



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

From the President

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Fellow FOUCL Members,

I'm feeling optimistic! FOUCL held our quarterly membership meeting on April 21, in person! We were one of the first groups to be allowed in the Community Room at Union County Public Library (UCPL) since March of 2020. There were some face masks, and we kept a distance between us; but it was good to be able to gather.



Jackie Volk, President

This meeting was mostly about looking forward. Exciting details can be found in this newsletter, but here are some of the decisions made and library progress reported:

Yes, to a May Bakeless Bake Sale.

Yes, to UCPL returning to an in-person Children's Summer Reading Program.

Yes, to having a FOUCL potluck picnic lunch before our next quarterly membership meeting on July 21.

Yes, to our 3rd Annual Everything Christmas Sale in November.

Yes, to probably holding a November Bake Sale.

During the last year, we've been able to continue to make our regular donations to the library, have purchased books for library families, and have recognized UCPL's hardworking library staff. We also made FOUCL's annual contribution to Ferst Readers. All this while having little income except membership renewals. As you are able, please consider contributing through the May Bakeless Bake Sale (donate any time during May), through the FOUCL donation jars (donate in July); or by signing up for AmazonSmile to give as you shop.

Finally, I want to highlight the WANT AD on Page 5 of this newsletter. FOUCL has been functioning without a vice president for over two years. Taking this position now can be, but doesn't have to be, a six-month training period to be next year's president. We have a good team in place, and we work well together. We just need one more officer. Is it you we're looking for?

Thankful for each of you,
Jackie Volk

Calendar



May
Quarterly Newsletter
Emailed to Members

Month of May
Bakeless Bake Sale

July
FOUCL Donation Jars—send
check for the amount you have
collected

July 21
Quarterly Membership Meeting
And Potluck Picnic
Senior Center Pavilion

August
Quarterly Newsletter Emailed to
Members

UPCOMING
Everything Christmas Sale!
Donations will be collected in
October

All meetings open to members.
All programs open to the public.

Suggested Donations

January—\$.50 for each book
you read or listen to

February—\$.50 for each
Zoom/Facetime

March— \$.50 for each movie
watched

April—\$1.00 for each trip
you made to the library

May—\$.50 for each time you
shopped online this month

June—\$.50 for each
magazine you read

What's Happening!



Fancy Cake Owliver Says,
“Give a Hoot - Join Us!”

FOUCL is holding a May Bakeless Bake Sale for the second year in a row. No baking, no bother! Think about how much you would spend baking or buying a cake, cookies, or pie and make a donation to FOUCL in that amount. The money raised is designated for future Children’s Programs. Simply drop off a contribution at the library or mail to FOUCL; PO Box 1546; Blairsville, GA 30514.

Let us know that you intend these donations for the BBS (Bakeless Bake Sale). Make checks out to FOUCL. Please help us raise some dough (pun intended).



**July 21 Potluck Picnic Lunch
and Quarterly Membership
Meeting**

FOUCL will have a potluck picnic lunch followed by our July 21 membership meeting. The pavilion at the Union County Senior Center has been reserved for us. Our picnic will begin at noon.

Bring a dish to share and your beverage. If you are uncomfortable with potluck, feel free to bring your own lunch. (To find us, turn into the North Georgia Technical College and then left to the Senior Center.)



FOUCL Donation Jars

Hopefully, many of you have set aside a jar and are collecting loose change or using the monthly donation guides on the left. This fundraiser is an easy way to contribute to FOUCL.

Money collected will go toward future Children’s Programs at Union County Public Library. It’s not too late to start a jar. Send a check to *FOUCL* in July 2021 for the amount collected, and designate **Donation** in the memo.

Librarian's Spotlight!

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Public Library for your continued support. So far in 2021, FOUCL has donated \$2200 toward our Summer Reading Program and the library's periodicals subscriptions.



Susie Brendle, Librarian

The library is gradually moving toward full opening. Our hours have returned to normal; we are slowly putting furniture back in place; we no longer have to quarantine books or do intensive cleaning; staff were allowed to stop wearing masks as of May 3rd; and we have opened up our Community Room for meetings and storytime. Our first in-person storytime of 2021 was a great success. On May 3rd, 13 children and mothers enjoyed a Mother's Day-themed storytime and craft.



Plans for the Summer Reading Program are almost complete. We will be having a kick off on June 7th. The theme this year is "Tails and Tales" and will include animals, folk and fairy tales. This hybrid SRP will include on-site, virtual, and off-site activities. We have reserved a pavilion at Meek's Park and also the one located beside the Senior Center for some of our summer events. We are so grateful for FOUCL's donation of prizes and the grand prize for SRP.

We look forward to getting back to some normalcy at the library and in our community. The last year has been difficult for all of us. We hope to see everyone at the library soon!



Union County Public Library Hours:
 9:00 to 5:00 Mon, Wed, Fri
 9:00-6:00 Tues, Thurs
 10:00 to 2:00 Sat
 UCPL Telephone: 706-745-7491

Friends In Action

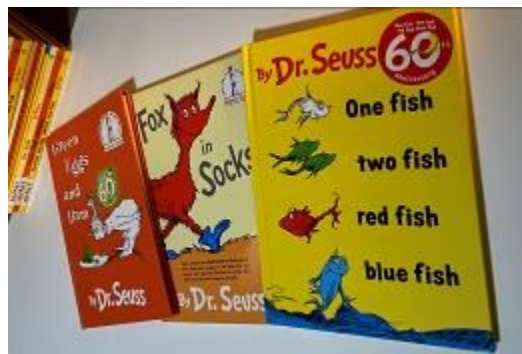


FOUCL presents a check to Ferst Readers, as part of its commitment to literacy.

From left to right: Representing FOUCL, Sally Woodworth and Jackie Volk, Representing Ferst Readers, Pam Jordan and Janice Cochran



FOUCL donated a copy of "Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics" to the Little Free Library at Meeks Park in April.



To celebrate Dr. Seuss' March birthday, FOUCL gave a total of 21 of his books to library families.

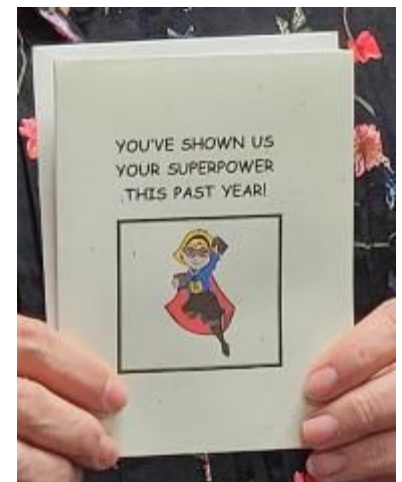


Wendy can be seen working back in the stacks.



UCPL Staff—Wendy, Marissa, Susie K

FOUCL presented our library staff with a gift card in appreciation of all they do to keep our library one of the best in North Georgia.



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.



Wanted:

FOUCL is looking for:

A Vice President

What's in a Vice President?

A Vice-President is someone who cares about an organization and wants to see it thrive. A Vice President may have some ideas he or she would like to try out. A Vice President insures continuity.

That's it. It's not a big job, ***but it is an important one.***

If you have been watching FOUCL from the sidelines and wondering where you fit in, Read On!

FOUCL Vice President:

- Loves libraries and celebrates the importance of reading.
- Helps the president prepare or set up the meeting. (But doesn't have to plan the meeting!)
- Is supportive of programs and activities, such as the Everything Christmas Sale and Bake Sale. (But doesn't have to be in charge of said activities!)
- Often the VP learns from the president and then becomes president the following year. Sometimes the VP remains as a VP and aids the incoming president as that person learns the ropes.

Do you love libraries and want to be a part of supporting Union County Public Library?

Do you have a few good ideas?

Are you willing to attend 4 meetings a year, (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.) plus one planning meeting in November?

If you answered yes, email Jackie Volk because you are the one we are looking for! tvolk55@gmail.com

Perks: of the VP Position:

You'll become an important part of the decision making for FOUCL and help the president get things done – kind of like a superhero's sidekick, but without the costume, although we do have awesome green vests we usually wear to library events and we're willing to discuss getting you a cape, if that's a deciding factor.



More About...

Everything Christmas Sale Is Coming!!!

We are looking for a Chair or Co-Chairs to head up this event. Our Everything Christmas Sales were major fundraisers for FOUCL in 2018 and 2019. We had to take a break last year but want to come back strong. Start cleaning your closets and spread the word: Christmas item donations will be accepted in the month of October with the sale on November 5 and 6.



To refresh your memories, here's how it works: FOUCL members volunteer a few hours to receive donations of gently used items relating to Christmas – figurines, wreaths, creches, lights, ornaments, wrapping paper, cards, books, cookie jars, stuffed Santas and angels. We take anything with a Christmas connection, *except large artificial trees* (we just don't have enough storage space for those). Volunteers sort and price these donated items. The afternoon before the two-day sale begins, we set up the Community Room and overflow into the hall with all the merchandise for sale. On the days of the sale, unwanted items find new homes and FOUCL raises money to support the library. It's a win-win-win!



AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. The donation is made at no extra cost to you. In February, FOUCL received over \$75 from the AmazonSmile Foundation from purchases made from October through December 2020, when FOUCL had been selected as the charity.

A new feature is an Amazon Shopping app for your mobile phone:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone.
2. Select the main menu and tap on AmazonSmile within Programs and Features.
3. Select "Friends of Union County Library, Blairsville, GA" as your charity.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app.

The Friends Communicator is published 4 times a year, following the Quarterly Membership Meetings.
The publication dates are February, May, August and November.