

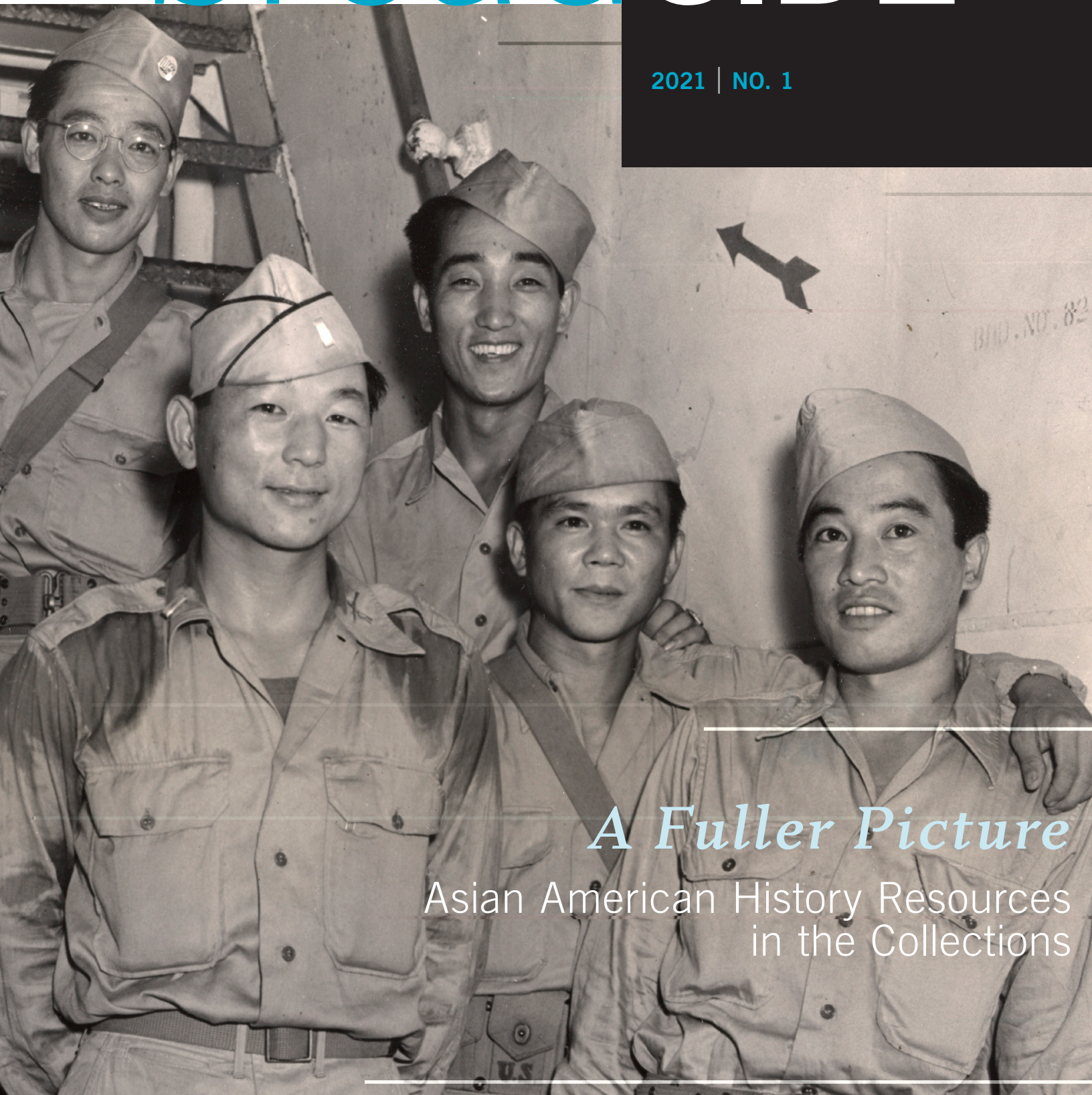


the magazine of the

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

broadSIDE

2021 | NO. 1



A Fuller Picture

Asian American History Resources
in the Collections

broadSIDE

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THE INSIDE STORY

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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The Library of Virginia is currently open to researchers by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 804.692.3800. For health and safety guidelines, visit www.lva.virginia.gov/COVID-protocol-and-appointments/.

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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 more than 100,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing more than 129 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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For research appointments only.
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We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia

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Unfinished Business

Extended through May 28, 2021
Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

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

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A Fuller Picture

ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY RESOURCES HELP TELL A MORE COMPLETE STORY OF VIRGINIA

BY CARA GRIGGS & EMMA ITO

The history of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans (APIDAs) is an important part of this country's experience, contributing to a fuller understanding of our state and the nation. Their stories encompass a rich legacy of achievements as well as hardships and sacrifices, such as quota systems that limited immigration and kept families apart. From building the first transcontinental railroad to protecting the nation during times of war, these individuals have played significant roles in shaping modern American history, and their stories deserve to be explored.

In the 2000 U.S. Census, the federal government defined "Asian American" to include persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. Today, we use the term "Asian Pacific Islander Desi American," which clarifies that Pacific Islanders and South Asians (Desi) are part of the community. The term includes all people of Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander ancestry who trace their origins to the countries, states, jurisdictions, or diasporic communities of these geographic regions.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans are often overlooked in Virginia's history. Books, articles, and other secondary sources

specifically dedicated to these individuals in the commonwealth are rare. In addition, very few publications address how they were viewed in the South during the era of "Jim Crow" racial segregation laws. To understand how they may have navigated life in Virginia, researchers may need to focus on national, regional, and local historiographies and secondary sources, in addition to archival and primary sources.

The Library of Virginia has limited but significant holdings that document Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans and the connections between Asian countries and Virginia's government and citizens. The records and manuscripts date from the Colonial Papers' 1693–1694 bond of Thomas Carpenter and Richard Nusum to bring items manufactured in Asia onboard the ship *Mary and Ellery* to 21st-century websites from Virginia's governors and state agencies. The majority of the manuscripts and records date from the 1940s to the present.

References to Asian countries began to appear in Virginia agency records routinely by the mid-20th century, although there are occasional earlier references. For example, Governor William H. Mann's papers included a 1912 bill to establish an independent government in

Asian Pacific Islander
Desi Americans are
often overlooked
in Virginia's history.

the Philippines, and Governor Westmoreland Davis's papers include references to the occupation of Korea by Japan in 1918.

The Library's Virginia Newspaper Project is a valuable resource. The digital Virginia Chronicle archive (virginiachronicle.com) can offer researchers glimpses of APIDA history from the early days of the commonwealth to the present. For example, within the pages of Richmond's *Times-Dispatch* in the early 1900s are articles that reference a Japanese student, a Filipino woman, and a Chinese American boy. Each of these mentions leads to a story shared on the Library's blog, the UncommonWealth (visit uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com and search for keyword "APIDA").

For genealogical research, individual Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans may be found in many types of records, including federal census and passenger lists; state records, such those created by the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Vital Records; local records such as deeds and coroners' inquisitions; publications including school yearbooks, newspapers, and city directories; and the papers and records maintained by APIDA individuals.

Cara Griggs is a reference archivist at the Library. Emma Ito is an education and programs specialist at the Library.



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN HISTORY

Find Resources for Researchers & Educators at edu.lva.virginia.gov/apidaresources

The Library's Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Resources website (edu.lva.virginia.gov/apidaresources) provides tips for starting your research as well as an archival resource guide and bibliographies to help you find materials from the Library of Virginia and other sources. The site offers links to related past exhibitions and programming, biographies on our Virginia Changemakers website, and suggestions for exploring items such as:

- Prints and Photographs
- Newspapers
- Digital Yearbook Collections
- Records of State Agencies and Boards
- Business and Organization Records
- Personal Papers
- Records of Military Involvement
- Blog posts from the UncommonWealth

FRIENDS & FAMILY

AT LEFT: Pryalal "Prio" Karmarker (CENTER) emigrated from Bangladesh and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was photographed with his family at home in Woodbridge for the exhibition *New Virginians: 1619–2019 & Beyond* from the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities. Photograph by Pat Jarrett, Virginia Humanities.

OPPOSITE PAGE: This unidentified group photographed in Richmond on January 29, 1960, is part of the Adolph B. Rice Photograph Collection. Images of Asian Americans can also be found in the Harry C. Mann Photograph Collection, the U.S. Army Signal Corp Photograph Collection, and the Leftwich-Jamerson Family Photograph Collection.

Help Us Share More Stories!

Help us continue to preserve and share the stories of all Virginians. Support our work with a gift by using the enclosed envelope or make your donation online at www.lva.virginia.gov/donate.

continues page 4

Stories from the Unclaimed Property Records

Unclaimed property from banks, estates, or other repositories often ends up in the possession of the Virginia Department of the Treasury. If not claimed within 20 years, papers and other items are transferred to the Library of Virginia, where they are filed and cataloged by lot number, and may be viewed in the Archives Research Room. Several collections contain papers of Asian Americans, and a few of their stories are shared below. You can read more about some of these individuals in the Library's blog, the UncommonWealth. Visit uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com and search for keyword "APIDA."



DUK HYUN KIM

In 1960, South Korean-born Duk Hyun Kim married Billy F. Hunt, a native of Tennessee, in Seoul while Hunt was serving in the United States military. A South Korean passport permitted her to travel to the United States in 1961. By 1963, she had a United States passport under the name Barbara Ann Hunt that she used to travel to and from Japan and South Korea. In 1966, the couple purchased property in Fairfax County. They divorced in Cochise County, Arizona, in 1977, and Barbara Ann Hunt returned to South Korea. Their papers came to the Library as unclaimed property from the Department of the Treasury.

OW CHUCK SAM

When Chinese immigrant Ow Chuck Sam (1897–1968) was drafted into the army in November 1942, he was separated from his wife Mock Soo On, with whom he had one child, and working as waiter in the Hong Kong restaurant in Norfolk. He enlisted in Richmond as a warrant officer, eventually becoming a technician fourth grade. He applied for citizenship in 1943 and, after returning to the United States, became naturalized on May 19, 1944. His petition for naturalization, army discharge card, certificate of naturalization, and other papers (such as the card at right) came to the Library as unclaimed property from the Department of the Treasury.



KUY SO

Kuy So (1920–1995) fled to Thailand during the Khmer Rouge's oppressive rule over Cambodia. In 1983 he arrived at Richmond International Airport as a refugee. He later joined the large Cambodian community in Long Beach, California. During his stay in Richmond, he left behind documents such as photographs and paperwork related to his travels. These items came to the Library as unclaimed property from the Department of the Treasury.



MAY IS ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

The United States first recognized Asian American heritage by presidential proclamation in 1978. In June of that year, Rep. Frank Jefferson Horton (R-NY) and co-sponsor Rep. Norman Yoshio Mineta (D-CA) introduced a bill "Authorizing the President to proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days of May of 1979 as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.'" The observation included the anniversaries of the first Japanese immigrant's arrival in the United States (May 7, 1843) and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad (May 10, 1869), made possible by Chinese labor.

Beginning in 1990, the observance extended to include the entire month of May, and in 2009 the celebration took on its current name: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. In Virginia, Del. L. Scott Lingamfelter and co-sponsor Del. Michele B. McQuigg filed House Joint Resolution 18 on January 9, 2002, which designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the commonwealth. The bill was passed on March 4.

Visit the Library's blog, the UncommonWealth (uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com), in May for posts about APIDA Heritage Month and stories found in materials from our collections.

Groundbreaking African Americans Honored

In observance of Black History Month in February, the Library of Virginia 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. Each generation of African Americans has built on the achievements of those who came before to lead the way to the future. The men and women featured here offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. Through education and advocacy, they demonstrate how African Americans have actively campaigned for better lives for themselves and their people. Biographies of honorees are displayed in an exhibition at the Library each February; featured on materials sent to schools, libraries, and museums across Virginia; and included on an educational website for teachers and students (edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history). Further information about distinguished African Americans from Virginia can be found in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Library of Virginia, 1998–2006).

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT!

Is there an African American man or woman in your community who has made a positive difference in your region, the state, or the nation? If you're an educator, encourage your students to research and nominate someone for the 2022 slate of honorees for **Strong Men & Women in Virginia History**. Schools with winning nominations are eligible for cash prizes, free teacher workshops, and student programming. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit nominations but are not eligible for prizes. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2021. Nominees can be either living or dead. Go to edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history to learn more about the process and to see a list of previous honorees.

Evelyn Reid Syphax

1926–2000
Arlington County

EDUCATOR

Evelyn Reid Syphax served the needs of her community as an educator, businesswoman, and local historian.



Stan Maclin

1953–2021
Harrisonburg

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST

Through his work in the ministry and as a community activist, Stan Maclin embraced diversity and inclusion and empowered others to work for racial justice.



2021

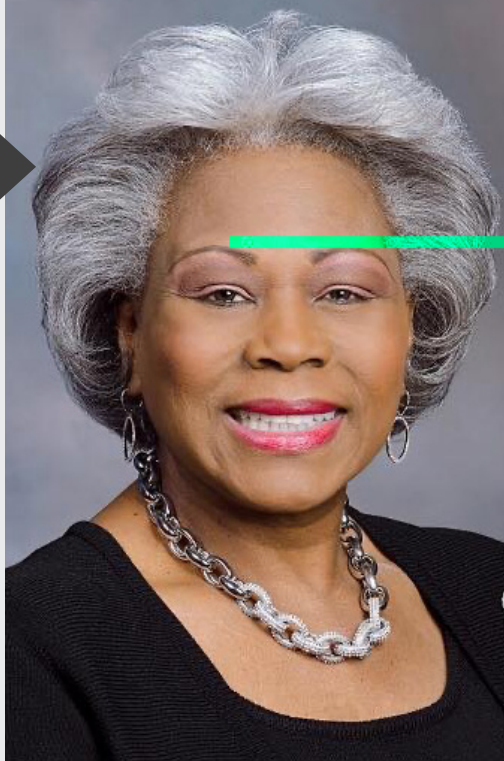
Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

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OR

community activist,
preneur, and state
L. Louise Lucas
n a tireless
e for residents of
stern Virginia.



Dr. Lerla G. Joseph

**1952–
Richmond**

PHYSICIAN

A dedicated physician, businesswoman, and community health advocate, Dr. Lerla G. Joseph provides high-quality, value-based health care to underserved populations in central Virginia.

*Nominated by
Tony R. King,
Prince George County.*



Krysta N. Jones

**1978–
Arlington County**

**POLITICAL
ACTIVIST**

Krysta Jones is passionate about encouraging and empowering others to make a difference in their communities, state, and nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 Strong Men & Women Student Contest Winners

CENTRAL REGION

TAMIA BOOKER

Appomattox Regional
Governor's School,
Petersburg/Dinwiddie County
VIDEO

NORTHERN REGION

ZAHRIA FORD

Rock Ridge High School,
Ashburn/Loudoun County
POETRY

EASTERN REGION

MADISYN FORD

Oscar Smith High School,
Chesapeake
POETRY

WESTERN REGION

JULIE THOMAS

Harrisonburg High School,
Harrisonburg
ESSAY

Winners receive an Apple iPad Air, \$1,000 for their schools, and the opportunity to present their entries during a Strong Men & Women program. Each year, high school students throughout Virginia are eligible to participate in the contest sponsored by Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia as part of the program recognizing the achievements of African Americans in the commonwealth. Entrants submit a creative writing, performance, or digital project on a subject related to one of the program's honorees. One winner is selected from each of Dominion's Energy's four regions. To view the winning entries and learn more about the contest, go to edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history.

PRESENTED BY



behind the scenes

INSIDE “THE STACKS”

Questions for Mary Hennig, Collections Supervisor



MATERIALS IN THE MILLIONS

Collections supervisor **Mary Hennig** poses in an aisle within the Library's closed stacks that runs approximately one full city block long.

the materials from the closed stacks for visitor and staff use, sending them to the correct location for pickup, and reshelving them when returned. These staff members also maintain the collection in the reading rooms and the closed stacks through work such as shelf reading to maintain order, adding new materials to the correct locations, reporting materials that need repair or maintenance, and shifting the collection as needed. These vital processes play an important role in providing access to the Library's vast and valuable collections.

How did you get into this line of work? What is your background?

Mary Hennig: I started working in libraries while in college. I was a work-study student and was randomly assigned to work at the college library my first year. I continued my work-study at the library for the rest of my college years. During that time, I worked in several positions in areas from Circulation to Technical Services. That's where it all started, and now I've been at the Library of Virginia for over 20 years.

Can you tell us about the size of the Library's closed stacks and the number of items they hold?

MH: There are two floors of closed stacks with a combined size

In the library world, a stack is a book storage area, as opposed to a reading area. Did you know that the Library of Virginia is a closed-stacks library? The majority of our materials are on floors that are not accessible to visitors. So what do you do if you need something from the closed stacks? It depends on the item.

Original archival materials may be requested in the Archives Reading Room for use there (a separate appointment is required). All other closed-stacks items, such as published materials, periodicals, or newspapers, are requested through the Library of Virginia's online catalog. If you have a current library card or online account, you can request items yourself. A staff member can also submit requests for you. Items may be requested prior to your visit or when you arrive. It usually takes about 10 to 20 minutes for items to be pulled and made available for pickup at the Circulation Desk. Items can be used in the reading rooms or, for circulating materials, checked out to Virginia residents with a current library card.

The Library provides self-serve materials in the second-floor reading rooms that can only be used there. You can pull the books you need, use them, and then return them to one of the carts in the room for reshelving. The Virginia Authors Collection books in the East Reading Room can be checked out by Virginia residents with a current library card.

In the Access Services Department, collections supervisor Mary Hennig manages the Library's stacks technicians, who are responsible for pulling all

comparable to four football fields. Even with so much ground to cover, the stacks staff is very efficient, with a quick turnaround time for retrieving and sending the materials to patrons. The Library of Virginia houses millions of materials and records. There are approximately 1.8 million volumes on just one of the closed-stacks floors alone. That number continues to rise as new materials are added. The staff does a great job keeping such an incredible number of materials organized.

How does the department quickly move books between floors?

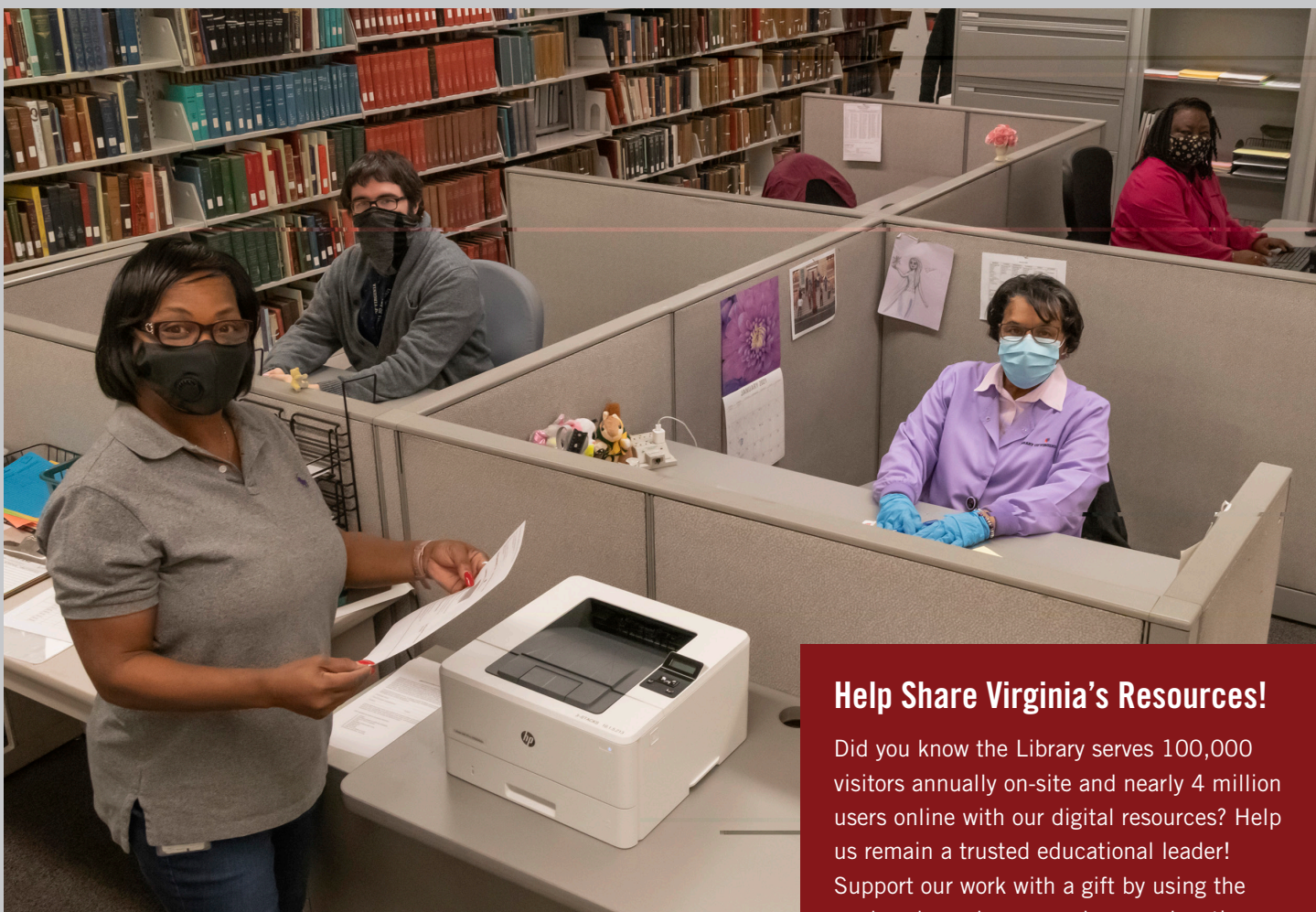
MH: Most patrons have not experienced a library with closed stacks and are intrigued by the use of lifts (or dumbwaiters) to transfer the Library of Virginia's materials between floors. When an item is



SERVING CUSTOMERS

ABOVE: Stacks technician **Wanda Brown** (LEFT) and stacks lead technician **Arnette Williams** (RIGHT) collect materials from one of the lifts that move items between floors within the Library.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Stacks lead technician **Arnette Williams** retrieves a request slip for materials requested by a Library visitor, while stacks technicians **Robert Hines**, **Wanda Brown**, and **Carolyn Gilmore** look on.



requested through the Library's catalog, a request slip is generated and prints out where a staff member receives it in the closed stacks. A staff member retrieves the material from the shelves then sends the material to the public service floor by way of lifts. The lifts are also used to return the materials back to the stacks. There are three different lifts in use throughout the building, each traveling between floors. Some items—such as maps, oversize archival material, or architectural drawings—may be too large to fit in a lift. In these cases, staff members transfer items between floors using oversize carts.

Are Library users surprised by the quantity of items available for research?

MH: The Library of Virginia itself is a surprise to most people. The scope and variety of unique items held here and the access patrons have to these materials are amazing. We constantly see visitors who are impressed to find this research library is so accessible—whether they're lifelong Virginians or out-of-state patrons. For me, the most impressive thing is the knowledge and dedication of the Library of Virginia staff. ■

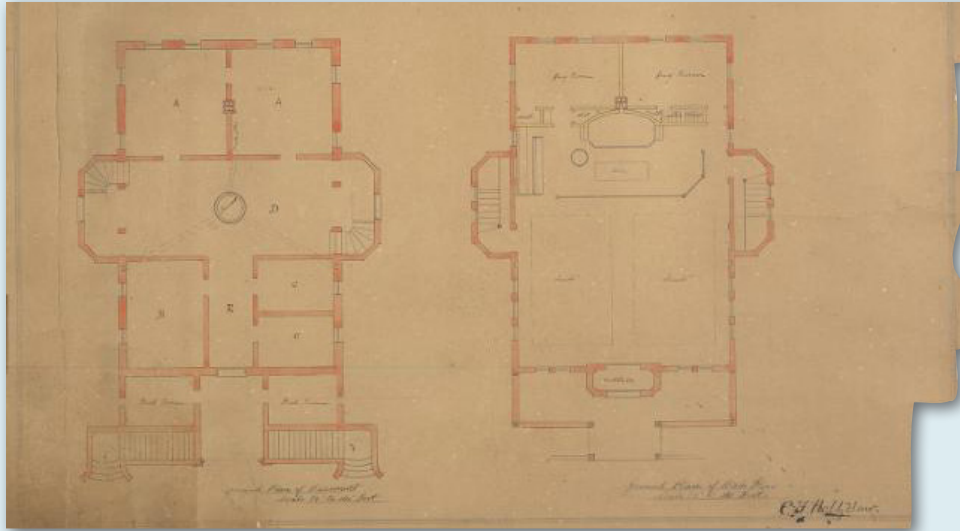
The scope and variety of unique items held here and the access patrons have to these materials are amazing.

Help Share Virginia's Resources!

Did you know the Library serves 100,000 visitors annually on-site and nearly 4 million users online with our digital resources? Help us remain a trusted educational leader! Support our work with a gift by using the enclosed envelope or make your donation online at www.lva.virginia.gov/donate.

PROPOSED PUBLIC STRUCTURES

TOP LEFT: Westmoreland County proposed this jail building in 1825. BOTTOM LEFT AND BELOW: Accomack County drew up plans for a courthouse in 1884, shown in these elevations and floor plans.



This documentary evidence offers insight into what was literally the structure of government for most Virginians in the 18th and 19th centuries: the local court.

the dimensions of each room and the overall structure.

These drawings for a proposed Accomack County Courthouse dated 1884 depict front and side elevations and two floor plans for a Second Empire-style courthouse building designed by Charles Taylor Holtzclaw. The colored drawings are on heavy paper.

—Gregory Crawford,
Local Records Program Manager

Help Preserve Virginia's History!

In addition to being the steward of Virginia's government records, the Library cares for millions of special collections including private papers, architectural drawings, and rare books. To establish a preservation or acquisition fund, contact Elaine McFadden, the Library of Virginia Foundation's assistant director of development, at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Joseph Papa & John-Stuart Fauquet



FANS OF THE LIBRARY

Joseph Papa (LEFT) and J.S. Fauquet (RIGHT), shown at home in Richmond with their dog, Robby, agree, "With Virginia at a vital inflection point in properly examining its history, this is an exciting time to support a venerable institution like the Library of Virginia." Photograph by Alanna Yeargain.

Best-selling author and book publicist Joseph Papa's connection to the Library has come full circle. "The Library of Virginia has been woven into so much of my life," he said. "I began working in the Virginia Shop while in college; from there I moved to a role in the Library of Virginia Foundation, where I helped promote and plan events such as author talks and the Literary Awards Celebration. And now I am a member of the Foundation's board."

While personally grateful for his time on staff at the Library, Joseph also marvels at its vast holdings and offerings for all Virginians. "It's a real treasure trove for the curious and inquisitive," said Joseph.

Though not a native Virginian, John-Stuart (J.S.), too, is quite a fan of his adopted-state's State Library, with a particular fondness for both the exhibitions—including the current women's suffrage exhibition—and the first-class authors who speak at the Carole Weinstein Author Series.

Joseph and J.S. both agree, "With Virginia at a vital inflection point in properly examining its history, this is an exciting time to be involved with and support a venerable institution like the Library of Virginia, one that is home to so many resources from our shared past."

Join Joseph and J.S. in their support of the Library of Virginia. The Library has made it easier than ever to make an annual gift or commit to monthly installments. Visit www.lva.virginia.gov/donate to support the Library or contact the Library of Virginia Foundation at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

You too can help the Library engage Virginia's past to empower our future.



GUBERNATORIAL DUTIES

Governor L. Douglas Wilder (CENTER), Lieutenant Governor Donald S. Beyer Jr. (LEFT), and Attorney General Mary Sue Terry (RIGHT) celebrate their inauguration on January 13, 1990.

A Man of Many Firsts

PHOTOGRAPHS HIGHLIGHT GOVERNOR L. DOUGLAS WILDER'S TERM IN OFFICE

The papers of former Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder are now fully open for research. A trailblazing lawyer and politician, Wilder was Virginia's governor from 1990 to 1994, which made him the first African American elected governor of any state in America. Other firsts from his storied career include serving as the first Black member of Virginia's Senate in the 20th century, the first African American to win statewide office in Virginia as lieutenant governor, and the first mayor of Richmond to be elected rather than appointed by city council.

The Library of Virginia holds records documenting his role as governor and lieutenant governor. The photographs featured here are from the Wilder Papers, which pertain to his time as governor. In addition to photographs, the papers consist of records documenting his administration's activities and accomplishments. The collection measures 447.8 cubic feet, within 1,013 boxes, and is described in 25 finding aids. The finding aids serve as inventories of the records and are available in our catalog, which is searchable through our website (www.lva.virginia.gov). If you would like more information, please contact Archives Reference at 804.692.3888 or archdesk@lva.virginia.gov.

The Wilder Papers are part of the Library's gubernatorial collection, which includes records from every governor of Virginia from its establishment as a commonwealth in 1776 to the present.



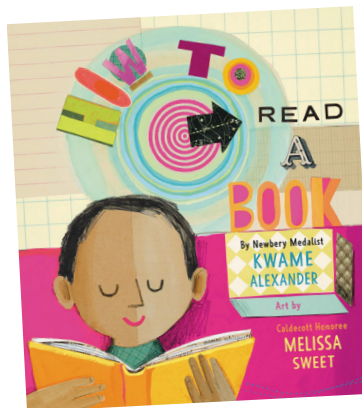
LEFT TO RIGHT: Gov. Wilder gives the "State of the State" address to the Joint General Assembly on January 1, 1991. Gov. Wilder attends the dedication of Interstate 295 on June 3, 1992. Gov. Wilder accepts payment of taxes from the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Tribes on November 26, 1991.



ABOVE: Gov. Wilder and the Marine Corps Reserve kick off the annual Toys for Tots campaign on November 26, 1990.

TOP RIGHT: Tennis legend and Richmond native Arthur Ashe (SECOND FROM LEFT) visits with Gov. Wilder on April 18, 1990.

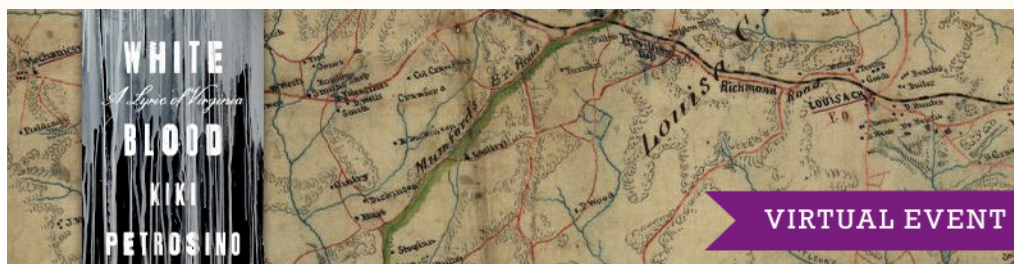
BOTTOM RIGHT: Gov. Wilder visits a display of historical photographs and documents at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.



Shopping for little ones?

*The Virginia Shop specializes in fun and quirky gifts for all ages!
Stop by or visit online to explore our selection of children's books, toys, and apparel
celebrating classic literature, new stories, and all things Virginia.*

NEW BOOK CLUB



COMMON GROUND VIRGINIA HISTORY BOOK GROUP SPOTLIGHTS NONFICTION

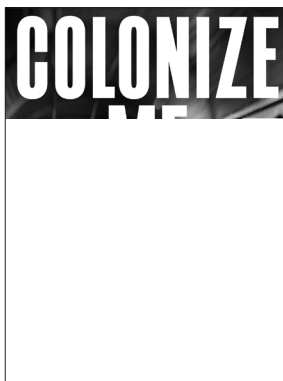
Read and discuss compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members that explore Virginia history, society, and culture. On the third Tuesday of each month, join the virtual Common Ground Virginia History Book Group led by a Library staff member, who will also highlight related Library collections. April's book is *White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia* by Kiki Petrosino (2020). For more information, visit our Calendar of Events at www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar or contact Rebecca Schneider at rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3550.

THE virginia SHOP featured book *Colonize Me*

By Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley

Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley's debut collection explores the experience of living as a Native American in today's America. These poems play with such fervor that every reading

reveals another detail, another escape hatch Kingsley has left for us to find. *Colonize Me* won the 2020 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Poetry. Saturnalia Books, March 2019, \$16.00



the virginia shop

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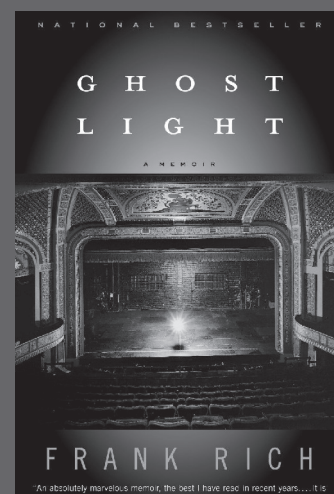


WHAT ARE YOU READING?

PHIL WHITEWAY
Managing Director,
Virginia Repertory Theatre

Ghost Light: A Memoir
By Frank Rich

As a theater guy who's spent his life in the crazy business of producing live theater, I was totally drawn to this memoir of legendary theater critic Frank Rich. The title, *Ghost Light*, is a theater term that refers to the common practice of leaving a single bulb burning on the stage when everyone has left the building. Virginia Repertory Theatre has such a device in place right now. Some believe in the superstition that every theater has at least one ghost inhabiting the space, and that this light appeases such ghosts. Others just want to protect people from falling into the orchestra pit in a darkened theater. I crossed paths with Frank Rich back in the mid-1970s when he was a co-editor of the *Richmond Mercury*, which he co-founded, and I was at the University of Richmond as a theater major. Rich actually reviewed a production I had directed. Given that it was probably my last experience as a director, I was thrilled to receive a positive notice from the critic who would later become THE guy to make or break a theatrical project on Broadway. Thus, I couldn't wait to dive into his memoir.



Questions for poet, editor, and literary historian Kim Roberts, April 15 Weinstein Author Series Speaker



Kim Roberts, editor of the anthology *By Broad Potomac's Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of Our Nation's Capital*, offers the second entry in the Library's 2021 Carole Weinstein Author Series with a virtual talk on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 6:00 PM. Register for this free event at bit.ly/2N81Uku. The series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia.

Roberts is an award-winning poet, literary historian, and editor whose poems have been featured in the Wick Poetry Center's Traveling Stanzas Project, on the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day Project, and on podcasts sponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. *By Broad Potomac's Shore* features poems by writers working and living in the capital from the city's founding in 1800 to 1930. In honor of April as Poetry Month, *Broadside* posed some questions to Roberts about her fascinating new anthology.

What inspired you to create this anthology of works from Washington, D.C., poets?

Kim Roberts: I started researching the history of D.C. literature when I moved to the city back in 1987. I'd lived in some other places where the literary history was really celebrated—Boston, in particular—then came to a place where that history was largely hidden. Then in January 2000, I founded an online literary journal, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, whose mission was specifically designed to celebrate the region's poets, past and present. That project sent me back to build upon my earlier research. So you could argue that this book was a very long time coming. It combines two things I love: literary history and urban history. It's a way to deepen my own personal connection to a very specific place.

I love how reading this early history connects us to the present, and gives context to contemporary struggles for rights, recognition, and the most basic need to live our lives in safety.

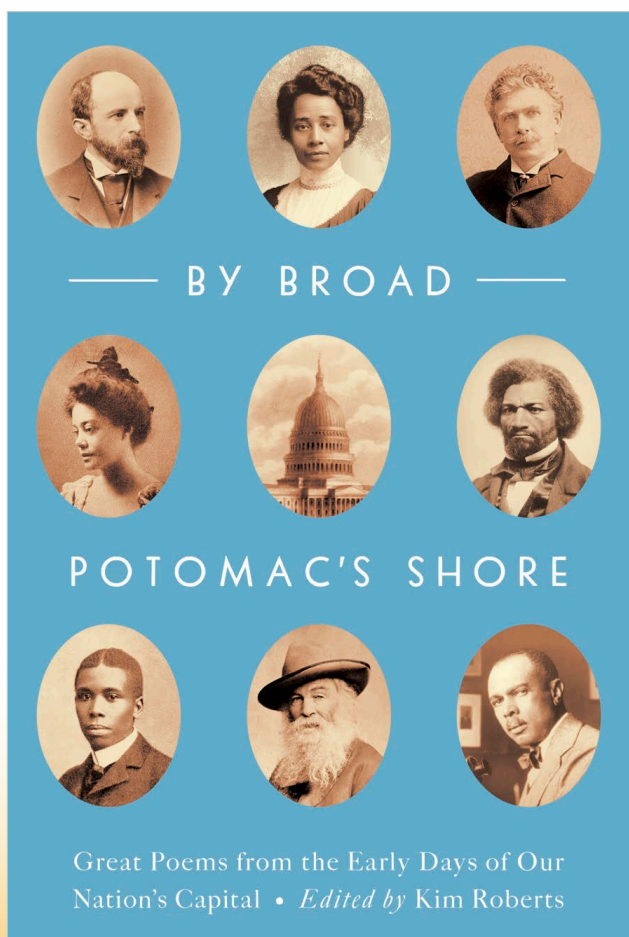
Because D.C. is famous for only one thing, as the seat of the federal government, we operate like other single-industry cities, like Las Vegas or a company town. But writers have always been drawn to Washington. Some of those poets had day jobs as congressmen, lawyers, Supreme Court justices, even president of the United States. Others were foreign diplomats, reformers, or journalists who came from across the country as correspondents for their hometown newspapers. As a result, some of the greatest American poets have lived in the capital, including Walt Whitman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Henry Adams, and James Weldon Johnson. I wanted to reclaim their stories.

Can you talk about the importance of including lesser-known poets and especially women, writers of color, working-class writers, and those who were born enslaved?

KR: The focus of my project was to uncover hidden great literature, which is by default to argue with the canon. Certain poets continue to get read, and continue to be taught in schools—but I wanted to take a more inclusive look, and I discovered poems that I think are just as powerful, just as worthy to be remembered, by LGBTQ+ poets, working-class poets, poets of color.

Some of the women poets I'm most excited about in the book include Emma Willard, an early advocate for the education of women

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and girls; abolitionist poets Margaret Shands Bailey and Charlotte Forten Grimké; the groundbreaking journalist poets Grace Greenwood, Gail Hamilton, Jane Gray Swisshelm, and Mary Clemmer Ames; and former first lady Rose Elizabeth Cleveland. There are also two deaf poets, Mary Toles Peet and Howard Glyndon (who, despite her pen name, was a woman), and two activists for American Indian rights, Zitkala-Sa and Ruth Muskrat Bronson. And then there are all the incredible Jazz Age and Harlem Renaissance writers, including Leonora Speyer, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Natalie Clifford Barney, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Angelina Weld Grimké, Jessie Redmon Fauset, and Elinor Wylie. These are such powerful voices, writing during periods when women's public roles were much more circumscribed.

I'm also particularly pleased to present the work of so many writers who were born enslaved. This group includes Arthur Bowen, Walter H. Brooks, Fanny Jackson Coppin, Frederick Douglass, Newell Houston Ensley, T. Thomas Fortune, John Henry Paynter, John Sella Martin, and Alfred Islay Walden. Their poems give important insight into the complexity of the lives of people of color in the eras immediately after emancipation. In overcoming such traumatic beginnings to rise to become writers of note, these authors provide an inspirational model that also helps readers to better understand poetry's role in early civil rights efforts.

The work of both these groups also can't help but resonate with our current moment, and make readers think of the Me Too and Black Lives Matter movements. I love how reading this early history connects us to the present, and gives context to contemporary struggles for rights, recognition, and the most basic need to live our lives in safety.

Did you do any research in archives to find poems, poets, or information about writers that you used in the book? If so, what types of materials or collections were helpful?

KR: I was very lucky to have so many great local archives and libraries in which to work. This book would not exist without these institutions! Locally, I worked in collections at the Library of Congress, the Washingtoniana Room of the D.C. Public Library, the Kiplinger Research Library at the D.C. History Center, the Moorland-Spingarn Archives at Howard University, and the Gelman Library of The George Washington University. Farther afield, I traveled to the Beineke Library at Yale University, the State Library of Ohio, and the Rose Library at Emory University.

carole WEINSTEIN author series



April 15, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Free Virtual Event

KIM ROBERTS

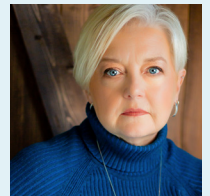
By Broad Potomac's Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of Our Nation's Capital

September 14, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Free Event, In Person/Virtual TBD

DR. KAREN L. COX

No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice



June 10, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Free Event, In Person/Virtual TBD

VANESSA M. HOLDEN

Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community

November 17, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Free Event, In Person/Virtual TBD

ALEXIS COE

You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington



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The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia through online or in-person events. Free and open to the public, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres.

When I started my research, much less information was available in digitized form. One of my best sources was newspapers, especially the specialized journals, such as abolitionist newspapers, women's magazines, the African American press, and newsletters published by individual Civil War hospitals—all of which regularly published poems in their papers. Being able to search through those sources online, and the continuing work that libraries are doing to digitize material, is invaluable.

Are there any Virginia connections among the poets or poems in the book?

KR: Absolutely! You have to remember that most of the original southwest quadrant of the city, about 31 square miles on the western side of the Potomac River, is today Arlington County and Alexandria City, in Northern Virginia. In 1847, that part of the District was retroceded to Virginia.

Poets such as George Washington Parke Custis, Christopher Pearse Cranch, and Zitkala-Sa lived in Arlington and Alexandria. And there are numerous poems included in the anthology that are clearly set in Virginia, such as Civil War battle poems by Sarah Morgan Bryan Piatt, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, T. Thomas Fortune, and the Rev. Walter H. Brooks, and poems about Arlington National Cemetery by Mary E. Nealy and Bertha Gerneaux Davis. Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren writes about the Blue Ridge Mountains, Carrie Williams Clifford writes of Jamestown, Wendell Phillips Stafford writes about Mount Vernon, and Isabel Likens Gates sets a poem at Fort Myer in Arlington during the buildup to World War I.

I should also say that while this collection tells a smaller story about the greater Washington, D.C., region, it can't help but reflect the larger story of the country as a whole. The themes in the book—war; race, gender, and cultural differences; protest; the role of government in our lives; and how we define American identity—are issues we still struggle with. Looking at the capital city can't help but reveal something representative and symbolic about all Americans. ■

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LOCAL & LITERARY GIFTS

Whether you're looking for a uniquely local item or a literary-inspired gift, the Virginia Shop has got you covered. Stop by our Library location Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, or shop online at your convenience at thevirginiashop.org.



800 East Broad Street | Richmond, VA 23219 | www.thevirginiashop.org | 804.692.3524 | email: shop@thevirginiashop.org

calendar

Spring Virtual Events

The Library is pleased to offer a number of virtual events and workshops while our on-site events are temporarily suspended. For the latest information, please follow us on social media and visit our Calendar of Events at www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



Saturdays: March 27, April 24 & May 22

12:00–2:00 PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Making History with LVA

Place: Online

Registration required: 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. After Library of Virginia staff members introduce the platform and demonstrate the activity, volunteers will work independently for the remaining time. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.



Friday, April 9 | 10:00–11:00 AM

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Private Papers at the Library of Virginia

Place: Online

Registration required:

privatepapersatlva.eventbrite.com

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Library members)

In addition to state and county records, the Library of Virginia holds nongovernment papers such as Bible records, family papers, letters, organization records, and business records. Library staff members Trenton Hizer (senior manuscripts acquisition and digital archivist) and Ginny Dunn (archives and library reference services manager) introduce you to the Private Papers Collection and the valuable information they contain. They will also share tips on how you can preserve your own family papers. Contact Ashley Ramey at ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001 for more information.

Wednesdays: April 14, May 12 & June 9

6:00–7:30 PM

BOOK CLUB

Virtual Literary Virginia Book Group

Place: Online at meet.google.com/hfh-uwev-jeu



Month in April we'll discuss poems from 2020 Poetry Award winner and finalists Benjamin Naka-Hasebe Kingsley, Lauren Alleyne, and David Huddle. May's book is *One Night Gone* by Tara Laskowski (2020 Fiction Award finalist). June's book is *Hitler's Last Hostages*:

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature—books by Library of Virginia Literary Award winners and finalists in fiction and nonfiction. On the second Wednesday evening of each month, join a virtual book group discussion. For Poetry

Looted Art and the Soul of the Third Reich by Mary M. Lane (2020 Nonfiction Award finalist). Books are available at the Virginia Shop (thevirginiashop.org) and other retail outlets. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3792.

Thursday, April 15 | 6:00–7:30 PM

WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: KIM ROBERTS

By Broad Potomac's Shore

Place: Online

Registration required: bit.ly/2N81Uku

See page 15.

Tuesdays: April 20 & May 18 | 6:00–7:30 PM

BOOK CLUB

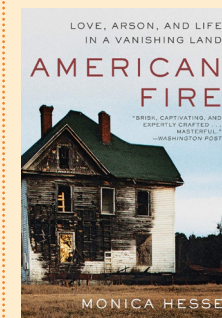
Common Ground Virginia History Book Group

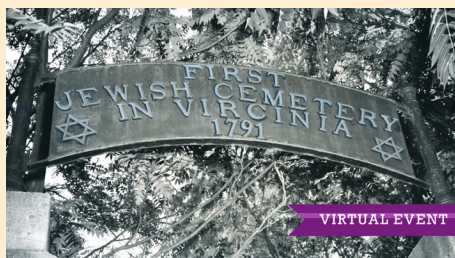
Place: Online at Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95146878135>

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. April's book is *White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia* by Kiki Petrosino. May's book is *American Fire: Love, Arson, and Life in a Vanishing Land* by Monica Hesse. Check your local public library to borrow titles, or purchase through the Virginia Shop or other online retailers. For more information, contact Rebecca Schneider at rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3550.





Friday, May 7 | 10:00–11:00 AM

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Portals to a Jewish Heritage: Researching Jewish Genealogy with a Southern Accent

Place: Online

Registration required:

researchingjewishgenealogy.eventbrite.com

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Library members)

The thousands of databases, books, and websites devoted to Jewish genealogy can make the quest for information a daunting one. What you really need is a knowledgeable guide and some practical tips and strategies. Karen S. Franklin is ready to provide them as she outlines the process to explore general family history websites such as Ancestry.com, as well as online sites exclusive to Jewish genealogy such as JewishGen.org, and, of course, local archives and libraries. Contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001 for more information.

Thursday, June 10 | 6:00–7:30 PM

WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES:

VANESSA M. HOLDEN

Surviving Southampton

Place: Lecture Hall or Online (TBD)

Registration required: bit.ly/2XLMhkN

Join us for a talk by author and historian Dr. Vanessa M. Holden on her book *Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community*. This bold challenge to traditional accounts sheds new light on the places and people surrounding America's most famous rebellion against slavery. Her analysis recasts the Southampton rebellion as one event that reveals the continuum of practices that sustained resistance and survival among local Black people. The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia through online or in-person events. For more information, contact Dawn Greggs at 804.692.3813 or dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov.



Friday, June 11 | 10:00–11:00 AM

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

African American Migration

Place: Online

Registration required:

africanamericanmigration.eventbrite.com

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Library members)

During this workshop, Library of Virginia reference archivist Cara Griggs will provide an overview of the types of records in the Library of Virginia's holdings that track free and enslaved Americans involved with the international and domestic slavery trade, as well as other migrations within Virginia, including those resulting from voluntary relocations and the settlement of enslavers' estates. Contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001 for more information.

exhibitions at 800 east broad



WE DEMAND

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN VIRGINIA

We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia

Extended through May 28, 2021

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia reveals how women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. Virginia suffragists were a remarkable group of talented and dedicated women who have largely been forgotten. Items on display include suffrage postcards and memorabilia such

as pinback buttons and badges, as well as banners from the Virginia branch of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, photographs, and film footage. This exhibition is a project of the Task Force to Commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.

Unfinished Business

Extended through May 28, 2021

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Lobby

Extending the right to vote to women in 1920 was a milestone in American history. But much work remained to ensure that all citizens had a fair and equal voice in governing the country and shaping its policies. *Unfinished Business*, a series of panel displays, explores the fundamental question of citizenship through obstacles that limited suffrage to some Americans. This exhibition complements *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* in the Exhibition Gallery.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NOT ALL COULD VOTE AFTER 1920

FIND ONLINE EXHIBITION RESOURCES AT EDU.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/WEDEMAND & EDU.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/UNFINISHED-BUSINESS.

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

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1. & 2. During a visit to the Library on January 4, 2021, **Douglas Wilder**, former governor of Virginia, took a tour with Librarian of Virginia **Sandra Treadway** and **Michael Strom**, State Archivist and director of government records services, to see where the original copies of the Wilder administration's records are stored.

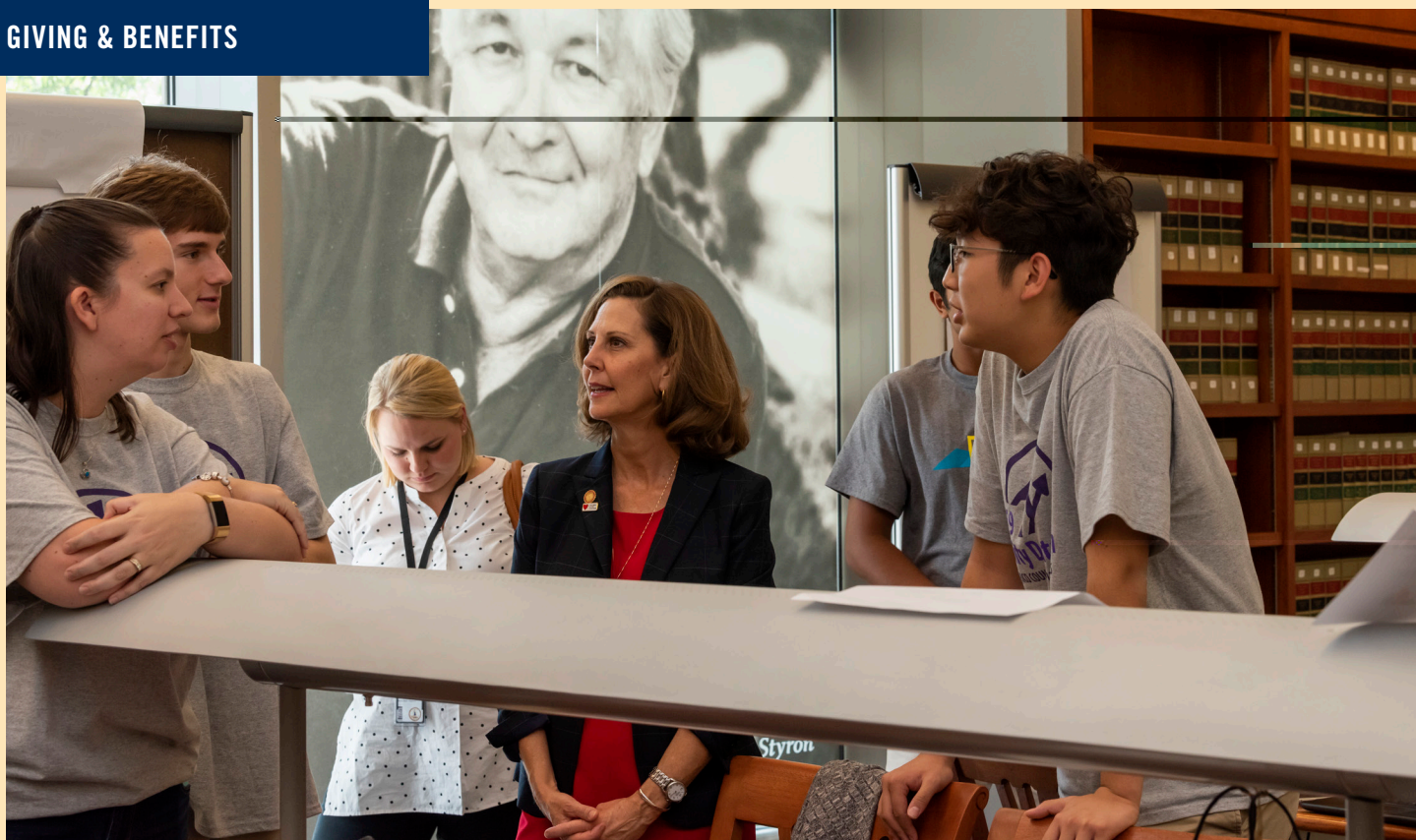


3. Library communications manager **Ann Henderson** looks at an exhibition of handmade art postcards called *The Art of Community: A Postcard Project* from the nonprofit organization Art for the Journey on January 25, 2021. The panels were displayed in the Library's lobby in January and early February.

4. **Brent Tarter**, historian and retired Library of Virginia editor, discusses the topic of "Suffragents"—men who supported the suffrage movement—in the Special Collections Reading Room on January 11, 2021, as part of the Richmond Public Library's "Conversations About Virginia Suffragists" video series. Tarter is one of the curators of the Library of Virginia's exhibition *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* and a coauthor of the book *The Campaign for Woman Suffrage in Virginia*.

5. FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Digital engagement and social media coordinator **Sonya Coleman**, local records program manager **Gregory Crawford**, and senior local records archivist **Vince Brooks** kicked off Black History Month on February 3, 2021, with a virtual presentation on Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative, offering a project overview, digitization update, and tips on using this free digital resource.





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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. Did you know that the Library has a membership program that supplements its programs, special events, conservation, and exhibitions? Our corps of members provides the support needed to share and enrich the Library's collections. 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:

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- 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 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.

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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 gifts total \$1,000 or more during the Library's fiscal year (July–June) are recognized as 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.

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Voices from the Library of Virginia

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uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com | [#thisisLVA](https://twitter.com/thisisLVA)