HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wishing you the best of health, much happiness, no stress, frequent visits to the library, and loads of good laughs in 2018.

SAVE THE DATE. The Friends annual membership meeting/social event will be held Friday evening, January 19, 6:30 pm, at the Lafayette Inn in Stanardsville. Complimentary appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. This event is to give members an accounting of the past year’s expenditures by the corporation and the planned budget for 2018; it is also an enjoyable social time with great folks.

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS. During 2017, the Friends of the Greene County Library added 18 new members. Thank you all for recognizing the value of library programs by joining the group.

SCHEDULED LIBRARY CLOSINGS. January 1; January 15 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day); February 19 (President’s Day).

FIRST THURSDAY ADULT BOOK CLUB, 7:00 pm. January 4 and February 1. This is a friendly group of serious readers; newcomers are warmly welcomed at any time. The January 4 meeting will be to select the books in 2018; check jmrl.org/greene to see which books will be discussed.

CHRONICLES OF YARNIA – NEW PROGRAM STARTING IN FEBRUARY. (Ages 12 to adult). An evening of knitting, crocheting, and other fiber crafts will take place at the Greene
Branch on the first Tuesdays, **6-7:30 pm**, starting **February 6**. Bring any fiber projects that you are working on and share patterns, tips, and techniques with fellow crafters. Susan Bashline from Magpie Knits will share tips and explain the basics of knitting and crocheting.

**SECOND FRIDAY FILMS, 7:00 pm.** Watch a free film at the library with neighbors. Complimentary coffee and desserts are served.

**January 12 – The Big Sick** (2017). Pakistan-born comedian Kumail Nanjiani and grad student Emily Gardner fall in love but struggle as their cultures clash. When Emily contracts a mysterious illness, Kumail finds himself forced to face her feisty parents, his family's expectations, and his true feelings.

**February 9 – Wild Tales** (2014). Six short stories that explore the extremities of human behavior involving people in distress.

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.** The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. which opened in September 2016 is devoted to the documentation of African American life, art, history, and culture and hosts a series of discussions, screenings, and workshops throughout the year.

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.” Franklin Thomas, activist, philanthropist, and former president of the Ford Foundation

**OPEN MIC NIGHT.** This event is back again! **Friday, February 2, 7-9:00 pm** at the PVCC Giuseppe Center. The Teen Advisory Board invites the community to bring their talents to the stage. Family-friendly performances by all ages and skill levels are welcome. Performer registration is required by January 27; all others come and enjoy the show and refreshments. Volunteers are needed to help set up before and clear up after; contact Michelle at the library to offer your assistance.
USING NATIVE PLANTS IN LANDSCAPING.
Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 pm. Beth Mizell of the Virginia Native Plant Society will discuss native plants and using them in your landscape. Copies of Piedmont Native Plants will be available for purchase and refreshments will be served.

COMMUNITY TIES. A reminder that the Greene County Visitor Center (985-6663) and the Historical Society (985-1834) continue to seek volunteers to devote 4 hours a month at the Visitor Center, 2½ hours a month at the Museum (or more if you’re willing). Also, don’t forget to check the Greene Animal Shelter for volunteering opportunities and especially for adopting a new best friend.

If you haven’t visited the Blue Ridge Heritage Project monument at the corner of Celt Road and Main Street, you should stop and spend a few moments at the site. The Blue Ridge Barn Quilt Trail map identifying locations of the quilts in Greene is available online and at various sites.

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TEENS, TWEENS, AND KIDS PROGRAMS (See Beyond the Books and Library material for details on these programs.)

Teen Advisory Board (TAB). (Grades 6-12). This group helps to plan teen programs and is the fun way to earn volunteer hours. Meets second Wednesday at 3:30 pm; snacks are provided. January 10, February 14.

Bibliophiles: Teen Book Club. (Grades 8-12). This group of teen book lovers meets to discuss titles chosen by the group. Meets the fourth Wednesday at 3:30 pm. January 24, February 22

Rapunzels: Book Group for Tween Girls. (Grades 4-8). This group reads and discusses great books and enjoys snacks, crafts, and games. Meets the third Thursday at 3:30 pm. January 18, February 15

Sharks: Boys Book Club. (Grades 4-8). This group reads and talks about great books, does fun activities, and enjoys snacks. Meets the second Thursday at 3:30 pm. January 11, February 8.

Storybook Beat. (For ages 3-5). Every Thursday at 10:30 am.

Read and Rhyme Time. (For ages 1-2). Every Wednesday at 10:30 am.
FAVORITE BOOKS BY WOMEN IN 2017. These are a few of the books read and recommended by Madhulika Sikka who is the creator and curator of the book discovery site and podcast 52weeks52books52 women. She is also the author of A Breast Cancer Alphabet.

*Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie; *Sofia Khan is Not Obliged* by Ayisha Malik; *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng; *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko; *Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke; *The Windfall* by Diksha Basu; and *The Private Life of Mrs. Sharma* by Ratika Kapur.

The Newsletter editor apologizes for the omission of jokes from the last issue. For those of you who complained and even threatened 😞 not to renew their memberships if it happened again, hopefully these will make you smile.

* I refused to believe my road worker father was stealing from his job, but when I got home all the signs were there.

* You can never lose a homing pigeon – if your homing pigeon doesn’t come back, what you’ve lost is a pigeon.

* As I watched my dog chasing his tail I thought “dogs are easily amused”, then I realized I watching the dog chasing his tail.

* The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours. Church Bulletin

* The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.” Church Bulletin

Extracts from funny complaint letters to housing associations and councils in the U.K. –

* I wish to report that tiles are missing from the roof of the outside toilet and I think it was bad wind the other night that blew them off.

* 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster and the rest are plain filthy.

* This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broken and we can't get BBC2.

The End