



Dear Friends and Good People -

Last Friday night (May 4th), husband and wife team Jo-el & LeAnne Ulmer “**2Country4Nashville**” ! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NirfWrLgY7U> / <http://www.2country4nashville.com/index.html>) reminded those of us attending the FOTL Annual Meeting of “What a Wonderful World!” it is.

Welcoming FOTL to the Williamson County Library, Franklin, and Williamson County, Debbie Eads and the merry band of Friends of the Williamson County Public Library, library staff, and intrepid library director Dolores Greenwald greeted Friends from all across the state with more than just hospitality, but a graciousness, helpfulness, kindness, all evidence of pure joy accompanied by yummy nibbles and drinks.

Saturday morning brought a continental breakfast spread where we feasted not only on homemade cinnamon breakfast cakes but on gastronomically delightful (and very evil) tiny little donut taste treats <https://tinylittledonuts.com> / <https://www.facebook.com/tinylittledonuts/>. Williamson County Commissioner **Paul Webb** and Franklin City Mayor **Ken Moore** made us all feel right at home among friends.

After some quick business, special guests were recognized and announcements made:

**TLA/FOTL Friends of the Year were introduced and celebrated for their years of service to FOTL and their local Friends groups:**

**Connie Heard Albrecht**, Cookeville (Putnam County Library Friends)

**Martha Moore Gill**, Knoxville (Friends of the Knox County Public Library)

They were each presented with a framed print of the Marge Piercy poem “To Be of Use” (*see copy below*)

**Announcement of \$300 Grants each to the following Friends groups:**

Advocacy Grant - Friends of the **Tellico Village** Library (Loudon County)

Fundraising Grant - Friends of the **Thomas Memorial** Branch Library, Bluff City (Sullivan County)

Membership Grant - Friends of the **Jefferson City** Library (Jefferson County)

**Announcement of \$100 Recognition Certificates to:**

**Rogers Anderson / Williamson County Commission** for their declaration of February 2018 as “Libraries of Williamson County Month” <https://www.wcs.edu/infocus/2018/02/02/february-declared-libraries-of-williamson-county-month/>

**Dick Burgess** - Blount County Friends of the Library to recognize his years of volunteer service.

**Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library** for their Skylib honor bookstore at the airport.

**Charlie Daniels** - Friends of the Knox County Public Library for their “Step Up to the Library” membership campaign.

**Friends of Smyrna Library** for their “Spruce up Smyrna” campaign to update the library’s interior <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/07/two-groups-win-united-libraries-baker-taylor-awards>.

Then **David Baker**, of the Giving Design Group [www.givingdesign.com](http://www.givingdesign.com), who had traveled from Los Angeles, conducted **A Fundraising Clinic** giving us new awareness about the multiple impacts on fundraising today: millennials, online pay, subscription, monthly payments, etc.

Friends member Lori Scarbrough drafted husband Chef Tim (Papa Q Bar-B-Q) to prepare an old fashioned Bar-B-Q of pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, cole slaw, an outrageously scrumptious mac-n-cheese (for which he would *not* share his recipe!) and pecan pie.

David continued his Clinic after lunch by introducing the following speakers who spoke about their group's successful fundraising projects:

**Connie Albrecht**, Putnam County Friends: **Dinner with an author.**

**Martha Gill**, Knox County Friends: **Partnerships** that have helped Friends raise or save money.

**Cynthia Harmon**, Friends of Smyrna Library: **"Spruce Up Smyrna Library"** campaign (one of two winners of the prestigious United for Libraries Baker & Taylor Award <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/07/two-groups-win-united-libraries-baker-taylor-awards>)

**Diane Johnson**, Friends of King Family Library (Sevier): **Historic Calendar**

**Margie Thessin**, author and creator of Franklin on Foot tours <https://franklinonfoot.com>, closed our day by introducing us to her guided walking tours of historic Franklin, Tennessee, with ghost, crime, food, cemetery, and Civil War tours, as well as children's activities and tours <http://downtownfranklintn.com/listings/franklin-on-foot/>

In addition, Margie is the author of *Ghosts of Franklin, Tennessee's Most Haunted Town*, and *Lizzie's War*.

We had a time of lots of foot tapping, laughter, hearing new ideas, visiting old and meeting new Friends, yummy tastes, all combining for a joyful time together.

Perhaps **Albert Schweitzer** may have said it best:

**I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know:  
the only ones among you who will be really happy  
are those who have sought and found how to serve.**

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** In 1937 iconic Tennessee library visionary **Mary Utopia Rothrock** (Knoxville) <http://tinyurl.com/MaryUtopiaRothrock> wrote that the library should be integrated "thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves," a seminal concept that inspires FOTL's Vision to help and support local library Friends groups work with their library:

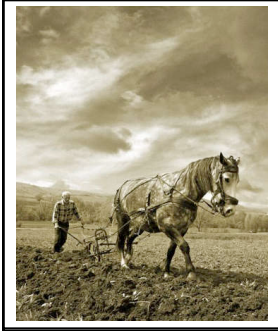
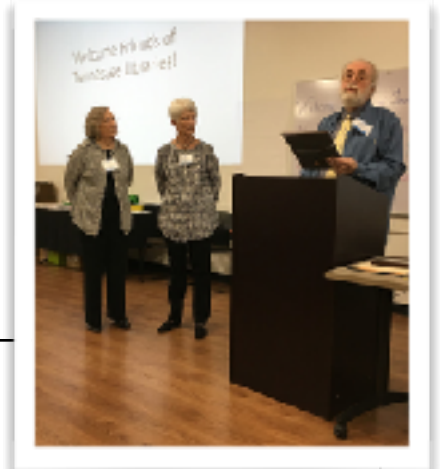
**~ FOTL Vision Statement ~**

To help and support local Friends groups integrate their library thoroughly into the life and work of their community.

A first edition of a privately printed postage stamp honoring Ms Rothrock was presented to the Friend of the Year recipients **Connie Albrecht** and **Martha Gill**, and to **Julie Webb**, FOTL's Founding Mother.



A framed print of this poem was presented to  
**Martha Moore Gill** (left) and **Connie Heard Albrecht**,  
**TLA/FOTL 2018 Friend of the Year Recipients**



## **TO BE OF USE**

~ Marge Piercy ~

**The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,  
the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half submerged balls.**

**I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.**

**I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who stand in the line and haul in their places,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.**

**The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.**

From *Circles on the Water* by Marge Piercy. Knopf, 1982.

## Annual Meeting Hosts

Many, many thanks to the local arrangements team from the Friends of the Williamson County Public Library who hosted our meeting with incredibly Friendly hospitality.

Standing from left:

Phyllis Singleton, David Miller, LaVerne Sweeney, Harry Eads,  
Bonnie Lucas, Debbie Eads, Lori Scarbrough, Deb Walsh, April Nelson

