



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Fall 2020

FOLTC Officers:

President: Elaine Roberts

Vice President: Mary Welken

Recording Secretary:

Kathy Day

Corresponding Secretary:

Judith Lee

Treasurer: Jim Reynolds

**Friends of the Libraries of
Towns County**

P.O. Box 159

Young Harris, GA 30582

www.mountainregionallibrary.org/foltc

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[Facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty)

“Like Us” on Facebook

This year has been different in many ways, but the Friends are evolving to continue their work while staying safe. Even great news happens during challenging times. Continue reading to learn about one of our founding members winning an award, a profitable surprise received, an Honor System Book Sale happening soon, and more. The pandemic might challenge us but it won't defeat us. Thanks for your support and interest in the libraries of Towns County.

‘BEST FRIEND’ AWARD GOES TO DORIS TILLY

Doris Tilly finally received her ‘Best Friend’ award from Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) at a small ceremony held in Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church’s Fellowship Hall on Oct. 29th. The speakers were introduced by Barbara



Hale of the Towns County local library board. Donna Howell, former director of Mountain Regional Library System, spoke of Doris’ long history with the Towns County libraries and the many ways she has contributed to the libraries. Dan Aldridge, FOGL President, presented the award and spoke of the value of libraries to all people. He said that everyone probably has a library story from his/her childhood. Doris’ story occurred when she was 4 years old and her grandmother took her to their small local library. She read every book in that library, some of her favorites being Greek & Roman Mythology and Nancy Drew mysteries. Thus began Doris’ life-long passion for public libraries, including initiating the beginning of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County in 1996. The ceremony ended with a prayer by the church’s Reverend Stephen Soulen. Doris was announced as the award winner in April, but the presentation was delayed due to the pandemic.

”

Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift.

– Charles Scribner, Jr.

Doris is the founding member of FOLTC and was elected to serve as its first president. She has been an active member since 1996 and has served in a variety of capacities. She continues to support the Towns County libraries both physically (volunteers at all book sales) and financially. When Mountain Regional Library was renovated in 2016, Doris donated significant funds in memory of her daughter to help complete and furnish the Children’s Room. The beauty and welcoming nature of the Children’s Room is a testament to Doris’ love of children, books, and especially her daughter.

SECOND LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IN TOWNS COUNTY

Elaine Roberts, current FOLTC president, suggested earlier in the year that the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County (FOLTC) consider sponsoring a Little Free Library at the Towns County Beach and Playground west of Hiawassee. This would be the 2nd Little Free Library in the county; the first is located at Mayor’s Park in Young Harris. The board members agreed that it would be great idea, County Commissioner Bradshaw agreed with the plan, and Friend and library patron Jerome Laux was approached about building it. After it was completed, Dick Aunspaugh (another FOLTC member) agreed to decorate it and put the FOLTC name on it. It was recently installed at the Playground (by Jerome Laux and Bruce Roberts) next to the pavilion and really brightens up the area. Look for the bright yellow box with colorful flowers on it! Thank you to everyone who participated in this project! FOLTC members will keep it stocked with books.



When you take a book, you are welcome to share/leave a book!

If you have never heard of Little Free Libraries, visit their website at www.littlefreelibrary.org. You might also want to visit their Facebook and Instagram pages and see photos of some of the wonderfully creative libraries that have been built by people around the world. This is a “nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.” The book-sharing program was begun in 2009 when Todd Bol of Wisconsin built a model of a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother who was a teacher and loved to read. There are now over 100,000 registered Little Free Libraries in more than 100 countries worldwide.



Please visit both Little Free Libraries in Towns County!!!

Pictured left to right: Jerome Laux, Bruce Roberts, and FOLTC President Elaine Roberts

A PROFITABLE SURPRISE FROM BETTER WORLD BOOKS

Several years ago FOLTC began partnering with Better World Books, an online bookseller whose profits support literacy efforts around the world. Initially, they allowed us, at no cost for shipping, to send them any books that we were not able to sell through our bookstore or book sales. As shipping rates continued to rise, we were then required to pre-screen any books before sending them and only send them (still at no cost for shipping) books that were needed in their inventory. In exchange for our efforts in pre-screening, they agreed to pay us a small percentage of any of “our” books that they sold.

FOLTC received a surprise check in September for \$280!!! This could not have come at a better time, given our present circumstances of limited fundraising opportunities due to COVID-19.

Thanks to all who donate books to FOLTC because they help us raise funds for our libraries via some surprisingly unconventional ways!

COVID-19 VIRUS IMPACT ON FOLTC

Like most non-profits, FOLTC has had its contributions greatly impacted by COVID-19. From January 1 to October 31, 2019, through book sales, membership dues, and pie and bake sales among other sources, FOLTC collected \$15,517 to use to help support the Towns County libraries.

2020 saw a major decline in income. For the January 1 to October 31, 2020 period, FOLTC only collected \$5,456 or 35% of what we did for the same period in 2019. This mainly is due to the COVID-19 prevention guidelines not allowing us to hold major book and bake/pie sales and Mountain Regional Library’s reduced staffing and hours that only allows the FOLTC Bookstore to be open 2 days a week.

FOLTC has been able to meet all the requests of the libraries this year but, if the virus and Mountain Regional Library hours remain the same, we may not be able to in 2021. We know that the Towns County community will continue its support of FOLTC’s efforts to support children and adult programs and book purchases to help MRLS remain one of the best library systems in Georgia.

If you have not renewed your membership or joined for the first time, please consider doing so today. A form is in this newsletter or available at both libraries. Mail it or deposit it in “the red money box” located at both libraries.



HONOR SYSTEM FOLTC BOOK SALE

COVID-19 has limited our ability to host fundraisers for the libraries. However, their need for support continues, prompting FOLTC to get creative about how to meet your desire to shop our incredible book sales and generate funds for the libraries. We are hosting the first ever Honor System Book Sale at Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris (see details below). The more you buy, the more the libraries benefit.

Book sale changes due to COVID-19:

1. 10 people or fewer allowed in the Bookstore at one time. Please wait patiently before entering if 10 others are shopping.
2. Masks and Social Distancing are **required**.
3. This Book Sale will be on the 'honor system.' No volunteers will be on site during the sale.
4. Bags and boxes for your selections will be provided.
5. **Correct cash or checks only.** Place payment in the red money box in the Bookstore.

Sale Dates:

November 16, 19, 23, 30

December 3, 7, 10, 14, 17

Time: 11:00am to 5:00pm

Book Sale Prices

- Hardbacks: \$2 or 3/\$5
- Paperbacks: \$.50 or 3/\$1.00
- Children's picture/early readers books: \$.25
- Juvenile/Young Adult books: \$.50

Questions? Contact Tammy Wells, gospelthecat@yahoo.com, or Marcia Aunspaugh, aunspaugh1196@windstream.net.

BOOK BUNCH 'N LUNCH

- November 18 – Book: *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray. Discussion Leader: Delores Staton
- January 20 – Classic book: *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Discussion Leader: Virginia Tinsley
- February 17 – Humor: *Dad is Fat* by Jim Gaffigan. Discussion Leader: Tammy Wells
- March 17 – *Gregory Peck: A Biography* by Gary Fishgall. Discussion Leader: Barbara Hale

FOLTC's Book Bunch 'N Lunch meets at 11:30am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. A "Dutch Treat" lunch is optional. All are invited to participate in this fun gathering. Social distancing is observed.

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (10/29/20)

PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Associated Fire Protection LLC
Barrett & Associates Insurance
Coca-Cola
Gary & Linda Dye
Dorothy Handy
Mary Miller
Jim & Trish Reynolds
Tammy Wells

Grace A. Andrews
Blue Ridge EMC
Bill & Kathy Day
Mary & James Edwards
Deb & George Hanna
Peach State FCU
Doris Tilly
Williams Electric

Joe Beasley
Marilyn K. Brown
Betty & Clay Dotson
Barbara Hale
Sherman Kaplan & Patricia Sullivan
Bruce & Elaine Roberts
Virginia Tinsley

DONORS (Donated \$50+)

Suzanne Adelman

Dick & Marcia Aunspaugh

Barbara & Bob
Bone

Suzanne Carter

Charlie Decker

George & Mary Wood Dyer

Judith & Leon Lee

Darlene Pilcher

M.O. & F.M. Proctor

Judy Reynolds

Richard & Elizabeth Reynolds

Elaine & Gene Vickers

Mary & Dave Welken

James & Linda Worl

INDIVIDUAL (\$30+) AND BUSINESS SPONSORS (\$35+)

Nancy Brewer

Richard & Gregory Colvard

Joan Crothers

Kathleen Dezorzi

Alvin & Sybil Fickle

Doug & Carol Goin

North GA Golf Carts

Betty Seckinger

Charles Coxe & Liza Strub

David & LaJean Turner

Patron Level Business Donor (\$100+ level):



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 P.O. Box 9
 875 Main Street East
 Young Harris, GA 30582

Fax: 706-379-4836
 Office: 706-379-3121
 Toll Free: 800-292-6456

Website: <http://www.brmemc.com>

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FOLTC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is to provide financial support for the Mountain Regional Library and the Towns County Public Library and to advocate for public libraries. FOLTC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit.

FOLTC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Date _____ Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE *New Member* _____ *Renewal* _____ *Gift/Other* _____

Individual \$12 _____ Family \$24 _____ Sponsor \$30 _____ Donor \$50 _____ Patron \$100 _____ Gift \$ _____

Business Member \$35 _____ Business Donor \$50 _____ Business Patron \$100 _____

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES are for one year of membership; renewal is the anniversary of your joining date. Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible as FOLTC is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization. Business Members will receive a thank you letter. Business Donors will receive a letter and a framed certificate of appreciation. Business Patrons will receive a letter, a certificate, and a copy of their business card included for one year in the FOLTC newsletter which is published quarterly and distributed by email or mail to all members.

Make checks payable to FOLTC. Membership forms and payment may be handed in at Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee or Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, or mailed to FOLTC, P O Box 159, and Young Harris GA 30582.

