



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

Winter 2012

Message from the President:

Last year we set milestones...in 2012 we seek more!

Friends of Union County Library are never satisfied to rest on their laurels . . . because they know that there is always more to be done. Fortunately, our members comprise helping-hands and generous-hearts and are willing to step into the gap to help. This is especially important in the current economy when State and County budgets are stretched tight and libraries are in a crunch to meet their needs.

With the opening of our new and beautifully appointed library last year, we have seen the growth in the number of attendees and the expansion of services. Librarian Susie Brendle's article in this newsletter will boggle your mind with all the statistics.

In addition to our regular help which is mentioned in Susie's article, we were called on to help the library in a most needed way, and agreed to pay \$4,400 toward the installation of a handicap-accessible door-opening system so that anyone on a walker or in a wheelchair can access the library easily. The funds needed for purposes such as this are available through the ongoing efforts of members of FOUCL.

And that brings up the subject of how vital Membership Dues are. Some members of Friends are busy people who are only able to show their support through their dues—sometimes saying they wish they could “do more.” Little do they realize the importance of what their ongoing commitment means. Although our dues start at the lowest level of \$1 for Children, \$8/Individual and \$12/Family, with other more generous categories of participation, it is the accumulation of ***all*** those dues that help us sustain and provide for the requests that our Librarian asks us to meet when State funding is reduced. Please be sure to fill out and send the Membership Form on page 3 of this Newsletter, or bring it to the Library at your earliest convenience. **If you've already renewed, please pass the form along to a neighbor or co-worker?**

And don't forget that pennies add up! Our Mile-of-Pennies Jar, located in the Library, continues to collect handfuls, bags full, envelopes full of pennies and other odd change, and it all turns into funding for the library.

Book and Bake Sale Coming Soon!

This year there will NOT be a Trash & Treasure Sale. Instead, we will hold a **BIG Book-and-Bake Sale** in the Library Community Room—date to be announced. We will collect books, videos, tapes and puzzles **Every Wednesday from 10:00-1:00 at the Library.** No encyclopedias, and only books in good condition (not musty), please. Please check your shelves, ask your neighbors, and bring donations on Wednesdays. Having checked out this type of fund-raiser, it has been found to be profitable for other libraries throughout the country, and with your help it will be so here, too. If Wednesday is not a convenient time for you, call 706-781-5237 or 706-897-9806 for other arrangements.



From our Librarian

Happy New Year! 2011 was such an important year for our library and the Friends of Union County Library. There are so many great things happening in the library. We saw the completion of the building project and a huge increase in attendance and circulation. During the month of December our total circulation was 12,503 books and other materials. The total circulation for the entire Mountain Regional Library System was 27,215. Our attendance increased 47% from where we were this time last year. On December 28th we had 639 people use the library with 4 staff members working. This means that each staff member could have possibly attended to 159 patrons in that eight hour day. How wonderful that our library is being utilized so completely.



Susie Brendle, Librarian

The library system started offering free computer classes to patrons in September and has several community-centers activities planned for 2012. Please continue to watch for these exciting opportunities.

We're so thankful for all of the fabulous support that FOUCL gave to the library over the year. During 2011, FOUCL provided over 50 magazine covers and many protective cases for audiovisual materials; purchased a scanner; paid to send 104 books to the bindery; and purchased an education center, a children's story time rug, three children's computers loaded with educational games and various other items for our youth room. As they do each year, FOUCL paid for the majority of our magazine and newspaper subscriptions this year and donated \$1000.00 toward the children's Summer Reading Program. Even though they help purchase many books each year, this year we asked FOUCL to also help pay for our bestseller adult fiction books that we get automatically from a book vendor. In the past, these books were paid for by state book money; but for the second year in a row the library system lost all state book money because of budget cuts. The financial burden that FOUCL lifts off of the library's shoulders each year is beyond measure.

Please accept our continuous thanks for all that you do to keep our beloved library a vital part of our community.

Thanks, Donna! New Toddler Outreach Program and Laptop Computer Grant

Friends have entered into a new outreach in the community to provide books for 2-3 year olds and information about why reading to young children is a jump-start to their doing well in school later on. The packets will be given to parents who bring their children to the Union County Health Department for their annual check-up. Our very enthusiastic Chairman for this project is Cathy Fiser, who is busily getting the packets together, along with information of how the Library can benefit not only the children, but their parents, too. This will reach a population that is not presently being served, according to Mountain Regional Library System Director, Donna Howell.



*Donna Howell and Arlene Gray at
FOUCL Summer 2011 Picnic*

In addition, Donna recently announced the successful receipt of a \$25,000 grant to add a laptop checkout/laptop training lab for our Library. Donna is an indefatigable asset to the entire Mountain Regional Library System, and we are indebted to her for her ongoing work in our behalf. She is beloved by all who have had the privilege of working with her—because she gets the job done! She was recently honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from FOUCL which enumerated all she has done—so next time you're at the Young Harris library branch, make sure you look for it hanging on the wall, and thank her in person, too.

Thanks, Teresa!

Teresa Moore, chairman of Staff Appreciation, a busy gal who maintains her membership in FOUCL and provides gifts to celebrate our library staff birthdays, all while juggling her tasks at United Community Bank. She is very much appreciated by the staff in return!



2012 Raffle Prizes Announced

Last year's Triple-Header Raffle, consisting of a quilt, hand-woven basket and handmade wooden jewelry box, sold the largest number of raffle tickets ever for FOUCL . . . and this year we are hoping to even top that! Joanne Olson, Fundraising Chairman, received a beautiful handmade queen-size quilt from JoAnne Ward for the Raffle. In addition, she has gift certificates and gift cards from local businesses totaling over \$600. Plans are to display the Raffle items at local festivals and banks and sell tickets on Wednesdays at book collections at the library.



*Keep bringing pennies to the library!
Look for the jar near the copy machine at the library!*



FRIENDS OF UNION COUNTY LIBRARY

www.foucl.org

Please join us in supporting our Public Library

__ Junior (age 12 and under): \$1 __ Individual: \$8 __ Family: \$12 __ Patron: \$25 __ Donor: \$50 __ Sponsor: \$100

__ NEW MEMBER FOR 2012 __ RENEWAL FOR 2012

Name(s) _____
Mailing Address _____
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Please check if you would like to receive our newsletter by email.

Friends of Union County Library is a nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

I require a receipt for tax purposes.

Mail to: Friends of Union County Library, P.O. Box 1546, Blairsville, GA 30514 - or drop off at library.

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See this newsletter in color at our website:
<http://www.foucl.org>, click "newsletters"

Membership Meetings:
Third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.
in the library's multi-purpose room.
Everyone is welcome!

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Blairsville, Georgia 30512
706-745-7491
Library website: www.mountainregionallibrary.org

Mailing courtesy of United Community Bank