



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Librarian of Virginia

Spring 2019 Carole Weinstein Author Series Features Topics in Today's News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Richmond, Virginia) – 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. The series is starting out strong with nonfiction works about topics that touch the lives of Virginians and the nation at large. Future offerings will expand to bring in authors of fiction and poetry. The series is funded through the Carole Weinstein Endowment for Virginia Authors, which was set up by the Richmond philanthropist to support Virginia authors and poets.

When asked what inspired her to sponsor this new author series at the Library, Weinstein said, "I want to stay connected in a visible way to the Library of Virginia now that my Library Board tenure is completed. Using the funds from the Virginia Authors Endowment, the Library can draw from a larger pool of current writers with Virginia connections to engage, inspire, and educate the community."

The events kicked off in August 2018 with the Richmond launch of Beth Macy's latest book, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*, a look at the opioid epidemic. Three upcoming events this spring sound just as compelling, touching on the topics of race relations, immigration, and gun violence.

Most events include light refreshments, a question-and-answer session with the author, and book signings. For more information, contact Emma Ito at 804.692.3726 or emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 | Noon–1:00 PM | Lecture Hall

ZACHARY WOOD

Uncensored

My Life and Uncomfortable Conversations at the Intersection of Black and White America

Zachary R. Wood, a columnist and assistant opinion editor at *The Guardian* and a Robert L. Bartley Fellow at the *Wall Street Journal*, will discuss his powerful memoir, *Uncensored*, which offers his perspective on free speech, race, and dissenting opinions. Wood grew up poor and black in Washington, DC, where the only way to survive was resisting the urge to write people off because of their backgrounds and perspectives. By sharing his troubled upbringing—from a

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difficult early childhood to the struggles of code-switching between his home and his elite private school—Wood makes a compelling argument for a new way of interacting with others and presents a new outlook on society's most difficult conversations. A book signing will follow the talk.

Thursday, April 4, 2019 | 5:30–7:00 PM | Lecture Hall

KHIZR KHAN

An American Family

A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice

Charlottesville-based author Khizr Khan joins us to discuss his book *An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice*, the story of one family's pursuit of the American dream. The Muslim American Gold Star father and captivating speaker electrified viewers around the world when he took the stage at the 2016 Democratic National Convention and offered to lend Donald Trump his own much-read and dog-eared pocket Constitution. In this timeless immigrant story, we learn that Khan, the oldest of 10 children born to farmers in Pakistan, was a university student who read the Declaration of Independence and was awestruck by what might be possible in life. He was a diligent young family man who worked two jobs to save enough money to put himself through Harvard Law School. He was a loving father who, having instilled in his children the ideals that brought him and his wife to America—the sense of shared dignity and mutual responsibility—tragically lost his son, an army captain killed while protecting his base camp in Iraq. He is a fierce advocate for the rights, dignities, and values enshrined in the American system. *An American Family* shows us who Khan and millions of other American immigrants are, and why—especially in these tumultuous times—we must not be afraid to step forward for what we believe in when it matters most. Reception at 5:30 PM, program 6:00–7:00 PM. A book signing will follow the talk. This event complements the Library's current exhibition, *New Virginians: 1619–2019 & Beyond*.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 | 5:30–7:00 PM | Lecture Hall

THOMAS P. KAPSIDELIS

After Virginia Tech

Guns, Safety, and Healing in the Era of Mass Shootings

Join us for the launch of award-winning journalist Thomas Kapsidelis's new book, *After Virginia Tech: Guns, Safety, and Healing in the Era of Mass Shootings*, and a panel discussion on the topic. The book examines the decade after the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre through the experiences of survivors and community members who advocated for reforms in gun safety, campus security, trauma recovery, and mental health. Reaching beyond policy implications, *After Virginia Tech* illuminates personal accounts of recovery and resilience that can offer a ray of hope to millions of Americans concerned about the consequences of gun violence. Kapsidelis conducted research for the book at the Library of Virginia during his stint as a Virginia Humanities Research Fellow. Joining him in the discussion are Elizabeth Hilscher, the mother of one of the students killed at Virginia Tech and a member of the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Sarah Kleiner, a reporter for the Center for Public Integrity, who has covered mental health issues in Virginia. Reception at 5:30 PM, program 6:00–7:00 PM. A book signing will follow the talk.

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February 27, 2019