



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

Summer, 2008

A Quarterly Publication

Library Enrichment & Furnishings (LEAF) fund is hot!

By Barbara Hale

Summer is here, but the rising temperatures have nothing to do with the thermometer in front of the Union County Library. Keep watching that space, because Friends of the Library will soon start posting donation and fundraising proceeds from our *LEAF* campaign.

This campaign is the umbrella title for a series of fundraising events dedicated to our library's growth. The *LEAF* campaign was inspired by, but will not be limited to, the upcoming renovation funded in part by the recently passed Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

Just as a growing child has constantly changing needs, we anticipate that the Library in the future will

have many needs for which traditional funding is not available. Friends of the Library want to help ensure that these needs can be met and we work continuously to meet that goal.

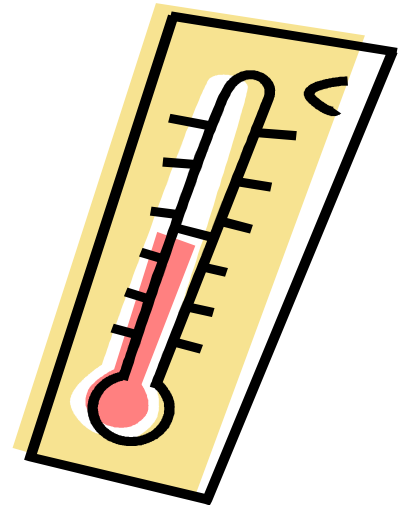
LEAF events to date have included the *Fishing Tournament* in April and the ongoing *A Mile of Pennies*. Don't forget to keep bringing your pennies to the library.

A CHALLENGE!

We are issuing a challenge to the community to join the *LEAF* campaign.

Business owners are invited to match a portion of all of our *A Mile of Pennies* as a company donation.

Associations or businesses can hold fundraisers or participate in Friends of the Library fundraisers. All



LEAF campaign proceeds will be earmarked for growth needs and will not become part of the Friends of the Library general treasury.

For more information call Barbara T. Hale at 706-781-6088. Or mail to Friends of the Library at P. O. Box 1029, Blairsville, GA 30514 and should be noted as a *LEAF* donation.

Introduction to the new Editor

Elizabeth Patton signs on

Since I agreed to help with the News & Views newsletter, I have met and am delighted to serve with a group of individuals dedicated to the support of the

Union County library.

Previously, I served as the Executive Assistant to both Commissioner Lamar Paris and his predecessor, Harold Cook.

Having retired in 2004, I am still active in a volunteer association with county government, also writing grants and most re-

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Newsletter Editor cont'd.



cently, writing a successful grant for and implementing the Neighborhood Recycling Program.

For the past several years, I have also served as Administrative Assistant to the Board of Equalization, Community Liaison Con-

sultant to the Advisory Board of the Methamphetamine Grant Program, assistant poll manager, and been appointed to the voter review panel by Superior Court Judge David Barrett.

In my spare time, I enjoy gardening and am still amazed at how many zucchini can come from one plant! I also have just brought a new puppy, Cookie, into my home and she is a beautiful Brittany

Spaniel who is currently attending training classes — optimist that I am.

I look forward to a long and productive association with the Friends of Union County Library and am happy to help with this publication.

If you have any items of interest to the membership please contact me at empatton@alltel.net. Thank you.

Elizabeth

Friends schedule first benefit auction

✓ *Mark your calendar for October 25, 2008*

The Friends of Union County Library will hold a silent and live auction October 25, 2008 at the North Georgia Tech Campus as part of the *LEAF Campaign* to benefit the library furnishings and fixtures fund.

The auction will begin at 5 pm with a preview and silent auction. The live auction begins at 7 pm.

Early donations to the auction include a guided striper fishing trip for three by Jeremy Seabolt Guide Service; lodging and meals by Brasstown Resort; a private Alaska salmon dinner for eight by Victoria's Bakery and Deli; \$100 gift certificate from Rick's Rentals; two nights lodging and breakfasts at the Highland Falls Bed and Breakfast Inn; four passages on the Blue Ridge Railway and a myriad

of other commitments and donations.

Local artists have been most generous with their arts, crafts and wares.

We are very excited about the potential and the great response we have received from the merchants and individuals in the North Georgia neighborhood.

The auction will require in excess of thirty people; most working the night of the auction. If you are interested in helping, please give us a call. We look forward to hearing from you.

This will be the flagship fundraiser for the year. If you have suggestions or are familiar with auction practices and participation we desperately need your help.

In the unlikely event that you cannot reach us at



the above numbers, please contact Barbara Hale at 706-781-6088.

If you have antiques or other items you wish to donate for auction, please contact chairs Joanne Olson 706-781-5237 or Steve Olson at 706-781-5784.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25, 2008 and join us for a fun and exciting night at the auction.

Joanne Olson

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



Thank you to all the Friends of Union County Public Library for your continued support. Your advocacy and fundraising help the library run more smoothly. I was very impressed with the great response to the *Trash & Treasure Sale* in May. Part of those funds has been used to purchase books for the library. The Friends contribution is noted on the front cover of the book.

With the SPLOST vote passing on February 5, 2008, we are eagerly working with the newly formed Building Committee to de-

termine what is most important to our library, our patrons and future patrons. We will be going on a few field trips to see libraries that have been expanded and/or renovated by architects that we are considering for our library project. We are meeting each of the deadlines for submission of building plans, grants and architectural blueprints. We should be very busy for the next year.

Barbara Hale is representing the Friends of Union County Public Library on the Building Committee as well as Teresa Moore who is dually representing the Friends and United Community Bank.

Commissioner Paris is very eager 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.

The Friends of Union County Public Library's *A Mile of Pennies* campaign has caught the attention of David Baker, Director of Communications for Georgia Public Library Services (GPLS). He would like to include an article about the successful campaign in their quarterly newsletter, GPLS News.

Joanne Olsen and Barbara Hale will be getting this information together. Friends of Union County Public Library should be very proud of this and other successful fundraising campaigns that they've done in the past and the ones they are planning for in the future. All of these funds will help the library expansion and renovation project.

For more information about the library expansion, contact me at (706) 745-7491 or Donna Howell at (706) 379-3732.

President's Message

Hi Friends of the Library,

Summer is here in all its glory – so much fun! Grilling out, swimming with the kids, picnics on the mountains, and enjoying the Library Summer Reading Program at our Union County Library.

Can you believe that

we had 12,000 patrons in our library in one month? Unbelievable. In just ten days from June 1 to June 11, we had 3,987 people in and out of our library. Our library is one of the busiest in Georgia and that is because of our wonderful, helpful, and friendly staff.

Also, we have an in-

credible selection of books, DVD's, tapes, etc. We even have a Spanish selection for our Latin friends. We are so proud of our facility.

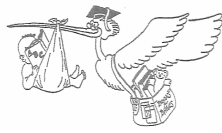
We welcome Elizabeth Patton as our new newsletter editor and Judy Baldwin as our new membership chair, with help from

See President, page 5

Fundraising Projects Report

by Barbara Hale

BOOKS FOR BABIES



Did you know our *Books for Babies* program provides an early literacy package for every baby born at Union General Hospital?

Towns County Friends of the Library recently sent a generous donation for the program as many of their residents use our hospital and benefit from this program.

Did you know our *Books for Babies* program is currently funded totally by tax-deductible donations and each package costs \$6? In 2007 we provided 450 packages.

Did you know the Union County Friends of the Library are committed to continuing this project in association with Friends of Libraries, USA?

If you are a member of any organization or business which might like to help sponsor this project, let us know.

Donations for *Books for Babies* can be mailed to Friends of the Library, P. O. Box 1029, Blairsville, GA 30514.

Please indicate *Books for Babies* on your check.

Trash and Treasure Sale huge success

Our Trash and Treasure Sale in May, 2008 was an outstanding success!

Proceeds of more than \$2,400 from the sale will be used for the benefit of the Library as needs arise.

Thank you many times over to everyone who contributed in any way.

Abundant and generous donations of sale items from Friends and the community exceeded our expectations.

Twenty volunteers worked both before and the day of the sale and their efforts are very much appreciated. Let's start saving for next year.

Trash and Treasure Sale pix



Above, some of the many great items donated for sale. Right, Volunteers work to get items ready for sale.
Photos by Judy Vaughn



President's letter

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n e w member M a r y Turner. Thanks to all of you for your help. Judy is also active in the Projects Committee.

Thanks again to Barbara Hale for all her work

on the Trash and Treasure sale.

Plans for the addition to our library are in the works and we are very excited about it. We will be visiting other libraries to see what works for them, functionally and aesthetically. We'll keep you posted as to the progress of the plans.

We look forward to our Oct. 25th auction to be held at North Georgia Technical College. This is a new .

fundraiser for the library and we will count on your support to make this a success.

Our *A Mile of Pennies* drive has raised more than \$500

Thanks for your generosity. We hope you will keep supporting the library and we certainly appreciate each and every one of you.

Most sincerely,

Jeanie Bullock

Baldwin assumes membership chair

Please join with me in welcoming Ms. Judy Baldwin as the new Membership Chairperson. It is with a happy heart that I relinquish the "Acting Chair" designation. Judy has many fresh ideas which she will be implementing in the coming months.

As the summer reading time embraces us this

year, we are all looking forward to many of our previous members renewing their memberships in the Friends.

Historically, membership dues are the backbone on which the many projects that the Friends of the Library depend.

Every Friend is needed as we embark on a most exciting time for our

Library. You will recall that the SPLOST initiative which passed this last spring included a provision for the renovation and expansion of the current facility.

While those funds will be used for the physical building, most of the amenities within the structure will need to be purchased with other funds. We hope to be able to lend a helping hand with these.

Halfway through the member year, we have 142 renewals on the records – rather far behind our performance in past years. If you have renewed your membership, a hearty, "Thank You!" If you are a Forgetful Friend, please take a moment to send in your renewal today.

Fran Scanlon-Sills
Former Membership Chair

We're in the news!

Congratulations to Mountain Regional Library and the Union County Friends who helped pass that county's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) in February. A portion of the SPLOST will be used to renovate and expand the library.

A nice article about the Friends fundraising campaign appeared in the

May issue of FOLUSA's News Update. The campaign is called LEAF (Library Enrichment and Furnishings), and began with a fishing tournament.

Way to go, Union County!

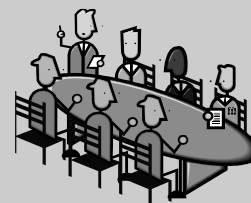
Lyn Hopper,
Assistant State Librarian for
Library Development
Georgia Public Library Service

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**Union County
Library Board**

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



**Friends of Union County Library
Union County Library
P. O. Box 1029
Blairsville, GA 30514-1029
706-745-7491**

**Membership Meetings: Third
Wednesday of each month
2 p.m. at the Library**

**Library website:
www.mountainregionallibrary.org**

**FOUCL website:
[http://andythebookworm.tripod.com/
/FriendsofUnionCountyLibrary.html/](http://andythebookworm.tripod.com/FriendsofUnionCountyLibrary.html/)**