

VOICES... .

Redeemer Speaker Series

The Redeemer Speaker Series invites contemporary voices to challenge and inform us: artists and authors, visionaries and thought leaders, advocates of change courageous enough to hold the loveliness and sorrow of the world at once, and find the wonder in both.

Wednesdays in Lent

6:00 Catered Simple Supper \$10*

7:00 Speaker

**Advance sign-up requested for supper through e-Redeemer or the Redeemer Calendar
www.redeemberbaltimore.org*

February 21



2014 candidate for Maryland governor, creator of podcast *Soul Force Politics*, **Heather Mizeur** connects her Roman Catholic social justice training with Buddhist mindfulness practice. “My external political work and my internal spiritual work are completely interrelated and intertwined. I am motivated by a desire to empower others to make a difference in their own lives and the health of their communities, and to use the power of unconditional love of self and others as the guiding force for that transformation.” Mizeur believes we can create a new politics, oriented toward the common good, grounded in what we share, committed to healing and resiliency.

“Our farm is named, *Apotheosis*, ‘elevating the divinity within.’”

February 28



Author of *Each Day*, a veteran educator’s guide to raising children, **Z. Vance Wilson** has served as headmaster of St. Albans School in Washington, D.C. since 1999. A graduate of Yale University, where he majored in English and played basketball, he went on to earn degrees from Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Virginia. The author of *They Took Their Stand: The Integration of Southern Private Schools* and an award-winning novel, *The Quick and the Dead*, his letters and essays point to the spiritual core of teaching and learning: What can educators and parents do to draw our children to their best selves?

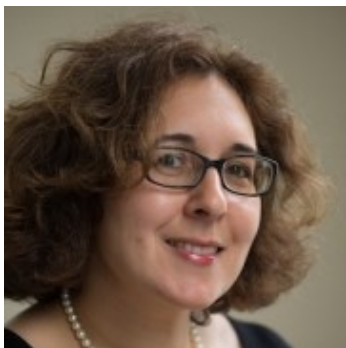
“What value does intellectual gain have if not grounded in justice and love?”

March 7

Food Sustainability Panel Discussion: Reaping What We Sow



McKay Jenkins has been writing about people and the natural world for 30 years. His most recent book is *Food Fight: GMOs and the Future of the American Diet*. He is also the author of *ContamiNation*, previously published as *What's Gotten into Us?*, which chronicles his investigation into the myriad synthetic chemicals we encounter in our daily lives, and the growing body of evidence about the harm these chemicals do to our bodies and the environment. His book, *Poison Spring*, co-written with E.G. Vallianatos, has been called “a jaw-dropping expose’ of the catastrophic collusion between the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the chemical industry.” (Booklist, starred review)



Moderator

For the last eight years, **Rona Kobell**, *moderator*, has been a reporter for the *Chesapeake Bay Journal* which covers scientific and regulatory issues in the watershed. She co-hosted and co-produced a show on Chesapeake Bay issues for five years on Baltimore’s main NPR station. Reporting on storm water, poultry manure, blue catfish, waterfowl, and crabs, she has written most extensively on oysters, covering the birth of the aquaculture industry in both Maryland and Virginia. Prior to joining the *Bay Journal*, Kobell was a reporter with the *Baltimore Sun* from 2000 to 2008.



Charlotte Proctor moved to Baltimore from South Mills, North Carolina. She studied communication, civic engagement, and social entrepreneurship and has worked at a variety of non-profits. Passionate about the environment, *Civic Works Real Food Farm* was a natural fit. As the Program Manager, Charlotte helps train and empower community members to take on their educational and professional goals while strengthening their understanding of food systems and sustainable agriculture.

March 7

Food Sustainability Panel Discussion: Reaping What We Sow



J.J. Reidy is an entrepreneur, global food activist, and urban developer, who has helped guide social enterprises in Baltimore, Milan, Ethiopia, and Peru. His work on developing urban food ecosystems has been recognized at the World Expo, Bon Appétich, and Food Tech Stockholm. In 2014 he founded *Urban Pastoral*, and currently serves as its CEO. *Urban Pastoral* combines real estate development and investment with a specialized focus in the design / implementation of vertically integrated food-sector businesses and alternative green spaces.



John Shields has written three popular cookbooks: *The Chesapeake Bay Cookbook*; *The Chesapeake Bay Crab Cookbook*; and *Chesapeake Bay Cooking with John Shields*. His professional career began by accident. After studying at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the Baltimore native moved to Cape Cod with aspirations of becoming a rock star, and played the piano in bars. One day an injured friend asked John to work his shift in the kitchen of a popular Cape Cod inn. 36 pie shells later, Shields was on his way to becoming a restaurant chef/owner, author, and host of two national public television series.

March 14



In 1992, **Tim Phillips** co-founded *Beyond Conflict*, a pioneering resolution and reconciliation initiative that has positively affected democracy around the world. *Beyond Conflict* has achieved international recognition for its contributions to the Northern Ireland peace process, national reconciliation in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, and its catalytic role in helping launch the field of transitional justice. In the private sector, Mr. Phillips was a founder of Energia Global International Ltd. (EGI), which led the development and operation of privately owned renewable energy facilities in Central and South America in the early 1990s.

“We can rewire our brains to stop violence.”

March 21

Baltimore Portrait: Artists in Conversation



Born in Columbus, Georgia and now based in Baltimore, **Amy Sherald** is best known for her portrait paintings of figures who both reflect and see beyond their everyday circumstances. Her work addresses social justice and the construction of individual identity in response to, or outside of, political and cultural expectations. In 2016, Sherald was the first woman to win the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition grand prize, and in 2017 she was commissioned by the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery to paint the official portrait of former first lady Michelle Obama.

“What was missing that I wanted to see: different archetypes of self-satisfied people of color.”

March 21

Baltimore Portrait: Artists in Conversation



Originally from Charleston, **Stephen Towns** is a mixed-media artist and muralist now based in Baltimore. Towns draws much of his visual inspiration from Medieval altarpieces, impressionist paintings, and wax cloth prints. He says, “my work is in response to the issues that have plagued African-American culture—loss of ancestral roots, slavery, class, education, skin tone and religion. The portraits I create are not only glimpses of the sitters; they are also a reflection of myself and mirror my struggle to attain a sense of self-knowledge, self-worth and spirituality.” Towns’ portraits invite and confront the viewer at once. “They won’t let me go,” said one.

“I want to create beauty from the hardships in life.”



Moderator

“I’m asked a lot about why I came to Baltimore, why this job, and why now,” says **Chris Bedford**, Director, Baltimore Museum of Art . “When I was going through the recruitment process, I asked the chair of the search committee, ‘What do you want to say to Baltimore through art?’ Usually, when I ask something like this, nothing follows in response. But in this case, the board chair said, ‘I want the BMA to be the most dynamic, socially engaged museum in the U.S.’ . . . There’s a real willingness on the part of the museum to pursue that course, and on the other hand, an incredible appetite among you all for change on that scale.”

“What do you want to say to Baltimore through art?”



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