



# Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

## Friends Communicator

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### NEW YEAR – NEW OPPORTUNITIES

This year the Friends of Union County Library will celebrate its 28th year as a vibrant community nonprofit organization. As members, we are proud advocates for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning. Our organization has had strong leadership and outstanding members who have worked tirelessly to make FOUCL so dynamic. It is crucial that we sustain this momentum.

### GOALS

At our annual brainstorming session last November, several goals were identified. We want to expand our member base to include more library patrons, people from the local community, and corporate sponsors. In turn, we also want to increase our visibility in the community through increased publicity and outreach programs. Our members are encouraged to share the importance of the Friends' mission with their neighbors and friends and to get involved. We have a new Events Committee and it is busy working on plans for some unique events this year. Stay tuned!



### NEEDS

Our greatest need right now is to develop leaders. We encourage you to start by volunteering for events and tasks that interest you. Our members are a joy to work with and our events are fun and worth your time. Email Judy or Sally if you need suggestions on where you might fit in. (see *email addresses in sidebar*) We welcome help from all our members. Let's make 2024 an opportunity to share our time and talent with our beloved library community.



Judy Baldwin

## Calendar



February  
Quarterly newsletter  
emailed to members

Feb 12-17 11:30-1:30  
Membership Drive

April 6 11:00-1:00  
Poetry Lovers Celebrating  
National Poetry Month  
*Community Room*

April 9  
National Library Workers Day

April 17 1:00 pm  
Quarterly Meeting  
*Community Room*

April 27 11:00-1:00  
Big Hats With Tea and Scones  
*Community Room*

May  
Quarterly newsletter emailed to  
members

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 Looks For New Members

February is National Library Lovers Month. What better way to show how much we love our library than by encouraging others to become a member of Friends of Union County Library? The week of February 12-17, between 11:30 and 1:30, our members, wearing GREEN Vests, will serve as Friend Ambassadors to accept new members, renew memberships, and answer questions. By joining Friends, our members help provide programs and materials for Union County Public Library. Participation in FOUCL provides programs like our upcoming Poetry Fest, or last year's program, Climbing Mt. Everest. Members stay in the know through our email blasts. We hope to encourage many more library patrons to join FOUCL. Our message to them will be "The only piece missing is YOU! Join Us!"



### Poetry Fest-April 6 11:30-1:30

Rhyme, Couplet, Elegy, Free Verse  
Limerick, Haiku, or Ode,  
Here is the place to share your choice  
Whichever form is your mode.

Poetry Lovers, Celebrate National Poetry Month! Bring a published poem of your choice to share and discuss with other poetry lovers. What's your favorite style of poem? Do you have a go-to poet? Mark your calendars, and bookmark those poems to share with others.

Stay tuned for details and check the Friends room for updates.



### Big Hats With Tea and Scones

April 27 11:00-1:00

The Kentucky Derby is right around the corner. Whether it's a Derby Hat or Boater, a Sunhat or a Floppy, pick a theme, jazz up your best Big Hat and wear it to our Tea. Come sip some tea, learn all about hats, their history, styles, and purposes, while modeling your own design and noshing on scones. Stay tuned for details on hat contest categories.

# Library Happenings

The last few months have been very busy with programs and events!

Union County Public Library hosted several presentations with Dr. Heather Welch for our adult patrons. Her first presentation covered "The Haunted Lakes of Georgia," followed by her presentation on "Mary Shelly's Frankenstein." She wrapped up in December with a discussion on "Charles Dickens." She has become very popular with the UC patrons and has had more requests on different topics.



*Marlene Cannon  
Branch Manager*

The very talented Assistant Branch Manager, Morgan, instructed patrons of all ages to use wood slices to make snowman ornaments. Our Youth Services Coordinator, Shauni, has been very busy since starting in the fall. She has pre-school-age Story Time every Monday at 11 am. She also holds multiple STEAM-related programs in the afternoons for school-age children. It was fun to join them in making snow out of baking soda and shaving cream! Our Lego club still meets once a month.

### Other highlights that we would like to share

- Our winter book sale was a great hit with the community!
- The Friends of the Library Christmas sale brought over 300 people to the library in a two-day sale!
- We are seeing a rising number of people just using our space to sit and study, read, meet with friends, and use our WIFI.



One of our significant events this quarter was Grinchmas! We had 250 people join in for games, cupcakes, photo ops, and The Grinch.



Marlene catches a photo op!



The popcorn machine was purchased with funds from the FRIENDS, and has been busy!

When he found a chance to take a break the Grinch was spied resting his feet, reading.



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



Our EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS Sale is one of our most profitable fundraisers. It takes many hands and attracts lots of buyers. Left, Cathy Claud is the lucky winner of the beautiful Christmas Quilt donated by creator Pam Ippolito.



It was our treat to gift Union County's hard working staff with gift certificates at Christmas. Another favorite of ours is to present a Christmas story picture book to the children at Story time.



After a busy year, it is time to gather and celebrate. Right, Connie Rosenberry emcees the book exchange as Morgan selects her book. Above, Kathy Lawrence shows off the book she chose.



Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant provided the perfect venue for our party.



## 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 Whoo



Meet Joy Wilson, FOUCL's Secretary

FOUCL is delighted to introduce you to our current secretary. Joy Wilson moved to Blairsville in December of 2022 from Cape Coral, Florida where she lived for 20 years.

When asked if she was from here, or was new to the area, her response was, "I'm not a native but I wish I was. This is such a beautiful, friendly area and I am so happy to be here now."

It didn't take her long to find the group she thought would help her become a part of this vibrant community. She found FOUCL through our newsletter and felt we were the group for her!

Joy and her husband worked for General Electric in Circleville, Ohio and retired at the same time, relocating to Florida. She also spent a few years in Indiana. Her son and his family, including 3 great-grandchildren, all live in Washington, Indiana.

Joy enjoys books that deal with communication skills and relationships. "I grew up in a dysfunctional family and have always been trying to improve my communication skills. Self-Help books and stories with people that have good relationships make me feel good. I have always loved books."

Joy and her husband, Mel, love riding motorcycles. They have a blue Honda Gold-Wing with a trailer for luggage. "We've been married for 43 years and have traveled all over the U.S. and Canada multiple times. For many years we belonged to a group called Gold Wing Road Riders Association. We were very involved in it and had wonderful times with friends from the group. We still have many of those friends even though we moved away from them when we moved to Georgia from Florida."

Welcome to Blairsville, Joy! We are happy to include you in *our* circle of FRIENDS.

#### 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.

# More About...



The American Library Association (ALA) has designated Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as National Library Workers Day. It is a time to recognize all library workers. Library workers serve as an irreplaceable community resource, and this is a day designated for library patrons, administrators, communities, and Friends of the Library groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all of those who work in libraries. Be sure to thank a library worker during the month of April.



## Free Program Presentation Available 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](mailto:tvolk55@gmail.com)) if your group would like to have a FOUCL presenter as your guest speaker.