

# MARCH 2026

## JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

History, Archives & Special Collections

## New Services

### JML Launches New Catalog System and Opens Memory Lab

Jones Memorial Library is proud to announce two major technology upgrades that will help researchers, families, and history enthusiasts discover, preserve, and share the stories of Central Virginia. In February, the research library opened a new Memory & Digitization Lab, and in March we are launching a new online catalog system with unified search. These two investments together modernize how the community connects with the library's special collections and its own history. Read more about the two initiatives [here](#).

## This month at Jones

### John D. Owen Jr. History Series Documenting & Restoring Virginia's Houses with Travis McDonald

Wednesday, March 11  
5:00 p.m.  
Reading Room

The John D. Owen, Jr. History Lecture series returns this spring with our March talk by architectural historian Travis McDonald. Learn about a thirty year project to document early houses in the Central Virginia area. The annual Poplar Forest Restoration Field School is a unique training opportunity for students. See how participants have recorded and preserved the architectural history of old homes in the area that are in danger of disappearing from the local landscape.

Lectures at Jones Memorial Library are free and open to public.

SPRING 2026  
Freedom *Forward!*

Jones Memorial Library  
John D. Owen Jr. History Series

LECTURE SERIES

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501  
www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

3/11

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026  
5:00 P.M.



Travis McDonald

#### *Documenting & Restoring Virginia's Houses*



Learn about a thirty year project to document early houses in the Central Virginia area. The annual Poplar Forest Restoration Field School is a unique training opportunity for students. See how participants have recorded and preserved the architectural history of old homes in the area that are in danger of disappearing from the local landscape.

*Travis McDonald is an architectural historian who was hired to direct the restoration of Poplar Forest in 1989. A native of Galveston, Texas, he received a degree in American history from the University of Texas and a graduate degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia's School of Architecture. He formerly worked for the Chief Historical Architect of the National Park Service, for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and has directed museum restorations in Virginia for more than 40 years. In 2011 he was awarded The Architecture Medal for Virginia Service, by the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for his work at Poplar Forest. In 2016 he received a Commendation from the Virginia Senate for Preserving the Heritage of Virginia. In 2021 he was awarded the University of Virginia, School of Architecture's Distinguished Alumni Award.*

# Legacy Museum Women's History Month

Sunday, March 22  
3:00 p.m.  
JML Reading Room

The Legacy Museum hosts a free Women's History Month lecture at JML with guest speaker The Honorable Tamika Jones.

Judge Tamika Jones serves on the Fairfax County General District Court. A graduate of the University of Lynchburg, she was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 2009. Judge Jones is a former President of the Alexandria Bar Association and an active leader within the Virginia legal community. She will speak about why we should celebrate Women's History.

Legacy Museum  
**Women's History Month**  
Sunday • March 22, 2026 • 3pm  
Jones Memorial Library  
2311 Memorial Avenue • Lynchburg, VA 24501

**Guest Speaker**  
**The Honorable Tamika Jones**

Judge Tamika Jones serves on the Fairfax County General District Court, presiding over traffic, criminal, and civil cases. A graduate of the University of Lynchburg and The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, she was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 2009 and has extensive experience in criminal, civil, and family law. Judge Jones is a former President of the Alexandria Bar Association and an active leader within the Virginia legal community.

- Local Educator presenting a message on why we should celebrate Women's History
- Light Refreshments
- FREE Admission, Donations Accepted

For more information, call 434.845.3455

Legacy Museum  
Of African American History  
OUR HISTORY IS YOUR HISTORY

## Non-Fiction Book Group

Wednesday, March 25  
10:30 a.m.  
Westminster Canterbury

Join the Non-Fiction Book Group in March as we discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig.

At our March and May meetings we will also discuss and finalize our non-fiction reads for 2026-27. Come with your suggestions!

The book 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.

### Upcoming titles:

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**  
March 2026

**King: A Life**  
by Jonathan Eig

Wednesday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m.  
@ Westminster Canterbury Hume Room

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
Lynchburg Public Library

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

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
Lynchburg Public Library

## GLAM Directors Roundtable

Thursday, March 26  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
JML Reading Room

Directors and Board members at area GLAM organizations are invited for an informal brown bag roundtable at Jones Memorial Library.

Bring a lunch of your choice and chat about strategic directions and issues that affect local galleries, libraries, archives, museums (and similar institutions) within the cultural heritage sector.

Please register for this discussion by emailing [director@jmlibrary.org](mailto:director@jmlibrary.org)

## JML On-the-Road!

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
16th Annual Lemon Project Spring Symposium @ William & Mary

Panel #21:  
"Together, Lynchburg Stands - with Courage, Dignity & Joy"

Jones Memorial Library is partnering with the Legacy Museum of African-American History and Silent Witnesses, Inc. on a panel presentation at the Lemon Project's Spring Symposium to highlight how Lynchburg is confronting difficult history, inspiring empowerment and repair, and sharing a call for connected action.

## LYH GLAM DIRECTORS BROWN BAG ROUNDTABLE



Thursday, March 26, 2026  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Directors and Trustees at area GLAM organizations are invited to bring a lunch of your choice and chat together about strategic directions and issues

To register and submit a discussion topic, email [director@jmlibrary.org](mailto:director@jmlibrary.org)

Jones Memorial Library  
2811 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24501

WILLIAM & MARY



Now Open!

## Memory & Digitization Lab now open for appointments

JML's Memory & Digitization Lab is now open for appointments. The Lab is funded with a 2025 grant from the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund and the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation.

The Memory Lab at Jones Memorial Library is a do-it-yourself space equipped for scanning and digitizing letters and photographs. The Lab is free to use by appointment and includes equipment to convert slides, cassette recordings, and video tapes into digital format. The Lab also has equipment to record oral histories.

The Lab is housed in re-purposed office space within the library and can accommodate 1 to 4 people at a time. Users are encouraged to bring a USB drive and an SD or SDHC card to save digitized files. The library welcomes a donated copy of their digitized materials and/or oral histories for long-term preservation in JML's collection.

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

To learn more and book a free appointment, visit <https://www.jmlibrary.org/lab/>

Listen:

[JML's Executive Director chats about the Memory Lab on WLNI Best of the Burg \(February 6, 2026\)](#)

# THE ORAL HISTORY & MEMORY LAB

Preserving Stories  
Sharing Memories



Jones Memorial Library

2311 Memorial Avenue  
Lynchburg, Virginia

**Online & At JML**

## Exhibit: **READ**

### On view in the 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.

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

### Charles Minor Blackford Business Correspondence MS 2150

More than 300 of Charles Minor Blackford's business letters from before and after the American Civil War are now available on Digital Jones.

The letters came from the Blackford family to Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. and then to the Historic Sandusky Foundation.

In 2025, Historic Sandusky digitized and donated the letters to JML. The library condensed the digital images into pdf formats and added them to the online collection in February. The digital copies are organized in the same order that the letters were maintained by Historic Sandusky.

**SELECT  
SUPPRESS  
CENSOR  
BAN  
BURN  
REVISE**

**READ**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO READ FREE  
IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA?

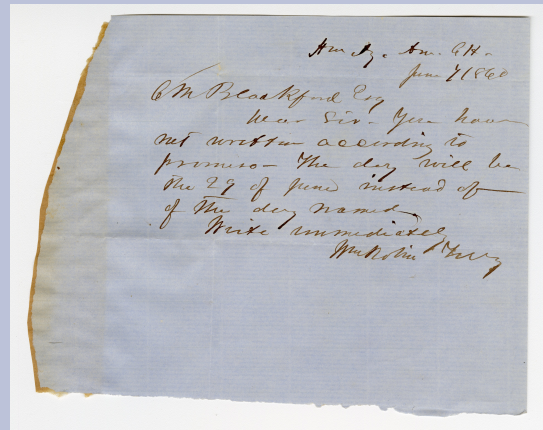
★ ★ ★ ★

October 7, 2025 - March 6, 2026

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

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
History Archives & Special Collections

Freedom to Read Foundation  
FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY



Charles Minor Blackford Business  
Correspondence (JML.MS2150)

## Lynchburg GLAM Collections Directory

Got stuff?

Want to find the best place to donate your historic photographs, documents, artwork, or other materials that matter to Lynchburg history? Visit the new Lynchburg GLAM Collections Directory webpage.

The webpage has links to area organizations that preserve Central Virginia's past. You'll find contact information for each organization, plus policies about the types of materials that are accepted and the paperwork required for your donation.

Want to include your GLAM organization on the list? Just email us at [refdesk@jmlibrary.org](mailto:refdesk@jmlibrary.org).

### LYH GLAM Collections Directory

Are you looking to make a donation of artwork, historical documents, or other materials in the Lynchburg area? The Lynchburg GLAM Collections Directory is a one-stop spot to learn more about what institutions in the area collect and who to contact to learn more about making a donation.



Avoca Museum  
1514 Main Street  
Altavista, VA 24517  
Phone: 434-329-1076

Contact: Caleb LaFoon (Director) [director@avocamuseum.org](mailto:director@avocamuseum.org)

Collection Scope: Avoca Museum is a premier cultural landmark housed in a 1901 Queen Anne-style Victorian mansion. The museum sits on the historic homestead of Revolutionary War Patriot Colonel Charles Lynch and serves as the dedicated repository for the History of the Altavista area and Campbell County. Collections include the extensive Juliet Fauntleroy Native American Artifacts Collection, Civil War memorabilia, and local industrial history. The grounds also feature a replica late-18th-century log cabin, a Revolutionary War-era kitchen, antebellum-era outbuildings, and the Doral and Nancy Dinwiddie Arboretum. The museum accepts donations of artifacts, documents, and photographs that are historically significant to the Altavista region and Campbell County. Please note that all donated items are accepted at the discretion of the executive director and a collections committee.

More Info:  
[Avoca Museum](#)  
[Artifact Donations](#)



Daura Museum of Art  
University of Lynchburg  
1501 Lakeside Avenue  
Lynchburg, VA 24501  
Phone: 434-544-8595

Contact: Brooke Marcy (Curator) [Marcy\\_bb@lynchburg.edu](mailto:Marcy_bb@lynchburg.edu)

Collection Scope: The Daura Museum of Art collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets works of art, benefiting the University of Lynchburg curriculum and enriching the general public. The collection comprises significant works by American international artists, ethnographic art, and other works that exemplify techniques and materials from various periods and locations. Emphasis is placed on painting, sculpture, fine prints, and photography.

More Info:  
[Collections and Exhibitions](#)

LYH GLAM  
Collections Directory

## Facility Update

### JML Open While LPL Renovates

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.

Extensive renovations are launching at LPL on the 1st floor. You can stay up to date and learn how to access public library services on the LPL website at [lynchburgpubliclibrary.org/](http://lynchburgpubliclibrary.org/)

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

MAKE A GIFT TO THE 2025-26  
ANNUAL FUND

### Jones Memorial Library

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24501

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