



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."

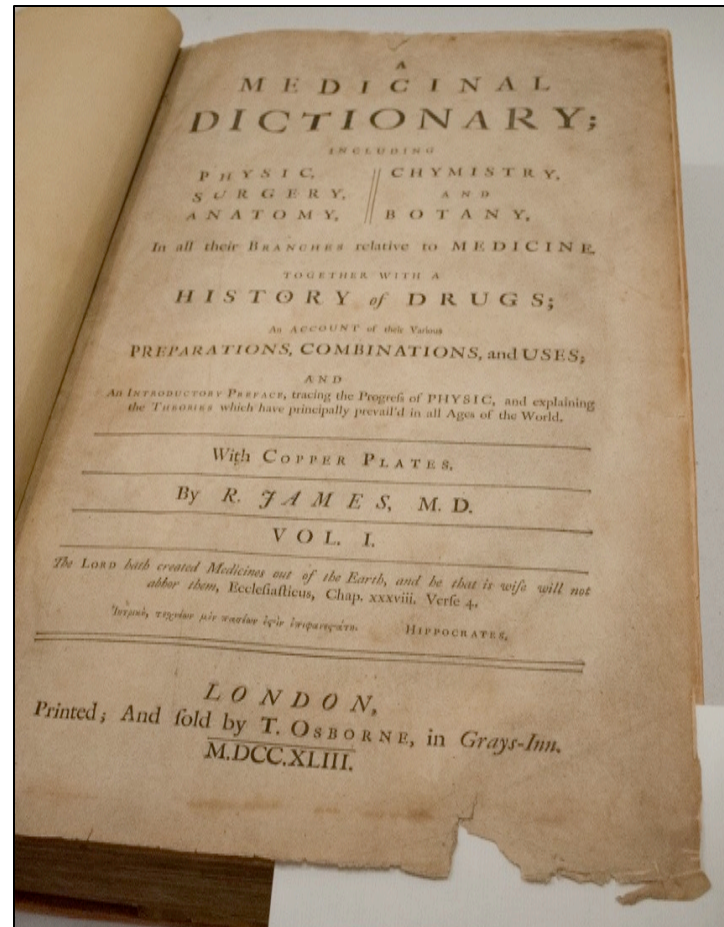
Good bye!



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



Albert Moseley II
Treasurer



Patsy Rogers
Secretary



Oscar P. Fitzgerald



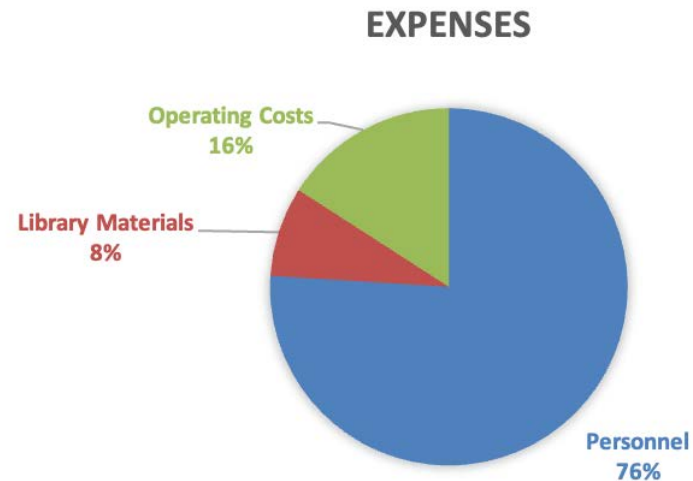
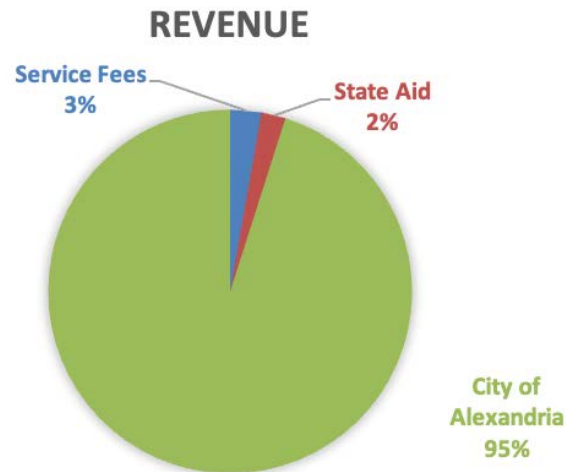
Dianne Fox



Canek Aguirre
Councilmember

Library Budget


FY 2024 Library Budget
\$9,033,458



Five Year Plan

Alexandria Library 5-Year Plan 2022-2026

"I think a library is the life blood of a community. I think Alexandria has a great library system and I thank you all for all your efforts."
-survey feedback



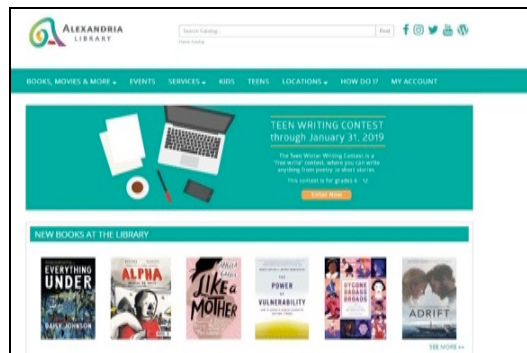
Library Mission

The Alexandria Library builds community by providing opportunities to learn, explore, create and connect.

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
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- Support for learners of all ages
- Library collections
- Technology management and access
- Library as a community hub
- Organizational health and development
- Community relations, marketing and branding
- Fundraising and advocacy

THE ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY



KATE WALLER BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY 717 Queen Street



- Built in 1937
- Renovated in 1995
- Size: 25,000 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 80,598
- Circulation: 172,846
- Collection: 57,300 items
- Foundation Center

Patron and circulation count as of June 2023

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



- Opened in 2000
- Size: 62,400 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 211,548
- Circulation: 456,001
- Collection: 173,600 items
- Designed by Michael Graves
- Named after mayor
- Has Reading Garden

Patron and circulation count as of June 2023

ELLEN COOLIDGE BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY 4701 Seminary Road



- Built in 1968
- Closed in 2000
- Reopened in 2002
- Size: 20,234 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 62,696
- Circulation: 84,091
- Collection: 66,000 items
- Housed on 2nd floor
- 2002-2014 shared building with ACPS IT department and ESL program

Patron and circulation count as of June 2023

JAMES M. DUNCAN, JR. BRANCH LIBRARY

2501 Commonwealth Avenue



- Opened in 1969
- Size: 13,130 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 121,406
- Circulation: 308,858
- Collection: 113,000 items
- Expanded in 2005
- Green roof

Patron and circulation count as of June 2023

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: 4,816
- Circulation: 5,401
- Collection: 20,000 items
- Resources related to Alexandria, VA, American history

Patron and circulation count as of June 2023

LAW LIBRARY

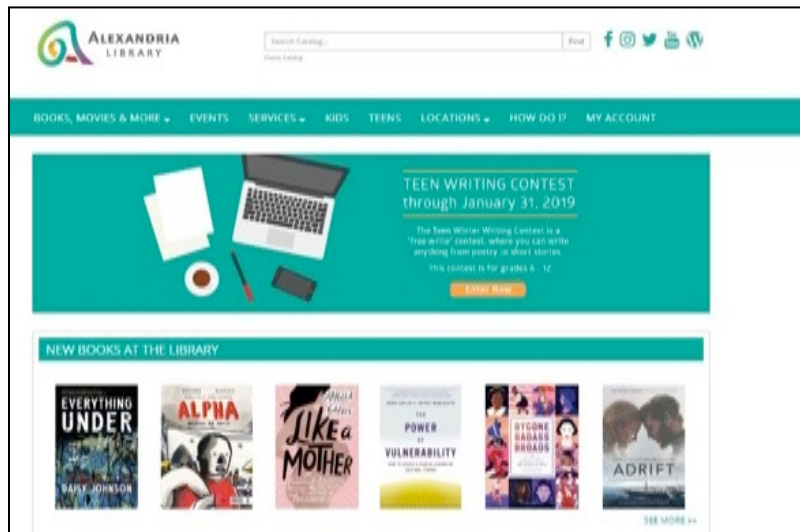
520 King Street, LL34



- Became branch in 2015
- Size: 3,520 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 3,544
- Circulation: 136
- Collection: 3,700 items
- Located in Courthouse basement
- Provides legal resources
- Westlaw and LexisNexis databases

Patron and circulation count as of June 2023

VIRTUAL BRANCH



- Library website and online catalog
- Manage library accounts online, pay fees, place holds
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, digital movies and music, databases
- Circulation: 415,882
- Collection: 90,000 items

Social Media



@alexlibraryva

Blog

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

Circulation count as of June 2023

DIGITAL SERVICES





Alexandria Library at your fingertips!



- Manage your account
- Search the catalog
- Check out and read or listen to e-books and e-audiobooks
- Find Library events
- Locate Branches

Download for Apple and Android devices





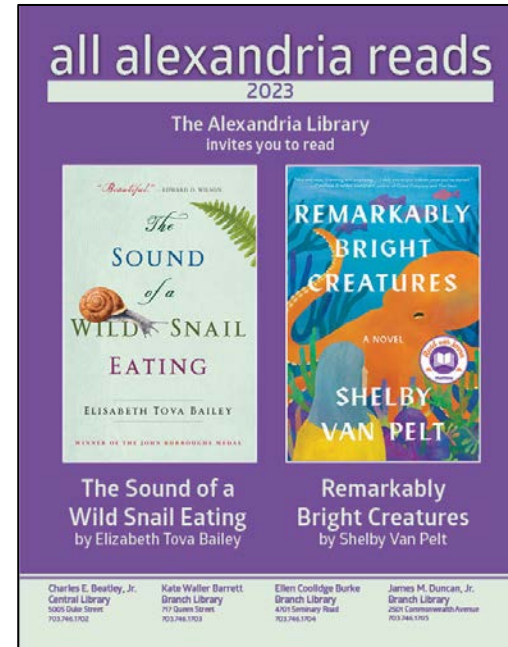
DOWNLOAD & STREAM MUSIC

with ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

online and on your
mobile device



PROGRAMS - ADULT



PROGRAMS - TEENS



T.A.B
Teen Advisory Board

PROGRAMS - CHILDRENS



SERVICES

Passports



Talking Books



Chromebooks & Hotspots



Outreach



SPECIAL EVENTS



Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 Cents

August 22, 2019

Page 16

SEVENING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

Protesting 'Whites Only' Library

1939 Library Sit-In Ignited Civil Rights era.

By JEANNE TREHMANN GAZETTE PACKET

Kimberly Evans-Rood was confused the reality of the situation. She was standing in front of a building by a police officer. But her mother told her to look again at the photograph. It was dated Aug. 21, 1939, and the familiar face in the photo was her grandfather, William "Buddy" Evans, one of five African American men who walked through the doors of the "whites only" Alexandria Library in what many believe to be the earliest protest of the Civil Rights era.

"My granddaddy never talked about it," Evans-Rood said at an Aug. 19 reception commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Alexandria Library Sit-In. "He only mentioned it once when I was about 10. It wasn't until I saw a photo in the newspaper a few years ago and thought 'What's my brother doing with a police officer?' They look identical but it was there that my mother explained the significance of what he had done."

Evans-Rood and her sister, Sonya Patricia Evans, were joined at the reception by four generations of the Evans family at the Barrett Branch Library on Queen Street, the site of the 1939 protest that saw her grandfather and four others arrested for entering the "whites only" building.

"It's here to celebrate the big, big thing that my granddaddy did for us," Evans-Rood said.

See CITY'S ROLE, PAGE 17

400 Years of Slavery

Gathering honors victims, addresses Alexandria's role in slavery.

By LIAH BOWMAN GAZETTE PACKET

In August 1619 a group of prisoners sailed into the mouth of the James River and landed at Point Comfort — an English foothold in the territory and Virginia Theological Seminary, then engaged in a silent march to the former Franklin & Armfield Slave Pen on Duke Street.

"It's very important to commemorate 400 years of chattel slavery at the places where the horrific system is most felt," said Reverend Kim Coleman, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Arlington.

"It's just another way we can make right what was wrong."

The Franklin & Armfield Slave Pen, located at 1315 Duke St., was once one of the biggest slave trading companies in the nation. Isaac Franklin, along with his partner John Armfield, leased the Duke Street building in 1828 to serve as a slave pen for enslaved Africans being shipped to the deep south. With the Atlantic slave trade declining in the early 19th century, southern planters became increasingly reliant on the domestic slave markets. In response to this increased demand, slaveholders in the upper south, calculating that their slaves could sell for double the price in the deep south, began shipping thousands of enslaved



News

'I Will Always Refuse'

From PAGE 1

Originally called the Alexandria Library, the Barrett Branch Library was built in 1917 to serve the city's white residents. African American residents were denied access even though they had helped finance the library, forcing them to travel in reading to Richmond or Washington, D.C., to use libraries there.

Evans was 19 years old when he agreed to participate in the peaceful protest organized 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, Marvin L. Murray, 22, and Clarence "Buck" Strong, 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 published 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 Wolfe and North Third 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 apply for the city's "separate but equal" institution, 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 Wolfe 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 fully integrated. The Robinson Library closed in 1962 and today is the home of the Alexandria Black History Museum. The groundbreaking act is characterized 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 Patricia Evans. "My granddaddy was so bad 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."

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, Marvin L. Murray and Clarence "Buck" Strong are escorted by police out of the "whites only" Alexandria Library on Queen Street after requesting a library card on Aug. 21, 1939.

Reverend Joseph Thompson addresses the crowd in front of the former Franklin & Armfield slave market, now Freedom House Museum.

Rose Dawson, executive director of the Alexandria Library, and City Councilwoman Ann Jackson hold a framed poster of the 1939 protest during the Aug. 19 ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the sit-in.

Attorney and Civil Rights trailblazer Samuel W. Tucker was the organizer of the 1939 Sit-In at the Alexandria Library.

See 'I WILL ALWAYS REFUSE' PAGE 6

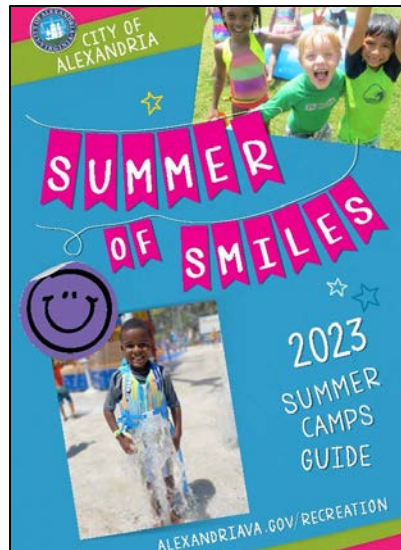
Nancy Noyes Silcox holds a copy of her book, "Samuel Wilson Tucker: The Story of a Civil Rights Trailblazer and the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In."

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 Wanner, right, surrounded by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Sisters Kimberly Evans-Rood and Sonya Patricia 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.



PARTNERSHIPS



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?





Questions?

Alexandria Library Administration
5005 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
703.746.1701

alexlibraryva.org