



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Summer 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

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

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARY WELKEN

Warm summer days are certainly here in the North Georgia mountains. Hopefully all of you are finding ways to stay out of the midday heat. During these warm afternoon hours, I find myself engaged in reading. So thankful that I am blessed to live where there are thriving public libraries like the two in Towns County and where the Friends of the Library group is actively helping to support these libraries.

Will Rogers once stated: ‘If you want to be successful, it’s just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing.’ We at FOLTC know what we are doing: promoting and supporting libraries in Towns County. Furthermore, we love what we are doing, and we believe that we are continuing to make a difference in our two libraries.

The programs and services our libraries provide to our communities would not make as much of a positive impact without the financial support provided by the Friends through our memberships, bookstore sale proceeds, and other activities.

Numerous studies in literacy have shown that children experience some learning loss over the summer. Through your membership, continuous support of book sales, and donations of books and money, FOLTC has been able to give yearly support to the Summer Reading program in both libraries.

During this year's Summer Reading program, in addition to our yearly support, FOLTC was able to purchase and serve refreshments for the Sketchbook Gala which was held at the Mountain Regional Community Room. Beautiful sketchbooks were displayed, and congratulations to all the participants. Public libraries are the cornerstone of our communities. Members are the reason Friends of Library can make an impact in our libraries and communities. Please consider becoming a FOLTC member.

Please renew your membership in September! Application forms are in the bookstores at the libraries and on the last page of this newsletter. Please place your completed form and money in the red money boxes in the bookstores.

HOW DID THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES BEGIN?

In 1995 Teresa Haymore and Donna Howell, library managers, asked me (Doris Tilly) to start a Friends group. A notice was put in the county paper, and about twenty interested residents met. It was decided

to continue, and officers were listed, ideas of what was needed to help the libraries, time and place for meetings, membership, were all discussed. With that beginning list (called a roster by the new treasurer Del Delcuze) the Friends began the many years of assisting the libraries of Towns County.

We needed a money making event to start and of course a Book Sale was proposed. The first sale was held in the old Bank of Hiwassee building on the square in Hiwassee. All the separate areas were designated for specific books, and the libraries donated their old books to start. That was the beginning of the annual Book Sale which soon added a Bake Sale with the wonderful Friends making delicious food. Bettie Sellers and Elizabeth Lashley made fried apple pies which were scooped up quickly and even reserved by many, and of course homemade breads, cookies, cakes, pies were sold.

Since that time the Friends have continued to help the libraries with specific donations to answer staff requests. A few of these donations have been: the Commissioner's Challenge, Books, Summer Reading program, butterfly garden (removed in the recent renovation), reading program for kids, Librarian scholarship, new shelving, book carts, book cases, children's furniture, library appreciation week, Chamber of Commerce membership. The list is a long one, and the Friends have met every challenge.

Our members are the foundation of support for the library. We now have approximately 400 members who help with financial donations, Book/Bake Sales, the bookstores, Book Bunch, advocating for libraries, and the children's programs. All have brought new ideas, lots of physical labor, and have evolved into a hard-working dedicated group to support the role of the libraries in the communities. The Friends continue the work started by twenty members so many years ago. (Submitted by Doris L. Tilly, Founding President)

SUMMER SKETCHBOOK PROJECT

Our wonderful libraries are always trying new ideas to help keep children and adults interested in reading and enjoying activities hosted by the libraries. Below are the winners of the 2021 Sketchbook Project. Announcing the winners was celebrated with a small reception at MRL in July.

3 - 5 yr. old: *Marissa Picazo*



**"Best of Show"
*Rachel Singleton***



6-10 yr. old: *Andrew Kemp*



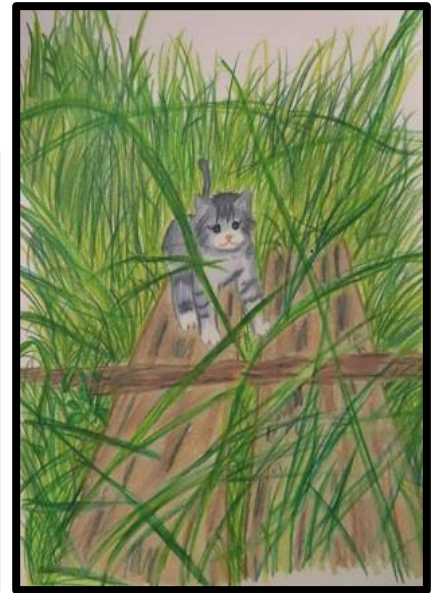
Pre-teen: *Carrie Ellis*



Adult: *Elaine Roberts*



Teen: *Alexis Osborn*



FOLTC Board members serving refreshments at the Sketchbook Gala were (l to r): Kathy Day, Doris Tilly, Elaine Roberts, Marcia Aunspaugh, and Suzanne Carter.



FOLTC NEW BOOKSTORE AND DONATIONS

FOLTC recently established an annex to our main bookstore that is at Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris. The new annex is located in Towns County Public Library (TCPL) in Hiawassee. Both stores are avenues for Friends' fundraising for our two libraries. Prices range from \$3.00 for adult hardback books to \$.50 for children's picture books and easy readers. There is a large selection of jigsaw puzzles at TCPL for \$1.00 each. All items are preowned. Both bookstores are open when the libraries are open to the public. The bookstores are dependent upon donations from the community and discarded materials provided by the libraries. **Donations will be accepted at Mountain Regional**



Library ONLY on the first Monday of each month during library hours. Books are to be placed in the designated spot INSIDE the bookstore so volunteers will know where to find them. Please do not leave donations outside of the library, in the libraries' book drops, or at TCPL. If you wish to donate on another day, please contact FOLTC at least 3 days in advance by email (foltc7@gmail.com) or leave a

message on our website (www.foltc.com) and someone will arrange to meet you.

As we hope to raise funds with these donations and our storage space is limited, we are looking for items that someone else might wish to purchase (not items that should be taken to the recycling center or the landfill). **WE ACCEPT:** books, DVDs, CD audiobooks, music CDs, jigsaw puzzles—all in good condition. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT:** smelly or moldy books, Reader's Digest condensed books, encyclopedias, magazines, National Geographic magazines, textbooks, cassette and VHS tapes, and medical, computer, or legal books with publication date over 5 years old.

We look forward to receiving your donations and having lots of good books and other items to offer for sale in our bookstores. Our mission is to raise money for our libraries so new books can be purchased for your reading/viewing/listening pleasure!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FOLTC BOARD MEMBERS

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman: An unpredictable novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined.

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams: Set during the height of the women's suffrage movement and with the Great War looming, this novel inspired by actual events reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men.

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah: An epic novel of love and heroism and hope, set against the backdrop of one of America's most defining eras: the Great Depression.

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab: A fantasy fiction novel which follows a young French woman in 1714 making a bargain with the devil that makes her immortal but curses her to be forgotten by everyone she meets.

The Shadow Land by Elizabeth Kostova: A compelling historical fiction novel that spans the past and the present to unearth the dark secrets of Bulgaria, a beautiful and haunted country.

"A book is a gift you can open again and again." - Garrison Keillor

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (7/31/2021)

PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Associated Fire Protection LLC

Joe Beasley
Bill & Kathy Day
Mary & James Edwards
Dorothy Handy

Mary Miller
Deborah Reynolds
Doris Tilly

Grace A. Andrews
Marilyn K. Brown
Betty & Clay Dotson
Joyce Frick
Deb & George Hanna III

Peach State FCU
Jim & Trish Reynolds
Virginia Tinsley

Sally Barker
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Gary & Linda Dye
Barbara Hale
Sherman Kaplan & Patricia Sullivan
Bruce & Elaine Roberts
Brandon & Hilary Tallent
Tammy Wells

DONORS (Donated \$50+)

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Suzanne Carter

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Mary & Dave Welken

Vickie & Jeffrey Kimball
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Together we can give back to our community through the libraries.

Literacy is empowering!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN SEPTEMBER!

FOLTC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is to provide financial support for Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library and to advocate for public libraries. FOLTC is a 501©(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 is 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 placed in the red money boxes in the FOLTC bookstores at Towns County

Public Library in Hiawassee or Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, or mailed to FOLTC, P O Box 159, Young Harris, GA 30582.

