



# Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

## Friends Communicator

### From the President

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Friends Of Union County  
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Fellow FOUCL Members,

In these trying times, FOUCL continues to advocate for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning. We've been successful because of a careful allocation of funds, continued contributions from members, and creative fundraising. During January, the libraries in Mountain Regional Library System, including Union County Public Library (UCPL), were operating under a lobby and/or curbside pickup only model; however as I write this, UCPL has just reopened! Our library staff has worked hard to keep the library open in spite of the many changes COVID-19 has brought about. They have become experts in flexibility. In other good news, Mountain Regional Library plans to reopen in February. See Page 2 for the announcement from Director Heath Lee.



Jackie Volk, President

For updates, go to [mountainregionallibrary.org](http://mountainregionallibrary.org).

To support our advocacy efforts in 2021, the following motions passed during our January online meeting:

In celebration of Dr. Seuss' March 2 birthday, we will purchase a variety of his books (*Green Eggs and Ham*, *One Fish Two Fish*, and *Fox in Socks*) with one copy going in each craft packet distributed by UCPL staff to families as part of their virtual storytime.

In recognition of National Library Workers Day on April 6, we will give Walmart gift cards to the UCPL staff.



Future fundraisers could include another May Bakeless Bake Sale, with this year's money going to offset funds given for the Children's Summer Reading Program (SRP). Also, to further add to the money going to SRP, please consider setting money aside in a FOUCL collection jar. Suggestions for monthly donations to this jar and other contribution suggestions can be found on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Most importantly, if you haven't yet returned your renewal for FOUCL membership, please do so today. Together we make a difference.

Thank you for all you do,  
Jackie Volk



*Calendar*



February  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Emailed to Members

March 2  
Dr. Seuss Birthday

April 6  
National Lib. Workers Day

April 21 2-4 p.m.  
Quarterly Membership Meeting  
*Online as of Press Time*

May  
Quarterly Newsletter Emailed to  
Members

All meetings open to members.

All programs open to the public.



APRIL 6, 2021

The first Tuesday in April is the time to recognize the hard work and dedication of our library staff.

***Thank a library worker!***

**What's Happening!**



*Mountain Regional Library Reopening.*

We are super happy to announce the Mountain Regional Library will soon be reopening. The reopening date will be Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Mountain Regional Library will be utilizing curbside-only service for the remainder of February as we continue to work to fill out our staffing vacancies. As soon as possible, Mountain will reopen its doors as we are excited to have people back in the building again! The days and hours of operation at Mountain Regional Library will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Mountain Regional Library will not be open on Saturdays.

One other change to operations for the Towns County Libraries is the elimination of weekend service at the Towns County Public Library. Towns County Public Library days and hours of operations will be Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact either the Towns County Public Library or the Mountain Regional Library.



Regards,  
Heath Lee MRLS Director



**Members of FOUCL Support Our Library**



FOUCL depends on its membership to keep it going. ***You are the key to our success.***

Aside from fundraising, membership fees are the backbone of our financial support. We often gain new members at our programs, which have had to be canceled over the past year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please consider doing so. We promise to use all funds wisely in support of our beloved library.



Membership cards are available outside the Friends Room. Make checks out to FOUCL.

\$10-Individual, \$15-Family, \$25-Patron, \$50-Donor \$100-Sponsor

## Librarian's Spotlight!

A sincere thank you to Friends of Union County Library for your continued support. We were pleased to receive your donation in November. We recently ordered 46 juvenile and Wish List books with half of the money and will be ordering more Wish List books in March to complete the purchase. I hope to use FOUCL's February donation to purchase Summer Reading Program materials and supplies.



*Susie Brendle, Librarian*

I am so glad to announce the library has returned to Stage 4 reopening after going back to Lobby/Curbside Service in January due to a spike with COVID-19. During Lobby/Curbside Service, we continued to field calls, offer lobby check-out and assist patrons with holds. When the inside is closed, it is so hard for many library patrons. Some have no computer and are unable to request books online. Our patrons love being able to select their own books.



We continually clean the library and quarantine returned materials for at least 72 hours before returning them to the shelves.

We had planned on offering a Winter Read program in January and February. Due to all of the changes in operating procedures and how it affects book selection and book check-out, we have had to cancel it for this year. I expect it to return next year.

The library will continue temporary hours of Monday - Friday from 10 AM - 4:30 PM and Saturday from 10 AM - 1 PM for the foreseeable future. We will continue to enforce building occupancy levels and limit some services. We are very pleased that our headquarters library, Mountain Regional Library, is on track to reopen very soon. Please continue watching for more information.

Lastly, we are very excited that patrons are now able to check out eMagazines using their Libby App. If you want more information about eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines or the Libby App in general, please stop by the library; call the library at 706-745-7491; or email us at [union@mountainregionallibrary.org](mailto:union@mountainregionallibrary.org).



Union County Public Library Hours:  
 10:00 to 4:30 Mon – Fri  
 10:00 to 1:00 Sat  
 UCPL Telephone: 706-745-7491

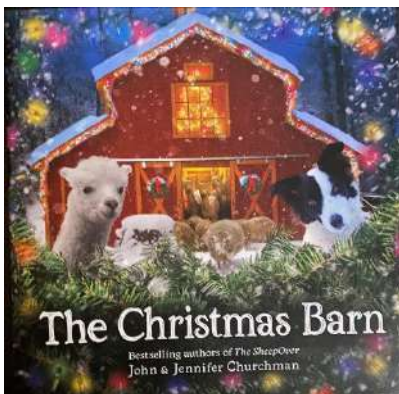
# Friends In Action




While we missed our annual holiday get-together at Brasstown Resort, our Virtual Christmas Party was a lot of fun. FOUCLE members always find a way to enjoy themselves.



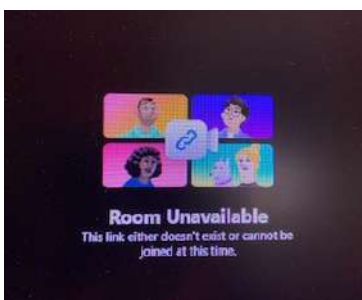
Owliver the owl is the FOUCLE mascot. As a symbol of wisdom he represents learning through literacy and reading. Including this photo there are 7 owls in this issue. Can you find them?



We were able to give a copy of *The Christmas Barn* to children at Christmas. One copy was also placed in The Little Library at Meeks Park.



Tervis Mugs and healthy treats were our gifts to the Library Staff at Christmas.



In 2020, we learned how to work through a myriad of difficulties, symbolized by this picture.

On the right, FOUCLE board members hold their quarterly meeting, with Robert at the helm to make sure the room IS available.

Top left to right: Robert Harford, Connie Rosenberry, Katherine Lavery.

Bottom left to right: Susie Brendle, Nancy Bryant, Jackie Volk.

Not pictured: Judy Baldwin, Debra Davis, and Sally Woodward also present.



# Owliver's Friends



What We Do  
 Through your membership and donations, FOUCL's activities support your local library by providing materials and activities not otherwise available through local funding.



**Who's Owliver?**

Owliver is the Friends of Union County Library Mascot. He was named by Friends members many years ago through a naming contest.

This Wise Old Owl knows ...

Books are where you can find anything.

Books provide entertainment.

Books have the answers to questions.

Books take you places you may never have a chance to visit.

Books open your imagination.

Books make children lifelong learners.

Books challenge us to be better people, develop compassion, and open our minds.



**We Love Our Library Staff!!**

This page is usually dedicated to one of our faithful volunteers. Today it is dedicated to our wonderful library staff.

For the last year, COVID-19 has played havoc with everyone's daily routine. This has also been true for our hard-working library staff. Have you wondered how they have fared without our daily visits? Have they missed us? How do they spend all the *extra time* they must have without our interruptions? All kidding aside, yes they miss us, but don't ask them about 'extra time.' This year has been a year of reimagining their jobs, finding new ways to meet our needs, disinfecting everything, everyday, so we can feel safe when we go to the library.

Storytime had to be prepared, and then recorded and uploaded to Facebook. Or a virtual one was searched out on YouTube and a link created to connect our home audience. Reading programs for children were redesigned to be accessed digitally, with drive-through activities like last summer's face painting. Craft kits were coordinated for the Summer Reading Program or storytimes, and made available for pickup.



During curbside/lobby service, book requests were received online, then collected by staff. Staff took turns handling checkout in the lobby when patrons picked up their requests. Tax forms, BookPages and other handouts were made available on this stand in the lobby.



FOUCL is so thankful to the UCPL staff for all they have done this past year to keep our library available for all of us.

# More About...

**DONATION OPTIONS**—FOUCL runs on donations, from membership fees to fundraisers. Here is a suggestion for how you can put your spare change to good use.



## FOUCL Jar:

Set aside a jar. Collect loose change or use the monthly donation guides below. **Send a check to FOUCL in July 2021 for the amount collected. Funds collected will help pay for the Children's Summer Reading Program.**

**Jan** – How many books/ebooks did you read/listen to this month? Donate \$.50 for each.

**Feb** – How often did you Zoom/Facetime this month? Donate \$.50 for each connection.

**March** – How many movies did you watch this month? Donate \$.50 for each movie.

**April** – How many times did you go to the library this month? Donate \$1.00 for each visit.

**May** – How many times did you shop online this month? Donate \$.50 for each time.

**June** – How many magazines did you read this month? Donate \$.50 for each magazine.

## Other Ways to Contribute:

FOUCL operating expenses: paper, printing, and mailing expense contributions (suggested amount \$10-\$20)

BookPages donations (currently \$29.50 for a month, \$354 for a year)

Library collection support:

- Picture book donation (suggested amount \$20).
- In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_ —in recognition of a birthday, anniversary, death, etc. (Ask family and friends to donate to FOUCL)
- Birthday Book donation—for your own birthday, donate toward the purchase of an adult book (suggested amount \$25-\$30).

**We are sorry but donors cannot request specific titles.**

Donors will be listed in our newsletters, unless specified as anonymous.

A bookplate will be placed inside a book with the donors name.

## Looking for a good read? The latest BookPages can help you find your next great book.

Here are a few of the books featured in the January addition:

- *The Duke and I* (Bridgerton Book 1) by Julia Quinn – historical fiction, the Netflix series, Bridgerton, is based on this book.
- *Someone to Watch Over Me* (Spenser Novel) by Ace Atkins – murder mystery in the style of Robert B. Parker
- *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles – historical fiction the recently released movie starring Tom Hanks was based on
- *The Liar's Dictionary* by Eley Williams - BookPages describes this as “a literary whodunit, a comedy of intentional errors, a paean to romance and rebellion.”



The Friends Communicator is published 4 times a year, following the Quarterly Membership Meetings.

The publication dates are February, May, August and November.