



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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From the President

Dear Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL),

What makes a Friend?

People who love libraries because they love to read;

People who love libraries because of resources like
the computer lab or genealogy room;

People with small children who enjoy story times,
picture books, and a wonderful place for their children to
feel at home and explore.



Jackie Volk, President

People like you. People who use the library make great Friends.

Are all library users Friends? Well, all library users are friends of libraries,
but when the word is capitalized, it refers to the organization, “Friends of
Union County Library.”

When you join Friends, your money goes to support our library right here
in ways State funds might not, such as bringing a speaker or special event to
the Summer Reading Program, or buying more magazines or books than the
budget will cover. In the past, Friends’ fundraisers contributed half of the
funds needed for the automatic doors at our entrance. (\$4,000.00)

Your membership is so important to our success.

But so are You!

Bake sales, Open Mic events, the Everything Christmas Sale, helping at
children’s events, takes real people offering their time for a few hours.

When you come to quarterly meetings you get to know other members who
think like you. You find out about our current projects. Together, we come up
with new ideas.

Add *be a “Best” Friend* to your goal for community involvement and join
our team of volunteers. We want to know you better.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to thank each of you for all the ways
you have supported the Friends this year. I am grateful for all of you.

Sincerely,

Jackie Volk

Calendar



November
4th Quarter newsletter
emailed to all members

Everything Christmas Sale
Members Only Pre-Sale
November 2 3:30-5pm
Open to Public
November 3 10am-4pm
November 4 10am-2pm
Community Room

November 4 1:00pm
Winner of Quilt Raffle
announced
Community Room

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

December 1 11:30am
FOUCL Christmas Luncheon for
members, spouses, & their guests
Vincent's Copper Top Restaurant

January 17 1:00pm
Quarterly FOUCL membership
meeting
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!



Christmas Quilt Raffle ends November 4

It is hard to express how grateful FOUCL is to FOUCL member and quilter, Pam Ippolito, for donating her beautiful handmade Christmas Quilt for us to raffle off. Tickets were sold for \$5.00 a piece or 5 for \$20.00.

The Queen sized quilt hung in the Branch Manager's office window through October so all could see the craftsmanship that went into this prize.

The winner will be announced at the Everything Christmas Sale on November 4. You need not be present to win!



Annual Planning Meeting—November 15 1:00pm

Each year, FOUCL takes the time to review the activities of the past year, evaluate, and brainstorm for the coming year. This is a great time for members to come and give their feedback. What was really fun this year? What should we do next year that we haven't done before? What do we repeat, or delete from our calendar?



You are the expert. You know what attracts you, or what flies under your radar. Come and be a part of the future of FOUCL.



Annual Christmas Luncheon December 1

FOUCL members, spouses and their guests will be celebrating the holiday season together at Vincent's Copper Top Restaurant in downtown Blairsville for our annual luncheon. Following the meal we will have a book exchange. Those who wish to participate should bring one unwrapped book.



Our Christmas luncheon has become a tradition where Friends sit back, relax and celebrate all that has been accomplished. Watch for an email with all the details closer to the event.

Branch Manager Update



*Marlene Cannon,
Branch Manager*

Events and Programs



Union County Public Library had record numbers for the summer reading program this year! One of our top programs was the North Georgia petting zoo with over 400 people. Not far behind was our kick-off, with over 350 people attending. These are the final numbers of how many patrons signed up for our Summer Reading Programs

- 20 Adults signed up - Top adult reader read 4,735 pages
- 14 Teens signed up - Top teen reader read 3,341 pages
- 227 Children signed up - Top child reader read 8,313 pages

With the excitement and rush of summer over, we have started back with our regular programs and events. For August, we focused on planning and organizing for the upcoming months.



In September, we hosted BINGO for Books, Thursday Threads, and Mountain Friends Book Club. Also, we jumped on the viral trend of "Thrift Ghost Paintings, where participants took thrift store artwork and added ghost images. Those who attended had so much fun discovering their inner artist and creating these spooky pictures.

Personnel

We are excited to welcome Shauni to UCPL! She is filling the role of Children's Services. Stay tuned to see what fantastic ideas she brings.



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



In July FOUCL set up a booth at the Farmers Market to boost awareness and attract new members. Robert Harford, left, assisted Ken Arrington, Vice-President, and Pam Ippolito in the photo on the right.



In September, our Open-Mic event was well attended. Readers Fred Teagle (left photo) and Nancy Smith (right photo) were two presenters.



When we say Friends In Action, Pam Ippolito went above and beyond the call of duty creating this beautiful quilt for us to raffle off!



It takes faithful FOUCL Volunteers like Secretary Jackie Millstone, Treasurer Debora Quigley, Lauren Burgreen and Past President Judy Baldwin to keep FOUCL running smoothly!

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 Youth Services Specialist, Shauni



There's a new face in town. Those who bring their little ones to the library on Mondays for Story Time have already met her and discovered a woman with a heart for children.

Shauni, originally from Virginia, has a degree in Elementary Education and spent several years working in Day Care in Murphy and Hayesville. During one of her frequent visits to UCPL she learned the position for Youth Services Specialist was open and knew that was right up her alley. (Shauni replaces Mrs. Ann, who was moved to Mountain Regional Public Library in Young Harris as Branch Manager.) "Working here has opened me up to so many new friendships. Here, I get to know the parents of the children I serve. It's been great."

Shauni started right away setting up story times for the 3-5 year olds, planning activities that tied in with the books she introduced to them. In the future she hopes to add a Lap/Sit story time for the littlest ones. She is also looking to the needs of middle school-aged kids, and is working on plans for them.

Involving people of all ages in books is her thing. "There's nothing like finding that book where the characters come alive and a child's face lights up, a new book that lights the spark of imagination."

In the future she hopes to find a project that will appeal to older teens, perhaps a Book Club where she can encourage or inspire their reading interests. "So often teens steer away from reading on their own because there is so much assigned reading in school. I hope to bring them back to reading what they like, just because they want to."

Shauni carries the creative gene and enjoys activities such as knitting, crocheting, and macrame. She plays the piano 'a little' and loves to sing. You will usually see her Mondays through Thursdays, and the occasional Saturday.

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 the 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.

Advocating for Literacy

At our October meeting FOUCL voted on two holiday themed books to present to the children who attend the December 18 Story time. Those children will receive a gift of either *Last Stop on the Reindeer Express*, by Maudie Powell-Tuck, or *The Little Reindeer*, by Nicola Killen. This has become an annual event as we strive to encourage reading in children at a young age.



A Word About Our Sponsors

Whenever we ask a local business if they can help us help the library, we usually get more than we hoped for. Local businesses help us in many ways, from donating baskets or gift cards for raffles or silent auctions, to making monetary contributions that we can use to help the library purchase things not in their budget.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these corporate sponsors.

