

2022 Va. Festival of the Book announces Carol Troxell Reader and Same Page Community Read selections

January 21, 2022—Charlottesville, Va.—A program of Virginia Humanities, the **Virginia Festival of the Book** announced two headlining speakers for the upcoming hybrid Festival, taking place March 16-20.

2022 JMRL Same Page Community Read

Traci Chee's *We Are Not Free*, a National Book Award finalist book for young readers, is the 2022 Jefferson-Madison Regional Library (JMRL) Same Page Community Read selection. The 2022 Festival will feature Chee in two public events and one school event, discussing the Same Page title as well as her new release, ***A Thousand Steps Into Night***, a Japanese-influenced fantasy brimming with demons, adventure, and plans gone awry.

About the author: Chee is a bestselling and award-winning author of books for young people. When she isn't writing, she enjoys hiking, egg painting, bonsai gardening, and hosting game nights for family and friends. She lives in California with her fast dog.

About the book: *We Are Not Free* (2020) is the collective account of a tight-knit group of young Nisei, second-generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are irrevocably changed by the mass U.S. incarcerations of World War II. "Ambitious in scope and complexity, this is an essential contribution to the understanding of the wide-ranging experiences impacting people of Japanese ancestry in the U.S. during WWII."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

About Same Page Community Read: Each year, the Virginia Festival of the Book partners with JMRL to present public programming celebrating the annual Same Page Community Read author, selected by committee. As part of the Same Page community-wide reading series, the Festival features appearances by Traci Chee discussing the selected title and her new release. Additional programming will be presented by JMRL throughout March.

2022 Carol Troxell Reader

Dr. Imani Perry will be the 2022 Carol Troxell Reader with her captivating and incisive new book, ***South to America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation***. An Alabama native, Perry returns to the region of her upbringing in this book, crafting a narrative of the real people and places that make up what we abstractly consider the South, ultimately revealing the deep-seated truths and definitions they hold of America's past and present. As the 2022 Carol Troxell Reader, Dr. Perry will be featured in public programming at the 2022 Virginia Festival of the Book.

"We are thrilled to announce Dr. Imani Perry as our 2022 Carol Troxell Reader and to offer this additional honor in recognition of the breadth and importance of her work. As a scholar of law, literary and cultural studies, and

an author of creative nonfiction her books have reached academic and public audiences and received numerous prestigious awards. We look forward to hearing her read from *South to America* in March. I think Carol would be excited by this choice!"—Virginia Festival of the Book director **Jane Kulow**

About the author: Imani Perry, author of *South to America*, is the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University where she also teaches in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Law and Public Affairs and Jazz Studies. A native of Birmingham, AL, she lives outside of Philadelphia with her sons.

About the book: This is the story of a Black woman and native Alabaman returning to the region she has always called home and considering it with fresh eyes. With uncommon insight and breathtaking clarity, *South to America* offers an assertion that if we want to build a more humane future for the United States, we must center our concern below the Mason-Dixon Line. "[Perry] melds memoir, travel narrative, and history in an intimate, penetrating journey through the South... A graceful, finely crafted examination of America's racial, cultural, and political identity. Perry always delivers."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

About the Carol Troxell Reader: Honoring the memory of Carol Troxell, thirty-year owner of New Dominion Bookshop, the annual Carol Troxell Reader selection celebrates voracious reading. Each year, the Festival selects one author to be featured.

Learn more about the Same Page Community Read and Carol Troxell Reader selections at [VaBook.org/blog](https://va-book.org/blog).

Related hi-res images are available here: <https://virginia.box.com/s/ycci7uszq385az0qi3twfi7vvi1kftg2>

All media inquiries should be directed to Sarah Lawson at books@virginiahumanities.org.

The full schedule of 2022 Festival programming will be announced on January 31. All virtual events and the majority of in-person events will be free to attend and open to the public. *Festival COVID protocols for in-person events are available at [VaBook.org/policies](https://va-book.org/policies).*

About the Virginia Festival of the Book:

A signature program of Virginia Humanities, the Virginia Festival of the Book brings readers and writers together for author readings, panel discussions, programs for children, and more. The 28th annual Virginia Festival of the Book will take place in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia, as well as virtually, March 16-20, 2022. To learn about Festival programming and sponsorship opportunities, visit [VaBook.org](https://va-book.org).

About Virginia Humanities:

Virginia Humanities is the state humanities council. We aim to share the stories of all Virginians—or, better yet, find ways for people to share their own stories. We want to connect Virginians with their history and culture and, in doing that, help us all get to know each other a little better. We are headquartered in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia but our work covers the Commonwealth. To learn more visit [VirginiaHumanities.org](https://virginiahumanities.org).

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