

# BOOK ENDS

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

Spring, 2015

### 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
- 4-5 **Jack Wood Interview**
- 6 **Penny Dodds Karwacz Interview**
- 7 **Library Foundation News**  
by Amy Dietrich
- 8 **Spring 2015 Library Programs Schedule**

### The President's Corner

by Perry Burrows, President, Friends of the Library Board

This issue of Bookends is especially important to all of us and I want to share the good program news.

Author Michael Cherry will discuss the topic "Civil War Madison County Colored Troops" on February 26 at 6 p.m. in the Program Center of the Jackson-Madison County Library.

This kicks off our new "Writers at Dusk" series, a new program designed to appeal to the "after work" crowd who can't get off for the noon series.

Dr. Ken Newman is presenting a First Thursday program on March 5 related to genealogy in Jackson. ("Cemetery Mysteries") This will be in the Program Center of the Jackson-Madison County Library.

On March 19 at 5 p.m. in the Program Center at the Jackson-Madison County Library, Penny Korwacz from the University of Memphis will discuss the display, "What I Kept" which is exhibited at the University of Memphis Library/Lambuth

Patty Hamilton of Union University will introduce one of her newly released poetry books at our First Thursday noon meeting April 2. This will be part of National Poetry month.

There will be a horticultural program and plant swap on May 7 as part of the First Thursday noon meeting.

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

(from Mike Baker, Media Librarian)

#### Music CDs

- The Cowboy Rides Away*  
by George Strait
- The Big Picture*  
by Kat Edmonson
- Crash My Party*  
by Luke Bryan
- Rock or Bust*  
by AC/DC
- Live*  
by Gary Clark Jr.

#### DVDs

- The Giver*
- Maleficent*
- Hercules*
- The November Man*
- The Box Trolls*

#### Audio Books

- The Fault in Our Stars*  
by John Green
- Rainwater*  
by Sandra Brown
- Shopaholic to the Stars*  
by Sophie Kinsella
- The Goldfinch*  
by Donna Taratt

We have had a confirmation that an internationally famous Nigerian novelist, essayist, and poet Dr. Chris Abani, will be with us on April 24, for two presentations.



**Dr. Chris Abani**

The small, but significant Nigerian community is being honored for 2015. The first event will be in the Jackson-Madison County Library Community room at 1 p.m. for all Friends of the Library members, guests, and students from colleges and universities, social and civic groups, as well as guests from outside the area. His topic is: "The Creative Impulse: Poetry and Prose"

The 6 p.m. presentation will be in the auditorium at the University of Memphis, Lambuth, with a reception that follows. Dr. Abani's presentation will be: "Why Literature Matters in a Twenty-first Century World"

Dr. Abani is a powerful presenter and maintains a demanding schedule. He is our first artist presenter in FOL's Spring Literary Symposium series designed to bring additional university representatives as well as civic and social groups together to enrich our artistic identity.

I spent a great deal of December and January finalizing and submitting a Tennessee Arts Commission grant application to fund the 2016 symposium. (And, as of now the TAC has not requested any additional information from us, and according to them, if anything was lacking or in need of clarification, we should have heard two weeks ago.)

The annual symposium series is intended to integrate and enrich the artistic and cultural identity of Madison County and...perhaps West

Tennessee. We have the talent and desire, we just need for more people to know who we are as Friends of the Jackson-Madison County Library and citizens of a culturally rich and diverse part of the South.

It is my pleasure and honor to work with such a group and continue to bring great literary talent to Jackson. Please make notes on your calendars and reserve April 24 for a visit with one of the great literary minds of the time.

## **Library Director's Column**

*by Dinah Harris*

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed two births in library staff families. Isaiah Johnson and his wife were blessed with a second daughter, Charlotte Isabelle, on December 7, and Zoe Pride embraced her first child, a son, Dakota Joe, on January 3. All are doing well. Zoe plans to return to work on February 17.

We would like to thank the Friends of the Library for their continued support of the Library. In addition to the fabulous programming the Friends provide, you have recently committed to helping us replace the ice machine in the Program Center along with continued funding of our Summer Reading programs.

The Library Foundation recently donated funds so that we could enlarge our computer lab at the North Branch. Desks were purchased that match the desks downtown and have already been installed. They will also fund the two additional computers which are being added. The Foundation has also committed to purchasing two additional self-check stations to

be added to the library. This will give us a total of two at the Main Library and one at our North Branch.

With these two great organizations supporting us, we are moving forward by leaps and bounds! Thank you very much!

The library is working on some new partnerships in the community. One of the most recent is our partnership with the Jackson Madison County School System. The library has already purchased one package of e-book content for the students to use. "One-Click Digital" contains much of the popular reading material and accelerated readers. The books can be accessed simultaneously by as many students as desire. The good news is that any person with a JMCL library card can access the material on our website. Just click on our database link and scroll down until you see "One-Click Digital." We have also purchased some e-book graphic novels through Davidson-Titles and will be purchasing additional required reading material. These titles are accessible straight from the library's online catalog. Should you need any assistance using either of these new offerings, please contact the library, and we will be glad to help.

In exchange for our offering of content, the school system is assisting us with promoting and enrolling students for library cards. This is a win-win situation for all concerned since we all share the goal of getting kids to read more!

Lastly, we will be conducting a survey during the month of March to get your feelings on what we are doing right here at the library and what needs improving. Please be sure and watch for it. Your opinion matters to us. As always, please be sure and let us know what we can do for you.

## Children's Department News

by Jennifer Brewer, Children's Librarian

The groundhog said we have six more weeks of winter. That means six more weeks of time to cozy up with a good chapter book! Yay! If you're a kid looking for a warm reading place, the Children's Department has just the thing. Kids love the big wooden cubes to hide away in, and we have a couple of cozy chairs, too. Come spend some time here and see what you think if you haven't been in awhile.

We've added several new series to our collection lately. *The Goddess Girls* and a similar one for boys, *Heroes in Training* by Joan Holub are very popular. *Origami Yoda* is an awesome series for Star Wars fans, and for those who remember the *Babysitter's Club* books, Ann Martin has a new series called *The Family Tree*. Others to check out are *Kingdom Keepers*, *Herbert's Wormhole*, and the new *Wimpy Kid*. There's always something exciting going on in the world of children's books!

Story Times continue on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 10:30 at the Main Library and at 10:15 and 11 a.m. on Thursdays at the North Branch. We've been having lots of fun learning the ABC's this year. We also plan to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday in March with an event for all ages, so stay tuned for details. (Follow us on Facebook or check the website and calendar).

Our book club for homeschoolers meets every Friday at 2 p.m. and this month we are reading the first of The Sisters Grimm series, *The Fairy Tale Detectives*. Join us if you can! We also are planning a couple of after-school programs, one for kids who enjoy creative writing, and another later in the year for having fun with math. If you have questions or want to be put on a mailing list for updates contact Jennifer at [jmclkids@gmail.com](mailto:jmclkids@gmail.com).

## Interview with Jack Wood - Tennessee Room Librarian



### What do you do at the Jackson-Madison County Library?

My position title is Tennessee Room Librarian. I am responsible for developing and maintaining the Tennessee Room collection of genealogical and historical materials, as well as helping researchers with its use.

### How long have you been working at the library?

I have been here a little over 28 years. I was hired in September of 1986 as a full time replacement for part time librarian Miss Emma Williams, who was retiring.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

There are many rewarding aspects of this job, but one of the most rewarding is helping researchers, one-on-one, to solve their genealogical or historical mysteries.

### What is the most challenging part of the job?

As with the rewards, the challenges are many. Collection development is perhaps the most difficult because the Tennessee Room is a fixed space and the collection is cumulative. Space allocation for original archival materials and relevance of the collection to patrons' needs are two critical concerns.

### What are your hobbies?

Currently I have no hobbies. In the past, at one time or another, I have engaged in numerous hobbies, including stamp collecting, model building, model railroad building, slot-car racing, Military miniatures, muzzle loading

rifle shooting and related craft activities, and Civil War reenacting. One activity I share with my wife, although it is not a hobby, is volunteering with our two Cairn terriers as registered therapy dog teams. We visit a local nursing home in Jackson once a month and participate in activities, visits, and programs as part of a local therapy dog group, *Maggie and Friends*. I also enjoy training my dogs in agility just for fun.

### What are some of your favorite books?

I tend to enjoy books that aim to solve or explain historical uncertainties, illuminate events or time periods I am familiar with, or help to teach me how to do something. These are just a few of the many books I've enjoyed and benefitted from:

Timothy White, *The Nearest Faraway Place*

Stanley Coren, *Born to Bark*

Most dog behavior/training books by Patricia McConnell or Jean Donelson

Richard Allen Fox, Jr., *Archaeology, History, and Custer's Last Battle*,

Nathaniel Philbrick, *The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*,

Thomas Ricks Lindley, *Alamo Traces*

Thomas E. Crisp, *Sleuthing the Alamo*

James Bradley, *Flags of Our Fathers*

Laura Schenone, *A Thousand Years Over A Hot Stove*

Emily Anne Croom, *The Sleuth Book For Genealogists*

### What value do you feel that local history has for the community?

Local history contributes to a community's self-identity. It can provide benchmarks of political, economic, and cultural development which can contribute to a community's understanding of itself.

Present day issues may be better understood when analyzed in context of past events. Regarding present community planning, the effort to develop continuity with the past can provide a shared sense of place.

Our local history is generally more intimate than broader topics and therefore can seem more relevant to us, yet through the process of local studies we may come to understand more about the broader issues as well. It is certainly a quality of life component of public service.

On the local level we have our best opportunity to preserve the material evidence of our past (e.g. photos, documents, newspapers, artifacts, buildings, etc.) giving us the tools to further develop critical thinking skills by evaluating that evidence, then from it creating the most credible history we can.

### **What genealogical research have you done for your family tree?**

When I became interested in researching my family history, about 40 years ago, I was greatly focused on learning about the Confederate Civil War service of one of my paternal great, great grandfathers, Joseph J. Jackson.

Over time this expanded to include many other areas of interest. Some of my most interesting and rewarding accomplishments have been to determine Joseph Jackson's correct military unit, learn about my uncle Tommy Wood's World War II service, find the truth behind my uncle Joe Wood's death in the Korean War, locate my mother's step brother (after 50 years or more of separation), find what had become of my maternal grandfather (my mother never knew), track my Wood family back to 18<sup>th</sup> Century Calvert County, Maryland, learn about the 1911/1912 immigration of my maternal great grandparents from Hungary, and tape record interviews with several relatives,

particularly my paternal grandmother and my parents.

### **Where is the farthest place that people have come from to do genealogical research in the Tennessee room?**

Our patrons have come from as far away as South America, Canada, and Europe. Many have come from the west coast and Texas.

Phone calls and email requests likewise come from across the country. One person in Chicago called us several times rather than the Chicago Public Library because he "liked the way we talked with him."

The Tennessee Room is a unique part of our library. With two full time staff members and seven dedicated volunteers, a visiting library patron is guaranteed some degree of personal assistance.

Although some patrons merely need to look at a resource, many others seek help through a one-on-one dialog with a staff member. No one is ignored in the Tennessee Room. I believe that is one reason we have a long-established reputation for good service.

### **What can people do to supplement the holdings of the Tennessee room? What resources could they donate?**

One of our collection's constant needs is for preservation materials, such as acid free boxes, folders, clear protective sleeves and other special items. We are also seeking to upgrade our technology, particularly our microfilm readers.

Patrons can help with donations to the Tennessee Room endowment. We are always interested in receiving documents, letters, scrapbooks, photos, etc. pertaining to the history of Jackson and Madison County. Please contact me directly at 731-300-3980 if you wish to discuss donating such materials.

## Interview with Penny Dodds Karwacz



(She will talk on March 19 at the Jackson-Madison County Library on March 19 from 5-6 p.m. about the “What I Kept” exhibit.)

### Please tell me a little background information about you and your work.

I am an artist, international educator, and emerging professional in the field of community engagement museum exhibitions. I have always been interested in what people thought; all people.

I like to listen and gain perspective on life by hearing people speak their truths. As I followed my passions and sought opportunities to grow, personally and professionally, I find myself lucky enough to have discovered the world of museum exhibitions and work alongside others to produce exhibits that help give voice to community members in an effort to magnify thoughts and give a prismatic view of our genuine perspectives on life. [I hold a Master’s in International Education, a Museum Studies Graduate Certificate and am represented by Jay Etkin Gallery in Memphis, TN.]

### Tell me about the “What I Kept Exhibit.”

The *What I Kept* exhibit in Jackson is located at the University of Memphis Lambuth Campus in Varnell-Jones Hall.

It displays photographs of international women with an object they chose to keep from their countries of origin along with a personal statement on why they kept the objects. This childlike question posed to international women living in Jackson and Memphis, “What did you

choose to keep with you and why?” stimulated a journey into the emotions, thoughts, stories, and experiences people go through as individuals, and as an identity group, who embark on making another country their new home.

### What do you plan to share with the public library/Jackson community?

I’d like to begin by sharing my process, thoughts, and the understanding I gained from producing *What I Kept* in Jackson and Memphis for the University of Memphis.

Then, I’d like to share the 12 minute documentary *In The Middle*, by Annie Hunter, which I produced to go along with the exhibition. *In The Middle* features interviews with several women living in Memphis from regions all over the world. Through these interviews, they reveal that these seemingly ordinary artifacts serve as vessels as they navigate their identities.

After viewing the film, I would like to give the audience a chance to ask questions and facilitate a discussion on memory, objects, identity and culture and also, if time permits, the unique position public institutions, such as museums and libraries, have to display exhibitions such as this one to promote empathy and understanding within communities.



**Books**  
Read Education  
Knowledge  
library school

## News from the Library Foundation

by Amy Dietrich, President

As the newly elected President of the Library Foundation I am pleased to introduce the officers;

President- Elect Wanda Scanlon,

Secretary Kathy Farmer, and

Treasurer Lynda Klimer.

However while “ringing in the new” I would be remiss if I neglected to “ring out the old” with sincere thanks and admiration. Elaine Christian, Foundation President for the past three years, has been our driving force.....and what a force she was (and continues to be).

Elaine’s enthusiasm and foresight have resulted in new projects, grants, funding support, and positive publicity for the library. Three years ago Elaine had an idea to showcase local authors. Thus Books of Madison County was born. I remember vividly sitting around a table discussing this venture, hoping that 60 people would attend. Much to our delight over 100 supporters came the first year.

The second year we added a late afternoon speaker, Rick Bragg. The success of this event is a perfect example what one idea, one determined person, and a great supporting committee can achieve. Thanks Elaine!

This fall a book festival was added for the afternoon with several amazing speakers, all from Madison County or West Tennessee. The audience was entertained with tales of FBI, Secret Service, the Rolling Stones, angels, ecology, nostalgia, and island adventures. The featured speaker was Mark Greeney, co-author of the Tom Clancy novels and author of the Grey Man series. Attendees had to opportunity

to speak with authors and purchase autographed copies of their works.

The event continued with dinner under the stars (actually under the tent) on the grounds of Suites of La Rue. (After a previous day of rain, we crossed our fingers, hoped for the best, and voted to dine el fresco. Our gamble paid off.)

Guests enjoyed food, wine, and music before crossing to the library for our signature event “meeting the local authors.” Music by Dr. Sax wafted from the balcony while people talked with authors, viewed the silent auction items, and enjoyed coffee and desserts provided by Friends of the Library. And what yummy desserts they were.

Sue Barnes was bombarded with requests for recipes. So ended a very successful third year. We used a portion of the proceeds to purchase five desks for the North Library and two computer self-checkout stations for the Main Library.

Plans are being developed for Books of Madison County/Book Festival IV. I can promise it will be bigger and better. We continue to work with Diana on grant possibilities and projects. Wanda Scanlon is chairing Book 2015: Take a Book Remake it. Win. a contest for high school students and hobbyists. Contact the web site or library for details. The Foundation Board is enthusiastic, energetic, and talented. I am a fortunate, grateful president.

Last but by no means least belated congratulations to Dinah Harris on her two year anniversary with the library (January 9).

Support Your  
LIBRARY

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

**President**

Perry Burrows  
984-7497

**Treasurer**

Jane Maclin Moore  
343-1148

James Cherry  
422-2524

Carla Jacobs  
Ex Officio  
668-0710

**Vice-President  
(Membership)**

Dorcas Davis  
425-1983

**2nd Vice-President  
Programs Chair**

Matt Tomlin  
668-9564

Annette Cooley  
425-9201

Eduardo Morales

Dr. W. Elzie Danley  
424-7264

Dr. Ken Newman  
424-1927

**Secretary**

Gwenda Anthony  
668-8156

**Hospitality Chair**

Margaret Rucker  
427-6345

Ms. Dinah Harris  
Ex Officio  
425-8600

**Publications Editor**

Ex Officio  
Scott Cohen  
425-2615

## Spring 2015 Library Programs

**February**

Writers at Dusk  
Feb. 26 • 6 p.m.  
Author: Michael Cherry  
"Civil War Madison  
County Colored Troops"  
Public Library Program Center

**March**

First Thursday  
March 5 • Noon  
Dr. Ken Newman  
Presentation of bringing  
genealogy to life  
"Cemetery Mysteries"  
Public Library Program Center

Writers at Dusk  
March 19 • 5-6 p.m.  
Penny Karwacz  
(U of M Art Museum)  
discusses the  
"What We Kept" exhibit  
Public Library Program Center

**April**

First Thursday  
April 2 • Noon  
Professor/Poet Patty Hamilton  
from Union University  
introduces her new book  
Public Library Program Center

April 24  
Annual Literary Symposium  
Dr. Christopher Abani  
1 p.m. - Public Library Program Ctr.  
and  
6 p.m. - U of M Lambuth

**May**

First Thursday  
May 7 • Noon  
Celeste Luckey Scott  
County Extension Agent  
Horticultural Topic  
Plant Swap  
Public Library Program Center

**Friends of the JMC  
Library**

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

Visit Us Online at:  
[www.jmcl.tn.org](http://www.jmcl.tn.org)

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