



# FOLTC

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Winter 2021

### FOLTC Officers:

**President:** Mary Welken  
**Vice President:** Linda Worl  
**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](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org/foltc)

Email: [foltc7@gmail.com](mailto:foltc7@gmail.com)

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

“Like Us” on Facebook

Goodbye, 2020 ... Welcome, 2021!

Like many organizations, FOLTC had to cancel well thought out plans in 2020. Bake and book sales took a backseat to social distancing and staying healthy. Thinking outside the box became the norm for our meeting and planning. Meetings were held in outdoor places with great mountain views as we wore masks and kept six feet apart. The first ever FOLTC ‘Honor System’ Book Sale was held at the end of the year. What a success this was! Thanks to all the participating patrons who are now enjoying massive quantities of new reading material. Thanks also to the volunteers who set up the sale, put out signs, and stopped in at the end of each day to restock.

We were able to complete our FOLTC Little Free Library, now located at the Towns County Beach Park and Playground. If you haven’t used it yet, please stop by to borrow or leave a book. This Little Free Library is registered on the nonprofit website [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org). It joins over 100,000 global Little Free Libraries which are set up so that all have free access to books.

With the New Year, I wanted to share with you what a Friends group does for its library:

- Advocates
- Increases public awareness of the library and its services
- Raises funds, over and above the library’s operating budget
- Sponsors programming
- Provides support for library programs or special events
- Establishes a core volunteer base

Please consider joining the FOLTC. If you are already a member, thank you and please encourage your friends to join.

Looking forward to a new ‘normal’ in 2021.

Mary Welken  
President of FOLTC

*‘Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.’*

By Mason Cooley

## WELCOME TO JESSICA TIBBETTS, OUR NEW BRANCH MANAGER

FOLTC board members would like to welcome Jessica Tibbetts to Towns County. Jessica has replaced Debbie Phillips (retired after 30 years with MRLS) as Branch Manager of the Towns County public libraries, so you will have many opportunities to meet and get to know her. She is originally from the state of Washington and currently lives in Ellijay with her husband, Tripp, and their children, Ella, 12, and Oliver, 10. She and her husband own a small business. Jessica has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, has worked in library services since 2014, and hopes to study toward a master's degree in library science in the near future.

Jessica has been on the job since January 2nd and feels that getting to know the communities and patrons is a challenge for someone new to the county. Her previous experience in Public Services at the Gilmer County Library will be helpful in knowing how to reach out to people, to find out what they want from their libraries, and to educate them about the many services offered at MRLS libraries. She hopes to accomplish these goals by increasing social media presence (i.e., Facebook, etc.), and working with the Chamber of Commerce, schools, newspapers, local service groups, and other avenues of outreach. She has worked with Friends of the Library groups and looks forward to sharing her experiences with FOLTC.

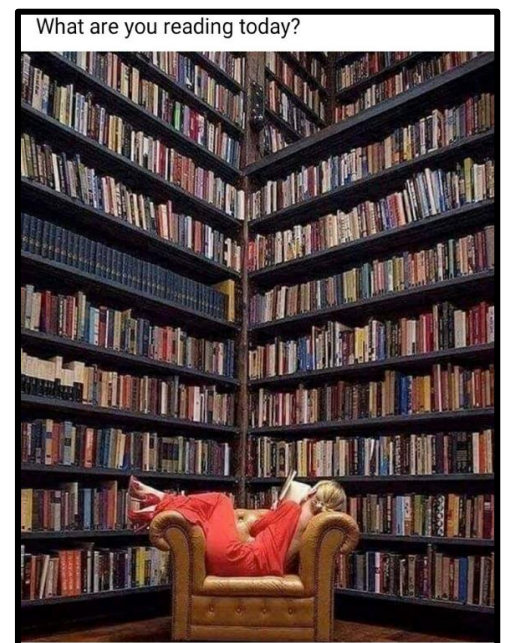
Her hobbies include knitting, being an herbalist (with husband Tripp), and reading (non-fiction, mysteries, and literary fiction). When asked what her life goal is, she replied that she strives "to raise strong, thoughtful, caring children." The Friends look forward to working with Jessica for many years to come!

## ADVOCATE FOR YOUR LIBRARIES!

As members of Friends of the Libraries of Towns County, part of our responsibility and mission includes advocating for public libraries, whether it be to our community members/groups, the libraries' local funding agencies, or our elected state and national officials. FOLTC's board of directors would like to encourage each and every Friend to write, call, or email Bo Hatchett, State Senator for District 50, and Stan Gunter, State Representative for District 8, (see addresses below) and encourage them to support the FY22 budget for public libraries and prioritize library workers in vaccination plans.

Georgia Library Day is held annually during the legislative session, and is sponsored by Georgia Library Association and others. This usually provides an opportunity for librarians and other library advocates to have face-to-face encounters with state legislators to share concerns and to advocate for funding for our public libraries. In light of the COVID pandemic, Georgia Library Day will not be scheduled this year. **Instead, please write, call, or email our legislators during the week of Feb. 15-19, 2021.**

Public libraries are essential to our communities as they provide free educational resources to all, help boost local economies, offer free internet access for educational and employment opportunities, and preserve history and truth. Even though our library buildings may not be as accessible during the pandemic, the resources continue to be available and are of even greater importance to people as they remain at home. Sufficient funding is essential!

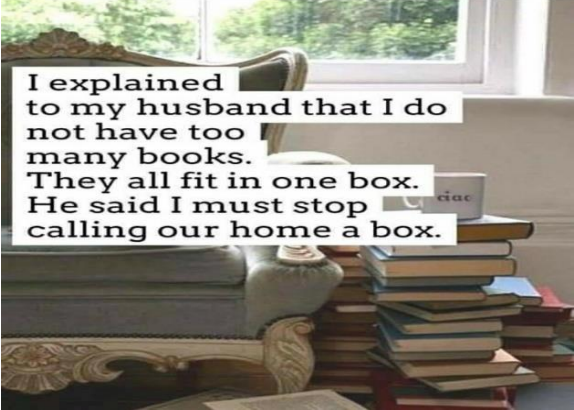


Stan Gunter, State Representative  
 612-F Coverdell Leg. Office Bldg.  
 Atlanta, GA 30334  
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[stan.gunter@house.ga.gov](mailto:stan.gunter@house.ga.gov)

Bo Hatchett, State Senator  
 109 State Capitol  
 Atlanta GA 30334  
 404-656-7454  
[bo.hatchett@senate.ga.gov](mailto:bo.hatchett@senate.ga.gov)

**‘HONOR SYSTEM’ BOOK SALE**

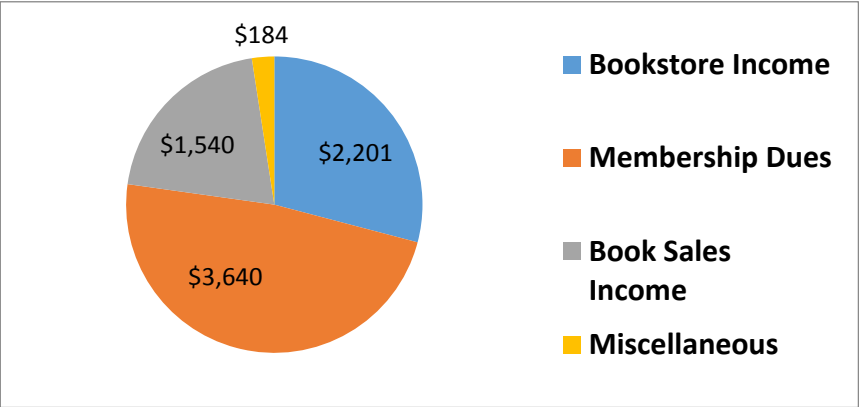
FOLTC stepped out in faith when they hosted their first ‘Honor System’ Book Sale in the fall. Wow! You, our members, stepped up for your libraries. Many renewed their memberships or joined for the first time. Plus, hundreds and hundreds of books were purchased. Bottom line profit of this event was \$1,735.70. Bravo and thank you!



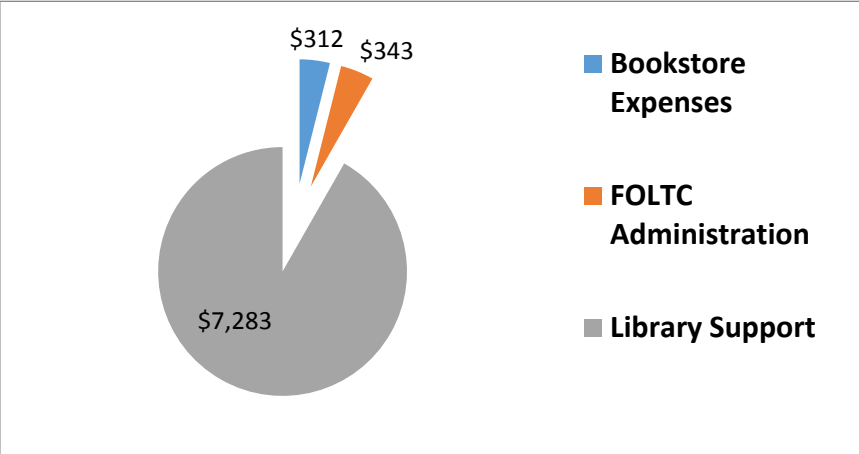
**FINANCIAL NEWS**

While 2020 saw a considerable reduction in FOLTC income, we still raised sufficient funds to cover all the needs of our libraries. From reserve funds, we have set aside for 2021 \$10,000 to cover the \$5,000 Commissioner’s Challenge, purchase of 2 Automated External Defibrillators, and the summer reading program at both libraries. We hope 2021 will bring a return to normal income and expenses.

**FOLTC 2020 INCOME**  
**\$7,566**



**FOLTC 2020 EXPENSES**  
**\$7,984**



## BOOK BUNCH 'N LUNCH

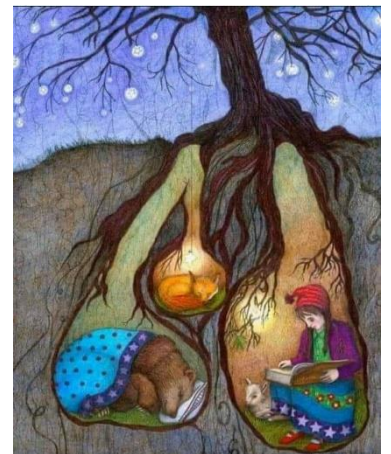
Everyone is welcome to participate in this fun reading group. FOLTC's Book Bunch 'N Lunch meets at 11:30 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. A "Dutch Treat" lunch is optional. Social distancing is observed.

Book schedule:

- 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
- April 21 – Regional Author – ***An Ordinary Life – Touched by an Extraordinary God*** by Arlene M. Grey. Discussion Leader – Arlene Grey
- May 19 – Mystery - ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens. Discussion Leader – Marie Geesa

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We hope everyone had a great holiday season. It seems 2020 was not what anyone expected. The TC libraries and FOLTC had a very different year as well. Most of the fundraising FOLTC planned for our libraries could not happen because of Covid-19. Membership dues became even more important as a way to support our TC libraries. If you are able to renew your FOLTC membership, please do. Not sure if you renewed already? Contact Tammy at [gospelthecat@yahoo.com](mailto:gospelthecat@yahoo.com). A membership form is included at the end of this newsletter or available at both Towns County libraries. Stay safe and healthy, and thank you for your support.



## COMING SOON TO YOUNG HARRIS

According to Library Director Lee, Mountain Regional Library will reopen on Weds., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, for curbside-only services. The plan is to reopen the library after staffing vacancies are filled. Hours of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-5:00. Towns County Public Library hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00-6:00. Weekend service has been eliminated at both libraries. Thanks go to Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw for additional funding needed to reopen MRL. For more information and hours of operation, check the website: [www.mountainregionallibrary.org](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org). Stay informed and keep reading.

### **SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (1/29/2021)**

#### **PATRONS (Donated \$100+)**

#### **Associated Fire Protection LLC**

Joe Beasley  
Betty & Clay Dotson  
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Bruce & Elaine Roberts  
Doris Tilly

Grace A. Andrews

Marilyn K. Brown  
Gary & Linda Dye  
Dorothy Handy  
Mary Miller

Jim & Trish Reynolds  
Virginia Tinsley

Sally Barker

Bill & Kathy Day  
Mary & James Edwards  
Deb & George Hanna  
**Peach State FCU**

Brandon & Hilary Tallent  
Tammy Wells

## DONORS (Donated \$50+)

Betty & Charles Adams  
Barbara & Bob  
Bone  
Vickie & Jeffrey Kimball  
Darlene & Herb Pilcher  
Martha Rollison  
Elaine & Gene Vickers

Suzanne Adelman  
Suzanne Carter  
  
Judith & Leon Lee  
M.O. & F.M. Proctor  
John & Jill Seymour  
Mary & Dave Welken

Dick & Marcia Aunspaugh  
David & Susan Fann  
  
Carroll & Marie Miller  
Richard & Elizabeth Reynolds  
Norma Jean Stewart  
James & Linda Worl

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

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David & LaJean Turner

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Donald & Jean Nation  
Charles Coxe & Liza Strub

Alvin & Sybil Fickle  
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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.

