



# News and Views

## Friends of Union County Library

### Spring 2011

#### *Message from the President*

#### **BEFORE YOU KNOW IT . . .**

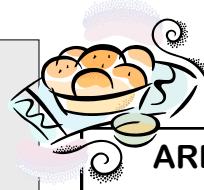
WE WILL BE IN OUR NEW LIBRARY! Every day I pass there I am thrilled at the visible progress. Everything seems to be on schedule, and as Spring bursts forth this year we have much to be thankful for. I don't think that looking at the plans could ever prepare us for what lies ahead. The building itself is more than twice the size of the old one, but the layout and the amenities will be mind-boggling. When I braved the hard-hat area to take some photos the other day, I was stunned by the scope of the construction. Our hard work in fund-raising the past couple of years, greatly aided by our imaginative and creative fund-raising chairman, Joanne Olson, has brought us to the brink of being able to purchase many needed items of equipment and furnishings, which will make our library not only wonderful for the patrons to use, but an enviable bastion of support for our community. We are so fortunate to have had an indefatigable leader like Donna Howell, the Director of the Mountain Regional Library System, to help spearhead this venture; a cooperative and knowledgeable Librarian, Susie Brendle; a supportive and involved County Commissioner, Lamar Paris; and allies in the Georgia Capitol—former Governor Purdue, Senators Chip Pearson and

David Ralston, and our own Representative Stephen Allison, to work so hard to see that State and County funds were made available for this project, as well as a hard-working Building Committee who helped envision and create the wonderful interior spaces we will all enjoy. They worked for a year before we got started with anything concrete; it is their vision that we are seeing rendered in brick and mortar. I know they will agree their support was worth it when they see the finished expansion. Can you believe that the Grand Re-opening is—at last—in the near future? When the date is finally announced, I hope that each Friend will be on hand to join in the festivities. That will be a date to mark in red on your calendar!



#### **Inside...**

- Trash & Treasure Sale: May 20 & 21. Donate items now!**
- Are you a Friends member?**
- Jeanie Bullock memorial gifts**
- Buy a brick!**
- Bring your pennies**



#### **ARE YOU HUNGRY & WANT TO HELP THE LIBRARY?**

On Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm, Antonietta's Restaurant will be hosting a dinner and donating a portion of the proceeds to FOUCL. The evening is called Mountain Appraisal Night. An appraiser from Southern Appraisal Connection will be on hand to give free informal appraisals to dining patrons on jewelry, chinaware, small antiques, etc. that you've always wondered what they were worth. Bring them in and see if you have a hidden treasure in your house! There will also be a drawing for a dinner-for-two gift certificate. So come early, come hungry, and bring an item to be appraised. Where else can you go for good food and benefit the Library at the same time? Looking forward to seeing you there!



## Library Trash and Treasure Sale

Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21, 8 am—2 pm



It's time for Spring Cleaning! If you don't want it, someone else surely will! Donate your excess "stuff" to the Friends Trash and Treasure Sale. ***Every Monday in March and April*** donated items can be brought to the Chamber of Commerce parking lot near the pavilion from 9:00-1:00, where a member of FOUCL will have a tax deductible receipt available. Be sure to spread the word to your neighbors, friends, relatives, fellow workers, etc., that we'd appreciate their donations, too. No clothing, computers or upholstered furniture, please. Nothing is too big or too small. If you need help in transporting your items, call 706-781-5237.

**Let's make this the Biggest and Best Trash & Treasure Sale EVER!**

### A FRIEND-ly Reminder:

If you are reading this newsletter but not yet a member of Friends, you are cordially invited to join us. This is the most exciting time to be part of this dynamic group! *If you are already a member, please invite a neighbor or co-worker to join us.* "Each One Reach One!" If a membership form isn't included with this newsletter, or you are reading it online, you can download one from <http://www.foucl.org/id23.html>, then mail it in or drop it off with your dues at the temporary library on Brackett Way. Current members can use the same form to renew their membership.

### 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 online at [www.mountainregionallibrary.org](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org). Order forms can also be picked up at the temporary library location on Brackett Way.



### A MEMORIAL GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Jeanie Bullock was a dear friend and past-President of Friends of the Library. When her sudden death last November shocked her family and friends, many people knew of her love of reading and her dedication to ensuring that children learn to read, and made contributions in her memory. Jeanie's husband, Pete, pictured above with Jeanie, attended a recent FOUCL meeting. He told of his family's desire to have these contributions used to purchase children's books for the new library. With the drastic budget cuts for libraries, this gift is a wonderful head-start for the children's section. Every Friend celebrates this meaningful enrichment of the children's area in Jeanie's memory, and when the library is completed there will also be a large 8x8" brick inscribed in her memory, which was purchased by FOUCL. We'd rather have Jeanie, but she will never be forgotten.

## **from our librarian**

Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Library for your continued support. This has been a very busy winter for all of us here at the library. We've had a lot of sickness, an injured employee, steady circulation and the continued renovation of our beloved library. Hopefully, spring will bring with it better health and the completion of library construction.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Hannah Hill broke her foot and has been out on leave for the month of February. She hopes to return as soon as her doctor allows. Please keep her in your thoughts since she is recuperating while she and her husband Adam are also taking care of their beautiful 18 month old daughter Mya.

Three staff members at Union County Public Library, including myself, have been battling horrible colds throughout the month of February. We're all looking forward to a healthier spring and Hannah's return. Please be patient with us if we seem a bit run down and not as quick on the draw

### **Thank you Misty Mountain Railroad!**

On the day after Thanksgiving for the last few years, Charles Griffin has generously opened the Misty Mountain Scenic Model Railway for the benefit of FOUCL. Those donated funds have really added up to help with the ongoing needs of the library. Please be sure to express your appreciation to Mr. Griffin next time you see him. This incredible model railroad display has over a mile of track, and puts a smile on the face of everyone who visits.



FOUCL at the Misty Mountain Railroad last November, from left to right, Medora McKinnon, Jack Waters, Charles Griffin, Anna Waters, Anna Stone. Other volunteers not pictured: Peg Shaw, Tom Sneddon, Robert Hunter, Steve and Joanne Olson.

for a while longer.

Donna Howell and I have been truly amazed and appreciative at how hard-working the construction crews have been on the library. On days with

single digit temperatures they were on the roof working to get it dried in so interior work could begin. Gerald Mason's crew, Cox Roofing and several other crews have been doing outstanding jobs with a great safety record so far. At the moment they are completing the community room exterior walls and will soon begin on its roof. As soon as that is finished and the community room has been attached to the main library most of the exterior work will be finished.

Donna and I have done quite a bit of purchasing lately. We have the appliances ready to

be installed and have begun purchasing items for the children's room. A huge thank you to the Friends for purchasing the AccuCut machine and agreeing to purchase two children's computer learning centers, colorful book trucks and a story time rug. I believe you will be very proud of the beautiful library when it is completed later this spring.

Contrary to what the local newspaper reported, there is not a concrete date for our grand re-opening. That date depends on a lot of work being completed between now and the end of spring. We hope to have the celebration before the Summer Reading Program begins in June. As we get closer to summer, we will be calling on the Friends to help us plan a wonderful celebration.

Please remember to collect up your gently used items for this year's Trash and Treasure Sale. It's always a fun time for all.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, healthy spring. Again, thank you for all the hard work you all do for your beloved library. —Susie Brendle



**Keep bringing your pennies to the library!  
We're well on the way to our SECOND  
Mile of Pennies!**

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

**President:** Arlene Gray 706-897-9806  
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**Vice President:** Joanne Olson 706-781-5237  
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**Secretary Anna Stone** 706-994-8154  
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**Treasurer:** Medora MacKinnon 706-781-1700  
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**Membership:** Judy Baldwin 706-745-5259  
jtbaldw1@msn.com

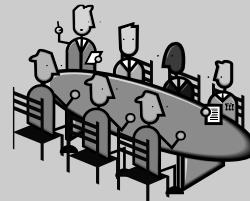
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**Fundraising:** Joanne Olson 706-781-5237  
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**Staff Appreciation:** Teresa Moore 706-745-2151  
United Community Bank

**Newsletter Editor:** Kathy Traylor 770-601-0277  
traylor@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  
Ed Reed  
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)