

# at the library

## winter library challenge

December 1 - January 31

Join the Winter Library Challenge!

All ages can participate. Pick up a challenge card at the Library beginning December 1, then read and play along with us all winter long! Return your completed card by February 1 and be entered in a prize raffle.



NC Cooperative Extension &  
Transylvania County Library present:

## living in the mountains

*an educational series exploring the unique challenges  
and opportunities of living in the mountains of WNC*

### Wells & Septic Systems

Wednesday, January 14 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

### Erosion Control

Wednesday, January 21 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

### Radon Awareness

Wednesday, January 28 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

### Building a Home Emergency Kit

Wednesday, February 4 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

### Gardening and Growing Food in Mountain Soil

Wednesday, February 11 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room



## Dear Community,

The start of a new year always feels a little like opening a blank page: a chance to reset, try something new and explore possibilities. Whether your goals are big or small, the library is here to help you make them happen. Want to learn a new skill, read more, tackle a home project or simply find more time to pause? We've got you covered.

Want to read more? Explore our shelves or digital collections, where ebooks and audiobooks let you dive into stories, history and ideas from anywhere. Looking to grow your own food, try a new recipe or improve your home? Our books, programs and online resources offer guidance and inspiration. Interested in moving more or finding calm? Join us for Friday morning yoga in the library.

New year resolutions aren't only about achievement. They're about curiosity, creativity and play. Try something you've never done before: write a story, start a journal,

experiment with a craft or check out an instrument. The library provides space, materials and encouragement for all kinds of creative exploration.

If your goals include connection, the library is here for that too. Programs offer low-pressure ways to meet others, share ideas and learn together. Or, if you prefer to stick to yourself but still be part of a community, you can come to the library to quietly read, work on a project or simply enjoy the company of others seeking the same.

So, as we step into 2026, think of the library as your partner in curiosity, creativity and growth. Pick up a new book, start a project, explore a topic you've always wondered about. Each small step adds up, and every moment of learning and exploration makes the year richer and brighter.

Here's to a year of discovery, creativity and connection.

**I'll see you at the library!**

Rishara Finsel, Library Director



## sounds of the season



**be joyful!**  
**musicke antiqua**  
**tuesday, dec. 2 • noon**

Experience the rich sounds of early music as Musicke Antiqua blends medieval, Renaissance and modern selections. Performed in costume on replica historical instruments, their concerts offer a uniquely immersive and joyful holiday tradition.

**an international christmas**  
**blue ridge ringers**  
**monday, dec. 8 • noon**



Ring in the season with global holiday music performed on five octaves of handbells and chimes. The acclaimed handbell ensemble brings shimmering sounds and uplifting energy to music lovers of all ages.



## a tuna Christmas



**looking glass playhouse**  
**tuesday, dec. 9**  
**& wednesday, dec. 10 • 7pm**

Step into Tuna, Texas for a holiday comedy performance full of eccentric townsfolk, good-natured mischief, and rapid-fire character changes. *A Tuna Christmas* blends Southern humor with festive chaos for a lighthearted seasonal escape.



# a note from the friends of the library president

Dear Friends of the Transylvania County Library,

Thanks to your efforts, I am delighted to report that the 2025 Book Sale raised over \$16,000. These funds will be put to excellent use through programs and services such as zoom passes, yoga, children's story times and activities, music, cooking, chess and craft offerings, field trips, LEGO nights and much more. Our membership remains at a record high, with 862 households.

Equally as exciting as the funds raised is the sense of community this event brings, all in support of the library. It's always a fun, whirlwind week filled with wonderful conversations. What's better than being in the company of other people who love the library? It's inspiring to see that shared passion and generosity translated into a willingness to move boxes, sort books and music, serve as cashiers and floor monitors, and more.

This year, we had recurring support as a community service badge project from Boy Scout Troop 703, move-in help from the Wellborn and Ramsey families, the Brevard College Futures football team, and our small but mighty crew, and clean-up help from Transylvania County Solid Waste. And, of course, support throughout the year from our wonderful library staff. The full list of volunteers appears below, and it's impressive! We truly appreciate the part each of you played and the ongoing year-round roles many of you fill.

I'd also like to highlight our online and Second Story Bookstore sales. Gerri, Jeni, Susan, and the rest of the crew have fine-tuned donation and sales processes to the point that the funds raised last year sustained our budget when Hurricane Helene forced the cancellation of the 2024 Book Sale. We also began partnering with Better World Books this year to divert books we cannot sell, raising funds and reducing waste. These sales, along with membership dues and donations complete the annual budget.

A sincere thank you to all of you who volunteered, donated, shopped, invited your friends and neighbors, became a Friend or renewed your membership. You helped make this sale a success and we are most grateful. We all benefit from having a well-loved, well-supported library at the heart of our community.

I hope to see you at the library and the Friends Annual Meeting in April!

Colin Kirkman  
President, Friends of the Transylvania County Library

# thank you!

## Many thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and enthusiasm to this year's Annual Book Sale:

### Brevard College Junior Varsity Football

#### Players:

Cameron Brown  
Jadon Brown  
Logan Brown  
Noah Browning  
Darryl Caldwell  
X'zavien Caldwell  
Brayden Cass  
Santi Chavez  
Ethan Emory  
Cal Forster  
Tre'Von Harrington-Headen  
Darrell Herriott  
Caleb Jennings  
Peyton Kendall  
Thomas Kirkpatrick  
Drew Langley  
Fletcher Lanier  
Chris Moore  
Develle Morgan  
Hudson Patrick  
Mason Powe  
Parker Standridge  
Carlo Zola  
Coach Bill Khayat

David Alff  
Gary Allison  
Peter Anderson  
Peggy Baldwin  
Pat Barton  
Angela Baynard  
Annette Blum  
Gail Blunt  
Peggy Bogardus  
Jeni Brandon  
Martha Bridges  
Margaret Brown  
Tony Carollo  
Jane Carter  
Mae Clayton  
Brad Clifford  
Sonya Clifford  
Teresa Coady  
Adele Colston  
Liz Cozart  
Wiley Cozart  
Marlene Cronin  
Deborah Davies  
Brenda Doroski

Pam Drellow  
Bertie Fitch  
Mignon Fleishel  
Steve Fleishel  
Raoul Gagne  
Patricia Galloway  
Karen Geney  
Susan Goldsworthy  
Sheila Gombar-Fetner  
Lynda Good  
Ann Hackford  
Marcia Hoeke  
Beverly Hughey  
Barb Jackson  
Gerri Jergensen  
Jessie Johnson  
Julia Kennerly  
Victoria Kerr  
Khaled Khiyar  
Lynn Klein  
Kristina Klose  
Yvonne Krowka  
Becky Lewis  
Anita Loveland

Martha Mayberry  
John McArthur  
Marie Miller  
Charlene Montante  
Andrea Muirhead  
James Murray  
Jordan Newberry  
Chuck Ramsey  
Edward Ramsey  
Jane Ramsey  
Tia Ramsey  
Joy Resor  
Donald Rowe  
Helen Salgado-Anderson  
Christine Schmidt  
John Skelton  
Susan Stackpole  
Phil Stewart  
Louise Stroup  
Bill Stubbs  
Bonnie Sutton  
Cliff Szafran  
Karen Szafran  
Donna Tagliarino

Scott Tagliarino  
Pat Thomson  
Irene Timmons  
Aleta Tisdale  
Jinx Vidrine  
Twighla Voglesong  
Dave Watts  
Alice Wellborn  
Colvin Wellborn  
Sam Wellborn  
Pam Williams  
Ann Zelle

### Boy Scout Troop 703:

Calvin Carter  
Harvey Carter  
Wyatt Heiman  
Hudson Kempton  
Cian Philyaw  
Heidi Philyaw (Leader)  
Quinn Philyaw  
Rhys Philyaw

# kid & teen activities



## Teen Space Activity

Teens in grades 6-12 can stop by the Teen Space area and get creative with our monthly activities!

## Tuesday Storytimes & Activity

**10:00 am Babies & Toddlers (birth - 2 years)**

**10:30 am Activity Time**

**11:00 am Preschoolers (3-5 years)**

Stories, songs, movement and more to build your child's early literacy skills. Activity Time weekly schedule:

- 1st week of the month: Building
- 2nd week of month: Craft
- 3rd week of month: Dance
- 4th week of month: Art
- December 5th week of month: Tracing Cards

## Paws & Pages

**Wednesdays, December 3 & 17 • 4:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Wednesday, January 7 & 21 • 4:00 - 5:00 pm**

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, children can drop in to the kids area and read aloud to a furry pal!

## Book Nuts Book Club

**Thursday, December 4 • 4:00 pm**

*"The Firework-Maker's Daughter" by Phillip Pullman*

**Thursday, January 8 • 4:00 pm**

*"The Get Rich Quick Club" by Dan Gutman*

### Registration required

Kids age 6-9 can register for the discussion and pick up a book club copy at the Kids & Teens desk.

## The North Carolina Arboretum's ecoEXPLORE Program: Mammalogy Season

**Thursday, December 11 • 4:00 pm**

Join us for an educational program with the North Carolina Arboretum to learn all about the different types of mammals that call Western NC their home! Learn about the ecoEXPLORE program, get up close and personal with some mammal artifacts such as skulls and skins, find out what makes a mammal a mammal, plus much more! This program is geared for ages 5 to 13.

## Second Saturday Storytime & Craft

**Saturday, December 13**

**Saturday, January 10**

**11:00 am Family Storytime (birth - 5 years)**

**11:30 am Craft Time**

Stories, songs, movement and a craft to build your child's early literacy skills. Same theme and craft as Tuesday storytime.

## Raving Readers

**Tuesday, December 16 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

### Registration required

Kids ages 10-13 will be reading "Pie" by Sarah Weeks. Sign up for the discussion and pick up a book club copy at the Kids & Teens Desk.

## Block Party

**Monday, December 29 • 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

Drop-in to build with the Library's collection of blocks including LEGO® & Duplo® bricks, Keva® planks and magnetic blocks! Unplug, meet up with friends and enjoy the afternoon.

## Winter Take & Makes for Kids

**Kits available starting January 2**

Pick up a winter themed take & make activity in January.

Available at the Kids & Teens Desk all month long until they are gone! One per child per visit.

## Family Fort Night & Read-In

**Friday, January 23 • 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

### Registration required

Bring fort-building materials (like blankets and sheets) to create a family reading oasis in the Library - after hours! A snack will be provided.

## Bright Star Theatre: Aesop's Fables

**Monday, January 26 • 10:00 - 11:00 am**

Bright Star Touring Theatre's professional actors bring to life the fabulous fables of Aesop. With audience participation, moral lessons available in five fables, their hilarious play is guaranteed to leave audiences of all ages rolling in the aisles! For audiences in grades Pre-K and higher.

This program is brought to you through a partnership between Transylvania County Library and Mountain Sun Community School.

## LEGO® Night: Playground Scene

**Monday, January 26 • 6:00 - 7:00 pm**

On the 4th Monday of the month, children in grades K-5 can enjoy creative play by building from the monthly theme or free building. The Library will supply the LEGO® bricks. Caregivers are encouraged to attend with their children.

# more of the programs you love:

## genealogy meetup

Thursday, December 18 • Favorite Memories  
1:00 pm • North Carolina Room

Thursday, January 15 • RootsTech  
1:00 pm • North Carolina Room

Meet up with other family history enthusiasts to discuss genealogy topics. Bring and share your own research, discoveries, stories and memorabilia.

## ukulele circle

Thursday, December 11 • Holiday Songs  
6:00 pm • Rogow Room

Thursday, January 8 • Stage & Screen  
6:00 pm • Rogow Room

Join in and play with us! Bring your own ukulele or check one out with your library card.

## library tours

Wednesday, December 10 • 3:30 - 4:30 pm  
Wednesday, January 14 • 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Come check us out on a library tour! Whether you're new to our community or you're a longtime library lover, there's always plenty to discover at TCL. Join library staff for a one-hour tour. We'll take you behind the scenes at the library, highlighting things you may or may not know and sharing tips for making the most of your library.

## craft connection

Tuesday, January 27 • Needle Felting  
6:00 pm • Rogow Room • Registration Opens Jan. 2

We'll explore a different craft technique at each of these programs. Each session includes light instruction and a bit of guidance as you explore your creative side. These programs are for adults and *registration is required*.

## chess mates

Monday, December 8 • 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Monday, January 13 • 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Do you like to play chess? Looking for a partner to play with? Come to our monthly open chess play! We will have chess boards set out on the main floor of the library. Pick a board, play with a friend (new or old!) or observe a game in action. All ages and levels are welcome to play.

## cookbook club

Friday, December 12 • Favorite Recipes  
12:00 pm • Rogow Room • Registration opens Nov. 17

Friday, January 9 • Soup Season  
12:00 pm • Rogow Room • Registration opens Dec. 15

Registered participants can stop by the library to review a copy of the books and choose a recipe to make and share with the other participants. We'll taste each other's culinary creations, talk about the cookbook, share what we learned and swap recipes. *Space is limited & registration is required*.

## yoga

Join us for yoga at the library every Friday morning at 9:30 am in the Rogow Room! Instructor Clare Desmelik leads the series. Bring your own mat and water bottle. This class is free and open to all ages & experience levels.



## Won't you be a Friend?

A \$15.00 contribution entitles you to a year's membership; however, the generosity of your contribution determines the extent of assistance the Friends can provide to the Library. Membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please mail your check (payable to Friends of the Library) and this form to: *Friends of the Library, 212 S. Gaston St., Brevard, NC 28712*. Or, drop off this form at the Library any time!

**PLEASE include your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number on the reverse side.**

- ☐ **Yes!** I want to be a **Friend of the Library** with my \$15 annual contribution.
- ☐ **Yes!** I would like to **make an additional donation** to further support the Friends of the Library's mission in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. **Total enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_.** **Thank you for your generosity!**

Want to join or renew online? Want to donate to the Friends of the Library?

Visit [library.transylvaniacounty.org/fol](http://library.transylvaniacounty.org/fol)



**library closures:** wed. 12/24 - sat. 12/27; thu. 1/1; mon. 1/19



## library hours

212 South Gaston Street  
Brevard, NC 28712  
828.884.3151

Monday 9:30 am - 8:00 pm  
Tuesday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Wednesday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Thursday 9:30 am - 8:00 pm  
Friday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Sunday closed

NC Room is closed on Saturdays

Bookmobile schedule is online



## find us online

### website:

[library.transylvaniacounty.org](http://library.transylvaniacounty.org)



### facebook:

@transylvaniacountylibrary



### instagram:

@TCLibraryNC



Book Store Hours:  
Monday - Friday from  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Thursdays: 9:30 am - 7:00 pm



## all things appalachia

SPEAKER SERIES

A monthly program series exploring the natural world,  
culture & history of the southern Appalachian region.  
First Thursday evenings of most months.

## red spruce restoration

with Kelly Holdbrooks,  
executive director of  
Southern Highlands Reserve

Thursday, December 4 • 6:00 pm

The Red Spruce has been in decline  
due to overlogging, pests and  
environmental changes. Learn more  
about this at-risk plant, its importance to the ecosystem  
and coordinated efforts of the Southern Appalachian  
Spruce Restoration Initiative to halt its disappearance.



## wave to the bookmobile:

## Holiday Parades

Brevard - Saturday, Dec. 6  
Rosman - Sunday, Dec. 7



The Library newsletter is made  
possible by the  
Friends of the Library.  
**Won't you be a Friend?**