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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 20, 2024

## DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond To Give Reading/Signing At Lithonia Woman's Club

*On March 5, Thurmond will read from his newest book, "James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia," which reexamines Oglethorpe's legacy from slave trader to abolitionist.*

**Lithonia, GA** – History is coming alive in the City of Granite. CEO of DeKalb County and historian Michael Thurmond will be at the Lithonia Woman's Club on March 5 at 10am to read from his new book *James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia*. In addition to the reading, the event will feature a short Q&A, signing and reception with coffee, tea and brunchy bites. The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is proud to sponsor this event in the Lithonia Woman's Club, which housed DeKalb County's first public library.

"In one of my meetings with Michael Thurmond he told me, 'I'm a historian first, and an attorney second,' and I never forgot that," said Revonda Cosby, Executive Director of the Arabia Alliance that manages the national heritage area 20 minutes east of Atlanta. "I'm not surprised that the historian Thurmond would take us on a journey of learning about men we did not know much about and illuminating this connection between the benefits of antislavery activism that still serve us well today. I'm proud to have CEO Thurmond and his pen in the National Heritage Area in Lithonia."

*James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia* closely explores Oglethorpe's evolving attitude toward African Americans through his intellectual relationships with two formerly enslaved men: Ayuba Suleiman Diallo and Olaudah Equiano, who wrote a bestselling autobiography about his abduction from Africa by slave traders and the horrors of the Middle Passage. Readers will be surprised to learn that Oglethorpe set up the Georgia colony as a unique social welfare experiment for England's "worthy poor." Due to Oglethorpe's advocacy, Georgia was the only British American colony to ban chattel slavery before the Revolutionary War.

Attend the reading and signing on March 5 to learn more about Georgia's founding father. Attendees can RSVP for free or purchase a copy of *James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia* with their reservation. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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### About the Arabia Alliance

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance is dedicated to protecting, connecting and sharing the unique history, rich culture and engaging landscapes of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) for the benefit and enjoyment of all. For more information, visit [www.arabiaalliance.org](http://www.arabiaalliance.org).



*The Lithonia Woman's Club, then and now.*



# James Oglethorpe

Father of Georgia



## Book Reading & Signing With Michael L. Thurmond

March 5, 2024 • 10am

Lithonia Woman's Club • 2564 Wiggins St.

*Join the Arabia Alliance for a reading from Michael Thurmond's new book about Oglethorpe's philosophical and moral evolution from slave trader to abolitionist, propelled by his intellectual relationships with two formerly enslaved Black men: Ayuba Suleiman Diallo and Olaudah Equiano.*

*There will be a reception after. Please RSVP.*



[ArabiaAllianceBookEvent.eventbrite.com](https://ArabiaAllianceBookEvent.eventbrite.com)

