



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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Friends Of Union County
Library (FOUCL)
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From the President

Dear FOUCL Members,

I hope you have been enjoying spring on its way to summer!

We recently held our second quarterly meeting with lots on our agenda. We have purchased a new laptop and are investigating new financial software. We need help deciding what to buy.

Do you have expertise in this area – especially for nonprofits? Please contact us through our email address: foucl.blairsville@gmail.com.

Our donated dollhouse raffle last year brought in \$1,000 which was used to purchase STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) resources that are now being joyfully used during Union County Public Library storytimes.

In April, FOUCL held a well-attended program featuring military veteran Josh Garrison, who told us about preparing for and climbing Mt. Everest. April 25 is National Library Workers Day and the Friends recognized our own Union County Public Library staff for their hard work and dedication. We know how fortunate we are to have a quality library like ours.

Mothers Day is right around the corner. Next on the Friends schedule is our annual Mother's Day Bake sale held the Friday before Mother's Day from 10am to 2pm. Bake something delicious or donate what you would have spent on ingredients. These funds are earmarked to help pay for Summer Reading Program (SRP) prizes. There are many exciting opportunities for all ages this summer.

Our next quarterly meeting will include a potluck lunch at Choestoe School House on Wednesday, July 19. Plan to join us at this lovely venue.

In September, we plan to have our second annual Open Mic Writers' Reading Event and we are in the planning stages for our 4th Everything Christmas Sale to be held the first weekend in November. We are investigating several other programs and outreach ideas as well, so stay tuned.

Read through this newsletter for more details about Union County Public Library and Friends of Union County Library news. 2023 is off to a great start. Thanks for all you do to make it happen!

Gratefully,

Jackie Volk, President



Jackie Volk, President

Calendar



May
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

May 11: 3-5pm
Drop off baked goods for Bake
Sale
Community Room

May 12: 10am-2pm
Bake Sale
Community Room

June 5
Summer Reading Program (SRP)
Registration begins

July 19: 11:30am
Potluck Salad Lunch and
3rd Quarterly Meeting
Choestoe School House

September
Open Mic Writers Reading Event

October
Collection of donated Christmas
items for November Christmas
Sale

October 18: 1:00pm
Membership Meeting

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!



FOUCL holds Mother's Day Bake Sale

FOUCL will be holding a bake sale just in time for Mother's Day. Please plan to bake, donate, or buy. We need you to bake up your best recipes or buy delicious homemade baked goods. We should have quite a variety.

Baked goods can be dropped off at the library Thursday, May 11, from 3pm to 5pm or at 9am Friday morning. The sale will be on Friday, May 12, from 10am until 2pm in the Community Room at Union County Public Library. Or save the calories and time and donate what you would have spent to buy. You can donate through [Paypal at foucl.blairsville@gmail.com](mailto:paypal@foucl.blairsville@gmail.com) or at the circulation desk—tell them it is for the FOUCL Bake sale. Proceeds will be used to support the Summer Reading Programs and children's programs.

Members of FOUCL Asked to Contribute Prizes to Summer Reading Program

FOUCL will be providing prizes for the Summer Reading Program. Members can help by purchasing a gift certificate (\$10-\$15) from a local business, or by donating money to help purchase the top three prizes (at approx. \$25 each). The goal is 12 gift cards. Proceeds from our May bake sale will be used to make up the difference. Bring your cards or money to the circulation desk on or before May 12 and let them know they are for SRP. Thanks!

Suggested Businesses: Book Bound Bookstore, Mountain Lakes Toy Store, Blairsville Ice Cream and Mini Golf, Blairsville Cinema, Blairsville Galaxy Bowling, From Me to U, Union County Pool pass, Melissa's Bakery, and The Groovy Zoo Metal Yard Art (Mineral Bluff), local restaurants, grocery stores.



Choestoe Schoolhouse

July Potluck Lunch and Meeting

Our next quarterly meeting (Wednesday, July 19) will be held at the Choestoe Schoolhouse (1034 Collins Road, Blairsville). Beginning at 11:30am, we will share a potluck salad lunch followed by our regularly scheduled meeting. Please bring a salad of your choice, rolls, chips, dessert, or drinks (bottled water, iced tea, lemonade, etc.). FOUCL will supply plates, napkins, plasticware, and cups. We appreciate Union County providing this venue to FOUCL at no cost to us.

Librarian's Spotlight!

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Public Library for your support. Your April donation of \$1500 will enable us to continue our magazine and newspaper subscriptions for next year.



*Susie Brendle,
Branch Librarian*



The proceeds of your November auction helped Mrs. Ann purchase several STEAM kits that she has used several times with our excited youth.

As you know, April 23 – 29 was National Library Week. We truly appreciate the wonderful gifts, cookies and cake that our beloved FOUCL brought to staff on National Library Worker's Day which was April 25th.

The Summer Reading Program theme this year will be "All Together Now". Kick off will be on June 5th. Adults, Teens & Youth can stop in any time during that day or any day after to sign up and receive their bag of goodies. We have distributed over 2500 program flyers to schools and daycares and plan to do even more. Each year, FOUCL gives \$1200 toward programming and supplies for the Summer Reading Program. Much of that money has already been spent as preparations began back in October for this summer.

We have a new staff member named Ellen. If you find yourself in the library, stop by the front desk to tell her hello. We hope everyone has a fun summer. Again, thank you for all that you do for the library.



STEAM Kits in Action!

Left: Children play a new BeeBot game.

Right: Children experiment with inclines.



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



FOUCL President Jackie Volk (left) and Treasurer Debora Quigley (right) present a check to Branch Librarian Susie Brendle.



'You are appreciated' bookmarks and 'better together' buttons decorated the wrapped gift presented to staff on Library Worker Appreciation Day.



Left to Right: Librarian Susie Brendle, FOUCL volunteer Laurenk Burgreen, Library Assistant Betty, FOUCL Vice President Ken Arrington, Library Assistant Morgan, Library Assistant Ellen, Youth Services Specialist Mrs. Ann, FOUCL Treasurer Debora Quigley, FOUCL Newsletter Editor Connie Rosenberry, FOUCL Webmaster Robert Harford on Library Worker Appreciation Day.



"May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are and the difference you make."

Bookmark given to staff members.



Josh Garrison spoke to a full room on his experiences preparing for and climbing Mt. Everest, including the military experiences that led to this challenge.



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.



Union County Public Library has a number of new faces working behind the desk. Today we are featuring one of the people you meet when you visit the library.



Meet Taylor

Taylor is a library assistant who has worked at UCPL for over a year. You will see her either shelving books, working behind the desk or teaching cake decorating classes to all ages in the library community room.

Yes, Taylor is also a cake decorator with her own catering business. Her great-grandmother was a baker, and the interest transferred to Taylor. In high school she took advantage of dual-enrollment by taking culinary classes at North Georgia Technical College where she earned a Certificate in Baking. She went to Savannah to finish her studies at Savannah Technical College and received her Associate degree. Following school she opened a catering business. She was looking for a job to supplement her baking business and found the ad for UCPL. Knowing how much she loved reading and interacting with people this seemed like the right fit. She gets to work with books during the day and bake at night.

Among the many tasks she does at the library she found processing new books the most fun. Taylor relates to people who have their favorite type of book and when she is checking in new materials she will often set aside a book she knows a patron will love.

A lot of time is spent helping people use the computers in the lab. Taylor shared stories about helping patrons find answers to a much sought after question and how their eyes light up when they are successful. She also loves the look on a child's face as they tell her about their favorite book.

Working with people is rewarding and Taylor has found a couple of ways to get that special smile from someone she has helped, either through books or her cakes.

More About...

Where Do You Fit In?



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 send an email to foucl.blairsville@gmail.com if you have expertise or interest in serving on one of these committees:



Program Committee: Successful programs we have held in the past are a Travel program 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 has been 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?

Tell Us Your Story

Why Did You Join Friends of Union County Library?

What is it about the Friends that made you decide to join? Is it because we support our library financially? Perhaps you like to support local organizations and this was a good way to do that. Is this the first Friends organization you've joined or have you made a point of joining the local Friends in every community you've lived in?. 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.



FOUCL Available to Present Free Program 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.