



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

Fall 2011

Message from the President: IT'S BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR !

2011 has seen Friends accomplishing much, celebrating greatly, and anticipating events to round out the year with gusto! Friends have been volunteering under the capable leadership of Fund-raising Chairman **Joanne Olson** to raise an unprecedented amount in anticipation of the re-opening of our beautiful new Library last summer.

Together with **Barbara Hale**, who co-chaired a most successful Trash & Treasures Fund-raiser with Joanne, we saw a long line of attendees standing in line for fifteen minutes before the doors even opened!

Joanne pieced a beautiful quilt and asked several artisans if they would donate their services to create a memorable Raffle. The long-arm quilting was done by **Darlene & Bill Barnes of Appalachian Quilting Company** in Hiawassee; **Diane Simonsen**, a master basket-maker, provided a large basket lined in the same fabric as the quilt; and woodworker, **Edwin Panter**, crafted an exquisite walnut jewelry box to bring the Raffle items up to an awesome Three Wondrous Prizes for one lucky winner.

The Triple-Header Raffle items were brought to the Butternut Creek Festival, the Green Bean Festival, and the Sorghum Festival, as well as being displayed at United Community Bank—all of which contributed to the largest number of raffle tickets ever sold for FOUCL, the net of which totaled over \$2,500. What an outstanding testament to the cooperation involved in raising funds for the library! The winning ticket was drawn at the October meeting of FOUCL by **Connie Wiegman**, Judy Vaughn's sister-in-law who was visiting from Jacksonville, FL. Excitement was raised to a fever pitch as the winner was announced: **Jimmy and Casey Pruett** of Eastman, Georgia. Congratulations!



Suffice to say, without the willing hearts and hands of Friends, none of this could have been accomplished. It is a testimony to the cooperative spirit that says Each One Can Do Something. Some of our members offer their support through their membership only—and many have said they wish they were able to do more. But we know that their financial help through membership is vital to the organization. Others lend physical help as they put up/take down displays, work shifts at the various venues, read stories at a festival to entice the children to love books and reading, tally up volunteer hours working at the library, or speak at various civic organizations about what FOUCL is involved in, thereby garnering additional memberships. This past year, presentations were given at Kiwanis, Rotary and at the Parent's Night at the Union County Elementary School. And from the contact made last year at the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, we receive continuing support through their annual giving program. It is this cooperative community-wide spirit that continues to allow FOUCL to do all the things we do to make the Library bastion of the community.

We are also fortunate to have as a special Friends' member **Teresa Moore**, who when she's not working at United Community Bank, serves as chairman of the Staff Appreciation Committee, bringing monthly baskets of

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goodies, helping to celebrate staff birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

Looking back on how FOUCL was able to impact the Library—and in turn—the community at large this past year, there was an impressive number of things to take into account: we provided subscriptions for 33 magazines and six newspapers; purchased 150 books; bought two Early Learning Computers as well as a rug and furnishings for the new Children’s area; contributed \$4,400 towards the cost of new handicap accessible doors; set aside funds for a scanner; and await further word from Librarian Susie Brendle as to what additional items are needed now that the library has expanded from 6,000 square feet to over 13,000 square feet.

Our Thanks-Giving List includes generous donors, like those who purchased a tent for the festivals we participate in, or paid for the Celebration Cake for the 15th Anniversary party, or made a donation to cover the cost of the BBQ. These Friends may seek to remain anonymous, but in our hearts and minds, they are truly our Best Friends! ~Arlene Gray, President, FOUCL



Library patron John White appreciates the accessible doors, purchased with FOUCL’s help.

from our librarian

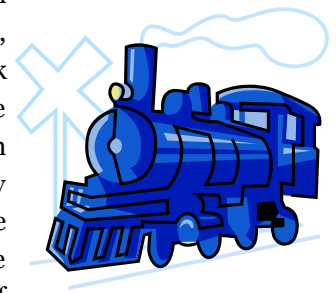


Susie Brendle, Librarian

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Library for your continued support. This has been a VERY busy year for the library and the Friends. Our construction project is almost complete. Most of the new shelving is in place. Because there were a few unforeseen delays and some shelving was wrong again, we had to reorder shelving items in the youth room and the magazine area. We hope all of the shelving will be completed before Thanksgiving. While we were closed for new shelving, we also had handicapped accessibility doors installed on the front entrance. They’ve already been utilized by many grateful patrons. A huge thank you to the Friends for agreeing to pay half of the cost. Other new features include new track lighting installed in the magazine and new book area and new window treatments throughout the library, hung by Marcie Culpepper.

Our attendance and circulation remain extremely high even though we’re well past our summer peak. The Monday we reopened after the shelving installation brought 936 patrons through the door. People from around the state are coming to see us. We have a lot to be proud of with our beloved library.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—The Day After Thanksgiving is the Annual FOUCL Fund-raiser at Misty Mountain Model Railroad. Each year Charles Griffin, our benevolent supporter, opens the doors to his wondrous mile-long railroad track display and donates the proceeds to FOUCL. If you have guests from out of town, be sure to mark this date—Friday, November 25th—on your calendar. Mr. Griffin requests a donation of \$5 for adults, and children under 17 are free. Be there promptly at 2:00 pm for your tour of America’s largest O-gauge railroad display. It is one of the foremost attractions in the U.S., and your guests will be impressed...guaranteed! The Railroad is located at 16 Misty Mountain Lane, just off Town School Road, south of Blairsville. For a preview, visit their new website at <http://www.mistymountainmodelrailroad.com>.



FOUCL Celebrates 15 Years of Supporting the Library

2011 also saw another reason to celebrate: It was the 15th Anniversary of the founding of FOUCL. We've grown from a fledgling start of just a handful of members, to a total of 245 members this year.

The 15th Anniversary called for a Celebration, and members gathered together at the pavilion below North Georgian Technical College in October to break bread together (and not only bread, but delicious BBQ, as well as some yummy side dishes that Friends brought), to recall some memorable events and to honor those who had made an impact on Friends. Among them were founding member **Judy Vaughn**, who continues to impact the organization and now chairs the e-Communications Committee, sending notices out with creative style; **Miki Rice** for nine years loyally serving as Treasurer; **Joanne Olson** for innovative fund-raising ideas and leadership during the past several years.



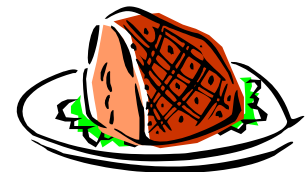
Judy Vaughn is recognized for her contributions to FOUCL

We also recognized **Donna Howell**, Director of the Mountain Regional Library System, who has been an advocate and supporter of Friends over the years. It was through Donna's nomination that FOUCL received the first-ever Fabulous Friends Award given by the statewide Friends of Georgia Libraries organization in 2010. A lengthy Certificate proclaiming her worth to FOUCL was presented, and in her usual humble way, she was visibly touched. We were also honored by the attendance of Commissioner **Lamar Paris**—he is not only a member of FOUCL, but a true Friend indeed.



Keep bringing pennies to the library! We're well on the way to our 2nd Mile of Pennies. Look for the jar near the copy machine at the library!

DON'T MISS THE CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY LUNCHEON. This year it will be **Thursday, December 8th**, and for the first time it will be held at the Library, in the newly decorated Community Room. This is the time for FRIEND-ship and Fellowship, as well as a delicious catered meal by Yolanda Keating, formerly of Victoria's Sweet Shop. You may choose from Baked Ham, Roast Chicken, or Dinner Salad with Chicken. All entrées come with vegetable, side salad, rolls, coffee or tea, tax, and tip for \$11.00. Early arrivals receive the first numbers for choosing a book from the Book Exchange, so plan to get there by 11:30 if you bring a book to exchange and want to get a head start on choices. Lunch will be served at noon. **Call or email Sally Woodworth: (706) 781-6405 or sallywoodworth@brmemc.net by December 1st** to reserve a seat and choose your main course.



FRIENDS OF UNION COUNTY LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please join us in supporting our Public Library

Junior \$1 (age 12 and under) Individual \$8 Family \$12 Patron: \$25 Donor: \$50 Sponsor \$100
 NEW MEMBER **RENEWAL** please send a receipt for tax purposes

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone: () _____ E-mail Address: _____

Friends of Union County Library is a nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law
 Return to: Friends of Union County Library, P.O. Box 1546, Blairsville, GA 30514-1546, or drop it off at the library.

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Regional Director: Donna Howell

Mayor: Jim Conley

Commissioner: Lamar Paris

Appointees:

Shirley Brackett

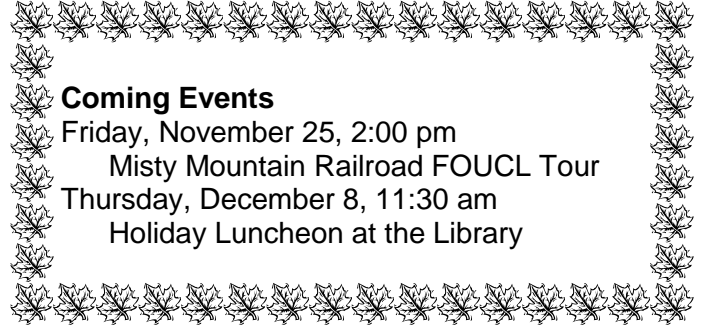
Jane Collins

JoAnn Hamby

Ed Reed

Joe White

Teresa Moore



Coming Events

Friday, November 25, 2:00 pm

Misty Mountain Railroad FOUCL Tour

Thursday, December 8, 11:30 am

Holiday Luncheon at the Library

Friends of Union County Library
P. O. Box 1546
Blairsville, GA 30514-1546

See this newsletter in color at our website:
<http://www.foucl.org>, click "newsletters"

Membership Meetings:
Third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.
in the library's multi-purpose room.
Everyone is welcome!

Union County Library
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706-745-7491

Library website: www.mountainregionallibrary.org

Mailing courtesy of United Community Bank