



**Virginia Festival  
of the Book 2023**  
March 23-26 [VaBook.org](http://VaBook.org)

VIRGINIA HUMANITIES

Charlottesville & Albemarle County

## A Welcome from the Director of the Virginia Center for the Book

Welcome to the Virginia Festival of the Book's 29th year! I'm so excited about these exhilarating days of books, authors, ideas, and stories unfolding here in Charlottesville, Virginia, and beyond. Less than six months ago, I was ripping tape off boxes and settling three flustered cats into my apartment, having just moved back to Central Virginia after spending the past decade in Philadelphia. I knew I had big shoes to fill, after a beloved director of the Center of the Book left the previous spring. I knew a whirlwind awaited, since festivals like this usually take a year to plan.

But what I didn't know was that there was a community—from my colleagues at Virginia Humanities, especially the Center for the Book's amazing Assistant Director, Aran Donovan; to partners at the University of Virginia; to the readers, writers, volunteers, donors, and doers in the artistic, cultural, historical, academic and bookish communities who would meet me with gracious enthusiasm and unflagging support for what has become a long standing tradition in our Commonwealth.

A 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. We engage diverse authors and offer accessible programs with the goals of igniting conversations, inspiring a love of reading, and meeting the vital moments in our humanity—in the humanities—with dialogue and connection. This year, we're hosting enlightening author talks and panel discussions, as ever, but we're giving some programs a new shine. We're also broadening our reach to include more of Central Virginia.


None of this happens without you: whether you've been on the front lines planning with us, or whether you're a long-time or a first-time festival goer; or even if you simply saw this booklet on a bench somewhere and decided to pick it up. My boundless appreciation goes to everyone who has been here, and who will be here, celebrating the world that awaits us when we turn a new page.

- Kalela Williams  
*Director, Virginia Center of the Book*

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## KEY

<b>BA</b>	BOOK ARTS
<b>F</b>	FICTION
<b>NF</b>	NON-FICTION
<b>P</b>	POETRY
<b>Y</b>	YOUNG READERS
<b>A</b>	ACTIVITY
<b>\$</b>	TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED
	ADVANCE SIGNUP REQUIRED
<b>★</b>	FEATURED EVENTS

# Festival Preview Events

From March 16 to 21, ahead of the 2023 Virginia Festival of the Book, take part in our *Festival Preview Events* series featuring author and book programs in Central and Southwest Virginia. Festival preview events are sponsored by Michelle and David Baldacci.

**F** **Staunton, VA** THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

## *Even the Dog Knows* with Jason Wright

📍 Staunton Public Library

What can a dog teach us? When it comes to a black Labrador named Moses, it's how to heal—and what it means to truly love. In *Even the Dog Knows*, NYT bestselling author Jason Wright takes readers on a 1,000 road trip beside a lonely man and his grandson, along with their wise, old dog. Enjoy an uplifting story and refreshments, then take a special treat, provided by the Well Balanced Paw, to bring to your pooch back home. In conversation with Cliff Garstang. Presented with the Staunton Library, The Book Dragon, and the Staunton Augusta Waynesboro Group of the Blue Ridge Writers Club.

**NF** **Crozet, VA** FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 7:00-8:00 P.M.

## *Trailed* with Kathryn Miles

📍 Bluebird + Co.

A young couple—two women in love—go hiking in the wilderness, and never return. *Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders* follows author Kathryn Miles's investigation of their murders, revealing the sexism and bigotry that can often keep women, LGBTQ, and BIPOC hikers from feeling safe in the great outdoors. *Advance sign up required. VaBook.org/tickets.*

**BA** **Richmond, VA** SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 3:00-4:00 P.M.

## Excavating Identity Author Talk and

**NF** **Art-Making** with G. Samantha Rosenthal and Gregory D. Smithers

📍 Studio Two Three

Studio Two Three, a Richmond community arts space that offers studios, classes and workshops, artist residency, and open doors, hosts historians G. Samantha Rosenthal and Gregory D. Smithers as they discuss their recent works. Rosenthal's *Living Queer History* (cont.)

follows the development of the Roanoke LGBTQ+ community over many generations as members explore their relationship with the past, while Smithers' *Reclaiming Two-Spirits* investigates the erasure and reveals the history of Indigenous gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender peoples. Arrive a little early or stay late, and take part in creative book arts projects!

**F** **Lovington, VA** SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 5:30-6:30 P.M.

## The Book Festival Comes to Rapunzel's

📍 Rapunzel's Cafe and Bookstore

The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, a creative arts residency, brings writers from all over the world to Central Virginia. Join some of their Fellows for a fun night of poetry and prose, followed by live music.

**BA** **Staunton, VA** SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 3:00-4:00 P.M.

## Meet the Artists of *Bound Visions*

with Amy Arnold, Dymphna de Wild, Lyall Harris, and Lotta Helleberg

📍 The Beverley Street Studio School Gallery

Meet some of the artists of *Bound Visions: Art Books by Women Artists*, an exhibition of artists' books by nine contemporary women artists, running from March 3 to April 23, 2023. Each book explores the creative transformation and reinvention of the traditional book format. Artists' books are works of art with rich mixtures of form and content. Embracing the three-dimensionality of sculpture, they deliver content through endless visual possibilities, sometimes in editions, but often as one-of-a-kind objects.

# Virginia Festival of the Book in Charlottesville, Virginia

Our 29th Annual Virginia Festival of the Book takes place in Charlottesville, VA from March 23 to 26!

NF

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 10:00-11:00 A.M.

## Rise of the Spy with Nicholas Reynolds

♥ Virginia Humanities

In *Need to Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence*, historian, former CIA officer, and NYT bestselling author Nicholas Reynolds unlocks the history of American intelligence during World War II, exploring the birth, infancy, and adolescence of modern American intelligence. By bringing little-known history to the fore, Reynolds reveals the groundwork of 20th century U.S. intelligence, and its place in conflicts to come. Presented with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Virginia.

F

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

## Forbidden Dreams: Coming of Age Fiction with Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, William Mark Habeeb, and Jeffrey Dale Lofton

♥ Virginia Humanities

In rural Georgia, an outsider—a gay, physically misshapen kid—searches for love and acceptance. Near Moscow, four inseparable girls' secrets, dreams, and desires are interrupted when the Soviet Empire teeters on the verge of collapse. In California, the late 1960s bring tumult and revolution—and a sense of home to a teen fleeing his abusive family. Join Jeffrey Dale Lofton, author of *Red Clay Suzie*, and Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, author of *The Orchard*, in a conversation with William Mark Habeeb, author of *Venice Beach*, for three compelling coming of age stories.

F

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

## Romance Salon: *American Royalty* with Tracey Livesay

♥ Central JMRL Library

When sexy, fiery American rapper Danielle “Duchess” Nelson meets staid, reclusive Prince Jameson, opposites attract, and they’re a match made for the world stage. But can their romance climb to ivory tower heights, or will it fall to palace intrigue? Get up close and personal with author Tracey Livesay during this informal salon, where she’ll talk about her novel, *American Royalty*, inspired by the love story of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

P

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1:00-2:00 P.M.

## The Turning Point: Shaping a Poetic Life with Janine Joseph, Gregory Orr, and Kiki Petrosino

♥ Virginia Humanities

Three acclaimed poets look back at their lives and works. Janine Joseph, a poetry professor at Virginia Tech and organizer with UndocuPoets, reads from her new collection *Decade of the Brain*, investigating her own post-concussive memory loss. Gregory Orr, Professor Emeritus of English at UVA and founder of its MFA Program in Creative Writing, presents his most recent work *Selected Books of the Beloved*, a celebration of the transformative power of poetry and of our extraordinary capacity to feel and to love. In *Bright: A Memoir*, poet Kiki Petrosino blends verse, research, and autobiography as she investigates her interracial ancestry.

NF

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2:30-3:30 P.M.

## An Identity of the Edges with Mary Alice Hostetter

♥ Central JMRL Library

Part of the Living Out Series: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies series, *Plain: A Memoir of Mennonite Girlhood* is the story of Mary Alice Hostetter’s journey to define a sense of authenticity amid a rigid upbringing in a Mennonite farm family. In accepting her sexuality, she found herself apart from her faith and community, but closer to her true self. Presented with the University of Virginia LGBT Committee.

**F**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 4:00-5:00 P.M.

## Unsung Women with Rosalyn Story

📍 The Center at Belvedere

Two musically gifted women's lives overlap over the boundaries of time in Rosalyn Story's novel *Sing Her Name*. With racism barring her way, a nineteenth century concert artist can never achieve the place in history she deserves. Then, long after her death in poverty and obscurity, a 19th century waitress, talented but musically untaught, has a chance to revive this singer's name and reach her own success—if her family ties don't hold her back. Presented with the African American Authors Book Club.

**NF**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 6:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.

## Voices of Adult Learners

📍 V. Earl Dickinson Building, Piedmont VA Community College

Voices of Adult Learners is a celebration bringing together adults from literacy, GED, and ESL education programs to share their compelling stories. Students enrolled in literacy and adult education programs at Piedmont Virginia Community College share a variety of writings about everyday life, traditions, childhood and personal stories. Presented in partnership with Piedmont Virginia Community College.

**NF**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

## Taps and Top 10 Hits with Tom Breihan

📍 Random Row Brewing Co.

What shoots a song to #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 list? From the Beatles to Bob Dylan, from Prince to K-pop, *Stereogum* senior editor Tom Breihan's new book, *The Number Ones: Twenty Chart-Topping Hits That Reveal the History of Pop Music*, spins stories from decades of sounds and ponders the playlists of the future. Grab a beer and listen to song samples and a fascinating talk. In conversation with Jack Hamilton, UVA Assistant Professor of Media Studies and American Studies. Sponsored by Catherine and Tucker Lemon.

**FRIDAY****NF**

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

## Food and Blackness

with Clarkisha Kent and Psyche A. Williams-Forson

📍 Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

Cultural critic Clarkisha Kent and Psyche A. Williams-Forson, Professor and Chair of American Studies at University of Maryland, will discuss *Fat Off, Fat On: A Big Bitch Manifesto* and *Eating While Black: Food Shaming and Race in America*, which promises to be incisive and frank. The event features samples of traditional African American and Black diasporic dishes. Presented with The Women's Initiative and The Maxine Platzer Lynn's Women's Center at UVA.

**BA**

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

## Book Arts Open House

📍 Book Arts Center at the Jefferson School City Center

Stop by to watch members of the Virginia Center for the Book's Book Arts Center demonstrate the art and craft of bookmaking, and try your hand at a few easy-to-learn crafts.

**F**

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1:00-2:00 P.M.

## Sci-Fi Salon with Lucinda Roy

📍 Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

A quest for Freedom has brought Ji-ji Silapu to Dream City—Washington D.C.—where once, the most famous Dreamer of all marched for the same cause. But the former U.S. capital is the decider of dreams: those granted, and those deferred. Distinguished Virginia Tech professor Lucinda Roy meets with writers and readers in this informal salon to discuss her latest book: *Flying the Coop*, the second in the *Dreambird Chronicles* trilogy. In *Flying the Coop*, Roy explores “a future world where racial conflict and the urban/rural divide have turned the country into the Disunited States.”

★ NF

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2:00-3:30 P.M.

**Deaf Utopia with Nyle DiMarco**

📍 Paramount Theater

Nyle DiMarco, an actor, producer, two-time reality show winner, cultural icon of the international Deaf community, and now NYT bestselling author shares a story of what it means to navigate a world built for hearing people. *Deaf Utopia: A Memoir—and a Love Letter to a Way of Life* is a cultural anthem. It is a love letter to American Sign Language, and a celebration of what makes Deaf culture unique and beautiful. In conversation with musical artist WAWA Snipe. Sponsored by the University of Virginia's American Sign Language Program as well as the University of Virginia's Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. *This event will be interpreted for ASL and hearing audiences.*

NF

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2:30-3:30 P.M.

**Folklore and Futures with Emily Hilliard**

📍 Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

A future-focused, materialist, and collaborative approach to cultural work is what Emily Hilliard, former state folklorist of West Virginia, offers in *Making our Future: Visionary Folklore and Everyday Culture in Appalachia*. From diverse examples such as a teacher's strike, a multiracial coal camp community, and the tradition of independent pro wrestling, Hilliard paints a picture of folklore as a unifying concept that puts diverse cultural forms in conversation, one that creates a framework that helps us understand our past and shape our future. In conversation with Katy Clune, Director of Virginia Humanities' Folklife Program.

A

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 3:30-4:30 P.M.

**How to Use Tarot to Enchant Your Inner Writing Witch & Add Sorcery to Your Fiction, Poetry & Prose**

with Sasha Graham

📍 Central JMRL Library

Words are magic. Language is enchantment. Writing is sorcery. Join bestselling author and tarot deck creator Sasha Graham as she teaches you how to use tarot and magical practice for all aspects of your writing journey. Tarot is storytelling and you are a supernatural creature. Use the cards to enhance the alchemy of character creation, motivation (*cont.*)

P

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 4:00-5:00 P.M.

**Furious Flower Poetry Hour featuring Lauren Alleyne, Joanne Gabbin, and L. Renée**

📍 Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

Since a 1994 conference of some of the most acclaimed voices in African American poetry, to its official founding in 2004, Furious Flower Poetry Center has been committed to ensuring the visibility, inclusion, and critical consideration of Black poets in American letters. The founder and former Executive Director, Joanne Gabbin, along with the new Executive Director, Lauren Alleyne, and L. Renée, the Center's new Assistant Director, will read their poetry as well as reflect upon their legacies with Furious Flower Poetry Center, and its new beginnings.

NF

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 4:00-5:00 P.M.

**Handsome, Durable, and Inexpensive: The 'Modern Library,' 1925-1959 with David Vander Meulen**

📍 UVA Harrison Institute/Small Special Collections

The Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia hosts their annual meeting, announcing the publication, in conjunction with the UVA Library, of an online bibliography of the Modern Library, the most important American reprint series of significant works of literature and thought published in the twentieth century. A tour of the site will feature a talk by David Vander Meulen, Professor of English at UVA and editor of the journal of the Bibliographical Society of UVA, *Studies in Bibliography*. Vander Meulen is preparing a history of the work of the illustrator and former Charlottesville resident Warren Chappell.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 5:00-6:30 P.M.

## SELC 2023's Reed Award Ceremony with Heather McTeer Toney

 **CODE Building**

The 2023 Phillip D. Reed Environmental Award will be presented to winners Corban Addison and Isabelle Chapman during this year's Virginia Festival of the Book. The two awardees will be recognized for demonstrating the power of writing to capture some of the most important environmental issues facing Southern communities. Heather McTeer Toney, acclaimed author and expert on environmental and climate justice issues, serves as this year's featured speaker at the ceremony. Her latest book, *Before the Streetlights Come on: Black America's Urgent Call for Climate Solutions*, will be released in April 2023. *Advanced sign up required. Visit [VaBook.org/tickets](http://VaBook.org/tickets)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 6:00-7:15 P.M.

## Bestsellers and Best Cellars Reception

 **Paramount Theater**

Join the panelists of our Bestsellers Panel and a host of other acclaimed Festival authors and speakers, and enjoy a selection of wines, their curation inspired by Festival books, as well as a specially-themed featured cocktail, during this exclusive event. *Tickets required, and include a seat at our Bestsellers Panel immediately following the reception. To purchase, visit: [VaBook.org/tickets](http://VaBook.org/tickets)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30-8:30 P.M.

## Finding the Light Bestsellers Panel with Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Vaishnavi Patel, and Matthew Quick

 **Paramount Theater**

Three NYT best-selling novelists with new books share what it means to find the light: whether it's through a luminous history and heritage, a shining new vision of an ancient text, or the brilliance of better angels. In *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, a woman navigates colorism and class, black and white, and the line of double-consciousness. Vaishnavi Patel reimagines a queen in the same-titled novel *Kaikeyi*, a feminist retelling of the Ramayana's villainous stepmother. Matthew Quick's newest book, *We Are the Light*, is a story of a man who finds friendship, hope, and feathers on his bed from the wings of his dead wife. Moderated by Kalela Williams, Director of the Virginia Center for the Book. Sponsored by Dominion Energy. *Tickets required. To purchase, visit: [VaBook.org/tickets](http://VaBook.org/tickets)*

## SATURDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

## Jefferson-Madison Regional Library Book Swap

 **Central JMRL Library**

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library is back to host its annual book swap at the Virginia Festival of the Book. Swap your gently used books for something new to you. It's free, fun, and for all ages!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

## Reinvention and Return Breakfast and Authors Talk

with Quan Barry, Rebecca Makkai, and Jung Yun

 **Omni Hotel**

Acclaimed authors Quan Barry (*When I'm Gone, Look for Me in the East*), Rebecca Makkai (*I Have Some Questions for You*), and Jung Yun (*O Beautiful*), gather to explore what happens when we return to our past—to the family, friends, and familiar places who formed us—and find ourselves changed. Barry, poet and playwright, is the author of the novel *We Ride Upon Sticks*. Makkai is the author of National Book Awards long-listed novel and Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Great Believers* and *The Borrower*. Yun is the award-winning author of *Shelter* and associate professor of English at George Washington University. Join them for a continental breakfast and conversation. *Tickets required. To purchase, visit [VaBook.org/tickets](http://VaBook.org/tickets).*

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

## No Ordinary Crimes: A Thriller Hour with E.A. Aymar, Gabino Iglesias, and Deanna Raybourn

 **Central JMRL Library**

A former social worker teaming up with a vigilante anti-hero to solve a murder. A grieving, unemployed father starting over as a cartel hit man. An elite group of assassins who happen to be women celebrating retirement. Join E.A. Aymar, Gabino Iglesias, and NYT bestselling author Deanna Raybourn for an afternoon of thrillers: *No Home for Killers*, *The Devil Takes You Home*, and *Killers of a Certain Age*.

**BA**

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 10:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

## Artist Showcase and Demo

📍 Omni Hotel

Join the Virginia Center for the Book's Book Arts members as they demonstrate the art and craft of bookmaking; as well as Blake Gore, miniaturist illustrator and designer of the 2023 Virginia Festival of the Book artwork.

**NF**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 12:00-1:00 P.M.

## Fifth Annual Carol Troxell Reader with Meghan O'Rourke

📍 New Dominion Bookshop

In honor of late bookseller Carol Troxell, the Virginia Festival of the Book presents an annual program with New Dominion Bookshop and the Carol Troxell Fund. The fifth annual Carol Troxell Reader is poet and author Meghan O'Rourke. O'Rourke's new book *The Invisible Kingdom: Reimagining Chronic Illness* blends an account of her own medical journey with a broad view of the history and current state of long-term maladies. O'Rourke is also a renowned poet and essayist, author of *The Long Goodbye* and poetry collection *Sun in Days*. In partnership with New Dominion Bookshop. Special thanks to the Carol Troxell Fund and its donors for their sponsorship.

**P****\$F**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 12:00 P.M.-1:30 P.M.

## Mid-Century Fiction Lunch with Jamila Minnicks and Sadeqa Johnson

📍 Omni Hotel

From Jamila Minnicks and Sadeqa Johnson come two novels set in the 1950s. In *Moonrise Over New Jessup*, a wife and mother must decide her loyalties and fight for what she loves in her all-Black, Alabama town. Johnson's *The House of Eve* features a teenage girl's and a young woman's stories colliding as one struggles to break out of her family's cycle of poverty in Philadelphia, and the other attempts to fit in with Washington D.C.'s Black middle-class world. Enjoy lunch and lively conversation. *Tickets required. To purchase, visit [VaBook.org/tickets](http://VaBook.org/tickets)*

**Y**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 12:30-1:30 P.M.

## Newbery Authors Panel with Andrea Beatriz Arango and Meg Medina

📍 Central JMRL Library

A debut author joins an established voice in young people's literature in this discussion. Andrea Beatriz Arango, a former schoolteacher and winner of a 2023 Newbery Honor for *Iveliz Explains It All*, sits down with Meg Medina, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, a Newbery Award medalist, and the NYT bestselling author of *Merci Suárez Plays It Cool*, to (cont.)

talk about what it means to write the books they wish were on the shelves during their middle school years. Sponsored by the Friends of the JMRL.

**P**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2:00-3:00 P.M.

## 2023 Same Page Community Read with Ross Gay

📍 Jefferson School for African American Heritage Center

Each year, the Same Page community-wide reading initiative provides opportunities for book groups, classrooms, and individuals to explore the themes of a single book by an author appearing at the Virginia Festival of the Book. The 2023 Same Page featured author is Ross Gay, with his *The Book of Delights* this year's featured selection. An NYT bestselling author, Gay will also read his newest work, *Inciting Joy*, a collection of essays about the joy we incite when we care for each other. Sponsored by the JMRL Same Page program, as well as the Piedmont Master Gardeners.

*Regrettably, seating at the JSAAHC is closed. But simulcast seating is available in Carver Recreation Center, downstairs from the main event. The author will appear in-person for a book signing there at Carver Rec. For more information, visit: [VaBook.org/tickets](http://VaBook.org/tickets)*

**Y**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2:00-3:00 P.M.

## Bea Wolf Book Signing with Zach Weinersmith

📍 Telegraph Art & Comics at Seminole Square

Who wants to be a grown-up? Not the gang of mischief-loving kids in the town of Treeheart. But they need a savior when a villainous neighbor, Grindle, can instantly turn fun-loving children into boring, miserable adults. Boo! Or rather, Bea. Because only this young warrior can keep kids as kids. Meet author Zach Weinersmith.

**Y**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 4:00-5:00 P.M.

## Crowns and Claws: Coming of Age in YA Fantasy Fiction with Emily Thiede and Andrew Joseph White

📍 New Dominion Bookshop

Debut authors Emily Thiede and Andrew Joseph White discuss their YA fantasy/dystopian novels. Thiede's *This Vicious Grace* follows Alessa as she tries to harness her own powers to save her home, finding love, friendship, and betrayal along the way. In White's *Hell Followed With Us*, trans boy Benji is infected with a bioweapon and finds refuge in a queer group of teens bent on surviving in a post-apocalyptic landscape. Presented in partnership with WriterHouse.



P

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 4:00-5:00 P.M.

NF

## National Book Foundation Presents: An Afternoon with the National Book Awards with John Keene, Toluse Olorunnipa, and Robert Samuels

📍 Jefferson School for African American Heritage Center

2022 National Book Award Winner John Keene, author of *Punks: New & Selected Poems*, and Finalists Toluse Olorunnipa and Robert Samuels, authors of *His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice*, discuss how singular stories collectively shape history—from the AIDS epidemic to the George Floyd protests—and what it means to make these stories real for readers across the country. In conversation with Glory Edim, founder of Well-Read Black Girl. Presented by the National Book Foundation.

\$F

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

## Horror at Holiday Trails with Sasha Graham, Grady Hendrix, Stephen Graham Jones, Sarah Langan, and Paul Tremblay

📍 Camp Holiday Trails

On a summer's day, Camp Holiday Trails is a place of joy for kids with medical needs. But on this spring night, terror awaits as four writers of horror fiction: bestsellers Grady Hendrix, Stephen Graham Jones, and Paul Tremblay, as well as three-time Bram Stoker Award recipient Sarah Langan, read from their spine-chilling novels in the dark. Between tales, divine your future with metaphysical author and tarot card reader Sasha Graham. And, enjoy wine, beer, and bites from a food truck—and hope nothing bites you. Sponsored by the Bay Ridge Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

**This will be an indoor-outdoor program, so dress for the weather!** There is **NO parking at the campsite**. Shuttles will depart from the Omni Hotel. Check our website and social media for the most up-to-date information. *Tickets required. To purchase, visit [VaBook.org/tickets](https://vaBook.org/tickets).*

SUNDAY

NF

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

## Illustrating the Everyday with Arwen Donahue and Suzanne Stryk

📍 Ivy Creek Natural Area

Ivy Creek Natural Area will provide the setting for this outdoor program. Arwen Donahue's *Landings: A Crooked Creek Farm Year* tells the story of a farm family's work to survive and thrive while grappling with the legacy of our cultural divide between art and land. In *The Middle of Somewhere: An Artist Explores the Nature of Virginia*, Suzanne Stryk offers a contemporary interpretation of Virginia's ecology from a visual artist's point of view.

**This is an outdoor program, with seating on the grass. Please bring a blanket or chair.** Rain site: Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Building.

NF

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 12:00-1:00 P.M.

## The Poetic Justice with John Charles Thomas

📍 James Monroe's Highland

In 1983, John Charles Thomas was sworn in as the youngest Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia—and he was the first Black person to rest his hand upon that bible, reciting such a pivotal oath. He had grown up in poverty, with the gut-wrenching effects of alcoholism, violence, and segregation shaping his life in Norfolk. Described as “no feel-good story or fable but a real-life journey,” his memoir, *The Poetic Justice*, reflects his twin loves of the law, and of poetry, taking readers around the world to meetings with world leaders, and keeping them rooted to the urgent issues that rock our communities. In conversation with Risa Goluboff, Dean of the University of Virginia School of Law. Presented with James Monroe's Highland.

NF

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2:00-3:00 P.M.

## American Inheritance with Edward J. Larson

📍 Monticello's David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center

How did the founding of the United States entwine with the institution of enslavement? In capturing both a sweeping picture of the three pivotal decades in the 18th century, as well as key moments in time, and in encompassing the voices of enslaved and free Black men and women, Edward J. Larson, author of *American Inheritance: Liberty and Slavery in the Birth of a Nation, 1765-1795*, grapples with questions that have seen renewed spotlight and focus by other historians and journalists. In conversation with John Ragosta of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. *Advance sign up required. Visit [VaBooks.org/tickets](https://vaBooks.org/tickets)*

F

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2:00-3:00 P.M.

## Poets Across Genre with Quan Barry, Thorpe Moeckel, and Lisa Russ Spaar

📍 Central JMRL Library

What draws poets to write in other forms? How do we distinguish between prose and verse, fact and fiction? And how useful, ultimately, are these distinctions? In this panel, three poets discuss their forays into prose: Quan Barry, award-winning novelist, playwright, poet, and author of a new novel, *When I'm Gone, Look for Me in the East*; poet Thorpe Moeckel, author of a new middle grade book, *True As True Can Be*; in conversation with Lisa Russ Spaar, UVA Professor of English and Creative Writing, and author of *Paradise Close*, her debut novel. Sponsored by Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge.

P

NF

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 4:00-5:00 P.M.

## Origin Stories: Belief & Identity in VA Memoirs with Sofia Samatar and Matthew Vollmer

📍 Central JMRL Library

How far will you go to understand where you've come from? These memoirs by professors Sofia Samatar (James Madison University) and Matthew Vollmer (Virginia Tech) explore how family, history, and religion shape our backgrounds. In *White Mosque*, Samatar embarks upon a secular pilgrimage in an exploration of identity. And in *All of Us Together in the End*, Vollmer engages with his Seventh Day Adventist upbringing.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 6:00-7:00 P.M.

## UVA MFA Alumni Reading with Celeste Lipkes and Samantha Thornhill

📍 Visible Records

In this annual alumni reading, graduates of the UVA MFA program share from their debut books. Hear two poets, Celeste Lipkes (*Radium Girl*), and Samantha Thornhill (*The Animated Universe*), read their recent works. Presented in partnership with the UVA MFA in Creative Writing program.



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 7:30-8:30 P.M.

## Festival Finale at Decipher Brewing

📍 Decipher Brewing

To cap off the 2023 Virginia Festival of the Book, enjoy a drink with us at Decipher Brewing for a post-UVA MFA gathering! Let's share stories from the weekend of events, talk about our favorite books, network with other writers and readers, and continue to build the literary community that the Festival encourages.

## 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](https://va-book.org/policies).

## Venues and Parking

For venue addresses and parking information, please visit [VaBook.org/Venues](https://va-book.org/venues)

## Book Sales & Signings

Whether you attend in-person or take part in live streamed 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. 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](https://va-book.org), will be printed in the Virginia Humanities Annual Report, and includes:

### \$25,000+

- The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation
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- UVA American Sign Language Program
- UVA Office of the President
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### \$2,500 - \$4,999

- Anthology of Charlottesville
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- Candie and Chuck Bruse
- C-Ville Weekly
- Friends of Jefferson-Madison Regional Library
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- University of Virginia Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge
- WTJU 91.1 FM

## 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 2023 Virginia Festival of the Book, either by visiting [VaBook.org/Feedback](https://VaBook.org/Feedback) or scanning the 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, with every genre of literature. 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; fostering the next generation of readers and leaders by enabling us to provide thought-provoking and fun programming for readers at all levels; and 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](https://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. Learn more at [VaBook.org](https://VaBook.org).

## About Virginia Humanities

Virginia Humanities is the state humanities council. We're headquartered in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia, but we serve the entire state. We aim to share the stories of all Virginians—or, better yet, find ways for people to share their own stories. We want Virginians to connect with their history and culture and, in doing that, we hope we'll all get to know each other a little better. Learn more at [VirginiaHumanities.org](https://VirginiaHumanities.org).

## Meet the Festival of the Book Team

**Kalela Williams** *Director, Virginia Center for the Book*

Kalela Williams directs the Virginia Center for the Book, and has served in other leadership capacities for the Philadelphia organization Mighty Writers, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and Furious Flower Poetry Center. Her writing explores the landscape of Black America's past, with her YA novel, *Tangleroot*, forthcoming in fall 2024 by Feiwel & Friends.



**Aran Donovan** *Assistant Director, Virginia Center for the Book*

Aran Donovan is assistant director of the Virginia Center for the Book, where she supports both the Virginia Festival of the Book and Book Arts programming. Prior to joining the Center for the Book, she worked with a variety of New Orleans nonprofits, including Friends of New Orleans Public Library and Tulane University's Center for Public Service. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Arkansas and MA in Italian from Middlebury College.



## Get Social:

   @VaBookFest ————— #VaBookFest #VaBookFest2023

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## Live-Streamed Events

We plan to live-stream more than a dozen 2023 Festival of the Book events. These book discussions will take place in person and be made available online at the same time. Recordings of these events will be available for viewing afterward on [VaBook.org](https://www.vabook.org).

For a list of events we are planning to live-stream and details on how to access them, please visit [VaBook.org/2023-live-streams](https://www.vabook.org/2023-live-streams).

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## Premiere Events

Don't miss our premiere events: our Bestsellers and Best Cellars Reception, and our Finding the Light Bestsellers Event featuring Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Vaishnavi Patel, and Matthew Quick, happening Friday, March 24 at the Paramount Theater!

**Check out all of our ticketed events:**



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