



SPRING 2026 | SUPPORTING THE JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIENDS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE
JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

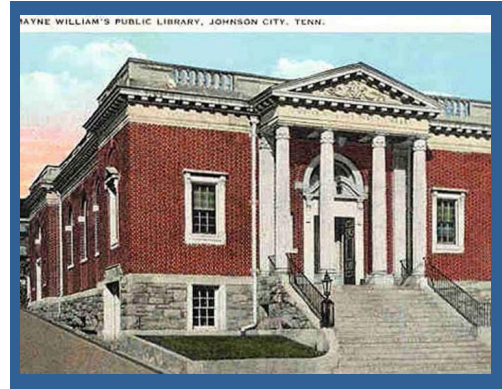


Love Your Library!

What better time than Valentines Day to celebrate all the ways we love our library! This year was the 4th annual **Love Your Library!** event sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Patrons young and old enthusiastically shared what they love about our library on heart shaped sticky notes, filling up a large white board with their "heartfelt" comments. There were free Imagination Library books for the children and 2 different Bookmarks to take home and color, one celebrating the 50th Birthday of the JCPL Friends, and one promoting the upcoming April Spring Book Sale. New this year was a large selection of book and reading themed vinyl stickers for the children to choose from. It was fun to read the multitude of wholehearted comments filling the Love Your Library white board! A small sample includes, *"I love the open spaces and the smell of books!"* *"Libby,"* *"I like to ride the elevator,"* *"The Vibes! Perfect place to study,"* *"Friendly Staff!"* *"Free access for ALL,"* *"A safe place to learn and relax,"* *"I love all the stories contained inside the books,"* *"Allows all types of people to hang out here,"* *"It feels like my childhood happy place,"* and many, many more!

Friends of the Library's 50th Birthday!

The Friends of the Johnson City Public Library is celebrating its 50th Birthday! First organized in 1976, the Friends' organization has grown in size and scope right along with the Johnson City Public Library. Martha Nan Meredith was the first president of the Friends in 1976. In an interview commemorating the Friends 30th Birthday, she described the early Friends as a diverse group

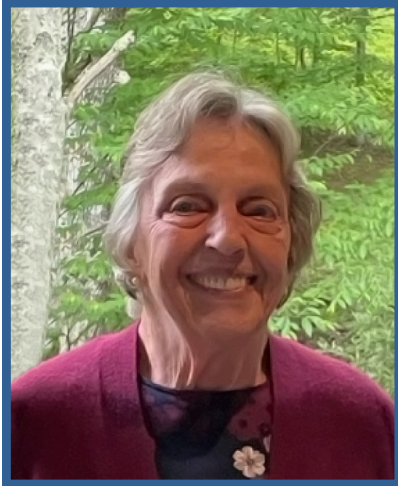


that included support from the Junior League and the Monday Club. The original Monday Club in 1895 was responsible for the very first library, located in an upstairs room in downtown Johnson City. By the time the Friends was formed in 1976, the library was then located in its first permanent building, the stately Mayne Williams Public Library which opened in 1923. Ms. Meredith recalled that in the 1970s it was recognized the library needed to expand to meet the needs of the growing population in the city and it was felt that a Friends group could help to garner support from the community. She remembered fondly the beauty of the old Mayne Williams Library, but with no air conditioning, all the windows would be up, and there was only a little wooden desk at the front door where you checked out your books. This early Friends group was involved in the expansion of the library into its next location in 1981, where the first computerized catalog and circulation system was adopted in 1991. Ms. Meredith commented on the popular Dial-A-Story program the Friends supported in these years, and for many years to come. The Johnson City Public Library building we know and love today opened to the public in August 1999. In her interview in 2006, Ms. Meredith was asked what was the most rewarding aspect of creating the Friends? She answered, *"Always, always it was the people. The people I worked with were all so helpful and supportive."* In 50 years, that has never changed; always, always it is the people that makes working together for a common purpose so rewarding.

Throughout this year we will be celebrating YOU, our members, and 50 years of steadfast support for the Johnson City Public Library! Join your fellow Friends of the Library for 50th Birthday celebrations in conjunction with the Friends Only nights for the April and October Book Sales.

There's Going to be a PARTY!!

Harriet Cone: A Tribute to a Friend



The Friends of the Library recently lost a cherished Friend, Harriet Cone. It was not a surprise to learn that Harriet grew up next door to a library in her childhood home of Windham CT. Books and reading were a lifelong passion that she loved sharing. You could always count on her for an enthusiastic recommendation for your next read. As a longtime resident dating back to the 1960s, Harriet considered the Johnson City Public Library our community's greatest treasure, and she devoted herself to supporting the library in ways

both small and large. She was a benefactor of the library as well as a ready and willing worker at the Friends' book donation events and semi-annual book sales. She even recruited her brother Dana to schedule his visits to Johnson City to coincide with the book sales so he could help. A Friends' volunteer activity close to Harriet's heart was the annual holiday gift from the Friends to each employee of the library. Every year Harriet selected special cards, and along with the Friends' Treasurer, Linda Gallagher, Harriet individually addressed and wrote a holiday message of appreciation enclosed along with a small cash gift, thanking each employee for their commitment to Johnson City Public Library. One of the last things Harriet did before she died in December was to purchase a box of holiday cards for the 2025 gifts from the Friends to the JCPL staff members. There were misty eyes as these holiday gift cards were prepared without Harriet. Harriet's smile, her enthusiasm, her many acts of kindness will be greatly missed by her fellow Friends of the Library. Her steadfast devotion to Johnson City Public Library serves as an example and a role model for each of us on how to make a quiet but highly meaningful difference for our community. We are grateful for her life.

Spring Book Sale!

Finally, Spring is in the air! The Spring Book Sale will be **April 24th, 25th, and 26th**. The primary location for the sale will continue to be in the JCPL Jones Meeting Center, with the Children's books, Puzzles and Games located in the Polly Peterson Room. The Friends "Members Only" Appreciation event will be **Friday, April 24th 5:00 - 7:00PM**. We will celebrate the Friends 50th Birthday with music and birthday treats! *(See Spring Book Sale cont'd on p.4)*

Spring Book Sale! (cont'd)

The book sale will open to the public on **Saturday, April 25th 10:00AM – 3:00PM** and will continue with the Sack Sale on **Sunday, April 26th 12 Noon – 3:00PM**. Please bring your own sack, only a limited number of bags will be available at the door. (Note: postcard notices will be not be sent, check your email for updates and reminders!)

Join us for the upcoming Spring Book Sale! You will find great bargains and your purchases will enable the Friends to continue in our mission to support the Johnson City Public Library services and programs we all love!

FOL Officers 2025-26

President: Julia Swanson
Vice-Pres: Deby Dalrymple
Secretary: Nina Marchioni
Treasurer: Linda Gallagher

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Facebook:

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JOIN THE FRIENDS ONLINE AT JCPL.ORG/FRIENDS/



Friends of the
Johnson City Public Library
100 W. Millard St.
Johnson City, TN 37604