



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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Friends Of Union County
Library (FOUCL)
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From the President

It's May! The flowers and trees are reawakening, and the Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) are, too. We have received several unsolicited donations recently, new members continue to join, and in-person events and fundraising are returning.

Looking back over the months since our last newsletter:

In April, we recognized National Library Workers Day by presenting individual mugs and a Harry & David Thank You tower of pears, nuts, and chocolates to library staff. All library patrons were invited to express their thanks through Post-It notes on our door. Comments included: "Thanks! You are awesome!" and "Yay for you – always helpful – always friendly!"

FOUCL handed out 25 copies of "Horton Hears a Who" and several of our members attended the February 28 storytime celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. There was a crowd-filled Community Room that day.

Looking forward:

In just a few days we will be hosting our first in-person bake sale, just in time for Mother's Day. In advance, let me thank all who will contribute with your baking, your time, or your bucks. The funds we raise are used to support Union County Public Library, including their upcoming Summer Reading Program. Our bake sales have always been successful thanks to your dedication.

In July, we are celebrating a milestone in our organization with 25+ years since our beginning in July of 1996. To mark the occasion, we are inviting all members, and some special guests, to a Potluck Salad Luncheon and Membership Meeting at Choestoe Schoolhouse on July 20, beginning at 11:30 AM.

Read through this newsletter to find out about all the FOUCL happenings.

We are fortunate to have Union County Public Library, the Mountain Regional Library System, and PINES available to us. FOUCL members have always, and will always, support libraries as our primary purpose. We thank you for everything you do and remember all those who have gone before us in FOUCL's over 25 years of service and advocacy.

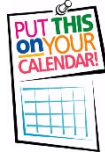
Gratefully,
Jackie Volk, President



Jackie Volk, President



Calendar



May

Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

May 6 10am to 2pm
Mother's Day Bake Sale
Community Room

June and July: Summer Reading
Program: Volunteers needed
(See article for details)

June 7 3:30pm
Everything You Need to Know:
Ready, Set, Travel
Community Room

July 20 2:00pm
25+ Year Celebration
Potluck Salad Luncheon and
Membership Meeting
Choestoe Schoolhouse

August
Quarterly newsletter emailed to
members

All meetings open to members.

All programs open to the public.

What's Happening!

Mother's Day Bake Sale—May 6

FOUCL will be holding a bake sale on May 6, the Friday before Mother's Day. Please plan to bake and buy. Our last in-person bake sale was in November of 2019. Thanks to Evie Miller and Sally Woodworth, who are co-chairs for what we think will be a better than ever sequel.

Some of our best sellers in the past have been pies, small cakes or cupcakes, cookies, brownies, and breads; but we will accept whatever you enjoy making. Your baked goods can be delivered the afternoon before our sale, Thursday, May 5, from 2pm to 5pm. The sale will be on Friday, May 6, from 10am until 2pm.



Volunteers Needed

Calling all FOUCL members to assist with the Children's Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is **Oceans of Possibilities**. Children's Librarian, Mrs. Ann, needs help with the sign in of families at each event and will sometimes need other types of assistance. Look for an email blast soon with details and your opportunity to sign up to help. All events are at the library this year and most are on Monday mornings beginning at 11am, usually lasting less than an hour. This is a wonderful chance to volunteer at our library.

Everything You Need to Know:

Ready, Set, Travel

Join us at the library on Tuesday, June 7, at 3:30pm as we share travel experiences and jot down good ideas for future travels – local, national, and international. Come prepared to tell us about your trips traveling solo, in a group, or with multi-generational family members.

- Share pros and cons of different modes of transportation.
- Give and get ideas about RVing or renting.
- Tell us about your experiences with Global Volunteers or other purpose-oriented trips.
- Share your most successful travel experiences. Come and bring a friend – it's free and open to the public.



Every great
library
needs
good friends



Librarian's Spotlight!



It was a busy spring season at the library.

We welcomed many families for Storytimes, Lego Club and Book Clubs.



Susie Brendle,
UCPL Branch Manager

Patrons of all ages submitted wonderful poems in celebration of April Poetry month.

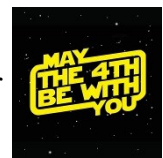


We had a large group of all ages attend our Bake for Good, Bread Baking Program which was sponsored by the King Arthur Flour Company.



We will be having a special Cinco de Mayo storytime on May 2 with special guest Senora Isabel. She will read books about the holiday in both English and Spanish.

On May 4th, we will be joining the rest of MRLS for a special system-wide Star Wars themed event at Fannin County Public Library.



On May 9, Becky Griffin, coordinator of the Great Georgia Pollinator Census, will join us for our morning storytime.

In the afternoon, she will provide a special session on Our Native Bees for our adults.

Our Summer Reading Program, titled "Oceans of Possibilities," will kick off on June 1. A detailed flyer of all the events and activities is available at the library starting May 1. Readers of all ages are welcome to register to read and join us each week for entertaining events. Please contact the library if you would like to help with sign in during events. We still have space available.



Thank you to FOUCPL for your volunteer time and donations of funding to help pay for presenters, books and materials. You are helping us provide a literacy-rich summer for our community.



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



It is always a fun day, when we present Dr. Seuss books to the children at storytime.



On hand were (L to R) President Jackie Volk, Connie Rosenberry, and Judy Baldwin.



Right: We love showing these ladies how much we appreciate them, and National Library Workers Day is one time we get to do it.



L to R: Betty, Mrs. Ann, Marissa, Susie Brendle, Wendy receive gifts from FOUCL. Not pictured, Morgan and Taylor

President Jackie Volk gave a presentation on the history of Union County Public Library and the Friends of Union County Library to an appreciative audience of women at First United Methodist Church's Morning Glory Circle.

Above: Jackie chats with a guest following her presentation.



Harry and David Tower of Treats and mugs were tokens of appreciation for National Library Workers Day.

FRIENDLY Faces

Getting to know your library staff...



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.



Marissa, Assistant Branch Library Manager

Union County Public Library has recently added a new position. Marissa has been promoted to Assistant Branch Library Manager. As such she will continue to do everyday library jobs, like shelving books and working the desk as well as assume some of the responsibilities that Branch Manager Susie Brendle has handled alone.

Marissa began working at UCPL in 2017, following a variety of jobs at Walmart, Wendy's, Burger King among others. The library was always a draw for her, a place she would go to when she had some extra time. She began supplementing her hours at Burger King with a few at the library. Gradually, she continued adding hours until she was working enough hours that she could give up her job at the fast food restaurant.

Marissa was born in Connecticut and moved to Georgia as a child. She moved to Union County in 2009 and graduated from Union County High School in 2013.

Marissa trains new employees, takes care of the book store, and handles donations. She helps patrons in the computer lab, receives and distributes Inter-Library-Loan materials and works on research projects among many other responsibilities. As she puts it, "There are so many things the library does it's impossible to list them all. It can be overwhelming, but it's always interesting."

She often is called upon to help customers using the online catalog, LIBBY, and other computer applications available through the library. New employees also need to be trained on those applications. When people become frustrated by the intricacies of these programs, Marissa encourages them to take it one step at a time. "Don't let it overwhelm you. It is a constant learning process," she says.

Marissa appreciates the unlimited resources the library has access to. "I love showing people that their cards are good for so much more than just checking out books." Being tasked with research projects for Susie Brendle, Library Branch Manager, or patrons gives her a chance to explore those resources in and beyond the PINES system, locating books in universities and establishments from all over the country.

She is a reader by nature; her favorite book is *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, but choosing a genre is not her style. There are too many good books to read.

Besides working in the library, Marissa loves Guinea Pigs. For several years she raised five guinea pigs. She enjoyed working with them, building extended habitats and obstacle courses. She even trained one to hold a ball and dunk it into a tiny basketball hoop.

Clearly, Marissa is a young woman who enjoys challenges!

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.

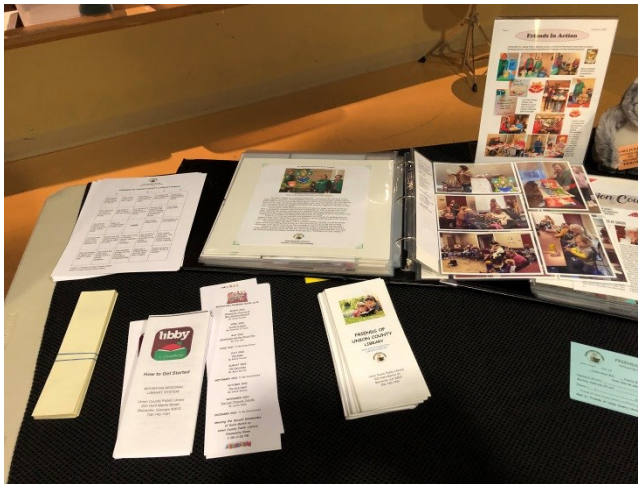
Books challenge us to be better people, develop compassion, and open our minds.

More About...

FOUCL Guest Speaker Available



Recently, with the help of Susie Brendle (Union County Public Library Branch Manager), FOUCL has put together a brief history of libraries, 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. Several FOUCL members are available as guest speakers. Do you belong to an organization that might want to have us speak to them? Contact us at foucl.blairsville@gmail.com or through our website at foucl.org.



The FOUCL scrapbook and a variety of handouts are on display at a recent presentation on FOUCL's history, and the history of Union County Library.

25th Anniversary Luncheon!

Our founders would be so proud to see how strong their vision of an organization that could advocate and support Union County Public Library is today. Plan to join us for a salad luncheon on July 20. Mark your calendar now, and watch for an email closer to the date with details and an invitation.

We will meet at Choestoe Schoolhouse, at 11:30.



The Friends Communicator is published 4 times a year, following the Quarterly Membership Meetings. The publication dates are February, May, August, and November.