

# THE STUDY HALL

THE OFFICIAL MCCAIN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

April 2024

## Self-Care Spring

By Kylie Krause

Upon returning from peak week and spring break, many Scotties may be feeling stressed. Wondering, what's next? Whether that may be future classes or potential career paths, it is important to prioritize your mental health this spring. Here are some things to do on campus and in Atlanta that may ease your springtime anxieties.

Relaxing on the Quad:

McCain Library has an assortment of goodies to aid your springtime needs! Check out a picnic blanket with your friends and pair it with one of McCain's many [board games](#)!

Athletics:

Participating in athletic activities is a wonderful way to relax. Take a walk around campus to see the beautiful buildings Agnes Scott College has to offer. My favorite is the area in front of the Bradely Observatory! You could even check out [recreational equipment](#) at the McCain Library, from yoga mats to badminton kits! Or cheer on [Scotties at a game](#).

Explore the Atlanta Botanical Gardens:

Until April 14th, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens will be offering Orchid Daze, a large orchid show! This show will feature works from Lillian Blades, who specializes in mixed media, flowering landscapes. Here is the link for more information on this event!

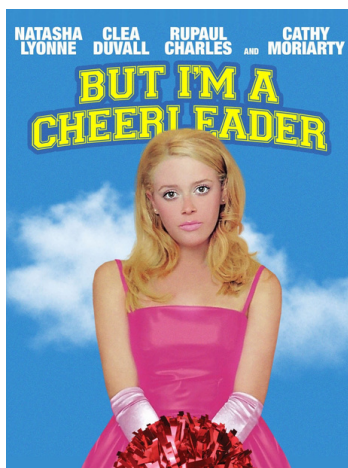
<https://atlantabg.org/plan-your-visit/atlanta-garden-calendar/orchid-daze/>

## McCain Must Watch

By Kay Christopherson

*But I'm A Cheerleader*

A seminal queer classic directed by Jamie Babbit, *But I'm A Cheerleader* follows a cheerleader as she's sent to conversion therapy, falls in love, and attempts to escape. It may sound like a bleak premise, but this film is anything but bleak. It's full of heart, humor, and above all--camp. It features performances from stellar actresses before they made it big, such as a young Natasha Lyonne, Clea DuVall (DuVall went on to direct Kristen Stewart's queer Christmas rom-com, *Happiest Season*), Melanie Lynskey, and Michelle Williams. Best of all, it's unapologetically made by LGBT+ folks, for LGBT+ folks.



<https://agnesscott.on.worldcat.org/oclc/52964568>

### CONTENT

Self-Care Spring

McCain Must Watch

Seed Balls

Seed Recs from the Circ Desk

Unforgettable Reads for Spring

In Defense of Matcha

Exam Prep

53rd Annual Writers' Festival

Literary Tea at McCain

Celebrate Libraries

Paint Chip Poetry Contest

AANHPI Month Reading List & Spotify Playlist

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Paint Chip Poetry Contest  
Apr. 1-20

Literary Tea at McCain  
Apr. 2

53rd Annual Writers' Festival  
Apr. 2, 4, 5

Mobile Librarian  
Apr. 12

# Seed Balls

By Emma Magnus

The Seed Library is back and McCain has the perfect recipe to bring some more fun into gardening this spring! Seed balls are a natural and easy way to cultivate plants and protect seeds from birds while nature decides the proper germination period for the plant. Seed balls have been used historically within many cultures throughout the world and are the perfect hands-on activity to do with friends, family, and community members. When making seed balls you need to take into account where you want your seeds to be planted. If you want flowers or vegetables in a garden or yard, make sure to pick out seeds that are native to your community, climate, environment, and soil composition. If you are interested in using pots or planters for your plants, you can be a little more creative with what type of seeds you want to put in your seed ball. This can be a fun and sustainable way to garden because nature does a lot of the work for you and you can help rebuild your community's natural flora! Fall to early spring is the perfect time to plant your native plant seed balls because it allows the seeds to be protected while having a cold-period before their germination and growth which can make starting a garden way easier for you. If you are trying to grow a plant not native to your area, make sure to know the requirements for that specific seed which McCain Library can help you with. Knowing the ideal environment for the species you are planting helps when placing and growing the seed balls. McCain's Seed Library has a plethora of seeds for you to choose from so stop by the Circulation Desk and check some out!

Sources: <https://seed-balls.com/what-are-seed-balls>  
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-seed-bomb>



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

# Seed Recs from the Circ Desk

By Lissete Estrella

With the Seed Library's arrival at McCain Library, I'm highlighting 5 of my favorite seeds from the collection!

Sunflower American Giant Hybrid - I grow sunflower seeds every spring season thus I'm biased towards recommending sunflower seeds. But the pluses of growing sunflowers of this kind are abundant!

- Sunflower seeds are relatively easy to grow with consistent watering and intake of full sun!
- Yummy fresh-grown sunflower seeds can be harvested after!
- Pretty views :)
- & so much more

Tomato Tommy Toe - I don't like tomatoes but this one has a cute name so I recommend it. Yields "hundreds of large red cherry tomatoes throughout the season."

Rosemary - Rosemary has many uses! I love the idea of having your own reserve of rosemary to use for cooking purposes, to make tea, to put around the house for a nice fragrance and even to use in your hair regime! I personally use boiled rosemary water to spray into my hair since it promotes faster hair growth.

Melon Petite Yellow Watermelon - Who doesn't love melon? This variety is particularly sweet!

Forget-Me-Not - Described as a "small star-shaped" and "powdery-blue" colored flower, this one is sure to be a wonderful addition to your garden! I recommend these just because they are so cute and even better- available in our collection!

For a full list of what seeds are currently available in the Seed Library visit <https://libguides.agnesscott.edu/seed>

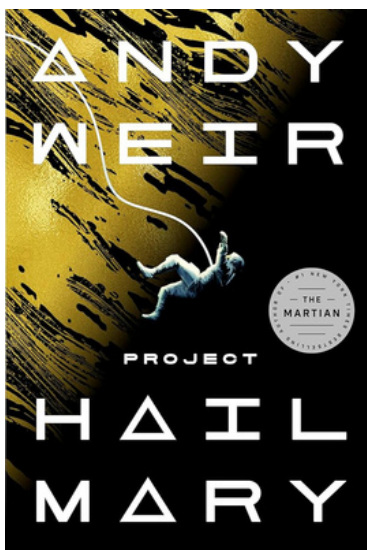
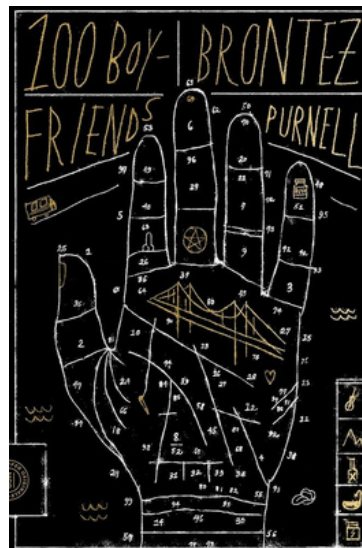
# Unforgettable Reads for Spring

By Lissete Estrella

**100 Boyfriends** by Brontez Purnell

*100 Boyfriends* by Brontez Purnell is a remarkable piece of literature that chronicles his diverse romantic and sexual experiences as a queer man. Even after reading it, I can't help but think about it from time to time. Purnell's storytelling skills had a tremendous impact on me as a reader. At first glance, it seems like just a book about a man sharing his experiences, but it's so much more than that. Not to mention, McCain's version of the book has an eye-catching cover! Each encounter is a unique story that provides an unparalleled glimpse into a rarely-seen queer community. It's truly an unforgettable read.

<https://agnesscott.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1153517705>



By Anna Hillesheim

**Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

This April if you want some feel-good sci-fi I can't recommend checking out *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir enough. This story of first contact emphasizes how in times of crisis, we are all more similar than we are different. Ryland Grace just woke up on a spaceship light years away from home, and he doesn't remember anything- not even his own name. He's alone, and he has to figure out how to solve an extinction-level threat he can't even remember. *Project Hail Mary* switches between the present, as Ryland tries to figure out what he's doing here and how to save humanity, and the past, as Ryland slowly remembers what brought him here. *Project Hail Mary* features intuitive storytelling, a snarky narrator, believable science, and a happy ending making it perfect for those new to sci-fi and longtime fans of the genre.

<https://agnesscott.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1149223512>



# In Defense of Matcha

By **Nathalie Slaughter**



Spring is here which means that refreshing drinks are in season. No matter the occasion, drinks are a must with any meal or snack that is being laid out for the occasion. One of the drinks that should be on the menu is a tea called Matcha. Matcha is a fine ground powder that is often used in Ceremonial Teas in Japan. In the last couple of decades, Matcha has become a popular drink around the world but with popularity comes people who may not like it for a variety of different reasons. One of the many reasons is that Matcha “tastes like grass.” Matcha will “taste like grass” because it is from a tea plant which has earthy elements to it but also there are different textures that matcha comes in. Similar to most teas, matcha comes in different forms that can satisfy everyone’s different palates.

There are three main types of matcha grades: Ceremonial, Culinary, and Ingredient. All of them are grown the same but are harvested at different times which gives them different textures and taste. Some matcha range from light to heavy in flavor and others are naturally sweetened to pair with someone’s latte or matcha-flavored bake good, or classic to be a simple wake up for someone’s 9 to 5. Matcha, similar to its counterparts coffee and tea, comes in shapes and sizes that can fit anyone’s personal taste. Everyone should look into what works for them instead of pre-judging.

McCain Library has a book that can get Scotties and staff started in the matcha world. The ebook is *A Beginner's Guide to Japanese Tea : Selecting and Brewing the Perfect Cup of Matcha, Sencha, and other Green and Black Teas* by Per Oscar Brekell. Check it out to learn and become obsessed with the matcha world.

<https://agnesscott.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1268951411>

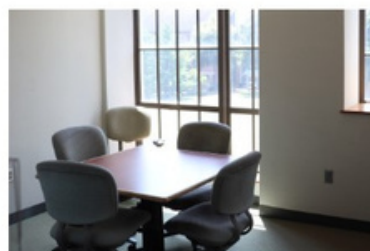
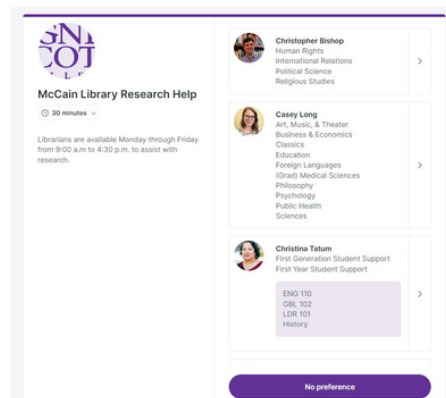
## Exam Prep

By **Kylie Krause**

While we have only a few weeks left in the spring 2024 semester, we are approaching final exams, papers, and projects. The library is the perfect place to study, receive help, and decompress these next few weeks! If you need a quiet environment, come study on Stack 3 and Floor 3. These floors are completely silent by student request.

Are you stuck on a final exam paper? You can create a research appointment through the McCain Library website! All you do is select “research appointments,” then choose the librarian who is able to assist you on your topic, and finally create your appointment.

If your friend group wants a place to study together, reserve a group study room or explore the many tables around the McCain Library. My personal favorite location to have group study sessions is the Elmore Reading Room, on the ground floor!

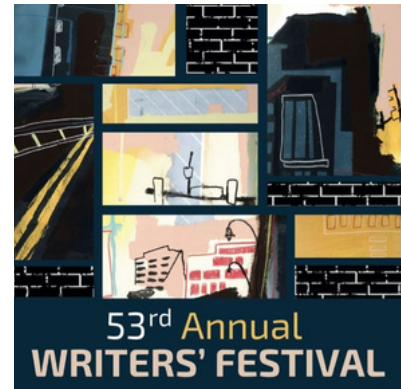


**Reserve a Room**

# 53rd Annual Writers' Festival

By Paxton Martin

The 53rd Annual Writers' Festival is here! Georgia's oldest continuous literary event is from April 2nd-5th this year with guest writers Beth Ann Fennelly, Sholeh Wolpé, and Leticia Urieta '09. Please visit the Writers' Festival page for [more information](#) about these fabulous guest writers. Before the official festival begins, however, be sure to check out the Steven R. Guthrie Memorial Contest finalist readings on April 2nd at Alston Campus Center. A full itinerary of the festival can be found on the [official website](#). With the focus on poetry this Writers' Festival, be sure to check out McCain's poetry collection, especially the [guide to Anti-Racist poetry](#) featuring both classic and contemporary Black poets. In addition, you can look back on previously held Writers' Festivals using [McCain's guide](#). We hope you're able to enjoy the 53rd Writers' Festival to the fullest!



## Literary Tea at McCain Tuesday, April 2

Join us in McCain 211 on April 2nd at 2pm for a delightful literary tea celebrating the start of the 53rd Writers' Festival and AANHPI Heritage month! This event serves as the perfect prelude to the student finalists' reading at 5pm for the Writers' Festival. Come and indulge in a fusion of literature and culture while savoring aromatic teas, and being immersed in the enriching world of literature. Afternoon tea, refreshments, and other beverages will be provided.

## Celebrate Libraries

By Kylie Krause

The American Library Association (ALA) has many celebratory events for libraires around the nation such as:

Drop Everything and Read-April 12:

Come check out a book on April 12th for Drop Everything and Read Day! If you are not sure if McCain Library has what you are looking for, you can search for books and eBooks on the [McCain website!](#)



National Library Week-April 7-13:

National Library Week is recognized by the ALA as celebrating the nation's contribution to promoting library use and support. How can you participate in National Library Week? Come check out books, equipment, consult a librarian, and/or make use of McCain's beautiful library spaces.

National Library Workers Day-April 9:

This day allows library staff, faculty, students, and guests to recognize each member's work on the library staff!

## Paint Chip Poetry Contest

April 1 - 20

April is National Poetry Month. McCain Library is celebrating with our 2nd annual Paint Chip Poetry Contest. Pick up paint chips at the library's Circulation Desk beginning April 1st. Write a poem in any style (rhyme, free verse, Haiku, etc.) that utilizes the color names on your paint chip.

Return your poem by April 20th. Winners will be notified via email to claim their prize, and poems will be "published" in a library display.

Contact [library@agnesscott.edu](mailto:library@agnesscott.edu) for any additional questions.



# AANHPI Month Reading List

Consider adding these books by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander authors to your personal reading list! Most are available for check out at McCain Library.

Congress created Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week in 1978, setting aside early May to coincide with two milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) in the United States, and Chinese workers' role in building the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. It is now celebrated as Asian American Native-Hawaiian Pacific Islander Month.

**MCCAIN LIBRARY'S ASIAN AMERICAN & NATIVE HAWAIIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER READING LIST**

**Books included in the list:**

- The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki
- The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
- Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See
- They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei
- Orange* by Karen Tei Yamashita
- Everything I Never Told You* by Colson Whitehead
- Seventeen Syllables* by Miyabe Yamamoto
- Gold Diggers* by Sarajene Sathian
- America is in the Heart* by Carlos Bulosan
- Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee
- Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok
- David Chang* by David Chang
- Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen* by Lilikaulani Queen of Hawaii
- Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay
- Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls* by T Kira Madden
- Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo
- A Different Mirror* by Ronald T Takaki
- Uc-Roar* by Michelle Zauner
- Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner
- No one can pronounce my name* by Rabeah Satyal
- R.F. Kuang* by R.F. Kuang
- Contemporary Asian American Activism* by Diane Carol Fujino
- Minor Feelings* by Cathy Park Hong
- The Parted Earth* by Anjali Engst
- On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong

**Check Out These Databases:**

- Asian American Experience:** This database includes a variety of primary sources, perspective essays from leading Asian American studies scholars.
- South Asian Open Archives:** This database is a free open-access resource for research of key historical and contemporary sources in arts, humanities, and social sciences, from and about South Asia.
- East of South Asia Database:** This Database provides ongoing full-text academic journals that are locally published by scholarly publishing organizations and educational institutions in East and South Asia countries, including China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

# AANHPI Spotify Playlist

The AANHPI Spotify playlist was carefully curated to showcase songs by Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander artists. Artists like H.E.R. and BLACKPINK. 32 songs you'll listen to over and over. Click the play button below and enjoy!



**ASIAN AMERICAN NATIVE HAWAIIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

**AANHPI Month**

This playlist features songs by Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander artists.

McCain Library - 32 songs, about 1hr 45 min

#	Title	Album	Date added	Duration
1	Hey Friend	Hey Friend	Mar 30, 2023	2:42
2	Pink Venom	ROCK	1 week ago	3:06
3	Haste (From "Haste")	Best Of Dhvani Bhanushali	Mar 30, 2023	3:56
4	The Worst	Sell Out	Mar 30, 2023	4:14
5	Butter	Butter (Hawth, Sweetie, Cookie)	Mar 30, 2023	2:44
6	Damage	Damage	Mar 30, 2023	3:43

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