

FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

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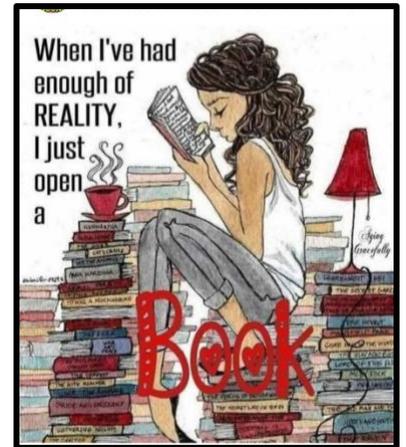
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[Facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty)

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PRESIDENT WELKEN’S MESSAGE

What a glorious fall we are having! To me there is nothing better than to have days where you can be outdoors, along with having time to sit on the porch with a great book. That being said, hopefully you are purchasing some of your reading materials from both FOLTC bookstores at our county libraries - Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris, and Towns County Library, Hiawassee. There have been many recent donations to the bookstores, so you might find the exact book you are looking for that has been enjoyed by someone else.



National Friends of the Library week was October 17th – 23rd. That week always reminds me of how important libraries are to many people. Libraries offer services and products that level the intellectual playing field and allow people of any income level or background to access high-quality information, use computers, or borrow what they want. Thank you for your continued support of not only your

Towns County Libraries but also your FOLTC membership, donations, and your purchases from our two bookstores.

HONOR SYSTEM BOOK SALE DURING NOVEMBER

FOLTC is offering select items in the November Honor System Book Sale at the MRL Bookstore in Young Harris. It will **ONLY** include adult paperback books, CDs, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles.

Adult paperbacks, CDs, & DVDs – 50 cents each or 3/\$1: Trade paperbacks, mass market paperbacks, large print paperbacks, CDs, and DVDs. **Jigsaw puzzles, 50 cents each.**

Signs are posted for the on-sale shelved paperbacks to the right just inside the door. Other on-sale paperbacks and items are on the tables. Place your exact amount owed in the red money box near the door. Sorry but no change is available. Consider any extra as a donation or pick out more items. Thanks for understanding. Books will be replenished on a regular basis as space allows. The Bookstore is open MWF from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., though closed for Thanksgiving on November 24th and 26th. All sale proceeds will benefit the Towns County Libraries. When shopping in the bookstore, remember your

friends and children who might like a 'surprise' book or two for Christmas or just because you thought of them. Please practice safe distancing.

YOU ARE INVITED!

"Storybook Lane," a new outdoor Postage Stamp Mural produced by the Appalachian Mural Trail, is scheduled for unveiling at 2:00 in the afternoon on Friday, November 5th, 2021. The public is invited. The event will take place outside Mountain Regional Library at 698 Miller St, Young Harris, GA 30582, telephone 706-379-3732.

The colorful 7 foot high "Storybook Lane" mural creates a fantasy world of children's book characters from works by local children's book authors Marcia Hawley Barnes, Brenda Kay Ledford, Amy Ammons Garza, and Carroll S. Taylor. The mural is designed to "save the books." Mountain Regional Library is scheduled to be featured on the Appalachian Mural Trail where the mural is showcased so folks can read about and find directions to the mural. Check out www.muraltrail.com where over 125 murals are featured for people to visit and view 24 hours a day.



IT TAKES MANY TO HELP!



There are openings for two positions on the FOLTC board of directors for 2022, and your talents are needed. If you want to become more involved with the Friends, now is your opportunity! Please email President Mary Welken at welken@yahoo.com if you'd like to discuss your interest in working with FOLTC in either of these capacities. Our many volunteer board members make easy work of what we do. Teamwork is priceless, so please come join us!

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: If you are detail oriented and have computer skills and know how to use (and have access to) Excel and email, we are looking for a new committee chair for Membership. Tammy Wells has been doing an excellent job with membership for almost 10 years and now needs to make time for her family. The main responsibilities entail keeping the membership spreadsheet updated as new members join and as people renew their yearly membership. It also involves being a voting member of the board of directors and attending 6 board meetings per year. The Chair sends the quarterly newsletter by email to the majority of the members and mails printed copies to the few without email. A list of responsibilities and training will definitely be provided!

VICE PRESIDENT: We're looking for someone who likes to lead and would be interested in becoming President after a year of serving as Vice President in 2022. Duties include filling in for the President if needed, attending 6 board meetings a year as a voting member, and learning the responsibilities of the President throughout the year. Even if you haven't been very involved with FOLTC yet, we are looking for people who care about our libraries, are willing to learn, and would like to help.

BOARD MEMBER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Wild Girl by Jim Fergus. As a young man, Ned was part of an expedition to find and free a boy who was captured by the Apaches, using an Apache girl as ransom. Ned had photographed the girl, and her narrative combines with extracts from Ned's diaries to tell a story that resonates years later and that lays bare some of the harsh truths about the American presence in the West.

The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede. When 38 jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11, 2001, the population of this small town on Newfoundland Island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000. This book recounts the inspiring story of the residents of Gander, Canada, whose acts of kindness have touched the lives of thousands of people and been an example of humanity and goodwill.

The House in the Cerulean Sea by T. J. Klune. Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. This enchanting story is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.

NEW COLLECTION BOX AT MRL

A larger collection box (picture right) for your donations is now in the MRL Bookstore to the right as you enter. Thank you for sharing to support the Towns County Libraries.

HAPPENINGS AT YOUR LIBRARIES, Heather Welch, Public Services Coordinator



Mountain Regional Library is thrilled to become a part of the Appalachian Mural Trail! Our mural is called **Storybook Lane** by Doreyl Ammons Cain and consists of characters from local children's book authors Marcia Hawley Barnes, Brenda Kay Ledford, Amy Ammons Garza and Carroll S. Taylor. It will be placed outside Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris with an **unveiling on Nov. 5th at 2 pm**. Our hope is that it becomes a landmark in the community and brings people into the library.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild has partnered with us to do 12 art classes - November to May. The first one will be a watercolor bookmark, and space will be limited. Once details are finalized, information will be available on our Facebook page and within the libraries.

Other new partners are the First Readers of Towns County. They will be doing storytimes the first and third Thursday monthly. We're excited because their organization focuses on early literacy and getting books into the hands of children.

Through November our libraries will be accepting donations of wrapping paper, boxes, and Christmas decorations. Can we count on you to share some for our kids? Then we will be scheduling **Wrapping Parties** in early December, one day at each branch. People may come wrap their presents and have a cup of hot chocolate as our gift to them.

In January, we anticipate setting up one-on-one classes to help people learn how to download e-books and e-audiobooks onto their devices. Watch for details.

Remember, our Facebook page is kept current with everything happening at your Towns County Libraries. We are only an email, phone call, or visit away!

LIBRARY STATISTICS AND MORE, Marlene Cannon, TCL Manager

Even a pandemic cannot stop our libraries! During the first fiscal quarter of FY2021-22, starting July 1st, the circulation statistics might surprise you!

- 11,201 - Physical circulation of books, DVDs, audio books
- 1,790 - E-book circulations
- 10,651 - Attendance
- 30 – New library cards issued
- 491 – New items added to the collections

Storytime was moved to the outside garden at Towns County Library when late summer and fall COVID numbers rose. Attendance continues to rise. Ingles and FOLTC supported our family-focused baking competition in October. We had fall decorations at both locations for an easy ‘photo-op’ location for the family fun. Finally, we are truly thankful to have a full staff at both libraries. We are here for you. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY TURNS ONE



In February 2020 the FOLTC board voted to fund a Little Free Library. Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw gave permission to install it at the Towns County Beach and Playground. Jerome Laux has built many things for the library, so we asked him to draw up the plans and build our project. FOLTC member and former art professor Dick Aunspaugh did a beautiful job painting our Little Free Library with bright, colorful flowers. The planning and coordinating for this



project took place during the early months of the COVID pandemic, so we had many unexpected, frustrating delays. Our project was finally completed in October 2020 and was registered on the www.littlefreelibraries.org map with more than 100,000 others in the United States and over 108 countries. We just celebrated our One Year Steward Anniversary and are happy to say that our Little Free Library has been very popular at the beach and playground.



BOOK BUNCH ‘N LUNCH

Everyone is welcome. FOLTC’s Book Bunch ‘N Lunch meets monthly at 11:30 am on the 3rd Wednesday at Daniel’s Steakhouse in Hiawassee. A “Dutch treat” lunch is optional. Social distancing is observed.

- **November 17 - Biography/Memoir** *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII* by Sonia Purcell. Discussion Leader – Tammy Wells
- **December – Christmas** – No meeting
- **January 19 – Classic** *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Discussion Leader – Elaine Roberts
- **February 16 – Humor** *Dad is Fat* by Jim Gaffigan. Discussion Leader – Tammy Wells

EYE-LEVEL CHILDREN’S SHELVES



Your membership dues and book donations provided funding for the new eye-level bookshelves in the children’s area of Towns County Library. They make selecting children’s books easier!

HISTORY OF THE PINES SYSTEM, Doris L. Tilly, Founding President

I read two or more books every week and always have several on hand. My interests vary from gardening, birds, butterflies, genealogy, children's books, international spy novels with a little romance, or novels about the southeastern USA. As a very frugal person I could never purchase all the books I read. I turn to PINES: Public Information Network for Electronic Services. You will be pleased to know that former governor Zell Miller had the idea to put all of Georgia's county libraries in a statewide system. Roy Barnes, the next governor, put the idea into operation in 1999. The system has been copied world-wide with British Columbia, Canada, being the first to ask for permission to copy the PINES system.

From the PINES internet information: "PINES is the public library automation and lending network for 300 libraries and affiliated service outlets in 51 library systems covering 146 counties in GA. This is a 'borderless library' that provides equal access to information for all Georgians. Georgians with a PINES library card have access to materials beyond what is available on their local shelves and enjoy the benefits of a shared collection of 10.6 million books and other materials that can be delivered to their home library free of charge. If you are a resident of GA, you are eligible to receive a free PINES library card.

PINES runs on the Evergreen automation system, an op-source system originally developed in-house by Georgia Public Library Service and now is used worldwide by more than 1500 libraries. It is provided at no cost to GA library systems. PINES has enabled local libraries state-wide to reduce software expenditures by approximately \$10 million a year. It is partially assisted with funds from the Library Services and Technology Act through the Institutes of Museum and Library Services." State and Federal funds are used.

Elizabeth McKinney, PINES Director, answered my questions by phone concerning the PINES system. She has been with the system for many years and helped me in March, 2009, when I wrote an article about the PINES system for the Newsletter. From Director McKinney:

- 2,000,000 GA residents are actively using the PINES system in 2021.
- The Kid's Catalog was added in March of 2014, providing children access to the system via a kid-friendly interface. More is in the works as students of all grades will be given access to PINES via a PLAY card without any future fines and without the need for a parent signature. Soon you will be able to renew your library card online with the PINES system.
- The PINES Committee has an annual survey that is used for future improvements. Be sure to complete the survey to have your suggestions heard.



You now have more information about your wonderful PINES system. We should all be proud to live in a State that values libraries and continues to make good use of our resources for every resident.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Bookstore sales were up 10% for a 3-month period in 2021 over the same time period in 2019. Sales in the new Towns County Library bookstore contributed 25% of the 2021 money.

In the past 3 months FOLTC committed \$8,000 to the libraries for the 2022 summer reading program, the Commissioner's Challenge Grant, a new bookcase for the Towns County Library bookstore, and various library activities. We thank Peach State FCU for its 3rd \$500 donation to FOLTC. H & H Tradesmen are our newest business patron (see their card below). Thank you to everyone who donates to FOLTC.

Now, and always, is the right time to renew your membership. We encourage to you renew, join for the first time, ask a friend or business to join, and share this newsletter with others. Together we can help empower the future generations. Good libraries need good Friends!

**SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (10/29/2021)
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 organization.

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, Young Harris GA 30582.