



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

Officers

President:
Jackie Volk
tvolk55@gmail.com

Vice President:
Ken Arrington

Past President:
Judy Baldwin

Secretary:
Jackie Millstone

Corresponding Secretary:
Arlene Gray

Treasurer:
Debora Quigley

Newsletter Editor:
Connie Rosenberry
granberry2@hotmail.com

Webmaster:
Robert Harford

Friends Of Union County
Library (FOUCL)
P.O. Box 1546
Blairsville, GA 30514
foucl.org



From the President

Dear Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL),
Thanks to bakers, buyers, and hardworking Bake Sale Chair (and Treasurer) Debora Quigley, our May bake sale raised over \$900.



Jackie Volk, President



Union County Public Library (UCPL) had a record number of people enjoying Summer Reading Program events and reading challenges. The rock painting event was so popular that more “emergency” rocks had to be purchased, and the petting zoo event had 500 attendees enjoying animals in the staff parking lot! I want to extend a big thank you to the FOUCL volunteers who handled crowd control, counted attendees, and provided an extra pair of hands.

On July 19, a FOUCL Meet and Greet Potluck Luncheon at Choestoe School House allowed us to share delicious food and hold a quarterly meeting. During that meeting Debora Quigley and Judy Baldwin volunteered as co-chairs for our Everything Christmas sale.

The remainder of the year will be an active one for the Friends. Coming up on Saturday, July 29, FOUCL will be at Union County Farmers Market to spread the word about our organization and to solicit new members. We are finalizing FOUCL events for September, October, November, and December. Read on for more information.

“So, what’s going on at the library?” I’ve been asked lately. “New faces, but everything still running smoothly,” I reply. With the retirement of long-time UCPL Branch Librarian Susie Brendle, there has been a reshuffling of key personnel and the hiring of new people, too. This is UCPL’s lineup of current employees: Branch Manager Marlene Cannon, Assistant Manager Morgan, and Library Assistants: Betty, Taylor, Lauren, Corbin, and Amanda. Introduce yourself to them and let them know you are a Friend!

This year marks FOUCL’s 27th year of advocacy and support for UCPL and Mountain Regional Library System. We can be proud of what Friends of Union County Library have accomplished during those years.

Sincerely,
Jackie Volk

Calendar



July 29
FOUCL at Farmers
Market

August
Quarterly newsletter mailed to all
members

September 26 4:00-5:30
Writers' Open Mic: Poetry &
Prose Reading
Community Room

**October Mondays &
Wednesdays 10-12 noon**
Everything Christmas Collection

October 15-21
National Friends of Library Week

October 18 1:00pm
Quarterly FOUCL membership
meeting and nomination of
officers
Community Room

November 3-4
Everything Christmas Sale

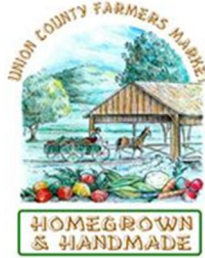
November 15 1:00pm
Brainstorming planning session
for 2024
Community Room

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!



Farmers Market—July 29

FOUCL will be at our Union County Farmers Market (which runs from 8 AM until 1 PM). We will have photo displays, a detailed bulletin board indicating how the money we raise is used, membership brochures, our collection of mascot Owl-ivers, and a rotating bunch of FOUCL members to answer questions and provide information. Please consider volunteering to be there for a few hours.



Writers' Open Mic: Poetry & Prose Reading September 26

Calling all writers and listeners: Join us at UCPL for a FOUCL-sponsored Open Mic: Poetry &

Prose event Tuesday, September 26 from 4 to 5:30 PM in the Community Room. Writers are invited to bring their best work. Plan to read for no more than 5 minutes so all who wish to participate may do so. Writers will sign up at the event, with the participants reading in random order. No books will be sold, but if you have something published, you are encouraged to mention where it can be purchased. This was a fun and well-attended event last year. Please consider joining us this year for a fresh batch of readings.

“Everything Christmas” Collection Begins in October



No, its not too early to start thinking about Christmas, when it comes to our annual Everything Christmas Sale! During the month of October, we will be collecting donations of gently used holiday treasures. We are happy to receive anything in good condition and related to Christmas (except large artificial trees and toys). Donations will be accepted at the library on Mondays and Wednesdays during the month of October. A box will be outside the Friends Room door for drop offs at other times. We will also have some special raffle items. Two members have promised handmade quilts! Silent auction items (collectibles and high value items) are also anticipated. The sale will be held on November 3 and 4. Mark your calendars!

Librarian's Spotlight!



*Marlene Cannon,
Branch Manager*

Events and Programs

UCPL hosted several events this quarter, including watercolor basics, cake decorating, story times for babies and preschool-aged children, and a Lego Club.

The Friends of Union County Library hosted a presentation, "Climbing Mt.

Everest: One Man's Story." Josh Garrison shared his motivation, preparation, and ascent for his adventure, followed by a Q and A for patrons.



Summer Reading kicked off the first week of June with a BANG! Over 220 children signed up for summer reading this year! We had approximately 350 join us for a Lego build and sign-up! We have had an excellent turnout for all events, with some of the most significant numbers that UCPL has seen. We could not do all these wonderful events without the help of the community, and the Friends of Union County Library.



The petting zoo, Barry Stewart's program featuring books about community, and Lego Club were popular events. Bruce the Bear (a character in a series of children's books), escorted by Morgan, was a special treat for all the children.



Personnel

We are happy to welcome Corbin, Lauren, and Amanda to Union County Public Library. This past April marks the one-year anniversary of Morgan at UCPL.



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 Arlene Gray show off a cake at the bake sale.



Faithful FOUCL Volunteers: Secretary Jackie Millstone, Treasurer Debora Quigley, Lauren Burgreen and Judy Baldwin.



Bake Sale (left), Painted Rocks (right) and our dedicated helpers: Lauren Burgreen, Kathy Lawrence, Jackie Volk with Bruce the Bear.



Friends enjoy social time at our luncheon and quarterly meeting at Choestoe School.



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.

WHOO'S WHO: Owl-iver introduces our new Branch Manager, Marlene Cannon



With Susie Brendle's retirement there is a new face at the helm of Union County Public Library. Marlene Cannon comes to us from her previous position as Branch Manager of Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris. Marlene is a life-long resident of Towns

County, growing up in Hiawassee and graduating from Towns County School System. She has managed both Mountain Regional and Hiawassee Public Library. She is an avid reader and, as a young stay-at-home mom, looked forward to the nights when the library was open and she could leave her children with her husband and browse all the great books before choosing the week's reading for herself and her children.

While she was working at Mountain Regional, she was the Public Service Coordinator, assisting libraries with their reading programs, getting the things Branch Managers needed and trying to make community connections. However, this was during the pandemic when nothing worked as it had before. When the Branch Manager retired from Mountain Regional, Marlene was excited to be named the new Branch Manager. Marlene is a people person and loves working where she can connect with the patrons.

Marlene believes that meeting the needs of the community, encouraging staff, and connecting all the pieces of running a library is an important focus of her job. Digital services will continue to be a big draw for patrons, but from observing all ages she sees that people prefer the feel of a real book in their hands.

Libraries serve people from every walk of life, from birth to death. Accessibility for everybody is its most important function. Community needs are met at the library, and meeting those needs are what drives Marlene Cannon. Stop in and introduce yourself the next time you are at the library.

More About...



Where Do You Fit In?

There is always a need for people with a variety of skills. Below are a few holes we need to fill.



Web Manager: After 6 years, our current webmaster is hoping to pass the baton on to someone new. We are looking for a willing person to take over the existing website and continue to maintain it; or, in the long-term, a web manager who is able to build and maintain a new website. Our webmaster is willing to work with a new person during a transition time. Some knowledge of HTML5 and CSS would be useful. Do you have expertise in this area, or do you know anyone who does?

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, or 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?

Send an email to foucl.blairsville@gmail.com if you would like to serve in one of these areas.

National Friends
of Libraries Week
OCT 15-21

FRIEND YOUR LIBRARY!

National Friends of Libraries Week offers an opportunity to celebrate Friends. It's a time to promote our group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. Let your friends know that Friends of Union County Library welcomes new members. We have traditionally given any new members who join in November or December a full year of membership for the upcoming year. What a great deal!



November BAKELESS BAKE SALE!!

November and December are busy months. We have decided to take donations of money from a bakeless bake sale being held at the same time as our Everything Christmas Sale. These funds will be earmarked for our traditional free holiday book for families of UCPL. Wondering what a bakeless bake sale is? This poem helps explain how it works:

A bit of news we have today.
A "Bakeless Bake Sale" is on the way.
In these busy days, who wants to bake
A pie, a cookie, or even a cake?
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of ingredients, heat, and the time you've lost.
Bake sales take lots of effort and money,
And can also add unwanted inches to your tummy.
So we've thought of a plan that's really grand,
And feel quite sure you'll understand.
Just give some thought to what you'd bake or buy,
Then donate the price of that cake or a pie.
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part.
We hope you'll give with a willing heart.