



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

SPRING 2024

FOLTC Officers:

President: Mary Welken

Vice President: Rose Mary Crook

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

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This spring has been busy for FOLTC. Both bookstores have been restocked after our very successful Inventory Reduction Sale held the entire month of February. Look for another sale in August!

On April 9th, National Library Worker's Day, FOLTC recognized all TCPL and MRL employees with a small token of appreciation. We are so thankful for the work they do to keep our two Towns County libraries running smoothly.

In April, FOLTC donated \$5,000 to be shared between the two Towns County libraries for the yearly matching Towns County Commissioner Grant. FOLTC is able to continue matching this grant through your memberships, donations, and from the donated books sold at the two bookstores located in the libraries.

To keep abreast of new happenings in libraries, I enjoy reading different articles on the American Library Association (ALA) website. I came across this website <https://literacy.ala.org/>. This site brings together resources from across the American Library Association (ALA) and beyond which promote literacy across the lifespan and

explores the different areas of literacy from digital, financial, health, etc. Hopefully, you will find these articles as informative as I have.

Thank you for your support of our libraries and please encourage your friends to join FOLTC. Together we will continue to help our libraries and literacy grow in Towns County.

YOUNG HARRIS SPRING FLING

Young Harris' Spring Fling took place on Sunday, April 21st, in spite of chilly and rainy weather! Mountain Regional Library had a booth with handouts, stickers, and keychains. Suzanne Carter, FOLTC, had a free raffle of two gardening books which were won by two members of the Enotah Garden Club. Unfortunately the weather kept attendance low, but there was plenty to see, purchase, eat, and listen to. Hopefully next year the weather will be more cooperative.

TCPL HAPPENINGS



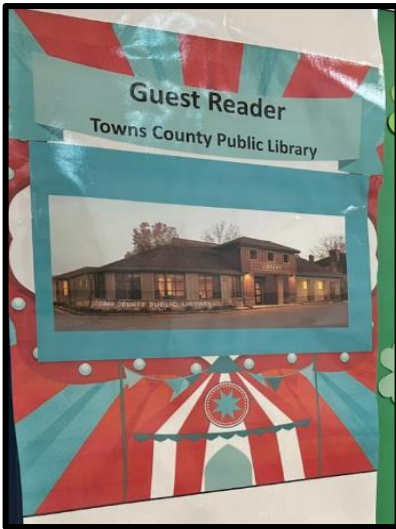
This spring has been full of fun at TCPL. We had a birdhouse build program in collaboration with the Towns-Union Master Gardeners. The program was a fantastic success with children being able to decorate birdhouses while parents learned how to support them in participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count of 2024 with Cornell University, the Audubon Society, and Birds Canada. We had a total of 22 participants and some very creative ones at that!



With this year being a leap year, we also did a leap year day at the library! Participants got to learn about the leaping ability of several different animals and test their ability to leap (or hop) like them! It's quite amazing how many hops it takes to cover the single leap distance of a mountain lion (that's 45 ft!). They also wrote leap year letters to their future selves to open the next leap year.

We received some fantastic feedback from our spring collage program. Several of the patrons who attended had never done anything like this before and were very excited to take the experience home and do more themselves. We are considering hosting more collage events in the coming months.





We also had the opportunity to participate in Read Across America with the Towns County Elementary School. Meredith and Heather attended the event where Meredith read Dr. Seuss to children ranging from birth to 5th grade! The whole event was a fantastic success and a wonderful opportunity for us to remind our local community that we are here and accessible to them!



Last but not least, we ended March with our 3rd annual egg drop! Once again, participants came and created their own egg saving designs in an attempt to protect the egg from impact with the floor. While many were not successful, most

seemed to have ideas for how they could improve their designs in future tests!



Up next is the summer reading program! We have a great lineup of events and performers this summer. If last year is anything to go by, we will have some very great crowds and excited patrons. We plan to deck out the kids room with decorations and come up with some wonderful challenges aligned with the “**Adventure Begins at your Library**” theme! It should be a wonderful experience this year!

SUMMER FLYER (SEE NEXT PAGE)

We hope to see lots of you, your children, your grandkids, and other children at these events. Please help spread the great news!



TOWNS COUNTY LIBRARIES
HIAWASSEE AND YOUNG HARRIS BRANCHES
SUMMER 2024 EVENTS

Bill Packard Magician
Wednesday, June 5 at 11 AM
Towns County Recreation Center
150 Foster Park Rd, Young Harris

Water Day
Wednesday, June 12 at 11 AM
Mayor's Park, Hiawassee

ZooPro Adventures
Wednesday, June 19 at 11 AM
Mayor's Park, Young Harris

Smithgall Woods: Snakes Alive
Thursday, June 27 at 11 AM
Mountain Regional Library

Beatin' Path Rhythm
Monday, July 8 at 11 AM
Towns County Civic Center
67 Lakeview Circle, Hiawassee

Smithgall Woods: Birds of Prey
Thursday, July 11 at 11 AM
Mayor's Park, Young Harris



Find us at....

mountainlibrary.com/events



@mountainregional



@TownsCountyLibraries

FOLTC BOARD MEMBER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Peach Seed by Anita Gail Jones

This novel explores how families pass down legacies of sorrow, joy, and strength.

Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck

With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads from the northernmost tip of Maine to California Monterey Peninsula. Along the way he reflects on the American character and the unexpected kindness of strangers.

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn

Kate Quinn's historical novel is a brilliant story about female codebreakers in World War II.

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict

This is the remarkable, little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J.P. Morgan's personal librarian. She became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to tell you that Kim Brown is our new Book Bunch chairperson. She loves reading and organizing. What a great fit for her being on the FOLTC Board. Stop by either of the Towns County libraries to learn more about the monthly meeting of the Book Bunch. Everyone is welcome to participate in this monthly book club. No pressure. Come as often as you can or as little as wanted.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS AT MOUNTAN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Our youth programming is continuing to grow with Kid's Club every Tuesday afternoon and Story and Play for Toddlers every Wednesday morning. The children have been busy celebrating Earth Day and holidays, creating with clay, playing games, building with Legos, and enjoying our newest addition to the line-up, Artist of the Month.



The Mystery Book Club for adults has been well received, and participants are enjoying lively discussions at the meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month at 1 pm. We will be featuring a variety of mysteries such as historical, thriller, cozy, and more. Our May book is *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis. Join us any month you can.

We partnered with Young Harris College for a fascinating presentation on WWII. As part of the One Book One Community initiative, Dr. Welch presented the historical context of the book *Taken at Birth* by Jane Blasio. We also partnered with the City of Young Harris and Peach State Federal Credit Union to display the works of local artists in the Rotating Art program.

In the library we have been busy moving furniture and books to make the library more comfortable for patrons. We are working hard to complete our updates in time for our Summer Reading Kick-off in June. Check out our summer events at mountainlibrary.com/events or stop by the library any time!



**The fun continues at the libraries all summer.
Read what's offered and pick where to participate.
It's fun.
It's free.
It's inclusive, so bring your friends.
Come to one, two, or all. You'll be glad you did!**

FIVE BENEFITS OF READING

- Reduces stress and helps one relax
- Improves one's concentration and memory
- Vocabulary expansion and strengthens one's writing abilities
- Enhances one's knowledge
- Increases one's imagination and creativity

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, our children are the big winners!

Let's work together and increase our membership in 2024!

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY (4/30/2024)

PATRONS (Donated \$100+)

Grace Andrews
Marilyn K. Brown
Bill & Kathy Day
Mary & James Edwards
Leon & Judith Lee
Jim & Trish Reynolds

Barbara & Bob Bone
Coca Cola Foundation
Betty Dodson
David & Joyce Geiger
Peach State FCU
Jo & Walton Sineath

John Bowen
Anna Dancu
Gary & Linda Dye
H&H Tradesmen
Deborah Reynolds
EE & DR Staton

Doris Tilly

Mary & Dave Welken

DONORS (Donated \$50+)

Alvin Fickle

Herb & Darlene Pilcher

Bruce & Elaine
Roberts

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

Jane Farrell

James & Sandra Hazen

Charles & Megan Hume

Theodore & Maureen Gustafson

