



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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Karen Cassity

Vice President:
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Friends Of Union County
Library (FOUCL)

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From The President

Change is hard, but sometimes it's necessary. It can be scary, but it also can be very exciting.

Union County Public Library is not just a place for quietly doing research and checking out books. It has become a community hot spot. The energy coming from the library is unmatched! Not only are the staff full of fresh ideas and enthusiasm, but they are also especially kind. They're eager to direct or assist in any way possible. Walking through the doors you're greeted with a smile and friendly face. They're willing to share all the library's many resources.

You, the FOUCL members, have pivoted to match that enthusiasm. Last year, you provided books to library patron families on a couple of occasions. You bought **book carts, sewing machines, and wish-list books** for the library. The summer reading program, periodicals, and **tech kits** were mostly funded by you, Friends of Union County Library. You even gathered and donated family games and puzzles for the library patrons to enjoy. You **sponsored ten children through Ferst Readers and started a library at Isaiah 117 House.**

You just held a *Library Lover's Month* Membership Drive. In April you'll provide the library with staff appreciation gifts and hand out more books for *Read Across America Day*. For the first time ever, you're giving away a **scholarship to a high school senior!** You'll have several exciting opportunities to volunteer this year. We are looking into ways to make our friendship with the library even stronger.

Change is hard, but you're doing it gracefully and enthusiastically. Thank you for being a Friend of Union County Library!



Calendar



February
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

Feb 10-15 11:30-1:30
Membership Drive

March 3
Read Across America Day
Books presented to children
Community Room

April 8
National Library Workers Day

April 16 1:00 pm
Quarterly Meeting
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!



Meet the Officers

FOUCL is fortunate to have talented and dedicated members who are willing to take the lead guiding us forward. Our officers serve for one year but often agree to continue in their role for more than one term. This year's officers are from left to right: President Karen Cassity, Secretary Jackie Volk, Vice President Joy Wilson, and Treasurer Debora Quigley.

Clued In Ugly Christmas Sweater Murder Mystery Party Game

Library staff and FOUCL hosted a combination Ugly Christmas Sweater Party and live game of Clue Murder Mystery. Participants experienced life as Clue Detectives as they exchanged clue cards and questioned each other. Part of the game involved "wearing" costume pieces. See Photos on Page 4. Eventually one person determined WHO did it, With what WEAPON and WHERE. The party ended with a vote to determine who had the ugliest sweater.



The American Library Association (ALA) has designated Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 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.

Library Happenings



*Marlene Cannon
Branch Manager*



This quarter of our year was a bustling one for UCPL. We hosted 59 events in the last three months, attended multiple outreach events, and checked out many books! We added five new tech kits to our catalog: Snap circuits, Tonie Box, Sphero, and Magna tiles. All these plus 10 Tonies are available for our patrons to check out and are hardly ever available because they are so popular. We plan to add more in the upcoming year. With the support of our Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL), we now have a collection of board games that patrons can take home to play and return when done. Some of our popular programs have been Dr. Welch and her presentations on The Salem Witch Trial, Sewing a Spooky Frog for Teens, costume BINGO for Families, 6 Weeks of Gifts, Fox in a Box presentation, and Storybook Christmas. Our sewing workshops have been very popular.

FOUCL has been busy alongside UCPL, helping host multiple events. FRIENDS volunteers and library staff handed out candy at the annual "Boo Bash" in Meeks Park, donated books to families who visited the library in December and helped host our first interactive game of Clue.



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



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

Many thanks to our interim facilitators, Sally Woodworth and Judy Baldwin, who carried us forward during a transition year.



An anonymous donor made it possible to purchase the popular and heavily used Tech Kits. Branch Manager Marlene Cannon, FOUCL Treasurer Debora Quigley, and Asst. Branch Manager Morgan were on hand to receive the funds.



President Karen Cassity and Secretary Jackie Volk along with other Friends Members presented Christmas gifts to library staff.



Players in the live game of Clue question each other to ferret out the answers. While one little one was having too much fun dancing, Secretary Jackie Volk and newsletter editor Connie Rosenberry dutifully donned costume pieces as directed by their clue cards.

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 Who



Meet Debora Quigley
FOUCL Treasurer

My husband and I met in medical school at Emory University. After doing a Family Practice residency in Rome, Georgia we moved to Blairsville in 1993. We had both moved around a lot as children and vowed we would stay when we got here. We love it here and are so glad we live where others dream of. We still live in the same house and have the same phone number we did when we moved here. Our girls have grown so now it's just my husband, myself and our beagle.

I have usually lived in rural areas. My dad taught history and taught me to love reading autobiographies and books about history. I quickly read all the books available in our small local library for children and my mother gave permission for me to read from the adult books. What I didn't know until I was older was that the librarian would call my mom as I walked home to make sure she approved of what I had checked out!

My preferred books by a long shot are nonfiction, I get so interested in learning true stories and facts behind things and people, especially scientific thinkers of the past and present and how they stumbled on new ways of thought. Truth is always more interesting than fiction. As a doctor, I had the privilege of being part of my patient's stories and always enjoyed the challenge of figuring out the puzzles of their challenges, sometimes like mysteries! My 3 favorite books I would grab in a fire are "Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl, "For the Time Being" by Annie Dillard and "Book of the Eskimo's" by Peter Fruechen.

When I retired, I thought long and hard about what I wanted to do in a volunteer capacity. This county has so many worthwhile organizations and things to do. I chose the Friends of Union County Library as reading is so important to me, as is access to knowledge. If you can read you can be anywhere, learn anything, understand perspectives different from your own and so much more. I read over 100 books a year, so without our incredible Library, I'd be too broke to retire!

In addition to reading, I love gardening (especially roses), making cards, household repair, and car repair. I often write authors of my favorite books and have a collection of letters they have written back or books they agreed to sign.

Bring your gifts and talents and join us at the Friends of Union County Library.

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.

Thanks to our Donors

It Takes a Village...



FOUCL has been able to do a lot this year thanks to local corporate donors and our hard-working members.



- Coldwell Banker, located at 211A Cleveland St, provided the funds to purchase new library carts, replacing old worn-out ones. "Our company is proud to support the local community and Union County Public Library."

- Rick's Rental provided the funds needed to donate books to the recently opened Isaiah 117 House. Isaiah 117 House gives children in transition to foster homes a bright, warm, and loving place to stay. FOUCL provided books for children to read, with the goal that the child may

take one of their choice with them when moving to a new home.



FOUCL members Connie Rosenberry and Jackie Volk, left, and Amy from Rick's Rental far right, present books to Audrey and Rachel at Isaiah 117 House.

- Hillcrest Clinic and Imaging made a generous donation to FOUCL to be used where needed the most. They are located at 401 Pat Haralson Drive Unit 1. They provide Imaging and Walk-In care.
- We also received an anonymous donation of \$1000 to support the purchase of the popular tech kits at the library. The Tech Kits are fun activities based on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Math. Our children love them. They are checked out constantly. Many thanks to this anonymous donor!
- We are grateful for all the donations made to Our Everything Christmas sale. Local churches who made donations of Christmas items are Coosa Methodist, First United Methodist Church of Blairsville, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic. Between the donations from the community and the churches our sale was one of our most successful fund raisers.
- The Spa at Blueberry Hill, Karen Cassity, and Longhorn Steakhouse donated Silent Auction items for the Everything Christmas Sale.
- Last but not least, we are indebted to the bakers and buyers at our bake sales.



COLDWELL BANKER
HIGH COUNTRY
REALTY



It takes a village for us to be successful. Blairsville is a great village.