



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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The Friends Never Slow Down

It has been a busy fall, but the results of our efforts have been very rewarding!

In August we held a raffle for the miniature schoolhouse made by Kathy Lawrence. Gail Mulford was thrilled when she learned she was the winner. In September, our life-size mascot, Owliver, made his first appearance at a reading program for kids who were his instant best friends. Members were also busy planning for our annual Everything Christmas sale. Collection of Christmas related items went on through the month of October. October 31 was doubly busy. Several members set up for the Everything Christmas Sale and opened the doors early for a Members Only sale, while other members, and Owliver, were at the Blairsville Boo Bash in Meeks Park to hand out candy to the local trick or treaters. Now it is November and we are getting ready for the Thanksgiving Bake Sale. (We will need YOUR help especially to make this a success. Please bake and/or buy some goodies for your feast.

December is right around the corner. Invitations will be going out soon to the Christmas lunch at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant.

The giveaway book has been chosen for the story time on December 9. "Construction Site on Christmas Night" will be handed out to each family who attends. The Friends help with this event each year. We are grateful for a member of FOUCL who donated, anonymously, the money for the purchase.

Change is in the Air!

We are excited to announce that we are getting a technology upgrade in the way we do things. One of the biggest things that will change is the way the membership renewal will be done. You will get an email with a link to our website (foucl.org) asking you to pay your dues by PayPal or with your credit or debit card. If you're already a member, this is all you need to do. For new members, there's a short form to fill out. We hope this will make the membership process easier. You can also renew in person at the library with a check or cash as always.

You may have already noticed that we are asking for volunteers on an interactive online form and we will continue to improve this process.

The Board and officers of Friends of Union County Library wish all of you happy holidays and a Merry Christmas!

Calendar



November
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members

November 1 10-4
Everything Christmas Sale
Community Room

November 2 10-12noon
Everything Christmas Sale
Community Room

November 20 1-2pm
Election of Officers Membership
Meeting
Brainstorming session to follow
Community Room

November 25 3-5pm
Set up/Drop off for Bake Sale
Community Room

November 26 10-2
Thanksgiving Bake Sale
Community Room

December 9 1-3, and 4:30-6:30
Clued in Ugly Sweater Murder
Mystery Party
Library

December 16 11:30am
Christmas Party Luncheon
Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant

January 15 1:00pm
Quarterly meeting
Community Room

February
Quarterly newsletter emailed to
members

All meetings open to members.

All programs open to the public.

What's Happening!

Thanksgiving Bake Sale

Our Annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale is coming up soon and we are counting on the wonderful bakers in the Friends to help us out as usual. Pull out your favorite recipe, pies, cookies, breads, brownies, candy...you name it, we want it! All baked goods can be dropped off at the library on Monday, November 25 from 3-5.

Successful Bake Sales need buyers! If you don't bake, then consider us the answer for your family's Thanksgiving dessert. Perhaps you've been invited to Thanksgiving dinner and would like a hostess gift. FOUCL's Bake Sale to the rescue.

The Bake Sale is Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 10 am-2pm



Clued in Ugly Sweater Murder Mystery Party



First, who doesn't love a murder mystery? Second, who doesn't enjoy an event where snacks and hot chocolate are served? This Clue style Murder Mystery Party serves up both treats. Friends volunteers will be needed to help pull it off. A sign up will be emailed to members closer to the event.

The party will be held two times. The first party will be for adults from 1-3pm. The 2nd party will be for upper elementary age children and up from 4:30-6:30pm. Wearing Ugly Christmas sweaters is strongly encouraged!



Save the Date! Dec. 16 Christmas Luncheon

No sooner are we finished with Thanksgiving, than we are planning for Christmas. After a busy year we hope you will join us for a celebratory Luncheon at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant in Blairsville, on Monday, December 16, at 11:30.

All members are invited, but we need to give them a head count so please RSVP when you see the email invitation. And don't forget to bring an unwrapped book for the book exchange!

Library Happenings

Our library was humming with activity this past summer.



Marlene Cannon
Branch Manager



Children's Program Highlights

One of my favorite activities during the summer was Dino Day. We had life-size paintings of dinosaurs' heads in our community room with our favorite storybook dinosaur "Penelope Rex," who visited!

In August, we partnered with the Georgia Forestry and our local Friends of Union County Library to celebrate Smokey the Bear's 80th birthday. Georgia Forestry provided lots of goodies for the families and the opportunity to visit Smokey Bear. Our Friends delivered a birthday cake so Smokey could share it with everyone!



In September, we let the stuffed animals of patrons take over the library for a sleepover. Patrons brought us their favorite stuffed animals and dropped them off for an after-hours event. They watched movies in the community room, ate popcorn, read books, had a birthday party, and had several other fun activities. Then, the following day, the owners picked up the stuffies and received a goody bag that included pictures from all the adventures.



Other Highlights

After moving our large print books, circulation is up 5.2% from last year. Besides the increase in circulation in large print, I noticed a whopping 22% increase in graphic novel use! This is almost unheard of and shows the changes we made were effective.

I am also happy to report the construction of 4 study rooms has been completed. They are furnished and ready for use. The two that were completed first have already been used 259 times, a testament to the value the community has placed on these facilities.

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



Union County Public Library Hours:
9:00 to 5:00 Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 to 6:00 Tues, Thurs
9:00 to 3:00 Sat
Closed Sunday
UCPL Telephone: 706-745-7491

Friends In Action



On August 31, the winner of the 1912 Miniature Schoolhouse was selected. Treasurer Debora Quigley was present as this young man at the Farmer's Market pulled the winning name for us. Creator Kathy Lawrence presented the Dollhouse to winner Gail Mulford.



Owliver stopped to chat with a spooky reader.

Alex, right, was so excited about game day she made this sign.

"Welcome to the library! And remember SHHH. It is game day! Are you excited?"



It Takes A Village...

FOUCL Volunteer Lauren Burgreen, Secretary Joy Wilson, Newsletter Editor Connie Rosenberry, Past President and Publicity Jackie Volk and Volunteer Roslyn Wise are a few of the Christmas elves who helped get ready for the Everything Christmas Sale.



Friends Lorna Piehota, Judy Baldwin, and Secretary Joy Wilson (in green vests) were on hand to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday. The Friends provided this cake for the celebration.



L-R: Jackie Volk, Roslyn Wise, Robert Harford, Joy Wilson, Janet Dittus, Lauren Burgreen were on hand to open the Sale.

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 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.

Whoo's Who



Roslyn Wise Lauren Burgreen is one of our best fundraisers and it takes dedicated Friends of Union County Library volunteers to pull it off.

Meet the Christmas Elves who put together our Everything Christmas Sale!

Roslyn Wise (left) and Lauren Burgreen (right) teamed up this year to co-manage all of the donations, pricing, scheduling, and running of the sale. This

Roslyn has been a member of Friends for several years. She has lived in Blairsville 7 years. Before coming here, she and her husband lived in several states. She has held a variety of jobs including newspaper journalist and Asst. Director of the Museum of Art at Washington State University. In Wisconsin she worked for the Asst. Superintendent of Library, Technology and Community Learning, where she became involved in libraries.

Lauren moved here 10 years ago. She has lived in 9 states and countless towns. She and Ros discovered they have both lived in a few of the same towns, though they never crossed paths. Lauren became interested in audiology after working with students that had speech impediments. She worked as an audiologist for 50 years.

Both women have volunteered at FOUCL events over the years, so you may already know them well.

Meet Owliver!

We would like to introduce FOUCL's newest addition, our mascot Owliver. Owliver can be seen at events or roaming the library. You may have seen him already. He visited the children at storytime and was present at Meeks Park Boo Bash on Halloween.



More About...

Donations, Gifts, and Bequests

"What do you want for Christmas?"

When family members or friends ask what gifts you want for Christmas, birthdays, or other occasions, many have a hard time thinking of things. Often we are trying to decrease the amount of stuff we have!

Why not request a gift in the form of a donation to the Friends of Union County Library instead? Your gift will further a love of literature and support our mission: Advocating for Libraries, Literacy and Lifelong Learning. (And you won't have to wash it, display it, or store it.)

All gifts will be acknowledged. Gifts can also be made as Memorial donations, Honorary donations, Charitable trusts, and left as a bequest in Wills.

So the next time you get the question, "Hey, What do you want?..." think about Union County Friends of the Library.



Game Day Success!



In the last newsletter we asked for donations of family-fun games and you delivered! On October 19th, Friends of Union County Library donated a large variety of games and puzzles for all ages, to be used at the library or taken home and returned. To kick off the program, we had a Family Game Day where families stopped in to learn about the program. Many kids picked games like Yahtzee and Hungry, Hungry Hippos that they had never played before and had a great time. One girl was so enthusiastic, she wrote a "thank you" to our great library.

The games are available on the shelves in the front study room. Have fun!

Library Wish List

With the wide variety of programs the library has introduced comes a need for all kinds of supplies and equipment. You can help fill that need. Consider donating the following items. Just drop them off at the circulation desk. Tell them its "A Gift from a Friend."

- Calligraphy felt-tip pens
- Knitting needles (various sizes)
- Crochet Hooks
- 2 Burner induction cooker
- General Art Supplies: water color paints, water color paper, quality paint brushes



Boo Bash! and Everything Christmas! Special Photo Page



A steady line of costumed trick or treaters visited our tent at Meeks Park Boo Bash on Halloween.

Joy Wilson, Dan Cassity, Owliver, and library assistants Morgan and Taylor were kept busy handing out treats.



Frances Mason, right, and Connie Rosenberry below, set up displays.



John Quigley worked on the ornament display. Roslyn Wise, Debora Quigley, Jackie Volk arranged 'outdoor' decorations.



The hard work was completed.

Happy Shoppers discovered an amazing variety of treasures to scoop up and take home with them.

Janet Dittus and Robert Harford were kept busy finalizing purchases.

