



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

Officers

President:
Jackie Volk
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Vice President:

Past President:
Judy Baldwin

Secretary:
Nancy Bryant

Treasurer:
Sally Woodworth

Newsletter Editor:
Connie Rosenberry
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Webmaster:
Robert Harford



Friends Of Union County
Library (FOUCL)
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foucl.org

From the President

Dear Friends,

We will vote for 2023 officers at our November 16 meeting. Our current slate includes Jackie Volk, President, and Debora Quigley, Treasurer. The Secretary and VP positions remain open. *It is essential for the future of our organization to fill both the Recording Secretary and the VP positions.* Nominations will be accepted at our meeting for any of our four officer positions.

Our members have always been there for our events and fundraising efforts; but these activities take planning, vision, and leadership. We have meetings the third Wednesday of January, April, July, October, and November. Our Recording Secretary records and documents those meetings. Our Vice President attends our meetings, assists as needed, and ideally moves into the Presidency. Are you the one we're looking for?

We have a process for disbanding; but we don't want to do that. Full officer duties are in our By-Laws on the website (foucl.org). Read and consider, then contact our current officers to answer questions, let Connie Rosenberry (Nominating Committee at granberry2@hotmail.com) know you wish to be nominated, or attend our November 16 meeting to put your name up for nomination.

What we have accomplished, so far, in 2022:

- Donated over \$3,500 to Union County Public Library
- Gave 25 *Horton Hears a Who* hardcover books to library families in February
- Made our annual donation of \$360 to First Readers to help promote early literacy in children from birth to age 5
- Held a Travel event, including a converted van tour
- Celebrated 25+ years of FOUCL with lunch at Choestoe Schoolhouse
- Helped with the library's recording-breaking Summer Reading Programs
- Had an Open Mic event, with 29 people attending
- Completed a fundraising raffle for a dollhouse with proceeds going to provide technology learning resources for juvenile library programs
- Held a successful Everything Christmas Sale

What we are doing next:

- Holding a November Bake Sale
- Having a Christmas Luncheon

I hope you are as proud of this organization as I am. Please consider filling one of these important offices to keep FOUCL going strong.

Jackie Volk



Jackie Volk, President

Calendar



November
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

Nov. 4-5
Everything Christmas Sale
Community Room

November 16 2:00pm
2023 Brainstorming and Election
of Officers
Community Room

November 22:
Bake Sale 10:00am to 2:00pm
Community Room

December 7, 11:30am
Christmas Luncheon
Brasstown Valley Resort

January 18, 2023
Quarterly Meeting 2:00pm
Community Room

February
Quarterly newsletter emailed to
members

All meetings open to members.

All programs open to the public.

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

What's Happening!



Bake Sale, November 22

It's that time of year! Our annual Tuesday before Thanksgiving Bake Sale is back. Break out your best cookie, pie, or cake recipe. Brownies are always a hit, and no one can resist homemade fudge! Mark your home baked goodies with allergy information, such as Made with Nuts/Peanut butter etc. Gluten Free foods are always needed, and snack mixes are nice to have on hand when the family visits!

We will also need volunteers to work at the sale. An email will be sent giving you the chance to sign up to help.

We will receive food and set up for the sale on Monday afternoon, November 21, from 3-5pm. The sale will run from 10 AM until 2 PM. Make sure all your friends and neighbors know the *library* is the best place in town to buy their bakery items. Cash donations are also gladly accepted. As always, the proceeds from this sale will benefit Union County Public Library.

Christmas Luncheon, December 7



Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual Christmas luncheon. We will gather at Brasstown Valley Resort at 11:30 AM for a buffet luncheon. After lunch, we will have a short installation of officers for 2023. We will also have a book exchange. Those who wish to participate should bring one book (unwrapped). Watch for an email reminder giving you more details of our luncheon. Our Christmas luncheon has become a tradition where Friends members and spouses sit back, relax, and celebrate all that has been accomplished.

Librarian's Spotlight!

As we get closer to the Thanksgiving season, we would like to give thanks for our wonderful, hardworking Friends. You do so much for the library as fundraisers and advocates. Union County Public Library currently produces over 50% of the circulation and 55% of the attendance of the Mountain Regional Library System's four libraries. We would not be the successful library we are today without you.



Susie Brendle, Librarian

Adult Programming has expanded quite a bit this fall thanks to our staff. We have had tutorial classes for Libby and PINES. We had a knitting class and a program about the American Black Bear in October. We had a wood slice ornament class and will have beginner cake decorating classes; and a Christmas card making class in November. In December we will have an advanced cake decorating class and a Christmas Karaoke event.

After an extremely successful Summer Reading Program, our Youth Services school-year activities started on August 22. We added a Baby/Toddler Lapsit storytime to our storytime schedule. Our regular Monday storytime expanded to include STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Mathematics) activities each week. Lego Club and Junior Book Club started back as well. We have several activities scheduled for each month. Participants have been decorating paper pumpkins to be displayed on the Youth Room glass. They also made ornaments on October 25 and donated some to the FOUCL Everything Christmas Sale. Be on the lookout for events for teens coming soon.

Along with these programs we started back our Family Movie Fridays once a month in the community room. Each month we show a family-friendly movie and serve popcorn. We hope to show the Polar Express and have FOUCL serve rice crispy treats with cocoa before Christmas.

Tagging and encoding of the library collection has been completed. Over 36,000 total items were pulled from the shelves, tagged and encoded. This is a major piece of the puzzle and accomplishment of our incorporation of RFID technology into our day-to-day operations. All staff members took part in the project. We hope to have our self-checkout kiosk ready before the end of November.



Union County Public Library Hours:

9:00 to 5:00 Mon, Wed, Fri

9:00 to 6:00 Tues, Thurs

10:00 to 2:00 Sat

Closed Sunday

UCPL Telephone: 706-745-7491

Friends In Action



An appreciative crowd enjoyed a variety of stories and poems at our Open Mic event.



Melissa King shared her poetry with the group.



Helen Kirk read some poems from her book.



Alan Cone adds dramatic flair and attitude as he reads his story.

From Open Mic to a Christmas sale our Friends have been very busy. Our 1st Open Mic event was a great success. There were as many who came to listen as those who came to read



Grace, winner of the Youth category in the summer poetry contest, reads her winning poem.

Many volunteer hours were put in preparing for the Everything Christmas Sale. Katherine Lavery, President Jackie Volk and Treasurer Sally Woodworth show off a few of the treasures that were on sale.



Katherine Lavery examines a Santa outfit for a dog. As the name applies, we take *Everything Christmas* related!



Even kids got into the spirit making ornaments for the sale.

Robert Harford FOUCL webmaster and volunteer cashier admired this musical sleigh, which was one of the silent auction items.



FRIENDly Faces

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 Owl-iver?

Owl-iver 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.

Kathy Lawrence, A Friend and Benefactor



This fall the Friends of Union County Library was the recipient of a beautiful handmade dollhouse. FOUCL member, Kathy Lawrence, its creator, gifted it to us to be used in any way that seemed good for the library. After discussions with Branch Librarian Susie Brendle and Youth Services Specialist Ann Lewis, it was decided that raffling it off was our best option, with the funds to be donated to STEAM technology learning resources for the library.

Kathy and her husband moved to Blairsville 7 years ago from the little town of Woodgate, NY, nestled in the Adirondacks. While in Woodgate, Kathy volunteered in their mountain library. A former 1-room schoolhouse, the tiny library needed to digitize the card catalog and Kathy took on that task. When the director retired, Kathy was hired as the new director.

Like many of us, Kathy discovered our little corner of heaven while visiting her son who lived in Atlanta but loved to come to the mountains to kayak. As much as the Lawrences enjoyed the NY mountains, they were weary of the long snowy winters. North Georgia was the perfect answer.

Kathy has always enjoyed doing things with her hands. In 1975 she saw an ad in the newspaper for miniature furniture and was fascinated by it. Before long, she was making her own miniature furniture. Several years ago she added miniature houses to her skillset.

The dollhouses start out as kits. Each piece is a flat unfinished board that needs to be hand glued, assembled and finished. It is an intensive labor of love and takes a few months to complete. For Kathy, the most fun is the decorating of each room.



When she isn't involved in big projects she enjoys gardening and reading (mostly fiction).

FOUCL is very grateful that Kathy thought of Union Country Public Library with this special donation. And we are equally grateful for all the people who generously purchased tickets.



More About...



Everything Christmas Sale

Wow! What a great sale! We received outstanding donations in both quantity and quality. Some of these items were collectibles, so we decided to offer a Silent Auction format for them.

We thank everyone who donated and all those who worked before the sale and all those who worked or bought during the sale. Special thanks go to the local churches in the area who gave us their leftovers after various fall sales. These included Coosa Methodist, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, and First United Methodist Church of Union County.

Mountain View Cottage Dollhouse Raffle

Thanks again to Kathy Lawrence, FOUCL member and miniaturist, for donating this dollhouse for a fundraiser. Through this raffle we were able to raise over \$950. All the money raised from this raffle will go to Union County Public Library for the purchase of technology learning resources to be used during juvenile library programs.



Books for Library Families



FOUCL recently voted to purchase holiday themed picture books to be given to Union County Public Library families in December.

For the Baby/Toddler lapsit storytime it was decided to buy board books. The title is, "Moo, Baa, La La La!" by Sandra Boynton.

The slightly older story time attendees' book is "The Christmas Owl" by Ellen Kalish and Gideon Sterer.

After the meeting, a generous Friends' member contributed \$200 toward this purchase.