



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

**Sandra Gioia Treadway**  
*Librarian of Virginia*

### VIRGINIA FAMILY HISTORY DAY CONFERENCE

## DNA Made Clear: Growing Your Family Tree with Genetic Genealogy

Saturday, September 8, 2018 | 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond 23219

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

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(Richmond, Virginia) – Come to the Library of Virginia for an exciting day of family history exploration and networking. This one-day conference features a keynote speech from renowned genealogist Judy G. Russell— "the legal genealogist"—and nationally recognized genetic genealogy experts Bernice A. Bennett, Shannon Christmas, Rachel Unkefer, and Shannon Combs-Bennett. Presenters will explore how DNA can be used to trace family trees, including subjects such as terminology and DNA interpretation, selecting a testing company, and chromosome mapping and DNA painting.

The barrage of marketing from testing companies and unfamiliarity with scientific terminology can be confusing and a more than a little intimidating for even experienced family historians. This conference will answer the most-asked questions about DNA testing and use as well as provide guidance on advanced subjects for those who already know the basics. The conference will also explore some of the thornier issues related to DNA testing, especially the ethical dilemmas that it raises.

The Library of Virginia hosts this second annual Family History Day conference in collaboration with the Virginia chapters of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., the Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society, and the Richmond-area congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with support from FamilySearch.

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“Using DNA for family history is an ever-changing and fluid field,” said Gregg Kimball, director of Public Services and Outreach at the Library of Virginia. “We are delighted to bring together some of the foremost authorities in the field at this conference and to show how the rich archival records held by the Library can be amplified and enhanced by DNA research.”

Registration and tickets are required for the conference (go to: <https://DNAmadeclear.eventbrite.com>). The cost is \$35 (\$12 for optional lunch). Spaces are limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, contact Catherine Wyatt at [catherine.wyatt@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:catherine.wyatt@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3999.

**###**

**August 22, 2018**

#### **LIST OF SESSIONS**

### **DNA Made Clear: Growing Your Family Tree with Genetic Genealogy**

**Virginia Family History Day Conference | Library of Virginia, September 8, 2018**

#### **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

**DNA & the Golden Rule: The Law & Ethics of Genetic Genealogy** – Judy G. Russell

#### **SESSIONS**

**Introduction to DNA** – Bernice Bennett

**The Emotional Side of DNA** – Bernice Bennett

**Jump into GED Match** – Shannon Christmas

**Using DNA to Extend the African American Family Tree** – Shannon Christmas

**An Introduction to Chromosome Mapping & DNA Phasing** – Shannon Combs-Bennett

**After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA** – Judy G. Russell

**DNA Testing for Genealogy: What to Expect, Whom to Test, Where to Test & How to Test** – Rachel Unkefer

**Y-DNA Testing** – Rachel Unkefer

**Wrap-Up Session** – Q&A with presenters