



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

Officers

President:
Jackie Volk
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Vice President:
Ken Arrington

Past President:
Judy Baldwin

Secretary:
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Corresponding Secretary:
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From the President

Fellow Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL),

As your President for a fifth (and final) year, I look forward to continuing FOUCL's work with the new officers recently installed. Vice President is Ken Arrington; Treasurer is Debora Quigley; and Recording Secretary is Jackie Millstone. Connie Rosenberry is our Newsletter Editor. Arlene Gray is Corresponding Secretary. Webmaster Robert Harford manages our website (foucl.org). Special thanks go to "retiring" officers, but continuing active members, Nancy Bryant and Sally Woodworth. Together, with you, we create a strong team advocating for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning.



Jackie Volk, President

In 2022, FOUCL provided support to Union County Public Library (UCPL) and the staff. We held bake sales in May and November, and we brought back the popular Everything Christmas Sale. In addition, we raised \$1,000 from a dollhouse raffle and that money will go directly toward STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) learning resources for the children of Union County Public Library. FOUCL member and miniaturist, Kathy Lawrence, donated the dollhouse to us and the winner was our new treasurer, Debora, who, in turn, donated the dollhouse to local charity Isaiah 117, whose mission is "caring for children awaiting foster placement."

We had a large turnout at our January 18 meeting where we made timely decisions, began important discussions, and formed new committees. There were lots of creative ideas for programs, fundraisers, and purchases. I am very pleased to report we are off to an enthusiastic start! Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 19, beginning at 1:00 PM.

UCPL continues to add a wide variety of classes and events for all ages. Please look at the article in this newsletter provided by Susie Brendle, Branch Librarian, to see if there is something you would be interested in attending. One easy way to support our library is by being a part of the activities offered there.

If you haven't yet sent in or dropped off your renewal for FOUCL 2023 membership, please do so today because together good Friends make great libraries!

Sincerely,
Jackie Volk

Calendar



February
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

April 19
Quarterly Meeting 1:00pm
Community Room

April 25
National Library Workers Day

May
Quarterly newsletter emailed to
members

May 11
Drop off baked goods for Bake
Sale
10am-2pm
Community Room

May 12
Bake It or Not Sale
Drop off donations or baked
goods
10am-2pm
Community Room

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!



The American Library Association (ALA) has designated Tuesday, April 25, 2023, as a time to recognize all library workers. They have declared it to be National Library Workers Day (NLWD). Library workers serve as an irreplaceable community resource, and this is a day designated for library patrons, administrators, communities, and Friends of the Library groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all of those who work in libraries. Be sure to thank a library worker during the month of April.

Why Did You Join Friends of Union County Library?



Share your stories about why you joined Friends of Union County Library. Our email address is foucl.blairsville@gmail.com. Title the Subject Line "FOUCL Story." Your story may be included in our next newsletter or in one of our local newspaper articles.

To help you get started, here are a few reasons libraries are important.

Make available a wide variety of resources for everyone.

Engage adults and children in literacy, research.

Provide access to technology.

Preserve our history.

Provide a place to learn new things.

Provide a sense of community.

Provide job and career advice.

All for free



May 12 Bake It or Not Sale

FOUCL will be holding a bake and bakeless bake sale the Friday before Mother's Day (which is on May 14 this year). Please plan to bake, donate, or buy. Bake up your best recipes or just donate the price it would cost to bake. Buy delicious homemade baked goods or save the calories and donate what you would have spent to buy. It's your choice.

Your baked goods can be delivered the afternoon before our sale, Thursday, May 11, from 2 PM to 4 PM. The sale will be on Friday, May 12, from 10 AM until 2 PM in the Community Room at Union County Public Library.

Librarian's Spotlight!

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Library for your continued support. FOUCL's quarterly donations to the library help provide materials that we would normally not be able to afford. We are forever grateful.

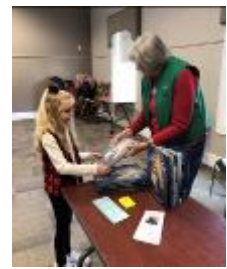
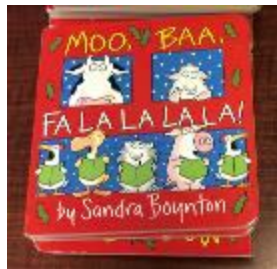
Along with our regular activities aimed toward toddlers and school-aged youth, we introduced teen programs again in December with our "Knit a Scarf by Christmas" program. We will continue through the new year with a monthly afterschool program for teens called "Teen Creatives" where 12 to 18-year-old youths will do crafts, experiments, and art activities. Along with the new teen programming, we will continue with Lego Club and our two storytimes.

We have started organizing for the upcoming Summer Reading Program. Along with programs scheduled by our Youth Services Coordinator Ann, we hope to have expanded adult programs organized by our new Assistant Branch Manager Morgan who is also in charge of our regular adult programming.

Adult Programming continues to grow. Along with last quarter's craft classes and baking classes, we also had a fun Christmas Karaoke event. During one of our last knitting classes, patrons requested that we bring back our monthly needlecrafts group. Starting the first Thursday in January, we will now host Thursday Threads which will be a monthly group of crafters gathering to share ideas, patterns, knowledge and friendship about knitting, crocheting, embroidering, etc. We have several other programs planned for this Spring.



*Susie Brendle,
Branch Librarian*



(1st Photo left) At the Christmas Toddler Lapsit Storytime, Friends President Jackie Volk was on hand to give children the board book, Moo Baa FaLaLaLaLa. (Center Photo) Olivia holds her book while big sister Lizzie waits for her storytime. The Christmas Owl was given to children at the 3-5 year-old Storytime. (Right photo) Byrklee was excited to receive her book from FOUCL volunteer Sally Woodworth.

Circulation and attendance continue to grow each quarter at the library. While several patrons continue to enjoy our digital library from the comfort of their home, more and more people are returning to the library and using us as their community center for their internet, faxing, and reading needs.

There are many new things happening in the library now and in the future. We hope you will enjoy them as much as we enjoyed preparing them for our patrons.



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



Kathy Lawrence and Lauren Burgreen kept the table of treats looking good.



Our November bake sale's success depended on our volunteers and bakers- YOU!



FOUCL gifted UCPL staff with Aldi's Gift Cards at Christmas.



After a busy year, FOUCL members celebrated with a Christmas luncheon at Brasstown Valley Resort.



Outgoing Treasurer Sally Woodworth and President Jackie Volk greet guests.

A delicious meal, a book exchange, getting to know our new Vice President, visiting with friends... That's a Party!



Kathy Lawrence chooses her book.

Joan Dorogi pulls the next name for the book exchange while Katherine and Bob Lavery look on.



New Vice-President Ken Arrington brought a new twist to the party with a trivia game.

Connie Rosenberry opens her prize in the trivia quiz.



FRIENDLY Faces



Meet the Officers



From left to right:

Jackie Millstone, Secretary;
Debora Quigley, Treasurer;
Ken Arrington, Vice-
President;
Jackie Volk, President

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.

President Jackie Volk has served in this capacity for four years. She has initiated new programs, weathered Covid shutdowns, and steered our organization forward. She is involved in several local organizations, including Georgia Mountain Writers Club and sings and rings at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church.

Vice-President Ken Arrington is new to FOUCL. He moved here a year ago after spending five years in the Philippines, where he had no library! Ken says walking into Union County Public Library was like dying and going to heaven. He is interested in learning the Appalachian Culture and doing some activities based on the Foxfire books. If you have any ideas about programs or activities Ken asks you to call him at 706-487-0354.

After moving all over as a child, **Treasurer Debora Quigley** moved to Blairsville in 1993, vowing never to leave. She received a partial scholarship for Medical School from the state of Georgia and attended Emory, where she was a Woodruff Scholar. She has been retired for 2 years.

Secretary Jackie Millstone is a retired librarian, graduating from University of South Florida with her MLS. Her love of libraries began as a teen when she worked as a Page in the Tampa Public Library. She has lived in Blairsville for 5 years after visiting here with family for several years.

It is exciting to have three new faces as officers. In future newsletters, you will get to know more about them.

More About...



Looking for Comittee Members

Members of FOUCL have recently come up with wonderful ideas; but to make ideas happen sometimes requires research, usually requires advance planning, and always requires people who are doers. Please look over this list and attend our April meeting or send an email to foucl.blairsville@gmail.com if you have expertise or interest in serving on one of these committees:



Program Committee: Ideas include two programs we have successfully offered in the past – Travel and Open Mic: Prose and Poetry Reading. New ideas include a Scrabble tournament, a Foxfire speaker, a mushroom presentation, and a FOUCL presence in the Union County Christmas Parade. Which should we continue, and which new ones should be added? Do you have other event or program ideas?



Fundraising Committee: Past successful fundraisers have included bake or bakeless bake sales and a yearly Everything Christmas Sale (selling donated Christmas items). Do you have other fundraising ideas?



Technology Committee: A new FOUCL computer will be purchased; new software will be purchased; and our webmaster is looking for someone willing to learn how to manage our website, which uses Dreamweaver CCC, so we have more than one person who knows how it works. Do you have computer skills?



Free Program Presentation Available for Small Groups

FOUCL has put together a brief history of libraries (along with some humorous anecdotes about items left in returned books and unbelievable questions asked of reference librarians), some specific facts about Union County Public Library, and the origin of Friends of Union County Library. This free presentation may be of interest to local organizations and has been designed to be flexible in length (from 10 to 20 minutes). Several FOUCL members are available as guest speakers. Please contact Jackie Volk directly (tvolk55@gmail.com) if your group would like to have a FOUCL presenter as your guest speaker.