

DECEMBER 2025

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

History, Archives & Special Collections

This month at Jones

Workshop: Using Photography to Enhance Your Genealogy

Saturday, December 6
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
JML Reading Room

Join us for a free workshop on how to use photography to enhance and complement your family history research.

Research Assistant Nancy Jamerson Weiland walks you through how to document family heirlooms and connect visual records to your genealogical research.

This workshop is free and open to the public. No reservation required.



On Display: The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace

2026 Virginia Top 10 Endangered Artifact

Jones Memorial Library is honored to share that a rare 1774 legal text from our collection, *The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace* by Richard Starke, has been selected as one of ten finalists in the Virginia Association of Museums' 2026 Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Program.

The Top 10 program supports conservation efforts at institutions across the Commonwealth. The library is calling on your support to help preserve our significant piece of Virginia's colonial legal history. You can vote daily for JML's entry until February 20th at
<https://www.vamuseums.org/vote-for-vas-top-10-endangered-artifacts>

**JONES
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**
History, Archives & Special Collections

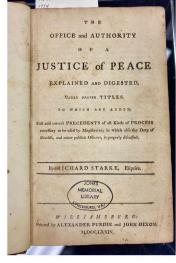
vam
VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
of MUSEUMS

Jones Memorial Library is honored to have
The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace
named one of [Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts](#)

Help us secure conservation funding in the People's Choice program!
Vote daily between now and February 20, 2026 at
<https://www.vamuseums.org/virginia-top-10-endangered-artifacts>

**Vote for
JML!**





The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace by Richard Starke is among the earliest legal handbooks created specifically for use in the American colonies. Published in Williamsburg in 1774, the book was designed to explain English common and statutory law in clear, practical language.

The manual guided justices of the peace in resolving disputes, enforcing moral and civil codes, and providing accessible legal forms for ordinary colonists on the eve of the American Revolution. As such, the book reflects both the influence of British legal tradition and the growing independence of American governance.

JML's rare volume bears the marks of its long life—the cover shows tape residue and handwritten notations, while interior pages are spotted and stained. Conservation treatment is needed to clean, stabilize, and protect this important resource that bridged English law and emerging American justice.

Exhibit: **READ**

On view until March 6 JML Reading Room

In October, JML launched a new exhibit about the history of censorship in Central Virginia. The exhibit examines the historical frameworks for restrictive efforts that occurred from the 1660s to the 1960s. Covering issues related to religion, abolition, and communism, "**READ**" shares censorship examples from across the Commonwealth, including from JML's own history.

"**READ**" is supported by a Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund Banned Books Week Programming Grant from The Freedom to Read Foundation. In 2025 five awardees from across the nation were selected among a competitive pool of libraries, schools and nonprofit organizations to offer innovative and engaging programming. The exhibit is on display until March 6, 2026.

"**READ**" is free and open to the public in the JML Reading Room. Groups may contact the library to arrange a tour.

**SELECT
SUPPRESS
CENSOR
BAN
BURN
REVISE**

READ

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO READ FREE
IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA?



October 7, 2025 - March 6, 2026

On exhibit in the Reading Room
Jones Memorial Library
2311 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501



Freedom to Read Foundation



Save the Dates!

January GLAM Thursday, January 22 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Lynchburg Museum

Are you a staff member or volunteer at a gallery, library, archive or museum in the Lynchburg area?

Lynchburg GLAM is a free networking group which meets four times a year. Area institutions sign up to host a tour and share updates on their collections and projects.

In January, Lynchburg GLAM will visit the Lynchburg Museum. To learn more, RSVP, and sign up for our e-mail list, visit the [GLAM webpage](#)

LYNCHBURG GLAM JANUARY 2026



Lynchburg
Museum
& Visitor Center

Join us for a tour and get together with
Lynchburg Museum
RSVP to engagement@lynchburgmuseum.org

Thursday, January 22, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Lynchburg Museum & Visitor Center
901 Court Street, Lynchburg VA 24504

Non-Fiction Book Group

Wednesday, January 28
10:30 a.m.
Westminster Canterbury

Join the Non-Fiction Book Group in January as we discuss *Margaret Fuller* by Megan Marshall.

The discussion group is free and open to the public. Sessions are moderated by librarians from Jones Memorial Library and the Lynchburg Public Library. We meet at Westminster Canterbury in the Hume Room.

Read all of the book, or come to learn more about it! You can borrow a copy of the book from the Lynchburg Public Library or use the Hoopla and Libby apps to read or listen online.

Our upcoming titles are:

January 28
Margaret Fuller by Megan Marshall

March 25
King: A Life by Jonathan Eig

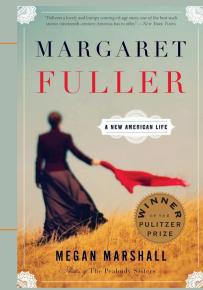
May 27
The Exceptions by Kate Zernike

Jones Memorial Library and Lynchburg Public Library invite you to:

Nonfiction Book Group
January 2026

Margaret Fuller
by Megan Marshall

Wednesday, January 28 at 10:30 a.m.
@ Westminster Canterbury Hume Room

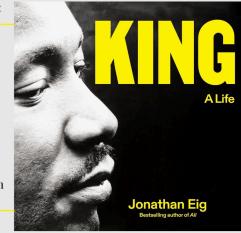


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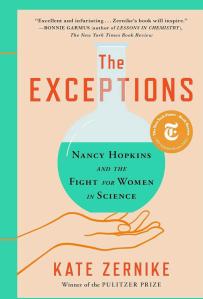


Jones Memorial Library and Lynchburg Public Library invite you to:

Nonfiction Book Group
May 2026

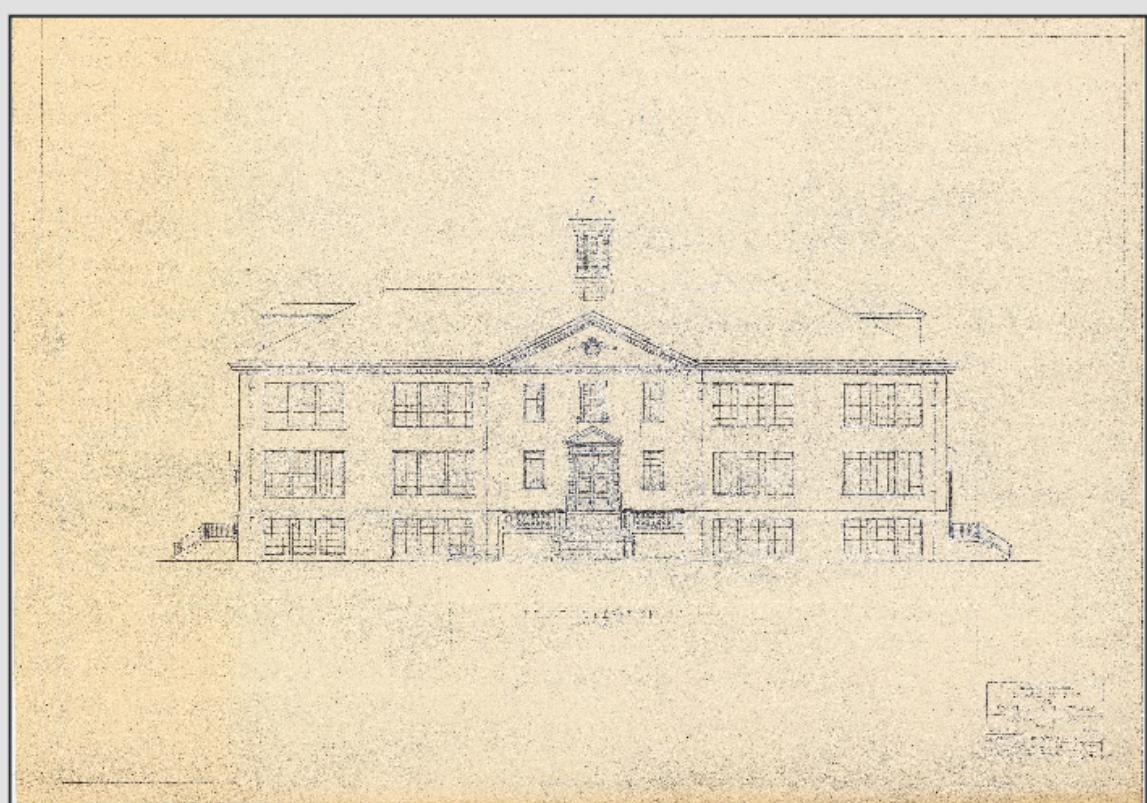
The Exceptions
by Kate Zernike

Wednesday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m.
@ Westminster Canterbury Hume Room



Now Online

Central Virginia Training Center blueprints



In November, JML installed a new wide format scanner. The scanner, which was funded by the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund and the Greater Lynchburg Community Fund, allows digitization of large materials like blueprints, posters, and maps.

Since installing the new equipment, our staff have begun scanning blueprints for Jones Memorial Library and the Central Virginia Training Center. The CVTC plans are being incorporated into a CVTC Item Set to provide access to related materials such as photographs, drawings, and news stories. You can find the CVTC Item Set on our digital collection portal with Omeka-S using the link below.

Jones Memorial Library has one of the largest collections of architectural materials in the state. With more than 5,000 sets of plans, JML is a frequent destination for architects and homeowners. Previously, the library had to outsource most requests for digitization. With our new equipment we are now able to digitize frequently consulted and non-fragile items in-house (some fees apply, please check with staff).

Central Virginia Training Center
Item Set

Service Updates

Holiday Hours @ JML in December

JML will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1. Happy holidays to all!

Lynchburg Public Library Renovation

Big changes are coming to our building!

Jones Memorial Library is a private genealogy and history archive. We are pleased to share a building with the Lynchburg Public Library. JML is located on the 2nd floor while LPL is on the 1st floor.

Starting in December, extensive renovations will be happening at LPL on the 1st floor. You can stay up to date about that project and how to access public library services during renovations on the LPL website at lynchburgpubliclibrary.org/

During the LPL renovations, JML will remain open to serve researchers using our genealogy and history collections. Our hours will remain the same. Limited parking will still be available near the library, and JML will remain accessible via the sidewalks on the Memorial Avenue side of the building.

Please note that JML provides specialized archive services; JML does not offer public library services. Patrons seeking those services during the renovations will be redirected to LPL's temporary service locations.

You can stay up to date about JML's programs and services on our website at www.jmlibrary.org

We're excited about the renovations planned for LPL and look forward to seeing their refreshed spaces in 2027.

**MAKE A GIFT TO THE 2025-26
ANNUAL FUND**

Jones Memorial Library

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24501

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