

Be a Friend of Union County Library



FOUCL Treasurer Debora Quigley

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) advocates for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning. Those seem to be three good reasons to become a member but, of course, there are lots of other reasons which often have their roots in our past experiences with libraries. Recently our Treasurer, Debora Quigley, had this to say about her history with libraries and why she thinks everyone should be a Friend:

“As my friends know, I am an avid reader. I often read a book a day and have since I was small. I grew up in rural Tennessee and did not learn to read until I was in first grade. But from there I was off to the races. The library was 3 miles away, but in those days, I would just tell my mom I was going to the library, and she would just say, “see you later”. By the time I was in 3rd grade, I had read all the Nancy Drew series and most of the children’s books at the library. We went to talk to the librarian, and I was given special permission to choose from the adult section of the library. I love nonfiction, especially diaries and autobiographies. I didn’t know it at the time, but the librarian would call my mom to make sure the books I checked out were OK with her. Only once did I have to sneak “Valley of the Dolls” in the closet at night, and it wasn’t all that.

Fast forward, 30 years ago we moved to Blairsville and there were 2 small bookstores, but they would order anything. Then came Amazon. I am sure I was one of their best customers. One year I looked at what I had spent on books and thought gosh, I could have paid off my student loans! I had been to the public library before, but rarely found the books I wanted. Then one of the librarians told me about the PINES system and interlibrary loans and I was in heaven. Not only could I get any book I wanted, but I didn’t have to do anything but request it and pick it up.

Not only did I save a ton of money, but books allow me to go places in my mind and see things from a different and unique point of view, which may lead me to a different understanding of the human experience without having to experience it myself. They have made me, I like to think, a more compassionate person and a more inspired person. They’ve taught me to garden and fix things, even before YouTube. My favorite book of all time is Eli Wiesel’s “Man’s Search for Meaning”. What I’m reading now is “Queen Victoria, 24 days that changed her life” by Lucy Worsley.

I like to hold a book in my hands. Many of my friends use only Kindles and tablets to read through the Libby program at the library, so many of them are not aware of the Friends of the Union County Library and how we support the library. Giving books to children, buying furniture and equipment, sponsoring programs, and providing monetary support are just a few things we do. Even if you never set foot in the library, you should be a friend! Go to www.foucl.org and send in your membership today to help support the future of the library, get our newsletter, and see the programs you might be interested in.”

JOIN US TODAY! Join for \$10 or think of what you’ve saved by using the library and donate a portion of that.



**Advocating for Libraries,
Literacy, and Lifelong Learning**