

ACTIVITIES

ONGOING EVENTS

Every year the Friends of Union County Library purchase books, magazines, and supplies for the library, help fund the summer reading program for children, support Ferst Readers (a nonprofit children's literacy program which provides free monthly books to registered children from birth to age 5), and purchase and present small gifts of appreciation to Union County Public Library's Branch Manager and the library staff.

PAST EVENTS

2022

- We purchased picture books, "Horton Hears a Who," which were given to library families in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday in March.
- In July, we recognized 26 years of service as an organization advocating for libraries.
- We made quarterly contributions to Union County Public Library (UCPL) and recognized and supported UCPL staff during National Library Worker's Day in April and with staff Christmas gifts in December.
- We made our annual \$360 contribution to Ferst Readers (a nonprofit children's literacy program which provides free monthly books to registered children from birth to age 5).
- We hosted a successful travel-themed discussion program in May.
- We supplied volunteer helping hands during well attended UCPL Children's Summer Reading Programs.
- We gave the library money to purchase microfilm of local papers dating from 1989 to the present to complete the collection dating back to the 1890s.
- We joined the other Friends' groups in the MRLS in providing funding for their Staff Development Day in September.
- We held a well-received Open Mic: Poetry and Prose Reading event in September.
- Supplemented by a generous donation from one of our members, we purchased "Moo Baa La La La" board books for the youngest library children and "The Christmas Owl: Based on the True Story of a Little Owl Named Rockefeller" picture books for the slightly older pre-school children in December.

2021

- We purchased Dr. Seuss books ("One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish," "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Fox in Socks"), which were distributed to library families in celebration of Dr. Seuss' March birthday, and we distributed the picture book "Dasher: How a Brave Little Doe Changed Christmas Forever" by Matt Tavares to families in December. We also purchased a copy of "When Santa Was a Baby" by Linda Bailey to be added to the library collection.
- We recognized library staff on National Library Workers Day in April.
- We held Bakeless Bake Sales in May and November (asking members and the public to contribute generously, which they did) in place of our traditional fundraisers.
- Our members enjoyed a combined potluck picnic and meeting in July at the Senior Center pavilion.
- We honored those who organized and were founding members of our organization 25 years ago in 1996.

2020

- We provided "Cat in the Hat" picture books in observance of Dr Seuss' 116th birthday during storytime in March and provided the picture book "The Christmas Barn" by John and Jennifer Churchman to library families in December.
- We recognized and supported the Union County Public Library staff during National Library Workers Day in April.
- We held successful Bakeless Bake Sales in May and November (no baking, no fuss; members and the public were asked to contribute what they would have spent on baking or buying) in lieu of our traditional fundraisers.
- We provided prizes for the Children's Summer Reading Program.
- We purchased raffle prizes for the Mountain Regional Library Systems' Staff Development Day in September.

2019

- We expanded our adult focused programs by offering FOUCL sponsored free-

to-the-public programs including a well-received Local Author Panel Discussion, a Classic Book Trivia Contest, a Movie at the Library ("Murder on the Orient Express" selected by library patron monetary votes), a Travel Tricks and Tips presentation, and a Genealogy and Family Heirlooms: Writing Their Stories workshop.

- We provided coloring books to families during Dr. Seuss' birthday story time in March and a board book entitled "The ABCs of Christmas" at the Santa story time in December.
- We once again sponsored an adult summer reading program and added an adult winter reading challenge.
- We continued a pattern of successful fundraising with two bake sales a year - one in May near Mother's Day and one in November near Thanksgiving and a 2nd Everything Christmas Sale in early November.
- Our members came together to enjoy a combined potluck picnic and meeting in July and a Christmas luncheon, with entertainment, in December.

2018

- This was the year we began having quarterly meetings, with programs in the alternate months.
- The programs were very successful and brought in many in the community who were not members of FOUCL. They included programs on genealogy, book care, and information on fossils by an expert. We also assisted at a book signing at the library.
- We donated *Cat in the Hat* books to families at the Dr. Seuss birthday celebration.
- We sponsored an adult summer reading program that had over 100 participants.
- We donated part of the cost of video equipment to Vince Stone of MRLS for taping the puppet shows he started.
- We invited other North Georgia Friends groups to a workshop on Friends organizations. Our speaker was the State Librarian and we learned a lot from her. All the Friends groups attending shared information about how they attracted members and what they did to raise funds.
- We continued having successful spring and fall bake sales and added an Everything Christmas sale.

2017

- We began providing a monthly publication to the community called BookPage. It

is kept on a table outside the Friends' door in the library, and has proved to be very popular, usually gone by the time the month ends.

- We continued with the spring and fall bake sales as our main fundraisers.
- The members got together for a Fall Picnic at the Pavilion at the Senior Center.
- President Debra Davis worked hard to get a donation from Houghton Mifflin Publishing of *The Polar Express* books to be given out at the puppet show in December and received a bonus of 1,000 additional books that we distributed through UC Primary and Elementary schools, Toys for Tots and Christmas Angel program for Foster Children in Towns and Union County.

2016

- This was a big year for Friends of Union County Library. First, we celebrated our 20th anniversary with a lunch at the historic Choestoe Schoolhouse south of Blairsville. Our speakers were Donna Howell, retired head of Mountain Regional Library System, and Ethelene Dyer Jones, a native of Blairsville who taught at the school back in the day and shared her memories. Then we installed a sculpture, paid for by a bequest to the organization, on the grounds of the library. It was attended by members as well as dignitaries in the community and the artist.
- We sponsored the first year of the Mountain Puppet Theater, a project of Vince Stone, head of Mountain Regional Library System.

2015

- This year we had a spring picnic for members to socialize at the Senior Center Pavilion.
- We had another very successful raffle to raise funds for the library.
- We had a booth at the Butternut Creek Festival again this year featuring our raffle.
- We began publishing a newsletter put together by our talented member Connie Rosenberry that looks very professional. It's gotten rave reviews!

2014

- We had a very successful raffle that included three drawings won by Blairsville residents or those with Blairsville ties.
- We had a grand book and bake sale that raised lots of money for the library.
- In December, we co-sponsored a play, "A Christmas Carol," with the library that was put on in the library by the Hampstead Players from New Hampshire.

2013

- Sponsored two fundraising raffles.

2012

- Sponsored a Quilt and Basket of Goodies Raffle and a Book & Bake Sale.
- Staffed booths at the Strawberry Jubilee, the Tri-State Business Women's Expo, the Butternut Creek Festival, and the Sorghum Festival.
- Held a membership event at Joy of Learning, featuring a guest violinist and "Reflections on Learning" by Dr. Rhonda Joy Vasant.
- Participated in Mountain Appraisal Night at Antonietta's Grill and the library benefit tour of Misty Mountain Model Railroad.

2011

- Celebrated our 15th Anniversary with a BBQ Potluck Picnic.
- Purchased equipment and furnishings for the children's room of the renovated and expanded library.
- Helped to fund the automatic, wheelchair-accessible entrance doors to the library.
- Sponsored a Tash & Treasure Sale, "A Mile of Pennies," and a Quilt, Basket, and Jewelry Box Raffle.
 - Participated in Mountain Appraisal Night at Antonietta's Grill and the library benefit tour of Misty Mountain Model Railroad.

2010

- Participated in the Varsity Day for Public Libraries in Atlanta and the strategic planning of the Mountain Regional Library System.
- Sponsored a Trash & Treasure Sale, "A Mile of Pennies," and a quilt raffle.
- Participated in a Brother's Restaurant in Young Harris community night.
- Accepted with gratitude and pleasure the *first* Fabulous Friends Award from Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL).

2009

- Advocated for state funding of the library renovation and expansion.
- Sponsored "Miles of Pennies," a Trash and Treasure sale, a Bass Fishing Tournament, and a Benefit Auction & Raffle as fundraisers.
- Participated twice in Brother's Restaurant Community Night for 15% of the restaurant earnings.
- Assisted the library staff at their Book and Bake Sale.

2008

- Campaigned for passage of the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and its benefits for the library.
- Sponsored a book signing and a gift basket raffle, "A Mile of Pennies," a Trash and Treasure sale, a Bass Fishing Tournament, a Pat Aube' Gray limited-edition print raffle, and a live and silent auction as fundraisers.

2007

- Were represented at the Library Legislative Day at the capital.
- Sponsored a "Sips & Snippets Day" at the library, candle, book bag, and literary basket fundraisers, a bake sale, and a trash and treasure sale.

2006

- Sent a representative to the Library Legislative Day.
- Celebrated our 10th Anniversary with an afternoon tea.
- Renovated the multi-purpose room kitchenette.

2005

- Sponsored a fundraiser raffle.
- Held a "Cakes Galore Friendathon" as a fundraiser and membership solicitation.
- Co-sponsored an open house and reception for Teresa Haymore, retiring system director.
- Sponsored a reception in honor of the new system director, Donna Howell.
- Helped gather fans when the library's air conditioner failed.

2004

- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Established the Pattie Hamilton Memorial Reading Nook.
- Sponsored a membership table at the Union County Interagency Fair.
- Established the Pat Scott Memorial Kids' Corner.

2003

- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Helped clean up after the Great Library Flood.
- Honored retiring staff members.
- Sponsored four "Sunday Coffee House" socials, a literary basket fundraiser, and a membership table at the Butternut Creek Festival.

2002

- Sponsored a Trash and Treasure fundraiser and membership tables at the Butternut Creek Festival and the Union County Interagency Fair.
- Send a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Funded the Birthday Book Club for children and the Wilma Ash Scholarship for advanced study in library science.
- Honored a retiring staff member.

2001

- Sponsored a Sunday "Meet the Writers" program and a membership table at the Butternut Creek Arts Festival.
- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Established a memorial shelf plate program and a new library fund.
- Funded the Birthday Book Club and the Wilma Ash Scholarship.

2000

- Established the Birthday Book Club, Books for Babies, and the Wilma Ash Scholarship.
- Helped to fund a new bookmobile for the system.
- Sponsored a membership table at the Butternut Creek Arts Festival and the third "Spring Thing" fundraiser.

1999

- Funded the landscaping in front of the library sign and the renovation of the multi-purpose room and foyer.
- Sponsored the tenth anniversary celebration of the library at its present site.
- Hosted a Chamber of Commerce "After Hours."
- Designed and distributed memorial book program cards to the Chamber of Commerce, nursing homes, and funeral parlors.

1998

- Sponsored the second "Spring Thing" and Sunday "Coffee House" program.

1997

- Initiated and helped to fund the purchase of a new library sign.
- Purchased furnishings and built shelves for a reference room.
- Moved the reference books into the new reference room.

- Sponsored "Spring Thing" and a Sunday "Coffee House."
- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.

1996

- Sponsored a membership table at the city's "White Christmas on the Square."
- Co-sponsored the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the founding of the Mountain Regional Library System.