

# Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL)



## Friends Communicator

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### From the President

What a wonderful time of year! With so many flowers, trees, and gardens in bloom, the air is filled with infinite possibilities. I can't wait to start planting in my garden again, though in the meantime, I've been reviewing what we've already accomplished this year and what comes next, which includes a new initiative by Vera to serve those seniors living in assisted care with member-led story time. (See Page 6)



Claudia Naylor,  
President

We celebrated *Read Across America* on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, presenting books to the children attending the Library's Storytime. We chose four different books and allowed each of the children to choose their favorite. What an absolute joy to experience their excitement!

April brought the announcement of the Scholarship winner and our recognition of the library staff's excellent work. Our focus now is on planning for our Spring Bake Sale on May 7<sup>th</sup> and the *Summer Reading Program*, beginning on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Plans for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the July Quarterly Meeting and Potluck are well in progress. Jackie and Judy are coordinating plans for the potluck and celebration when we celebrate thirty years of serving as proud advocates for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning.

I look forward to seeing all of you again on April 15<sup>th</sup>!

Claudia



## Calendar of Events

### May

Quarterly newsletter  
emailed to members

**May 6: 3:00PM-5:00PM**  
**Drop off for Bake Sale**  
**Friends Room**

**May 7: 9:00AM-1:00PM**  
**Bake Sale**  
**UCPL Book Sale**  
**Community Room**

**May 21: 10:30-11:30**  
**Storytime at UC Nursing**  
**Home**

**June 8: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM**  
**Summer Reading**  
**Program Kick Off**  
*Handing out info and  
popcorn to patrons*

**June 6: 8:00AM-1:00PM**  
**FOUCL at the Farmer's**  
**Market**

**July 15: 11:30 pm**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Potluck**  
**and Quarterly Meeting**  
**Choestoe Schoolhouse**  
*1034 Collins Rd. Blairsville*

### August

Quarterly newsletter  
emailed to members

All meetings open to  
members.

All programs open to the  
public.

## What's Happening!

### Bake Sale!

#### Just in Time for Mother's Day



Our Bake Sale coincides with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the library's 2-day Book Sale. We need goodies to sell: everything from Rice Krispie Treats to Pies, Cakes and everything in between.

Support Friends of Union County Library

- Bake: drop off Wednesday May 6 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, or Thursday morning.
- Buy: Thursday, May 7 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM or until all the goodies are sold!

1 Book + 1 Brownie= A Perfect Day!

2 Books, a Pie & some cookies=Who could ask for more?

The sky is the limit. Come in and treat yourself.

### FOUCL at the Farmer's Market



FRIENDS are at the Farmer's Market, June 6.  
Check us out.

- Meet and Greet shoppers
- Hand out information about the Friends
- Books wrapped in brown paper for sale--\$5.
- Take home a surprise.

*It's a Blind Date with a Book!*

### FOUCL is 30 Years Old!



Celebrate with us July 15

- Potluck luncheon and Quarterly Meeting
- Choestoe Schoolhouse, 1034 Collins Road.
- Potluck and Celebration begins at 11:30.
- Honored Guests: Donna Howell, past director of Mountain Regional Library, and retired UCPL Branch Librarian, Susie Brendle.

## Library Happenings!

Our library has been involved in several outreach programs this winter.

### EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Read to residents at Stonehenge Assisted Living multiple times.
- Partnered with Union County Sheriff's Office to host their Scam Class.
- Our Therapy Program added two dogs to the delight of library patrons.
- In February, Galentines blended blinging books with learning about mocktails. It was so much fun!
- In March, our teens enjoyed a Van Glow painting event.
- Brenna visits UC General child-care classes and the UC Head Start classes reading to about 200 children altogether.



*Marlene Cannon,  
Branch Manager*

### Highlights this winter.

Among the many things we do, giving the UCHS special-needs students a tour of the library, helping them pick out books related to weather, and having them at storytime is one of my favorite things. We hope they come back soon.

Morgan and I attended Gilmer County Library Adultpoolza. I presented our Plant Swap program and Morgan presented our Sourdough 101 program, sharing information on how to run these programs that are favorites of our patrons.

Appalachian Trail Club invited UCPL to have an information table at the Banff Film Festival. It's so nice to attend an event where attendees already love libraries!

# Friends in Action



It is thanks to gifts from our community partners, like United Community, that we are able to help support UCPL's Summer Reading Program.



We love showing our library workers how much we appreciate all they do. For National Library Workers Day we gifted them with flowers and a gift card to Dancing Rabbits.



Library staff from left to right: Amanda, Linda, Owliver, Marlene, Morgan, Brenna



For Read Across America, March 2, FOUCL was present at Storytime. Jackie Volk read to children. President Claudia Naylor and Mary Ellen Watz helped with the Lion craft. Children chose one of the four books below to have for their own.



# 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 Owliver?

Owliver is the 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.

## Who's Who

### Meet Mary Ellen Watz

If you have been to a meeting recently you will probably recognize this smiling face. Mary Ellen Watz is relatively new to FOUCL, but she is a constant in whatever is happening in our organization.



Mary Ellen Watz

Mary Ellen and her husband are (what else?) transplants from Florida. When it was time to retire, they stayed at a friend's cabin in Blairsville, fell in love with the area and moved here permanently a year and a half ago.

After moving here, her husband lost his wallet, and the computer lab in the library became their lifeline to getting a copy of his driver's license as well as all the other cards that were in it.

Mary Ellen has fond memories of the library in the little town in NY, where she grew up. It was a two-story brick building right in the middle of town. As a child she was in awe of all the books and the quietness it exuded. It has remained as her quintessential image of a library.

Of joining the Friends, Mary Ellen says, "I enjoy supporting and helping in the library, which is also a way to give back to the community. There is always something there needed by the young or old, families or students."

We are glad she chose us as her go-to place to connect and give back.

## More About...

### ***Adult Storytime at Union County Nursing Home***

FOUCL is embarking on a new outreach program. Beginning in May, Friends members and writers from Georgia Mountain Writers Club will be reading short stories to residents at Union County Nursing Home. Our first date is May 21, from 10:30 AM-11:30 AM. We look forward to partnering with UCNH. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Vera Coupal at [veracoup@aol.com](mailto:veracoup@aol.com)

### ***Abby Barrett, Scholarship Winner***



Scholarship Committee and winner: From L to R Cathy Dalton, Abby Barrett, Owliver, Joan Dorigi. Not pictured, committee member Mary Ellen Watz

For the second year in a row, FOUCL awarded a \$500 scholarship to a Union County high school student. This year, the recipient was senior, Abby Barrett, who plans to attend Berry College in the fall. Abby's essay on how books have impacted her life, blind-judged by the committee, was so inspiring it earned her this opportunity. Abby's goal is to become a veterinarian, in part inspired by the book, *Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? The story of Elizabeth Blackwell*. Abby wrote, "Her story sparked my interest in medicine and motivated

me to pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian, so I can help both animals and people. Congratulations, Abby!



### ***Donations, Gifts, and Bequests***

Leaving a legacy is something we often think about. Wanting to make an impact is a human trait. Here are a few ways you can honor a love of libraries. Consider making a donation in honor or memory of a loved one, or tell your friends to give a gift to the *Friends of Union County Library* in place of a birthday gift. Including it as a bequest in your will is the perfect way to know your wishes will be honored.

The Friends Connector is published four times a year, following the Quarterly Meeting: February, May, August, November

**FRIENDS of  
UNION COUNTY  
LIBRARY**

**IS LOOKING FOR A  
TREASURER!  
TO START THE 2027 SEASON**

**TRAINING PROVIDED!**

QuickBooks Knowledge Preferred

**IF INTERESTED CONTACT:  
FOUCL.BLAIRSVILLE@GMAIL.COM**

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate to fill the 2027 Treasurer position and join our passionate team of volunteers who are making a difference. If you are ready to take on a new challenge or know of someone who is, please let us know. Contact Claudia Naylor: [cknay@hotmail.com](mailto:cknay@hotmail.com)