Virginia Festival of the Book

Charlottesville & Albemarle County

March 16-20, 2022

VaBook.org
Thank you to the community!

The Virginia Festival of the Book was founded in 1985 as a community-focused event. Supporting that original mission, we present events in many venues in the region and we work with hundreds of partners—nonprofit organizations, institutions, booksellers, departments, book clubs, and individuals—who help develop programs and share event details. Thank you to all who help support the Festival by offering ideas and suggestions, sharing information with your networks, and showing up. We’ve listed many community partners at VaBook.org and we thank you for your time and energy.

COVID-19 Policies

In an effort to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, all Festival attendees, speakers, volunteers, and staff members are expected to follow venue-specific protocols in addition to the policies listed at VaBook.org/Policies.

For venue-specific protocols, please check the event page for each in-person event you plan to attend, on VaBook.org/Schedule. Working within each venue’s specifications, we are taking all possible precautions to keep you safe.

For the most up-to-date information about Festival speakers and events, please visit:

 VaBook.org
Virginia Writing & Publishing


Virtual School Visits

Virtual school visits also took place pre-Festival, connecting school groups across the state with authors for young readers, including youth headliner Traci Chee, plus Ruth Behar, Alda P. Dobbs, M.K. England, Cherie Fu, Laura Gao, Shannon Hitchcock, Juana Medina, and Sana Rafi. If you would like to share videos from these visits with your students, please visit VaBook.org/watch or email books@virginiahumanities.org.

Book Sales & Signings

Whether you attend in-person or take part in virtual events, we hope that you'll support Festival speakers and Virginia booksellers by purchasing books! Local booksellers will provide on-site book sales with author signings at all in-person events, including books by 2022 Festival headlining authors (below). Links to buy books are also provided on VaBook.org event pages. Thank you for helping support our Virginia book community!

Sponsors & Contributors

Virginia Humanities, which produces the Virginia Festival of the Book, thanks the donors who designated their gifts to support the Festival. The full list of sponsors and contributors is available at VaBook.org, will be printed in the Virginia Humanities Annual Report, and includes:

$25,000 and up
- The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation
- Dominion Energy
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities

$10,000-$24,999
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*Literary Leaders
The Festival appreciates the support of $2,500 or more from these donors.
How are we doing?

In order to help us continue to plan Festival events that are accessible and responsive to community needs and interests, please take a minute to let us know what you thought of any events you’ve attended during the 2022 Virginia Festival of the Book, either by visiting VaBook.org/Feedback or scanning the above QR code with your phone.

Support the Virginia Festival of the Book

Community is the cornerstone of the Virginia Festival of the Book and our programming engages people of all ages, from all backgrounds and across all genres. If you appreciate our in-person and/or virtual programming, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to support the future of the Festival.

By supporting the Festival, you are supporting statewide dialogue on important themes, from literacy to social and economic equality. You are fostering the next generation of readers and leaders by enabling us to provide thought-provoking and fun programming in schools for students at all levels. You are ensuring that the majority of Festival programs each year can be presented free of charge and for all to enjoy.

Learn more about ways to give as well as specific funds that support the Virginia Festival of the Book at VaBook.org/Give.

About the Virginia Festival of the Book

A signature program of Virginia Humanities, the Virginia Festival of the Book brings together writers and readers to promote and celebrate books, reading, literacy, and literary culture. Featuring the annual Festival in March plus the year-round Shelf Life virtual event series, our programming offers something for readers of all levels and interests. To learn more, visit VaBook.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.
Local events, taking place in-person in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. No registration required. See VaBook.org/jeunesse for details about COVID-19 protocols that will be in place at each venue.

Virtual events. Check VaBook.org/schedule for registration details. On-demand videos will be posted after the event concludes at VaBook.org/watch.

Tickets required for this in-person event. Visit VaBook.org/schedule for details or purchase tickets directly through The Paramount Theater, Charlottesville.

Wednesday, March 16
12:00 PM ET
Letter to a Young Female Physician with Dr. Suzanne Koven at UVA Polo Hall
Dr. Suzanne Koven (Letter to a Young Female Physician)
Seeing Trees, Saving the Great Forests
Meg Lowman (The Arboretum), John Reid (Ever Green)
Sponsored by Westhaven-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge

2:00 PM ET
Voices of the Civil War Era at UVA Bookstore
Caroline E. Janney (Ends of War), Andrew F. Lang (A Contest of Civilizations), Jonathan W. White (To Address You as My Friend)
The Inner Work of Racial Justice: A Conversation with Rhonda V. Magee Rhonda Magee (The Inner Work of Racial Justice)
Sponsored by CPA Institute and Susan and Norman Copulius

4:00 PM ET
Lives of the Unfree: Activism and Survival at UVA Bookstore
Jaunet Hill Edwards (Uthree Markets), Vanessa M. Holden (Surviving Southampton)
Magic & Mythical: YA Fantasy
Deborah Fields (Blood Stains), TJ Kline (Flash Fire), Anna-Marie McMurre (Lakeside)

6:00 PM ET
Keep It Concise: Microfiction & Short Stories
Kim Fu (Losier Known Monsters of the 21st Century), Daniel Oklas (How to Date a Flying Motho), Ran Walker (Keep It 100)

7:00 PM ET
Rooted in the Personal:
Poetry by Fumio Gandler and Lisa Russ Sparr at Central JRL, Library
Fumio Gandler (Twice Alive), Lisa Russ Sparr (Midnightbirds)
A Thousand Steps into Night with Traci Chee at the CODE Building, Irving Theater
Traci Chee (A Thousand Steps into Night)
Sponsored by Dominion Energy and Friends of Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

Halfway Home: A Conversation with Reuben Jonathan Miller at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Reuben Jonathan Miller (Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration)

Thursday, March 17
10:00 AM ET
Exploring Family Bonds
Jan Beatty (American Bastard), Taylor Harris (This Boy We Made), Juliette Singh (The Breach)
The Critical Role of Local Journalism
Michelle L. Johnson (Farm Fresh Broadband), Jennifer Lawless (News Hole)
Sponsored by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

12:00 PM ET
The Wrong End of the Telescope with Rabih Alameddine
Rabih Alameddine (The Wrong End of the Telescope)
Sights & Sounds: Visual Poetry
David Carrasco (American Quasar), Nanao Fujimoto (Ghgp), Auriele Marie (Gumbo Ye Ye)

12:30 PM ET
The New Climate War: A Conversation with Michael Mann
Michael Mann (The New Climate War)

2:00 PM ET
The Emotional Pull of Home at Central JRL, Library
Juanna Elferthues (This Way Back), Henry Hope (Sticker), Jennifer Neonilai (Smilicious Son)
Eyelessness to the Past at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Amelisselle Bruner (The Nation Must Awake its author’s great-granddaughter), Gayle Jessie White (Miseducation), Slave Majors (High Yield)
Dreaming up the Middle: World-Fiction Fiction
Rhuth Beair (Letters from Cuba), Aida P. Dobles (Blared Dreams of Pétra Luna), Sylvia Liu (Manaterie’s Best Friend), Lissa Ye (Maisy Chen’s Last Chance)

4:00 PM ET
Uncertainty Within: Literary Fiction at Central JRL, Library
Cynthia Gardner (Other’s Travels), Sharon Harrigan (Hat), Lesley Wheeler (Uncertainty)

Modern Love: Romance Fiction
Anshu Bhatia (The Rules of Arrangement), Verty Lowell (Meet Me in Madrid), Jan Melzer (The Matzah Ball)

6:00 PM ET
Who Owns Your DNA?
Jorge Contreras (The Genome Defense)

6:30 PM ET
20th Annual Voices of Adult Learners at the V. Earl Dickinson Building, PVCC

7:00 PM ET
JRL, Same Page Community Read:
We Are Not Free with Traci Chee at the CODE Building, Irving Theater
Traci Chee (We Are Not Free)
Sponsored by Dominion Energy and Friends of Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

Friday, March 18
10:00 AM ET
Fresh Portraits of Indomitable Women at UVA Bookstore
Hillary Holiday (The Power of Adrienne Rich), Andrew Kaufman (The Gambler Wife)

12:00 PM ET
UVA Creative Writing Alumni Reading at UVA Bookstore
Anja Cateri (Leads and the Sean), David Francis (Footwork), Aine Sea (Velvet Heuods)

Sowing Care and Justice
Mai Linh H. Hong, Christy Yee Lau, Valena So (The Auntie Sewing Squad Guide to Mask Making, Radical Care, and Racial Justice)

2:00 PM ET
Carol Tressell Reader: Imani Perry and South to America at Central JRL, Library
Imani Perry (South to America)
Sponsored by the Carol Tressell Fund

Life-Threatening Uniqueness & Inequalities in American Healthcare at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Taylor Harris (This Boy We Made), Anushay Hossain (The Pain Gap), N. West Moss (Flesh & Blood)

Rust Belt Vegan Kitchen with Meredith Pangrace
Meredith Pangrace (Rust Belt Vegan Kitchen, editor)

4:00 PM ET
My Monticello with Jocelyn Johnson at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Jocelyn Johnson (My Monticello)
Sponsored with the African American Authors Book Club

SELRC Read Environmental Award Celebration with Michael Mann at the CODE Building, Irving Theater
Michael Mann (The New Climate War)
Sponsored with the Environmental Law Center

Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia presents: Talks by UVa Graduate Students at UVA Harrison Institute / Small Special Collections
Speaking through History; Poetry of Person
Anna Kim (Boo, Unbroken), Sarah McCullam (He Reined Stone)

6:00 PM ET
To Reimagine Time: Historical Fantasy
Natalya Deon (The Periologist), Nicole Glover (The Understaking), Shelley Parker Chain (She Who Became the Sun)

7:00 PM ET
Secrets, Sisters, and Spies at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Kathleen Carroll (Like a Sister), Naomi Hinshara (Clark and Division), Alma Natsuo (The Red Widow)

8:00 PM ET
Reading Under the Influence: A Woman’s Place is in the Browsinhous
Taras Nutt (A Woman’s Place is in the Browshouse)
Presented with Devil’s Backbone Brewing Co.
Sponsored by W. Tucker Lemon, VA Board-member

Saturday, March 19
10:00 AM ET
Love as an Act of Resistance: Historical Fiction at Central JRL, Library
Kia Corthron (Moon and Mars), Kim ThiThy (Eim)

Entwined Tales at City Council Chambers
John Cooper (The Savage Kind), Ellen Crosby (The Frensh Parasite), Tara Lasiewski (The Mother Next Door)

Eternal Logics of American Colonialism at the CODE Building, Irving Theater
Jonathan M. Katz (A Land ofINEquity), Albert Samaha (Cooperation)

Virtual Storytime Marathon
Cherie Fu (Little Mussy Maisy Suy), Shannon Hitchcock (She Sang for the Mountains), Joanna van Huyck (Luna/Lauris: Charlie Change), Sara Rall (Little Seeds of Promises), Brittanam Thurman (Fly)

12:00 PM ET
Family, Friends & First Love: Young Adult Fiction at Central JRL, Library
M.K. England (The One True Me and You), Holly Garmis (List of Ten), Amber McBride (Me (Mom))

Accidental Detectives (You Don’t Want Coming After You) at City Council Chambers
Elle Cosimano (Flemish Donovan Is Killing It), Naomi Hinshara (An Eternal Lei), Kathleen Schellman (Silence in the Library)

Fighting for Justice: When our institutions do not serve at the CODE Building, Irving Theater
Benjamin Gilmer (The Other Dr. Gilmer), Chip Jones (The Organ Thieves)

Shadows of Giants at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Victoria Chang (Dear Memory), Kat Cho (Seeing Ghosts)

Bodies in Space & Time: Identity in Sci-Fi & Speculative Fiction
Ryoka Aoki (Light from Uncommon Stars), Micahla Johnson (The Space Between Worlds), Lincoln Michel (The Body Scout)

2:00 PM ET
The Healing Arts: Poetry & Illness at Central JRL, Library
Darren Badeau (Liken the 30th Spell), Chelsea B. Deaton (A Dangerous Place)

Thrillers for a Wild Ride at City Council Chambers
Yasmin Angoe (Her Name is Knight), S.A. Cosby (Razorbite Beads), Veta Kurian (Never Saw Me Coming)

Winnning and Losing the Nuclear Peace: A Conversation with Michael Kropen at the CODE Building, Irving Theater
Michael Kropen (Winning and Losing the Nuclear Peace)

Portraits of Racial Justice: A Conversation with Robert Shettles at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Robert Shettles (Portraits of Racial Justice)

What We Call Family: Literary Fiction
Daniel Suazo (The Plowmen’s House), Jessie van Eerden (Call It Horses), Kyle Wu (You Me Something)

4:00 PM ET
NEP Presents: An Afternoon with the National Book Awards at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Robert Jones, Jr. (The Prophet, Finalist), Amber McBride (Me (Mom), Finalist), Jason Mathias (Finalist of a Book, Winner), Presented with the National Book Foundation

Transformative Desire: Literary Fiction
Alex D’Ippolito (Transfrication), Lindsay Merbaum (The Gold Armament), Morgan Thomas (Manywhere)

7:00 PM ET
Southern Landscapes: Real and Imagined at the Paramount Theater
W. Rajah Subranan (A Place Like Mississippi), Jocelyn Nicole Johnson (My Monticello), Imani Perry (South to America)

Sunday, March 20
11:00 AM ET
Preserving and Using Native Plants at Ivy Creek Natural Area
Georgann Eubanks (Saving the Wild South), Kat Maer (Energetic Herbsation)

The Wintable Freedom of the Human Mind: A Conversation with Andrew O’Shaughnessy at Monticello’s David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center
Andrew O’Shaughnessy (The Wintable Freedom of the Human Mind)

Celebration! A Tribute to the African American Literary Tradition Presented with the Charlottesville Chapter of The Links Incorporated

12:00 PM ET
Making Sense of the World, Making Sense of Ourselves: Graphic Memoirs
Courtney Cok (The Way She Feels), Laura Gas (Mossy Roots)

1:00 PM ET
In the Arena: A Conversation with Chuck Robb at James Monroe’s Highland
Chuck Robb (in the Arena)

3:00 PM ET
Poetry for Today: Readings by Victoria Chang and Rita Dove at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Victoria Chang (Oh!), Rita Dove (Poetry for Apocalypse) Presented with the Amistad-Wolf Book Awards
Sponsored by Ivy Ridge Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors

For full schedule descriptions, including the most up-to-date information about each event plus author bios and book sales, visit: VaBook.org/schedule