



Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)

Friends Communicator

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Look Inside for:

[Calendar of events](#) Pg. 2
[Library News](#) Pg. 3
[Photo Gallery](#) Pg. 4
[Whoo's Who](#) Pg. 5
[Special News](#) Pg. 6

THE FRIENDS ARE BUSY!

It's that season of the year when lots of fun things are happening. The FOUCL calendar lists several events planned for the members and the community. We welcome your participation. *See Page 2.*



Judy Baldwin
Interim President

November 13: 10:00-2:00 PM Our **Bake Sale** to raise funds for the library, will be held during the first day of the library's 3-day book sale. *See Page 2.*

November 19: 1:00 -2:00 PM Annual FOUCL Member Meeting & Election of Officers

2:00-3:00 PM Annual Brainstorming Session for 2026

This is a great time for our members to hear what we have been up to and what we hope to do next year. It is also your chance to let us know what you want to see FOUCL do! Mark it on your calendar! *See Page 6.*

December 11: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Annual Christmas Party, Installation of Officers & Book Exchange at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant in Blairsville open to all members. **Watch for emails about the luncheon and RSVP so we can give them a head count.**

December Gifting Events

- Holiday Gifts to Library Staff
- Holiday Children's Picture Books to Union County Library Families
- Donation to Isaiah 117 House for Union County Foster Children's Books
- Annual donation to First Readers

The Friends work hard to meet the needs of our library, the dedicated staff, and our community. I would like to thank all our members for their time, talent, and treasure. I hope to see you all at our party at Vincent's on December 11, when we can finally relax!

Judy Baldwin

Calendar

November
Quarterly newsletter
emailed to members



November 12 3-5pm,
November 13 8:30-10am
Set up/Drop off for Bake Sale
Friends Room

November 13 10-2
Fall Bake Sale
Library

November 19 12:30 Board Meeting
Membership Meeting 1-2pm
Election of Officers and
Membership Meeting
Brainstorming session to follow
Community Room

December 11 11:30am
Christmas Party
Luncheon and Book
Exchange
Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant



January 21 1:00pm
Quarterly Membership Meeting
Community Room

February
Quarterly newsletter emailed to
members

All meetings open to members.

All programs open to the public.

What's Happening!

Calling All Bakers!

And those who love to eat homemade
baked goods....



Get ready for the **Fall Bake Sale**. This year we are partnering with the library and selling our baked goods on the first day of their 3-day book sale!

WHEN: November 12 (drop off), 3-5pm
November 13 10am-2pm

WHERE: Drop the goodies off at the Friends Room. The sale will be held in the library. You Won't Miss It!

WHAT: Pies, Cakes, Breads, Muffins, Cookies, Brownies, Fudge, Special Treats...Your special favorites, ETC.

Bake a treat or come in to stock up on some goodies!



The Season of Thanks Is Here!

Thanksgiving! A time when we reflect on things we're grateful for and how much our community means to us. Our wonderful library is a local treasure.

Our dedicated volunteers give hours of their time, but FOUCL also depends on donations made by its members.

If you're like me, you may not want more "stuff", so encourage your family to make a donation in your name to a place that means a lot to you, like the library.

How can you give? We offer many ways:

- Leave a check or envelope at the circulation desk for the *Friends of Union County Library*.
- Send a check to:
Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)
P.O. Box 1546
Blairsville, GA 30514
- Donate through PayPal to
foucl.blairsville@gmail.com
- Or visit our website at **foucl.org** and click our *Donate* button.

Big or small, every gift helps us continue our mission to support and strengthen our beloved Library, the heart of our community.

Library Happenings



*Marlene Cannon
Branch Manager*

This last quarter has been a busy one for us. Summer is always busy and this one was no different. The Summer Reading Program had 385 patrons of all ages participating in the various activities, and some of our other programs drew in so many people that we had to offer them again.



The Cozy Plant Swap in August was followed up by a second one in order to accommodate 132 patrons and plants. Those who attended swapped plants and advice, and interacted with Master Gardeners.

There was standing room only, as 106 people crowded into the Community Room for two Scam Awareness classes, presented by Union County Sheriff, Sgt. Robert Calamari.

Lego Club is always well attended, but in September, our Reading with Therapy Dogs drew a crowd!

Union County Public Library gets involved in community events whenever we can. We were present at the 10th annual Back-To-School-Bash for Union County, sharing what the library has to offer.

Our Assistant Branch Manager, Morgan worked with Shawn Rose from Mountain Regional Library at the Young Harris College Community Resource Fair. Next Up: Boo Bash at Meek's Park!



We held a class recently on making Clay Ghosts. So Much Fun!

Fork and Flavor.

A monthly group that enjoys sharing recipes and food. What's not to love?



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



River City presents a check to Treasurer Debora Quigley.



Check out this photo board in the library to see a list of the many FOUCI accomplishments in 2024-2025!



Left: Marlene Cannon, Branch Manager and Judy Baldwin, FOUCI Interim President are holding a few of the DVDs the library was able to purchase thanks to a donation from a former member.



Current FOUCI officers mentor officer candidates, Vera Coupal and Claudia Naylor, on FOUCI's history and organization.



The chairs in the children's area needed to be replaced. Thanks to memorial bequests, FOUCI was able to help them with this purchase. Right, a library user sits comfortably at the computer in one of the new chairs.



In a recent clean-up session of the Friends Room, we unearthed a small stack of these great license plates. You may see them on a few local cars in the future. Sorry, we can't order more at this time, but who knows what the future will bring!

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.

Whoo's Who



Vera Coupal
Facebook Administrator

Meet Vera Coupal.

Vera is new to our mountain town and was looking for a place to plug in when she attended our September emergency meeting. She had been at a book club meeting when she heard the Friends of Union County Library was searching for new leadership and in danger of folding. A library board member in her former community, she knew she had found her next place to get involved. Weren't we in luck! Serendipity stepped in and brought us Vera when we needed her most.

Now, she is our Facebook administrator, something we were sorely in need of. If you have noticed an increase in visibility of our library and the Friends on Facebook, she is the reason. Vera uses that forum as a way to reach out to our members. She also offered herself as our next Vice Presidential candidate for 2026.

One of the first things you will notice about her is she doesn't sound like a local. Vera grew up in Germany and lived there until an American soldier swept her off her feet and carried her off to America. When asked what brought her to America she replied "It was LOVE!" Married to a soldier, she has lived in many places but most recently, Massachusetts. After her husband passed away, she decided it was time to choose her own 'next destination.' With a daughter in North Carolina, our mountains called to her.

Her favorite quote "Nothing is impossible" is best illustrated by this experience: Vera has walked over burning coals to prove Mind over Matter. Then she did it again, because she couldn't believe she really did it!

Welcome Vera! We are delighted you chose us, and we promise not to hand you anything as challenging as walking over burning coals, although for some of us, managing Facebook would be just as challenging.

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 life-long learners.

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

More About...

Save the Date! Dec. 11 Christmas Luncheon

Join us for our holiday luncheon:

- Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant in Blairsville
- Thursday, December 11, at 11:30
- All members are invited
- RSVP when you see the email invitation
- Bring an unwrapped book for the book exchange



Research and Connection

What do other FRIENDS groups do? What methods do they employ for fundraising? How are libraries and Friends groups working together? These were a few of the questions we wanted to find answers to when we took a day to introduce new members and officer candidates, Claudia Naylor and Vera Coupal, to the libraries in Clay County, NC, and the two

libraries in Towns County.

From Left to right, Connie Rosenberry Newsletter Editor, new member Claudia Naylor, Jackie Volk Past President and Secretary, Judy Baldwin Interim President, and new member Vera Coupal explored the answers to those questions, and then stopped for lunch and a chance to digest new information along with good food. Our new members were happy to get a tour of our area, learn about the different libraries, and gain insights that will serve them well if they become our next President and Vice-President.



November Meeting—Planning for 2026

Our November 19 Meeting will be followed by a brainstorming session for 2026. Some topics under discussion may be:

- Committees for 2026
- Ideas for Events/Activities – Membership Drives, Fundraisers, Author Presentations, Possible Used Book Collections and Sales
- Discussion of Current Library & Community Contributions – Books as gifts to children twice a year at Storytime, donations to First Readers, donations to Isaiah 117 House
- Other Expenses: Staff gifts twice a Year, High School to College Student Scholarships