transylvania COUNTY LIBRARY
volume no. 6
December 2026/January 2027

at the library

winter library challenge



December 1 - January 30

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 January 30 and be entered in a prize raffle.

jigsaw puzzle competition



Register your team of 2-4 players for the qualifying round from **January 4 -22**. Race to finish the official competition puzzle and outpace your challengers! The fastest team will be the Puzzle Champions.

community art project

Make some rockin' art with us!
Stop by the Library for some rock painting. Your art will then be weather-proofed, and added to the upcoming Community Rock Garden outside of the Rogow Room.

Dear Community,

I'm writing this on a Friday morning, heading into our first genuinely cold weekend of the year. It is a brisk 44 degrees out, but the sun is shining and a dedicated group of folks are layered up outside doing yoga in the amphitheater. By the time you are reading this, Friday morning yoga will have moved inside for the winter, but I can't help but admire the hardy crew outside, deeply breathing the fresh air and watching the last of the leaves fall.

I find myself anticipating the pleasures of winter: making soup, curling up with a pet and a good book and the permission to slow down a little. This is the ideal time of year to settle in, find comfort in familiar things and make room for a bit of quiet. Reading for the sheer enjoyment of it, listening to music, learning something just because it interests you, or spending a little time somewhere welcoming. These may seem like small things, but they can make the colder, quieter months feel a little brighter and calmer.

Of course, winter isn't always cozy. The days are short, the weather can be dreary and sometimes we need a reason to get out of the house. The library can offer a little of both: a warm and welcoming place to spend time and an opportunity to discover something new. You might find your next favorite book, attend a bluegrass or handbell concert, move your body with yoga (indoors!) or simply enjoy a change of scenery. You can check out a cookbook, a ukulele, a board game or a kit for a book club gathering.

Our Winter Library Challenge is a perfect opportunity to embrace that spirit of exploration. Whether you're reading more, venturing into an unfamiliar genre or discovering something new, we hope you'll join us. There's no need to turn it into another resolution or item on your to-do list. Let's follow our curiosity simply because it brings us joy.

Whatever winter brings, I hope the library can be part of your season — a place to find comfort, inspiration and maybe a little adventure.

I'll see you at the library!

Rishara Finsel, Library Director



holiday concerts



love came down at christmas



blue ridge ringers

tuesday, december 1 • 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.



nova! nova!

musicke antiqua

tuesday, december 8 • 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.



a bluegrass christmas

paddle faster acoustic

tuesday, december 15 • noon

A Bluegrass Christmas is a new addition to our holiday concert series! Playing Bluegrass, Americana, and traditional county music, Paddle Faster Acoustic is a local duo based in Hendersonville. Come enjoy great harmonies of Christmas classics built around Karen's banjo and Scott on guitar, electric guitar and mandolin.



medicare 101

Wednesday, January 6 • 10:00 am • Rogow Room

Are you new to Medicare? There's a lot to learn! Join us, along with NC Cooperative Extension and the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) to learn how Medicare works, the enrollment process, how to avoid penalties and ways to save money.



noontime notions



The Meaning of Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Tuesday, January 19

noon • Rogow Room

Part lecture and part performance by storyteller and former Dekalb College President Marvin Cole

mobile food market at the Library!



December 17 & January 21

Stop by for fresh produce and other food items. This event is free and open to all!

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Bring your reusable bags!

in collaboration with:

hunger-free TRANSYLVANIA

Transylvania County Library
Rogow Room
212 S. Gaston Street
Brevard, NC 28712

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





Radon Awareness
Wednesday, January 13 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

Wells & Septic
Wednesday, January 20 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

Emergency Planning & Preparedness
Wednesday, January 27 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

Erosion Control
Wednesday, February 3 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

Construction in Western North Carolina
Wednesday, February 10 • 12:00 pm • Rogow Room

kanopy kids

Did you know that your library card gives you access to streaming videos for kids and families? Kanopy Kids is a curated collection of over 2,000 videos, with a focus on ages 2-8. Explore favorites from Franklin, Paddington Bear and PBS Kids plus read-along books! Access from the library's website or through the Libby app.

The Transylvania County Library Foundation gratefully recognizes those honored through gifts received during recent months.

In Honor Of

Eleanor Mercer
Katie Wahlbrink

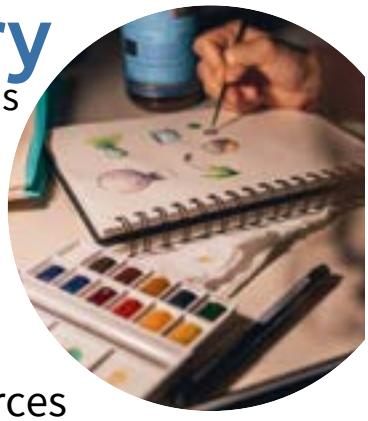
In Memory Of

John Thomas Welch II
Morris Jenkins
Freddie Elizabeth Hart



Sketch & Story

with Hannah Vorus



A themed writing and drawing group for individuals ages 13 through 100+! Drop in and get inspired with prepared prompts and library resources to reference. Artist & writer Hannah Vorus will facilitate each meeting. Sessions are one hour and seats are first-come, first-served.

Map Making	Dreams & Subconscious	Self Portraits
Jan. 19	Feb. 2	Feb. 16
4:00 pm	4:00 pm	4:00 pm

Check out the newest Local History Display!

Come visit the Rowell Bosse North Carolina Room to see a local history display highlighting postcards from throughout the years. The Postcard Evolution display will be available to view through Spring 2027. For more local history information, watch for regular Picturing the Past articles in the Transylvania Times!



Transylvania County Library presents:

memory cafe

A monthly, one-hour social gathering for those experiencing early-stage Alzheimer's, dementia or memory loss, and for their accompanying care partners. Join us for a short activity and refreshments. Registration is suggested, but not required.

Monday, Dec. 7 • 10:30 - 11:30 am
Rogow Room • Holiday Treats

Monday, Jan. 4 • 10:30 - 11:30 am
Rogow Room • Board Games & Cards

a note from the friends of the library president

Dear Friends of the Transylvania County Library,

Thanks to your generosity, enthusiasm and hard work, this year's Friends of the Library Book Sale was another wonderful success! The funds raised will go directly toward supporting programs, technology and resources for readers of all ages.

Our Friends membership currently stands at nearly 900 members, including new members and renewals from opening day. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we started with roughly 375 boxes of books and finished with just three bins left—plus 110 boxes sent to Better World Books to find new readers.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, shopped, joined or volunteered to make this possible, as well as the volunteers who run our Second Story Bookstore and online sales all year long. The bookstore is always open and welcoming your gently used book donations.

We are proud to recognize our book sale volunteers by name below. Thank you for making a meaningful difference in our community and we look forward to another wonderful year together!

FRIENDS OF transylvania COUNTY LIBRARY

Best,
Khaled Khiyar
President

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

David Alff
Beth Allen
Gary Allison
Pat Barton
Jazmina Baukys
Annette Blum
Gail Blunt
Peggy Bogardus
Jeni Brandon
Martha Bridges
Margaret Brown
Tony Carollo
Jane Carter
Susan Causey
Liz Cozart
Marlene Cronin
Deborah Davies
Dorne Dietsch
Brenda Doroski
Pam Drellow
Marilyn Edie
Laurie Fagan
Raoul Gagne
Susan Goldsworthy
Sheila Gombar-Fetner
Lynda Good

Ann Hackford
Tim Hansen
Alice Hardy
Ann Hinze
Mildred Hoover
Beverly Hughey
Molly Jenkins
Gerri Jergensen
Maureen Keate
Julia Kennerly
Victoria Kerr
Khaled Khiyar
Colin Kirkman
Lynn Klein
Kristina Klose
Yvonne Krowka
Becky Lewis
Kathy Lieffort
Anita Loveland
Martha Mayberry
Lorie Mihelich
Marie Miller
Charlene Montante
Carol Moore
Andrea Muirhead
James Murray

Jordan Newberry
Carol Poole
Edward Ramsey
Tia Ramsey
Rich Schram
Phil Stewart
Bill Stubbs
Bonnie Sutton
Cliff Szafran
Karen Szafran
Donna Tagliarino
Scott Tagliarino
Pat Thomson
Aleta Tisdale
Jinx Vidrine
Twighla Voglesong
Dave Watts
Alice Wellborn
Colvin Wellborn
Sam Wellborn
Pam Williams
Ann Zelle
Susan Zelle
Jenny Zia

Brevard College Futures Football Team:
Kris Alvarez, Coach
Dennis Banister
Jeremy Boone
Gregor Brock
Jackson Borders
Ny'Mell Cameron-Skinner
Sincere Columbos
Drew Dougherty
Jamall Georges
DJ Lewis
Darren Logan
Teron McCovery
Jayden Pagan
Tyler Phillips
Kaleb Ricketts
Akeem Rose-McAdams
Isaiah Sams
Austin Smith
Parker Standridge
CJ Thomas
Tyler Thomas
Derek Velasques
Jeleel Willis
Jamicheal Willis

kid & teen activities



Teen Space Activity
December • Wikki Stix Sculptures
January • Snow Globes
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 month: Building
- 2nd week of month: Craft
- 3rd week of month: Dance
- 4th week of month: Art
- 5th week in December: Music & Movement

Paws & Pages
Wednesdays, December 2 & 16 • 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wednesdays, January 6 & 20 • 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 3 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thursday, January 7 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Registration required - visit the Kids & Teens desk
Get excited about reading by joining our lively book discussions. Kids age 6-9 will be reading "Donavan's Word Jar" by Monalisa DeGross in December. Then "Blast to the Past: Lincoln's Legacy" by Stacia Deutsch and Rhody Cohon in January. Snacks will be provided. Pick up a book club copy at the Kids & Teens desk. Registration opens 3-weeks before date.

Raving Readers
Monday, December 7 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Registration required - visit the Kids & Teens desk
Kids ages 10-13 will be reading "The Bletchley Riddle" by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin. Sign up for the discussion and pick up a book club copy at the Kids & Teens Desk. Snacks will be provided. Registration opens 3-weeks before date.

The North Carolina Arboretum's ecoEXPLORE Program: Mammalogy Season
Thursday, December 10 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Join us for an educational program with the North Carolina Arboretum to learn all about the many mammals that call Western North Carolina their home! Come 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.

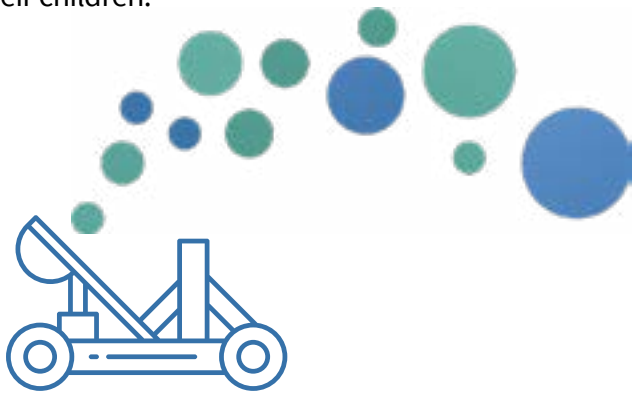
Second Saturday Storytime & Craft
Saturdays, December 12 & January 9
11:00 am Family Storytime (birth - 5 years)
11:30 am Craft Time
Stories, songs, movement and a craft to build your child's early literacy skills. Same theme and craft as Tuesday storytime.

Playdough Playtime
Thursday, December 31 • 10:30 - 11:00 am
Registration link on library's online event calendar
Come build, create and play with our colorful playdough collection! Use your imagination to sculpt your own designs or squish and shape the dough on our playmats to learn numbers, letters, shapes and more! This program is for children ages 3 – 5 and their caregivers.

GetSet Transylvania's Family Dinner Series - Safe Child Blueprint: Spotting Predators Online and In Person
Monday, January 11 • 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Registration link online coming soon
Join us for the upcoming Family Dinner Series event, where families can enjoy a meal together while learning about topics that support healthy child development and family well-being. Childcare will be available for kids who are 18 months and older. More details to come!

Family Fort Night & Read-In
Friday, January 22 • 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Registration link on library's online event calendar
Bring fort-building materials (like blankets and sheets) to create a family reading oasis in the Library - after hours! A snack will be provided.

LEGO® Night
Monday, January 25 • 6:00 - 7:00 pm • Catapult Contest
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 17 • Same Name Research
1:00 pm • North Carolina Room

Thursday, January 21 • Canadian Immigration, Naturalization & Citizenship
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 10 • Holiday Songs
6:00 pm • Rogow Room

Thursday, January 14 • 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.
Song packets available in advance at Circulation.

mending circle

Thursday, January 21 • 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us for a casual get-together as we work to repair favorite clothing items in need of a little TLC. Bring an item that requires fixing for guidance.
Shiloh Broadway, our handy facilitator, will guide us through the process of mending old garments and preventing them from ending up in the landfill.

craft connection

Tuesday, January 26 • Etched Glass
6:00 pm • Rogow Room • Registration opens Jan. 4
Registration link on library's online event calendar

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.

chess mates

Monday, December 14 • 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Monday, January 11 • 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 11 • Family Favorites and *Food Gifts*
12:00 pm • Rogow Room • Registration opens Nov. 16

Friday, January 8 • Jamie Oliver Month
12:00 pm • Rogow Room • Registration opens Dec. 14
Registration links on library's online event calendar

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.

yoga

Join us for yoga at the library every Friday morning! Class starts at 9:30 am in the Rogow Room, and instructor Clare Desmelik leads the series. This class is free and open to all ages and experience levels.

Join staff for a one hour, behind-the-scenes tour of the library! Dec. 9 & Jan. 13 at 3:30 pm in the library foyer.

FRIENDS OF transylvania COUNTY LIBRARY

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

library closures: dec. 18 close at 12 p.m. • closed dec. 24 - 28 • dec. 31 close at 5:30 p.m. • closed jan. 1 & jan. 18

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

facebook:
@transylvaniacountylibrary

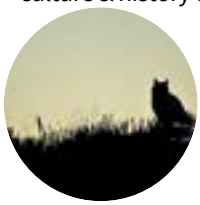
instagram:
@TCLibraryNC

second story BOOK STORE

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



effects of light pollution on wildlife

with Pam Torlina of
Conserving Carolina
Thursday, December 3 • 6:00 pm

Biologist Pam Torlina will focus on the negative effects of light pollution on amphibians, birds, mammals and insects, and also outline simple steps we can all take to reduce light pollution.

founding daughters of the DAR

with members of Waightstill Avery Chapter DAR
Thursday, January 7 • 6:00 pm

Costumed members of the local chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will present on the foundation of the national DAR and the local Waightstill Avery Chapter.





wave to the bookmobile:
Holiday Parades

Brevard • Saturday, Dec. 5
Rosman • Sunday, Dec. 6

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

transylvania COUNTY LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF transylvania COUNTY LIBRARY

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