



FALL 2023 | SUPPORTING THE JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

# FRIENDS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE  
JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



## JCPL's First Scholastic Book Fair!

Children participating in the Summer Reading Program this year were rewarded for their hard work with Book Bucks they could redeem at JCPL's first ever Scholastic Book Fair! Scholastic Book Fair nostalgia was in the air as many parents who attended Scholastic Book Fairs when they were in grade school excitedly introduced their children to this special experience. Scholastic has coined the term Bookjoy to describe "that head-to-toe thrill that comes from choosing your own book, holding a brand new adventure in your hands and losing yourself in a story." Bookjoy was definitely reflected in the faces of the children participating in the Book Fair! The Friends of the Library sponsored the Scholastic Book Fair by contributing \$4,400 to fund the Book Bucks earned by the children in the Summer Reading Program. The children redeemed their Book Bucks to purchase books and other reading related puzzles and games at the Book Fair. In addition to the Book Bucks, parents invested additional funds for a total of \$8,329 in sales during the four days of the Book Fair. Scholastic provides for JCPL to use a portion of the proceeds to be applied to purchases from Scholastic of books to be used in the children's library.

## Why be a Friend of the Library?

For each Newsletter publication, we will reach out to a Friend to ask them “Why be a Friend of the Library?” As our first contributor, Frances Jackson offers her reflections on this question.

“One of the first places I sought when we moved to Johnson City in 1973, was the library. I have a lifelong love of public libraries, books and the communities they inform. The Johnson City Public Library has continued over the last fifty years of my life to serve me well, my children well and our community well. We have enjoyed the summer programs for children. We have appreciated the move to the current building and the expansion of services that has occurred over the years.



The Friends of the Library is an organization that has been a consistent and enlightened support for our library and our community. I contribute to The Friends with gratitude for the work done and with confidence that my donations of used books and donations of money are used conscientiously for the good of all of us. I encourage anyone and everyone who loves books, libraries and our community, to contribute to the ongoing work of the library.”

## Fall Book Sale!

Mark your calendars! Join us for the special Friends’ “Members Only” Appreciation Preview Sale the evening of Friday, October 27, 5:30-7:00 PM for the best selection and to enjoy live music and refreshments. Bring a friend! They can purchase a membership at the door. Can’t find your membership card or perhaps your membership has lapsed? No problem! We will have a list at the door, and if needed, you can renew your membership on the spot. The book sale will continue through the weekend open to the general public. On Saturday, October 28, the sale will be open 10:00 AM– 3:00 PM, and on Sunday, the sale will wrap up with the famous Sack Sale, October 29 1:00 – 3:00 PM, where you can buy all the books you can fit in any size sack for \$5! All proceeds go to the support of the library, so join your Friends, have fun, and shop generously!

## A Retirement Tribute: Cathy Griffith

After 32 years serving our community, Cathy Griffith will be retiring from her position as Assistant Director of Johnson City Public Library. Julia Turpin, Library Director, commented on Cathy's career, "Cathy has been a consistent and steady leader at JCPL for 32 years and in two buildings! Cathy gave her all to her work and always kept the Library's success as the focus of sometimes tough decisions. We are a better organization thanks to Cathy."



Cathy's job titles over the years, starting out as "Secretary/Bookkeeper," becoming "Office Manager," then "Business Manager," followed by "Assistant Director," with a brief stint as "Interim Director," reflect her willingness to consistently step up to meet and fill the evolving demands and needs of our increasingly complex library organization. Cathy had a front row seat supporting JCPL's adoption of monumental new technologies in libraries, including the transition from a card catalog to the first Integrated Library System (ILS), and implementation of RFID. The move to the world class building we enjoy today was only the distance of a few blocks, but it set the stage to enable JCPL to succeed and thrive, serving and growing with our community into the 21st century. "CHANGE was the word," Cathy explains, "that spanned two centuries." The accomplishment Cathy is the most proud of is the many years of excellent audits our Library, as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, has achieved. Cathy says, "I may be one of the few people who really enjoys being audited!" Cathy's role in ensuring the financial integrity of JCPL could best be described as CFO of a Non-Profit Corporation. "The financial health of an organization is critical to its success," Cathy explains, "and helping to keep JCPL financially sound is a role I have enjoyed and taken very seriously." What Cathy has most enjoyed about her library service "is the fact that no two days are the same and there is never a dull moment." She is grateful for the stellar staff she has worked with who are devoted to providing the best possible library service for everyone. Cathy includes Friends of the Library in this praise, "It has been my pleasure to work with many 'Friends' throughout the years, and JCPL is better because of you. I am thankful to you, Friends of the Johnson City Public Library!"

## Book Donation Drop-offs

Book Donation Drop-Off events are scheduled 11AM-1PM the first Saturday of every month, and EACH October Saturday (7th, 14th, 21st) leading up to the Fall Book Sale weekend. Bring items to donate to the library's parking lot near the curbside pickup spots. A Friends Volunteer will be there to unload your donations. Please see [JCPL.org/Support/donate-items](https://www.jcpl.org/Support/donate-items) for a list of accepted items for donation. Your generous donations allow us to be well stocked for the semi-annual Book Sales, and to continuously refresh the Ongoing Sale tables in the library.

## FOL Officers 2023-24

President: Julia Swanson  
Vice-President: Stacie Fox  
Secretary: Nina Marchioni  
Treasurer: Linda Gallagher

### Connect with the Friends of the Library

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