

June 2023 – FOUCL Member Jean Nethery on the Importance of Reading and Libraries



Jean Nethery is a member of Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) and a long-time lover of books and reading. She recently asked how she could help our organization and was delighted when it was suggested she write about why she feels libraries are important and the reasons she is a member of FOUCL. She wrote:

Whenever I enter a library, I feel as if I'm in a different world. The peaceful atmosphere full of tempting books available to borrow at no cost makes me forget the world we live in full of diversity, shootings, and anger.

I grew up in a middle-class family where there were few books. My parents subscribed to the daily newspaper and listened to the news on the radio. I was not exposed to books at an early age but listened on the radio to "Let's Pretend," "Fibber Magee and Molly," and "The Shadow."

When entering fourth grade I discovered the delightful orange books published by Bobbs-Merrill Company, still referred to as the "orange book" series. They were biographies of famous people who were courageous and hard-working, and who eventually became successful. Theodore Roosevelt, Dolly Madison, Clara Barton, and Nancy Hanks Lincoln were among my favorites.

Later in Junior High I fell in love with Nancy Drew and her many mysteries and the Hardy Boys who outsmarted their wrongdoers.

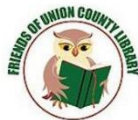
As an adult, married and the mother of four children, I made sure that each of the children attended Story Hour at the library when they were preschoolers. We had books in our home, borrowed books from the library, and often attended programs that the library offered.

If you have never visited the Union County Public Library, been to a program sponsored by the Friends of the Library or encouraged your child to be a part of the summer reading program, I invite you to take advantage of this local gem in our Blairsville community.

Books on dogs have a special place in my heart and now that the children are grown, I read "Clifford the Big Red Dog" to Maggie, my four-legged friend. (Shown with me here in the photo.)

Thanks for your words, Jean. Union County Public Library (UCPL) and other libraries in Mountain Regional Library System have already begun another summer filled with activities and reading challenges for all ages. Register at UCPL to be part of a LEGO build, get a reading log, receive a library BINGO card, and decorate a puzzle piece. Attend any of the many special events taking place in Union, Towns, and Fannin Counties. The Summer Reading Program theme this year is All Together Now, which focuses on kindness, friendship, and community.

FOUCL is pleased to be able to provide financial support to the programs at UCPL, which are free to attendees. Enjoy your summer even more by making the library a regular place to visit or by accessing the library's online resources.



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