



# FOLTC

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Spring 2022

**FOLTC Officers:**

**President: Mary Welken**

**Vice President: [vacant]**

**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**

**Website: [www.foltc.com](http://www.foltc.com)**

**Email: [foltc22@yahoo.com](mailto:foltc22@yahoo.com)**

**Facebook.com/FriendsOfThe  
LibrariesOfTownsCounty**

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### **PRESIDENT WELKEN’S MESSAGE**

FOLTC Board is currently looking for someone to fill our Vice-President position. Meetings are held every other month at either TCPL or MRL. Please join us at our next meeting on June 7th at 1:00 at TCPL if you want to get an idea of what we do before committing to this position. We would love to have you join the board to support and advocate for our libraries. Please contact me if you are interested or have any questions: [welken@yahoo.com](mailto:welken@yahoo.com).

The major goals of FOLTC are to support and advocate for our two Towns County libraries. The following statements from the April 2022 State of America’s Libraries report states our goals very well. (See link below for the entire report.)

“Libraries need people to get involved, to spread the word about the value of the library to neighbors, friends and decision makers. Public libraries, which often provide ever expanding services with dwindling budgets, staff, and resources, can benefit from your support and advocacy. You can add your voice to the chorus of decision makers by joining a library board or a Friends group. Friends groups advocate for libraries on such issues as local referenda or proposed budget increases or cuts, raise funds, sponsor events, and host used book sales.”

<https://tinyurl.com/bde6w5t3>

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to continue to serve as President of the Friends and work with this amazing group of dedicated Friends of the Libraries of Towns County.

The funds that the Friends raise through book sales continue to provide library materials and educational outreach programs that enrich the lives and minds of so many in our communities. Thank you for your continued support of our two bookstores and for your donations.

### **WHO SAYS LIBRARIES ARE BORING OR MUNDANE? (from Branch Manager Marlene Cannon)**

Absolutely NOT! Libraries are definitely not boring or mundane. There are always exciting activities to do at your Towns County libraries.

Kids, did you know that in May there are **mythical creatures** at your libraries? If you can find all 5 at each library you will earn a prize. How good are you?

May 11th from 4:00 to 4:45 at MRL learn how to **build a fantasy golf hole** or just claim your Take and Make Kit home to build the fantasy golf hole. Return it to the library when completed and it will be used to build a full course. Then on May 25th at MRL it will be time to play the entire course! Yes, you can play the course. When you're finished 'golfing,' take your score card to the desk to claim your prize.



**Ferst Readers** will be at Storytime on May 11th and May 25th, 10:30 a.m. Bring the kids and settle in for a fun time.

Adults, we did not forget to include you. Want to paint flowers or trees? Come to TCPL on May 12<sup>th</sup> for an **Art Class** from 3:00 to 5:00.

**Page Turners' Book Club** meets at MRL on May 18th, 1:30 to 2:30. Bring whatever book you like and plan to talk about it. This month's theme is Asian Pacific American Heritage.

**Art Class** with acrylic paints will be at TCPL on May 26th from 3:00 to 5:00.

The Towns Counties libraries are gearing up for their **Summer Reading Program (SRP)**. The eight weeks, spanning **June and July**, will be filled with activities and amazing prizes for all ages. Adults, we'll be doing a Bingo Board in June and a Mini Art Show in July.

Our final two **Art Classes** will be June 9th and 23rd from 3:00 to 5:00 at TCPL. The Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild generously donate their time and talent. Their grant from the Georgia Vibrant Community provides all the materials. We are extremely grateful for their partnership with us! Come. Create. Enjoy and have fun.

We are now holding our **Page Turners' Book Club** exclusively in Young Harris at the Mountain Regional Library on the third Wednesday of every month, 1:30 to 2:30. This is a great opportunity for book lovers to meet and talk about whatever they are reading. No theme. No pressure. No agenda. Just a relaxed chance to connect with other readers.



Kids, the theme for this year's **Summer Reading Program** will be **Oceans of Possibility**. There will definitely be plenty of opportunities for fun at the library. In June, two programs about creepy crawlies and snakes will be given by Smithgall Woods.

Returning for the second year in a row will be our **petting zoo**. Who doesn't love a petting zoo? Will we see you there? We hope so.

The 2021 SRP was our largest ever. We hope to see everyone there again this year. Invite your friends and family to be part of **SRP 2022**. Let's break last year's record!

**Come Touch a Truck** at the Hiwassee Square on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Bring the kids and be a kid with them while seeing many trucks. An added bonus for this fun time will be that Chill & Fill of Union County have partnered with us and will be on site with free UNLIMITED shaved ice! Our Branch Manager Marlene Cannon extends an invitation to all of our FOLTC members to also stop by that day and have a treat. We could not do what we do without your support. Put it on your calendar and we'll see you on the Hiwassee Square.

Keep reading and don't forget July. We will have **balloon animals and a STEAM-filled day of activities**. Our **finale will be a Foam Party** at the Young Harris Mayors' Park... it just might get messy, which means it will be great fun.

What's a party without prizes? We have prizes for all ages, so come have fun! Will you be a winner? **Kids**, we have jars of fun, treasure chests, squid hats, bubbles, and more for you! For **teens**, we have color changing cups and a hammock to win! For **adults**, we have a bag full of goodies to get you beach ready. We are ready to have a great finale to the SRP. All we need is your participation. Can we count on you?

Pick up a free Events Calendar at either TCPL or MRL or get it from the events page of our website [www.mountainlibrary.com](http://www.mountainlibrary.com) so you won't miss any of the fun.

We regularly update our Facebook page – Towns County Libraries - with all our events and are always happy to answer your questions via email or phone call. MRL – 706-379-3732 or TCPL – 706-896-6169 or [mcannon@mountainlibrary.com](mailto:mcannon@mountainlibrary.com)



Recent fun time at MRL – Egg Drop

## **FOLTC BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

**My Place at the Table** by Alexander Lobrano

In this memoir, Lobrano, whose childhood idea of fine dining was Howard Johnson's, gives insight into how he became one of Paris's most influential food critics.

**Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission, and if he fails, humanity and the Earth itself will perish. This novel gives the reader a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival.

**Violeta** by Isabel Allende

This novel details the epic story of Violeta del Valle, a woman whose life spans one hundred years and bears witness to the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century.

**Plainsong** by Kent Haruf

This story, set on the high plains outside of Denver, is a warmhearted and profound account of a place where family and community still come first.

## COMMISSIONER'S MATCHING CHALLENGE GRANT

On Tuesday, April 26th, the Commissioner's Matching Challenge Grant was presented to two representatives of the Towns County Libraries, Marlene Cannon (Branch Manager - MRL and TCPL) and Heath Lee (MRL System Director). This annual grant of \$10,000 is a 50/50 partnership between the Friends of the Library and Towns County Government.

This grant will help both libraries 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.



[Marlene Cannon, Cliff Bradshaw, Heath Lee, Mary Welken]

Friends of the Library's portion of the grant comes from our two bookstore sales, donations, and memberships. Thank you for your continued support of the FOLTC so that this yearly Matching Challenge Grant continues to be met.

## BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FOLTC BOOKSTORES

Do you have any books that need a new home? Friends of the Libraries (FOLTC) bookstores need books to sell to raise money for our two libraries. In case you don't know, there are bookstores at Mountain Regional Library (MRL) in Young Harris and Towns County Public Library (TCPL) in Hiawassee that sell previously owned and gently used books, DVDs, audiobooks on CD, and jigsaw puzzles.

All the funds raised are donated to our two libraries to purchase new library materials, contribute to programs such as children's summer reading activities, and various other needs.

If you have a large number of books to donate, please bring them to Mountain Regional Library on the first Monday of each month. Smaller donations may be placed in the FOLTC bins (in the lobby of TCPL and inside the bookstore at MRL) during normal library hours. Visit the library system's website at [www.mountainlibrary.com](http://www.mountainlibrary.com) for current library hours.



Donation box at MRL



Donation box at TCPL

Most types of books may be donated as long as they are in good condition. Currently there is an additional need for the following adult categories: biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, history, military, classics, cookbooks, art books, science, and nature.

Materials that CANNOT be accepted include: books in poor condition; items that are ripped, mildew, smelly; Reader's Digest Condensed books; encyclopedias; religion/spirituality; magazines; textbooks; VHS and audiotapes; medical, computer, or legal books published more than 5 years ago; and music CDs. These items do not sell, so please do not donate them to the Friends.

Your assistance in helping to stock our bookstores will be greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please send an email to [foltc22@yahoo.com](mailto:foltc22@yahoo.com).

Website: [www.foltc.com](http://www.foltc.com)

Follow us on Facebook at:  
Friends of the Libraries Of Towns County



Your generous donations on the first Monday of the month at MRL. Together we help our libraries thrive and area kids learn while having fun. Thank you.



# FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

## SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (4/30/2022)

### PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Grace A. Andrews  
Marilyn K. Brown  
Betty & Clay Dotson  
Barbara Hale  
Bruce & Elaine Roberts  
Doris Tilly

Barbara & Bob Bone  
**Coca Cola Foundation**  
Gary & Linda Dye  
**H&H Tradesmen**  
Jim & Trish Reynolds  
Mary & David Welken

**Dancu Foundation**  
Bill & Kathy Day  
Mary & James Edwards  
**Peach State FCU**  
ED & DR Staton

### DONORS (Donated \$50+)

Suzanne Adelmann  
Suzanne Carter  
Susan Maguire  
Deborah Reynolds  
John & Jill Seymour  
Mary Miller

Sandra & Robert Alden  
Diana Gutenstein  
Darlene & Herb Pilcher  
Richard & Elizabeth Reynolds  
Elaine & Gene Vickers

Dick & Marcia Aunspaugh  
Pam & Carol Higginbotham  
M.O. & F.M. Proctor  
Bruce & Elaine Roberts  
James & Linda Worl

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

Jane Farrell  
Julia Giller

Alvin & Sybil Fickle  
Lance & Virginia Jobson

Gretchen Howell  
David & LaJean Turner

## SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

### PATRON LEVEL BUSINESS DONOR (\$100+ level):



## 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, 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 2022.***