



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

From the President

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Friends Of Union County
Library (FOUCL)
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It's May and spring is here. Along with the season's change I want to invite you to check out some changes in FOUCL's "public image." What does that mean? In particular, we have a new website and we are updating our Facebook page.

Our new website, at www.foucl.org, has been available for several months thanks to webmaster and FOUCL member Robert Harford. At www.foucl.org you will find FOUCL history, the calendar of events, photos, and current or past newsletters. Keep it bookmarked on your browser so that you can check it anytime with one click. (Read about Robert on Page 5.)

FOUCL information is also being posted on Facebook, thanks to member Robin Robbins. Take a few minutes to "Like" us at www.facebook.com/FRIENDSOFUNIONCOUNTYLIBRARY/.

Our FOUCL-sponsored Adult Winter Read Challenge offered our members and library patrons book suggestions to distract from the wet winter and we had three events held in conjunction with the Winter Read. Local authors Sylvia Dyer Turnage, KD Bloodworth, Doris Durbin, and Robert Honea participated in our panel discussion. Union County, and the surrounding area, is home to many great authors. I hope we can host at least one local author panel discussion event every year!

National Library Workers' Day was April 9 this year. FOUCL presented Union County Public Library staff with individual vases of flowers and a dried fruit and nut tray in appreciation for all they do. Be sure to add your personal thanks next time you visit the library.

Coming up soon is our annual May Bake Sale. (Details on Page 2). This has been one of our most successful fundraisers in the past, but it only works with your help. Please consider baking, buying, and volunteering to set up or sell. Of course, cash donations are always welcome.

In May there will be a Travel Tips & Tricks program (Details on Page 2), a FERST Reader fundraiser in June, and our 3rd quarterly membership meeting immediately following an all-member potluck picnic lunch on July 17, beginning at noon in the Union County Senior Center Pavilion. Give a Hoot. Join Us!



Jackie Volk, President



Spring-Summer Calendar

May 9: 2:00 PM –5:00 PM
Drop off Baked Goods
Community Room

May 10: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Semi-Annual Bake Sale
Community Room

May 15: 2:00 PM
Travel Tips and Tricks
Presented by Gail Day
Community Room

June 15: Concert for Literacy:
Waymore's Outlaws
Union County Schools Fine Arts Center

July 17: Noon until 2:00
Member Picnic followed by
Quarterly FOUCL Membership Meeting
Senior Center Pavilion
95 Senior Center Drive

All meetings open to membership.

Programs open to the public.



Editor's Note:

The Friends Connector will be published 4 times a year, following the Quarterly Membership Meeting.

The publication dates will be:

February, May,
August and
November.



What's Happening!



Calling All Bakers! And Buyers! Spring Bake Sale May 10

We need our faithful bakers, as well as the occasional baker, to start baking cookies, pies, cakes or your signature Yummy Treat for our twice-a-year bake sale. This fundraiser has become a successful tradition but we need bakers and buyers to continue that tradition. The Bake Sale will be held at the library on the Friday before Mother's Day from 10 AM until 2 PM. Drop baked goods off the afternoon before the sale from 2-5 PM or the morning of the sale. The first \$200 from this sale will go toward the purchase of two CDs from the Union County Historical Society, of all available "Mountain Echoes," the Union County High School yearbooks. Library patrons will be able to research and print from these CDs. Thanks to Sally Woodworth and Roslyn Wise for co-chairing this event and to all our baking and buying members.

Travel Tips & Tricks with Gail Day

Join us at the library on Wednesday, May 15, at 2 PM to find out what you need to know before you go. Many have traveled with Gail through United Community Bank trips and she has also done a lot of personal travel. She will have a packet of information to share and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions and share your own travel tips.



Picnic

Picnics are fun and what better way to meet long-time members or new members than at a picnic on July 17. Our potluck lunch will begin around noon at Union County Senior Center Pavilion (95 Senior Center Drive, in Blairsville) with our July membership meeting to follow. All members are invited. Mark your calendars now and **SAVE THE DATE!**



Librarian's Spotlight!

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Library for your support. The library has purchased several books and other materials with the funds that you presented to me this year. Over almost 50% of our magazines and newspapers are purchased with FOUCL donations.



Susie Brindle, Librarian



We celebrated Dr. Seuss's March 2nd birthday this year with two events. On February 25, Professor Whizzpop performed his Seussical Magic Show. On March 4th, Reuben Haller performed the Cat in the Hat and FOUCL provided coloring books for the children. Several parents have complimented the programs and are very grateful to FOUCL for providing the coloring book.

All children are invited to Storytimes on Mondays from 11:00-12:00. The first half is stories and songs. The second part is a craft. If your child hasn't attended one, I hope he or she will come and try us out. Parents or guardians are asked to stay with children under 5.

June is just around the corner and it will be time for our Summer Reading Program. The theme this year will be "A Universe of Stories" and will center on space. Kick off will be at our June 3rd storytime at 11 AM. We have



distributed over 2500 program flyers to schools and daycares describing the program and the great entertainers and storytellers lined up for this summer. Each year, FOUCL gives \$1000 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.



PINES is now available to you on your mobile phone. If you have a chance, please take a moment to download the new PINES Mobile App on your Android or iPhone/iPad device. This PINES app is available for Android devices through your

Google Play store and for iPhone/iPad devices through your App store. Just search for "PINES Georgia". There are some great features available for patrons on the App. If you have any questions, please stop by the library and one of the staff will assist you.

Friends In Action



Our first Local Author Talk was well attended.

In February and March, Friends presented Author Talks and Book Signings. During April we left treats for our library staff during National Library Week and to patrons on the 30th Anniversary of the building.



Doris Durbin promoted her latest book, which completes the Captain Chronicles Trilogy



We didn't forget the kids! Children attending the Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat program received a free Coloring Book.



These 2 signboards were graciously made by Jane Manuszak's husband, Bob. Look for them outside the library during an event.



FOUCL presents flowers and treats to library staff on National Library Workers Day. We LOVE our library!



Celebrating 30 years in our beautiful library building.

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.

Who's Whooo in FOUCL

Get to know us better! Today's Who's Who....



Meet Robert Harford, Webmaster.

Robert is a new addition to the Friends Team. A former computer programmer, when Robert retired he stayed in touch with his 'geek' side by offering to create webpages, pro bono, for non-profit organizations.

Robert moved to Blairsville from Chicago in 2018. However, he is originally from London, England. He came to the U.S. with his wife, Lin, in December 1989 on a 2-year work visa. If you lived in Chicago you'll remember they had record cold temperatures then. He was able to get a green card and became a citizen in June 2001. Sadly, Lin passed away in 1992. In 1996, Robert met Helen while line dancing. They didn't start dating until 1998 and married in 2000.

Helen and Robert love to read and, while visiting their local library, Helen learned the Friends needed a new webmaster. Helen volunteered her husband. Robert agreed to create our website and manage it. Thanks to Robert, and to Helen, we have a great new website. Check out our page at <http://www.foucl.org/>

We are so glad to have Robert join our team.

Meet Jane Manuszak. Jane is a life-long reader who loves libraries. As a child Jane often went to the library with her mother, but it was as an Elementary Teacher that she saw the effect that libraries, especially their offering the ability to borrow books, can have on children,



Jane and her husband spend winters in Florida, but when she is here she helps by sorting items for a sale, baking, or helping at an event. Jane says, "I love being involved with Friends, promoting and supporting our library, and the joy of reading a really good book." She also enjoys cooking, line dancing, or walking at Meeks Park.

Jane's husband loves the local fishing, but when the weather isn't cooperating, he can be found in his woodshop. Last fall he made two signboards for FOUCL (pictured on Page 4). You will see them advertising ongoing events like our Everything Christmas Sale or Bake Sale. FOUCL is so fortunate to have volunteers who look for ways to help us advance our mission.

Friends Sponsored Events

Chill Out and Read Winter Reading Program Ends With a Mystery!



Union County Librarian Susie Brindle and FOUCL Member Barbara Hale welcome guests.

Our Chill Out And Read Winter Reading Program came to an end with a movie night on April 25th. Library patrons chose the movie by voting with money, which raised over \$100. Mountain Regional Library contributed free popcorn and FOUCL provided candy and water. It was fun watching the 1974 version of "Murder on the Orient Express." Almost 90 library patrons picked up our FOUCL sponsored Adult Winter Read Challenge logs.



Vince Stone, Mountain Regional Library Director, prepares popcorn for movie goers.

Congratulations to our top 3 readers: Doris Tilly (12,060 pages), Medora McKinnon (6,769 pages), and Linda Beaver (6,221 pages). Together they read a total of 25,050 pages from 70 books! Some of the winners' favorite books are: *The Shell Seekers* by Maeve Binchy, *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick, *Cold Wind* by CJ Box, and *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover



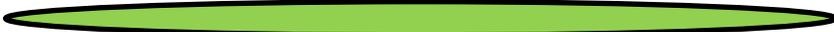
Doris Tilly



Medora Mackinnon



Linda Beaver



Summer Reading Program UPDATE

There will be an Adult Summer Reading List available to pick up in front of the Friends' Room or from our website. No logs, no prizes, no worries – just some suggested titles to go along with the library's summer theme: A Universe of Stories.



Concert for Literacy: Waymore's Outlaws Performing Runnin' With Oi' Waylon - Music and Memories of the Waylors

FOUCL is a proud supporter of FERST Readers, who are hosting a fundraising concert on June 15 at the Union County Schools' Fine Arts Center. Tickets are available on Eventbrite, on Facebook at "FERST Readers' Concert for Literacy," at the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, and at Pat's Hallmark in Blairsville.

The Country River Band will open. Free refreshments will be provided at intermission by Chick-Fil-A of Blairsville.

100% of all proceeds will go to the Union County FERST Readers Childhood Literacy Program, which furnishes free books every month to any child ages birth to five years old to promote literacy through early childhood reading.