



# Friends of Union County Library

## Friends Communicator

### Officers

President:  
Jackie Volk  
[tvolk55@gmail.com](mailto:tvolk55@gmail.com)

Vice President:

Past President:  
Judy Baldwin

Secretary:  
Nancy Bryant

Treasurer:  
Sally Woodworth

Corresponding Secretary:  
Arlene Gray

Newsletter Editor:  
Connie Rosenberry  
[granberry2@hotmail.com](mailto:granberry2@hotmail.com)

Webmaster:  
Robert Harford



Friends Of Union County  
Library (FOUCL)  
P.O. Box 1546  
Blairsville, GA 30514  
[foucl.org](http://foucl.org)

## From the President

Greetings, FOUCL members,

Our activities, programs, and fundraising events have been cancelled through 2020, but we are still finding ways to be active and support our library. We are pleased to tell you we received money recently from Peach State Federal Credit Union and AmazonSmile to help us in our mission to provide support to our library.



*Jackie Volk, President*

On September 30, Mountain Regional Library System held a Staff Development Day. Together with the Friends groups in Towns County and Fannin County we were able to contribute some prizes. We coordinated with the other groups and provided nine prizes to the hardworking staff at those libraries.

Our webmaster, Robert Harford, hosted FOUCL's second online meeting on October 21. Our next online meeting will be November 18 at 2 PM. This is the meeting where our officers for 2021 will be elected and ideas will be brainstormed for next year. The slate of officers should look familiar: Jackie Volk, President; Nancy Bryant, Recording Secretary; Sally Woodworth, Treasurer. The office of Vice President remains open. An email containing a link will be sent prior to that meeting. Please click the link to join us for this meeting.

This summer we learned that, after many faithful years, the Blairsville Garden Club was no longer able to take care of the sculpture garden at the library. It has not been determined if this is a task Union County will be able to take over. In the meantime, we owe a special thanks to Connie Rosenberry and Sally Woodworth, who have both spent hours during the last few months maintaining, weeding, and beautifying the sculpture garden.

It was decided in lieu of our usual Christmas luncheon to meet online for a social time. Watch for an email announcing the date and time for this virtual gathering.

I once again thank you for your support of our library and the Mountain Regional Library System. Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a New Year of good health.

Jackie Volk

### *Book Pages Featured Titles*

Try these mysteries.

**The Devil and the Dark Water** by Stuart Turton  
(this British author has a trio of Dutch women investigating murder in 1634)

**Snow** by John Banville (this Booker Prize winning author sets his story in 1957 Ireland)

**Conspiracy** by S. J. Parris  
(the author provides multiple murders amid political intrigue in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Paris).

**The Thursday Murder Club** by Richard Osman (this British quiz show host turned author introduces a hilarious and lovable group of geriatric sleuths)

Most of these are available through Pines.

## What's Happening!



### BookPages

For those looking for your next great book, FOUCL continues to provide free BookPages, located on the table right outside the Friends Room at Union County Public Library. Each issue covers a theme and highlights titles that follow that theme, such as gardening, holidays, romance, mystery. The October issue covers many mystery titles.

In the sidebar, you will find a sampling of the mysteries covered in the October issue. Some books are new and may not yet be available in the library.

### National Friends of Libraries Week

**October 18-24**

FOUCL recognized our members' efforts during National Friends of Libraries Week, with an article in the *North Georgia News*. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year that United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, has spearheaded this time of special recognition.

During this pandemic time, FOUCL believes the library is more important than ever. Union County Public Library continues to provide resources and FOUCL continues to support them. You are good Friends to our great library.



Every great  
library  
needs   
good friends

## Librarian's Spotlight!

Happy Fall, everyone. We're so thankful for FOUCL's continued support during these uncertain times. Things change daily at the library. We're still adhering to safety restrictions for library patrons as well as our staff. We hope that in doing so we are helping to keep these patrons and staff members safe. We do not know when we will get to start moving toward less restrictions and longer hours. Please know that our director, branch managers and our board of trustees are looking at options and monitoring Covid-19 changes daily. When we are able to make changes, we will make sure to inform everyone as soon as possible.



*Susie Brendle, Librarian*

One positive change to the library this fall is our switching from RBDigital to Libby by Overdrive on October 1st for our eBooks and eAudiobooks. We had a few glitches initially, but the switch over seems to be running smoothly now. We've heard much positive feedback from patrons about the new program. If you are still having trouble with Libby please do not hesitate to call or stop by the library. We are happy to help you with your enrollment. We also have a "Getting Started" pamphlet on the circulation desk for anyone that wants one. Pick one up the next time you are in the library.

While we're still not doing onsite programs, we are doing a Facebook Live storytime each Monday at 11 am. We are also providing a craft kit each week that can be picked up outside the Youth Room. Check out Miss Kaley's videos on the library's Facebook page when you get the chance.

Let us know if you have any questions about our current restrictions, Libby by Overdrive, our storytimes or anything else. We are here to help you in any way we can.

I hope everyone has a healthy and happy Thanksgiving!



Union County Public Library is now open during the hours listed below:

Monday through Friday 10:00-4:30 PM

Saturday 10:00—1:00 PM

Curbside service is available by appointment only.

MRLS Branch Libraries Temporary Operating Hours:

Mountain Regional Public Library - Monday & Thursday 11:00 - 5:30

Towns County Public Library – Tuesday through Friday 10:00 - 5:30 and Saturday 10:00 - 1:30

Fannin County Public Library – Monday through Friday 10:00 - 4:30 and Saturday 10:00 - 12:30

# Friends In Action



Scott Rowland of Peach State Federal Credit Union presents the first of four annual checks to the Friends of Union County Library. Jackie Volk, President of FOUCL and Susie Brendle, Branch Librarian are on hand to receive the gift.



The new way to conduct business. FOUCL holds its quarterly meeting on line. Robert Harford hosts, using FaceBook Room.

- Prizes for Staff Day:
- Top to Bottom, L to R
- Coffee Mug
- Apron with Kitchen tools
- Note cards
- Collective picture of all prizes
- Storybook Puzzle

Top row: L to R: Nancy Bryant, Secretary; Sally Woodworth, Treasurer; Katherine Lavery, Welcome Committee  
Bottom Row L to R: Robert Harford, Webmaster; Connie Rosenberry, Newsletter editor; Jackie Volk, President



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

## 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 Katherine Lavery**

New members have already met Katherine as she and Joan Dorogi are chairpersons of the FOUCL Welcome Committee.

Katherine joined FOUCL a little over a year ago and became an active member right away, attending meetings and finding ways to help at our Everything Christmas Sale last fall. (Remember those days?)

Katherine moved here from Texas when her husband retired from CAE SimuFlite in Dallas-Ft. Worth. They had visited this area numerous times so when it was time to settle into a new life, the Blue Ridge Mountains were a natural choice.

Katherine and Bob raised four children and she enjoyed volunteering both for her church and her precinct. Since she moved here, she has been volunteering with FOUCL, and at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. Pre-Covid she also enjoyed taking classes at the ICL in Young Harris or in Oasis.

For Friends members, reading is second nature and Katherine shares that love of books and reading. She's not partial and will pick up a print copy of a book or her Kindle.

Katherine says, "I believe libraries provide a vital service to communities by making available resources that expand knowledge, preserve culture, and tend to increase civic engagement." We at FOUCL completely agree. It is why we are so involved in our wonderful community library.

Katherine even admits to being a Friend of Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville, NC. "You can't have too many friends," she says. We are glad Katherine is one of ours.



# Financial Friends



## Donation

Peach State Federal Credit Union has pledged to contribute a total of \$2,500 to FOUCL over a five-year period.

Union County Public Library Branch Librarian Susie Brendle and FOUCL President Jackie Volk received the first check for \$1,000 from their representative, Scott Roland, in August. This check covers 2019 and 2020.



Peach State was founded by teachers in 1961 and is a not-for-profit member-owned financial cooperative serving more than 60,000 members throughout Georgia and South Carolina, with their closest branch being in Young Harris. Their Peach State C.A.R.E.S.

(Community / Arts / Responsibility / Education / Service) provides charitable contributions in support of the arts and education. More information about Peach State Federal Credit Union can be found at [peachstatefcu.org](http://peachstatefcu.org). We are very thankful for their generous contribution.

## A New Way to Access AmazonSmile



We continue to receive money quarterly from a percentage of your purchases on Amazon. With the holidays coming, and online shopping continuing to increase, we appreciate all of you who have designated Friends of Union County Library – Georgia as your charity through AmazonSmile.

For those who want to easily contribute funds to support our library, but haven't done so yet, AmazonSmile customers can now contribute through Amazon's shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations on your mobile phone. 1) Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device; 2) Go to the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings,' 3) Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process. Be sure to select *Friends of Union County Library, Blairsville, GA*.



Perhaps now more than ever, we are so glad to have the library as a resource for books, ebooks, and audiobooks as we escape our homes and "live" the stories.

## Two Lives Are Yours by Richard Armour (1973)

Books I think  
Are extra nice.  
Through books you live  
Not once but twice.

You are yourself  
And you are things  
With fur and fins  
Or shells or wings.

As big as giants,  
Small as gnats,  
As far as stars,  
As close as cats.



You live today  
And long ago.  
The future, too,  
Is yours to know.

You're multiplied,  
Expanded, freed.  
You're you and also  
What you read.