



Winter 2020

editors Joan Brannon and Maggie Christenbury

Staff Appreciation Lunch

The annual Staff Appreciation lunch was held on Friday, December the 13th in the Evelyn Shook Board Room. A delicious lunch was provided by Woodlands with desserts donated by FOL members (thanks to Melony Winkleman, and Maggie Christenbury.

Donna Helseth, Peggy Hagaman, Melony Winkleman, Phoebe Pollitt set up festive tables. Sandy Kaydyk sewed and donated beautiful holiday tablecloths.

Monica Caruso , Watauga County library branch head thanked the FOL for all their fundraising activities to purchase needed items - especially the new chairs :) for the library.

Despite the cold, wet weather, library staff and FOL members enjoyed fun and fellowship at the luncheon.

Meet Our President

Friends Board is twenty strong! Our President, Melony Winkelmann, has served for two plus years and loves being on the board because all the Friends are so friendly and willing to help with all our projects, from baking cookies to working at the book sales. She says that Friends are a vital community to assist our library! She was born in Canada, raised in California and moved to Boone with her husband, Wink, in the seventies. She graduated from

ASU and her career as a media specialist spanned elementary schools as well as Watauga High School. She plays the flute in the Community Band (their next concert is April 5, 4pm at Rosen Hall). She enjoys biking across Germany with Wink. One grandson, Luke, is a world-class snowboarder and recently placed 3rd in qualifying at Mammoth, in California.

Melony has been a wonderful asset for the Friends' board.

Cookies and Cocoa after the Christmas Parade!!

Thanks to all the FOL members who baked cookies for the "After the Christmas Parade" event on Saturday, December 14th, Thanks especially to Joan Hearn for coordinating the volunteer cookie bakers, and

Janice Johnson for making her delicious hot cocoa.

Many children and their parents enjoyed this annual holiday treat!

OUR SORTERS

Donations of books and other material are crucial for Friends of the Library sales. The current Friends budget for 2019-2020 anticipates in-house book sales of \$9500 from items donated. Proceeds are used to support the Library. Donated items may also supplement the Library's collection, stock the Little Free Libraries, provide books for Hospitality House clients, daycare centers, etc. Please bring your donations to the Circulation Desk any hours the library is open. We are thankful for our generous donors of books.

Friends of the Library book sorter volunteers are the behind the scene workforce for Friends of the library in-house book sales. Currently, twenty-three talented, hard-working, dedicated volunteers sort, shelve, price, and/or recycle unusable materials or box books for storage and future sales. Other Friends' volunteers maintain the supply of storage boxes and transport boxed books to off-site storage or to special sales locations. Library staff accept donated items and assist the public with sales. County Maintenance employees pick-up the recyclables. Everyone working together makes this process possible.

The Friends' In-house bookshelves area offers a variety of materials for sale: hardback and paperback fiction, non-fiction hardbacks and paperbacks in a variety of categories (history, hobbies, humor, self- help, health, sports, etc.), recent issue magazines, dvds, music and audio books, vinyl records, etc. Separate bookshelves are provided for classics, science fiction, large print and children's books. Most of these items are very reasonably priced from \$.10 to \$2.00. Coffee table books, books on cd, special book sets or recent issues may be priced higher but all are still a great bargain.

Come by soon and check out our in-house sales area or drop off some donations. If you are interested in being a Friends' volunteer, please email us at wink1941@aol.com

Some items are **not** accepted, including:

Large print books warped, dirty, heavily marked/highlighted, Magazines more than 12 months old or water-damaged, Cassette tapes, Coffee table books, Encyclopedias, Textbooks, or Books that are water-damaged, mildewed, or dirty. Most recycling facilities will take these items.

Chief Sorter: Doris Issacs and our sorting area.

Reading Challenge 2020

Grab a checklist and start reading!!

Share what you think about the books you read during the 2020 Reading Challenge by leaving a comment about your book on our lib guide, online at:

arlibrary.libguides.com/watauga_reading_challenge/challenge_submission

Challenges may only be completed once by each participant. Audio books and e-books count. Each book read can only be used for one challenge. All ages are encouraged to participate! For every posting we will keep a record of the completed tasks. Download a 2020 Reading Checklist [here](#).



Please Tell Us a Story About the Library!

Personal stories can go a long way in advocating for our library. So says Neuse Regional Library Director Melanie Morgan, our guest speaker at the statewide NC Friends 2019 Annual Meeting.

The meeting attendees described real life stories from their libraries. One was about a single mom who lacked parenting skills. Through her library's Baby Bounce and Story Time programs she interacted with other mothers who, in effect, coached her with her issues, increased her confidence in parenting, and provided her with much appreciated friendship.

Recently the personal story message was brought home in my own life. I receive lots of mail from nonprofits asking for contributions. With one exception, I toss them all, even ones from organizations that I give to every year. The one that I open always includes a personal story of someone the organization has helped. I find the stories encouraging and they give me confidence that the donations I make are going to a good cause. Do you know a personal story where our library has made a difference in someone's life? If so please send it to me. Both you and Friends could use such a story to advocate for the library. Thank you.

Jack James

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Libraries Offer Free Tax Assistance for 2020

The Watauga County Public Library is in its tenth year of offering tax assistance for the 2020 filing season. The library program began in 2011. Matthew Upton, a graduate student in Accounting at Appalachian State University, will be the new Coordinator and Josh Rouse the Assistant Coordinator. The (VITA) Volunteer for Tax Assistance program provides free income tax preparation and electronic filing for eligible low to moderate-income Watauga County residents which would be those who made \$56,000 or less in 2019. The program operates in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service and receives financial support from the Friends of the Library and the IRS.

Volunteers are trained to be certified tax preparers through the IRS. Most of the volunteers come from the Accounting Department at Appalachian State University.

Residents are encouraged to file a tax return to claim the tax benefits they earned with the Earned Income Credit and the Child Tax Credit. Millions of workers could overlook and miss out on up to \$6,557 extra in their federal income tax refunds through the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC and as much as \$2,000 per qualifying child for the Child Tax Credit or CTC. ASU students and their parents may be eligible for education credits.

The tax preparers will alert you as to whether you are eligible for any of these credits! The service will operate from January 31 – April 4 on Fridays from 3 pm - 6 pm and Saturdays from 9 am -12 noon, however, there will be no service on Friday, April 10 nor Saturday, April 11, 2020. Anyone interested in making an appointment may call the library at 828-264-8784, X 2 and speak with the Adult Services Department. The library is located at 140 Queen Street one block up from the Mast General Store in downtown Boone.