



News Release

Henrico County
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Tayari Jones to be 2015 All Henrico Reads Author

The Henrico County Public Library, in partnership with Henrico County Public Schools and the Friends of Henrico County Public Library, is proud to host nationally acclaimed author, Tayari Jones, on Wednesday, April 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Glen Allen High School, 10700 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, 23060, as part of its annual ALL HENRICO READS program. Her novel, *Silver Sparrow*, the featured title, will be available for sale, as well as some of her other novels. She will autograph books following the program.

Tayari Jones was born in Atlanta, Georgia and is a graduate of Spelman College, The University of Iowa and Arizona State University. She is currently an associate professor in the MFA program at Rutgers-Newark University. Ms. Jones is also the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award in Fine Arts from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Jones' work explores the complexities of life in the urban centers of the American South. The *Village Voice* says she "is fast defining middle-class black Atlanta the way Cheever did Westchester."

Her novel and the featured All Henrico Reads title, *Silver Sparrow*, was named as one of the best of 2011 by *Library Journal*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, and *Slate*. The novel is described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "impossible to put down," and the *Washington Post* called the novel, "compelling." Set in a middle-class neighborhood in Atlanta in the 1980s, *Silver Sparrow* revolves around James Witherspoon's two families, the public one and the secret one. When the daughters from each family meet and form a friendship, only one of them knows they are sisters. It is a relationship destined to explode when secrets are revealed and illusions shattered. As Jones explores the backstories of her rich and relatable yet flawed characters -- the father, the two mothers, the two daughters, the grandmother, and the uncle -- she also reveals the joy, as well as the destruction, they brought to one another's lives.

All Henrico Reads is a community reading program that provides an opportunity for individuals to come together through a shared reading experience and discussion.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating will be first come, first served. Doors will open at 6:15 pm. For additional information visit www.henricolibrary.org/AHR

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