

## Historic Christ Church & Museum Readers

### 2018 Book Selections & Schedule

**May 15, 2018**

***On Palace Green* by Patrick Heffernan\***

From the Introduction to *On Palace Green*: Transcribed in full is an exchange of fifty-six letters written in the winter of 1806–1807 by persons whom most readers are not likely to know. There are no very famous persons in the story, though many were importantly involved in shaping the new nation—and the central event is simply a proposal of marriage. Not one of the letters is from either of the love-struck pair to the other; for though some were written, none have been found. So these are not love letters. They are, however, loving, and interesting, and entertaining letters in all sorts of ways. It is the humanity and beauty of the correspondence, not the importance or drama of the events, that encouraged me to make it available to others.

***A Ring for Her Finger* by Lloyd T. Smith\***

A brief biography of Robert Carter's second wife and analysis of the term "jointure" precede the line-by-line presentation of the text of the jointure. Brief biographies of all the relevant individuals follow. The work is a step back in time to the period we study at HCC.

**July 17, 2018**

***Follow the River* by James Alexander Thom**

This work of historical fiction tells the story of Mary Draper Ingles who was twenty-three, married, and pregnant when Shawnee Indians invaded her Virginia settlement, killed the inhabitants, and took her captive. For months, she lived with them, unbroken, until she escaped, and followed a thousand-mile trail to freedom—a pioneer woman who risked her life to return to her people.

**September 18, 2018**

***Southern Lady, Yankee Spy* by Elizabeth Varon**

Northern sympathizer in the Confederate capital, daring spymaster, postwar politician: Elizabeth Van Lew was one of the most remarkable figures in American history, a woman who defied the conventions of the nineteenth-century South. In *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy*, historian Elizabeth Varon provides a gripping, richly researched account of the woman who led what one historian called "the most productive espionage operation of the Civil War." Varon describes a woman who was very much a product of her time and place, yet continually took controversial stands. Even today, Elizabeth Van Lew remains a controversial figure in her beloved Richmond, remembered as the "Crazy Bet" of Lost Cause propaganda.

***The Secrets of Mary Bowser* by Lois Leveen**

Based on the true story of a freed African American slave who returned to Virginia at the onset of the Civil War to spy on the Confederates, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* combines facts and speculation to craft a historical novel that is a powerful story of a woman who risked her own freedom to bring freedom to others. The book is set in Richmond and relates also the story of Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy white Virginian who ran a spy network for the Union.

**November 13, 2018**

***Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

The true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. Originally relegated to teaching math in the South's segregated public schools, they were called into service during the labor shortages of World War II need of anyone who had the right stuff. Suddenly, these overlooked math whizzes had a shot at jobs worthy of their skills, and they answered Uncle Sam's call, moving to Hampton, Virginia and the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory. Even as Virginia's Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts, the women of Langley's all-black "West Computing" group helped America achieve one of the things it desired most: a decisive victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and domination of the heavens.

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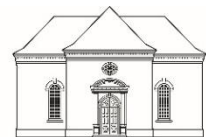
**Meetings: Research Library in the Carter Center at 9:30 a.m.**

**Free & Open to the Public**

**\* Books may be purchased at HCC&M Gift Shop**

**All other Books at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Alibris.com](https://www.alibris.com)**

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