

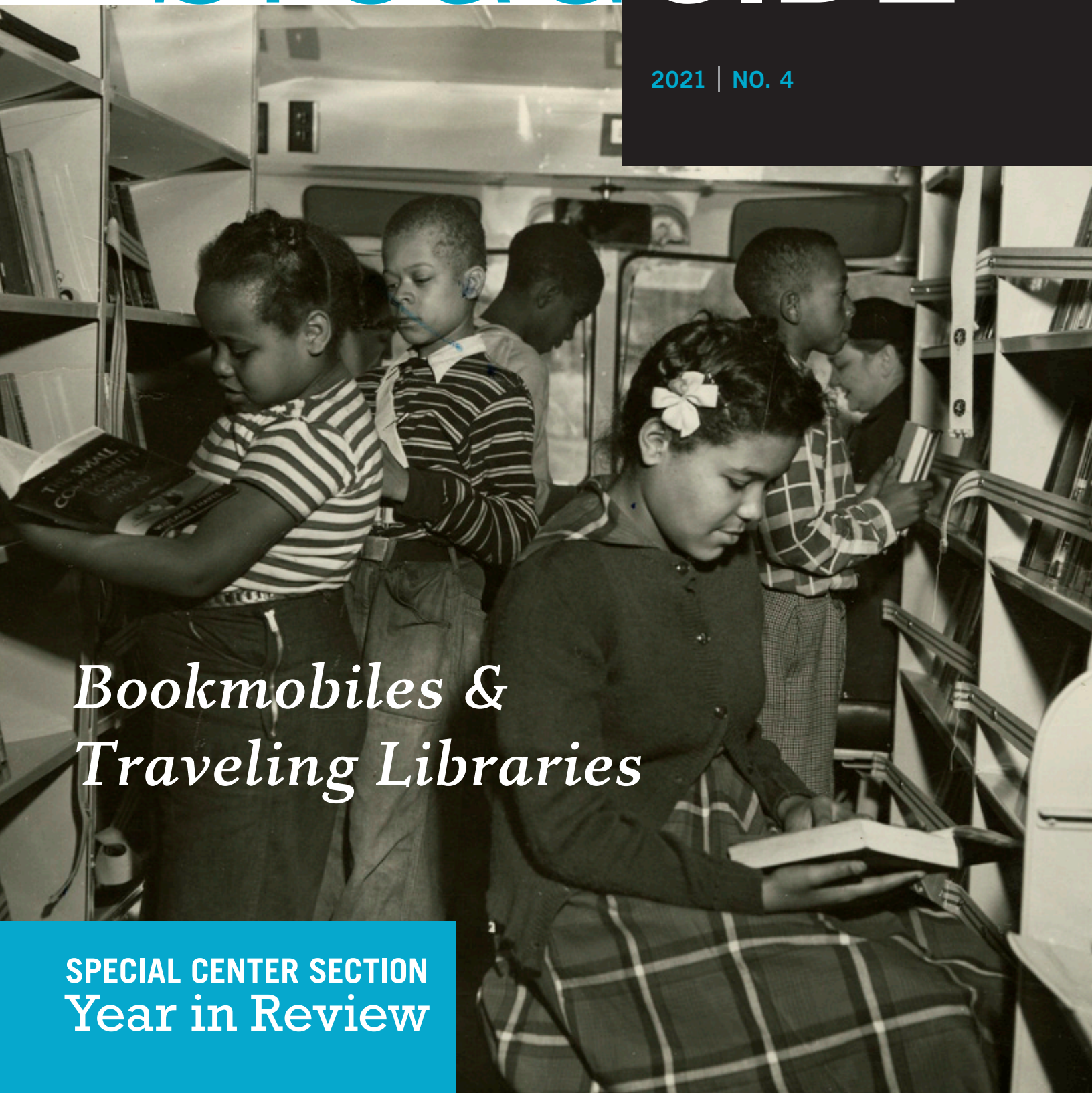


LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

*the magazine of the*

# broadSIDE

2021 | NO. 4



## *Bookmobiles & Traveling Libraries*

SPECIAL CENTER SECTION  
Year in Review

# broadSIDE

the magazine of the  
**LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

2021 | NO. 4

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## THE INSIDE STORY

# Bookmobiles & Traveling Libraries

*The Library of Virginia organized the first mobile book services in the commonwealth*

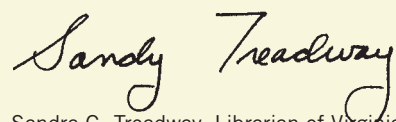
I have no childhood memories of bookmobiles like the wonderful one pictured on the cover of this issue. I grew up in a small town in northern New Jersey with a library I thought had been there forever as it was housed in a historic building that dated back to the 1780s. I could walk or ride my bicycle to the library whenever I wanted to, and I assumed that a library such as mine existed in every town across the country.

Later I discovered that this was not the case, and that in many parts of America well into the late 20th century librarians had to be extremely resourceful to make books available to those who lived in areas distant from any physical library. As you will read in the article that inspired our cover, the Library of Virginia played an important part in this effort. The Library organized the first traveling libraries in Virginia—boxes of books that were shipped to communities across the state by rail and other means—and it worked with women's clubs and civic organizations to supply books for the program. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Library purchased a small fleet of trucks for this purpose, the precursors of today's bookmobiles. Photographs of excited children rushing to be the first to check out books when the traveling library arrived at their town suggest how important this service and connection to the wider world was.

From the 1920s on, the Library of Virginia advised localities across the commonwealth as they planned for county- or citywide library service. Organizing a library was just the first step, and many less-prosperous communities struggled to sustain library buildings and services. In 1942 the General Assembly launched a statewide grants-in-aid program to provide basic funding for local libraries, and in 1956 Congress passed the Library Services Act aimed at developing library service in rural parts of the country. Both programs have evolved over time (the LSA is now the Library Services and Technology Act), but they continue to this day.

The Library of Virginia is proud to be the administrative agency for both funding sources, which are critically important for the continued success of our libraries. State aid funds go directly to each public library system to supplement local support, while we leverage the power of federal funds by offering statewide resources and services such as Find It Virginia, summer reading and school readiness programs, Making History: Transcribe, digital community history projects, educational programs such as genealogy workshops and Document Bank of Virginia, lifelong learning efforts, and much, much more. With a vibrant public library system in place throughout the commonwealth, our work today supports local libraries and their staff members to ensure that they are well prepared to meet the 21st-century needs of the citizens they serve.

Sincerely,



Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia



**Our work today supports local libraries and their staff members to ensure that they are well prepared to meet the 21st-century needs of the citizens they serve.**

## ON THE COVER

Children visit the Orange County Bookmobile in 1949. The Library of Virginia documented the state's bookmobile campaign through photographs, capturing almost 700 images of locations across the commonwealth during the 1940s and 1950s, which are now part of the Visual Studies Collection.



# PLAN YOUR VISIT



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

### COVID-19 RESPONSE

Appointments are no longer required to use our second-floor reading rooms. Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in the building. For health and safety guidelines, visit [www.lva.virginia.gov/covid-protocol](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/covid-protocol).

### FOLLOW US ON



Photograph © Ansel Olsen

800 East Broad Street | Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000 | 804.692.3500 | [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

Welcome to the Library of Virginia, the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our resources, exhibitions, and events attract nearly 100,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

### INFORMATION

804.692.3500 | [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

### LOBBY & EXHIBITION GALLERY HOURS

Monday–Saturday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

### READING ROOM HOURS

Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

*Plus, special Saturday hours this winter:*

*December 4 & 18, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM*

*January 8 & 22, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM*

*February 12 & 26, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM*

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

[www.lva.virginia.gov/news/holiday.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/holiday.asp)

### ADMISSION IS FREE

Some special programs may have fees. Check calendar listings for details.

### PARKING

Limited parking for Library visitors is available in the underground parking deck, accessible from either Eighth or Ninth Streets.

### EXHIBITIONS

**Columbia Pike: Through the Lens of Community**  
Through January 8, 2022

### EVENTS

804.692.3999

### LIBRARY REFERENCE DESK

804.692.3777

[refdesk@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:refdesk@lva.virginia.gov)

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

### ARCHIVES REFERENCE DESK

804.692.3888

[archdesk@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:archdesk@lva.virginia.gov)

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

### CALENDAR

[lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar](http://lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar)

### THE VIRGINIA SHOP

804.692.3524

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Plus Reading Room Saturdays, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

The Virginia Shop at the Capitol

Wednesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Saturday, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

### STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

804.692.3999

[www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/education](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/education)

The Library provides relevant and useful educational material on Virginia's history, culture, and people to educators, students, and lifelong learners of any age.

### SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

804.692.3813

[dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov)

[www.lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/donate)

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# Bridging the Gap

**Bookmobiles brought materials and services to areas without local libraries**

BY DANA ANGELL

Virginians are fortunate that today every city and county has access to library services. This was not always the case. In 1904, the Virginia State Library (now the Library of Virginia) began developing a traveling libraries project in which three boxes of books would be sent by mail to each county as a local lending library. These traveling libraries were often set up in general stores, churches, and schools and overseen by women's clubs and community groups.

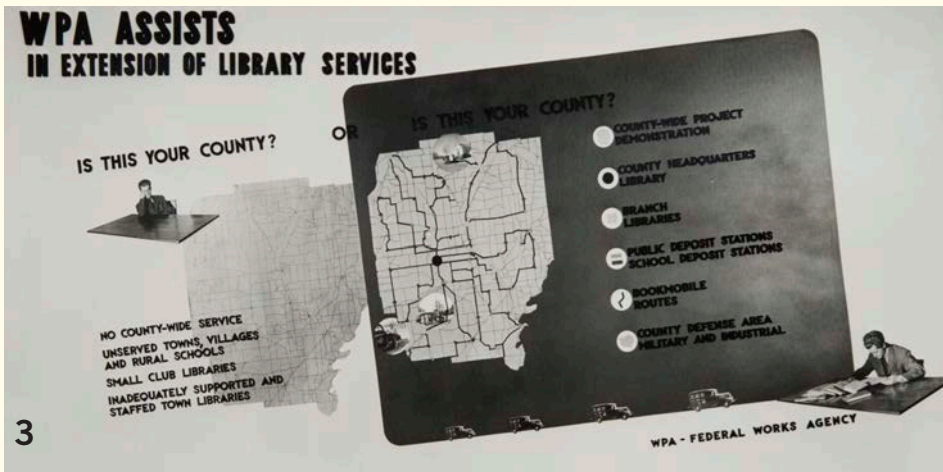
By 1934, the Library of Virginia had traveling libraries in 97 of the 100 counties in the commonwealth. The popularity of traveling libraries encouraged the General Assembly in 1936 to enact a law to create comprehensive public library service throughout the state. Unfortunately, no money was appropriated, and it took several decades for many localities to build libraries.

In 1938, with the help and support of the federal Works Progress Administration, the Library created demonstration libraries in converted trucks to travel to counties that had not yet built public library facilities. Operated through the Library's Extension Service, these converted trucks were the



2





first bookmobiles in Virginia. The difference between a traveling library and a bookmobile was the librarian who drove the bookmobile. During World War II, 10 bookmobiles were on the road, carrying between 400 and 500 books each. After World War II, the number of bookmobiles expanded and each vehicle held more than 1,000 volumes.

Having access to a trained information professional bridged the gap for patrons searching for information or seeking books to read. The Library of Virginia tirelessly promoted the traveling library and bookmobile programs and encouraged localities to begin building their own public library facilities. The Library documented the bookmobile campaign through photographs, capturing almost 700

**Traveling libraries were often set up in general stores, churches, and schools and overseen by women's clubs and community groups.**

*continues page 4*

Dana Angell is the Library's Prints and Photographs Collection specialist.

#### BRINGING THE BOOKS TO THE PEOPLE

1. Children from Stonewall School in Appomattox County rush to see books from a traveling library, ca. 1936.
2. The Virginia State Library displays a bookmobile next to its then-new building on the north side of Capitol Square in 1940.
3. This Works Progress Administration poster promoting library outreach services was presented at an American Library Association Conference in Boston in 1941.
4. The Orange County Bookmobile makes a stop, ca. 1940s.
5. Children visit the Washington County Bookmobile, ca. 1950s.
6. Children exchange their October books for November selections during National Children's Book Week at the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library Bookmobile in 1954.





continued from page 3

images of locations across the state during the 1940s and 1950s, which are now part of the Visual Studies Collection.

Despite the 1936 law, by 1945 Virginia lagged far behind other states in providing public library service. Localities did what they could to raise funds to build libraries, but relied heavily on the bookmobile program to meet library needs until Congress passed the Library Services and Construction Act in 1964. This act expanded public library facilities across the state, and by late in the 1980s only three counties lacked their own dedicated public libraries.

The bookmobile program filled in the gap to expand education and literacy across Virginia at a time when access to books was extremely limited. ■

*This article was adapted from "A Rich Storehouse of Knowledge: A History of the Library of Virginia" by Brent Tarter in the book The Common Wealth: Treasures from the Collections of the Library of Virginia.*

#### EXPANDING EDUCATION & LITERACY

1. Three generations of the family of James Lewis visit the Prince William County Bookmobile on June 25, 1953.
2. The Alleghany County Bookmobile makes a stop in May 1946.
3. Women visit an unidentified bookmobile, ca. 1940s.
4. Children visit the Orange County Bookmobile in 1949.





#### ON THE ROAD

Petersburg Public Library's Tech Knowledge Bus hit the road in May 2021, offering services such as WiFi connection and Internet access, library card sign up, printing and copying, and book/DVD pickup and drop-off at locations around the city.

## MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE IN VIRGINIA TODAY

The Library of Virginia no longer operates a bookmobile program, but many public library systems across the state offer mobile library services. The goals of today's programs are the same as the first generation of bookmobiles: to provide library access and services to people who need them.

Virginia's public library systems offer a variety of mobile outreach services to residents at locations such as retirement communities and childcare centers, particularly for those facing physical, economic, social, geographic, or other barriers to accessing library services. These offerings can include books and other materials for check out, early literacy opportunities for children, WiFi access, printing from customer mobile devices, access to eBook and eAudio collections, and more.

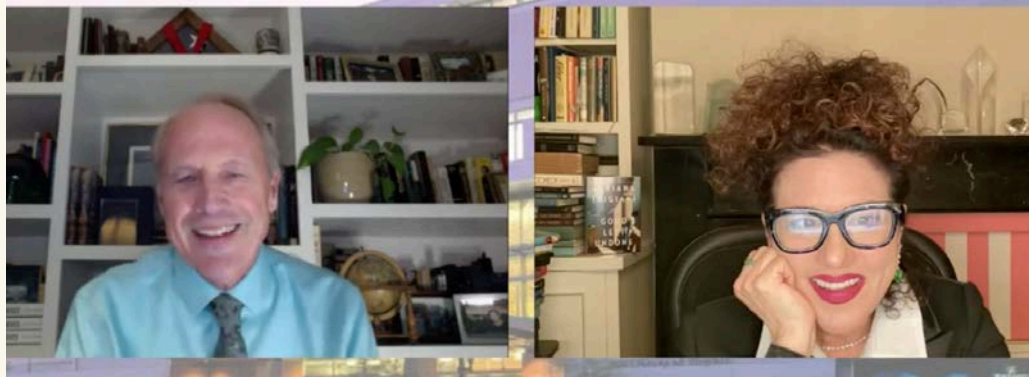
The pandemic has further increased the need for public library outreach. Danville Public Library, Halifax-South Boston Library, Lonesome Pine Regional Library, and Petersburg Public Library each purchased vehicles using federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funding provided through the Library of Virginia by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to offer outreach services in underserved parts of their communities.

## HELP PRESERVE VIRGINIA IN PICTURES!

Is a picture worth more than a thousand words to you? You can add to the Library's Visual Studies Collection by donating items. For more information, please email [specialcoll@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:specialcoll@lva.virginia.gov) or visit [www.lva.virginia.gov/about/contact/#donate](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/about/contact/#donate).

Make a contribution to care for these priceless images of our past or other areas of the Library's work by using the enclosed envelope or by visiting [www.lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/donate). For more information, please contact Dawn Gregg at [dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov) or call 804.692.3813.





## Amazing Authors

*The Library of Virginia showcases the best of the commonwealth's literature with a full week of Literary Awards events and celebration*

The Library of Virginia celebrated the best of Virginia literature over five days of free virtual events culminating in the 24th Annual Literary Awards Celebration on October 16, 2021. This year's celebration was again hosted by best-selling author and award-winning filmmaker Adriana Trigiani. The multiday festivities recognized finalists in poetry, nonfiction, and fiction categories who participated in livestreamed virtual panels over three nights. In partnership with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award was presented in person at the museum as well as livestreamed on October 15. The panel discussions and Kotz Award event videos have each received hundreds of views, while the Awards Celebration video has received thousands. More than 120 books were submitted, read, and adjudicated for this year's awards.

"Year after year, we marvel at the incredible authors and books that come out of—and are inspired by—Virginia," said Joseph Papa, who co-chaired the Literary Awards Committee along with Jordana Kaufman. "It's a thrill to be a part of honoring these works that shine a light on forgotten histories, take prose to new heights, and give readers an escape. We are grateful to all of the participants, judges, and sponsors who have made this year's event possible."

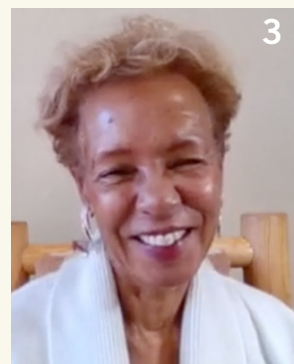
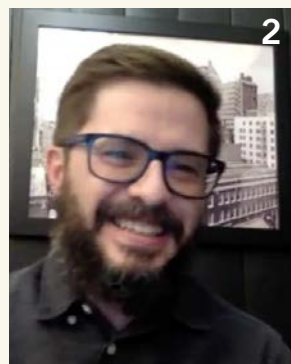
*Eros, Unbroken* by Annie Kim won the Poetry Award, *The Organ Thieves: The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant in the Segregated South* by Chip Jones won the Nonfiction Award, and *Nine Shiny Objects* by Brian Castleberry won the Fiction Award. *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham won the People's Choice Award for Fiction, while *The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family* by Bettye Kearsse won the People's Choice Award for Nonfiction. The Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award went to Gaylord Torrence for his book *Continuum: Native North American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*.

"This was an incredibly exciting and fulfilling Virginia Literary Awards Celebration this year," said Library of Virginia Foundation executive director Scott Dodson. "While it pales in comparison to when we can meet in person again for our celebration gala, the virtual format allowed us to expand the event to multiple days, promote and get to know our finalists much better, and showcased Virginia literature to many more individuals than we can fit in the Library in a single evening—and was a fundraising success! We are sincerely grateful for our ardent supporters who make the Literary Awards possible each year—most notably Dominion Energy for their long-standing support as presenting sponsor."

Michael Paul Williams, 2021's Pulitzer Prize for Commentary winner, was honored for his distinguished contributions to journalism in the commonwealth of Virginia. A native of Richmond and a graduate of Virginia Union University and Northwestern University, Williams has worked at the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* since 1981 and became the newspaper's first Black columnist in 1992.

### LITERARY LIGHTS

1. **Chip Jones** talks with author and Awards Celebration host **Adriana Trigiani** after accepting the Nonfiction Award for his book *The Organ Thieves: The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant in the Segregated South*.
2. **Brian Castleberry** accepts the Fiction Award for his book *Nine Shiny Objects*.
3. **Bettye Kearsse** accepts the People's Choice Award for Nonfiction for her book *The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family*.
4. **John Grisham** accepts the People's Choice Award for Fiction for his book *A Time for Mercy*.
5. This year's Pulitzer Prize for Commentary winner, **Michael Paul Williams**, is honored for his distinguished contributions to journalism in the commonwealth of Virginia.
6. **Carole Weinstein** (LEFT) presents the Poetry Award to **Angie Kim** for her book *Eros, Unbroken*.
7. **Gaylord Torrence**, winner of this year's Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award, discusses his book *Continuum: Native North American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art* at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on the evening before the Literary Awards Celebration. Photograph courtesy of VMFA.





The week's events would not be possible without the help of our finalists, guest moderators, judges, and presenters, and the incomparable Adriana Trigiani, marking her 14th year as host of the Awards Celebration. We're also grateful for the generosity of our donors and supporters—chief among them Dominion Energy, as well as Blue Edge Capital, Liz and Preston Bryant Jr., Janna and Marc Leepson, MercerTrigiani, Anna Moser and Peter Schwartz, Katherine Neville, Joseph Papa and John-Stuart Fauquet, Kathy and Steve Rogers, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and Carole and Marcus Weinstein to name a few.

If you missed any of these livestreamed events, you can watch the videos by visiting our Facebook (Facebook.com/LibraryofVA) or YouTube (Youtube.com/LibraryofVA) pages. ■

LITERARY AWARDS  
PRESENTING SPONSOR



THE  
**virginia**  
SHOP

*featured book*

***Crooked Hallelujah***

By Kelli Jo Ford

This remarkable debut from Plimpton Prize winner Kelli Jo Ford—a 2021 People's Choice Award for Fiction finalist—follows four generations of Cherokee women across four decades.



Grove Atlantic, July 2020, \$16.00

**the virginia shop**

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**WHAT ARE  
YOU READING?**

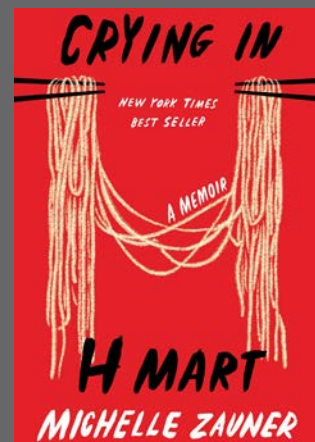
**EMMA ITO**

*Director of Education,  
Virginia Humanities*

***Crying in H Mart: A Memoir***

By Michelle Zauner

With 143 books read so far in 2021, I believe that "What are you reading?" is truly one of the greatest questions I can be asked! I recently finished listening to the audiobook *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner, read by the author herself. Zauner, the singer and guitarist of the indie pop band Japanese Breakfast, offers a heart-achingly deep memoir that explores her Korean American identity, her relationship with her parents, and losing her mother to cancer. She connects with her sense of belonging through food, reflecting deeply on shared meals and the stories associated with each dish. Her book is evocative and emotional, heartbreaking yet healing. You can follow my reviews and reading journey on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/bookedwithemma](https://www.instagram.com/bookedwithemma).





## Magic Lantern Toy

### “Lantern Magica” Gloria

Circa 1900

#### BEDAZZLED BY ILLUMINATION

A favorite 19th-century toy, magic lanterns such as the one shown here were smaller versions of the popular entertainment format that dazzled Victorian-era audiences.



# a closer look

## VISUAL STUDIES COLLECTION

**M**agic lantern shows, a precursor of modern-day motion pictures, were one of the most popular forms of entertainment during the Victorian era. Consisting of an illuminant (a candle or oil-burning flame), a concave mirror, a condensing lens, and a magnifier, the lanterns passed light through hand-painted glass slides and projected the images onto a wall or screen. From their initial appearance as educational tools and scientific curiosities, they soon found broader appeal when traveling magic lantern showman incorporated comical and animated elements into public exhibitions. Audiences were dazzled by the illuminated spectacle of day turning into night, or

winter to spring, and shrieked at images of ships being battered against rocks, or strange and devilish performances known as “Phantasmagoria” shows.

Immensely popular with children, magic lanterns also became a favorite 19th-century toy. The Library of Virginia’s set shown here, a circa 1900 “Lanterna Magica” Gloria from the German manufacturing company Ernst Plank, advertises “*views of all lands, strange sights and scenes of places you read of, but never expect to see.*”

Traditionally sold during the Christmas season, toy lanterns originally cost only a few dollars. Smaller, lighter, and with weaker sources of illumination than their professional counterparts, toy

magic lanterns encouraged children to create performances at home. Additional images and special effect slides were available for purchase separately. One of the most frequently purchased lantern slide sets featured Charles Dickens’s classic *A Christmas Carol*.

After the turn of the century, the toy lantern’s heyday began to pass, and the magic grew dimmer. With the introduction of electric projectors that showed photographic slides as well as short films in the 1920s, magic lanterns soon became an object of seasonal nostalgia—a vanishing ghost of Christmases past.

—Dale Neighbors,  
Visual Studies Collection Coordinator





# LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

# 2021 Year in Review

## DOUG WILDER VISITED HIS GOVERNORS PAPERS

**JANUARY 4** | Former Governor L. Douglas Wilder visited the stacks to see where the original copies of his administration's records are being stored after the Library finished processing them. Now fully open for research, the records document his administration's activities and accomplishments.



## WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES LINEUP ANNOUNCED

**January 28** | The Library announced its 2021 Carole Weinstein Author Series schedule, offering a deep look into Virginia with historians, a poet, and a *New York Times* best-selling author covering topics such as monuments, racial equity, and the Founding Fathers.



carole  
WEINSTEIN author series

2021

## VIRGINIA HISTORY BOOK GROUP LAUNCHED

**March 16** | The Library launched its second monthly book club, the Common Ground Virginia History Book Group, where members read and discuss compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members that explore Virginia history, society, and culture. The virtual discussions sometimes include Library collection items related to book topics.



## CCRP GRANT REVIEW BOARD APPROVED PROJECTS TOTALING \$1.6 MILLION

**January 13** | The Library's Government Records Division announced that the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program Grant Review Board awarded 96 records preservation grants totaling \$1.6 million to 95 circuit courts across the commonwealth at its latest meeting. The preservation projects include professional conservation treatment for almost 350 items.



## FIVE HONORED AS STRONG MEN & WOMEN IN VIRGINIA HISTORY

**February 11** | In observance of Black History Month in February, the Library and Dominion Energy honored five distinguished Virginians as the 2021 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History for their contributions to the commonwealth and the nation: Evelyn Reid Syphax, Lillie Louise Boone Lucas, Dr. Lerla G. Joseph, Rev. Stan Maclin, and Krysta N. Jones.



## LIBRARY PARTNERED ON JACKSON WARD HISTORY PROJECT

**April 21** | The Library partnered with The JXN Project and the Richmond Public Library for a six-part virtual lecture series on the history of Richmond's Jackson Ward neighborhood as part of the 150th-anniversary events.



continues page 10

## VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES USE FEDERAL CARES ACT FUNDS

**May 4** | Virginia public libraries that received federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act assistance through the Library of Virginia by the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced projects supported by the funds, such as WiFi zones, mobile library services, and increased programming for underserved communities.



## READING ROOMS REOPENED WITH NO APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

**May 28** | Appointments were no longer needed to use our 2nd-floor reading rooms. Our Special Collections Reading Room still requires an appointment. Face coverings were—and still are—strongly encouraged in the building.



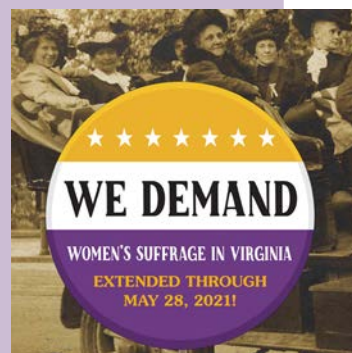
## GOVERNOR NORTHAM ANNOUNCED LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**May 14** | Governor Ralph Northam announced that Dr. Robert L. Canida II, of Lynchburg, and Lana Real, of Aylett, had been appointed to serve their first terms on the Library of Virginia Board, while Barbara Vines Little was reappointed to a second term.



## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBITIONS CLOSED

**May 28** | The exhibitions *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* and *Unfinished Business*—which opened in 2020 to commemorate the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote—closed after a long run extended by the pandemic.



# BY THE NUMBERS

SNAPSHOT as of November 1, 2021

COLLECTION ITEMS

130 MILLION

DIGITIZED ITEMS

+1.4 MILLION

LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS

19,235



RESEARCH DATABASES

85

VOLUNTEER TRANSCRIBERS

2,365

PAGES TRANSCRIBED

163,518

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

22,674







### EVENTS CELEBRATED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIRGINIA'S CURRENT CONSTITUTION

**July 1** | The 50th anniversary of Virginia's current Constitution, which replaced a regressive document that had been in place since 1902, was celebrated with events including a panel discussion and a display of the commonwealth's original constitution documents. The topic was also the subject of this year's Anne & Ryland Brown Teacher Institute as well as a website with related resources.

### LDS CHURCH ADOPTED HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY RECORDS FOR CONSERVATION

**July 12** | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Library announced a project to preserve and digitize the Evergreen Cemetery Interment Volume, 1926–1962. Containing records from a historic African American cemetery in Richmond, the volume will be conserved, deacidified, given a new binding, and made available on the Library's website in digital format for research and transcription.



TRIGIANI

### THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION

#### ANNOUNCED NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**July 2** | The Library of Virginia Foundation announced new officers Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani (president), Julia Marsden (vice president), Corynne Arnett (treasurer), and Dr. Lara Wulff (secretary), as well as new board members BK Fulton, Lou Marmo, Brad Parks, and Dr. Lynn Rainville.



### DIAL-A-STORY 24/7 PHONE LINE DEBUTED

**July 14** | A new program for public libraries from the

Library and the Institute

of Museum and Library Services, Dial-A-Story makes storytime for children available on the phone all day, every day—in English or Spanish—at 833-690-0646. Senator Tim Kaine recorded a story for the program in English and Spanish.

*continues page 12*

## FISCAL YEAR 2021 (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021)

WEBSITE VISITS

**3.3 MILLION**

WEB PAGE VIEWS

**+36.7 MILLION**

COLLECTION ITEMS CONSERVED  
IN-HOUSE

**1,270**

RESEARCH QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED

**15,697**

IN-PERSON RESEARCH  
APPOINTMENTS

**4,976**

VIRTUAL EVENTS,  
WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS,  
AND PROGRAMS  
FOR THE PUBLIC

**72**

EVENT ATTENDEES & VIEWERS

**25,207**

### COLUMBIA PIKE: THROUGH THE LENS OF COMMUNITY EXHIBITION OPENED

**August 31** | A unique exhibition of photographs at the Library running through January 8, 2022, *Columbia Pike: Through the Lens of Community* celebrates the extraordinary cultural diversity found within a single community in Northern Virginia. The photographers' personal connections to the neighborhood allowed them to capture the strength, pride, resilience, elegance, and beauty of so many overlapping cultures.



### LIBRARY HOURS EXTENDED—INCLUDING TWO SATURDAYS EACH MONTH

**September 27** | Library hours were extended to Monday–Saturday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM for the Lobby and Exhibition Gallery, and two Saturdays a month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for the second-floor reading rooms.



### DR. IDA CARRUTHERS ADDRESSED THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION TO STUDY SLAVERY

**October 8** | In her remarks to the first meeting of the Virginia Commission to Study Slavery, held at the Library of Virginia, educator and social justice advocate Dr. Iva Carruthers discussed how her research might assist the commission in its work, especially in the area of reparations and related efforts. The commission has been tasked with studying the current impact and long-term inequities of racial and economic discrimination against African Americans.



### NEW VIRGINIANS BROCHURE INCLUDED IN NEW TIME CAPSULE

**September 11** | Among the items selected for a new time capsule placed in the concrete pedestal of the recently removed Robert E. Lee Monument in Richmond was a *New Virginians* booklet with portraits of 24 immigrants whose interviews formed the core of the Library of Virginia's 2019 exhibition of the same name. Library records had suggested that a time capsule with about 60 objects had been placed in the monument's base in 1887, but that capsule was not found.



### VIRTUAL VIRGINIA DATATHON TOOK ON FOOD INSECURITY

**October 7 & 8** | This year's Virtual Virginia Datathon presented by the Library and the Office of Data Governance and Analytics tackled the issue of food insecurity with "Addressing Hunger Through Bits and Bytes." Teams worked to develop data-driven solutions to grapple with hunger in the commonwealth by providing actionable insights into how a food system can fuel all Virginians.



### LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS CELEBRATED VIRTUALLY

**October 16** | The Library celebrated the best of Virginia literature over five days of free virtual events culminating in the 24th Annual Literary Awards Celebration on October 16, hosted by best-selling author Adriana Trigiani. Authors were awarded in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction categories, as well as in People's Choice for fiction and nonfiction and the Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award.





# LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION

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# calendar

Winter Events

For the latest information, please follow us on social media and visit our Calendar of Events at [www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar).

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



**Wednesday, December 1**  
12:00–1:00 PM  
**VIRGINIA HUMANITIES  
RESEARCH FELLOW TALK**  
**Beyond “Mary Bowser”:  
Researching & Writing  
a Biography of Black  
Activism in 19th-  
Century Virginia**  
Place: Lecture Hall

How do historians discover and interpret the experiences of 19th-century African

American women and men, when most of the documents preserved in the Library of Virginia and other archives reflect the perspectives of white men? Join us in person as Dr. Lois Leveen demonstrates how we can unearth centuries of Black activism in Virginia, and how this research reveals powerful new understandings of America’s past. The author of the critically acclaimed novel *The Secrets of Mary Bowser*, Leveen is currently a Virginia Humanities Research Fellow at the Library, where she is researching the first nonfiction book about the real woman who inspired the novel. Face coverings are required at this event. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at [elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3536.

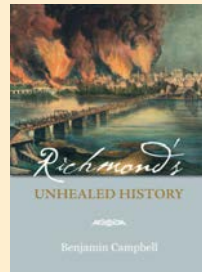


**Saturday, December 4**  
11:00 AM–3:00 PM  
**WORKSHOP**  
**Your Story, Our  
Community: Create  
Your Storybook with  
Sushmita Mazumdar**  
Place: Exhibition  
Gallery & Lobby

Join artist, educator, and Columbia Pike Documentary Project team member Sushmita Mazumdar for a special program exploring the human connections exemplified in the Library’s current exhibition, *Columbia Pike: Through the Lens of Community*, a unique

display of photographs celebrating the extraordinary cultural diversity found within a single community in Northern Virginia. Mazumdar will show program participants how to make handmade house-shaped storybooks inspired by both the people in the photographs and their own lives. Her signature storybooks encourage us to think about how we write our own stories and how we can share them with others. Each storybook will be displayed on a City of Stories Installation, representing how each person’s story is a piece of the place in which we all live. Participants will be able to take a copy of their storybook home. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at [elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3536.

**Tuesday, December 7**  
11:00 AM–12:00 PM  
**BOOK BREAK WITH  
BENJAMIN CAMPBELL**  
**Richmond’s  
Unhealed History**  
Place: Orientation Room  
Registration suggested:  
[bit.ly/CampbellBookBreak](http://bit.ly/CampbellBookBreak)



Presented by a partnership between the Virginia Shop and James River Writers, the Book Break series offers the opportunity to connect book lovers to new titles and local authors. Join Rev. Benjamin P. Campbell for a discussion on his book *Richmond’s Unhealed History*, which explores the contradictions and crises that have formed the city over more than four centuries. For more information, please call the Virginia Shop at 804.692.3524 or email [shop@thevirginiashop.org](mailto:shop@thevirginiashop.org).

**Tuesday, December 7 | 12:00–1:00 PM**  
**VIRGINIA HUMANITIES  
RESEARCH FELLOW TALK**  
**“Whatever Is Un-  
Virginian Is Wrong”:  
Richmond’s Confederate  
Artists & the Origins of  
the Lost Cause**  
Place: Online  
Registration required:  
[bit.ly/Stephens-LostCause](http://bit.ly/Stephens-LostCause)

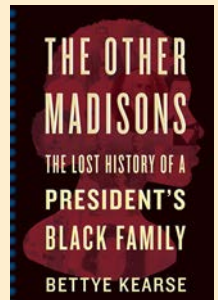
Join us online for a talk by Rachel Stephens, an associate professor of



art history at the University of Alabama, who is currently a Virginia Humanities Research Fellow at the Library working on a project about artists of the Civil War in Richmond and their contribution to the visualizing of the “Lost Cause” in the decades following the war. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at [elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3536.

**Wednesdays: Dec. 8 & Jan. 12**  
6:00–7:30 PM  
**BOOK CLUB**  
**Literary Virginia Book Group**  
Place: Orientation Room or  
Online

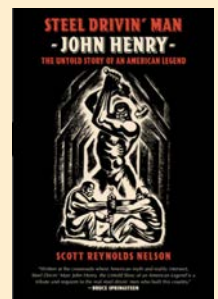
Read and discuss the best of today’s Virginia literature—including books by Library of Virginia Literary Award winners and finalists in fiction and nonfiction. On the second Wednesday evening of each month, join a book group discussion either in person or online. December’s book is *The Other Madisons* by Bettye Kearsse (the 2021 People’s Choice Award for Nonfiction winner). January’s book is *The Organ Thieves* by Chip Jones (the 2021 Literary Award for Nonfiction winner). Books are available at the Virginia Shop ([thevirginiashop.org](http://thevirginiashop.org)) and other retail outlets. For more information (including how to join by Zoom), visit [lva.virginia.gov/public/literary\\_virginia\\_book\\_group](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/literary_virginia_book_group) or contact Nan Carmack at [nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3792.



**Tuesdays: Dec. 21 & Jan. 18**  
6:00–7:30 PM  
**BOOK CLUB**

**Common Ground Virginia  
History Book Group**  
Place: Online  
Registration required:  
[lva.virginia.gov/public/  
virginia\\_history\\_book\\_group](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia_history_book_group)

Read and discuss compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members that explore Virginia history, society, and culture. On the third Tuesday evening of each month, join a virtual book group discussion. December’s book is *Steel Drivin’ Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an*





*American Legend* by Scott Reynolds Nelson. January's book is *Animal Vegetable Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver. Check your local public library to borrow titles, or purchase through the Virginia Shop ([thevirginiashop.org](http://thevirginiashop.org)) or other online retailers. For more information, contact Rebecca Schneider at [rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3550.



**Wednesday, January 12 | 5:30–7:30 PM**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

**Making History with LVA**

Place: Online

Registration required:

[bit.ly/LVAvirtualvolunteer](http://bit.ly/LVAvirtualvolunteer)

Crowdsource with us! Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading text and typing it into digital form. Join us for a virtual session to learn how you can help make historical documents more searchable and usable for researchers now and in the future. Each session will focus on one or more of these three crowdsourcing projects (depending on document availability): Making History: Transcribe; From the Page: WWI Questionnaires; or Virginia Chronicle. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at [makinghistory@virginiamemory.com](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call Hands On Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.

**Wednesday, January 19 | 12:00–1:00 PM**

**BOOK BREAK WITH CATHERINE BAAB-MUGUIRA**

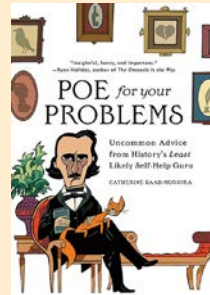
**Poe for Your Problems: Uncommon Advice from History's Least Likely Self-Help Guru**

Place: Orientation Room

Registration suggested:

[bit.ly/Baab-MuguirasBookBreak](http://bit.ly/Baab-MuguirasBookBreak)

Presented by a partnership between the Virginia Shop and James River Writers, the Book Break series offers the opportunity to connect book lovers to new titles and local authors. Here to bolster your New Year's resolutions and celebrate Edgar Allan Poe's birthday, Catherine Baab-Mugira will lead a discussion of uncommon advice inspired by the works and life of Poe in the form of her darkly inspiring self-help book. For more information, please call the Virginia Shop at 804.692.3524 or email [shop@thevirginiashop.org](mailto:shop@thevirginiashop.org).



**Saturday, January 22 | 12:00–2:00 PM**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

**Making History with LVA**

Place: Conference Rooms

Registration required:

[bit.ly/makinghistory-inperson](http://bit.ly/makinghistory-inperson)

Crowdsource with us! Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading text and typing it into digital form. Join us for an in-person session to learn how you can help make historical documents more searchable and usable for researchers now and in the future. Each session will focus on one or

more of these three crowdsourcing projects (depending on document availability): Making History: Transcribe; From the Page: WWI Questionnaires; or Virginia Chronicle. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at [makinghistory@virginiamemory.com](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call Hands On Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

**Thursday–Saturday, December 23–25, 2021**

**Closed for the Christmas Holiday**

**Friday & Saturday, December 31, 2021–**

**January 1, 2022**

**Closed for the New Year's Day Holiday**

**Saturday–Monday, January 15–17, 2022**

**Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Saturday–Monday, February 19–21, 2022**

**Closed for George Washington Day**

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**Columbia Pike**  
THROUGH THE LENS OF COMMUNITY

**800** exhibitions at east broad

**Through January 8, 2022 | Monday–Saturday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM**

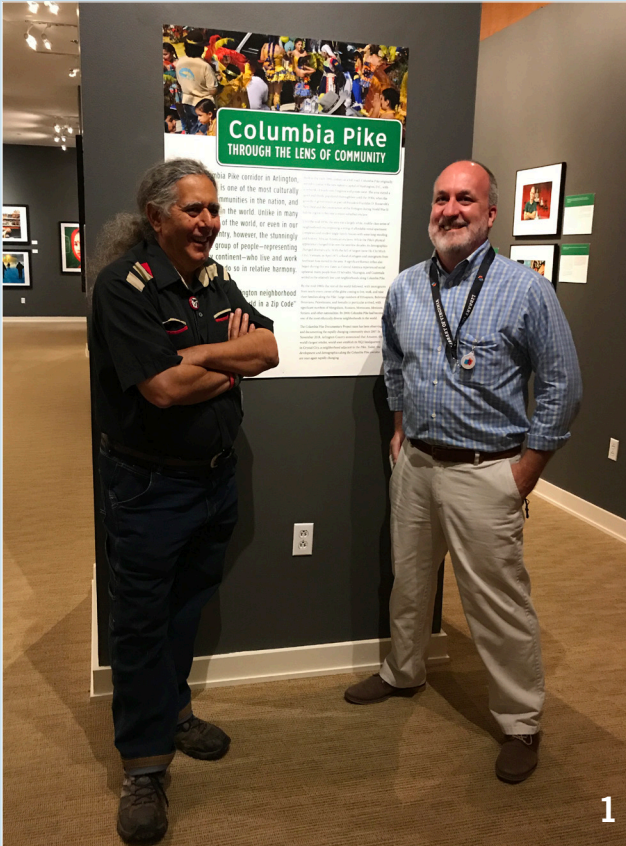
Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

**Columbia Pike: Through the Lens of Community**, a unique exhibition of photographs at the Library of Virginia, celebrates the extraordinary cultural diversity found within a single community in Northern Virginia. Columbia Pike Documentary Project photographers, whose personal connections to the community allowed them to capture the strength, pride, resilience, elegance, and beauty of so many overlapping cultures, created the works on view. More than 70 of the thousands of photographs transferred to the Library of Virginia's collections are highlighted. The exhibition also includes information about the neighborhood, the residents, and the photographers themselves. As the nation seems more divided than ever, this collection shows how one community is making diversity work.



# in circulation **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY**

Find more images at [www.flickr.com/photos/lvaevents](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lvaevents) and follow us on Facebook.



1. Columbia Pike Documentary Project photographer **Lloyd Wolf** (LEFT) views *Columbia Pike: Through the Lens of Community* with exhibition curator **Dale Neighbors** (RIGHT) on August 30, 2021.

2. **Chuck Robb**, former U.S. Senator and Virginia Governor, and his wife, **Lynda Bird Johnson Robb**, share stories related to Robb's new book, *In the Arena: A Memoir of Love, War, and Politics*, on October 6, 2021, in a conversation led by former Secretary of Education Anne Holton (not pictured). Photograph by Alice McKeon.

3. Author **Karen Cox** signs copies of her book *No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice* after her Weinstein Author Series talk on September 14, 2021.

4. Library staff members joined participants of the Virtual Virginia Datathon held on October 7 & 8, 2021. The event was sponsored by the Library of Virginia, among others. Shown are desktop and applications support technician **Mike Ezepek** and director of Information Technology **Paul Casalaspi** (LEFT TO RIGHT AT UPPER LEFT) and Librarian of Virginia **Sandra Treadway** (UPPER RIGHT).







## SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Though millions of people from across the country and around the world use the Library's collections for research, the Library is only partially funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Library relies on individuals like you to help support its programs, collections, education activities, and outreach initiatives. **Become a member today to help us continue to share Virginia's history and literature with the world.** Membership is tax-deductible and offers many benefits. In gratitude for your support, the Library of Virginia Foundation extends the following benefits to all donors of \$100 or more:

- Priority seating at Library events
- One free Library workshop per year
- 10% discount at the Virginia Shop
- Discounted tickets to Library programs
- Invitations to members-only lectures and events
- One-year print subscription to *Broadside*
- Recognition in the Library's annual list of donors on our lobby display

The best benefit of all? Ensuring the continued legacy of Virginia's history and culture.

*To learn more about the benefits of membership, contact Dawn Gregg at 804.692.3813.*

### SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY

Make a significant investment to aid the Library in its mission to acquire, preserve, and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and literature. Donors whose annual giving totals \$1,000 or more become members of the Semper Virginia Society.

Join fellow donors at exclusive Semper Virginia programs, events, and travel opportunities. To learn more, please contact Elaine McFadden at 804.692.3592 or [elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov).

Library of Virginia Online Donation Page  
[www.lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/donate)





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