

# Vietnam Books, Movies Next Up For RHS

The Rockbridge Historical Society is picking up in the new year right where it left off at the end of 2025 – with a focus on the Vietnam War.

The continued initiatives begun by RHS last year as part of its Virginia 250 observance – the bi-monthly book club entitled Revolutionary Books, 1776-2026, and Revolutionary Films, 1776-2026 – will offer two chances for community involvement on back-to-back nights next week.

To engage a thematic pairing of short fictional and non-fictional selections, area residents are invited to the Rockbridge Regional Library in Lexington on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. for the next meeting of the Revolutionary Books club.

Attendees can explore the Vietnam-tied writings of U.S. infantryman, memoirist and novelist Tim O'Brien, author of a 1991 Pulitzer-nominated story collection "The Things They Carried"; and Civil Rights activist, preacher and philosopher the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on his 1967 speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence".

Print and audio versions of O'Brien's anthology can be loaned by local public and university libraries, with transcripts and YouTube recordings of King's speech readily accessed online. Pre-readings of those texts will be enriched by the screening of short interviews with the paired authors. Together, they'll seed discussion about the complex and often contradictory aims and accounts of the war, according to RHS Executive Director Eric Wilson.

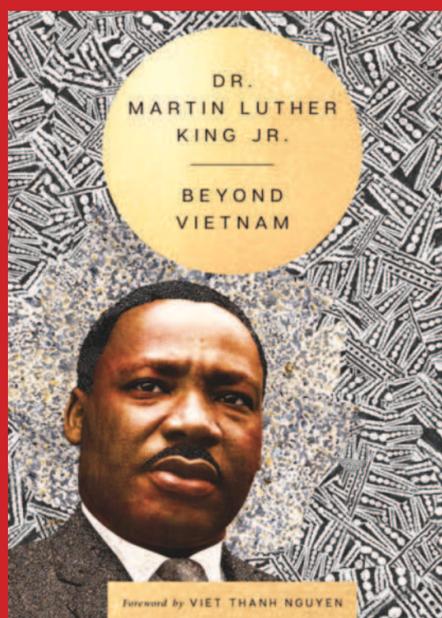
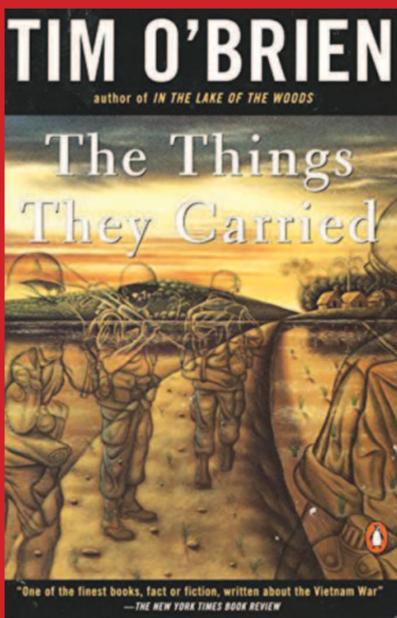
The following night, Jan. 14, also at 6 at the Lexington Library, another sampler extends RHS' first run of Revolutionary Films 1776-2026.

After screening pivotal episodes from Ken Burns' documentaries on the American Revolution and Vietnam War in November and December, this third gathering aims to jointly introduce and revisit a variety of feature-length movies produced across the war's five-decade wake. Scenes from "When We Were Soldiers Once ...

See RHS, page B2



THE MOVIE "We Were Soldiers" starring Mel Gibson will be one of the Vietnam movies that will be discussed at the next Revolutionary Films meeting on Jan. 14. The night before, the Rockbridge Historical Society will also host its next Revolutionary Books meeting, which will consider Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien's writings and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "Beyond Vietnam."



## Bridge Club Moves, Invites New Members

The Bridge Club of Lexington now has a new meeting location, and its members are taking this opportunity to invite other residents to join them.

The club had been meeting at the Lexington Country Club, but with renovations now underway there, the club was offered the opportunity to move its weekly games to Kendal at Lexington, in The Restaurant at Kendal in the main building. The club meets every Monday at 12:30 p.m.

The Bridge Club of Lexington is an American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) sanctioned duplicate bridge club.

"That means we play bridge, always for fun and friendship, but also to earn ACBL points towards a Life Master Award," said Karen Jackson, the director. "We view ourselves as a teaching club as well as a competitive club.

For this reason we welcome all levels from beginner to expert.

"If you played bridge in college and then suspended your hobby in order to establish a career and/or raise a family, then now is a great time to revive your old hobby," she continued. "If you have been playing bridge for many years and consider yourself an expert, then come and join us and test your skills or teach new players. It's never too late to pay it forward."

The BCL had its humble beginning with a few old friends, back in the late 1990s, who got together to share their love of the game and socialize. From there, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Rob Apgar, it grew into a club of over 50 members.

Over the years, the club has been hosted by the Maury River Senior Center in Buena



FOUR members of the Bridge Club of Lexington test their skills recently. Pictured are (from left) Suzanne King, Ron Patrick, Terry Fridley and Harvey Galloway.

Vista, night games at the Episcopal Church in Lexington, and most recently Monday day games at the Lexington Country Club.

"So you may be thinking, 'This looks interesting, what do I do now?,'" said Jackson.

Those interested are invited to contact Jackson at

kjaxon2001@yahoo.com or (540) 460-5474 or Bob Textor at rbtextor@outlook.com or (540) 784-4969.

See Bridge, page B2

## 'In The Classroom' Goes On Exhibit At Staniar

Washington and Lee University's Staniar Gallery is presenting "In a Classroom," a solo exhibition by multimedia artist Joey Fauerso.

The exhibit will be on view from Jan. 8 through Feb. 6. Fauerso will also give an artist's talk on Jan. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson Concert Hall in the Lenfest Center for the Arts, followed by a reception.

The exhibition and reception events are free and open to the public.

Taking its title from Adrienne Rich's 1971 poem, "In a Classroom," Fauerso's exhibition presents new work begun during her residency at the ARCUS Project in Moriya, Japan, housed in the historic Oisawa Elementary School building.

Inspired by her residency studio – a classroom until the school's closure in 1944 – Fauerso's exhibit contrasts structured, geometric materials and spaces, such as paper sandwich bags, blackboards and modular cubbies, with the movements and irregularities of bodies in the natural world.

"In a Classroom" begins with an open-ended curiosity about the physical and acoustic properties of everyday materials and extends to broader conversations on the physics of "crumple theory," the complexities and limitations of learning environments and the nature of embodied perception.

The exhibition will debut a new large-scale projected video installation, along with a series of two- and three-dimensional works installed on the gallery walls.

The exhibition is also accompanied by a catalogue featuring essays by the artist; Tatiana Istomina, a New York-based contemporary artist; and Andrea Lepage, the Pamela H. Simpson Professor of Art History and head of the Department of Art and Art History at W&L.

Fauerso is an interdisciplinary artist working across painting, sculpture, installation, video and performance. She is a professor in the School of Art and Design at Texas State University and lives with her family in San Antonio, Texas.

This exhibition is curated by Lepage and Laura Jane Ramsburg, director of the Staniar Gallery, and is supported by W&L's Department of Art and Art History, Department of History and Education Studies Program.

See Staniar, page B2

## RHS

*continued from page B1*

and Young” and others from Oliver Stone’s Oscar-winning trilogy “Platoon,” “Born on the Fourth of July,” and “Heaven & Earth” will be accompanied by filmed interviews with the directors, journalists, historians, and veterans who’ve collectively brought those narratives to mass audiences.

Together, January’s events model what RHS is structuring as complementary three-year series. Built around a series of transhistorical themes in American history, bimonthly meetings of Revolutionary Books will alternate between a shared set text for all, followed two months later by a “bring your own” follow-up.

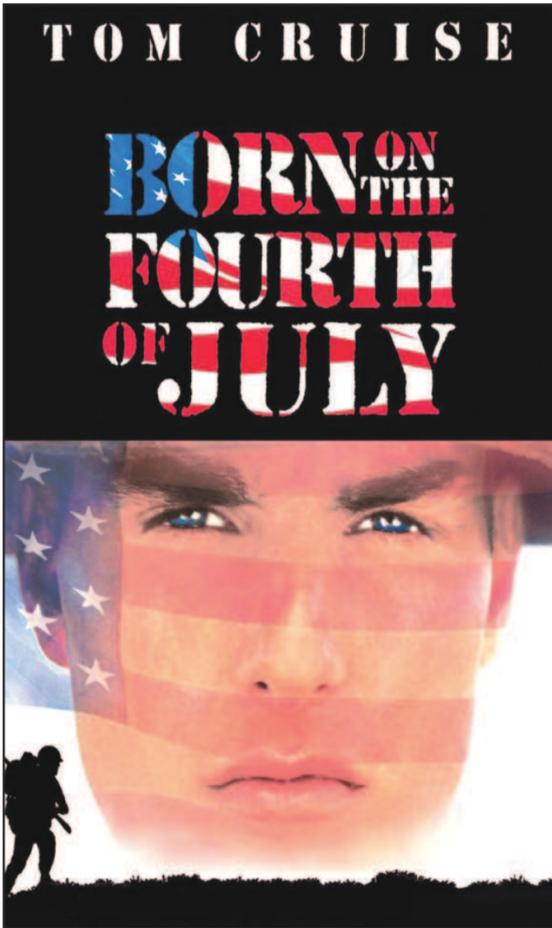
“With those choices, attendees will expand the reach of those themes by discussing and recommending relevant favorites of their own,” said Wilson. “By balancing some deep-dives with other short digital supplements, we hope to arrange a responsive, inviting community circle, enriched by a wider array of collective experience and interest, beyond the rhythms of a more traditional ‘book club’ or film repertoire. Different cinematic genres will illuminate those perspectives further, drawing from prizewinning classics and documentary features, sampling from expansive series and curating targeted excerpts to spur personal curiosities, yet further.”

Presently, both series plan to meet on the second Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each even-numbered month, gathering at public libraries and, in time, rotating to different community sites for even more accessible reach and topical emphasis.

Area residents are encouraged to follow RHS Facebook and RHS Instagram for updates, trailers, and reviews, and write Wilson at Director@RockbridgeHistory.org with questions about the initiatives.

“We’re also eager to field recommendations for titles and topics to be canvassed in the commemorative window now fully at hand: spanning the 250th anniversary celebrations of American independence this July 4, and the establishment of Lexington and Rockbridge County in January 1778, during the heart of the Revolutionary War,” said Wilson.

“We hope you’ll encourage friends, family, and favorite community organizations to join in the range of events marking this landmark ‘Three-Year Birthday Party,’” said Wilson.



SCENES from ‘Born on the Fourth of July’ starring Tom Cruise, as well as scenes from “When We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young,” “Platoon” and “Heaven & Earth,” will be shown at the Revolutionary Films meeting on Jan. 14. The scenes will be accompanied by filmed interviews with the directors, journalists, historians and veterans who brought those narratives to the big screen.



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JOEY FAUERSO'S exhibit “In a Classroom, 2025” can be seen in Washington and Lee University’s Staniar Gallery starting this week. (installation view courtesy of the artist)

## Staniar

*continued from page B1*

For more information about the 2025-26 exhibition and programming schedule, visit Staniar Gallery’s website: <https://wlu.edu/staniar-gallery>.

Staniar Gallery is located on the second floor of Wilson Hall, in Washington and Lee University’s Lenfest Center for the Arts. When the campus is open to the public, gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (540) 458-8861.

## Bridge

*continued from page B1*

“We will find a partner for you and help you get acclimated to your new environment,” said Textor. “We will make you feel welcome. Lessons are available for those just beginning or for those who feel they want to refine their past skills.”

Buddy Carter can provide lessons and he can be reached at featherman53@yahoo.com or (540) 816-0425, text or call.

“Join us for an opportunity to meet new people, refresh your skills or learn new ones, and enhance your memory skills,” said Jackson. “There is a modest fee of \$3 per game that funds the club and the ACBL entry fees.

“If this is not for you, please discuss it with your friends, neighbors, or church parishioners that may have missed it in the newspaper. We hope to see new faces and make friends in the new year.”

## MLK Tea Ceremony At Washington & Lee

The Chanoyu Tea Society at Washington and Lee University will host a tea ceremony demonstration to honor the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19 in the Japanese tearoom on W&L’s campus.

There will be three 30-minute sessions at 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Registration is required, and those interested should fill out a separate registration entry for each member of their party.

Since seating is limited to 20 participants per session and there is no automated waitlist, those whose plans change are asked to cancel their reservations.

Register at <https://calendly.com/mwlu/mlk-tea2026> and contact Robert Forsberg (rforsberg@wlu.edu) with any registration questions.

The event will also honor the 15th generation Grand Tea Master of the Urasenke Tradition, Sen Genshitsu, who died in August 2025 at the age of 102. He named the W&L tearoom “Senshin’an” (Clearing-the-Mind Abode) and donated many tea utensils for the community’s tea practice.

Learn more about W&L’s tearoom at <https://tearoom.wlu.edu>.

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