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Weinstein Author Series Event Explores the Debates Over Monuments with *No Common Ground*

Historian Karen L. Cox's new book examines what these statues meant to those who erected them and how a movement arose to force a reckoning.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ann Henderson, Communications Manager, 804.692.3611, ann.henderson@lva.virginia.gov

August 11, 2021 (Richmond, Virginia) – The Library of Virginia's **2021 Carole Weinstein Author Series** (www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein) continues with a free in-person talk by historian Dr. Karen L. Cox on September 14 at 6:00 PM. Her book *No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice* tells the story of the seemingly invincible stone sentinels that are just beginning to fall from their pedestals. *Please note, this event is in-person only and will not be available online.*

The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia. **Free and open to the public**, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres.

For more information about registering for events, contact Dawn Greggs at 804.692.3813 or dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Lecture Hall, Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dr. Karen L. Cox

No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice

Karen L. Cox is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the founding director of its graduate public history program. In addition to *No Common Ground*, she is the author of *Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture* (winner of the 2004 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize from the Southern Association for Women Historians for the

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Best Book in Southern Women's History), *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture* (UNC Press, 2011), and *Goat Castle: A True Story of Murder, Race, and the Gothic South* (UNC Press, October 2017). Dr. Cox has written numerous essays and articles on the subject of southern history and culture. She is the editor of *Destination Dixie: Tourism and Southern History* (University Press of Florida, 2012), which won the 2013 Allen G. Noble Award for the best edited collection in North American material culture from the Pioneer America Society, and the co-editor of *Reassessing the 1930s South* (LSU Press, 2018). Dr. Cox has written op-eds for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CNN, *Time* magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, and the *Huffington Post*. Her expertise on the American South has led to interviews with the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Daily Beast*, *Mic*, *The Atlantic*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate* (France), the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *Charlotte Observer*, as well as many international newspapers. She has also appeared on *CNN Newsroom*, *BBC Newshour*, *Black Politics Today*, the *Michael Smerconish Program* (Sirius XM), C-SPAN, Canadian Public Broadcasting, Minnesota Public Radio, Georgia Public Radio, and *Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins*. She frequently gives public talks to both community and academic audiences, and is an OAH Distinguished Lecturer. Cox is originally from Huntington, West Virginia.

About *No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice*

When it comes to Confederate monuments, there is no common ground. Polarizing debates over their meaning have intensified into legislative maneuvering to preserve the statues, legal battles to remove them, and rowdy crowds taking matters into their own hands. These conflicts have raged for well over a century—but they've never been as intense as they are today. In this eye-opening narrative of the efforts to raise, preserve, protest, and remove Confederate monuments, Karen L. Cox depicts what these statues meant to those who erected them and how a movement arose to force a reckoning. She lucidly shows the forces that drove white southerners to construct beacons of white supremacy, as well as the ways that anti-monument sentiment, largely stifled during the Jim Crow era, returned with the civil rights movement and gathered momentum in the decades after the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Monument defenders responded with gerrymandering and "heritage" laws intended to block efforts to remove these statues, but hard as they worked to preserve the Lost Cause vision of southern history, civil rights activists, Black elected officials, and movements of ordinary people fought harder to take the story back. Timely, accessible, and essential, *No Common Ground* is the story of the seemingly invincible stone sentinels that are just beginning to fall from their pedestals.

STILL TO COME IN 2021 | To Register: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

November 17, 2021 | In-Person Event – **ALEXIS COE**

You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington

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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.

August 11, 2021