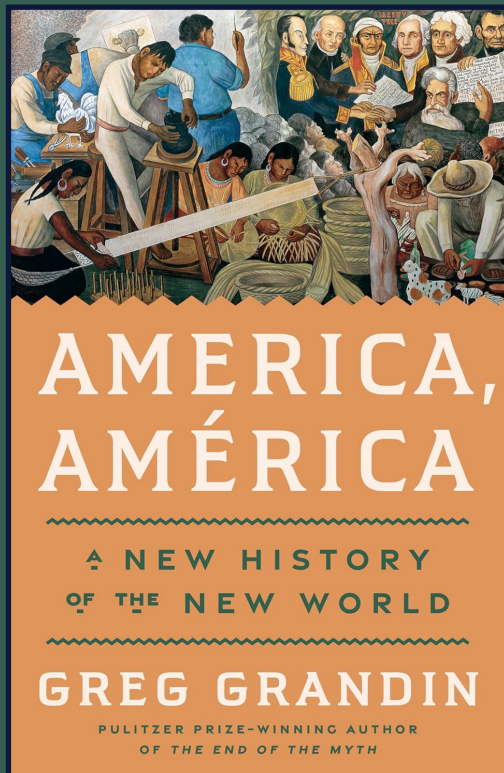


# ALL ALEXANDRIA READS

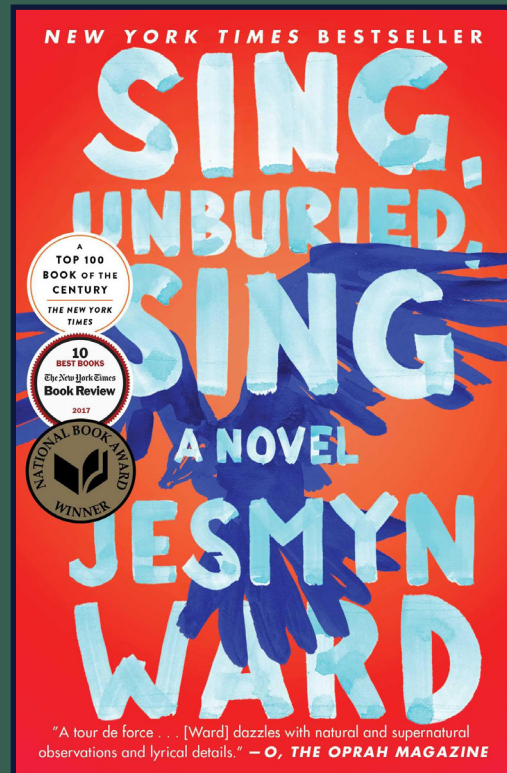
2026

Theme: AMERICA 250

The Alexandria Library  
invites you to read



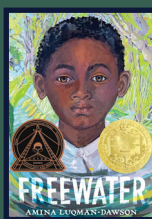
**America, América:**  
A New History of the New World  
by Greg Grandin



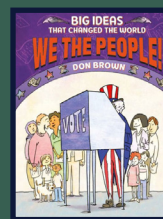
**Sing, Unburied, Sing**  
by Jesmyn Ward



**Rebellion 1776**  
by Laurie Halse Anderson



**Freewater**  
by Amina Luqman-vDawson



**We The People!**  
by Don Brown



**I'm An American**  
by Darshana Khiani

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.  
Central Library  
5005 Duke Street  
703.746.1702

Kate Waller Barrett  
Branch Library  
717 Queen Street  
703.746.1703

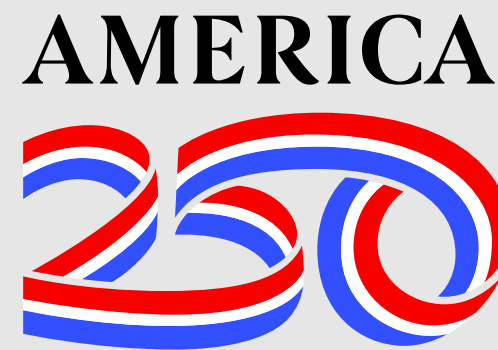
Ellen Coolidge Burke  
Branch Library  
4701 Seminary Road  
703.746.1704

James M. Duncan, Jr.  
Branch Library  
2501 Commonwealth Avenue  
703.746.1705



## 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 2026 is AMERICA 250.



## Similar "Read-Alike" Books For Younger Readers

**Young Adult (YA)**  
*Rebellion 1776*  
by Laurie Halse-Anderson

**Middle Grade**  
*Freewater*  
by Amina Luqman Dawson

**Beginning Chapter Book**  
*We the People*  
by Don Brown

**Picture Book**  
*I'm An American*  
by Darshana Khiani, illustrated by Laura Freeman

# Library Events

Registration and full list of events  
[alexlibraryva.org/aar](http://alexlibraryva.org/aar)

## CHILDREN/FAMILIES

### BEATLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY

**The Great American Poet-Trees (Children and Teen Area)**  
**APRIL 1-30, ALL DAY**

Celebrate National Poetry Month and great American poets by adding your poem to Beatley's poet-trees in the children's and teen areas. (All ages)

**Preschool Storytime (Large Meeting Room)**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 2 at 4 PM**

Join us for a storytime featuring this year's AAR picture book pick, "I'm An American" by Darshana Khiani. Space is limited. Please pick up a ticket starting at 3:30 p.m. at the Children's Desk. (Ages 3-5)

**Read 250 (Large Meeting Room)**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 3 from 12-4:15 PM**

Celebrate spring break, All Alexandria Reads and America's 250th birthday at this 250-minute readathon! (Ages 8-18)

**WHATEVER YOU SAY YOU ARE, YOU'RE RIGHT! (Large Meeting Room)**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4 from 1-3 PM**  
Explore the power of positive manifestation and celebrating YOUR personal history in this poetry and open mic workshop with former Alexandria Poet Laureate, KaNikki Jakarta. (Ages 12-18)

**Restful Read-aloud: Stories from American History (Story Room)**

**MONDAYS, APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27 at 4 PM**  
No one's too old to enjoy being read to! Relax and unwind while a librarian reads you a story or two that explores 250+ years of American history. (Ages 6-12)

**Passport to American History with Julie Albright: American Girls Celebrate America 250 (Large Meeting Room)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7 at 4 PM**  
Craft friendship bracelets, play basketball toss, and learn about 1970s America through the eyes of American Girl Doll Julie Albright! (Ages 6-12)

**Storytime in the Reading Garden: How Big is 250? (Reading Garden)**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13 at 11 AM**  
The United States is turning 250. That's a big number! We'll explore numbers (large and small) and the many ways we measure time. (Ages 0-5)

**Passport to American History with Melody Ellison: American Girls Celebrate America 250 (Large Meeting Room)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14 at 4 PM**  
Craft tambourines, sing karaoke, and learn about 1960s America through the eyes of American Girl Doll Melody Ellison! (Ages 6-12)

**Passport to American History with Molly McIntire: American Girls Celebrate America 250 (Story Room)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21 at 4 PM**  
Craft pinwheels, play jump rope, and learn about 1940s America through the eyes of American Girl Doll Molly McIntire! (Ages 6-12)

**Build Your Own Time Capsule (Reading Garden)**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 from 1-3 PM**  
Create a personal time capsule to commemorate America's 250th anniversary and learn about the special capsule buried in the Reading Garden. (All ages)

**Passport to American History with Felicity Merriman: American Girls Celebrate America 250 (Large Meeting Room)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 28 at 4 PM**  
Learn to embroider, play colonial-era ninepins, and learn about 1770s America through the eyes of American Girl Doll Felicity Merriman! (Ages 6-12)

**American Girl Birthday Party and Meet-and-Greet: Passport to American History Prize Drawing (Large Meeting Room)**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5 at 4 PM**  
Celebrate the American Girl Company's 40th birthday and meet Alexandria Library's BRAND-NEW American Girl dolls! (Ages 6-12)

### BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY

**Games of the States: Board Game Fun (Children's Area)**  
**SATURDAYS, APRIL 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 11 AM - 3 PM**

Bring the kids and celebrate America's birthday playing board games about our 50 states. (Ages 6-12)

**AAR Teen Book Party! (Second Floor)**

**MONDAY, APRIL 6 at 6 PM**  
Let's eat pizza, discuss "Rebellion: 1776" by Laurie Halse Anderson, and share additional recommendations for Young Adult (teen) Historical Fiction books set in the United States of America! (Ages 13-18)

**AAR Tween Book Party! (Youth Services Area)**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13 at 6 PM**  
Let's eat pizza, talk about "Freewater" by Amina Luqman-Dawson, and share additional recommendations for Historical Fiction books set in the United States of America! (Ages 8-12)

**Preschool Story Time: American Folk Songs (Children's Area)**

**THURSDAYS, APRIL 16, 30 at 11 AM**  
Sing and dance with us at special story times featuring classic American children's songs. (Ages 2+)

### BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY

**AAR Movie Series (Meeting Room)**  
**MONDAYS, MARCH 2, 30, APRIL 6, 27, MAY 4, 18 from 3-5 PM**

Join us on some fun adventures through the ages of America! (All ages)

- March 2 - *Pocahontas* (G)
- March 30 - *The Princess and the Frog* (G)
- April 6 - *National Treasure* (PG)
- April 27 - *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* (PG)
- May 4 - *Because of Winn-Dixie* (PG)
- May 18 - *Remember the Titans* (PG)

**America 250 Community Mini Art Show (All areas)**

**MARCH 30 to MAY 31, ALL DAY**  
Pick up a mini canvas from Burke Branch Library beginning March 30 to create artwork that celebrates 250 years of America! Return your canvas by April 30 to Burke Branch staff to be featured in a mini art show displayed in the Burke Branch Library through May. Canvases available at the Youth Services desk on the second floor while supplies last; one canvas per youth. Please note the Library reserves the right to not display artwork it deems inappropriate or does not adhere to the guidelines provided with the canvas. (Ages 5-18)

**Blast Off! Straw Rocket Craft (Meeting Room)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23 at 6 PM**  
3...2...1...blast off! Create your own paper straw rocket and learn about the history of America in space from the moon landing to the James Webb Space Telescope and beyond. Registration requested. (Ages 5-12)

### DUNCAN BRANCH LIBRARY

**Author Talk: "Freewater" with Amina Luqman-Dawson (Meeting Room)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7 at 4 PM**  
Author Amina Luqman-Dawson discusses her Newberry and Coretta Scott King award-winning novel "Freewater." (Ages 10+)

**AAR Storytime (Children's Area, Meeting Room)**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 9 at 10:15 & 11:15 AM**

Come join us for engaging American stories that are worth gathering for. Great for toddlers and siblings. (Ages 0-5)

**Creatives' Club: AAR I Am An American flag craft (Teen Area)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14 at 4 PM**  
Create an American flag as unique as you are! (Ages 6-12)

**Crafting for Teens: Bookmark Weaving (Teen Area)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21 at 4:30 PM**  
Join our teen team for a hands-on historical craft where teens will learn basic weaving techniques on a miniature loom! (Ages 13-18)

## ADULTS

### BEATLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY

**A Tiny BIT of Art (Virtual)**  
**MARCH 1-31, ALL DAY**

NEW this year, the Tiny Art Show has sparked a new digital dimension! Apply to receive your choice of a 2D or 3D file of a chair to decorate, and make a BIT of digital art! Applications are limited to 50. (Ages 12+)

**Tiny Art Show Supply Pick-Up (Information Desk)**

**MARCH 1-31, ALL DAY**  
Stop by the Library to pick up your supplies to participate in this year's Tiny Art Show. This year there are a few ways to participate:

1. *Adults only:* Miniature Wooden Chair with Acrylic Paint
2. *Participants of all ages:* Tiny canvases with either Acrylic or Watercolor Paint

Kits are available one per person while supplies last. Artwork must be returned to the Library by Tuesday, March 31. (Ages 5+)

**Colonial Crafternoon: Quilling (Story Room)**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 at 2 PM**  
Learn how to quill, a popular colonial craft, and make a beautiful card to take home. (Teens and Adults)

**Footsteps of History: Virtual Walking Tour (Information Desk)**

**MARCH 30 through MAY 3**  
Challenge yourself to get on your feet and track your walking mileage this spring. Follow along with the mileage log to see which landmarks from the American Revolution you've reached along the way. Logs can be picked up from the Beatley Reference desk or downloaded from the Library website. (All ages)

## Interested in more programs?



All Alexandria Reads is made possible through a generous grant from the James M. Duncan, Jr. Library Foundation, Inc.

## ADULTS (CONT.)

### BEATLEY CENTRAL (cont.)

#### Tiny Art Show: Tiny Chair Edition (Information Desk)

APRIL 7 - MAY 2, ALL DAY

See big ideas, huge creativity, and tiny artwork on display during our Tiny Art Show exhibit, featuring the artwork created in March. Artists' tiny artworks, inspired by the All Alexandria Reads theme of America 250, will be on display in the Library through May 2. (Ages 5+)

#### Banned Book Club (Small Conference Room)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 at 6 PM

Join a discussion of the AAR fiction selection, "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward. (Teens and Adults)

#### Colonial Crafternoon: Cross-Stitch (Large Meeting Room)

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 at 2 PM

Learn about the art of cross-stitch, a craft popular during the American Colonial period. Create a small sampler to take home. (Teens and Adults)

#### Colonial Crafternoon: Covered Buttons (Large Meeting Room)

SUNDAY, MAY 3 at 2 PM

Make a covered button, a popular colonial era craft, and create a keychain. (Teens and Adults)

#### Take A Seat Reception and Artist Panel (Large Meeting Room)

SATURDAY, MAY 9 at 12 PM

See the chairs decorated by community artists during the Take A Seat Community Upcycling Art project, and hear from a panel of artists and historians about the theme of America 250. (Teens and Adults)

### BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY

#### Let's Talk Books – "Sing, Unburied Sing" by Jesmyn Ward (First Floor)

MONDAY, MARCH 23 at 7 PM

Join us for a discussion of our 2026 All Alexandria Reads Adult Fiction Selection, "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward. (Teens and Adults)

#### Mini Quilt (Second Floor)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 at 6 PM

Join us to make a mini quilt in the Log Cabin style. A basic knowledge of hand sewing is required to participate in this activity. (Teens and Adults)

#### Alexandria Black History Walking Tour (Starting at the front door)

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 from 1-2:30 PM

Manumission Tour Company will lead a 90-minute walking tour exploring important sites in Alexandria's Black History. The tour leaves from the Barrett Library's front door. (All ages, under 16 must be with an adult)

#### Unregulated AI Use - Understanding Threats and Regulations (Virtual)

MONDAY, APRIL 13 at 7 PM

Dr. Finley-Brook will walk us through the harm unregulated AI use has done and could inflict in the future. She will also explain policies experts are working on to rein in unchecked AI use and its impact. (Teens and Adults)

#### Foreign Policy Discussion with Amb. Richard Kauzlarich (Second Floor)

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 at 6:30 PM

Retired U.S. Ambassador Richard D. Kauzlarich will review the current administration's foreign policy as it affects relations with the states of the former Soviet Union and energy. (Adults)

#### Early Catholicism in Virginia: The Basilica of St. Mary (LH/SC, Sprouse Reading Room)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 at 2 PM

Archivist Virginia Nyce will explore the early history of Catholicism in Virginia, beginning with Spanish missionaries in the 16th century. She will cover topics including the struggle for religious freedom among colonials, and the challenges faced by 19th-century immigrants. (Adults)

#### Language and Latinidad in The Nation's Capital (Second Floor)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 at 11 AM

Dr. Amelia Tseng, Professor of Spanish and Linguistics at American University, will discuss the history of Latin American immigration to the DC Metro Area and how it has shaped a unique regional language. (Teens and Adults)

#### Let's Talk Books: "America, América" by Greg Grandin (Virtual)

MONDAY, APRIL 20 at 7 PM

Join us for a discussion of our 2026 All Alexandria Reads Adult Non-Fiction selection, "America, América" by Greg Grandin. (Adults)

#### A Celebration of History and Nature (Second Floor)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 at 2 PM

As we celebrate our country's founding, local Virginia Master Naturalists will share information about some regional gems where you can discover history and nature together. (Adults)

#### Ghost Stories in the American South (Second Floor)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 at 6 PM

Office of Historic Alexandria staff will join us to help unpack the differing concepts of ghosts, ghost stories, and other spirits raised in Jesmyn Ward's novel, "Sing, Unburied, Sing." (Teens and Adults)

### BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY

#### The Great American Novel (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 at 2 PM

Join former professor of American Literature Roger Lathbury at GMU in an interactive talk on what constitutes a "Great American Novel" and which writers best capture the American experience. (Adults)

#### Jewelry Making Workshop (Meeting Room)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 at 1:30 PM

Join us for a relaxing workshop making a handcrafted stretch bracelet, earrings, and a necklace. (Adults)

#### Artful Flowers (Meeting Room)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 at 2 PM

Artificial flowers are versatile decorations that date back long before the 18th century. Come make flowers on stems or on a brooch and learn about the kinds of garden flowers and wildflowers the early American colonists used to beautify their lives. (Adults)

#### Book Discussion: "America, America" by Greg Grandin (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 at 3:30 PM

Join us for a discussion on Zoom of our 2026 All Alexandria Reads Adult Non-Fiction selection, "America, América" by Greg Grandin. (Adults)

#### Introduction to Hula (Meeting Room)

FRIDAY, MAY 1 at 11 AM and

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 at 1:30 PM

Celebrate Hawaii's unique role in U.S. history with an introduction to its vibrant traditions, like the hula, a sacred storytelling dance passed down through generations. (Teens and Adults)

#### Swing Dancing (Meeting Room)

SATURDAY, MAY 9 at 2 PM

Join Tom and Debra of Gottaswing for a fun and low-pressure introductory swing dance lesson. (Adults)

#### Felted Birds (Meeting Room)

THURSDAY, MAY 14 at 2 PM

Felted birds were a common theme for the early American colonists. They could be used as ornaments and had simple yet beautiful forms and colors. Come make a stylized felted bird with us! (Adults)

### DUNCAN BRANCH LIBRARY

#### Thursday Afternoon Book Discussion: "A Woman of No Importance" by Sonia Purnell (Meeting Room)

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 at 1:30 PM

"The never-before-told story of Virginia Hall, one of the greatest spies in American history, and how her heroism changed the course of the Second World War." (Adults)

#### Herbalism in the U.S., A Story of Diversity, Resistance & Identity (Meeting Room)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 at 10:30 AM

Join local Clinical Herbalist, Kay Sidahmed, for an overview of the variety and diversity of herbal medicine traditions in our country, and their role in shaping and sustaining cultural identity. (Adults)

#### Thursday Afternoon Book Discussion: "Midnight on the Potomac" by Scott Ellsworth (Meeting Room)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 at 1:30 PM

"A story of titanic battles, political upheaval, behind the scenes in the White House, along the battlefronts in Virginia, and into the conspiracies of spies and secret agents during the Civil War." (Adults)

#### DIY Paper Marbling (Meeting Room)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 at 6 PM

Join us for a historic technique used to create beautiful swirling designs on paper, which you can use to decorate the interior of your favorite book or journal! Registration required. (Adults)

### Library Speakers Consortium

Looking for more content about America, history, literature, culture, and more? Be sure to check out the Library Speakers Consortium both live and pre-recorded author talks. Here are just a few of the many engaging titles to choose from!

- *Nuestra América: Stories of 30 Inspiring Latinas/Latinos Who Have Shaped the United States with Smithsonian Educators*
- *How Women's Liberation Transformed America: In Conversation with Clara Bingham*
- *The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us—A Sweeping History of American Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson*



SCAN ME

**AMERICA 250 Film Festival**

View the full festival lineup at: [alexlibraryva.org/250alex](http://alexlibraryva.org/250alex)

**The American Revolution Ep. 6: The Most Sacred Thing**

**Wednesday, March 4 2 PM**  
Burke Branch Library

**High Society**  
Saturday, April 11 10 AM  
Barrett Branch Library

**The Color Purple**  
Wednesday, May 27 2 PM  
Burke Branch Library

Scan me for more programs

# Sponsors and Partners

All Alexandria Reads is made possible through a generous grant from the

## James M. Duncan, Jr. Library Foundation, Inc.

Additional partners include the following local organizations and businesses:



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HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA



**Tenants and  
Workers United**

For reasonable disability accommodation for any of these programs, contact [jgregorio@alexlibraryva.org](mailto:jgregorio@alexlibraryva.org) or call 703.746.1701 or TTY 703.746.1790

## Alexandria Library Locations

### Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library

5005 Duke Street, 22304  
703.746.1702

### Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library

717 Queen Street, 22314  
703.746.1703

### Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library

4701 Seminary Road, 22304  
703.746.1704

### James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library

2501 Commonwealth Avenue, 22301  
703.746.1705

### Local History/Special Collections

717 Queen Street, 22314  
703.746.1706

### Alexandria Law Library

520 King Street, LL 34, 22314  
703.746.4391



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