Challenge: Climbing to a Goal of $10,000

Have you ever been in the library’s meeting room? 
Enjoyed movies on the big screen with surround sound?
Connected with a NASA scientist in Texas?
Learned how to use Facetime on your iPad or iPhone?
Or seen slides from an adventurous hike on the Appalachian Trail?

That AV equipment is now broken, but the Friends of the Library have issued a fundraising challenge to you.

Here’s how it works: For every dollar you give, the Friends will match that dollar up to $5000. If you would like to continue to enjoy, connect, and learn at the library AND have your donation doubled, please consider giving your contribution today. You can drop it off at the Friends Bookstore or mail it to 115 Highlands Rd., Franklin. Or you can drop it off at the Macon County Library, 149 Siler Farm Rd., Franklin.

You can watch our hiker making progress at the Friends Bookstore and the Macon County Library, either in person or check online at maconlibraryfriends.org.
Words from the President...

Here we are beginning another year, and time for our first FOLIO of 2017. This year you will receive three FOLIOs rather than four. As always, they will be jam-packed with information from the Friends Bookstore, Library, and Friends of the Library events. February is our first anniversary of the opening of the new Bookstore. We thank you all for supporting the Friends, and ultimately the Library, by your purchases and donations. We are proud to say that it has been a fantastic year. Also, I thank our hard working volunteers at the Bookstore. Speaking of volunteers, the Bookstore is in need of VOLUNTEERS. Stop by and talk to Margaret. Even though it is work.....they have a good time too.

There are two upcoming events in the works. One will be our Volunteer Breakfast in April – be sure to watch your mailbox for your invitation to this annual event. Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Books on Tap in September.

I hope you take time to read the Challenge information in this issue of the FOLIO. This important fundraiser is for AV equipment at the Library. We have already received donations. You’ll see we’ve brought our fundraising hiker out of retirement to climb to the goal of $10,000 - please help us reach this goal.

Sit back and read this FOLIO, again, all done by volunteers. Wow! I’m so lucky to be part of the Friends of the Macon County Public Library. Come join us...by becoming a member and/or volunteering.

Free Spring Workshop for Friends of the Library

The Friends of the North Carolina Public Libraries (FONCPL) are holding their Spring Workshop for libraries in the mountain counties. This year’s annual workshop will be held on Saturday, March 25th from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville.

This is an opportunity for you to energize your membership: learn about bookstores, fundraising, and membership. You can share unique projects to support your library. You do NOT have to be a member of FONCPL to attend, but of course, you will have an opportunity to join.

You’ll also have a chance to discover what’s happening in the state government that may impact your library. State Librarian Cal Shepard will be on hand to share information and answer questions.

Plan to stay for lunch after the workshop. Lunch will be at the beautiful Hinton Center, which has spectacular views of Lake Chatuge. Lunch is on your own, but the Hinton Center buffet includes entrée, salad, dessert, and drink for only $9.00.

Interested in attending? Contact Macon Friends President Ann McCormick at (828) 342-8019 or annmc070@gmail.com.
Friends to Celebrate National Volunteer Week

We all get by with a little help from our Friends! The Friends of the Library will be celebrating library and Friends volunteers during National Volunteer Week (April 24-29). A special invitation-only event will be held at the Macon County Library on Thursday, April 27th at 9:00 am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer Hours to Support the Public Library</th>
<th>Top 12,000 Hours in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bookstore</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovating and Moving to the new Bookstore</td>
<td>2800 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping the store open 5 days a week</td>
<td>2100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing and sorting donations of books, magazines, movies</td>
<td>3400 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bookstore Volunteer hours</strong></td>
<td>8500 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Events and Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books on Tap Event</td>
<td>1000 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Events and Activities</td>
<td>1000 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Special Event hours</strong></td>
<td>2000 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairing books, Putting materials back on library shelves after they’ve been returned, Assisting with activities for children, teens, and adults, Stewarding little Free Libraries</td>
<td>2000 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Year, New Membership

We noted in the last Folio that our membership structure would be changing. With the new year that changeover has happened and the new membership levels are in place. New membership levels are Bronze at $15, Silver at $25, Gold at $50, and Platinum at $100. Life memberships will continue to function the same and will remain a one time donation of $250. This should help to eliminate some confusion for new members as to what level of support is right for them and help the Friends of the Library continue to support the programs and services our public library provides as it continues to face increasing financial pressure.

You may now see the new levels on the membership form which is included in every Folio and you will also see them on the postcards we send reminding members when their memberships are due to be renewed.

It had been a number of years since the Friends of the Library had increased its membership fees. During this same time our libraries in Macon County have not seen a funding increase. It is especially important in light of that to do all we can to support this invaluable local resource.

Looking at our new levels and fees, our two most basic membership levels have only increased by five and ten dollars respectively. Those members who have renewed their memberships since the new year have overwhelmingly risen to the challenge and renewed at the new levels. We thank these members and hope that this trend continues throughout the year as all of our members renew.

HELP NEEDED!

How about becoming an active Friends of the Library member and be a volunteer? The Friends Bookstore needs more helpers to cashier.

Shifts are for 1/2 day (approximately 4 hours) once/week OR on an “as needed for shifts” basis. We try to work around other activities and volunteer duties for which you might have committed.

Training will be provided. Physical requirements are: able to stand, walk about, and light lifting for the entire shift. Volunteering is rewarding! Books are fun! People who love books are our customers and they, too, are fun and interesting. Pick up a volunteer application at the Bookstore today.

If you are not yet a member, then pick up both, a membership and a volunteer application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Life Member</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze .................. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver .................. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold .................... 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum ................ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior .................. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life ..................... 81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual ................. 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double ................... 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family ................... 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron ................... 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate ................ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Membership .......... 237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Little Free Libraries – Near and Far

Little Free Library in Iotla

In May of 2015 the second “Little Free Library” was officially opened at the Iotla United Methodist Church. This “Little Library” is located directly across Iotla Church Road from the Iotla Elementary School. Since opening the library has been operating seven days a week, rain or shine. The book exchange has resulted in approximately 10 to 20 books per month to realize an average of 15 books a month yearly. This “Little Free Library” is really for young readers with the hopes of encouraging adventures within a book. The United Methodist Church adheres to a Safe Sanctuary policy. A sign has been placed at the base of the library to address compliance with the North Carolina General Statutes regarding registered sex offenders. The statutes are clearly noted on this sign as well as a sign in the rear of the Church.

Feel free when you are out on a drive throughout our beautiful county to check out this Library. We are opened every Sunday and the view of the Iotla Valley is spectacular.

Little Free Library in Ecuador

Children in Ecuador got a chance to borrow books from a new lending library thanks to Macon County! Library patron Cynthia Solesbee made a trip to Ecuador and brought several children’s Spanish books made possible by donations from the Friends of the Macon County Library. Cynthia said, “The children loved the books because they were about interesting and exotic animals and were easy to handle, especially for the little ones. Thanks so very much for your kindness in donating the children’s Spanish books.”

Exploring Space

The Portable Planetarium is in use at MCPL for many programs for young children, students and adults. On Thursday, February 9, at 2:00 pm, the library hosted a planetarium program for adults with SCC physics instructor Matt Cass introducing and leading a discussion on meteors, meteorites, asteroids and comets, and then the participants of the program were invited into the portable planetarium to view a movie called “Impact”, narrated by astronaut Tom Jones.

Another program at 6:00 pm was a planetarium show called “Back to the Moon for Good”, a tour through the history of lunar exploration narrated by award-winning actor Tim Allen. Matt Cass was available to answer questions and lead another discussion.

The portable planetarium activities are supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

If you’re interested in learning more, check out the Library’s special Explore Space online guide at fontanalib.libguides.com/explore-space.
Library Partners with NC Science Festival

The Macon County Public Library will host a Family Science Night on Thursday, April 20th at the library. Family Science Night is an official event of the 2017 North Carolina Science Festival presented by the Biogen Foundation.

Family Science Night is designed to get everyone excited about science! The Family Science Night will consist of a variety of hands-on science related activities for kids and grown-ups of all ages. The event will be free and will not require registration, as we will have many different STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities and, therefore, we will be able to accommodate a large crowd. We will have a variety of hands-on STEM stations throughout the library targeted at different age groups and different interests. Attendees will be able to pick and choose which stations that they want to do.

FRL was recently awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to “Explore Space”. This grant enabled FRL to purchase a portable planetarium and materials for space related activities. For Family Science Night, we will have several showings in the portable planetarium. These planetarium programs are supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

As an official 2017 North Carolina Science Festival event, the Macon County Public Library is among hundreds of community-based events that showcase STEM activities for the citizens of North Carolina.

Founded in 2010, the North Carolina Science Festival is the first statewide science festival in the United States. Through a two-week series of community-based events each spring (hosted by schools, colleges, libraries, museums, parks, businesses and other local organizations), the Festival celebrates the economic, educational and cultural impact of science in North Carolina.

“Science is fun, science is everywhere, science is for everyone — that’s what the North Carolina Science Festival is all about,” said Jonathan Frederick, Festival director. The North Carolina Science Festival is presented by the Biogen Foundation and produced by Morehead Planetarium and Science Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more information, visit www.ncsciencefestival.org.

Walking With Spring, March 10 - April 27

During our Walking with Spring series celebrating the Appalachian Trail we’ll watch the documentary, Trail Magic: the Grandma Gatewood Story and later Nancy Reeder will lead a discussion of the biography Grandma Gatewood’s Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail. Borrow a copy of the book at the Reference Desk and join the discussion! This Rural Gateways event was funded by Pushing the Limits which is a reading, viewing and discussion program for adults in communities served by rural libraries, made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The Three-In-One Art Show

A collection of artwork, photography and literature by western North Carolina native Josh Franks. The event will take place at the Macon County Public Library on March 4th, from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The art display will also remain there until the end of the month. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

Art and Jewelry by Sharon Volker

Sharon Ann Volker is a self-taught artist. She began working with pastels in the early 1990’s, experimenting first with the human form and then with a variety of still life and landscape subjects. Her oil paintings and jewelry will be on display during the month of April, with a reception on April 5th.
Behind The Scenes - Meet The Volunteers

Paula & Charles Gorgoglione

Paula & Charles Gorgoglione have both been volunteering at the Macon County Public Library since 2005. Paula has been part of our book repair crew and Charles a member of the Macon County Public Library Board since 2013. They’ve donated subscriptions to several magazines (Mother Jones, Sierra, National Wildlife and Audubon) along with a newspaper (National Catholic Reporter). Both have become valuable assets to the library and we are sad to announce that they are in the process of moving back to Florida. While speaking with Paula & Charles we found that their favorite thing while volunteering is that the people (library staff & other volunteers) have become family to them. Their interests include being avid birders, being members of the Bird Club and Book Club, as well as walking the Greenway and of course reading. Paula says that “To have a book falling apart and being able to bring it back to life is a great feeling. You have to be able to use much creativity at times.” Charles says he “Loves seeing success of literature helping all ages and giving second chances to open new avenues, especially in rural areas. I can’t convey strong enough what the library has meant to us. It’s so hard to leave because of this family and every friend in this library. It’s more than a building!” Although we are sad to see them go, we are happy for them, wish them well and hope they know how much the library appreciates them.

Men Moving Books Squad

The work room at the FOL Bookstore is always a beehive of activity with volunteers sorting, cleaning, pricing and shelving books, magazines, and audio materials. In this issue of the Folio, we are featuring our Men Moving Books Squad. Their qualifications for this job are: have strong backs, free time, a willing heart, follow directions well, and most importantly, own a pickup truck!

Monty Andrews is the husband of our Bookstore Director, Margaret and has been volunteering at the Friends more than 20 years. He was born and raised in Illinois, served in the Navy and retired from the Missile Program at Cape Canaveral. When he retired in 1989, he and Margaret moved to Franklin. Monty’s favorite past time is playing golf.

Another volunteer is Fred Bulgin who is the husband of back room volunteer Betty Ann. Fred and Betty Ann have deep family roots in Macon County. Fred has volunteered more than 10 years. He retired from Duke Power as a manager in quality control. Fred’s favorite pastime is woodworking.

Walter Pope can often be found browsing books in the store, then checking with Margaret to see if she needs him and his pickup truck. He was born and raised in Columbus, Georgia. Walter and his wife Ruth chose to come to Macon County because of the quietness of the area and they have been residents for over 40 years. Walter retired from Building Construction and Real Estate Appraisal. He has been a volunteer for 2 years and also serves on The Friends of the Library Board of Directors. He enjoys puttering and reading in his free time.

Monty, Fred, and Walter’s volunteer duties include hauling cardboard to the landfill, hauling boxes of books to and from the storage units, from the library or from a home that has donated books, helping set up sale tables, and maintaining the Bookstore. These gentlemen volunteer because they enjoy being able to give back to the community, believe in books, and enjoy reading as well as having a productive way to fill free time. We greatly appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers like Monty, Fred, and Walter. There is always a place at the FOL Bookstore for new folks that want to volunteer their time and support our Public Library.
North Carolina Launches new eBook Sharing Service Specifically for Children

New library consortium enables sharing of Children’s eBooks, audiobooks and video across the state

[Franklin, NC] - Children across the state now have access to free eBooks and eAudiobooks through a new program. Designed for kids in pre-K through 4th grade, NC Kids Digital Library includes more than 3,700 eBooks, audiobooks, videos and Read-Alongs. The program is available through Fontana Regional Library locations in Macon, Jackson, and Swain Counties, as well as at 85 regional, county and municipal libraries across the state. These materials are instantly available for every child with a library card and internet access via a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

The program is the first of its kind statewide eBook consortium specifically for children. It was created by the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) together with OverDrive digital reading platform and the state of North Carolina.

OverDrive’s collection development team chooses the books for the collection, which will continue to grow over time and feature new titles, and selections are reviewed and approved by a committee appointed by the NCPLDA Executive Board. Many eBooks list the reading level and text difficulty to help parents find the right book for their child’s reading ability.

“This content will align with summer reading camps across the state as well as the state’s 3rd grade reading initiative and will provide a significant boost to the many library-school partnerships already in existence,” said Ruth Ann Copley, Director of Libraries at Davidson County Public Library System.

Karen Wallace, director of Fontana Regional Library, says, “This initiative has made a valuable resource available to all children in the state. It adds significantly to the total number of eBooks and eAudiobooks for our youngest patrons here in Western North Carolina. As a library, we are thrilled to have more opportunities to connect children with books and the love of reading.”

In Macon, Jackson, and Swain Counties, any child or adult with a Fontana Regional Library card can access the NC Kids Digital Library.

NC Kids Digital Library is sponsored by NCPLDA and the NC General Assembly with assistance from the State Library of NC, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Copley, together with Jennifer Sackett, Vice-President of NCPLDA and Library Director of Lincoln County Library, worked with Representative Pat McElraft to secure funding for this project. In July of last year, the 2016 Appropriations Act was signed into law for fiscal year 2016-2017, which included a funding provision for $200,000 for the State Library to work with NCPLDA to create a statewide consortium for all public library cardholders.

For more information, please contact your local Fontana Regional Library location in Macon, Jackson, or Swain County or visit www.fontanalib.org.

Learning Circles Bring Patrons’ Celtic Connection To Glasgow, Scotland

As the FOLIO goes to print, the library is hosting a three-week learning circle on Scottish poet Robert Burns to combine an online class, chatting with international participants through social media, and good old-fashioned face-to-face conversation. The free online class is taught by faculty from the University of Glasgow’s Centre for Robert Burns Studies through FutureLearn.com, and participants meet weekly for three weeks to go through the course and discuss the materials.

The idea of this learning circle was sparked by conversations with longtime library patrons who are active Friends of the Scottish Tartan Museum in Franklin, ahead of their annual Burns Dinner celebrating the bard. Similar Burns Dinners are held each January in places as far-flung as Sydney, Australia, and Vancouver, Canada, making the online class an opportunity to learn new perspectives on an established local tradition, in addition to learning more about the writer, his poems, and his songs.

It has also brought out the personal connections people have to Scotland and Scottish heritage, and there has been a fair amount of curiosity from participants abroad about this Scottish connection in the mountains of North Carolina. We learned in the class that the original Burns Clubs in the 19th century were communities with strong civic traditions, where philanthropy and local pride united people of all social levels in affirming their distinct local culture in an increasingly global and commercial age. That sounds surprisingly familiar, and it is not hard to see how traditions based in these values would also flourish here today.
NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes! Sign me up as a NEW Friend of the Macon County Public Library

I want to help our public library. Sign me up as a NEW member of the Friends of the Library in the following category:

☐ Bronze Membership $15 a year
☐ Silver Membership $25 a year
☐ Gold Membership $50 a year
☐ Platinum Membership $100 a year
☐ Lifetime Membership $250 one payment
☐ Senior Membership $10 a year

Please make checks payable to:
Friends of the Macon County Public Library

Name: ____________________________
Local Address: ____________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________
Local Phone: ____________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________
Other Address (if applicable)
Street/Route: ____________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________
Dates Available: ____________________________
From ______ to ______

☑ I understand that my membership card will be issued in accordance with Friends of the Macon County Public Library procedures.