



# News Release

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**March 21, 2018**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **UPCOMING ALL HENRICO READS COMMUNITY EVENTS**

*A student-run food drive, an interactive art installation, a panel discussion, and more community activities surround the upcoming All Henrico Reads author event with Reyna Grande, who will discuss her memoir *The Distance Between Us* on April 11<sup>th</sup> at Glen Allen High School.*

In anticipation of All Henrico Reads with author Reyna Grande, students at Glen Allen High School held a food drive in March that yielded hundreds of items to donate to local food bank Lamb's Basket.

The Libbie Mill Library created an interactive art installation on the library's second floor, encouraging visitors to mark their country of ancestry or origin with a sticker. Nearly 200 community members have participated so far.

In addition, during the last week of March, all HCPL locations will hold storytimes for children which emphasize the theme of welcoming others.

*The Distance Between Us*, this year's All Henrico Reads featured title, is a memoir of author Reyna Grande's difficult upbringing, her immigration journey from Mexico to the U.S., her path to citizenship, and her escape from poverty through obtaining higher education.

"We are happy to see Henricoans strengthening community ties through giving, and sharing their family histories, inspired by *The Distance Between Us*," says Patty Conway, Community Relations Coordinator for Henrico County Public Library.

Book clubs at all Henrico County Public Library locations have read *The Distance Between Us*, and book club leaders reported patrons "found the book challenging, but were grateful they had read what they felt was an important and moving story," says Alicia Ahlvers, HCPL Public Services Administrator.

All are invited to the All Henrico Reads evening event on April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm, at Glen Allen High School, to hear the author discuss *The Distance Between Us*, answer questions, and sign copies of her books, which will be available for sale from bbgb booksellers. Attendees can enter to win \$100 gift cards for local businesses, courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

After the event, programs inspired by the book will continue at Henrico County Public Library including *Closing the Distance Between Us: Immigrants in Henrico*, a moderated panel discussion featuring immigrants from the Henrico community, on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Tuckahoe Library.

For residents of Eastern Henrico, Wanda Hernández of the Valentine Museum will be discussing the diverse Latino experience in the greater Richmond area at Varina Library on May 22 at 7pm, as represented in the museum's recent exhibition *Nuestras Historias: Latinos in Richmond*.

For additional information on this topic, please contact Patty Conway, Community Relations Coordinator for Henrico County Public Library, at [pconway@henricolibrary.org](mailto:pconway@henricolibrary.org) / 804.501.1906

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