



**The Center at Belvedere Presents
“Building a More Inclusive Community: Local Voices on Diversity”**

Second annual speaker series aims to encourage dialogue and education around issues of race and ethnicity.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlottesville, VA, August 17, 2020 — The Center at Belvedere kicks off its fall speaker series, “Building a More Inclusive Community: Local Voices on Diversity” on Wednesday, September 9, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

An initiative of The Center’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the program was created as a way to contribute to a stronger, healthier community by sharing information and creating a safe place for open dialogue around historic problems of race and exclusion. “From our perspective, an inclusive community is one that does *everything* it can to respect all of its citizens, giving everyone full access to resources and promoting equal treatment and opportunity,” says committee member Enid Krieger.

The series features presentations by local leaders who are helping to shape a culture of inclusion in Charlottesville. The livestreamed event runs for six consecutive Wednesdays. Programs are free and open to the public.

About the programs:

September 9 —The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center's Digital Humanities Fellow Jordy Yager will discuss “The Ground We Stand On,” sharing details of the Mapping C’ville project. He will walk us through the history of local racist housing policies and examine the lasting legacies we live with today and what we can do about them.

September 16—Freelance producer and local activist Lisa Draine, mother of the university student who was seriously injured on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall the day Heather Heyer was killed, will discuss “The Summer of Hate: One Woman’s Story Navigating the Aftermath.” She will be joined by other local activists who were part of her story.

September 23—Beverly Adams, Ph.D., newly retired Assistant Dean of UVA’s College of Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology, will discuss

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“Microaggressions: Why Do They Matter?” Dr. Adams will explore the everyday, thinly veiled instances of racism that many people miss.

September 30—With “Viva La Causa: Building a Movement,” Alejandro Hernandez, Dean of UVA’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies, will share information about the movement to unionize Mexican farm workers and the long-term impact on the Latinx community.

October 7—In “We Are Still Here: Native Americans in Our Community,” Mary Wilson, whose roots are with the Lakota, will take a quick journey through time, focusing on a few impactful decisions that have created the current environment for Native Peoples in the Charlottesville area.

October 14—Frank Dukes, Ph.D., Distinguished Fellow at UVA’s Institute for Engagement and Negotiation, founded University & Community Action for Racial Equity (UCARE) to address UVA’s legacy of slavery and white supremacy. He was a member of Charlottesville’s Commission on Race, Memorials and Public Spaces and will speak on “Changing the Narrative: The Epidemic of Bad Storytelling.”

Please check thecentercville.org/pages/2020speakerseries for updates and information about online access.

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About The Center at Belvedere

The Center at Belvedere is a nationally-accredited, award-winning nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity, and lifelong learning. For more information about our programs, visit our website at www.thecentercville.org.