



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Librarian of Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Author and Culinary Historian Michael W. Twitty announced as featured speaker for the Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration

Library to host virtual author conversations in advance of literary awards

(RICHMOND, VIRGINIA) The Library of Virginia will host three free virtual author conversations leading up to its 25th Annual Literary Awards Celebration set for Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022. The celebration, hosted by best-selling Virginia author **Adriana Trigiani**, will feature James Beard award-winning author and culinary historian **Michael W. Twitty** as the featured speaker. Veteran journalist and writer **Katie Couric** will be honored for outstanding contributions to literature and journalism.

Presented by Amazon and Dominion Energy, the event honors Virginia writers and their contributions to literature. Tickets can be purchased at www.lva.virginia.gov/public/litawards/individual_form.htm.

Creator of *Afroculinaria*, the first blog devoted to African American historic foodways and their legacies, Twitty has been honored by FirstWeFeast.com as one of the 20 greatest food bloggers of all time. He has also been named one of the “Fifty People Who Are Changing the South” by *Southern Living* and one of the “Five Cheftavists to Watch” by TakePart.com. Twitty’s most recent book, *KosherSoul*, his follow-up to the James Beard award-winner *The Cooking Gene*, came out in August 2022.

An award-winning journalist and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of her memoir, *Going There*, Couric is also the author of two children’s books and *The Best Advice I Ever Got: Lessons from Extraordinary Lives*. She is a co-founder of Stand Up To Cancer, which has raised more than \$700 million to support cutting-edge collaborative science and its research has contributed to nine new FDA-approved therapies.

Three free virtual conversations with authors who are literary award finalists will be accessible through the Library of Virginia’s Facebook ([Facebook.com/LibraryofVA](https://www.facebook.com/LibraryofVA)) and YouTube ([Youtube.com/LibraryofVA](https://www.youtube.com/LibraryofVA)) pages. The schedule follows:

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.lva.virginia.gov

804.692.3500 *phone*
804.692.3976 *tty*

Wednesday, Sept. 28 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

FICTION DISCUSSION PANEL

Virginia author Brian Castleberry will moderate a discussion with fiction award finalists Jocelyn Nicole Johnson, Joanna Pearson and Sheri Reynolds.

Thursday, Oct. 6 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

POETRY DISCUSSION PANEL

Virginia author and executive director of James Madison University's Furious Flower Poetry Center Lauren K. Alleyne will moderate a discussion with poetry award finalists Sandra Beasley, Rita Dove and Tina Parker.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

NONFICTION DISCUSSION PANEL

Host of *The Stacks* podcast Traci Thomas will moderate a discussion with nonfiction award finalists John Woodrow Cox and Carolyn Eastman.

Previously announced [finalists for the Library's People's Choice Awards](#) for fiction and nonfiction [and finalists for the Literary Awards](#) in fiction, nonfiction and poetry will be honored at the Literary Awards Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Library of Virginia.

For awards information and a list of past winners and finalists, please visit www.lva.virginia.gov/public/litawards/index.htm. For information on tickets, sponsorship, or other ways to support the 25th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration honoring Virginia authors and friends, click [here](#) or call 804.692.3592.

About the Virginia Literary Awards:

Hosted by award-winning author Adriani Trigiani, the 25th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, with nominated authors, presenters, and special guests. This annual event, presented by Amazon and Dominion Energy, attracts those who enjoy the written word and support literature.

About the Library of Virginia Foundation:

Founded in 1984, the Library of Virginia Foundation supports the Library of Virginia and its mission by raising private financial support, managing its endowment, and overseeing programming that brings Virginia's history and culture to life.

About the Library of Virginia:

The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest agencies of Virginia government, founded in 1823 to preserve and provide access to the state's incomparable printed and manuscript holdings. Its collection, which has grown steadily through the years, is the most comprehensive resource in the world for the study of Virginia history, culture, and government with over 130 million items in the collections. The Library also engages the public through in-person and virtual events, education programs, and online resources that reach nearly 4 million individuals each year throughout the commonwealth and beyond. The Library of Virginia is located near Capitol Square in downtown Richmond at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

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