

Civil War Sesquicentennial Programs

By Sandra Hillier, Vice President: Promotions

To promote community awareness and education of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Boston Mountains Chapter 2666, in collaboration with the Friends of the Library, will welcome Mrs. Mimi Mathis and Mr. Will Bush to the Boone County Library on **Saturday, March 5, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.**

Mrs. Mathis will review her award-winning novel *Belle in the Slouch Hat*. The novel is written for tweens, teens and the young at heart. Those between the ages of 8 and 108 would enjoy the book. Set in 1862 during the War Between the States, fifteen year old Belle idolized her older brother Bud. He was her best friend and hero. Bud, a member of a Confederate guerrilla unit, was shot in the back by an unnamed Union Captain. Belle sets out on her precious pony wearing Bud's old slouch hat with the eagle feather to avenge his death and find the soldier responsible. During her adventures and misadventures, Belle is befriended by a Native American woman who becomes her mentor and meets Bud's unit commander. Along the way, Belle engages her 16-year old cousin and best friend Winnie to help her in her quest. Although Winnie has been blind since the age of seven, she has a great ability to "see with her heart." The trauma of the Civil War is seen through the eyes of the young juvenile characters in the novel. The geographic setting of the book takes place around Sarcoxie, Carthage and Springfield, Missouri, all communities historically embattled in the Civil War.



Mimi Mathis

BookReview.com, one of the largest and oldest book review sites on the web, chose *Belle* as the Book of the Month in May, 2010. In June, Pacific Book Review chose *Belle* as one of the top five book reviews. Most recently, the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton and the Conway County Library chose *Belle in the Slouch Hat* for its "One Book, One Community" discussion program. Students, faculty, staff and library patrons gathered in November to hold a thoughtful discussion about the issues raised in the book. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and Mrs. Mathis will personalize each book. At the author's request, the proceeds of the book sale will go for the benefit of the Boone County Library. The book is published by Phoenix International and distributed by the University of Arkansas Press.

Mrs. Mathis is a retired nurse living in Fayetteville with her husband Jack. They have three grown sons and seven grandchildren. Although Mathis has written stories for the grandchildren, *Belle* is her first published book and is the first book in a trilogy publication about the adventures of Belle and Winnie. (Continued on next page)

A Heart-Felt Thank You

The Boone County Library gives special thanks for the generosity of the family of Dr. Ross and Jacquelyn Fowler. On Tuesday, December 21, 2010, Greg Giles and sister Karen Hughes, grandchildren of the Fowlers, gave the deed to the former Fowler Medical Building to Boone County for the use of the library. The library has leased the building from the family since June of 2008. The Fowler building houses the library's non-public offices. Due to the kindness of the Fowler family, the library can now save about \$6,000 a year in rent. Many thanks to the Fowler family for this gift of both space and revenue. This gift will increase the ability of the library to provide for Boone County a place the Fowler family loves and a library the family has supported for decades. Thank you again.