



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

Spring 2010

A Quarterly Publication

Message from the President

Our Friends are Fabulous!

The Friends of Union County Library recently received an Award that no one else ever received. That's because this was the first time it was ever presented. Friends of Georgia Libraries, a statewide organization, decided to present an award to a Friends organization that qualified as a **Fabulous Friend**, and that was us! Donna Howell, Director of Mountain Regional Library System, nominated FOUCL for the Award—and FOGL agreed that we are indeed Fabulous! We were surprised and very grateful.

Under the tutelage and leadership of our energetic Fund-raising Chairman Joanne Olson, our Friends group has been busy. It may have seemed like we were just “plodding along,” but when Donna enumerated all of our activities, it impressed the judges—and it would impress you, too, if you saw it all written down and tallied.

I traveled to Newnan to receive the Award, along with Donna and Steve Howell, and Marilyn

Pierce, President of the Libraries of Towns County. The Award consists of a beautifully engraved plaque and a check for \$150 which I assured FOGL was gratefully accepted and earmarked for when our new expanded Library is reopened. The Award was presented on the very day in April that FOUCL celebrated its 14th Anniversary, and I accepted the Award on behalf of all the hard working, dedicated members who had joined to impact the community on behalf of our Library.







Marilyn Pierce, Arlene Gray and Donna Howell accept the FOGL Fabulous Friends Award.

I always knew that our Friends were the best—but to be recognized by the State Friends' organization was truly a humbling surprise. Take a moment to stop in the Library to see the plaque—and in a few months you

can see the fruits of our labors in our long-anticipated and beautiful new Library. Each member of FOUCL can be justly proud of this honor, and I invite you to share in its representation that you are, indeed, a Fabulous Friend!

—Arlene Gray, President FOUCL

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-  **Trash and Treasure Sale Raises \$2,634.35**
-  **'Jewel Box' quilt raffle to benefit library**
-  **Have you answered the online strategic planning survey?**
-  **Drop your pennies in the jar!**

Big Smiles at May 18 Expansion Groundbreaking

On a bright, beautiful, clear and sunny Spring day, a momentous occasion unfolded. The groundbreaking for our beloved Library's renovation and expansion was celebrated by Librarian Susie Brendle, Past Librarian Wilma Ashe, library trustees, board members and employees, State Representative Stephen Allison, Kristy Lindstrom, representing Speaker of the House David Ralston, Commissioner Lamar Paris, Mayor Jim Conley, State Librarian Lamar Veatch, Architect Jack Bailey, Interior Designer Marcie Culpepper, representatives of Winter Construction Company, interested citizens and, of course, by a bevy of people wearing rings on their fingers and bells on their toes—otherwise known as Friends of Union County Library, who could hardly contain their excitement! (*go to p. 3*)

Trash & Treasure Sale Raises \$2,634.35

Should we not have our annual “yard sale?” The temporary library is much too small! So where do we hold the sale? Where do we collect the donations? How can we possibly have items priced in time? These were all good questions but Friends of Union County Library do not give up easy!

The recently remodeled Civic Center was the perfect sale location with ample space and great parking. The Blairsville Chamber of Commerce was gracious in allowing us to collect donations in their parking area. We were blessed in obtaining donated storage units where most our wonderful donations were prepared and priced, awaiting the sale.

Where there is a will, there is a way, and the “Friends” have plenty of will and found a way! The May 8 and 9 sale was a huge success, raising over

\$2500 to support the library.

A big thank you is given to all who donated so many useable items and to everyone that supported our efforts by attending and purchasing those special treasures.

Special thanks go to our great volunteers who gave countless hours to the sale: Judy Baldwin, Susie Brendle, Jeanie Bullock, Carman Clasen, George and Kathy Daves, Arlene Gray, Coral Gubler, Robert and Barbara Hale, Steve and Donna Howell, Bob Jaric, Fran Kirkland, Frances Mason, Zvonka Meek, Jeff Murphy, Mary Napolitano, Steve and Joanne Olson, Miki Rice, Valerie Ripma, Julia Rogers, Peg Shaw, Don Speroni, Anna Stone, Judy Vaughn and Tammy Vaughn. We couldn’t have done it without you!
—Joanne Olson, Fundraising Chair

What do you think? Let the library know in an online survey



The Mountain Regional Library System (MRLS) is developing a strategic plan for service to help ensure that we are meeting your needs.

If you reside or own property in Fannin, Towns or Union County, if you work or go to school here, OR if you use any of the libraries in these counties, please help our community by completing this brief survey. It should take no more than 5 or 10 minutes of your time.

Your answers will remain confidential and be used to plan responsive public library service that makes our community a great place to live! Thank you in advance for your help. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JQWVTVJ> to take the survey before June 30, 2010.



‘Jewel Box’ Quilt Raffle to Benefit Library

“Friends” have been fortunate to receive the beautiful quilt shown at left, which has been hand pieced and hand quilted by one of our generous local quilters. The pattern is “Jewel Box,” with multi-colored triangles and diamonds against a white background with a red border.

Raffle tickets are available at the library, \$1 per ticket or six tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held in October, 2010. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books and other items for the new library.

New Newsletter Editor

Kathy Traylor, a Union County “weekender” and Gwinnett County math teacher, is the new FOUCL newsletter editor. Kathy says, “volunteering in the community is a great way to get to know people.” You can email her at traylork@gmail.com with articles and pictures for the summer issue. Deadline: June 30.

Drop your pennies in the jar!

“MILE OF PENNIES”

Donations so far total just over
\$1200.00

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

Keep saving – Each penny counts
Bring coins to the library



from our librarian

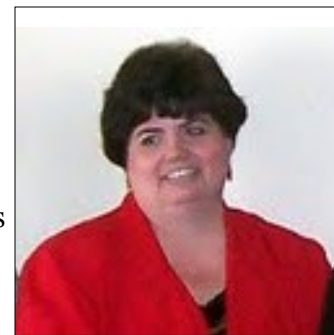
Summer Reading Program, Building Update, Thanks

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Public Library for your continued support. The library has just finished purchasing many fun incentives and materials for our Summer Reading Program with some of the money that the Friends gave to the library in April. Although the Summer Reading Program will be shorter this year, we still hope to have many fun activities for the children. Hannah Hill became our story time person after Miss Linda retired in March. She is doing a great job preparing a fun filled summer for the children.

This Spring has been very busy as we continue preparing for the expansion and renovation of our beloved library and host a wonderful ground-breaking ceremony on May 18. The building committee and design subcommittee have been working very hard with Architect Jack Bailey and Interior Designer Marcie Culpepper on library layout, color palette

and furniture choices. We're so grateful for the Friends LEAF funds that will help furnish the children's wing of the new library.

I want to offer huge congratulations to the Friends for winning the first ever Fabulous Friends Award given by the Friends of Georgia Libraries at their annual meeting at Coweta County Library in Newnan, Georgia on April 23. The rest of Georgia is just now discovering what Donna and I have known about our Friends all along. On top of the auctions, 'miles of pennies,' Trash & Treasure sales and other fundraising activities; FOUCL purchased 201 juvenile and adult books, 12 magazine subscriptions and 4 newspaper subscriptions in 2009. I believe that truly makes you Fabulous Friends. —Susie Brendle



Susie Brendle, Librarian

(Groundbreaking, continued from p. 1)

The celebration was chaired by Donna Howell, Mountain Regional Libraries Director—a stalwart supporter and advocate extraordinaire for this project.

To say that those of us who had been dreaming, hoping and envisioning this day were “happy” would be a gross understatement. Think: Ecstatic! Joyous! Euphoric! Jubilant! May 18, 2010 will be entered into the FOUCL scrapbook as a day never to be forgotten. The only date we can envision ever surpassing our excitement will be the day when the construction is completed and we celebrate the ribbon-cutting on our new library. Many hands and hearts were involved in seeing this project come to fruition and it is evidence that indeed many hands make light work. One of the attendees told me that “perseverance was the key,” and Friends know that that is a quality they possess.

Our goal was to raise \$20,000

for this project, but Fund-raising Chairman Joanne Olson and her husband Steve found new and creative ways to raise funds. That goal has been exceeded, and we continue toward even loftier goals. It is A Time to Remember, but not a time to rest on our laurels. Catch the Fever, lend your hands and hearts, and join in the excitement and anticipation of what is to come. There's never been a better time to Be a Friend indeed!

—Arlene Gray



Librarian Susie Brendle leads the May 18 ceremony in front of the existing library building on Blue Ridge Street. L-R: Susie Brendle, Trustee Chairperson Jounida Bradley, Mayor Jim Conley, UCPL Board member Jane Collins, Mountain Regional Library System Director Donna Howell, GA Rep. Stephen Allison, State Librarian Lamar Veatch, County Commissioner Lamar Paris.

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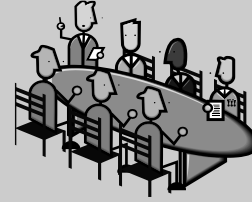
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Union County Library Board



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Regional Director, Donna Howell
Mayor: Jim Conley
Commissioner: Lamar Paris
Appointees:
Shirley Brackett
Jane Collins
JoAnn Hamby
Melissa Mashburn
Jane Thompson
Joe White

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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