

JANUARY 2026

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

History, Archives & Special Collections

This month at Jones

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](#).



Non-Fiction Book Group

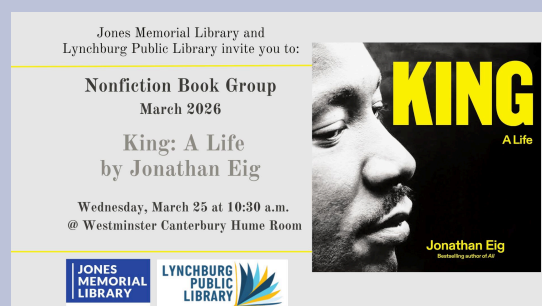
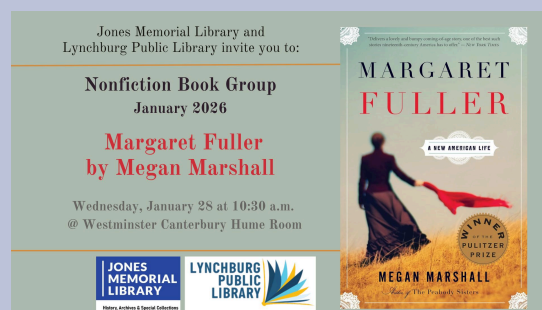
Wednesday, January 28
10:30 a.m.
Westminster Canterbury

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 co-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.

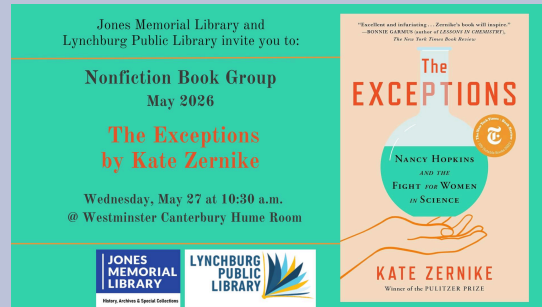
Our upcoming titles are:



January 28
Margaret Fuller by Megan Marshall

March 25
King: A Life by Jonathan Eig

May 27
The Exceptions by Kate Zernike



Visiting Lecture @ WCL

Thursday, January 29
10:30 a.m.
Westminster Canterbury

JML Executive Director Deborah Smith speaks about the "Lady Librarians of Lynchburg" at Westminster Canterbury. Deb will share the evolution of librarianship from a blue (male) to a pink (female) profession, and how that transition occurred in Lynchburg. She will also highlight some of the early female leaders who established libraries for Lynchburg readers at JML and Dunbar High School.

Please note that this talk is limited to WCL Residents in assisted living and nursing care as part of the Library's special outreach programming.

LADY LIBRARIANS OF LYNCHBURG

Thursday, January 29, 2026
10:30 a.m.
Westminster Canterbury Mezzanine

Guest speaker:
Deborah Smith, MLIS
Executive Director - Jones Memorial Library

Hear about the professional women
behind the Hill City's first public library







Pictured above, from left:
Mary Watts Jones, Jane Maud Campbell, Rachel Davis Harris, Anne Spencer

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

2026 Virginia Top 10 Endangered Artifact

Jones Memorial Library is honored to 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>

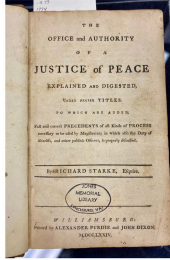


History, Archives & Special Collections

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>





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.

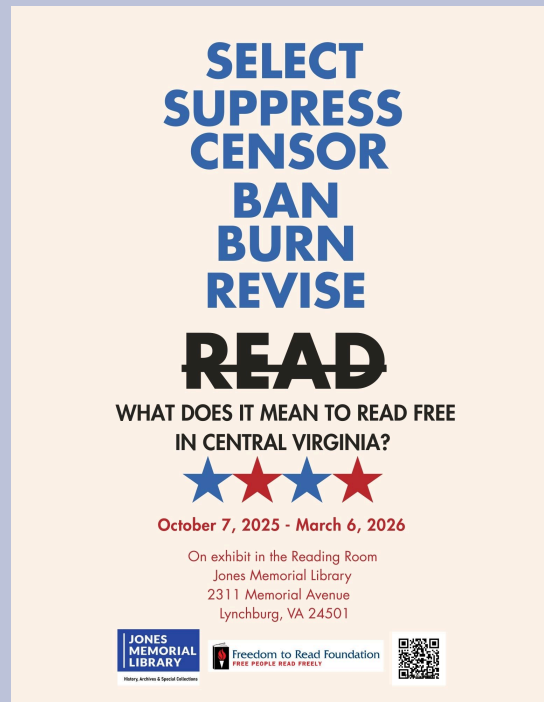
Exhibit: **READ**

**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.



Grant Received

GLCF Supports JML

Library receives funding for technology upgrades

In December, JML got the good news that the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation (GLCF) awarded the library \$7,800.00 in funding for technology improvements.

JML will use the GLCF funding to replace computing equipment used by patrons in the Reading Room. Four new Windows-11 compliant PCs and one new laptop will be installed at the library this winter.

In addition to the new equipment, JML plans to streamline the navigational menus for patrons accessing the library's resources in-



house. Set options will guide users to key resources including [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) Institutional Edition, Newspapers.com, Digital Jones, and JML's integrated library system (catalog).

Thank you GLCF for your support!

Research Focus

The Garland Family Collection (MS 1939)

This month, JML staff is working with student interns from Oberlin College to transcribe materials from Manuscript 1939, the Garland Family Collection.

The collection contains copies of the wills of Samuel Garland and General Samuel Garland, Jr., copies of court reports concerning the settlement of their estates, and a research paper. Also included are journals and ledgers, day books, and an account book (1845-1853) of the partnership of Samuel Garland, Maurice H. Garland and George T. Williams which records sales of enslaved persons, giving names and ages.

The student interns and JML staff will deploy artificial intelligence tools to transcribe the full collection and then extract the names and biographical data of enslaved persons on the Garland estates in Virginia and Mississippi.

The team is coordinating with a similar research effort at Washington & Lee University and reviewing relevant materials held by the Huntington Library (CA). JML plans to publish a dataset for this project with [Enslaved.org](https://www.enslaved.org) sometime in 2026.



Garland Family Collection

Service Updates

Holiday Hours @ JML in January

JML will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31. We will be closed on Thursday, January 01 and Saturday, January 17. Happy New Year!

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 January, 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.

Coming Soon

Memory & Digitization Lab opening this Spring!

We are nearing the opening of our new Memory & Digitization Lab, funded with a 2025 grant from the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund. This month we are cataloging new equipment for the lab and finalizing the appointment booking system.

The Memory & Digitization at Jones Memorial Library will be a dedicated do-it-yourself space equipped for scanning and digitizing letters and photographs. Lab equipment can be used to convert slides, cassette recordings, and video tapes into digital format. The lab also has equipment to record oral histories.

The Lab will be housed in re-purposed office space within the library and can accommodate 1 to 4 people at a time. Users will be able to book an appointment on the library's website and are encouraged to donate a copy of their digitized materials and/or oral histories to the Library for long-term preservation while retaining original documents, digital copies, and recordings.

Lab equipment will also be available for short-term loan to community groups such as churches, service member organizations, and others.

To learn more, visit our new Lab webpage at <https://www.jmlibrary.org/lab/>

THE ORAL HISTORY & MEMORY LAB

Preserving Stories
Sharing Memories



Jones Memorial Library
2311 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, Virginia

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

Jones Memorial Library

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24501

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