



# Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

## Friends Communicator

### Officers

President:  
Jackie Volk  
tvolk55@gmail.com

Vice President:

Past President:  
Judy Baldwin

Secretary:  
Nancy Bryant

Treasurer:  
Sally Woodworth

Newsletter Editor:  
Connie Rosenberry  
granberry2@hotmail.com

Webmaster:  
Robert Harford



Friends Of Union County  
Library (FOUCL)  
P.O. Box 1546  
Blairsville, GA 30514  
foucl.org

## From the President

Fellow Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL),

FOUCL has been busy. Look for photos of some of the May, June, and July events on page 4 of this newsletter:

Thanks to bakers and buyers, our May Bake Sale brought in \$804.

The June Travel Program, co-sponsored with Union County Public Library (UCPL), was informative and fun. Special thanks to Arlene Gray, who spoke to us about how to combine mission and travel, and David and Mary Welken, who shared camping tips and provided a tour of their custom camping van.

During June and July, FOUCL members helped with the Summer Reading Program. See Branch Librarian Susie Brendle's Report for more details on these well-attended programs and be sure to thank her, Mrs. Ann (Youth Services Specialist), and the rest of the library staff for all their hard work. Also in July, FOUCL celebrated our 25+ anniversary with a Potluck Salad Luncheon at Choestoe School House. We enjoyed delicious food, good conversation, a short history of FOUCL, and a productive meeting.

FOUCL has September, October, November, and December events and activities planned. For many of these upcoming events, FOUCL volunteers will be needed. Please watch for emails and volunteer when and where you can.

Looking even further ahead, to 2023, we will have the nomination of officers for that year at our October meeting, and election and installation at our November brainstorming meeting. Are you the person we're looking for to serve as President or Vice President? Would you be willing to serve as Vice President during a year of mentoring into the Presidency? If so, or if you have questions, please contact me through our FOUCL email at [foucl.blairsville@gmail.com](mailto:foucl.blairsville@gmail.com). FOUCL boasts 26 years of service in advocacy and support of UCPL. Let's keep it going.

Sincerely,  
*Jackie Volk*, President



*Jackie Volk, President*



## Calendar



August  
Quarterly newsletter  
emailed to members

Sept. 15 3:30pm  
Writers Open Mic: Poetry/Prose  
*Community Room*

October  
Monday, Wednesday Mornings  
Receiving Donations for  
Everything Christmas sale  
See article for details

Oct. 16-22  
National Friends of Libraries  
Week

Oct. 19 2:00pm  
Membership Mtg,  
Nomination of 2023 Officers  
*Community Room*

November  
Quarterly newsletter emailed to  
members

Nov. 4-5  
Everything Christmas Sale  
*Community Room*

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!



### Writers Open Mic: Poetry & Prose Reading

Calling all writers and listeners: Join us at UCPL for a FOUCL and Library co-sponsored Open Mic: Poetry & Prose event on Thursday, September 15, beginning at 3:30 PM in the Community Room. Writers are invited to bring their best work and plan to read for no more than 5 minutes so all who wish to participate may do so. Writers will sign up at the event, with the participants reading in random order. No books will be sold, but if you have something published, you are encouraged to mention where it can be purchased. If you haven't attended an event like this before, consider giving it a try.



### Everything Christmas Sale Collections Begin in October

On November 4 and 5, FOUCL will hold its third "Everything Christmas" sale, featuring a wide selection of gently used holiday treasures. Just about anything in good condition and related to Christmas (except large artificial trees and toys) will be accepted. In the past we have sold ornaments, wrapping paper and bows, Christmas cards and stationery, holiday-themed books and magazines, creches, holiday décor, and Christmas linens, to name just a few categories. Donations will be accepted at the library on Monday and Wednesday mornings during the month of October and a box will be put outside the Friends Room door for drop offs at other times.



### National Friends of Libraries Week - October 16-22, 2022

During this week we encourage you to celebrate Friends, promote our group in the community, and raise awareness of the contributions we make. For instance

- The sculpture outside was made possible through a bequest to us.
- Half the cost of the automatic door openers was paid for by FOUCL. (SPLOST funds paid for the other half.)
- Many books and magazines have been paid for, and will continue to be paid for, by funds from us.

See Page 6 for more ways FOUCL has made a difference.

## Librarian's Spotlight!

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Library for your continued support. Your quarterly donation paid for most of our magazine and newspaper subscription renewals in May. FOUCL also paid \$1200 toward our Summer Reading Program supplies and entertainers.



*Susie Brendle, Librarian*

Our hugely successful Summer Reading Program has come to an end. We had 237 juveniles, teens and adults register for the Summer Reading Program and 31 of them read over 100 books qualifying to be named "Super Readers". At each SRP event, FOUCL volunteers helped with sign in and documenting attendance for our prize drawing at the finale. This summer's registration was greater than registration over the last 20 years.

The library has also been seeing record numbers for circulation and attendance this summer. While these numbers are still slightly less than 2019 numbers, they are only a few thousand behind. We are hopeful that our attendance and circulation will continue to grow throughout the year. To this end, we have a busy fall planned with programs for all ages.

School-year programs for our youth services will start on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Along with the return of Lego Club, we will now be offering a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & mathematics) Storytimes for school-aged children and our very first Baby/Toddler Lapsit Storytime for our youngest patrons up through three years of age. Additional programming is being planned for later in the fall.

New adult programs planned include monthly tutorials for Libby and PINES as well as a Christmas card making class, a bookmark making class, a Project Chimps Program, cake decorating classes, a knitting class, a program about the American Black Bear sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and a Christmas Karaoke event! In September, we are hosting FOUCL's Poetry & Prose Open Mic.

The library has a new microfilm reader in the Heritage Room purchased with SPLOST funds. We also have North Georgia News on microfilm available for patrons to use up until 1998 thanks in part to FOUCL's donation in July. We are in the process of purchasing newer years. We hope to host a heritage program in September where we will demonstrate the machine as well as the other genealogy features of the library's Heritage Room.



### 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 Travel program was very well attended. Member, Arlene Gray, shared her travel photos. David and Mary Welken gave attendees a first hand look at their camper.



This beautiful dollhouse, handmade by Kathy Lawrence, will be raffled off to a lucky winner in time for Christmas!



The Mother's Day Bake Sale went off without a hitch thanks to an abundant supply of goodies and the help of volunteers like (Back to Front) Jane Manuszak, Jackie Volk, Janet Dittus and Jackie Franklin.



Webmaster, Robert Harford, explores the options at the buffet table.

## FOUCL celebrated 25+ years at our July luncheon at the old Choestoe Schoolhouse.



L to R: Judy Baldwin, Dottie Byrd, and Kathy Lawrence peruse the many choices.

Pictured are (l to r) Nancy Bryant, Secretary, Sally Woodworth, Treasurer, and Jackie Volk, President.



Donna Howell, former director of Mountain Regional Library, enjoys a sampling from the buffet.



## FRIENDLY Faces

### Getting to know your library workers...



**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 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.

Morgan, Library Assistant



### Meet Morgan

If you have been to any of the childrens' events this summer, you have already met Morgan. She is that bubbly person with the auburn hair checking out your books, or helping Mrs. Ann with programs.

Morgan may not be familiar to all. She has only been with UCPL for three months, but those who have met her aren't likely to forget her.

Morgan has worked at a variety of places before coming here, most notably in Blue Ridge at an assortment of stores and with the train. She enjoyed meeting tourists and engaging with them. Morgan is a people person, which also made her perfect for a job at the library.

Morgan loves talking with locals and learning their stories. "This area has such a wealth of history. Their stories contribute to who we are."

Morgan wasn't born in Union County but has lived here since she was 11. She likes the slower pace found in Blairsville. She and her sister were homeschooled by their mother, although they were part of a group of other homeschooled children and often did joint activities together.

Her education included a lot of projects which inspired her love of crafts. This fall she will be leading some crafting activities for adults. (Editor's note: I have seen the bookmarks project she will lead later this month. They are very cute!) Her hobbies include knitting, sculpture and painting, most self-taught. She has traveled some throughout the southeast and would love to visit the rugged coastline of Maine with its many lighthouses. A woman of many interests, her

favorite book is usually "whatever I'm reading now."



Morgan is a very talented young woman who has much to offer Union County Public Library. Be sure to introduce yourself to her.

Morgan engages with children during the Shark centers event. "Will it sink or will it float?"

# More About...

## Union County Public Library and FOUCL

### A Short History of Friends of Union County Library

In 1996 a series of meetings were held with the express purpose of forming a Friends of the Library group for UCPL. The people at those meetings decided on a name, completed and submitted the paperwork to establish 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, wrote by-laws, selected officers, opened a bank account and, in July of that year, began with an initial membership of: Florence and Peter Blumberg, Cathy Fiser, Pattie Hamilton, Virginia Jordan, and Judy Vaughn. From those visionary few, we have grown. We turned 25 years old in 2021 and we were pleased to recognize and celebrate that milestone recently. Our founders would be proud to see their legacy alive and very active today.



### Friends of Union County Library—FOUCL

FOUCL celebrates National Friends of Libraries Week during the third week in October each year. During this week we encourage you to celebrate Friends.

- Promote our group in the community—ask President Jackie Volk or other member to do a presentation about the Friends at your organization's meeting.
- Raise awareness of the contributions we make.



Pay a visit to UCPL and take note of FOUCL's contributions

- The LEAF (Library Enrichment and Furniture) fundraisers added around \$30,000 to the most recent library renovation.
- Outside the Friends Room are plaques listing past Presidents and our 2009 Fabulous Friends Award, given by Friends of Georgia Libraries, after a nomination from Donna Howell – then Director of Mountain Regional Library System.
- Our mascot, Owl-iver, is on the wall in the Youth Services Room.

Other appropriate ways to observe the week would be to

- volunteer to help receive items for our Everything Christmas Sale on Monday or Wednesday morning of that week,
- donate to FOUCL, or
- encourage a friend to become a member.

The Childrens' Summer Reading Program was very well attended this year. Many thanks to all of the Friends volunteers that helped with registration and monitoring Mrs. Ann's events.

