

Friends of Union County Library Celebrates



L to R: Secretary Nancy Bryant, Treasurer Sally Woodworth, President Jackie Volk

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) gathered at Choestoe School House on Wednesday, July 20, for a potluck salad luncheon and a short meeting in recognition and celebration of 25+ years in existence. Our dessert was a delicious cake with our name, our mascot Owl-iver, and our mission statement.

A brief history of our organization was given, which is included here: There were a series of meetings in 1996. The people at those meetings decided on a name, completed and submitted the paperwork to establish 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, wrote by-laws, selected officers, opened a bank account and, in July of that year, began with an initial membership of: Florence and Peter Blumberg, Cathy Fiser, Pattie Hamilton, Virginia Jordan, and Judy Vaughn.

Our stated mission is Advocating for Libraries, Literacy, and Lifelong Learning. We do all three, but especially enjoy getting children interested in reading. For that reason, we contribute yearly to Ferst Readers (which provides a free new book monthly to registered children from birth to 5 years of age), and in recent years we have been buying picture books twice a year to be given to library families.

We give money to Union County Public Library quarterly and these funds are used to buy books and materials above and beyond what the library's budget allows. We support the library staff with words of encouragement and positive recognition. We have also given money to the library to help pay for Summer Reading Program entertainment and have purchased reading challenge prizes. This year we were also pleased to assist as helping hands during the children's summer special events, which were very well attended by hundreds of children and their families.

In addition to our quarterly monetary contributions, we purchase special materials and equipment, as requested by the library. For example, the automatic door openers were purchased by funds given by the Friends, and we were recently asked to provide funds to complete the transfer of UGA newspapers to microfilm, which we have done. We think these will be a great addition to the information available in the History/Genealogy Room at Union County Public Library.

Thanks to all our FOUCL members. Your dues, your generosity in volunteering time and talent, and your enthusiasm are valued and appreciated. FOUCL has been in existence since 1996 and continues to be able to support and advocate for the library because of our members. If you would like to know more about FOUCL, please visit our website: foucl.org.