



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

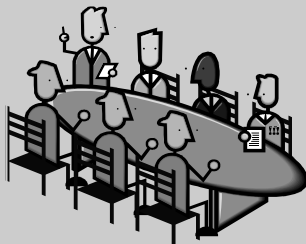
Spring 2006

A Quarterly Publication

Friends of Union County Library

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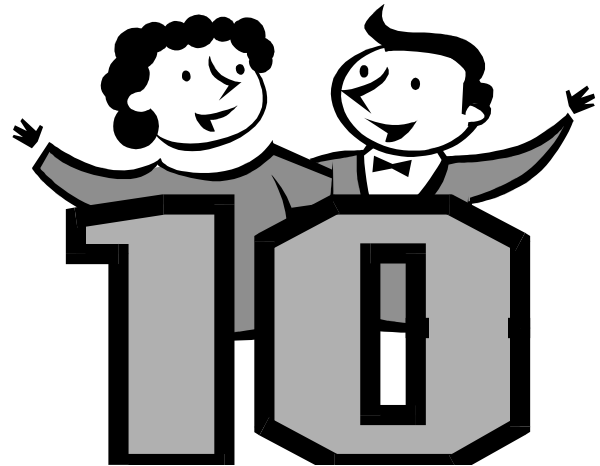


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You are invited.... to help FOUCL Celebrate 10 years!

by Fran Scanlon-Sills, Celebration Chairperson



The Friends of Union County Library will celebrate 10 years of service to our library this April. On Wednesday, April 12, we will hold a celebration in the LaVon Butt Multi-Purpose Room of Union County Public Library from noon until 2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be offered.

All FOUCL members are encouraged to stop by. If you still need to renew your membership for 2006, use this opportunity to drop off your check.

FOUCL has grown from a handful of members its first year to over 200 today. During the past 10 years many worthwhile library programs have benefited from the generous contributions of time and money given by members and several local businesses who have responded to appeals when extra assistance has been needed.

Among the successful programs that FOUCL has contributed to are:

Books for Babies—an ongoing program that presents books and an information packet to new mothers at Union County Hospital (please see article in this issue).

Summer Reading Program—an annual event which is underwritten by FOUCL.

Teen Movie Night—a recent addition that has been enthusiastically received by the teens in our community.

(Continued on page 2)

FOUCL supplements library purchases of books, tapes, DVDs, CDs, movies and periodical subscriptions. This is especially needed as budget cuts become more and more prevalent at the State and Federal levels. We in Union County consider ourselves quite fortunate that County support has remained steadfast in the face of other cut-backs.

We are hopeful that in the near future an expansion project will get underway at our library

facility. Additional floor space will allow for more shelving, as well as additional and much-needed computer stations.

The April meeting for FOUCL will follow the celebration at 2:00 p.m. Please note that this is a different day for the meeting which is normally held on the third Wednesday.

Mark your calendar and come on out and celebrate on April 12 from noon till 2!!

Books for Babies Kicks Off 2006 Fundraising

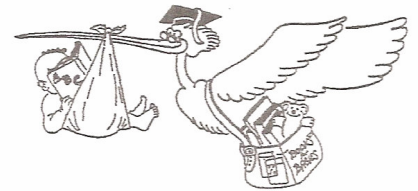
Books for Babies Chairperson, **Judy Shaner**, reports that fundraising efforts for the spring season are well underway. Thirty-three donation jars have been placed in local restaurants, grocery stores, video stores, doctor's offices, etc. and letters requesting donations have been sent to area businesses. This FOUCL project is part of a nationwide program in conjunction with the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA).

If you are not familiar with the program, you may be asking, "**Why do babies need books?**" Glad you asked! Literacy development begins at birth and is enhanced by parents interacting with their babies as they read to them. Babies who are read to and engaged in lots of verbal interaction show superior language and math skills as they enter school.



At the March FOUCL meeting, Chairperson Judy Shaner is shown above preparing to pass out donation jars and information cards to volunteers who then placed them in area businesses

BOOKS FOR BABIES



"How does the program work?"

- FOUCL purchase Books for Babies packets from FOLUSA containing a board storybook for baby, baby's first library card, and brochures with reading tips and early literacy information
- We add local information for the new parents and another book for baby.
- Packets are delivered by our volunteers to the new mothers in Union General Hospital.

This very successful program has been enthusiastically received by new mothers in Union County. The local program was started by then FOUCL President, **Pat Scott**, in 2001.

Judy Shaner recently heard from Pat's daughter, **Kim Scott**, who was delighted to learn that FOUCL has continued the Books for Babies project that her late mother had begun—and sent along a donation to help purchase more packets.

The attractive and eye-catching donation containers are canning jars with colorful fabric "ruffle covers" on the top. A special "Thank you!" to The Corn Crib in Blairsville for donating the fabric and labor to enhance our donation containers.

The donation jars will be in place throughout the community through May 1. Once again, FOUCL will match all donations, either in the jars or from local businesses and friends, so that even more packets and books may be purchased.

In an upcoming newspaper article, we will recognize all businesses and individuals who donate \$25.00 or more to Books for Babies.

News from the Treasurer....by Miki Rice



In the first three month of 2006, Friends of Union County Library has been busy fulfilling our purpose: "...to work together to support our public library."

- **New library sign.** A 2-sided, 4 foot by 8 foot sign has been made and is awaiting the County's installation. \$535.00
- **Mountain Regional Library's storyteller,** Linda Foster, ran out of travel money and was going to have to cancel the scheduled trip to Woody Gap School to do story time this month—however our library paid for her gas. We have reimbursed Union County Library. \$26.70
- **Opaque Projector.** When the library was broken into recently, the water bottle being used to collect donations for this project was stolen. The projector is really needed to prepare for the Summer Reading Program. \$1,300.00.
- **Teen Night.** Funds to purchase the movie, pizzas, popcorn, drinks, paper products and a few small prizes for the March Teen Night. \$100.00.

So far for 2006: \$1,961.70.

Also, an order has been submitted for items for the Spanish Language Collection and we will soon be funding this.

Treasurer's Report:	CD	\$ 5,672.98
	Savings	3,446.86
	Checking	<u>6,541.06</u>
	Total Assets	\$15,660.90

Susie Says... from our Librarian, Susie Brendle

I would like to thank the Friends of Union County Library for their continuing support. I was so sorry to miss the March FOL meeting. I have been having medical test done since early December and too much of my time has been spent away from the library I love. Hopefully, I am through with all of that—just in time for Summer Reading preparations. Thank you for all of your prayers during the last few months.

Our new library sign should be in place by the time you receive this newsletter. Busy Bee Printing did a great job on the graphics. A big thanks to FOL for purchasing it for the library.

Our March Teen Night was a great success—thanks in part to FOL's donations. We had over 25 teens enjoying a movie, popcorn, pizza and sodas. Because of popular demand, we will host another Teen Night in May.

We have started asking for donations to help support our Summer Reading Program. Due to a lack of state monies this year, we are in great need of

funding. Although our wonderful FOL donates \$250 to the Mountain Regional Library System for Summer Reading each summer, we are still going to

come up VERY short of funds. We have placed a donation jug on the front counter. Please encourage as many people as you can to drop a few quarters in the jug—every penny will help!

I am very excited about the Friends of the Library 10th Anniversary in April. I'm sure the celebration will be a great success. I am so thankful for all the support that FOL has given the library. I KNOW we would not be where we are today without it.



**HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY
FRIENDS OF UNION COUNTY LIBRARY!!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy spring!

With the new growth and promise that spring brings, we are experiencing new visions as well as fulfilling many others. Membership in FOL is higher now than ever. The monthly meetings bring new faces and new ideas. The Teen Night, special story hours, and the Books for Babies program get various ages involved in our library.

Don't forget to put April 12 on your calendar—Ten Year FOL Celebration! Bring your friends and have a light lunch with FOL. There will be a membership table at the celebration for new friends to join and renewing friends to update.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve our library and community as President of FOL. Friends of the Union County Library makes a difference, and I am honored to be part of this worthwhile group.

Happy Spring,
Jean Craig

Help Wanted! Do you love organizing parties and social events? Friends of the Library invites you to be our new Social Chairperson. Are writing press releases and articles right up your alley? Publicity Chairperson is the spot for you! Come to our next meeting or contact one of our officers to apply.

Friends of Union County Library
Union County Library
P. O. Box 1029
Blairsville, GA 30514-1029

Upcoming General Meetings: Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. April 12, May 17 & June 21
Library website: www.mountainregionallibrary.org
FOUCL website: <http://andythebookworm.tripod.com/FriendsofUnionCountyLibrary.html/>

Join us on April 12 from noon till 2:00 p.m. for Friends of Union County Library 10th Anniversary Celebration