



# Alexandria Library

**Rose Dawson, Director**

*“Learn, Explore, Create, Connect”*





*"I read a story about this place on the Internet. But I didn't think it actually existed."*

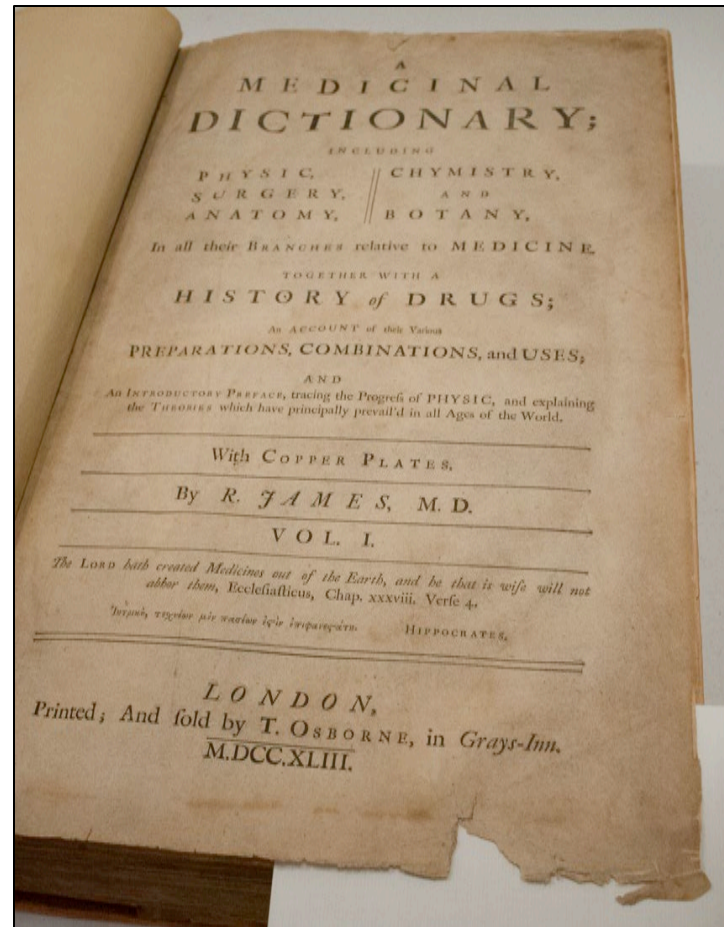
# Good bye!



# A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH...

Alexandria Library Company was founded July 24, 1794.  
Which of the following were NOT included in the Company's earliest addresses?

- a) Mr. Stabler's Apothecary Shop
- b) Old City Hall
- c) The Lyceum
- d) Masonic Temple
- e) Peabody Hall



# THE TALE OF TWO LIBRARIES



## In 1937:

- Dr. Robert South Barrett and Dr. Kate Waller Barrett
- The Society of Friends and 99-year lease
- Alexandria Library Company collections
- The City line item and its budget.



## 1939 LIBRARY SIT-IN

## ROBERT H. ROBINSON LIBRARY



# LIBRARY LEADERSHIP



**Trudi Hahn**  
*Chair*



**Robert Ray IV**  
*Vice Chair*



**Karen Marshall**  
*Treasurer*



**Patsy Rogers**  
*Secretary*



**Kathleen Schloeder**



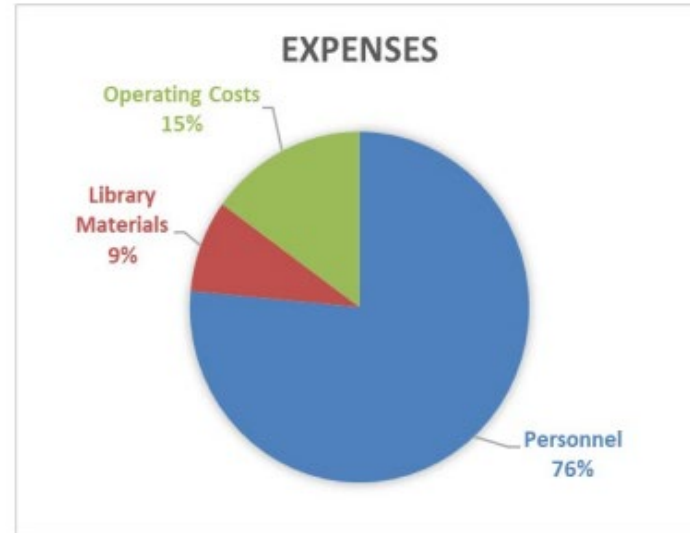
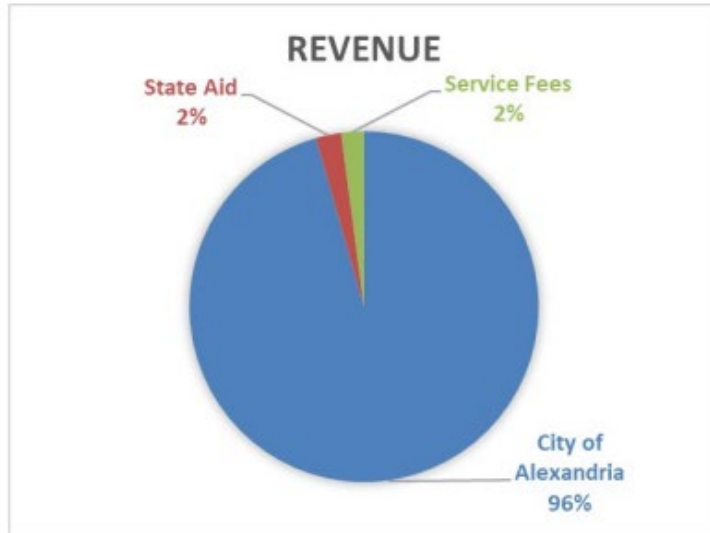
**Oscar P. Fitzgerald**



**Canek Aguirre**  
*Councilman*

# Library Budget

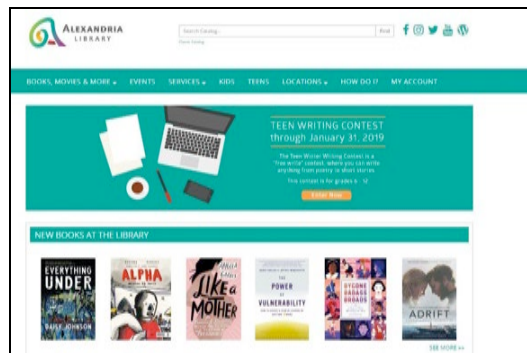
## FY 2022 Library Budget \$7,908,600



**Note:** Library fines eliminated FY2022



# THE ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

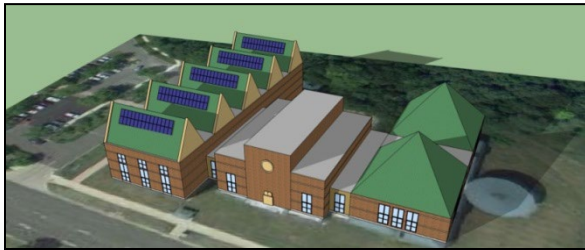


# **KATE WALLER BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY 717 Queen Street**



- Built in 1937
- Renovated in 1995
- Size: 25,000 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 111,749
- Circulation: 213,972
- Foundation Center

# CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR. CENTRAL LIBRARY 5005 Duke Street



- Opened in 2000
- Size: 62,400 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 372,557
- Circulation: 596,664
- Designed by Michael Graves
- Named after mayor
- Has Reading Garden



# ELLEN COOLIDGE BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY 4701 Seminary Road



- Built in 1968
- Closed in 2000
- Reopened in 2002
- Size: 20,234 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 99,527
- Circulation: 125,412
- Housed on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- 2002-2014 shared building with ACPS IT department and ESL program

# **JAMES M. DUNCAN, JR. BRANCH LIBRARY**

## **2501 Commonwealth Avenue**



- Opened in 1969
- Size: 13,130 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 158,646
- Circulation: 336,014
- Expanded in 2005
- Green roof



# LOCAL HISTORY/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BRANCH LIBRARY 717 Queen Street



- Formerly in Lloyd House
- Moved to Barrett in 2000
- Size: 4,928 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 10,854
- Circulation: 7,602
- Resources related to Alexandria, VA, American history

# **LAW LIBRARY**

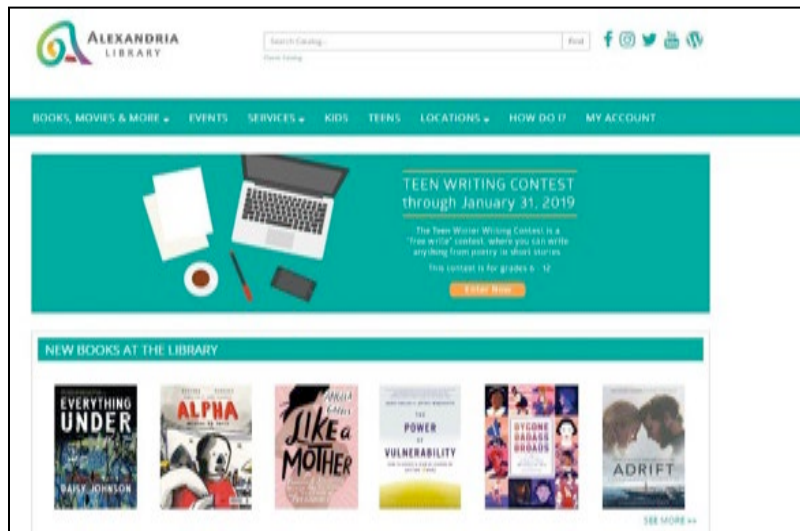
## **520 King Street, LL34**



- Became branch in 2015
- Size: 3,520 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 3,585
- Circulation: 8,750
- Located in Courthouse basement
- Provides legal resources
- Westlaw and LexisNexis databases

# ONLINE PRESENCE

## Website & Online Catalog



- Libraries website = virtual branch
- Manage library accounts online, pay fees, place holds
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, digital movies and music, databases

## Social Media



@alexlibraryva

## Online Blog

**'Out of the Stacks' Adult Services Blog** –  
<http://bit.ly/OutOfTheStacks>

# PROGRAMS - ADULT



## all alexandria reads

2022

The Alexandria Library  
invites you to read

**Crying in H Mart**  
by Michelle Zauner

**Infinite Country**  
by Patricia Engel

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

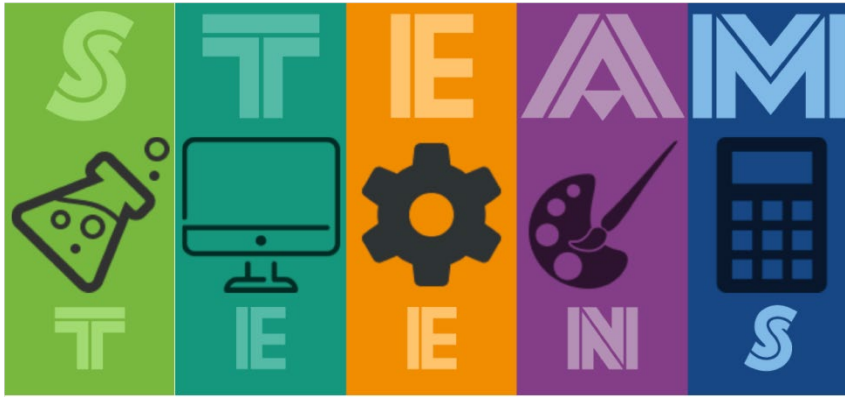


## Le Tour d'Alexandria Library

PEDAL THROUGH THE PAST • SATURDAY, OCT. 25 • 10 A.M.-12 P.M.



# PROGRAMS - TEENS

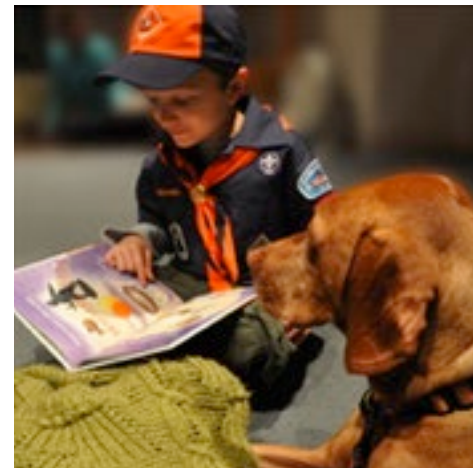
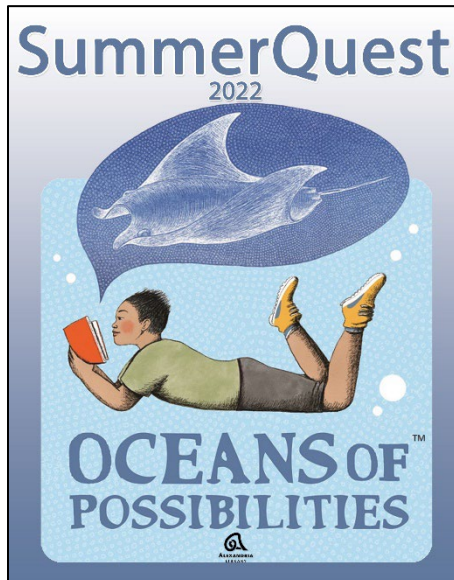


# T.A.B

Teen Advisory Board



# PROGRAMS - CHILDRENS




# DIGITAL SERVICES



Alexandria Library  
at Your Fingertips

Manage Your Account  
Search the Catalog  
Find Library Events  
Locate Branches  
and More...

Download For Apple and Android Devices



**mángo**  
languages

DOWNLOAD &  
STREAM MUSIC  
with ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

online and on your  
mobile device



  **freegal**  
music 4.0

# SERVICES





# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

ZETTY PAKSET

PHOTO COURTESY

### News



Family members of William "Buddy" Evans hold individual framed photos presented as a commemoration of the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Aug. 19 at the Barrett Branch Library. Evans was one of five men arrested during a peaceful protest after being refused library cards.



William "Buddy" Evans, at left, Otto Tucker, Edward Gaddis, Morris L. Murray and Clarence "Buck" Strange are escorted by police out of the "whites only" Alexandria Library on Queen Street after requesting a library card on Aug. 21, 1939.

## 'I Will Always Refuse'

FROM PAGE 1

Originally called the Alexandria Library, the present-day Barrett Branch Library was built in 1937 to serve the city's white residents. African American residents were denied access even though their tax dollars helped finance the library, forcing those interested in reading to travel to Richmond or Washington, D.C., to use libraries there.

Evans was 19 years old when he agreed to participate in the peaceful protest orchestrated by Samuel W. Tucker, a young attorney who was determined to establish equal access to community resources. Evans was joined by Tucker's younger brother Otto, 22; Edward Gaddis, 21; Morris L. Murray, 22; and Clarence "Buck" Strange, 21. One by one, each entered the library and requested a library card. When they were refused, they

selected a book and sat down to read in silence.

A few blocks away, Tucker waited in his law office for word on the protest. When a panicked library clerk called the police, Tucker called the media and by the time the five men were escorted out of the building, a crowd of more than 300 had gathered outside.

Evans and the others were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, even though witnesses testified the men were quiet and orderly during their time in the library. Tucker defended the men at trial and the charges were dropped after the arresting officer admitted the men had been arrested for their race and not their behavior.

Tucker used the protest to file a lawsuit to end the exclusion of African Americans from the public library. While a final ruling was never entered in the case, the judge found that no regulation limited the library's use to whites; it was open to Alexandria residents or taxpayers.

Despite the ruling, rather than allow black readers into the library, City Council appropriated funds to build a "colored branch" of the library, which opened in 1940 at the corner of Wythe and North Alfred streets. Named for a freed slave and beloved Alexandria pastor, the Robert H. Robinson Library was constructed at half the cost of the Alexandria Library, had shorter hours and was filled with secondhand books.

When invited to apply for a library card at the Robinson Library, Tucker refused to settle for the city's "separate but equal" solution, saying, "I refuse and will always

refuse to accept a card to be used at the library to be constructed and operated at Alfred and Wythe Streets in lieu of [a] card to be used at the existing library on Queen Street for which I have made application."

It wasn't until the 1950s that Alexandria's libraries were finally integrated. The Robinson Library closed in 1962 and today is the home of the Alexandria Black History Museum. The groundbreaking sit-in is chronicled in a documentary called "Out of Obscurity," which was shown following the commemoration ceremony.

"I had no idea about any of this until five or six years ago," said Sonya Patrice Evans. "My grandfather was so laid back and it was all about us when we were with him. He really never spoke of it. But I am so very, very proud of him."



Nancy Noyes Silcox holds a copy of her book "Samuel Wilbert Tucker: The Story of a Civil Rights Trailblazer and the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In."



Four generations of the William "Buddy" Evans family gather at the Barrett Branch Library on Aug. 19 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In. Seated in front are Evans' daughters Joyce Angela Evans Jackson, center, and Beverly Warner, right, surrounded by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild.



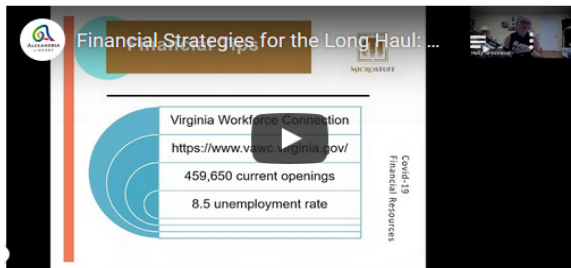
Sisters Kimberly Evans-Reed and Sonya Patrice Evans pose for a photo in front of a poster commemorating the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Aug. 19 at the Barrett Branch Library. Their grandfather, William "Buddy" Evans, was one of five African American men arrested on Aug. 21, 1939 for entering the "whites only" library in what many consider to be the earliest protest of the Civil Rights era.

# COVID-19 SERVICES

- Remote access to databases
  - Ancestry, Westlaw, etc.
- eBooks, eAudiobooks
- Virtual programming
- Curbside service

JOIN US ON YOUTUBE

Our newest video:



Check out all of our playlists:

Art, Crafts & Games

Cooking & Baking

Songs & Rhymes

Self-Care Series

Sustainability Series

Recorded Virtual Programs

## Curbside Pick-Up

Reserve Online

Available at all  
branch locations!

[alexlibraryva.org/curbside](https://alexlibraryva.org/curbside)







# PARTNERSHIPS



# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?





# Questions?

## **Alexandria Library Administration**

5005 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703.746.1701

[alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org)