



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

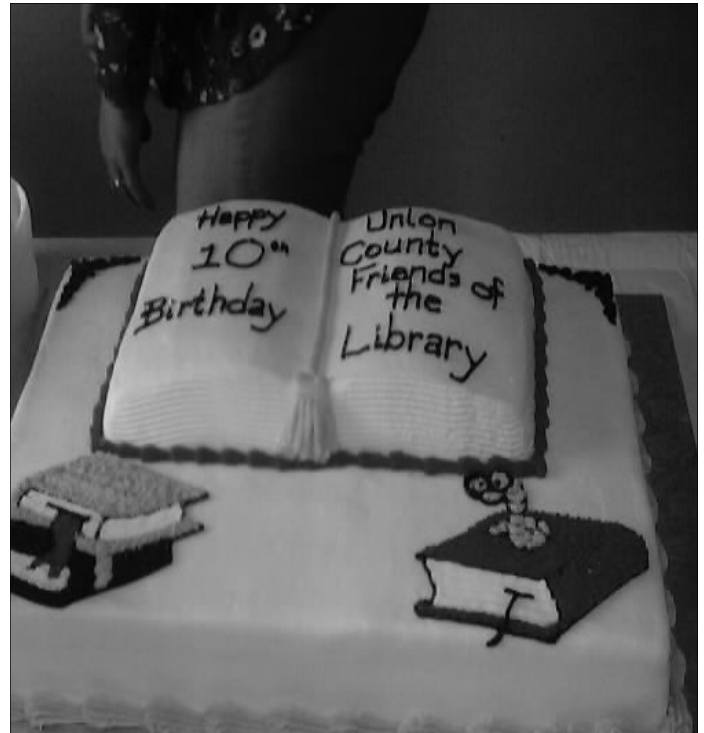
Summer 2006

A Quarterly Publication

Name our mascot—see insert

Friends Celebrate 10th Anniversary

Wow! What a celebration! In the picture below on the left, Wilma Ash, the first librarian in the present building of the Union County Library (left) and Donna Howell, Mountain Regional Library System Director, join the in the round of applause for all that has been accomplished by the Friends of Union County Library over the last ten years.



The gorgeous cake in the picture on the right above was part of the celebration buffet donated by United Community Bank. Not only was the cake lovely to look at, it was delicious in the eating! We hated to cut up the “books,” but the marble cake inside was just too delicious to resist.

New Friends, current Friends and founding members gathered in the community room of the library on April 12 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Friends of Union County Library.

We were delighted to have **LaVon Butt** join us on this special day. LaVon was the motivating

force behind the creation of the Union County Library. As an elementary school teacher, LaVon saw the need for a library in the county and worked tirelessly to establish one here in Blairsville. Her contributions were recognized by dedicating the community room at the library in her honor.

We were also pleased to have **Wilma Ash**, the current library's first librarian, and another Founding Member, **Judy Vaughn**, at the celebration. While Judy may be an "old-timer" with the Friends, she sure hasn't rested on her laurels as she continues to serve as our busy E Chairman—sending emails to members to remind them of meetings and other areas of interest.

Our Union County Commissioner, **Lamar Paris**, stopped by to offer his congratulations to the Friends for their 10 years of hard work on behalf of the library.

A big "Thank You!" to **United Community Bank** for donating a wonderful buffet and punch

for the event. Our thanks also, to Friends member **Teresa Dorton**, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for United Community Bank, and her staff who graciously set up and served the goodies.

And a round of applause for **Fran Scanlon-Sills**, our Membership Chairman, who conceived, planned and brought about this celebration.

As we reminisced and looked back over the last 10 years, we were amazed at how much has been accomplished by the Friends of the Library. To each of you who have contributed to these efforts by your membership in the Friends, thank you. We look forward to the great things to be achieved in the next 10 years as we support our library.

Celebrating the 10th



Teresa Dorton and one of her staff at the bountiful buffet they set up for us to enjoy.



Our Friends President, Jean Craig, prepares to enjoy some buffet goodies as our Secretary, Jeanie Bullock, looks on.



Standing (l to r): Wilma Ash, first librarian in present building, Susie Brendle, current librarian, and Donna Howell, Mountain Regional Library System Director. Seated, LaVon Butt, Founding Member.



Judy Vaughn, Founding Member of Friends and current E Chairman, admires the door prize gift basket she won. The basket was donated by United Community Bank.



Scrapbook and photo display at the celebration. Highlighted were the efforts of the late FOUCL President Pat Scott who began our local Books for Babies Project.

Susie Says...

from our Librarian, Susie Brendle



Summertime has been a very busy time for Union County Public Library. We've had record numbers of patrons and circulation AND we've been short staffed. Two of our hard-working staff members have retired in the last month: **Jenny Adams** and **Ruth Peters**. We thank them for their dedicated service and wish them well for the future. We welcome new staff member **Jennifer Nelson** who took some of Jenny's hours.

Here are a few of the high numbers that we've had for the month of June: 2 days of over 500 patrons visiting the library, 15 days of over 400 patrons 58 new library cards issued; and we've had over 175 out-of-town guests log on to our public access computers. We just received word from **Julie Walker**, PINES Program Director in Atlanta, that PINES registered users has now topped 1.6 million statewide.

After speaking with **Peter Johnson**, Mountain Regional Library System's Technology Librarian, I

have learned that Union County Public Library will be going wireless by mid-July. This feature will allow us to better serve our patrons. We will not be restricted as to where we can place our computers around the library. Patrons who have wireless laptops can enjoy our beautiful library in the comfort of Patti's Corner or curled up on a bean bag chair.

The Vacation Reading Program and Teen Nights have been great successes this year. Neither of these successful programs could have happened without the donation of time and money from some wonderful friends. If you helped in any way, please accept my deep appreciation. There are far too many of you to list here.

Also, if you get a chance to speak with Commissioner Lamar Paris or Superintendent Tommy Stephens, please give them a HUGE "Thank you!" for approving our 2007 library budget.

Treasurer's Report....

by Miki Rice

CD	\$ 5,779.94
Savings	3,446.86
Checking	<u>3,052.67</u>
Total Assets	\$12,279.47



The President's Message

Friends of Union County Public Library Needs YOU! Fresh approaches and new ideas are always welcome at the monthly planning meetings! If you enjoy sharing your talents, please come to our next meeting. Men and women from all walks of life work together to serve our community by assisting the Union County Public Library in many ways. If you are unable to attend the 2:00 p.m. meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, your ideas are still welcome! Visit our website (which is very well maintained by Judy Vaughn, our E Committee chair):

<http://andythebookwork.tripod.com/FriendsofUnionCountyLibrary.html/>

and submit your ideas whenever it is convenient for you.

As our community grows and changes, Friends of the Library needs a variety of folks to represent many areas of life. We have a great group of people serving as officers and committee chairs who work diligently—but we need more! Please consider becoming active in this very worthy community effort. There is a special place for your individual talents and abilities. Again—**Friends of Union County Public Library needs YOU!** Blessings to all and I hope to see YOU at the next meeting.

Jean Craig

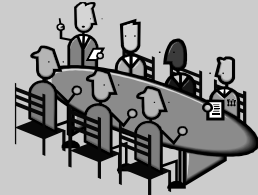
President

Friends of Union County Library Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President: Jean Craig 745-3526
Clancraig5@alltel.net
Vice President: Shirley Brackett 835-2581
gilliflower@alltel.net
Treasurer: Miki Rice 745-0762
ricemb@alltel.net
Secretary: Jeanie Bullock 835-1926
Jeanie@georgiavacations.com
Membership: Fran Scanlon-Sills 835-1905
franandjim@brmemc.net
Publicity: New Chairperson needed!
Social: New Chairperson needed!
Staff Appreciation: Judy Shaner 745-5746
gshaner1@alltel.net
Newsletter: Carole Maddox 374-1413
cmaddox@echonet.org
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:
Rachel Brackett
Angie Burns
Peggy Calloway
Teresa Colwell
Debbie Kendrick
Casey Potts
Jane Thompson



Social Chairperson—Do you love organizing parties and social events? Friends of the Library invites you to be our new Social Chairperson.

Publicity Chairperson—Are writing press releases and articles for the local newspapers right up your alley? Publicity Chairperson is the spot for you!

For information, call President Jean Craig at 706-745-3526 or email her at Clancraig5@alltel.net..

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

Address Service Requested

Upcoming General Meetings: Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. July 19, August 16, and September 20

Library website: www.mountainregionallibrary.org

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

From the Editor...Carole Maddox

Over the last year Friends of the Library has grown in both numbers and service to our library, so it is only fitting that our newsletter should grow also. We now have two more pages to share all the exciting happenings and opportunities at our library and in our organization.

I'm so pleased to have the space to share with you a timely article passed along to me by our E Chairman, **Judy Vaughn**.

As a life-long reader and patron of libraries in many states and the Bahamas, I can't imagine a world without libraries. However, in this computer age of ever-expanding technologies, have you sometimes wondered what the general public thinks about libraries today? I know I have. I'm sure you will find the article below reassuring—and a call to do even more to ensure that our library is the very best that it can be.

Americans Say Public Libraries are Essential to 21st Century Communities from a report by Public Agenda supported by Americans for Libraries Council and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

5 Things Community Leaders Should Know About Libraries and the Public*

Libraries are Highly Valued

Libraries received the best grades of any of the community institutions covered in a national survey. Nearly half the public gave libraries an "A"—higher than the public schools, the police and the local news media. More than 6 in 10 "strongly agree" that public libraries are essential for "maintaining a productive community."

Libraries are Important 21st Century Resources

The public considers having computers and Internet access in libraries essential, and many also want libraries to provide other multimedia resources. Almost two-thirds of Americans say that having enough computers and online services should be a high priority for libraries.

Voters Love Libraries

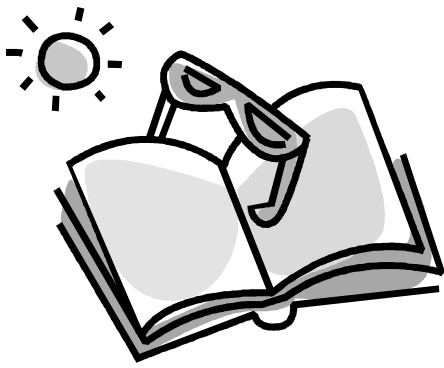
Those who vote in nearly every local election and who volunteer and donate to charities, are big fans of libraries. Nearly three-quarters have a local library card. Six in 10 of these civically-engaged folks would favor a tax increase to cover library needs, compared with about half of less-engaged citizens.

Libraries Use Tax Funds Wisely

Interviews with nearly three dozen national and community leaders and an in-depth public opinion survey highlighted four specific opportunities for public libraries to integrate themselves more fully into the life of their communities and to position themselves as positive "community players." These four areas are:

- A safe and engaging place for teens—Nationwide, there are excellent examples of teen programming at public libraries, but funding is a challenge.
- Literacy skills for a strong workforce—Survey data about adult literacy and workforce development show a clear opportunity for synergy and community improvement. More than half of the public believes communities should emphasize job search assistance, and almost as many believe this should be a high priority for public libraries.
- Center for community information—The public sees an opportunity for libraries to fill a gap as a "hub" for improved access to government information and services, including making public documents and forms quickly and easily available.
- Greater access to technology—The public says this is a community need that is currently not being met and one it sees as a high priority for libraries.

**from a new public opinion research study, "Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public and Leadership Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century," published by Public Agenda June 2006.*



What are you reading this summer?

Our Roving Reporter—aka **Jane Thompson**—recently asked several members of FOL what book they had read this summer that they had particularly enjoyed. It is interesting the variety of books being read by our members. Here are some of the replies she received.

Michelle Maloney—*Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

“This book is a beautifully written story of the plague that hit England in the 1600’s and centers on the village of Eyam. The story is told by a mother in the village and describes how the people cope with the crisis. This is the author’s first novel and the words flow so beautifully it is almost like music that adds so much richness to the story. I certainly hope this won’t be her last book!”

Shelton Patterson—*Jesus Christ is Lord* by Ann Rice

“Ann Rice’s latest book is a radical departure from her usual subject matter [mostly vampires]. I have enjoyed her past books and was intrigued that she had chosen the subject of the life of Jesus from age 4 to 12 years old for this one. Told by the young Jesus in his own words, I found this well-researched book fascinating.”

Yale Citrin, M.D.—*Those Who Love; a Biographical Novel of Abigail and John Adams* by Irving Stone


“*Those Who Love* relates most beautifully one of the great love stories of all time. It is a great tribute to these outstanding and most literate of the ‘Founding Fathers,’ Abigail and John Adams. Our second First Couple made outstanding, crucial contributions to our democracy. I commend Stone’s story.”

Shirley Brackett—*Two Little Girls in Blue* by Mary Higgins Clark

“Anything Mary Higgins Clark writes is good. I have just finished *Two Little Girls in Blue* and I couldn’t put it down!”

Jim Williams—*Your Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen

“This book was quite inspirational and filled with real life anecdotes for a closer walk with God. Rev. Osteen has conveyed the basic principles that are outlined in scripture and then provided daily applications. The bottom line: live the life that God has planned for you and enjoy His blessings.”



Name our FOL Mascot

Start thinking of a good name for our FOL mascot—the book-reading owl pictured on the left. We’ll soon be having a contest to give him—or her—a name. Watch for details in the library and in the fall issue of this newsletter. We hear the prize donated by United Community Bank will be a real hit with book lovers.

Books for Babies Needs Your Help!

Friends of the Library has been proud to part of the national program of Books for Babies by providing a packet of books, early literacy information, and baby’s first library card which is given to new mothers

at Union County Hospital. Our collection jars and donations have brought in about \$1,200—but that won’t fund the program all year. Consider giving to promote literacy and love of books in the next generation of children in Union County. Just make your tax-deductible check payable to Friends of the Library and note “Books for Babies” in the memo section.

**BOOKS
FOR
BABIES**

