



**Dr. Abraham  
Verghese**

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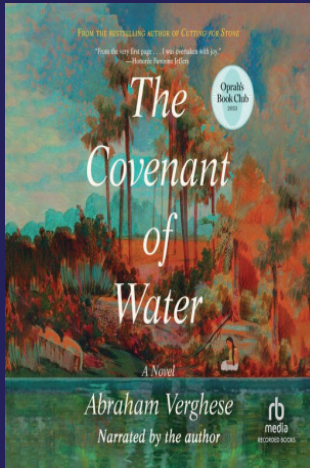
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
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# **WRITERS CENTER STAGE SERIES**

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# DR. ABRAHAM VERGHESE



Physician Abraham Verghese is the author of two acclaimed memoirs and the bestselling novel *Cutting for Stone* (2010), which spent more than two years on the *New York Times* bestsellers list. In 2015, Verghese received the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama for deepening our understanding of the human condition and reminding us that the patient is the center of the medical enterprise. His latest novel is *The Covenant of Water* (2023).



## INTRODUCTION

### PATRICIA SHLONSKY

Ms. Patricia Shlonsky is Partner-in Charge of UB Greensfelder's Cleveland office and serves on the Firm's governing board. She was appointed for a seven-year term by the Cuyahoga County Executive with confirmation by Cuyahoga County Council. Her term expires January 2027. She also sits on the Boards of United for Libraries, Bellefaire JCB, and Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.



## Q&A MODERATOR THRITY UMRIGAR

Thrity Umrigar is the bestselling author of three picture books and ten novels, including last year's *The Museum of Failures* and *Honor*, which was a Reese's Book Club pick. Her books have been published in over twenty countries and translated into several languages. A former award-winning journalist, she has written for the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*. She is the recipient of a Nieman fellowship to Harvard and is the winner of the Cleveland Arts Prize, the Lambda literary award and the Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award. Umrigar is a Distinguished University Professor of English at Case Western Reserve University.

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# storytelling builds community.

KeyBank is proud to sponsor the 21st season of the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series featuring physician and bestselling author Abraham Verghese.

Verghese was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama for deepening our understanding of the human condition and reminding us that the patient is the center of the medical enterprise. Verghese's work encapsulates this theme, and his latest novel, "The Covenant of Water," is no exception.

We are grateful for the gift of his writing and its remarkable power to lift and unite people from all walks of life.



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UP NEXT:



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Thursday,  
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7:30 PM



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Your planned gift will be multiplied with gifts from other individuals and families to benefit programs and services available in all the branches. The new Sari Feldman Fund of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will support innovative programs and services that enhance library learning experiences throughout the CCPL system. These are library programs that secure CCPL's standing as one of the nation's leading public library systems but cannot be sustained through general operating funds alone. All unrestricted planned gifts given to the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will help grow the Sari Feldman Fund to support continued and new programming.

1922 Society members will receive special access to exclusive author events, and will be publicly recognized in branches and Library publications. When the time is right for you to include a charitable gift in your estate plan, please remember the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and know your legacy will make a difference for your community.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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To empower individuals and communities by providing opportunities for all to read, learn, create and connect.

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The 2024-25 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series is presented by the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and our Academic Partner, Case Western Reserve University.

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*Special Event Coordinator*

*p:* 216.749.9491

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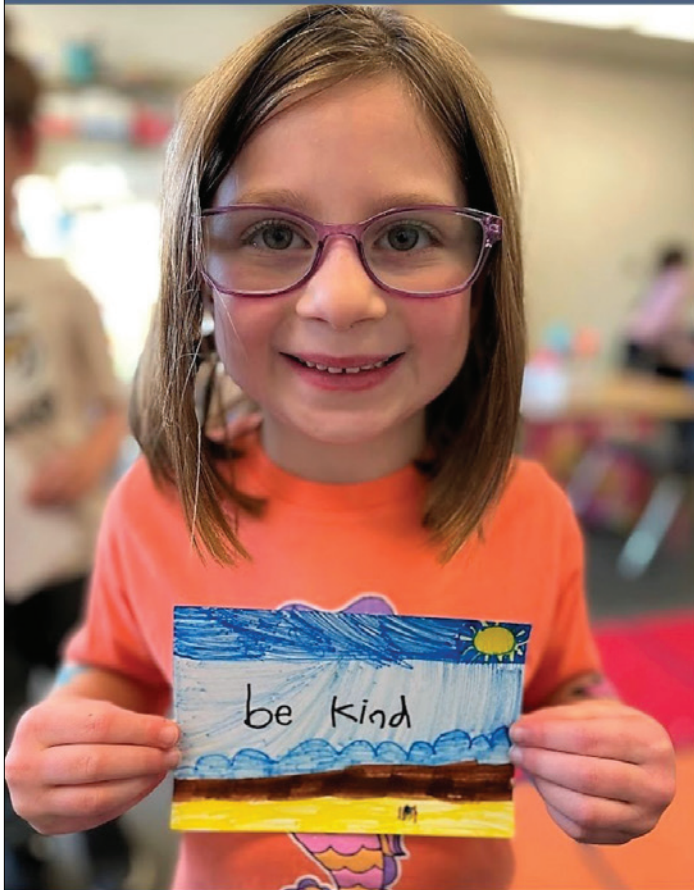


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**Middle School** • Thursday, December 12, 2024 • 8:30 a.m.

**Infant & Toddler Center** • Friday, December 13, 2024 • 9 a.m.

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# WRITERS CENTER STAGE

## PAST SPEAKERS

### 2004

SEAMUS HEANEY

### 2004 - 2005

CALVIN TRILLIN  
SUZAN-LORI PARKS  
FRANCES MAYES  
E.L. DOCTOROW

### 2005 - 2006

PAT CONROY  
ALEXANDER McCALL SMITH  
JANE SMILEY  
ANNA QUINDLEN

### 2006 - 2007

FRANK McCOURT  
AMY TAN  
JIM LEHRER  
TONY KUSHNER &  
GEORGE C. WOLFE

### 2007 - 2008

IRA GLASS & DAVID RAKOFF  
RUSSELL BANKS &  
RICHARD RUSSO  
JOYCE CAROL OATES  
AZAR NAFISI

### 2008 - 2009

DAVID McCULLOUGH  
JANE & MICHAEL STERN  
MYLA GOLDBERG,  
JONATHAN LETHEM &  
COLSON WHITEHEAD  
WITH NANCY PEARL  
JOAN DIDION

### 2009 - 2010

GARRY TRUDEAU  
CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY  
MARY OLIVER  
JHUMPA LAHIRI

### 2010 - 2011

DR. NEIL deGRASSE TYSON  
JEANNETTE WALLS  
DAVE EGGERS  
PETE HAMILL

### 2011 - 2012

ELIZABETH STROUT  
MICHAEL POLLAN  
BILLY COLLINS  
DR. ABRAHAM VERGHESE  
ANNE LAMOTT  
COLM TÓIBÍN

### 2012 - 2013

EMMA DONOGHUE  
TRACY KIDDER  
GERALDINE BROOKS &  
TONY HORWITZ  
ANN PATCHETT  
RITA DOVE  
ERIK LARSON

### 2013 - 2014

MICHAEL CHABON &  
AYELET WALDMAN  
STEPHEN L. CARTER  
CHERYL STRAYED  
ANDREW SOLOMON  
ROBERT PINSKY  
KATHERINE BOO

### 2014 - 2015

ZADIE SMITH  
DENNIS LEHANE  
ELIZABETH GILBERT  
KHALED HOSSEINI  
CHANG-RAE LEE  
MARY ROACH

### 2015 - 2016

SARAH KOENIG & JULIE SNYDER  
NEIL GAIMAN  
GILLIAN FLYNN  
EDWIDGE DANTICAT  
ROZ CHAST  
RICK BRAGG

### 2016 - 2017

DON DeLILLO  
LAWRENCE WRIGHT  
ROXANE GAY  
COLUM McCANN &  
EDNA O'BRIEN  
ALISON BECHDEL  
JOHN GREEN

### 2017 - 2018

COLSON WHITEHEAD  
PATTI SMITH IN  
CONVERSATION WITH  
MAUREEN CORRIGAN  
MARGARET ATWOOD  
MARIA SEMPLE  
DAVID GRANN  
JOHN IRVING

### 2018 - 2019

JUDY BLUME & DANIEL HANDLER  
JOHN GRISHAM  
JESMYN WARD  
TIMOTHY EGAN  
LYNDA BARRY & MATT GROENING  
JENNIFER EGAN

### 2019 - 2020

JANE MAYER & FRANK RICH  
RACHEL KUSHNER & PIPER KERMAN  
MICHAEL ONDAATJE

### 2020 - 2021

MADELINE MILLER  
JOSH MALERMAN  
SUSAN CHOI  
YOTAM OTTOLENGHI  
BRIT BENNETT  
TARA WESTOVER &  
TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

### 2021-2022

RICHARD POWERS  
AMOR TOWLES  
MIN JIN LEE  
CARMEN MARIA MACHADO &  
RUMAAN ALAM  
ANTHONY DOERR  
ISABEL WILKERSON

### 2022-2023

MARLON JAMES  
BARBARA KINGSOLVER  
JON MEACHAM  
JONATHAN FRANZEN  
ELIF BATUMAN &  
GARY SHTEYNGART  
SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

### 2023-2024

ANN PATCHETT & KEVIN WILSON  
MICHELLE ZAUNER  
HENRY WINKLER  
HERNAN DIAZ  
REBECCA MAKKAI  
KIESE LAYMON & IMANI PERRY

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NOV 14  
Lauren Grodstein

KIDS DAY  
NOV 17  
Sara Holly Ackerman

NOV 18  
Dr. Alex Kor

NOV 20  
R. Derek Black

SECOND  
CHAPTER STARTS  
MARCH 3, 2025

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# Author Visits



**Rob Harvilla**  
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Thursday, November 14 / 7 PM



**Jim Sweeney**  
Mayfield Branch  
Thursday, November 21 / 7 PM



**Judith Neulander**  
Beachwood Branch  
Thursday, November 14 / 7 PM



**Ladii Patterson**  
Garfield Heights Branch  
Saturday, November 23 / 3 PM



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## Kevin Roose

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March 20, 2025

The Millis Lecture



## Valerie Jarrett

Chief Executive Officer, The Barack Obama Foundation

Jan. 24, 2025

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation



## Hua Hsu

Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Stay True*, *New Yorker* staff writer, *CBS Sunday Morning* contributor

May 22, 2025

F. Joseph Callahan Distinguished Lecture



To register for the lectures and learn more, please visit [case.edu/events/thinkforum](https://case.edu/events/thinkforum).



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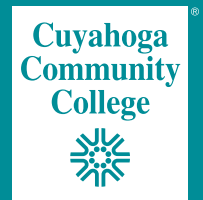
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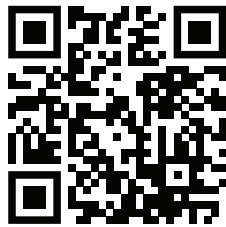
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**[cuyahogalibrary.org/DigitalNav](https://cuyahogalibrary.org/DigitalNav)**



# GIVING TUESDAY

is December 3

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To learn more about more events on campus, please visit [case.edu/events](https://case.edu/events).



Explore more events at the Maltz Performing Arts Center, including the Silver Hall Concert Series, at [case.edu/maltzcenter](https://case.edu/maltzcenter).



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