

THE JONES 2026

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026



**JONES
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**

History, Archives & Special Collections

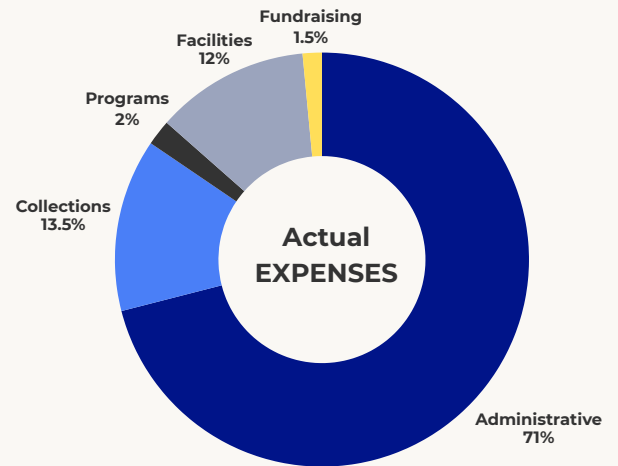
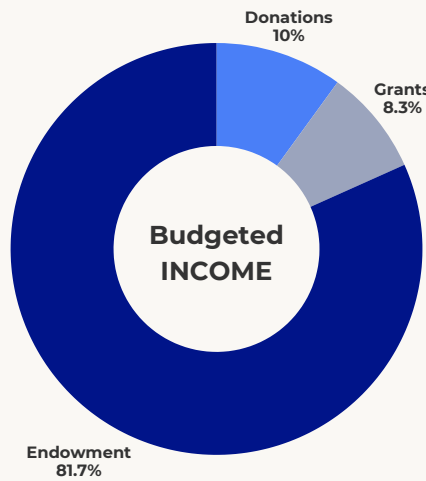
FY26: THE NUMBERS

\$325,750

Fiscal year
Operating
Budget

\$67,107.53

Income received
(gifts, grants &
services)



2,000+

Visitors to
the library

14

Staff members
& regular
volunteers

Above: Executive Director Deborah Smith (far right) hosted the History of Integration Tour offered by Lynchburg Parks & Recreation during their stop at The Jones in February.

Board of Trustees

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Archivist

Gwen Wells, MLIS

Research Assistants

Isabella Kilper

Molly Landergan

K.H. Woodford

Collections Assistant

Garrett Reynolds

Annual Report Design

Molly Landergan

Disclosure: Some content in this publication was drafted with assistance from artificial intelligence tools.

Front cover: Jones staff at the reference desk on May 20, 2026, United Way Day of Caring. Library staff and volunteers from Virginia A&E spent the day working together organizing and painting closets to improve the storage of supplies and equipment at the library.

A Message from Leadership

Thank you for your generous support! Your contributions made 2025-26 a year of preservation, discovery, and connection at Jones Memorial Library.

Our work was guided by three principles at the core of everything we do:

Preserve. With support from the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund and the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation, we opened a new Memory Lab and purchased a wide-format scanner. Since acquiring the scanner, The Jones has been digitizing large format items from our collection while partnering with peer organizations to offer free scanning services to preserve the area's cultural heritage. In June, we received an honorable mention for the PACSCL Noel Prize for the digitization of more than 2,500 pages of architect Stanhope Johnson's records related to his 1950's restoration of Patrick Henry's Red Hill.

Discover. In March, we launched a new integrated library system with ByWater Solutions, moving our catalog to Koha and Aspen Discovery for a more modern, intuitive search experience. The new search interface displays results across our catalog and digital holdings, to give users the bigger picture of what we hold in all formats at The Jones.

Share. We offered more than 17 programs and exhibits. As just one of five national recipients of a 2025 Freedom to Read Foundation grant, we mounted an exhibit on the history of censorship in Central Virginia, then paired the exhibit with a lecture by UVA librarian Keith Weimer that sparked meaningful conversation on this subject.

This year brought both a **farewell** and a **welcome**: the retirement of Nancy Jamerson Weiland after 30 years of dedicated service, and the arrival of Isabella Kilper as our new Oral History and Reference Assistant. You can read more about the celebration of Nancy's service on page 10.

As you read on, you'll see the many ways your support makes our work possible. On behalf of the Board and staff, thank you!



Gerard

Gerard Sherayko, Ph.D.



Deb

Deborah A. Smith, M.L.I.S.

100%

Board
participation
in the
Annual Fund

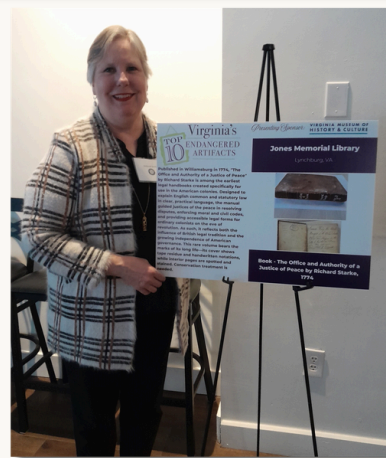


PRESERVE

A Place to Save Your Stories

In February 2026, The Jones opened the Oral History & Memory Lab, a free space where community members can record oral histories and digitize family photos, slides, cassettes, and home videos. The Library also acquired a new wide-format scanner that, for the first time, lets staff digitize large-format items on site like architectural blueprints, maps, and posters. The Jones has been working with cultural heritage partners across the region to help digitize large format materials at sites including Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and the Maier Museum at Randolph College.

The Memory Lab and scanner were made possible through a generous grant from the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund via the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation.



Photos: (top) Library staff celebrate the February 2026 opening of the Oral History & Memory Lab; (middle) Executive Director Deborah Smith works with staff from Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest on large-format scanning; (bottom) in February, Smith attended the Virginia Association of Museums Top 10 Virginia Endangered Artifacts reception in Richmond to celebrate the library's inclusion in the 2026 Top 10. The Jones entry was a rare 1774 volume printed in Williamsburg, *The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace*, by Richard Starke. The Jones preserves more than 1,000 rare books in the permanent collection.

DISCOVER

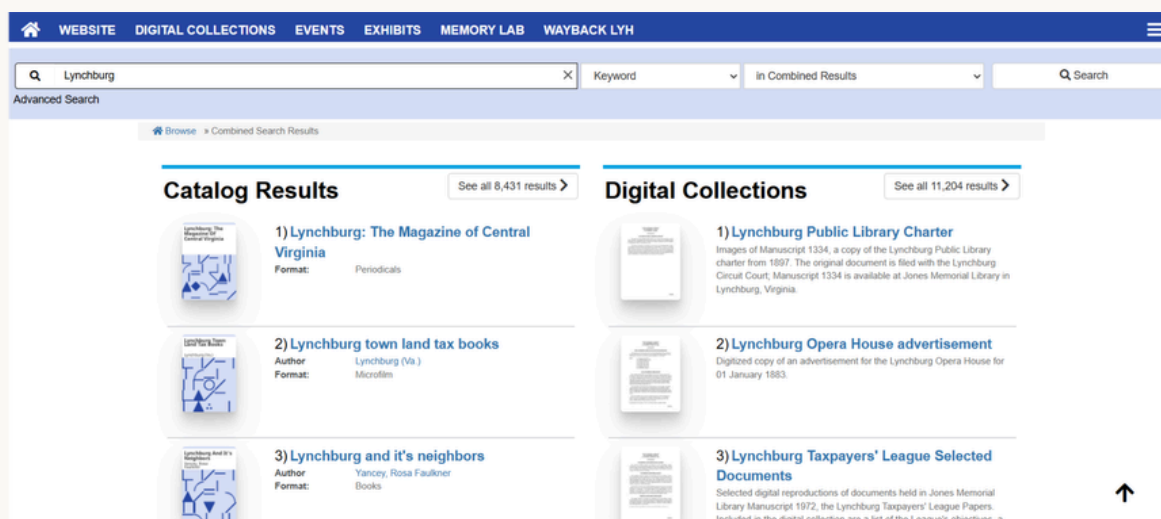
A New Catalog Opens the Door to Our Collection

Searching the Jones collections became faster and more intuitive in March 2026 with our launch of Koha ILS and Aspen Discovery (supported by ByWater Solutions).

Replacing our legacy catalog, the new system connects our holdings directly with Library of Congress records and displays physical volumes, historical manuscripts, and digital resources in one unified search experience.



Photo: Reference Staff guide patrons in using our new catalog system and digital resources including Jones databases, Ancestry.com and more.



29,420
bibliographic
records



Access our catalog online
by scanning the QR code
above or visiting
catalog.jmlibrary.org.

34,433 item
records

IMPACT

\$10,000 and above

Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation
George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund

\$2,000 - \$9,999

Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation
E.F. & Elizabeth B. Burmahln Charitable Fund
Judy and Bill Gayle Fund
Wayne M. Hardison
Dr. Trelou J. Pond

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Anonymous
Judy W. Arthur
Freedom to Read Foundation

\$500 - \$999

LaBarbara Bowman
Deborah Clayton
The Cap & Margaret Anne Eschenroeder Fund
Pat Ferguson
Kathleen S. Graves
Mr. & Mrs. Leighton S. Houck
Robert Leslie
Mr. & Mrs. L. Kimball Payne III
Reliance Standard
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Seiffert
Paul M. & Martha Seuffer
Virginia Association of Museums

\$250 - \$499

Ellen & Lloyd Agnew
Baird Private Wealth Management
John Bell
Jane F. Bowden
Mike & Pam Bradford
Lisa Broughman
Ashleigh Tuck Bruce
Judy G. Bryant
William & Martha Terrell Burruss III
Mr. & Mrs. Guy A. Dirom II
Dodson Pest Control and Bert Dodson Jr.
Nancy B. Hunter
Martha Houck
William Robert Kershner
KVA Foundation
Kevin and Susan Landergan
Edie & Cham Light
Beth McDaniel
William A. & Mary Kathryn McIntosh
Abram (Mac) McWane
Dr. Richard & Mrs. Susan Morris
Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.
Jim & Dana Redmond
Sarah Rhodes
Mark Sihlanick
Peter & Jessica Ward

\$100-\$249

V. Cassell Adamson Jr.
Sharon Ainslie
Dr. & Mrs. John B. Arnold
Atelier 11
Betty Jean Barker
Jeff H. Barker & Carol A. Barker
William M. Bass III
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Charles K. Bradner
Gloria Braxton
Parker Campanella
H. and Sue Cary
C. Lynch Christian
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Christian
Arlene D. Cundiff
Dominion Seven Architects
John E. & Katherine C. Douglas
Mrs. John D. Doyle Jr.
Amelia Talley Driskill
Ann Echols
Ann & Rodger Fauber
Georgia Willis Fauber
Charlotte Fischer
Carolyn Gills Frazier
Marjorie & Joseph Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Garland
Robert H. & Marsha B. Gillette

\$99 and under

Mary Spence Acree
Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield
Michael Belmont
Bonnie D. Benedict
Carolyn Bergdoll
Blue Ridge Chapter NSDAR
Scott & Deborah Braband
David A. Bradley
Joan L. Brooks & Craig M. Hove
Charles Butler
Elizabeth B. Clarkson
Truman E. Cox
Ellen O. Craig
David Crank
Harry Glenn Cumby
Cathy Dalton
Vince & Glenda Desmond
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Driscoll
Virginia Dunn
Dr. & Mrs. B.P. Edmunds Jr.
John & Ellen Edmunds
Maria Erdman
Ms. Andrea Fair
Celia Falls
John Fauntleroy
Dr. Janice K. Garfield



Elizabeth W. Hancock
William & Kathryn Hansen
Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Harrington
Hermina Hendricks
Becky B. Howard
David A. Jones
Kiwanis Club of Lynchburg
John C. Kolbe
Mr. Parker H. Lee III
Anne Lewis Leyden
Ernest Lompa Rentals and
Ernest & Nancy Lompa
Lynchburg Retired Teachers Assoc.
Lynchburg Comm. of NSCDA of VA
Catherine Lynn
Douglas C. MacLeod
Catherine & Michael Madden
Nancy Blackwell Marion
Bill & Susan Mays
Langhorne L. McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. Justin McCarthy
Sandy & Anne McKenna
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander M. Newmark
Keith O'Connell
P.E.O. Sisterhood VA State Chapter
Drs. Clifton & Dorothy Potter

Katie Gutshall
Edwin & Lucy Harper
Richard & Juanda Harper
Chip Harvey
Diana Harvey
Douglas Harvey & Deborah Harvey
Delores Hicks
Rusty & Elizabeth Hicks
Mrs. William B. Hodges
D. Alexander Holiday
Shanda & Garrett Horner
Marjorie Huiner
William E. & Archer G. Hunt
Peggy Kent
Brenda & Doug Kincaid
Linda Kuhn
Robert Lawrence
Thomas Lynch
Lynchburg Chapter NSDAR
Thomas E. Marshall IV
Melinda Mead
Sherry Miles & Valdrie Walker
Bettie Moore
The Hon. & Mrs. J.L. Mosby Jr.
Isolde B. Oppelman
Sarah Myers Peters

Randolph College
Dawn Rezai, Sharlene Tenaglia,
& Roberta Hurst
Jack Schewel
Marc A. Schewel
Gerard & Carolyn Sherayko
Deborah Smith
Raymond & Martha Stokes
Brenda Tanner & James Russell
Elizabeth R. Tanner
John & Persis Tinsley
United Cherokee Indian Tribe of VA
Jane & David Vaughan
Leigh Vaughan
George D. Vermilya Jr.
Diane & Billy Walker
Robert C. Watts III
T. Ashby Watts III
Doug & Sheila Webb
Sandra Weigand
Kenneth S. White
Carole H. Whittle
Laura & Brent Wigington
William C. Wooldridge

Julia H. Petersen
Rebecca Pickard
Teresa Rhodes
Dr. & Mrs. J. Mott Robertson Jr.
Judy Romine
Edward Rotenberry
Carole M. Royer
David & Anne Royer
Nancy Ryan
Michael B. & Mary M. Stephens
Eileen B. Tuttle
Ann Vandegraaf
Dale Veasey
Joy P. Watkins
Teresa Watson
Watts Street Baptist Church
Richard Weaver
Bill & Phebe Wescott
Vivian H. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Williamson III
Martha Wilson
Gorham B. Wood
K.H. Woodford
Josephine B. Woods
Debra Woodson
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Wright

IMPACT

In Memory Of

O.B. Barker III
 Betty Jean Barker
 Anne Redford Barrett
 Blue Ridge Chapter NSDAR
 George H. Bergdoll Sr.
 Carolyn Bergdoll
 William Clarkson
 Elizabeth Clarkson
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Twyman Coleman
 Carolyn Bergdoll
 John C. & Judith B. Crank
 David M. Crank
 Helen Reynolds Creel
 Lynchburg Chapter NSDAR
 Katherine "Kitty" Davenport
 Blue Ridge Chapter NSDAR
 John D. Doyle Jr.
 Karin Doyle
 Ebo Fauber
 Ann & Rodger Fauber
 Georgia Fauber
 Gordon F. Harrison and
 Harrison & Hardison Architects
 Wayne M. Hardison
 James G. Hunter Jr.
 Nancy B. Hunter
 Thomas Marshall III
 Thomas Marshall IV

Bill McBratney
 D. Bruce Christian & K. Spas Christian
 George D. Vermilya Jr.
 Ronnie McDaniel
 Judy G. Bryant
 Pat Ferguson
 Joseph Merritt
 Keith O'Connell
 Eric Gordon Peters
 Sarah Myers Peters
 Iris Cundiff Powell
 Arlene D. Cundiff
 Stella Jackson Roark
 Elizabeth R. Tanner
 Peggy Ryan Torian Poole
 Truman E. Cox
 G.H. Stalling III
 Carole H. Whittle
 Delores Swanson
 Douglas MacLeod
 Ed Tinsley
 Douglas K. & Deborah M. Harvey
 Ruth Viar
 Julia H. Petersen
 Josephine B. Wingfield
 Drs. Clifton & Dorothy Potter

In Honor Of

Chuck Bradner
 Mary Kathryn McIntosh
 Dr. B.P. Edmunds Jr.
 Edmunds Family
 Marjorie Freeman
 Charlotte A. Fischer
 The Honorable Leighton Houck, Esq.
 H. & Sue Cary
 Jones Memorial Library Staff
 Lynchburg Committee of NSCDA of VA
 Jones Memorial Library Volunteers
 John Fauntleroy
 R. Chambliss Light Jr.
 Parker H. Lee III
 Dr. John & Mrs. Elizabeth Morris
 Dr. Richard & Mrs. Susan Morris

Gerard Sherayko
 Robert H. & Marsha B. Gillette
 Deborah Smith
 Robert H. & Marsha B. Gillette
 R. Chambliss Light Jr.
 United Cherokee Indian Tribe of VA
 UCITOVA
 Marie Waller
 Raymond & Martha Stokes
 Nancy Jamerson Weiland
 Roberta Hurst
 R. Chambliss Light Jr.
 Dawn Rezaei
 Sarah Rhodes
 Sharlene Tenaglia
 Doug & Sheila Webb

Gifts in Kind

William Barker
 Ramona Battle
 Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library
 Thomas Blankinship
 Debbie Bonnett
 Gloria Braxton
 Blue Ridge Chapter NSDAR
 Steven Brown
 Elizabeth Clarkson
 Colonial Dames West of the Falls Chapter
 Chuck Coole
 David W. Crews Jr.
 Patricia P. Dabney
 Amelia Talley Driskill
 Dunbar Middle School
 Virginia Dunn
 Kali Eades
 Maya Elliott
 George Ferguson
 Ed & Jean Fielding
 First Baptist Church, Amherst
 Charlotte Fischer
 Nancy Elizabeth Fitch Ph.D.
 Marjorie Freeman
 Friends of Rivermont Avenue
 William Geier
 Scott Glass
 Savannah Guthrie
 Penelope Haber
 Karen Hagemann
 Robert L. Hiller
 Hillside Garden Club
 Historic Sandusky Fund
 Sara & Gus Hollberg

Leighton S. Houck
 Becky B. Howard
 Marjorie Huiner
 Richard Tim Jordan
 Peggy Kent
 Reiley Kidd
 Kiwanis Club
 Molly Landerger
 Legacy Museum of African-American History
 R. Chambliss Light Jr.
 John C. Loving Jr.
 Richard W. Loving
 Lynchburg Plate Glass Company
 Lynchburg Public Library
 Douglas MacLeod
 Glenna Mahon-Poynter
 Timothy Martinez
 L.C. McCutcheon
 Travis McDonald
 Glen McIver
 Carol M. Merricks
 Will Moore
 Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club
 Oakwood Garden Club
 Ed Organ
 Pat Oxley Family
 Tulane Patterson
 P.E.O. Sisterhood VA State Chapter
 Mosby G. Perrow III
 Ed Polloway
 Steven E. Powell
 Sallie Gibson Rabe
 Carolyn Sherayko
 Gerard Sherayko



Above: Mark Sihlanick donates pool noodles (which are chemically inert) for use in cushioning materials in archival boxes.

Mark Sihlanick
 Willard Simmons
 Melanie Smith
 Deborah Smith
 Parks H. Snead III
 Robert Stephenson
 SPHEX Club
 Sweet Briar College
 Richard C. Thompson
 Richard Torian
 Joyce Stevens Turel
 Teresa Watson
 Richard Weaver
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 The Woman's Club of Lynchburg
 K.H. Woodford
 James W. Wright

SHARE

Programs & Exhibits

READ: What Does It Mean to Read Free in Central Virginia?

In October, The Jones launched an exhibit on the history of censorship in Central Virginia from the 1660s to the 1960s.

Extended through August 2026 due to visitor interest, **READ** was made possible by a Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund Banned Books Week Programming Grant. The Jones was one of five libraries nationwide to receive the award from the Freedom to Read Foundation. The exhibit was accompanied by a special lecture in May by UVA librarian Keith Weimer.

Later this year, The Jones will unveil a new exhibit about Lynchburg during World War I. The exhibit will launch online and at the library in October.

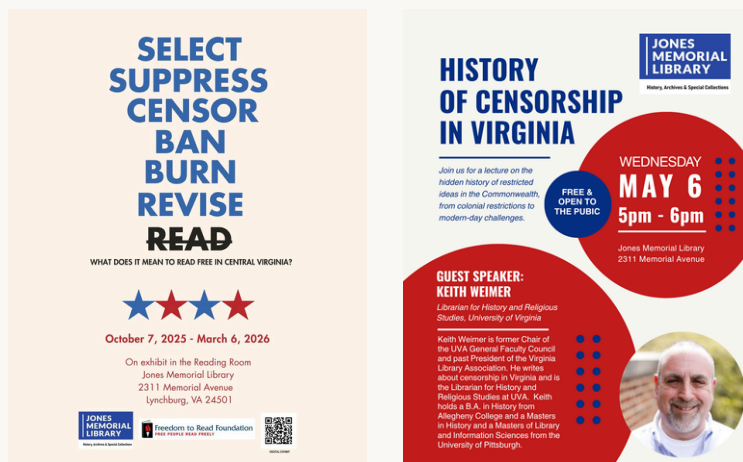
Freedom Forward Lecture Series

As part of the John D. Owen Jr. History Series, The Jones hosted six "Freedom Forward" lectures this year. The series focus, in honor of the 250th anniversary of American Independence, centered on people and events that moved the Hill City forward in freedom after 1776.

For a listing of upcoming lectures, see the back cover pages.

17

Lectures, workshops,
exhibits
& programs



Above: Randolph College history students visit and tour the archival stacks with Archivist Gwen Wells in September

SHARE

Collections, Community, & People

Collections & Digitization

The Jones expanded access to several major collections. In the Fall, we archived the Friends of Rivermont Historical Society website. You can find the website on our Wayback LYH webpage.

A dataset of more than 1,000 enslaved persons listed in the Potter Estate Papers (MS 1141) was published with *Enslaved.org* in September. In January, library staff and student interns used artificial intelligence tools to transcribe sections of the Garland Family Papers (MS 1030).

In May, we added a new Architectural Reference section in the Reading Room with 150+ books donated by architectural historian Travis McDonald.

Behind the Scenes

Interns and volunteers are essential to the library's work. With a staff of six, Jones volunteers help us accomplish more than we could on our own! Volunteers regularly help with digitization, conducting inventories, and shelving materials.

Jones On the Road

Staff spread the word about our collections and services at numerous fairs and events like Juneteenth at Miller Park, Party on Pierce, the Amherst County Fair, and Day at the Point.



Clockwise from top: Reference & Outreach Associate Molly Landergan at Party on Pierce; Randolph College interns assist Archivist Gwen Wells; volunteer Virginia Dunn, Archivist Gwen Wells, and trustee Marge Freeman enjoy a moment in the stacks; summer Intern Matthew Parker and Collections Assistant Garrett Reynolds move a donation of flat file cabinets



THANK YOU, NANCY!

Research Assistant Nancy Jamerson Weiland retired in May 2026, capping a 30-year career at Jones. Generations of patrons and researchers came to rely on Nancy's expertise, and her warmth was part of what makes Jones a special library. From helping first-time visitors trace their family's roots to guiding seasoned genealogists through the depths of our collections, Nancy's three decades of service leave a lasting legacy for everyone who walked through our doors.



At Nancy's retirement party in June 2026 guests enjoyed a slideshow and a "Nancy Knows" quiz featuring fun facts about Nancy's career. Left: Nancy processing an incoming collection of handwritten letters at her research desk.



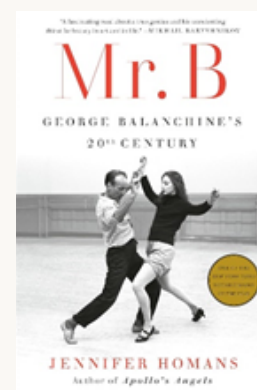
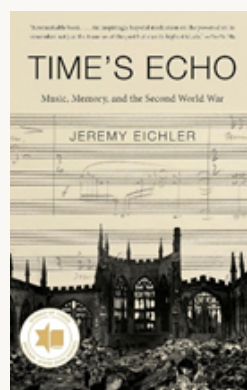
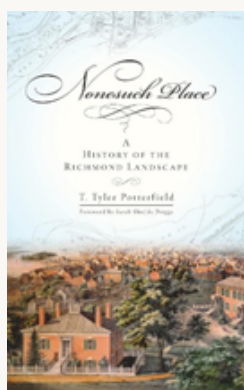
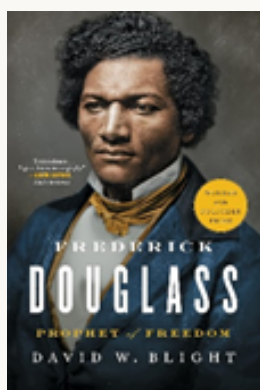
WELCOME, BELLA

In June, we welcomed Isabella Kilper to our staff as Oral History and Reference Assistant. Bella is a graduate of Clemson University and holds a master's degree from Trinity College Dublin. In addition to managing the Oral History program at Jones, you'll find Bella helping researchers at our Reference Desk.

2026-27 Recommended Reads

The Non-Fiction Book Group is a free discussion group moderated by staff from Jones Memorial Library and Lynchburg Public Library. Discussions are open to all. The group meets five times a year on select Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Westminster Canterbury.

Join us this year to discuss *Frederick Douglass, Prophet of Freedom* (August 26), *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (October 14), *Nonesuch Place* (January 27), *Time's Echo* (March 31), and *Mr. B.: George Balanchine's 20th Century* (May 26).



LECTURES FALL 2026

Jones Memorial Library
John D. Owen Jr. History Series

"LYH LONG AGO"

WEDNESDAYS @ 5:00 P.M.
2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

SEPTEMBER 09, 2026

Dianne Nash & Kim Price

Healers in Training: Virginia Baptist
Hospital's First Nursing Class

9/09

In 1927, Virginia Baptist Hospital graduated its first class of nurses—women who stepped forward to meet the medical needs of a growing community. Learn how these trailblazers were trained, what challenges they faced, and how their work shaped the future of healthcare in the Hill City.



OCTOBER 14, 2026

Joe Stinnett

Leaving America Behind: The
Lynchburg Colonization Society

10/14

Emigrate—or stay and fight for freedom? In the 1820s, a group of Lynchburg residents founded a local branch of the American Colonization Society, promoting the resettlement of emancipated Black Americans to the west coast of Africa. Learn about the Lynchburg Colonization Society, the debates it ignited, and how this controversial movement reflected—and complicated—the struggle over slavery and freedom in antebellum Virginia.



NOVEMBER 04, 2026

William Hansen

Lynchburg's WWI Last Man's Club

11/04

One bottle. One promise. One final survivor. During and after World War I, veterans from across the country formed "Last Man's Clubs"—groups of comrades who vowed that the last surviving member would open a shared bottle of wine in memory of those who had fallen. Discover the local men who made a pact in France after frontline loss, and how the club's legacy honored a generation shaped by the Great War.





Jones Memorial Library
2311 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lynchburg, VA
Permit No. 147

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY SECOND FLOOR

Open Tues 9-5, Weds/Thurs/Fri 1-5, and Sat 9-5
Online at WWW.JMLIBRARY.ORG



LECTURES SPRING 2027

Jones Memorial Library
John D. Owen Jr. History Series

"LYH LONG AGO"

MARCH 10, 2027

Ed Polloway

*'The Colony & Buck v. Bell, 100 Years Later:
'The Context, 'The Practice, 'The Consequences*

3/10



In May 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling, *Buck v. Bell* upheld the forced sterilization of individuals deemed "unfit" by the state. Virginia was at the center of this case, and the Virginia Colony/Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg was its proving ground. Learn how CVTC's history reflects a long reckoning with disability, civil rights, and the limits of state power.

APRIL 14, 2027

William Kershner

*'Two Men, 'Two Shots: Justice and Reputation
in the Virginia Piedmont*

4/14



In the 1920s, two local men each killed someone and walked free — but their stories ran in opposite directions. V. O. Smith was a prohibition officer in Amherst. Tried for homicide in Lynchburg after shooting a fleeing suspect, he began his career respected only to fall from grace. John Lynch Lee, Jr. was barred from state office because of his duels, yet rose to become one of the city's most prominent defense lawyers.

MAY 12, 2027

David Crews & Richard Loving

*'First on the Scene: Lynchburg's Life Saving
Crew and the Birth of Emergency Medicine*

5/12

When a sailboat capsized on Timber Lake, a furniture store fire sent six firemen to the hospital, and a tragic blaze at the Transient Bureau claimed 22 lives in 1934, Lynchburg citizens recognized a desperate need — trained volunteers with proper equipment ready at a moment's notice. Learn how the Lynchburg Life Saving and First Aid Crew became the third all-volunteer first aid organization in the nation, and how the Hill City helped shape the modern emergency medical services millions of Americans take for granted today.



WEDNESDAYS @ 5:00 P.M.

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501