



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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Library (FOUCL)

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New Leaders Step Forward

Dear Friends,

A special FOUCL meeting was held on August 21 to determine if there were members willing to assume the leadership roles of President, Vice President, and Social Media Coordinator for 2026. The unfortunate alternative was to dissolve the organization just shy of its 30th year partnering with our beloved library. I am pleased to announce that Claudia Naylor has agreed to be a candidate for President. Vera Coupal volunteered to be a candidate for Vice President and to assume the duties of Social Media Coordinator. The complete slate of officers for 2026 will be presented by the Nominating Committee at our October 15 meeting. If there are any members who wish to be added to the slate as President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary, please contact me.

The Friends have been quite busy this quarter! We supported the Summer Reading Program, which registered 362 patrons of all ages, by providing popsicles the first week and a "donations only" bake sale the second week. Some members attended the bingo games and even won prizes!

Have you noticed the colorful pollinator garden in full bloom near the flag pole in the library parking lot? This was planted by the Towns-Union County Master Gardeners and funded by FOUCL as a memorial for Medora Mackinnon, former FOUCL member and treasurer. Recently we placed a memorial rock in the garden. Look for it.



In July, Friends took some time to relax with a potluck lunch at the beautiful Choestoe School House before holding our quarterly meeting.

Save the Date for our annual Christmas party and book exchange to be held at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant in Blairsville on December 11 starting at 11:30. Bring an unwrapped book or two to exchange. This is one party you do not want to miss!

Exciting things are happening with Friends. Check your email, read the newsletter, and watch for articles in our local newspaper. Watch for ways to help. Thank you all for being such loyal and dedicated Friends of our library.

Gratefully,

Judy

Calendar

August
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

August 21 1:00PM
Emergency FOUCI Membership
Meeting
Community Room

October 15 1:00 PM
Quarterly Membership Meeting
Community Room

October 19-25
National Friends of Libraries
Week

November Dates 13-15
Library Book Sale with FOUCI
Bake Sale on Nov. 13

November 19 1:00 PM
Annual Meeting to elect 2026
Officers
Community Room

November
Quarterly newsletter emailed to
members

December 11 11:30 AM
FOUCI Christmas Party
Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant

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!**October 15 Quarterly Meeting**

On October 15 we will have our 4th quarter membership meeting where the Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for 2026. If you are interested in being a candidate for office, it is not too late. Please contact Judy Baldwin. Leadership is key to any organization, and we are pleased to have two new members who have stepped up to say they are willing to lead us forward. Be present and show your support.

The slate will be voted on and elected at the Annual Meeting November 19, when we also traditionally brainstorm for 2026. It is important for members to attend and support those who have agreed to have their names put on the ballot.

National Friends of Libraries Week

In 2005 National Friends of Libraries Week (Oct 19-25) was founded by the American Library Association to show appreciation for existing library friends and supporters. We will celebrate a little early by having special treats at our quarterly meeting on Oct 15. FOUCI members should take pride in their many accomplishments. Look at the list on page 6 for some of our most recent contributions to the Union County Public Library and to our community.

November Book and Bake Sale

November 13-15 our library is hosting a book sale. We will be partnering with the library during their book sale by conducting our own bake sale after the book sale on Nov. 13. Watch for emails on how you can participate either with supplying baked goods or buying baked goods, and of course, used library books!

Everything Christmas Sale Cancelled

What? Really? Why?

The Everything Christmas Sale has been a very successful fundraiser for us for several years. Unfortunately, this year, we experienced two important roadblocks which caused us to cancel.

- 1) Space: We can only use the Community Room for one day. The library needs the space for their own activities.
- 2) We did not get two co-chair volunteers to organize it. It's a short term job, but for one month it fully-engages the organizer.

Without leaders, it is in our best interest to put this fundraiser aside. Maybe next year??

Library Happenings

What a busy quarter UCPL has had! In April we hosted our first annual LIBCON. The event drew 105 people who enjoyed dressing up, snacking on Japanese treats, creating fan art, and meeting an artist who has appeared on many Comic-Con panels.



*Marlene Cannon
Branch Manager*



In June, we kicked off the Summer Reading Program with a registration day that included popsicles provided by our Friends of the Library, snacks, visitors from the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and Georgia Forestry, crafts, and, of course, registration for SRP! 273 children, 89 adults, and 25 teens, for a total of 362 patrons registered! Popular programs included Crescent Circus, Birds of Prey with Georgia Mountain Falconry, and Wildlife Wonders Zoo.

Highlights

We were invited to join UCEM for their annual "Brag Night." Morgan and I had such a wonderful time promoting the Summer Reading Program and all the other great things that we do. Another invitation we received was to participate in the UCEM 4th-grade field trip to Meeks Park, where they met community helpers. We helped around 250 children create chalk art and told them about things we do at the library!

Our Friends of the Library and Master Gardeners have collaborated to create a beautiful pollinator garden in the median outside the library. It included all of the plants needed to register as part of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Garden.



Local artists gave well attended classes.

All totaled, we hosted 42 programs, with a total of 2,372 attendees. An interesting statistic for fun is that we have circulated between 500 and 620 books each Monday over the last month.



Children loved making bouncy balls from Borax and glue.



Union County Public Library Hours:

9:00 to 5:00 Mon, Wed, Fri

9:00 to 6:00 Tues, Thurs

9:00 to 3:00 Sat

Closed Sunday

UCPL Telephone: 706-745-7491

Friends In Action



Jackie Millstone drops off delicious treats to go with the ice cream at our "New Member Getting to Know You" Ice Cream Social in May.



Samantha and Mary Ellen Watz man the popcorn and popsicle table at the SRP registration day.



FOUCL's Bake Sale table was set up during a children's summer reading event.



We love our community supporters like United Community.



Our beautiful Medora Mackinnon Memorial Butterfly and Pollinator garden created by the Towns-Union County Master Gardeners is registered as a Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail garden.



Time to Relax
Summer Luncheon at
Choestoe Schoolhouse

L to R: Awesome food, Kathy Lawrence, Pres. Judy Baldwin, Sally Woodworth, Cathy Dalton handles name tags

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 Cathy Dalton



Cathy joined FOUCL last year and has been an active part of the Friends ever since. If you recognize her, it may be because she was the Pharmacy Tech at Walgreen's in Blairsville for the last 20 years. Cathy is outgoing and naturally connects with people. Her smile precedes her, reaching out to people wherever she goes.

After Cathy retired from Walgreen's, she found time to participate in new ways in her community. She came to a Friends event and learned something many library users don't realize; the Friends are not actually part of the library, but a support group of volunteers. Cathy loved the idea of volunteering in ways that could help out the library. An avid reader, Cathy believes in libraries and what they have to offer.

Cathy is a baker, a crafter, and a homemaker. Using her imagination and ideas found online, she takes items around the house to create her own wreaths, or centerpieces, and is learning how to make baskets through OASIS. Using a pizza pan painted black and clothespins painted yellow, she made a cute Sunflower wreath recently.

Cathy's other passion is Tippy, a Beagle mix she found at Castoff Rescue. Tippy was two-years old when she found her forever home with Cathy. She had been rescued from a hoarder who had 42 other dogs. After spending two years in a kennel Tippy was depressed and had no idea how to play. Cathy introduced her to the dog park where Tippy learned how to interact with other dogs. Three years later, Tippy has become outgoing and loves her visits at the dog park.

FOUCL is fortunate to have this warm-hearted member in our fold. Look for her the next time we have a volunteer event.

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.

More About...

More About FOUCL Involvement

So far, this year the FRIENDS of UNION COUNTY LIBRARY have:

- Provided picture books to families in our community at the library story time on March 3, READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY. Also sponsored 10 children through FERST Readers.
- Contributed to purchase periodicals (magazines, newspapers) for our Library.
- Held a Membership Drive in February/ Welcomed new FOUCL members at an Ice Cream Social in May.
- Assisted with funding Library Staff training.
- Contributed to funding of the Summer programs.
- Passed out popsicles during Summer Reading Program Kick off.
- Used funds provided by a bequest in Medora's will to create the Medora Mackinnon Pollinator Garden with the help of the Towns-Union County Master Gardeners

Last year we:

- Purchased a popcorn machine for library events, rolling book carts, and 2 new sewing machines for library programs.
- Started a games program that enables families to play games in the library or take them home.
- Funded purchase of community book requests through WISH lists for children and adults.
- Held a fundraiser Bake Sale in May.
- Sponsored an Appalachian Trail Presentation with John Turner in June.
- Set up a booth at BOO BASH at Meeks Park for Community outreach on Halloween.
- Had a very successful EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS SALE Nov 1st & 2nd to raise money for our Library.
- Held a fundraiser bake sale in November.
- Provided the Isiah 117 House with books for children to keep and started a permanent library.

Legacy Gifts



A wonderful way to remember a loved one is to designate memorial gifts be sent to the Friends of Union County Library. Consider also adding a designated specific memorial gift to FOUCL in your will.