



# News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

Spring 2008

*A Quarterly Publication*



## SPLOST Celebration



HOORAY! I'm sure we all celebrated personally when the February 5 voting resulted in overwhelming approval for the SPLOST (Special Local Option Sales Tax) to be continued in Union County. The passage will result in a sizeable portion of the money generated by SPLOST being used to renovate and expand our library!

Friends of the Library were treated to a celebration hosted by System Director Donna Howell, our librarian Susie Brendel and Susie's staff following the Friends' regular monthly meeting on February 20.



From left: Librarian Susie Brendel, Friends Vice President Shirley Brackett, Commissioner Lamar Paris, and Friends President Jeanie Bullock.



Congratulations cake!



Librarian Susie Brendel and two of her staff prepare punch and other goodies for our celebration time.

Lamar, Donna and Susie all send their sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your help in getting SPLOST approved—and getting out and voting “YES!”.



## Get ready to be part of the LEAF Campaign!

*by Barbara Hale*

We are all excited about the much-needed renovation and update of the library made possible by the recent passage of the SPLOST. However, as with any project of this magnitude, there are many anticipated needs associated with the update which will not be covered by SPLOST funds.

Read all about LEAF and some of unique fundraisers planned by FOUCL in this newsletter!



## LEAF Campaign

Friends of Union County Library are proud to announce that during 2008-2009 we will be coordinating an intensive community-oriented fundraising campaign. The Campaign will be known as the LEAF (Library Enrichment And Furnishings) Campaign. The purpose of the LEAF Campaign is to supplement the SPLOST funding for library renovation. This will be an umbrella campaign with many directions and events.

We are planning numerous fundraising events with all or most of the proceeds going directly to LEAF. We are also inviting other community organizations to participate in some of these events or to sponsor their own events to benefit LEAF. We will be involving local businesses through donations or sponsorships on various levels. We will be requesting direct monetary contributions to be made to Friends of Union County Library to be marked for LEAF.

For LEAF updates, check the local newspapers or your FOL email. If we don't have your email address and you would like to receive updates on the FOL happenings, send an email to our "E" Chairman, Judy Vaughn at [jkvaughn@alltel.net](mailto:jkvaughn@alltel.net).

For more information on how you can help with the LEAF Campaign, call Barbara Hale at 706-781-6088 or Joanne Olson at 706-745-9360.



## A MILE OF PENNIES

### Help Collect a Mile of Pennies for the Library

PENNIES, those unwanted pennies, in jars, cans, and buckets full. Everyone has pennies; few people want them, and donating them to the library can make a significant difference to our community.

### SO, HOW MANY PENNIES ARE NEEDED TO MAKE A MILE?

Sixteen pennies equal a foot and 5,280 feet equal a mile. So in a mile there are 84,480 pennies or \$844.80. A mile of pennies is enough to purchase at least five nice library chairs for the new 4,000 square foot library addition!

A Mile of Pennies is the first of many fundraisers sponsored by the Friends of Union County Library this year. As the library expands to meet the needs of our growing community, thousands of dollars are required for the furnishings and fixtures. The recently renewed SPLOST tax will fund construction of the new library wing, but the revenue does not cover the costs of the furniture and fixtures.

To support the library, please bring your pennies by the jar, can, piggy bank or even handful to the library. Organizations willing to participate in the penny drive and to make other donations, or to ask questions, please call Joanne Olson at 706-745- 9360 or Barbara Hale 706-781-6088. A mile of pennies is part of the LEAF Campaign, ( Library Enrichment And Furniture).

Library hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9-5; Tues. & Thurs. 9-6; Sat. 10-2

Library address: 194 Hospital Street (located just north of BI-LO and Rite Aid)

Library phone: 706-745-7491

# Susie Says...from our Librarian, Susie Brendle



## Thank You, Friends!

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Public Library for your ongoing support. The library continues to purchase books and other materials with the funds that you presented to me in August. The library purchased new children's educational software after Christmas and Peter Johnson, Technology Librarian, is installing them onto two newer children's computers that will replace the ones that are very out of date. Thank you for helping cover half of the costs of the software.

## SPLOST

With the SPLOST vote passing on February 5, 2008, we are eagerly working with architects and Commissioner Paris to get the ball rolling on the library's expansion and renovation. I know many of the Friends of Union County Public Library have been working very hard advocating and raising funds. Thank you so much for all that you do. I was happy

to see so many people turn out for the SPLOST and Friends of Union County Public Library Thank You Celebration on February 20, 2008. A huge thank you to Commissioner Paris for attending and continuing to show what a true friend of the library he is.

## Busy Time at Your Library

There is a lot going on with the library right now. Donna Howell and I will be very busy during March taking "field trips" to look at other newly renovated libraries in the area to get some ideas. We welcome your input. This project will be a community endeavor involving ideas from all over.

Please do not hesitate to stop by, call or email us with your ideas and concerns.

*Susie*



## The President's Message...

It's beginning to look like Spring and aren't we glad? We have so many projects coming up and we need your help. In order to fund Books for Babies (given to newborns at Union County Hospital) as well as the furniture for the new expansion of the library, we need additional money from various sources and we would certainly appreciate your help.

Our Trash and Treasure Sale will be held in May and we need all of your treasures! Please drop them off the last few days of April (April 28, 29, and 30) so that we can mark them for the sale. Again, no clothes or really big pieces of furniture because our space is limited.

We are hoping to print and sell a cookbook from all the cooks in Blairsville. Please drop off all your favorite recipes (hand written or typed) with your name on them and you will be an important part of our hometown recipe book. We'll keep you posted as to how that project is progressing. Get those recipes ready!

The reception by the library staff for the FOLers and local dignitaries to celebrate the passage of the SPLOST tax was much appreciated and a good time was had by all.

Happy springtime! Don't forget: bring your recipes to the library and start saving those items for the Trash and Treasure Sale. Thank you!

Most sincerely,

*Jeanie Bullock*

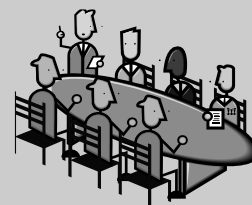
FOL President

## **Friends of Union County Library Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

**President: Jeanie Bullock** 835-1926  
georgiavacations@yahoo.com  
**Vice President: Shirley Brackett** 835-2581  
gilliflower@alltel.net  
**Secretary: Judith Vaughn** 745-3521  
jkvaughn@alltel.net  
**Treasurer: Miki Rice** 745-0762  
ricemb@alltel.net  
**Membership: Fran Scanlon-Sills** 835-1905  
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**Newsletter: Carole Maddox** 374-1413  
cmaddox@tds.net  
**E: Judith Vaughn** 745-3521  
jkvaughn@alltel.net

## **Union County Library Board**

**Librarian:** Susie Brendle  
**Superintendent:** Tommy Stephens  
**Mayor:** Jim Conley  
**Commissioner:** Lamar Paris  
**Appointees:**  
Shirley Brackett  
Peggy Callaway  
Jane Collins  
Melissa Mashburn  
Jane Thompson  
Joe White



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

**General Meetings:** Wednesdays, March 19, April 16 and June 18 at 2:00 p.m.

**Library website:** [www.mountainregionallibrary.org](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org)

**FOUCL website:** <http://andythebookworm.tripod.com/FriendsofUnionCountyLibrary.html/>

## Trash and Treasure Sale

It's spring cleaning time again! Our Trash and Treasure Sale last May was such a success that we think we can do even better this year. Based on the overwhelming quantity and quality of donations last year, we've decided to do a two-day sale this time.

No item is too small, too old or too strange for this sale. If it's legal and not alive we'll take it. (No clothing or baked goods, please.) So...turn your house upside down and bring us those unwanted treasures and support the library while making more space in your home. Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors.

The sale is scheduled for Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day at Union County Library. Much of the sale will again be inside, so rain cancellation will not be an issue.

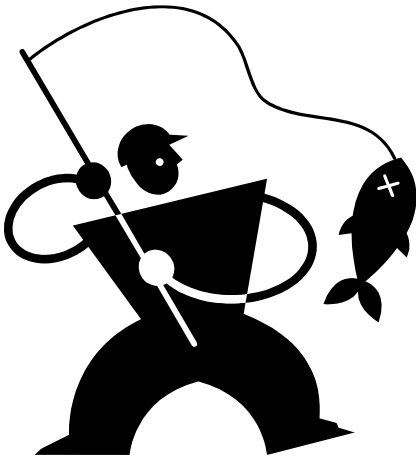
Donations will be accepted at the library on April 28, 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some early donations may be accepted by prior arrangement. Tax receipts will be available if requested.

In addition to donations, we need a lot of "hands-on" help with this sale! Please let us know if you can help set up and price before the sale or can help for a portion of either sale day. The more volunteers we have, the shorter the work periods! If you know of or are involved with a youth group who would like to help as a service project, this would be greatly appreciated. If you have a table you can lend us, please let us know.

To volunteer in any way or for more information, call Barbara Hale at 706-781-6088 or Joanne Olson at 706-745-9360.



## Fishing Tournament to Benefit Library Expansion Furnishing Fund



Friends of Union County Library will kick off 2008 with a Benefit Bass Fishing Tournament held on Lake Nottely. Competition will start from the Deaver Town ramp on Saturday, April 19, at 7:30 a.m. with contestants drawing for starting positions. Sign-up starts at 7:00 a.m. The tournament will end at 3:00 with the weigh-in and cash prizes awarded on site. Entry fees are \$25 per person, two person maximum per boat. Contestants under twelve years of age free.

The tournament will have a 50% payout, with the remainder of the proceeds donated to the Friends of the Library Enrichment and Furnishings (LEAF) Campaign. Initial plans provide awards for the three top finishing teams, plus a big fish award. Should the turnout allow, additional places will be paid. The tourney is limited to largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass. Stripers and hybrids will not be allowed at weigh-in. Artificial bait only.

Boats will be limited to five fish, with the highest aggregate weight of live fish being declared the winner. Catch and release rules apply and dead fish will carry an eight ounce deduction. Friends of Union County Library will not be responsible for injury or accidents associated with this tournament.

The rules of the day are to have fun, catch fish and know you are supporting your library and community. The tournament will be officiated by members of the Blairsville Seniors Bass League, R. L. Frizzel presiding. Contact Steve Olson at 706-745-9360 for additional information and comments.

Happy Fishing!



## Membership Report

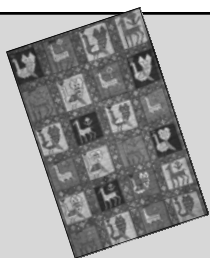
### Fran Scanlon-Sills, Membership Chairman

The 2008 Membership Drive kicked off with the first of the year. Renewal forms were distributed with the December invoices from Blue Ridge Mountain EMC to residents of Union County. Returns have been coming in over the last few week. To date we had 118 responses.

Membership in the Friends of the Library is looking to be an exciting experience in the next few years while the long-awaited expansion comes to reality. Many opportunities to help will be offered in the upcoming months and we are looking forward to seeing new and smiling faces appear to help in these endeavors.

With the anticipated expansion and refurbishing of our library to begin in the near future, we are hoping to see many more members renewing their memberships and including a special gift to assist with the many necessities which will not be covered by the SPLOST funds.

If you have sent in your renewal: Thank You! If you have been waiting a bit: Please renew today! We need you all! Every member is important!



### A Quilt is Needed!

Friends of the Library are planning a quilt raffle to benefit the LEAF Campaign. A beautiful quilt can net up to \$3,000! We have banks and private businesses who have committed to sell tickets. Two individuals have volunteered to do the machine quilting. Anyone wishing to donate a quilt or help with this quilting project, please contact Joanne Olson at 706-745-9360.

In 2007 Friends of Union County Library presented Books for Babies packets to almost 450

**BOOKS  
FOR  
BABIES**



newborns at Union General Hospital. The number of babies continues to increase steadily at the same time that Friends of the Library resources are needed elsewhere.

We want to continue our Books for Babies project as long as possible and are currently exploring some different funding options. Due to the increasing numbers, our Friends group has made a necessary decision to no longer match donations made for Books for Babies.

We will still welcome individual donations, but will also be seeking more donations from civic clubs and businesses. In addition, we plan to reach beyond Union County with donation request since the parents of many of the babies born at Union General Hospital are residents of surrounding areas.

### Shop online and support Friends at the same time!

Judith Vaughn, our eCommittee, shares an easy way to support your library while shopping:

“I do most of my shopping online. For the past six months or so, I’ve been trying out an online fundraising program that donates a percentage of my shopping totals to Friends of the Library. It’s legitimate, easy to use, and \$25 has already been donated to Friends on my behalf.

“If you’re interested in doing it too, go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) for more information.”

Thanks, Judy!

### Help! Newsletter Editor Needed

For almost the last three years I have edited our Friends newsletter and have enjoyed doing every issue. However, for the last year I have been employed full time and it is becoming increasingly difficult to carve out the time this quarterly newsletter deserves.

So...if you think you’d like to try your hand at this fun project, give me a call at 706-374-1413 to discuss what the job entails or email me at [cmaddox@tds.net](mailto:cmaddox@tds.net).

Carole Maddox