

Library Endowment Trust 20th Anniversary!

Every so often something happens—I see a particular book cover, or hear a book referenced that I read when I was younger—and I think of those reading experiences that were epiphanies for me. We're all readers and my guess is that we've all had moments like that.

How many of those moments came to us via a library? Many, I'm willing to bet, and while saying that we want to "pay back" something to the community that helped shape us has become a new millennium cliché, the act itself is an important one.

2006 is the 20th anniversary of the Library Endowment Trust and the Trust champions books and the libraries that make them available to all, no matter what the age, economic status, ethnicity or religion of the library customer. The LET is a foundation composed of men and women who seek your contributions to provide support beyond tax dollars for special needs, such as literacy, children and senior programs, timely updates and much more. We all know

that our 17 libraries need our patronage long after we've moved past the years of summer reading programs and spending hours in the children's library with our toddlers.



Cheryl Jones, president of the Library Endowment Trust, reminds us of some of the things the LET has used library supporter dollars to underwrite since its founding in 1986:

- ✧ Abundant and diverse children's programs at all libraries
- ✧ Children's Area at the Choctaw Library
- ✧ Renovation for the Capitol Hill Library
- ✧ *Oklahoma Images*, Historical photograph montage at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library

- ✧ New trucks to replace our aging fleet
- ✧ Cutting edge technology

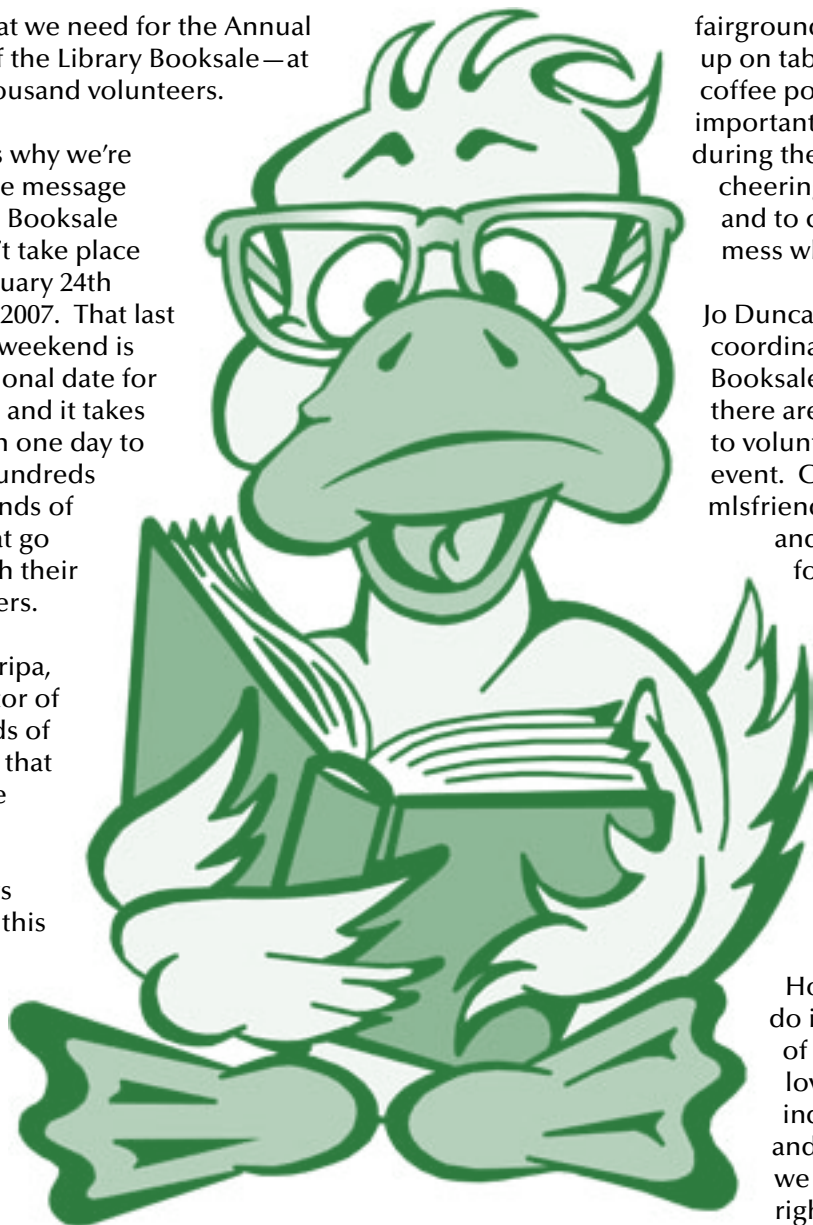
"Please take a moment to reminisce about the pleasure of a good book," says Cheryl, "and perhaps to write a check that guarantees your MLS is alive and important to vibrant minds from toddlers to seniors. A gift to the Library Endowment Trust will make certain that present and future generations have access to the best in libraries, services, and materials."

Volunteers by the Thousands

That's what we need for the Annual Friends of the Library Booksale—at least a thousand volunteers.

And that's why we're getting the message out early. Booksale 2007 won't take place until February 24th and 25th, 2007. That last February weekend is the traditional date for Booksale, and it takes more than one day to sell the hundreds of thousands of books that go home with their new owners.

Kay Samaripa, coordinator of the Friends of MLS, said that "Booksale needs a thousand volunteers to put on this big show every year. We need them to move the books to the



fairgrounds, to set them up on tables, to keep coffee pots going (very important), to cashier during the sale, to keep cheering all of us on, and to clean up the mess when it's over."

Jo Duncan, FOL volunteer coordinator for the Booksale, said that there are several ways to volunteer for the event. Go to <http://www.mlsfriends.org/form.htm> and print out the form and mail it to the FOL office in the Downtown Library, 300 Park Avenue, OKC 73102, (or fax it to 606-3735) or just call Jo Duncan at 405-341-8856.

How ever you do, do it! "We need lots of smiling, book-loving, fun-loving individuals to help, and you can bet that we will be smiling right back at you!" Kay added.

You Oughtta Be in Pictures

Well, you oughtta be on television, anyway, and while we can't promote a teen volunteer's movie career, we can get him/her a few minutes on TV.

How? Funny you should ask . . .

Not many people know that MLS has had a presence on local television for over 40 years. Currently, the library system sponsors a weekly program called *Read About It* on which library employees, volunteers, and area personalities appear to talk about a book they've recently read. Guests have included First Lady Kim Henry, Attorney General Drew Edmondson, and TV news anchor Linda Cavanaugh. M.J. Van Deventer, director of publications for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, has done a terrific job for years in inviting these people to appear on the show and then interviewing them on the air.

Both of the show's producers are MLS employees, and B.J. Williams and Doug Bentin interview authors and other MLS staff.

And here's where the teen volunteers come in. Heidi Port, MLS volunteer coordinator, and Emily Williams, young adult services coordinator, occasionally recruit lively, personable teens to appear on the program to recommend a book they like. Heidi and Emily conduct the on-air interviews and they are usually taped in the new Downtown Library's Oklahoma Room.

The most recent session was held on August 4. Guest teen reviewers included Alex Bogaski, Lauren Fournier, Joy James, Tessa Jameson, Martin Koch, Alan Mozee, Amy Pitts, Chelsea Ratterman, Nikki Self, Colin Thornbrough, and Maddy Wiens reviewing everything from Eion Colfer to Harper Lee.

"We always have a lot of fun when we tape the *Read About It* segments," Emily said. "MLS provides refreshments and a make-up artist for just a bit of powder before sitting down under the lights. We really have a great time!"

Interested in having a moment in the spotlight? Call BJ Williams at 606-3770.

Ready to Go Again Next Summer?

Even though you love it, you heave a sigh of relief each year when it's finished.

What's "it"? - Summer at the Library.

Summer 2006's program was "Claws, Paws, Scales and Tales," a clever theme that attracted a record-busting number of children - 14,392 kiddos joined us.

But just as exciting for library volunteers is the fact that the number for teen volunteers was way up as well.

"This summer was a record breaking year for teen volunteers," said MLS Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Port. "266 teens helped with Summer at the Library, compared to

about 220 last year. Once again they helped with sign-ups and prizes, but they also did some fun and unusual projects."

Mr. Ben Marshall drove 350 miles this summer so his son could volunteer!

younger participants. At other locations they not only helped with programs, they developed programs of their own. Some even participated as readers during story time.

"As always," Heidi continued, "we do our best to thank our volunteers. 97 teens and at

At the Bethany and Warr Acres libraries, librarians Daniel Fields and Alma Brown asked their volunteers to help sew stuffed animals to give to the

least 30 parents attended the Laser Quest 06 Summer Volunteer Recognition Party, ate tons of pizza and played laser tag.

A new addition to the party this year was the Parents' Corner, with special games for parents. One was the mileage game - finding out which parent drove the most miles to help his/her child volunteer.

"The winner of that contest," Heidi said, "was Mr. Ben Marshall who drove 350 miles this summer so his son could volunteer - way to go Mr. Marshall!"

"I want to thank all our teen volunteers and their parents once again for making Summer at the Library such a huge success - we appreciate each and every one of you!"

Full Service Libraries

BELLE ISLE

5501 N. Villa 843-9601

BETHANY

3510 N. Mueller 789-8363

CAPITOL HILL

334 S.W. 26th 634-6308

CHOCTAW

2525 Muzzy St. 390-8418

DEL CITY

4509 S.E. 15th 672-1377

DOWNTOWN

300 Park Ave. 231-8650

EDMOND

10 S. Boulevard 341-9282

MIDWEST CITY

8143 E. Reno 732-4828

RALPH ELLISON

2000 N.E. 23rd 424-1437

SOUTHERN OAKS

6900 S.Walker 631-4468

THE VILLAGE

10307 N. Pennsylvania 755-0710

TDD 755-7319

WARR ACRES

5901 N.W. 63rd 721-2616

Extension Libraries

HARRAH

1930 N. Church Ave. 454-2001

JONES

111 E. Main 399-5471

LUTHER

310 N.E. 3rd 277-9967

NICOMA PARK

2240 Overholser 769-9452

WRIGHT

2101 Exchange 235-5035

On the Web

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The Volunteer Advantage

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