



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Authors Beth Macy and Scott Reynolds Nelson Join Poet Rita Dove in the 2022 Carole Weinstein Author Series Lineup from the Library of Virginia

August and September talks explore the country's continuing overdose crisis and conflicts over the world's "breadbaskets."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – The Library of Virginia announces two new [2022 Carole Weinstein Author Series](#) talks with nationally recognized authors. In addition to a lineup that already features a July program with Pulitzer Prize–winning poet **Rita Dove**, *New York Times* best-selling author **Beth Macy** and history professor and award-winning author **Scott Reynolds Nelson** are coming to the Library. Macy will discuss *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis*, the much anticipated follow-up to her internationally acclaimed book and Amazon series *Dopesick*. Nelson will discuss his incredibly timely work *Oceans of Grain: How American Wheat Remade the World*. Carole Weinstein Author Series talks are free and open to the public. Registration is required for in-person attendance. To register, go to: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

BETH MACY

Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall (and livestreamed)

Beth Macy is a Virginia-based journalist, the author of *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America*, and an executive producer and cowriter on Hulu's Peabody Award–winning *Dopesick* series. For more than 25 years, Macy has been privileged to report on stories from the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia—previously for the *Roanoke Times* and, more recently, in occasional essays for the *New York Times*. She has also written for magazines, radio, and online journals from locations ranging from a mobile home in Bassett, Virginia, to a crowded cholera ward in Limbe, Haiti.

About *Raising Lazarus*

Like the treatment innovators she profiles, Beth Macy meets the opioid crisis where it is—not where we think it should be or wish it was. Bearing witness with clear eyes, intrepid curiosity, and unfailing empathy, she brings us the crucial next installment in the story of the defining disaster of our era, one that touches every single one of us,

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whether directly or indirectly. A complex story of public health, big pharma, dark money, politics, race, and class that is by turns harrowing and heartening, infuriating and inspiring, *Raising Lazarus* is a must-read for all Americans.

SCOTT REYNOLDS NELSON

Oceans of Grain: How American Wheat Remade the World

September 22, 2022 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall (and livestreamed)

Scott Reynolds Nelson is the Georgia Athletic Association Professor of History at the University of Georgia. His 2006 book *Steel Drivin' Man*, about African American folklore legend John Henry, won four national awards including the Merle Curti Award for best book on U.S. history. His latest book, *Oceans of Grain*, compares the conflicts over western American expansion in the Civil War to conflict over Russian expansion into the Black Sea. It has been featured on BBC, CBC, and NPR, and received rave reviews in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times*.

About *Oceans of Grain*

To understand the rise and fall of empires, we must follow the paths traveled by grain—along rivers, between ports, and across seas. In *Oceans of Grain*, historian Scott Reynolds Nelson reveals how the struggle to dominate these routes transformed the balance of world power. Early in the 19th century, imperial Russia fed much of Europe through the booming port of Odessa, on the Black Sea in Ukraine. But following the U.S. Civil War, tons of American wheat began to flood across the Atlantic, and food prices plummeted. This cheap foreign grain spurred the rise of Germany and Italy, the decline of the Habsburgs and the Ottomans, and the European scramble for empire. It was a crucial factor in the outbreak of the First World War and the Russian Revolution. This powerful new interpretation shows that amid the great powers' rivalries, there was no greater power than control of grain.

RITA DOVE

Playlist for the Apocalypse: Poems

Thursday, July 28, 2022 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall (and livestreamed)

Pulitzer Prize winner and former Virginia Poet Laureate Rita Dove is the youngest person and the first African American to be named the U.S. Poet Laureate and Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress. The author of essays, a novel, a book of short stories, and works for theater, in addition to numerous volumes of poetry, Dove is only poet honored with both the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of Art. Her book *Collected Poems: 1974–2004* was shortlisted for the National Book Award. Her long list of honors includes the 2021 Gold Medal for Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Library of Virginia's Literary Award for Poetry (2017) and Literary Lifetime Achievement Award (2008). Dove is the Henry Hoyns Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Virginia.

About *Playlist for the Apocalypse*

In her first volume of new poems in 12 years, Dove investigates the vacillating moral compass guiding America's, and the world's, experiments in democracy. Whether depicting the first Jewish ghetto in 16th-century Venice or the contemporary efforts of Black Lives Matter, a girls' night clubbing in the shadow of World War II or the doomed nobility of Muhammad Ali's conscious objector stance, this extraordinary poet never fails to connect history's grand exploits to the triumphs and tragedies of individual lives.

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. Authors answer questions from the audience and sign copies of their books. These in-person talks will also be livestreamed on the Library's Facebook (www.facebook.com/LibraryofVA) and YouTube pages (www.youtube.com/user/LibraryofVa).

Learn More & Register: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

The Carole Weinstein Author Series is made possible through support from the Carole Weinstein Endowment for Virginia Authors.

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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. The Library of Virginia is located near Capitol Square in downtown Richmond at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.