



# Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

## *Friends Communicator*

### *Officers*

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Our first quarter got off to a good start as a group of volunteers worked with me in January to get out the invitations for new or past members to renew or rejoin Friends of Union County Library. Our membership drive is always a successful endeavor. What put us over the top was the members of the new Events Committee spending time in the library for a week in February talking to many library patrons who came in during the week. This group of dedicated and energetic volunteers shared what FOUCL is all about, our organization, our purpose, and the contributions we make to the library. Library visitors were all invited to join and a significant number of them did!

On July 17 we look forward to our summer Picnic and Quarterly Membership meeting. You'll have a chance to socialize with your fellow FOUCL members at the pavilion in Meeks Park behind the Senior Center. FYI, it has ceiling fans, a bathroom, picnic tables, a sink to wash up in, and plenty of parking. We've used it before and it's a great location. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share and we'll provide the entrée. We meet at 11:30, eat at noon, have a brief meeting, and then do something fun.

In the fall, our Everything Christmas Sale will be back! If you have just moved here and are looking over the Christmas items you brought and thinking, "I can't use ALL these things," or "I don't have a place to store all of them," do we have a solution for you! Bring them to us at the library – we'll be there one day a week the month of October –and we are looking for new or gently used ornaments, other decorations, wrapping paper, ribbon, Christmas dishes, wreaths, etc., in other words, EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS. (We don't have the room to take large trees, or children's toys.) The sale is held in early November.

Looking forward to meeting or seeing you!

Sally Woodworth

*Calendar*

May  
Quarterly newsletter  
emailed to members

May 10 10am-2pm  
Mothers Day Bake Sale  
*Community Room*

June 3 9am-4pm  
Membership Table during  
SRP Registration

June 25 1pm-2pm  
Appalachian Trail Presentation  
*Community Room*

July 17 11:30-1:00 pm  
FOUCL Picnic and Quarterly  
Meeting (bring dish to share)  
*Meeks Park Pavilion Next to  
Senior Center*

August  
Quarterly newsletter emailed to  
members

Sept. 7 11am  
Blairsville Clogging Team

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 Holds Mother's Day  
Bake Sale**

Our annual Bake Sale is over but we want to thank everyone who supported it either by bringing in baked goods, or coming in to buy. Besides providing yummy treats it is also an opportunity to meet other library users who might be interested in FOUCL.

It takes a lot of people to make this a successful fundraiser. If you missed it there is still a way you can support the library.

You can donate through Paypal at [foucl.blairsville@gmail.com](mailto:foucl.blairsville@gmail.com) or at the circulation desk—tell them it is for the FOUCL Bake Sale. Proceeds will be used to support the Summer Reading Program and children's programs.

**Appalachian Trail Talk**

Mark your calendar now for a special program on the Appalachian Trail. We like to say we live in God's country. We have the unique experience of living so close to the trail that reaches from Georgia to Maine. Hikers sometimes come into town to replenish supplies, wash their clothes, or get a comfortable, dry night's sleep in a hotel. On June 25, the Director At Large of Georgia A. T. Club, John Turner, will give a presentation on maintaining the trail and what it means to hikers and to us. It will be held in the Community Room on June 25 from 1-2pm.

FOUCL is so appreciative for the donation recently received from River City Bank. Their generosity will make it possible for the library to purchase Wish List books. Most people aren't aware that library funds are usually earmarked for certain uses. Donations like the one from River City Bank fill the gap, allowing the library to purchase many other items. These funds will be used to order books specially requested by children and adults.



# Library Happenings

We have had several very successful programs this winter and plans are in the works for upcoming programs. Morgan's hand lettering class was one of our most popular adult programs this quarter. We hope to offer a calligraphy class in the upcoming quarter.



*Marlene Cannon  
Branch Manager*

Another patron favorite was our Tiny Art Show. We supplied 4x4 inch blank canvas, and it was up to the patron to design and return them. Thirty out of fifty were returned with incredible art! We had over 300 votes to help us decide which canvas was the favorite.



The Bluey event was a success, with over 330 people coming into the library in just two hours! We had games, dancing, friendship bracelets, face painting and several other stations.

This quarter we were happy to announce we have monthly story times with several therapy dogs. We have 10-minute slots for children to choose a book to read to the dogs. Ordena and DJ (the poodle) have worked with other public libraries to promote reading through the "Reader of the Pack" program.



We've also begun a partnership with the Farm Bureau, where an agent comes monthly to help promote farm and agricultural story times.

The library is involved in outreach events with Union County Head Start. We have been invited each month to read to classes. We also did an information drive one afternoon at parent pickup to inform parents and guardians how many ways they can use the library.

You can't miss the construction going on. We are creating a new study room and meeting room. We are excited about seeing the completed project!

There is always something going on at the library. Watch for upcoming programs and take advantage of all the ways the library can help you.



## Union County Public Library Hours:

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

9:00 to 6:00 Tues, Thurs

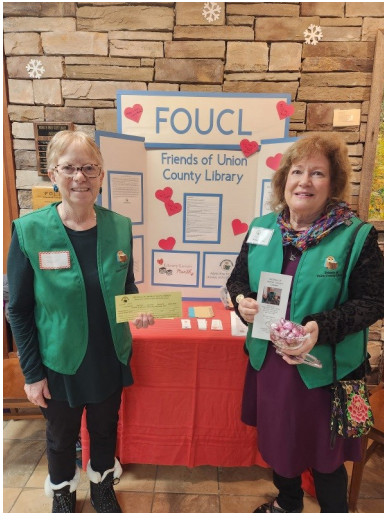
10:00 to 2:00 Sat

Closed Sunday

UCPL Telephone: 706-745-7491

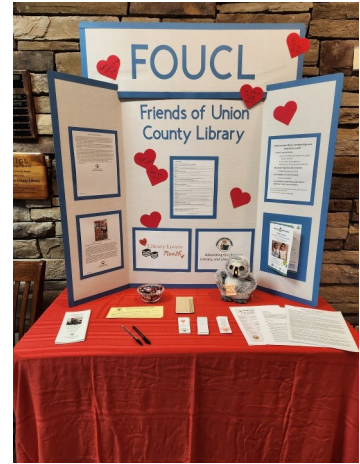


# Friends In Action



## Love Your Library Display

Doreen Sasso (left) and Renee Rasha (right) were 2 FOUCL Ambassadors in February, sharing our mission and goals with library patrons.

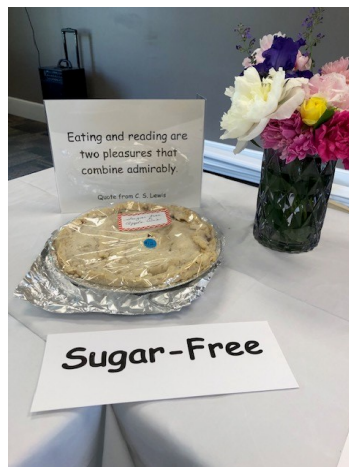


FOUCL volunteers created this eye-catching display that was set up in the library to bring attention to the Union County Friends of the Library.



Friends (wearing green vests) stopped by to thank our hard working staff for all they do. Debora Quigley, Sally Woodworth, Karen Cassity, Renee Rasha, Lauren Burgreen, and Judy Baldwin, took time from their busy day to give our staff a hearty Thank You!

Debora Quigley, FOUCL Treasurer, accepts a generous donation from River City Bank Relationship Manager, Tammy Collins.



From Gluten Free to Sugar Free, rich chocolate fudge to healthy oatmeal bread, cookies, pies, breads, our bake sale had it all. Roslyn Wise, (left), Jackie Volk (right) and many other volunteers made customers feel welcome.

## 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



Karen Cassity

Have you met Karen Cassity? She is the engine behind FOUCL's Events Committee. During our fall planning session we were excited to feel the energy as discussion took off on possible programs and activities the Friends of Union County Library could offer in the coming year.

Several people volunteered for the newly formed Events Committee. Karen has done a wonderful job of organizing the group and moving them forward.

Karen was born in Blairsville, but moved away when she was five and her father was looking for work. His job took them to several places, but it was in Kentucky where Karen attended High School that she met her future husband. They have been married 30 years, and have 3 children, two adult sons and one daughter who is in the 7th grade at Union County Middle School. Her husband's career in the Air Force took them to Colorado Springs, and Germany for 4 years, as well as Washington DC before their last post at Scott AFB in Illinois. When he retired from the military, they moved back to Blairsville, where Karen has family.

Karen has always had a love of reading, diving into books of all types. She prefers Christian fiction, loves cookbooks, but if a title catches her interest its going home with her. Her love of reading also feeds her love of libraries.

She helped out in her high school library, worked in the library on the base in Germany, has volunteered in her children's school libraries and just feels at home when she is in one.

When she was handed a flyer about the Friends of Union County Library she was immediately drawn in and wanted to find out more about us. Now that she is a member, she is hoping to see more young people join, and more adult type of programs.

We are lucky to have this energetic young woman planning those programs!

#### 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.

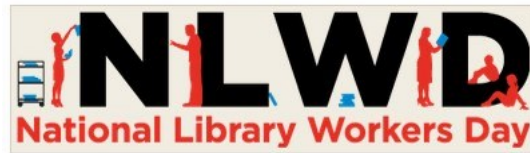
Books take you places you may never have a chance to visit.

Books open your imagination.

Books make children lifelong learners.

Books challenge us to be better people, develop compassion, and open our minds.

# More About...



National Library Workers Day (April 9) is designed to let those who help us when we visit the library know how much we value them. FOUCL was on hand on to thank our illustrious and friendly library staff and present them with a few gifts. Several Friends showed up to present gift cards, insulated lunch bags and a homemade chocolate cake baked by Lauren Burgreen. (That was probably the best treat of the day! Who can turn down a good chocolate cake?)



## Poetry Fest

It was a nice sized group of poetry lovers who showed up to celebrate their favorite poets in April. The discussion that followed the readings was fun, and thought provoking. Everyone went home with a few new poets to follow and a new appreciation of the many different styles poets use.



## 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.