

FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Spring 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/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty)

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARY WELKEN

What a beautiful Spring we have upon us! I am thankful for the gorgeous colors of Springtime, life getting back to what we might consider more normal, and especially for your continued support of the Towns County libraries. Your membership in the Friends group, support of our book sales, and your patronage of the libraries in both Hiawassee and Young Harris are making a difference.

In March FOLTC had another very successful “Honor System” book sale at Mountain Regional Library. Both Towns County libraries had taken on a massive “weeding” of books, so the Friends ended up with boxes of books for an early spring sale. To ensure we were able to find homes for our wonderful assortment of books, it was decided to have a \$5/bag sale. What a success this sale was, thanks to all of the readers who purchased many bags of books!

Early this year, with the expertise of Robert Harford, our new Webmaster, the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County were able to develop a much-needed webpage: www.FOLTC.com. If you haven't had a chance to check out our page, please do so to keep up with current and past events, newsletters, activities, etc. A big thank you, also, goes out to Suzanne Carter, our publicity chair, for continually sending new information to be added to our page.

Be on the lookout for our new Bookstore, which will be at the Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee. We are hoping to have this bookstore up and running by the first of June. Both bookstores, the new one in Hiawassee and the larger store at Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, will have similar genres of books. With two bookstores, we are hoping to increase our book sales along with our memberships.



If you are as enthusiastic about what the Friends are doing as I am, there are many ways you can help: become a volunteer, donate books and/or funds to the Friends, and take part in library programming. Lastly, renew your FOLTC membership or join for the first time so that we can continue to help support programming and materials for both libraries.

Remember, every Friend counts with making a difference in our communities! You are the libraries' number one fans/advocates. Share with your neighbors and friends what the libraries have to offer. A library is the best gift a community gives itself, and we are so fortunate in Towns County to have two of them!

WELCOME TO WHITNEY HUSID, MRL'S NEW ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER

Whitney Husid has joined Mountain Regional Library as Assistant Branch Manager. She moved to Young Harris in February after living in the Augusta area for 18 years. Previously, she was a media specialist in the Richmond County School System where she worked in PreK through 8th grade schools. With a friend, she is coauthor of two books about media specialists and teachers collaborating for student achievement.

Whitney is married and has two grown children whom she successfully homeschooled through middle school and high school. Her daughter is currently applying for graduate school and her son is a junior in college.

In her spare time, Whitney enjoys taking walks with her husband and dog, baking, and crocheting. She is happy to be living in these majestic mountains and is grateful for the warm welcome she has received.



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY MAY 18TH AT TCPL

It was decided at the April FOLTC board meeting that the Friends would become first-time members of the Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the Towns County Public Library on Tuesday, May 18th, at 4:30. All Friends (and potential Friends) are invited to join us for the ceremony. Cookies (which will be individually wrapped) and bottled water will be offered as refreshments. This will be the first time during the past year that our famous bakers will be offering goodies due to the pandemic. Please practice social distancing and wear masks! We'd love to have you and your neighbors join us.



FYI: The next FOLTC Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th, 1:00, at Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee.

COMMISSIONER'S CHALLENGE GRANT



On Wednesday, April 14th, the Commissioner's Matching Challenge Grant was presented to two representatives of the Towns County libraries: Jessica Tibbetts, Branch Manager - MRL and TCPL, and Heath Lee, MRLS Director. This annual grant of \$10,000 is a 50/50 partnership between the Friends of the Libraries and Towns County government.

This grant will help both libraries, MRL and TCPL, to purchase new library materials 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.

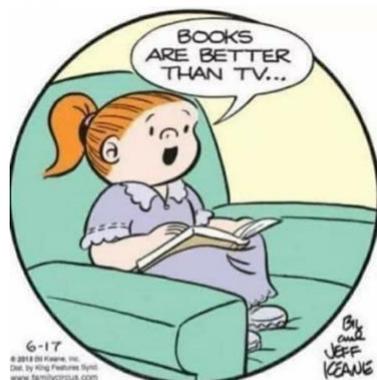
The Friends of the Libraries' portion of the grant comes from various fundraising activities, such as our book sales and bake sales, donations, and through memberships. Thank you for your continued support of FOLTC so this yearly Matching Challenge Grant continues to be met. Present in the photo are: Jessica Tibbetts, Mary Welken, Cliff Bradshaw, and Heath Lee.

BOOK BUNCH 'N LUNCH

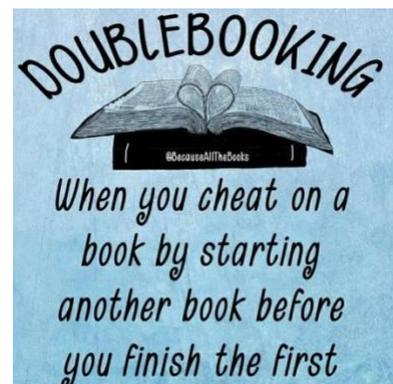
Everyone is welcome to participate in this fun reading group. FOLTC's Book Bunch 'N Lunch meets at 11:30 am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. A "Dutch Treat" lunch is optional. Social distancing is observed.

Book schedule:

- May 19 – Mystery - ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens.
Discussion Leader – Marie Geesa
- June 16 – Open -- ***Island of Sea Women: A Novel*** by Lisa See.
Discussion Leader – Delores Staton
- July 15 – Prize Winner – ***Educated: A Memoir*** by Tara Westover
Discussion Leader – Donna Howell



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"... If you fall asleep while reading, you don't miss the ending."



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The weather is warming, I got my COVID shot, and I'm venturing into the community again. Noticed something in 'our slice of heaven on earth'?... A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MOVING HERE! At a left turn, I think 'we need a stop light here' or 'this is a long line of cars and it's not even a holiday!' Surely you have noticed it, too. New residents plus believing we have a great library system equals hope that all the 'new people' will visit our libraries. But first, we must tell them about our libraries. So I encourage you to mention the libraries and FOLTC to new neighbors, new church members, and/or any new person you meet. If needed, you may have them contact me for more information – Tammy Wright at gospelthecat@yahoo.com. I love to hear from potential members. Life is good here, and together we can make it better.

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (4/30/2021)

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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©(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 handed in 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.

