Galaxy*

Quest, *Anchorman*, and anything with Mel Brooks. My other favorite genre is action/adventure like *Gladiator*, *Matrix*, *The Professional*, and *Pitch Black*. There are so many more and there isn't nearly enough room to cover everything I've seen.

Why do you think a public library is important in a community?

The library will always be important to the community because of the free services it provides along with it continuing be a place to get information. Someone I look up to said that people mistakenly think the library is there to provide books, but it's not the books but the information in them that's being provided.

Of course I am not as great with words but if you look at it that way then as long as there's need for information there's a need for a library. Not every patron has the internet, cable TV, a smart phone, a car, or even a home. The library does not see a class of people but those who are in need of information to fulfill its purpose which is to serve the community.

Interview with Debby Merritt, MARC Cataloger

What is your title in the library?

MARC cataloger.

What type of work do you do?

I check in deliveries of books. I stamp ownership on the books. Then, I look to see if there is a record on the database for the book. If there is not, I have to import one or make an original record for the book. I also help with weeding and ordering new materials. I am also the book



nurse, and do all repairs and cleaning up of injured books.

Have you worked in other library settings?

Yes, I began my library career working at the Reelfoot Regional Library (now renamed Obion River Regional Library) for the State of Tennessee. I learned all my library skills there and by taking continuing education classes.

My team has assisted in six public library moves/remodeling projects. I helped four public libraries in our region in developing "Teen" sections in their libraries. I worked there eight years and then Tre Hargett balanced the budget and services to public libraries and my job (along with others) were cut.

I have also worked at the C. E. Weldon Library at Martin, Tennessee, cataloging their materials. I enjoy assisting in collection development and weeding.

Previous to my library work, I was a Certified Dental Assistant and worked in a medical office.

What do you like best about your job?

I love quiet time with the books and the details of the record.

What do you feel are the most challenging issues that the JMCL faces in the next few years?

As any other library, POLITICS AND MONEY!

What are some of your favorite books? I work two jobs and work long hours, so I don't have much time to read. I have a collection of 1200 books. I have mostly non-fiction like history, nature, and reference books. My favorites are probably my field

guides to research specimens. I have some fiction, but my favorites are post-apocalyptic stories.

I hope to read when I retire. I prefer to hike and kayak. My other job is in a stained glass studio outside of Memphis, so if anyone needs any stained glass work done, let me know!

Do you read books in print or on a device such as a Kindle?

I read both in print and e-books.

Do you have some favorite motion pictures?

Again, I don't have much time for TV or movies. I do love *Hunger Games* series, *Dances with Wolves*, *Last of the Dogmen*, *The Book of Eli*, *Zombieland*, *World War Z*, *I am Legend*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. I NEVER miss *The Walking Dead*!

What do you feel are the benefits of public libraries? Libraries provide a sense of community. They provide entertainment and knowledge of new technologies. They educate. They encourage. They provide all different kinds of materials to all different kinds of people. No censorship. Freedom to read what you want. It is what makes America great.



Interview with Brooke Smith Circulation Manager - North Branch

What is your title at the library?

I am the Circulation Manager at the North Branch.

Please describe what you do.

As circulation manager, my main duty is to make sure that patrons are being provided with top notch customer service. I want to make sure that we go the extra mile to provide each person with the information they need. I also help with the book ordering for the North Branch.



Have you worked in other libraries before?

Yes, I worked at Everett Horn Public Library in Lexington, TN for several years as a teenager and a college student.

What do you like best about your job?

I love the customer service aspect of working in a library. I love seeing the smile on someone's face when I am able to help someone find the information they need. I also love to read so I enjoy being around books.

What do you feel are the main challenges facing the JMCL in the next few years?

I think one of the main challenges is making sure people still see the library as a place that they can come to for the information they need. With information being so much more readily available, we have to make sure that we remain a source of information for the community. This might mean printed copies of books, but it can also mean e-books, digital magazines, computer classes, etc.

There are many materials and services we can provide to make sure that everyone is able

to leave the library with the information that they came for or at least leave one step closer to what they needed.

Do you have some favorite books? What are they? Do you read them in print or on a device?

Some of my favorite trilogies and series are *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, *The O'Malley Series* by Dee Henderson, and *The Baxter Series* by Karen Kingsbury. These choices also reflect my two favorite genres – Young Adult and Inspirational Fiction. I am currently reading the *Harry Potter* series for the first time. As of right now, I read all of my books in print. I just can't get away from the feeling of holding a book in my hands.

Please list your favorite movies.

I am by no means a movie buff, but I love *Charade* and *My Favorite Wife* with Cary Grant and *Roman Holiday* and *My Fair Lady* with Audrey Hepburn. I guess I am a kid at heart because I also love the Pixar movies such as *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Up*. Some other favorites that come to mind are *The Patriot*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, and *The Notebook*.

Why do you feel that public libraries are important?

There are many reasons public libraries are important, so I will try to narrow it down to a couple of reasons. First of all, everyone has or will have the need for some type of information at some point in their life. Public libraries serve as places for people to find the information they need. Secondly, public libraries serve as places for bringing communities together. For these two reasons, among many others, I feel that public libraries will continue to play an important role in communities for years to come.

You Hang There

by Perry Burrows

You hang there
with pastel colors in oil and acrylic, painted in Europe,
reminding me about how my granddaddy looked when I was two or three or four.

His image remains clear in the dust of history and lavender of tomorrow,
not skipping the patch on the side of his khakis --
or the snuff stains on the left cuff where he missed the bucket that sat next to him
in the old orange metal chair where his seat had worn the paint down to the
pale primer of the first coat.

He told me stories. Not really exciting stories, but the sound of his rustic voice gave light
to the night when the sun quietly and smoothly slid behind the tall oaks
on Mr. Reid's corner like a broken egg slides down
the side of the bowl into the cake batter. The night was sweet too.

There was still time
before the lightning bugs came out and we played the game of trying to guess
where their iridescence would give its instant glow over the tall pasture grass
that came up to about fifty feet from the front porch of the gray four-room shanty.

Grandma had gone in to listen to Arthur Godfrey
on the 30's radio with the fold up top that magically
caught the stories and took her away from the life
that had found her. Rich in knowledge and patience,
poorly in the things she longed for
and secretly dreamed about.

There were times when I felt big enough to sit in her chair
and look into the eyes of the night,
but most of the time I just wanted to sit on the homemade concrete step
swatting at the night-dwelling mosquitoes
from the middle of the porch
and look up at Granddaddy...
and listen to the man whose expertise was to build barns.



Friends of the Library Board

President

Perry Burrows
984-7497

Vice-President (Membership)

Dorcas Davis
425-1983

Secretary

Gwenda Anthony
668-8156

Treasurer

Jane Maclin Moore
343-1148

2nd Vice-President Programs Chair

Matt Tomlin
668-9564

Hospitality Chair

Margaret Rucker
427-6345

feel free to contact us

James Cherry
422-2524

Annette Cooley
425-9201

Dr. W. Elzie Danley
424-7264

Ms. Dinah Harris
Ex Officio
425-8600

Carla Jacobs
Ex Officio
668-0710

Eduardo Morales

Dr. Ken Newman
424-1927

Publications Editor

Ex Officio
Scott Cohen
425-2615

Friends of the JMC Library

433 East Lafayette Street
Jackson, TN 38301
731-425-8600

Visit Us Online at:
www.jmcl.tn.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON, TN
PERMIT NO. 17