



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Spring 2023

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**Friends of the Libraries of
Towns County**

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“Like Us” on Facebook

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT--Welcome Spring!

National Library Week was April 23-29, 2023. During this week the essential role libraries, librarians, and library staff play in transforming lives and strengthening communities are highlighted. The theme for this week was “There's More to the Story.” The American Library Association stated this: “Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, movie nights, crafting classes, and lectures. Library infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.”

Hopefully, all of you had the chance to thank the staff at MRL and TCPL for the outstanding work they do every day.

I am looking forward to FOLTC's Spring Book Sale, May 15 - 26, at both bookstores. The sale will be during library hours. Please come & encourage your friends to take advantage of the sale.

Thank you for your continued FOLTC

membership and support of the bookstores through your donations and purchases so that we can provide our libraries with additional support in programming and materials. Please encourage your friends to join FOLTC.


MATCHING GRANT YIELDS \$10,000 FOR LIBRARIES

(photo left to right: Mary Welken, Marlene Cannon, Heath Lee, Cliff Bradshaw, Jim Reynolds, Barbara Hale, and Suzanne Carter)



On Tuesday, April 26, the Commissioner's Matching Challenge Grant was presented to representatives of the Towns County Libraries, Marlene Cannon (Branch Manager – MRL and TCPL) and Heath Lee (MRL System Director). The annual grant is a 50/50 partnership between the Friends of the Library

and Towns County Government. The yearly grant will help both libraries, MRL and TCPL, to purchase new library materials and to continue offering programming activities for children and adults. Libraries have taken many state-level funding cuts over the past years, so the Matching Challenge Grant was developed to help offset some of these cuts. FOLTC's portion comes from our two bookstore sales, donations, and through memberships. Thank you for your continued support of FOLTC so that this yearly Matching Challenge Grant continues to be met.



**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF
TOWNS COUNTY BOOKSTORES**

BOOK SALE

All items will be on sale, so ready your shopping list!

**MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LIBRARY, YOUNG HARRIS
MAY 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26 DURING LIBRARY HOURS**

**TOWNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, HIAWASSEE
MAY 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 2023 DURING
LIBRARY HOURS**

**This is an "Honor System" sale! Payment must be
exact change or checks only.**

Website: www.foltc.com

**Facebook: The Friends Of The Libraries Of
Towns County**

BOOK SALE TIME AT THE TOWNS COUNTY LIBRARIES!

Please place the following dates on your calendars for the FOLTC book sale at Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris, and Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee.

All items in the FOLTC bookstore at Mountain Regional Library will be on sale during regular library hours from May 15th through May 26th. Mountain Regional Library, 698 Miller St, Young Harris, is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 – 5:00.

All items in the FOLTC bookstore at Towns County Public Library will be on sale during regular library hours from May 16th through May 26th. Towns County Public Library, 99 S. Berrong St., Hiawassee, is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 – 6:00.

This will be an “honor system” book sale. Exact change or checks written to FOLTC must be placed in the bookstores’ red money box. Adult hardback books will cost \$1.00 each. Paperbacks and all children’s and young adult books will be \$.25 each or 5/\$1.00. CDs, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles will be \$.25 each. These are great deals, so shop early and often! All proceeds from the sale will benefit our Towns County libraries.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

The Towns County Libraries have had a variety of programs for adults and children over the winter months! We held a "Bad Art" contest for the adults where the patrons picked up pre-made kits at the front desk and created their masterpieces from what was included. The winner was a paper mache dragon crafted out of the paper bag that the supplies came in.

In February we hosted our first after-hours event! The "Galentines" program was a big hit. Patrons got to enjoy socializing, snacking, and making hot cocoa bombs while looking at love-inspired selections curated by the library staff.

We held weekly storytime for preschool age children at Towns County Public Library and had a Lunar New Year celebration for older children at Mountain Regional Library where they had a chance to build paper lanterns to celebrate. Every kid (or adult) that came to the library had the chance to help us decorate for Mardi Gras by coloring and decorating fleur-de-lis and masks. We also continued to hold adult coloring sessions twice a month at MRL for patrons to have a chance to color and socialize.

The library had the chance to participate in "Read Across America" at Towns County Elementary School as well. Marlene Cannon was invited as a community reader to read her favorite children's book. We also hosted two viewings of the 1956 Centennial Celebration film in partnership with the Towns County Historical Society.

Last but not least, we are starting to prepare for our annual summer reading programs! Full schedules and more information will be available in the coming days! Check our website to learn more or ask the staff at either library.

BOARD MEMBER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Measure by Nikki Erlick

The Measure is essentially a story about love and relationships and how each character and their loved ones deal with an extraordinary and frightening event. This novel has a very interesting plot and a very sad ending but one that certainly keeps a reader’s attention.

The Maid by Nita Prose

A Clue-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, The Maid explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different—and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart. Memorable characters and great plot make for a delightful read, and one that is hard to stop reading.

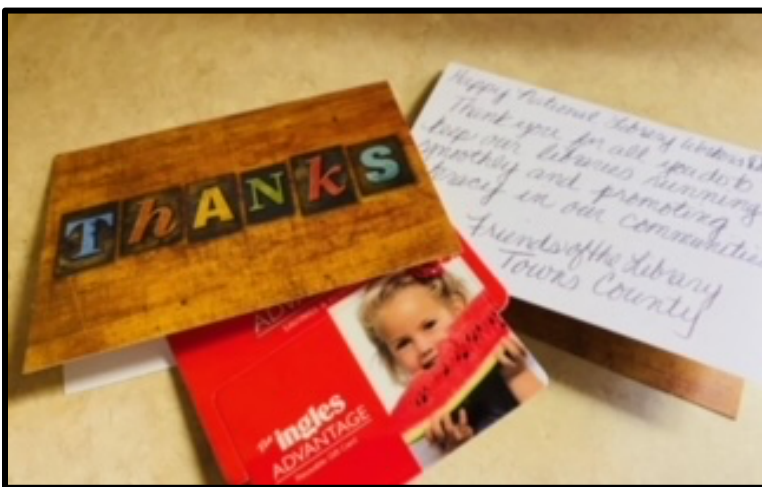
Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. Charming characters in this novel become like old friends. This is the 1st in a series, and each book gets better and better.

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* comes an epic novel of love and heroism and hope set against the backdrop of one of America's most defining eras—the Great Depression. It is a very sad story, but another novel that is hard to put down. Ms. Hannah's books are definitely ones to read and enjoy.

THANK YOU TO OUR LIBRARIES



All staff members at each library deserve much praise for their work in keeping the libraries running smoothly, providing activities for children and adults, and offering ways to stimulate interest in learning via fun activities. We encourage you to tell them how much they are appreciated when you are next in the library.

FOLTC honored the libraries' staff with gift cards during National Library Week.

NEWS FROM OUR TREASURER

Your FOLTC continues to work to increase donations for our libraries. We cannot rely strictly upon possible government grants or funding. Becoming a single member of FOLTC is only \$1 a month, paid annually. Other options of memberships are available and listed on the last page of this newsletter. If you have not become a member, now is a great time to start. The smiles on kids' faces enjoying books or events at the libraries confirms how important each donation is. Together we can help the next generation build a strong foundation for learning.

Today is the perfect time to join FOLTC and support Towns County children and adults through your libraries.

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(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 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 payments may be placed in the red money boxes in the Friends' bookstores in 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.

***When you invite your friends to become a Friend of the Libraries of Towns County,
area children are the big winners!***

Let's work together and increase our membership in 2023!