all alexandria reads
2019

The Alexandria Library
invites you to read

It’s All Relative
Adventures Up and Down the World’s Family Tree
by A.J. Jacobs

“...the funniest, most thoughtful, most original and entertaining book about family that you will ever read.”
—Mary Roseh

IT’S ALL RELATIVE
Adventures Up and Down the World’s Family Tree
by A.J. Jacobs

WEB AUTHOR TALK WITH A.J. JACOBS
Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM | Beatley Central Library (5005 Duke Street)
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 title and selected books for younger readers. Join the events and discussions that relate to the themes of It’s All Relative.

About
It’s All Relative: Adventures Up and Down the Family Tree
“Whimsical but also full of solid journalism and eye-opening revelations about the history of humanity, the book is a real treat.” --Booklist

“Jacobs muses on the nature of family and the interconnectedness of humanity in this entertaining introduction to the world of genealogy.” --Publishers Weekly

Similar “Read-Alike” Books For Younger Readers

Picture Books
One Family
by George Shannon

My Family Tree and Me
by Dusan Petricic

Chapter Book
Harbor Me
by Jacqueline Woodson

Young Adult (YA)
Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories for the Dark Side of American Immigration
by Ann Bausum

Library Events

BEATLEY CENTRAL
5005 Duke Street

Scrapbooking Series
MONDAYS, APRIL 1, 15, 29, 5 PM
Drop by to scrapbook some of your favorite family photos.

Ask a Librarian
MONDAYS, APRIL 8 & 22, 2 PM
Drop in to the Small Conference Room and ask a librarian a question about conducting genealogy research.

Make and Take: All About Me!
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 7 PM
Your family history begins with your own life story! Use our writing prompts and art supplies to create a book about yourself or make a small blank journal to fill with future experiences. Learn a simple bookbinding method to finish your project (all ages, with an adult).

Introduction to Geocaching
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 7 PM
Have you heard about Geocaching but are not sure where to start? Join NoVAGO as they introduce you to this Global Scavenger Hunt.

Cape Science: DNA
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2 PM
Dive into DNA! Zooming deep into the cells in our bodies, explore the importance of DNA and its role in genetics. Get hands-on examining the DNA of unlikely materials, learning the significance of DNA not just for humans, but for all living things (ages 6-12).

Judy Russell the Legal Genealogist: From Blackstone to the Statutes at Large
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 7 PM
Judy Russell will share what genealogical information can be learned from legal records.

Flow Circus: Flop Forward
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2 PM
Juggler, magician, and comedian Paul shares the skills he gained, toys he created, and lessons he learned from his grandparents in this hilarious performance full of jokes, tricks, and fun (ages 6+).

Flow Circus: Hands-on Workshop
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 3 PM
Learn juggling and other tricks from Flow Circus’ Paul to amaze your friends and family (ages 6+).

STEAM Challenge: Family Tree Detective
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7 PM
Learn how to explore your family story with interviews and diagrams (ages 8-12).

Be the Crime Scene Investigator
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2 PM
Calling all junior investigators! The Alexandria Police Department teaches us how science helps solve criminal cases (ages 8+).

Mobile Art Lab: Family Trees
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2 PM
Join the Mobile Art Lab to make a family tree themed craft to take home (ages 6-12).

Family Game Day with AARGGH
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10:30 AM
Join the Alexandria Arlington Regional Gaming Group for a day of gaming fun (all ages).

Hack Your Local Family History Center
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 7 PM
Family History Centers are amazing repositories of genealogical material. Learn all the tips and tricks from an insider to get the most out of your visit.

Genealogy Craft Night
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 7 PM
Have fun making genealogy themed crafts.

Alexandria Oddball Cinema
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 PM
A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004 © Paramount Pictures) PG
Join Oddball Cinema as they present this All Alexandria Reads themed film.

PBS POV Documentary Screening
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2 PM
Join us for the screening of the POV Documentary, 306 Hollywood. This event is in collaboration with the award-winning documentary series POV (www.pbs.org/POV).

Tour the Genealogy Room at the Library of Congress
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 12:30 PM
Meet at the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building for a tour of the Local History and Genealogy Reference Services. E-mail kdow@alexlibraryva.org. Registration required.
A Night with Crime Scene Investigators
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 7 PM
Alexandria Police Crime Scene Investigators explain how they use science to solve crimes in Alexandria (ages 16+).

BARRETT BRANCH
717 Queen Street

Race as Biology is Fiction, the Lived Experience of Racism is Fact
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 7:15 PM
Anthropology professor Leslie Walker looks at the complex story of race in the United States.

Family Tree STEAM
WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 3, 10, 17 & 24, 4 PM
Learn about DNA, blood types, genes and our family trees through hands-on art and science (ages 5+).

Carefull Knitting
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 4 PM
Join Barrett Branch’s knitting and crochet group to make welcome blankets for new immigrants and refugees.

The Art of the Family
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2:30 PM
Local artist and teacher Laura Hummel will show you how to draw a family tree and add leaves for family members, or how to make a mini book about a special relative with a photo you bring. Register at awilliams@alexlibraryva.org or by phone at 703-746-1713.

How Much Is “A Helpin’?”
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2 PM
Celebrate your family history by joining oral historian Anne Bolen as she teaches about sharing and preserving family recipes and cooking knowledge from one generation to another.

Family Game Night
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 6:30 PM
Challenge your family to a fun night of family-related games (ages 12+).

Highland Beach: A Historic Family Refuge during Segregation
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 7 PM
Highland Beach, Maryland, a historically black beach community, was founded in 1893 by Charles Douglass, son of Frederick Douglass. Audrey Davis, Director of Alexandria’s Black History Museum, will discuss the history of Highland Beach, and the special bond of the families who still live there.

BURKE BRANCH
4701 Seminary Road

Family Reunion Planning Workshop
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 7 PM
In this one-hour workshop, Michael Sicheri, travel advisor for Cruise Planners, will demystify the logistics of getting your family together to make a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

International Migration and the Evolution of Race in the US: Lessons from Census Data
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 3 PM
City of Alexandria demographer, Sierra Latham, will discuss the information collected by the U.S. Census, giving us a snapshot of the country’s beliefs and concerns throughout our history.

Caregiving 101
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 7 PM
Join Amy Goyer, AARP’s Family and Caregiving expert and author of Juggling Life, Work and Caregiving. Drawing upon 35 years working in the field of aging, she’ll share her hard-earned practical tips for navigating caregiving and finding strength and resilience while savoring the humorous and joyful moments along the way. Register at awilliams@alexlibraryva.org or by phone at 703-746-1713.

What Your Chromosomes Can Tell You: Merging Genetics and Genealogy
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 7 PM
This presentation will guide you through the DNA testing process for genealogy by teaching you the basics of autosomal DNA testing and how you can meet others who share your ancestry. Register at mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org or by phone at 703-746-1713.

Star Wars Family Legos!
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 10 AM
May the “Fourth” be with you and your family! Bring your little Jedis to enjoy Brixalot’s Star Wars Lego collection (ages 3+, with an adult).

The Genographic Project
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 7 PM
Dr. Miguel Vilar, Lead Scientist for National Geographic’s Genographic Project, will explain how the NGS project uses the newest genetic and collaborative technologies to discover new aspects of human migration and help participants understand their shared origins.

BURKE BRANCH
4701 Seminary Road

Family Crafts with the Mobile Art Lab
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 3 PM
Come create family themed art projects with the Mobile Art Lab (all ages).

Fun with Forensics!
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 4 PM
Meet forensic specialists and practice some interesting science including fingerprinting, investigating alternative light sources, and more (ages 8-14).

Snacks and Scrapbooking
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 3:30 PM
Bring your creative flair and family photos to make your own scrapbook! We will provide art supplies and yummy snacks (ages 12-18).

Family History Fair
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 3 PM
Drop by to check out some of the community resources that can help you with your family history research. A variety of genealogy societies will be present as well as family history consultants and services that will digitize your old photos and movies (ages 12+).

Finding Your Family Tree
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 7 PM
Ever wondered about your ancestors? Come learn the basics of genealogy from Chuck Mason, noted Fairfax Genealogy Society member (ages 12+).

Playing with Pups
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 3:30 PM
Operations Paws will bring a furry friend. We’ll learn about the many breeds of dogs around the world and make toys for rescue dogs (ages 7-15).

3 Women, 3 Stories
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 7 PM
Come hear these women tell their stories of human culture, building bridges and leading children (ages 12+).

The Hatfields and the McCoys
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2 PM
The Hatfields and McCoys have been called the most famous families in American history. Bill Richardson, one of the world’s foremost experts on these feuding clans, will discuss their rivalry and the lessons it can teach us today.
Machaya
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2 PM
Referred to as “one of the best Klezmer bands in the US” by the Washington Post, Machaya is a nationally acclaimed band playing authentic Klezmer music. The band masters the style, feeling, and dynamism of authentic East European Jewish music (all ages).

LOCAL HISTORY/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
717 Queen Street

DUNCAN BRANCH
2501 Commonwealth Avenue

Alexandria Oddball Cinema
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2 PM
Cold Comfort Farm (1995 © Gramercy Pictures) PG
Join Oddball Cinema as they present this All Alexandria Reads themed film.

After School Book Club: Harbor Me
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 3:30 PM
Join us as we discuss Harbor Me, by Jacqueline Woodson (ages 6+).

Nevertheless She Persisted:
Family Stories
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 3 PM
Anne Bolen, who has over 25 years in the field of museum and archives, will relate some of the lessons she has learned from the women she has interviewed and give you tips on how to conduct oral history interviews.

Alexandria Oddball Cinema
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2 PM
The Cuckoo (2002 © STV) PG-13
Join Oddball Cinema as they present this All Alexandria Reads themed film.

Cape Science: DNA
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 4 PM
Dive into DNA! Zooming deep into the cells in our bodies, explore the importance of DNA and its role in genetics. Get hands-on examining the DNA of unlikely materials, learning the significance of DNA not just for humans, but for all living things (ages 6-12).

Asma Elgouacem Presents Where is Freedom?
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 3 PM
Local author Asma Elgouacem has lived as a Muslim woman in Algeria, France, and the United States. Join us as she relates her experiences and teaches you more about your fellow man.

Muttigrees: Guess the Breed
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 10 AM
Operation Paws for Homes is at Duncan to teach you all about dog family trees. You’ll get the chance to guess that dog breed and meet a friendly dog (all ages, with an adult).

Family Trees with Mobile Art Lab
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 3:30 PM
Mobile Art Lab is going to teach us how to create beautiful family trees to celebrate our individual heritages (ages 6+).

Hand-Lettering Your Family Tree
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2 PM
Learn the art of Hand-Lettering. Use this modern take on calligraphy to design and create your own family tree.

If Trouble Don’t Kill Me
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2 PM
Virginia author, Ralph Berrier will present on his book, If Trouble Don’t Kill Me, which follows the lives of Berrier’s family from the mountains of Virginia to the Grand Ole Opry.

Scotch-Irish and German Westward Migration through Virginia
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 3 PM
Virginian author, and Virginia Tech professor, Dan Thorp, discusses his research into the Scotch-Irish and German family migration through Virginia during the 19th century.

Interested in more programs?
Visit alexlibraryva.org or your local library branch for additional events, programs and movie showtimes!
Sponsors and Partners

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

Additional partners and sponsors include the following local businesses and organizations:

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

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Questions to think about while reading *It’s All Relative: Adventures Up and Down the World’s Family Tree*

- Has reading this book inspired you to research your own family?
- Does your family hold family reunions? How extended are they? Did this book spark any interest in arranging a larger family gathering?
- Do we treat privacy differently today then in our grandparent’s day? Should we be concerned about our family trees being public?
- One of the great joys and tragedies of genealogy is in collecting histories from our oldest relatives. How can we teach younger generations to gather family histories before they are lost?
- Do you think the ease of getting DNA results now is harmful or beneficial? What if you learned a close family member was not a biological relative?
- How important is the genetic link between you and your ancestors? Do you believe it plays a role in determining your ability or potential?
- What would you want people 10,000 years from now to remember about people today?

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**Alexandria Library Locations**

**Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library**  
5005 Duke Street, 22304  
703.746.1702

**Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library**  
4701 Seminary Road, 22304  
703.746.1704

**Local History/Special Collections**  
717 Queen Street, 22314  
703.746.1706

**Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library**  
717 Queen Street, 22314  
703.746.1703

**James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library**  
2501 Commonwealth Avenue, 22301  
703.746.1705

**Alexandria Law Library**  
520 King Street, LL 34, 22314  
703.746.4391

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alexlibraryva.org