



**Sole Commissioner Harold Collins,
FOUCL Vice President Vera Coupal,
and Past Presidents Sally Woodworth and Judy Baldwin**

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) is celebrating our 30th anniversary. FOUCL started with a series of meetings in 1996. The people at those meetings decided on a name, completed and submitted the paperwork to establish 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, wrote by-laws, selected officers, opened a bank account and, in July of that year, began with an initial membership of five: Florence and Peter Blumberg, Cathy Fiser, Pattie Hamilton, Virginia Jordan, and Judy Vaughn. Thanks to that handful of people, FOUCL has been supporting and advocating for Union County Public Library ever since and has had hundreds of members over the years.

In honor of this milestone, Union County's Sole Commissioner Harold Collins issued a proclamation which states:

Whereas, Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) of Blairsville, Georgia was formed in 1996 and is celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2026;

Whereas, FOUCL members, during that thirty years, have raised and continue to raise, money that takes our library from great to exceptional – providing resources for special events and additional programming through the year, helping purchase wish-list books, periodicals, and equipment; and supplying funds for children's summer reading events and prizes, while promoting literacy and lifelong learning;

Whereas, FOUCL members know that our library is one of the cornerstones of the community, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of lifelong learning and to connect with the thoughts and ideas of others;

Whereas, FOUCL members understand the importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services for all ages – because it provides so much more than just books – some of those services include access to print and electronic materials, expert assistance in research, computer access, study spaces, reader recommendations, and focused children's services;

Whereas, FOUCL members' gifts of their time and commitment to the library have, for the last thirty years, set an example for how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Sole Commissioner Harold Collins proclaims July 15, 2026, as Friends of Union County Library 30th Anniversary Recognition Day in Blairsville, Georgia of Union County, and urges everyone to thank the Friends of Union County Library for all they do to make our library and our community a better place to live, work, learn, and grow.

If you are a member of FOUCL, you are invited to our 30th anniversary gathering on July 15 for a potluck lunch at Choestoe Schoolhouse (1034 Collins Rd, Blairsville) beginning at 11:30 AM. Please bring a side dish to share. Fried chicken, dessert, bottled water, plates, cups, and plasticware will be provided. Spouses, significant others, neighbors, and potential members are also invited to attend. There will be great food, some special guest speakers to talk about the history of our library and FOUCL, a short meeting, and a few surprises.

You can find out more about us by visiting foucl.org (where you can also join using PayPal) and membership forms are also available at the library outside the Friends Room on the bookcase. You can RSVP that you want to come to the potluck by emailing us at foucl.blairsville@gmail.com.

Pearls are the designated gem for 30th anniversaries and the 30th Anniversary Committee will be using them as part of our decorating theme at this potluck. If you have pearls (or imitation pearls), it would be appropriate to wear them to this celebration. What a good reminder of the pearls of wisdom a library provides!



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