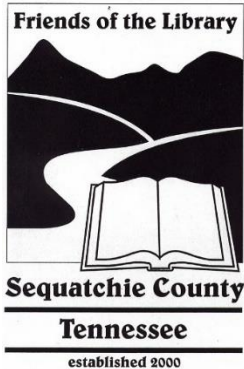


# SEQUATCHIE COUNTY LIBRARY LIGHTS

Winter 2016

January 2016



*A great  
community  
deserves a great  
library.*

## An Epidemic Is Stopped

On January 26, at the Friends Annual Meeting, the audience heard a very interesting account of Dr. Tom Navin's experience fighting ebola in West Africa. After he finished speaking, incoming Friends President Terry Earnest presented a copy of Henry Camp's book, *Sequatchie County*, to Dr. Navin.



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Dr. Tom Navin's presentation was *Getting to Zero: How the CDC Helped West Africa Stop the Ebola Outbreak*. Dr. Navin is an epidemiologist, a public health professional who investigates patterns and causes of disease and injury in humans. Epidemiologists seek to reduce the risk and occurrence of diseases through research, community education, and health policy.

He began his presentation about his ebola experience with a biblical quote illustrating compassion for the suffering was one of the three principle reasons for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) intervention.

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Dr. Navin said “protecting the health of Americans was another important consideration to get involved in West Africa to reduce the risk of ebola reaching the United States.” CDC employees also recognized they could “make things better in Africa” by preventing the spread of the virus there. Dr. Tom Frieden, the CDC’s Director, and others at the CDC estimated that only 20% of patients in West Africa with Ebola had been known to have had contact with another infected person. An obvious way to improve prevention efforts was to use techniques learned from the control of tuberculosis to do a better job at identifying and quarantining contacts of persons with Ebola. Dr. Navin, who has worked in tuberculosis control at CDC for 16 years, and others like him, could provide valuable assistance because they were experienced and knowledgeable about tuberculosis contact investigations.

The ebola epidemic is different from many other epidemics, because infected individuals cannot spread the infection before they exhibit symptoms. If you can identify and quarantine those who have been exposed before they become sick, you can stop the spread of the virus. Before this could happen, he explained, people had to learn to trust health care providers. In the beginning, patients simply would not tell government health workers about all the people with whom they had come in contact. When this changed and the true number of those exposed were identified, secondary cases started to decline. Dr. Navin told us “West African health officials solved their own problem very quickly after being given the right information by the CDC and others, like the World Health Organization.” He shared a chart which made a striking point. Once the schools closed and people learned not to touch each other, the outbreak slowed dramatically. He applauded the West African public health campaign, which effectively taught people the dangers of contagion using slogans like “Ebola must go.”

U. S. health officials adapted very quickly, too, from what they were learning about ebola. He said CDC officials were very alarmed when the two Dallas nurses became sick from ebola. The prevention protocol came from the CDC, and a review of the procedures “revealed no defect.” Yet, for them to have become infected a defect

had to exist, and the protocol became much stricter. Notwithstanding these cases, Dr. Navin reminded us only two Americans died from the disease, patients who were already very ill when they were hospitalized.

Dr. Navin said he kept a journal during his six weeks in West Africa and shared some excerpts from it. He told us he recorded his stunned disbelief when he learned about a ban on travel from West Africa to the United States. “We could screen travelers from West Africa for infection. Banning travel from West Africa would simply mean travelers would change their travel to make it seem as if they were coming from other areas, and we would lose our ability to monitor them.” He shared other personal observations like his admiration for “Doctors Without Borders,” who, at great personal risk, gave “hands on” care to patients. He described asking a taxi driver what most mattered about the assistance provided by the CDC and others. The driver responded “you gave us hope when we thought hope was gone.” The audience’s high interest in the presentation resulted in many, many questions. The exchange between the audience and the speaker was as interesting as the presentation. We learned not all the questions had answers. Survivors of the ebola virus may have it forever, as it may survive within the fluid of the eyes after exposure, as well as elsewhere. No one knows whether its continued presence will always be benign or not. We learned persons contacting the virus later in the epidemic recovered more quickly and there were fewer deaths. Dr. Navin said this may have been because exposure times were shorter after people learned to stay away from those infected. The virus “load” might have been less. We learned, although we now have a vaccine, the vaccine does produce some significant adverse effects, so it is certainly better to stop its spread than to have to try to treat it. We learned this is not a virus we can eradicate, like small pox or polio. Since it resides in animal populations, we can never be sure it is entirely gone. Small pox or polio is confined to humans, making eradication possible through vaccination.

The good news, the epidemic is over, and sporadic outbreaks may be contained by effective surveillance and appropriate responses. The CDC is very proud of its role in stopping the ebola outbreak.

Not only was the speaker worthwhile, the entire agenda made the meeting worth attending. Outgoing President Linda Johnson and Pamela Ryle presented a delightful skit to introduce us to “Take the Library Challenge,” a new calendar designed and produced by a new Friends member named Trisha Seemans. She did a great job on the calendar which challenges library patrons to explore a different book genre each month of the year. Using the calendar as a guide the library will create a monthly display to encourage patrons to select a book matching that month’s category. A book discussion group will enjoy sharing their reading challenge experiences on the first Tuesday of each month following at 3pm.

Jane Indyk spoke about “Little Free Libraries,” a project Library Director Betty Worley has been considering for some time and which is covered in more detail later in the newsletter. Pat Treadwell reported on the budget and let us know our financial health is just fine. We voted to pass the 2016 budget. Lucy Szelengiewicz informed us about the Friends work for the preceding year.

Linda Johnson honored Lucy Szelengiewicz with the first ever “President’s Choice Award.” Lucy is well known to all Friends members as a devoted, effective, and very hard working volunteer. She was honored particularly for her work as Chair of the Book Sales. Nina Hunt presented last year’s People’s Favorite Artist plaque to Rosemary Carson, whose work, a young girl sitting on a porch in the rain, was most popular during the May 2015 Art & the Library Exhibition.



On the left Pamela Ryle is a passenger in Linda Johnson’s imaginary car during their skit introducing the “Library Challenge.” On the right Lucy Szelengiewicz receives her very well-deserved “President’s Choice Award” from outgoing Friends President Linda Johnson.



### **Talk about a small change making a big difference!**

Toward the end of 2015 the library staff observed several library visitors who really wanted the assistance of family members when they had tasks they wanted to complete on the Internet. Libraries always face the challenge of solving how to help one patron without hindering another. In this case many using the public computers or their personal computers in the public computer room want quiet, something impossible to achieve when two people work together on one computer. After much thought and discussion, a family computer space was created where one person can help another. It has been very well received.

## **“Little Free Libraries” coming soon we hope to a place near you.**

Proving one person can make important changes, in 2009 one man, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built a model of a one room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother; a teacher who loved to read. He filled it with books and put it on a post in his front yard. His neighbors and friends loved it. He built several more and gave them away. Each one had a sign that said FREE BOOKS. Rick Brooks of UW-Madison saw Bol's do-it-yourself project while they were discussing potential social enterprises. Together, the two saw opportunities to achieve a variety of goals for the common good. The rest is history. The year 2011 brought national media attention. There were nearly 400 Little Free Libraries across the United States by the end of the year. Read more about this at <http://littlefreelibrary.org/history/>

Little Free Libraries are special because they are intimate, fostering a sense of community and neighborliness. They come in many shapes and sizes. The most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch. There is an understanding real people are sharing their favorite books with their community; Little Free Libraries have been called "mini-town squares."

We presently have sponsors for two Little Free Libraries. We will need stewards for them, stewards are by definition the individuals who will manage and look after the Little Free Libraries, making sure the housing for the books remains sturdy and weather tight and stocked with books. The books will, by and large, come from those donated to the library, although the “take a book, return a book” free book exchange will also keep each little library well-stocked. No decision has been made yet about where to place them, although Harris Park seems a likely candidate as well as a spot near the food and clothing banks and the senior center. If you are interested in being a sponsor, building one, or being steward, please contact Jane Indyk at 949-4034. Jane is overseeing this project for the Friends.

You may enjoy seeing some of the various Little Free Libraries already in existence.

## **An Important Issue – Broadband Accessibility - Be Sure Your Opinion Counts**

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development is asking all state residents to participate in a survey about broadband Internet access. Some people may not even know what this is. The phrase broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access which is much faster than traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as: Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) and cable modems.

Whether you have broadband accessibility or not, whether you think it is fast enough or way too slow, taking the survey is important. According to the Department of Economic and Community Development, [h]aving broadband access leads to an increase in educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, which therefore helps our state build a better workforce and accelerate job creation. To ensure that every community in Tennessee has the tools to economically succeed, we must measure who has broadband Internet access, if they are using it and how they are using it.” Indeed, it may be more important to those without it, either because they can’t presently afford it or because what is available is not adequate to their needs. If you don’t have access to broadband at home, you are welcome to use one of the public computers at the library to access the survey. If you feel uncomfortable with computers, you may bring someone to our family computer area to help you complete the survey. The family computer area was created with this purpose in mind, providing a place where one family member, more experienced with computers and the Internet, could help a less experienced family member with tasks like this, job searches, job applications, and the like.

Go to this address for the survey: [tn.gov/broadband](http://tn.gov/broadband)



On *Gingerbread Saturday* in December, thirty-six children participated in stories and arts and crafts. On February 6, we had the next children's program, *February Fun at the Library*. This program was also well-attended. Having them on Saturday allows more adults to attend with their children, making them almost family programs, instead of children's programs. The adults seem to enjoy watching the children have so much fun. These programs are designed a little differently from programs like story hour, which have all the children coming at the same time. For the convenience of families children may arrive at different times during the program. Friends volunteers participate by assisting with the activities. Pamela Ryle, shown reading in the photograph, is an expert storyteller, and the children love hearing her read.

**Spring Book Sale Days – March 9 through March 12**  
**Enjoy your perk – Friends may attend Preview Day,**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2-5pm, and have first choice of**  
**books and other materials.**

The two book sales we hold are the Friends major fundraiser for the library. They are always very successful, thanks to the many Friends members who help set them up, work during the sales, and pack up afterwards. Remember, too, the sales are important to the community not only because they raise funds, but also because they allow community members to purchase wonderful books and magazines at a fraction of their usual cost. Books for children and youth are only a quarter.

“[A] 2014 study published in the sociology journal *Social Forces* ... measured the impact of the size of home libraries on the reading level of 15-year-old students across 42 nations, controlling for wealth, parents' education and occupations, gender and the country's gross national product [GNP]. After GNP, the quantity of books in one's home was the most important predictor of reading performance. The greatest effect was seen in libraries of about 100 books, which resulted in approximately 1.5 extra years of grade-level reading performance.” *Our (Bare) Shelves, Our Selves*, Teddy Wayne, December 5, 2015, New York Times.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/06/fashion/our-bare-shelves-our-selves.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/06/fashion/our-bare-shelves-our-selves.html?_r=0)

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**Relief from winter's chill is easy to find. If it feels too cold, some of these books, newly arrived at the library, will be a welcome distraction.**

### **Fallen Land by Taylor Brown**

Set in the final year of the Civil War, a young couple on horseback flees a dangerous band of marauders who seek a bounty reward. Callum, a seasoned horse thief at fifteen years old, came to America from his native Ireland as an orphan. Ava, her father and brother lost to the war, hides in her crumbling home until Callum determines to rescue her from the bands of hungry soldiers pillaging the land, leaving destruction in their wake. Ava and Callum have only each other in the world and their remarkable horse, Reiver, who carries them through the destruction that is the South. Pursued relentlessly by a murderous slave hunter, tracking dogs, and ruthless ex-partisan rangers, the couple race through a beautiful but ruined land, surviving on food they glean from abandoned farms and the occasional kindness of strangers. In the end, as they intersect with the scorching destruction of Sherman's March, the couple seek a safe haven where they can make a home and begin to rebuild their lives.

### **After the Crash by Michel Bussi**

Just after midnight on December 23, 1980, a night flight bound for Paris plummets toward the Swiss Alps, crashing into a snowy mountainside. Within seconds flames engulf the plane, which is filled with holiday travelers. Of the 169 passengers, all but one perish. The sole survivor is a three-month-old girl--thrown from the airliner before fire consumes the cabin. But two infants were on board. Is "the Miracle Child of Mont Terri" Lyse-Rose or Emilie? The families of both girls step forward to claim the child. Dogged by bad luck, the Vitrols live a simple life, selling snacks from a van on the beaches of northern France. In contrast, the de Carvilles, who amassed a fortune in the oil business, are powerful-and dangerous.

Eighteen years later, a private detective tasked with solving the mystery of the girl known as "Lylie" is on the verge of giving up. As he contemplates taking his own life, Cr dude Grand-Duc suddenly discovers a secret hidden in plain view. Will he live to tell it? Meanwhile, Lylie, now a beautiful university student, entrusts a secret notebook into the hands of Marc, the brooding young man who loves her, and then vanishes. After Marc reads the notebook's contents, he embarks on a frantic search for Lylie. But he is not the only one looking for her.

### **Coconut Cowboy by Tim Dorsey**

Hard to resist a book with such an intriguing title. Serge Storms, a man with his own view of history, society and justice, wants to travel the road of "Easy Rider." He's searching for a taste of the fading American Dream, an ideal he hopes to find alive and well in small Florida panhandle towns. Obsessed with the iconic Sixties classic, encyclopedic Floridaphile, lovable serial killer, and movie buff extraordinaire Serge A. Storms devises his wildest plan yet: finish the journey begun by his freewheeling heroes, Captain America and Billy, tragically cut short by some shotgun-wielding rednecks. Captain Serge mounts his classic motorcycle and hits the highway in search of the real America: the apple-pie-eating, freedom-swilling moms and pops of Main Street USA. But the America he finds in the rural burbs dotting the neck of the peninsula is a little bit different . . . and a whole lot weirder than anything Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper encountered. In a state where criminal politicians are more common than gators, Serge and Coleman discover one particular speed-trap locale so aggressively inept at corruption that investigators are baffled where to start.

## **Where It Hurts (A Gus Murphy Novel) by Reed Farrel Coleman**

Gus Murphy thought he had the world all figured out. A retired Suffolk County cop, Gus had everything a man could want: a great marriage, two kids, a nice house, and the rest of his life ahead of him. But when tragedy strikes, his life is thrown into complete disarray. In the course of a single deadly moment, his family is blown apart and he is transformed from a man who believes he understands everything into a man who understands nothing. Divorced and working as a courtesy van driver for the run-down hotel in which he has a room, Gus has settled into a mindless, soulless routine that barely keeps his grief at arm's length. But Gus's comfortable waking trance comes to an end when ex-con Tommy Delcamino asks him for help. Four months earlier, Tommy's son T.J.'s battered body was discovered in a wooded lot, yet the Suffolk County PD doesn't seem interested in pursuing the killers. In desperation, Tommy seeks out the only cop he ever trusted—Gus Murphy. Gus reluctantly agrees to see what he can uncover. As he begins to sweep away the layers of dust that have collected over the case during the intervening months, Gus finds that Tommy was telling the truth. It seems that everyone involved with the late T.J. Delcamino—from his best friend, to a gang enforcer, to a mafia capo, and even the police—has something to hide, and all are willing to go to extreme lengths to keep it hidden.

## **The Dogs of Littlefield by Suzanne Berne**

An unusual book, a reader might first assume it is a murder mystery with dogs, instead of people as the victims. Later the reader might assume it to be about middle-class life in an orderly, well-to-do town in Massachusetts. At its heart, however, there are deeper, more disturbing undercurrents. A disproportionate number of the residents are psychologists, for one thing. Then there is the rancorous division in the town over whether dogs should be allowed off their leads in the park, a controversy that has come to a head after a spate of mysterious dog-poisonings in the area. The author uses this unsettling phenomenon to examine the lives of the dog-owners, particularly the sad haunted Margaret, her acutely depressed husband Bill and their daughter Julia, morose beyond the usual adolescent range. The author introduces a 'chorus' into the proceedings in the shape of Dr. Clarice Watkins, an eccentrically-dressed professor of socio-cultural anthropology, who has come to the town - ironically enough - to research into 'good quality of life'. As things pan out, the place is not quite what she expected.

## **River Road by Carol Goodman**

Nan Lewis—a creative writing professor at a state university in upstate New York—is driving home from a faculty holiday party after finding out she's been denied tenure. On her way, she hits a deer, but when she gets out of her car to look for it, the deer is nowhere to be found. Eager to get home and out of the oncoming snowstorm, Nan is forced to leave her car at the bottom of her snowy driveway to wait out the longest night of the year—and the lowest point of her life.

The next morning, Nan is woken up by a police officer at her door with terrible news—one of her students, Leia Dawson, was killed in a hit-and-run on River Road the night before. And because of the damage to her car, Nan is a suspect. In the days following the accident, Nan finds herself shunned by the same community that rallied around her when her own daughter was killed in an eerily similar accident six years prior. When Nan begins finding disturbing tokens that recall the death of Nan's own daughter, Nan suspects that the two accidents are connected.

## LIBRARY HOURS AND INFORMATION

HOURS: Monday, 8am-5:30pm

Tues. & Wed., 8am-5:00pm

CLOSED THURSDAY

Friday, 8am-4:30pm

Saturday, 8am-Noon

### Upcoming Events

Friends Meetings

Second Tuesday of Every

Month at 4:30pm

Monthly Library Challenge Book Discussions

1st Tuesday of each month at 3pm

Spring Book Sale March 9 through March 12

## THE SEQUATCHIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

227 Cherry Street

Dunlap, TN 37327

Phone: (423) 949-2357

Fax: (423) 949-6619

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