

PRESS RELEASE

“One Book One Community” Returns with Author Micheline Aharonian Marcom

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 24, 2023) – Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) and William & Mary Libraries, with support from Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation, are partnering for the 4th year for One Book One Community, an initiative that encourages the community to have a shared reading experience related to a socially relevant book. The 2023 book selection is *The New American* by Micheline Aharonian Marcom.



Micheline Aharonian Marcom is the author of *The New American*, the book selection for One Book One Community 2023.

Marcom’s novel, regarded as “powerful, heartbreaking” by *Publisher’s Weekly* and “a tough but necessary and beautiful novel” by *Booklist*, *The New American* depicts the adventurous journey of a young Guatemalan American college student who gets deported and chooses to undertake the harrowing journey back home to California.

One Book One Community events throughout February this year will include book discussions, movie screenings, lectures, and other activities and events related to the book’s theme, culminating in a visit from Marcom on February 21.

“*The New American* is a compelling story that provides an in-depth look at immigration in the United States, a topic certain to spark thoughtful discussions about issues that affect our

community,” said Williamsburg Regional Library Director Betsy Fowler. “We’re thrilled to partner with William & Mary Libraries for another year of engaging One Book One Community programming.”

Marcom, who has published seven novels, was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Los Angeles. She has received fellowships and awards from the Lannan Foundation, the Whiting Foundation, and the US Artists’ Foundation. Her first novel, *Three Apples Fell From Heaven*, was a New York Times Notable Book and Runner-Up for the PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction. Her second novel, *The Daydreaming Boy*, won the PEN/USA Award for Fiction. In 2008, Marcom taught in Beirut, Lebanon, on a Fulbright Fellowship. Marcom splits her time between California and Virginia where she is a Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Virginia. She is the founder and Creative Director of The New American Story Project [NASP], a digital oral history project focused on unaccompanied Central American minors who journeyed to the US.

"Micheline Aharonian Marcom's extensive first-person research on the forces of migration that draw people to America brings *The New American* to life on the page," said Carrie Cooper, dean of university libraries at William & Mary. "We are honored to welcome her in February to offer the community more insight into the complex issues surrounding immigration."

The event series begins February 1 with Director of the William & Mary Law School’s Immigration Clinic Stacy Kern Scheerer, who will discuss the current state of immigration law. Other notable events in the series include a quiz program on the US Citizenship Test and a Readers Theater featuring local actors voicing the first-person views of people around the world about immigration and citizenship.

Author Micheline Aharonian Marcom will give the keynote presentation at 6:30 pm on February 21 in the Williamsburg Library Theatre.

One Book One Community programs:

Stacy Kern-Scheerer Lecture: Feb. 1, 6:30 pm – Williamsburg Library & online

Book Discussion: Feb. 2, 10:30 am – James City County Library & online

Art House Café Film – *La Misma Lune*: Feb. 7, 2 pm – Williamsburg Library

Book Discussion: Feb. 8, 10 am – Williamsburg Library & online

Monika Gosin Discussion: Feb. 8, 6:30 pm – Williamsburg Library

Pub Quiz: Feb. 9, 6 pm – James City County Library & online

Documentary – *Waking Dream*: Feb. 11, 10:30 am – Williamsburg Library

Book Discussion: Feb. 11, 2 pm – James City County Library & online

Book Discussion: Feb. 13, 6:45 pm – Williamsburg Library & online

Readers Theater: Feb. 16, 6:30 pm – Williamsburg Library

Cinema @ Scotland Street – *Queen of Glory*: Feb. 20, 6 pm – Williamsburg Library

Micheline Aharonian Marcom author visit: Feb. 21, 6:30 pm – Williamsburg Library & online

Finding Immigration and Naturalization Records Online: Feb. 23, 2 pm – Stryker Center

For more information about One Book One Community programs, visit wrl.org/onebook.

The Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) is an award-winning regional library system that consists of the Williamsburg Library on Scotland St. in Williamsburg, the James City County Library on Croaker Rd. in James City County, the Stryker Center on N. Boundary St. in Williamsburg, and its Mobile Library Services vehicles. The WRL service area includes the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County.

William & Mary Libraries is an academic library system that serves William & Mary students, faculty and staff, as well as the surrounding communities of Williamsburg, James City County and York County.

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