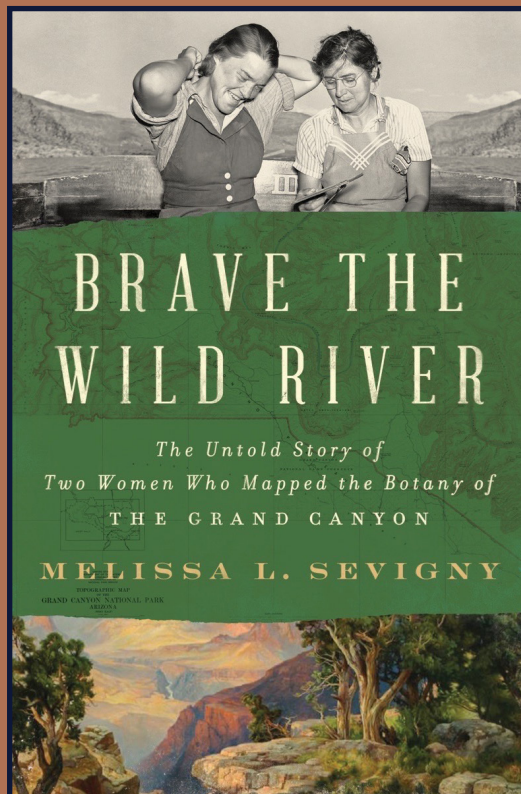


all alexandria reads

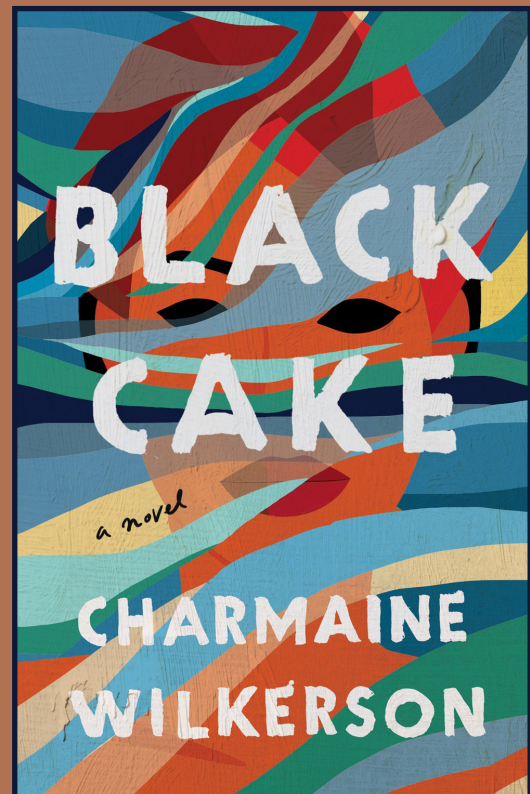
2024

Theme: *COURAGE*

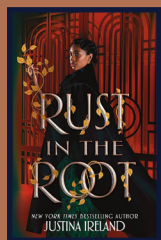
The Alexandria Library
invites you to read



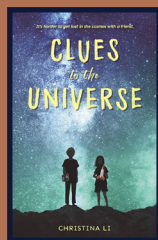
Brave the Wild River
by Melissa L. Sevigny



Black Cake
by Charmaine Wilkerson



Rust in the Root
by Justina Ireland



Clues to the Universe
by Christina Li



The Secret of the Jade Bangle
by Linda Trinh



The Boy Who Touched the Stars
by Jose M. Hernandez

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.
Central Library
5005 Duke Street
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About All Alexandria Reads

Facilitated by the Alexandria Library, this program is designed to create shared experiences through reading. Everyone is invited to read the featured titles and selected books for younger readers. The theme for 2024 is COURAGE.

AUTHOR TALKS

Melissa Seigny
Brave the Wild River
Virtual
Wednesday, April 17 at 7 PM

Sydney Dunlap
It Happened on Saturday
Burke Branch Library
Tuesday, April 23 at 5 PM

Justina Ireland
Rust in the Root
Beatley Central Library
Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 PM

Similar "Read-Alike" Books For Younger Readers

Young Adult (YA)
Rust in the Root
by Justina Ireland

Middle Grade
Clues to the Universe
by Christina Li

Beginning Chapter Book
The Secret of the Jade Bangle
by Linda Trinh

Picture Book
The Boy Who Touched the Stars / El niño que alcanzó las estrellas
by Jose M. Hernandez

Library Events

CHILDREN/ FAMILIES

Let's Lego Together: Space Science (Beatley, Outdoors)
MONDAYS, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, and
APRIL 1 at 4:30 PM

Help the group build a Lego Lunar expedition rover using our Mindstorms EV3 robots plus a landing site. Free play with Legos also available. (Ages 5-18)

Tuesday We Play: Space Science (Beatley, Indoors)
TUESDAYS, MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26 and
APRIL 2 at 4:30 PM

Dive into space science and participate in a question-and-answer session with a NASA scientist ... plus opportunities to build, create, and explore. (Ages 6-12)

Girls Who Code: Spotlight on Space (Beatley, Indoors)
THURSDAYS, MARCH 14, 21, 28 and
APRIL 4 at 6 PM

We will focus on the courageous contributions of women in space sciences as we learn different aspects of coding. Join us to explore the solar system and code a Mars Helicopter video game, communicate like a Mars Rover, and prepare your own NASA-approved pinhole camera. Prior coding knowledge is not necessary. (Ages 8-12)

All Alexandria Reads Story Time (Barrett, Indoors)
THURSDAYS, MARCH 21 and
APRIL 18 at 11 AM

Join us for story times inspired by the theme of Courage. (Ages 2+ with a caregiver)

Spring Break Special: Explore Our Waterways (Beatley, Indoors)
MONDAY, MARCH 25 at 12 PM

Get a first-hand look at what happens to water in our neighborhood with a model watershed. Can you help save the model watershed community and our planet by reducing pollution? Presented by the City of Alexandria's Stormwater Management Division. (Ages 5-12)

Pre-K Story Time Courage Series (Duncan, Indoors)

TUESDAYS, APRIL 2, 9, 16, 30 at 4 PM
In celebration of the All Alexandria Reads theme of Courage, we are diving into different aspects of courage all month with themed stories and a craft. (Ages 0-5 with a caregiver)

Spring Yoga for Kids (Burke, Indoors)
SATURDAYS, APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27
at 11 AM

Join yoga instructor Ms. Shelley to practice poses to help kids feel strong and brave. (Ages 4-8)

All Alexandria Reads: Crafty Kids (Indoors, Barrett)
MONDAYS, APRIL 8 and MAY 6 at 3 PM
Get crafty with us by making crafts inspired by this year's All Alexandria Reads. (Ages 6+)

Lego Competition (Duncan, Indoors)
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 3:30 PM
Attendees will be put on a team and given a prompt with one hour to complete their build! (Ages 6-12)

Arts on the Horizon Presents: Off the Page (Beatley, Outdoors)
MONDAY, APRIL 15 at 11 AM
Through dance, music, puppetry, and vibrant imagery, this world-premiere production will use an immersive design to literally unfold around the audience. Rain date: Friday, April 19. (Ages 0-6)

Abstract Artists: Clues to the Universe (Duncan, Indoors)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 at 3:30 PM
Abstract Artists are invited to get intergalactic. All materials will be provided. (Ages 6-18)

Brixalot Star Wars Lego (Barrett, Indoors)
SATURDAY, MAY 4 at 2 PM
"May the Fourth Be with You!" Join us for Lego adventures in "a galaxy far, far away." (Ages 5+)



TEENS

Let's Lego Together: Space Science (Beatley, Outdoors)

**MONDAYS, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 and
APRIL 1 at 4:30 PM**

Help the group build a Lego Lunar expedition rover using our Mindstorms EV3 robots plus a landing site. Free play with Legos also available. (Ages 5-18)

Punch-Boxing Basics for Teens (Burke, Indoors)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 at 4 PM

Join us to learn the basics of boxing: stance, how to throw a jab, cross, hook, uppercut, and combinations. We will be practicing individually *without contact*! What to bring: A fiery spirit and zest for fun. (Ages 12-18)

Mario Kart Competition (Burke, Indoors)

MONDAY, APRIL 8 at 4 PM

Join us to face worthy opponents on Nintendo Switch's Mario Kart. Do you have the courage to compete with us? (Ages 11-18)

Spill the Tea Party for Teens (Barrett, Indoors)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 at 3 PM

Dearest Teens, you are cordially invited to a Spill the Tea, hosted at the Barrett Branch. Afternoon tea attire, though not required, is encouraged. Don't forget your fascinators & gloves! (Ages 12-18)

Abstract Artists: Clues to the Universe (Duncan, Indoors)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 at 3:30 PM

Abstract Artists are invited to get intergalactic. All materials will be provided. (Ages 6-18)

Visit with Sydney Dunlap, Author of *It Happened on Saturday* (Burke, Indoors)

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 at 5 PM

Award-winning author Sydney Dunlap will discuss her novel, the story of a 13-year-old girl who meets someone online who isn't who he says he is. (Ages 12-18)

Rust in the Root: An Author Talk With Justina Ireland

(Beatley, Indoors)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 at 6:30 PM

Author Justine Ireland discusses her newest novel, and YA AAR selection, *Rust in the Root*, about a young black mage navigating race and power in America during the 1930s. (Ages 12+)

YA Book Club: *Rust in the Root* (Duncan, Indoors)

TUESDAY, APRIL 30 at 5:30 PM

Do you love reading YA books? Join us to discuss the All Alexandria Reads 2024 YA selection, *Rust in the Root*, by Justina Ireland. (Ages 12-18)

ALL AGES

Star Party (Beatley, Outdoors)

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 at 6:30 PM

Enjoy the wonders of the night sky through provided telescopes with the guidance of volunteers from the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club. Rain date: Thursday, March 7. (All ages)

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party at Ben Brenman Park

(4800 Brenman Park Dr.)

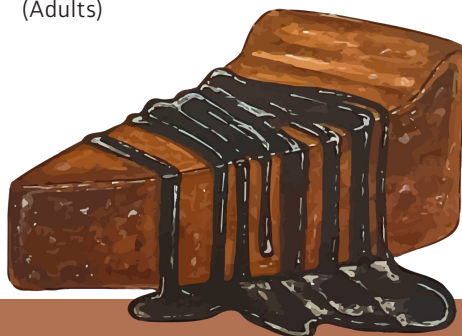
MONDAY, APRIL 8 from 1:30-4:30 PM

Enjoy space themed activities and watch the eclipse with us. Eclipse viewing glasses will be provided (one per group) while supplies last. Maximum coverage occurs at 3:20 PM. In case of inclement weather, event will occur inside the Beatley Library with NASA's live feed of the eclipse. (All ages)

A Taste of the Caribbean (Burke, Indoors)

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 at 2 PM

Join us for a celebration of the Caribbean culture with the sound of a live Caribbean band and sample flavorful Caribbean cuisine. (Adults)



ADULTS

All Alexandria Eats: Cake (Beatley, Indoors and Virtual)

MARCH 1-31

Submit your favorite cake recipe in-person or online to be included in a recipe swap. (Adults)

Selecting Native Plants for Your Home Garden (Virtual)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 at 3 PM

Master Gardener Elain Mills gives an overview of native plants and how to attract them. (Adults)

Book Discussion: *Brave the Wild River* (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 at 3:30 PM

Join us for a discussion of our All Alexandria Reads Adult Non-Fiction selection, *Brave the Wild River* by Melissa Sevigny. (Adults)

Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen Culinary Tasting (Barrett, Indoors)

MONDAY, APRIL 1 at 7 PM

Curious about black cake and other Caribbean food? Try samples from Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen and learn about Jamaican cuisine. Registration required. (Adults)

Native Blooms for the Summer Garden (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 at 3 PM

Master Gardener Elain Mills gives an overview of 35 native perennials, woody plants, and grasses that bloom during summer. (Adults)

Line Dancing (Burke, Indoors)

THURSDAYS, APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25

at 11 AM

Join us in April for Burke's Thursday line dancing classes to have fun while also improving your health and wellness. (Adults)

Thursday Afternoon Book Discussion: *Black Cake* (Duncan, Indoors)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4 at 1:30 PM

Do you have afternoons available? Join us at the library for some coffee, confections, and conversation about this year's deliciously named AAR choice! (Adults)

Interested in more programs?



ADULTS (CONT.)

Aging Strong: Movement for Resilience, Creativity and Well-being (Burke, Indoors/Virtual) **THURSDAY, APRIL 4 at 12 PM (Burke)** **and FRIDAY, APRIL 5 at 2 PM (Virtual)**

Join Sara Lavan, founder of Local Motion Project, for an engaging, accessible movement class. (Adults)

How to Grow and Sell Rare Plants Online (Duncan, Indoors) **SATURDAY, APRIL 6 at 2 PM**

Do you have a green thumb? Want to learn more about growing challenging plants or how to sell them online? All plant enthusiasts are welcome! (Adults)

Let's Talk Books (Virtual) **MONDAY, APRIL 8 at 7 PM**

Join Barrett's monthly book group to discuss this year's All Alexandria Reads fiction choice, *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. (Adults)

Plant Swap and Seed Bombs (Burke and Duncan, Indoors) **SATURDAY, MARCH 9 at 2 PM and** **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 at 6 PM**

Celebrate National Gardening Month and our All Alexandria Reads Adult Non-Fiction selection, *Brave the Wild River*, by swapping and learning about plants with your neighbors! (Adults)

AAR Read-Alike Book Discussion: Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden (Beatley, Indoors) **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 at 6:30 PM**

Gather with fellow readers in the community to talk about another Non-Fiction selection that highlights this year's AAR theme, courage: *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille Dungy. (Adults)

World Short Story Discussion Group (Virtual) **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 at 7 PM**

Local writer TJ Butler will discuss stories from her latest collection, *Dating Silky Maxwell*. (Adults)

Women Going the Extra Mile (Virtual) **FRIDAY, APRIL 12 at 2 PM**

Hear from Alexandria Celebrates Women VP Gayle Converse, who made a once-in-a-lifetime journey celebrating women's equality and history by walking from Alexandria to Richmond. (Adults)

Tree and Nature Walk with the Virginia Master Naturalists (Barrett, Outdoors) **SATURDAY, APRIL 13 at 3 PM**

Meet at the Barrett Branch to go on a tour of trees in our Old Town neighborhood, led by the Virginia Master Naturalists. Registration required. Rain date: Sunday, April 14. (Adults)

All Alexandria Eats: Cake Recipe Swap (Beatley, Indoors and Virtual) **APRIL 15-30**

Discover what kind of cake your community eats! Get a compiled list of cake recipes in-person at Beatley Central Library or find it on alexlibraryva.org/aar. (Adults)

Book Discussion: Black Cake (Burke, Indoors) **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 at 1 PM**

Join us for a discussion of our All Alexandria Reads Adult Fiction selection, *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. (Adults)

Author Talk with Melissa Sevigny (Virtual) **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 at 7 PM**

Join us for a talk with Melissa Sevigny, author of this year's All Alexandria Reads Adult Non-Fiction selection, *Brave the Wild River*. Registration required. (Adults)

Exploring Watercolor Takes Courage (Barrett, Indoors) **SATURDAY, APRIL 20 at 11 AM**

Actually, watercolor painting is not as scary as you may think! Come join us to explore this art medium. You will learn how to try different watercolor techniques and create a painting to take home. "Creativity takes courage," – Henri Matisse. All Materials provided. Registration required. (Adults)

AAR Read-Alike Fiction Book Discussion: Homegoing (Beatley, Indoors) **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 at 6:30 PM**

Gather with fellow readers in the community to talk about another Fiction selection that highlights this year's AAR theme, courage. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. (Adults)

Writing Courageously (Virtual) **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 at 7 PM**

Local writers TJ Butler and Hannah Grieco will be joined by educator Suzette Romero to discuss how we can examine and write thoughtfully about difficult issues. (Adults)

Transatlantic Book Club: Reading Langston Hughes (Virtual) **THURSDAY, APRIL 25 at 1 PM**

Join participants from Alexandria and our Sister City, Dundee, Scotland, to discuss a short story by Langston Hughes that celebrates the theme of courage. Participants will receive a .PDF of the chosen short story by email. Registration required. (Adults)

The History of Sugar Production (Virtual) **WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 at 7 PM**

Take a journey back in time with history professor Brittany Merritt, to talk about sugar production and its relationship to *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. (Adults)



Scan me for more programs
and information

Questions to think about

while reading *Brave the Wild River* and *Black Cake*

Courtesy of Random House and Alexandria Library staff

Brave the Wild River

- ❑ The expedition to map the plants of the Grand Canyon was very dangerous. What would motivate you to seek out uncharted territory or to make a new discovery?
- ❑ Not only did Clover and Jotter need physical courage, they also needed mental courage to defy gender roles in undertaking their expedition. What are some other ways the botanists defied, and accepted, traditional gender roles throughout their journey?
- ❑ The first expedition documented in *Brave the Wild River* takes place in 1938 and the journey is revisited fifty-six years later, showing how much the river had changed. How has your own community changed over the years? Would you recognize it if you went back in time to 1938?
- ❑ Clover and Jotter were pioneering female scientists. Who are some other female scientists who made new discoveries in their fields? Do female scientists still face different challenges from their male counterparts today?

Black Cake

- ❑ In *Black Cake*, Eleanor Bennett leaves behind a voice recording for her children, disclosing the story of her life. What was the most surprising part of her past for you? The saddest? The most interesting?
- ❑ Secrets are a huge part of the novel. Why do you think Eleanor kept her story from her children for so long and only shared it posthumously? What do you think is more complicated: the secrets you keep or the secrets you share?
- ❑ Eleanor wanted Mr. Mitch, Benny, and Byron to listen to the voice message she left behind when all together. Why do you think she specifically made this request? What would have been different if Benny and Byron had listened to everything separately?
- ❑ Black cake was a Bennett family recipe, made for weddings, anniversaries, Christmas, and other special occasions. Do you have a traditional family recipe? What does it mean to you?

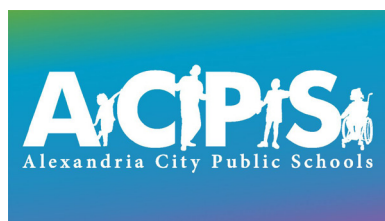


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717 Queen Street, 22314
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Alexandria Law Library

520 King Street, LL 34, 22314
703.746.4391



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