



# News and Views

Friends of Union County Library  
Fall 2010

## Message from the President

### YES, YES, YESSSSSSS!

At long last we can see actual progress toward the renovation and expansion of our beloved library! Although we realize that the leaf-lookers driving by the library and seeing the entire front of the building demolished might think that it had been the victim of a disaster—a tornado, perhaps?—those of us who have been anticipating that scene are rejoicing and looking forward to the Grand Opening in the Spring.

Anyone who has seen the schematic plans for the renovation knows that the long wait has been worth it. While visions of sugar plums dance in the minds of children during the pre-Christmas season, Friends rejoice that their visions of the long-awaited expanded library are finally to be realized. And what a celebration that will be!

In the words of Shakespeare, “How poor are they who have not patience... No wound did ever heal but by degrees.” We have been patient, and that patience is about to be rewarded. Just a little while longer and we will revel in the beauty and practicality of the renovation.

And so, dear Friends, as you count your blessings at year’s end, remember to tally up all the important ways you have been instrumental in all

the myriad of fund-raising projects in the past few years that have enabled us to be able to provide in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars towards furnishings and equipment. While that is an impressive sum, we will continue—with your help—to add to that total, so that when the library is re-opened it will be a monument to the community’s support and involvement.


Friends never rest on their laurels and can always be counted on to lend a hand whenever needed, which is a statement made visible by the impressive amount of fund-raising that has been accomplished so far. An enormous and sincere Thank You for being a Friend!


—Arlene Gray, President FOUCL




Friends at the Sorghum Festival: Kathy Lowery, right, read stories and Mary Carol Paris Adamson, left, sold quilt raffle tickets.

### Inside...

 Pictures of the library renovation

 Quilt raffle raises \$1,550

 Holiday Luncheon: December 8 at Brasstown Valley

 Buy a brick!



### WHOOOOO, WHOOOOO, ALL A-BOARD!

Folks in the area mark their calendars early for the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 26th. The past few years, Charles Griffin, owner of Misty Mountain Scenic Model Railway, has graciously opened his doors on that day for the benefit of Friends of Union County Library. People love to see their out-of-town holiday guests watch the trains travel more than a mile of track around replicated villages and towns, recognizable as Blairsville, Cleveland, Dahlonega, and the Georgia Mountain Fair. It is important to be at Misty Mountain Railroad,

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# The Once and Future Library



*The library renovation has finally begun! The interior has been gutted, landscaping removed and Winter Construction is beginning the new addition and refurbishment of the old building. Photos taken at the end of October, 2010.*



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## Quilt Raffle Raises \$1,550

Over the past several months, Fundraising Chair Joanne Olson found creative venues to get the Friends' donated raffle quilt into the public's attention. It hung in the Library, at United Community Bank, and was featured in several area festivals. Our quilt donor had asked to remain anonymous, but it is just too hard not to give credit

for her generosity, so quilter JoAnne Ward allowed us to recognize her here. The Children's Section in our renovated library will be the beneficiary of more than \$1,500 raised in the raffle. When JoAnne was at the Butternut Creek Festival, she noticed the quilt and said to her daughter, "I made a quilt like that one time." As she came closer, she realized it was *her* quilt, and the smile on her face was contagious.

Emma Morgan, daughter of Waymond and Shawna, watched the raffle drum spin around and drew the winning ticket. The winner is Don Huffine of Evansville, Indiana. Don said he comes to Blairsville regularly with friends and family to celebrate birthdays—so having a piece of Blairsville quilt-art is particularly special.

## New! "Book A Brick"

When the library re-opens on Hunt Martin Street, we will have an area outside the community and hospitality rooms for commemorative bricks. The price is \$25 for 4x8" and \$50 for 8x8" with letters only. This is a wonderful way to make a lasting mark on your library. You may remember a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, honor a friend, or promote your business with a personalized engraved brick. There is a link to the "Book A Brick" order form on the library's website: [www.mountainregionallibrary.org](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org) Order forms can also be picked up at the temporary library location on Bracketts Way.



*Joanne Olson and Emma Morgan draw the winning quilt raffle ticket.*

*from our librarian*

## Friends Help Close State Funding Gap

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Public Library for your continued support. In August and September, the library renewed several magazine and newspaper subscriptions with some of the money that the Friends gave to the library in August. The rest of the money was used to purchase books. The library will be receiving no state money for materials this year and will have to rely on local library funding for book purchasing. Money that the Friends donate to the library throughout the year will help lessen that burden a great deal.

Expansion and renovation on the library began on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Winter Construction has done extensive demolition and has begun preparing the back of the building for expansion.

As you know, the library moved to a temporary location at 178 Bracketts Way in November 2009 because of growing leaks and issues with plumbing. All of the damaged, moldy ceiling tiles and drywall have been removed from the building.

The upcoming year will be an exciting time for the library. We should see a lot of progress in the next few months. The project should be finished by late spring and we look forward to celebrating with our grand opening.

—Susie Brendle



Susie Brendle, Librarian

### Reserve Now! Holiday Luncheon Dec. 8

It's time to make your reservations for the Annual Christmas Luncheon, which we guarantee will be a joyous and delicious time! Mark your calendar now! **Please make your reservation by DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** by calling Anna Stone at 706-745-5943 or sending her an e-mail at [ac.stone@gmail.com](mailto:ac.stone@gmail.com).

We are going to Brasstown Valley Resort for a sumptuous soup, salad, pasta and dessert bar. The chef cooks the pasta to your personal order, with your choice of shrimp, scallops, sausage, garlic, sun-dried tomatoes, artichokes, pimientos, and marinara or Alfredo sauce. The salad bar alone is a feast, and the dessert is a delightful ending to a perfect meal. The cost of the luncheon—including coffee or tea, tax and tip—is \$11.00. Orders from the bar are extra.

And don't forget the highlight of this Annual event: the Book Exchange! Bring a book to trade and take home a wonderful gift no Friend of the Library could ever deny was their favorite kind of present!

The restaurant doesn't serve lunch until 11:30, but they have agreed to allow us to come at 11:00 in order to register for a book-choosing number, look over the selections, and just have some time to chat with one another.

And dust off your best bib-and-tucker for an afternoon of fun, good food and FRIENDship!

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

"Friends" has had a wonderful year raising over \$4,500 dollars for our new library, and more will soon be added with the next event, the Misty Mountain Model Railroad Library Day, November 26, chaired by Peg Shaw.

A Tremendous Thank You is warmly extended to all the great volunteers who have participated and worked so hard this year in one or more of our events: Trash and Treasure Sale, Brother's Restaurant Night, Quilt Raffle and the ongoing Mile of Pennies.

Anna Stone, Fran Kirkland, Susie Brendle, Bob Dodson, Bobbi Tower, Judy Baldwin, Arlene Gray, Barbara and Robert Hale, Steve Olson, Steve and Donna Howell, Miki Rice, Coral Gubler, Tammy Vaughn, Pat McCamy, Jeanie Bullock, Peg Shaw, Frances Mason, Judy Vaughn, Mary Napolitano, Don Speroni, Valerie Ripma, Zvonka Meek, Carmen Clasen, George and Kathy Daves, Joy Kajan, Alice Duryea, Bob and Sue Leidner, Debbie Reynolds, Kathy Lowery, Jeff Murphy, Bob Jaric, Barbara Williams, Medora MacKinnon, Mary Carol Adamson and Michelle Harrison. Thank you for your time well spent! (Hope I didn't miss anyone!!)

—Joanne Olson Fund Raising Chair

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off Town Creek Road, by 2:00 p.m. when the doors open and those in line are admitted.

If you've never seen this outstanding display, nationally recognized as the largest of its kind in the U.S., you really should make a point of going the day after Thanksgiving; and if you have seen it, go again!

Remember, our Library is the beneficiary of Mr. Griffin's generosity—who asks a mere \$5 per adult donation. Of course, many folks give more generously, knowing it will benefit the Library, and we are always grateful for the support.

## Friends of Union County Library Officers and Committee Chairpersons

**President: Arlene Gray** 706-897-9806  
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**Secretary Anna Stone** 706-994-8154  
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**Membership: Judy Baldwin** 706-745-5259  
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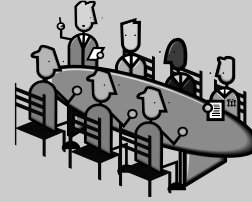
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**Staff Appreciation: Teresa Moore** 706-745-2151  
United Community Bank

**Newsletter Editor: Kathy Traylor** 770-985-8663  
traylork@gmail.com

## Union County Library Board



**Librarian:** Susie Brendle  
**Regional Director,** Donna Howell

**Mayor:** Jim Conley

**Commissioner:** Lamar Paris

### Appointees:

Shirley Brackett  
Jane Collins  
JoAnn Hamby  
Melissa Mashburn  
Jane Thompson  
Joe White

**Friends of Union County Library**  
**P. O. Box 1029**  
**Blairsville, GA 30514-1029**  
[www.foucl.org](http://www.foucl.org)

### Membership Meetings:

Third Wednesday of each month  
2 p.m. in the Conference Room at  
North Georgia Technical College  
(during Library Renovation). Use the  
parking lot in the rear of the college.  
Everyone welcome!

## Union County Library

Library Temporary Location

During Renovation:

178 Brackett Way  
(2 blocks west of KFC)

706-745-7491

Library website:

[www.mountainregionallibrary.org](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org)