

THE HAUENSTEIN CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES

AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM GUIDE

EMPOWERED CITIZENSHIP



WINTER 2024



COMMON GROUND INITIATIVE

OPEN MINDS BOOK CLUB



January 24: *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation* by Roosevelt Montás

February 21: *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

April 3: *Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit*
by Lyanda Lynn Haupt

gvsu.edu/hc/bookclub

2023-2024 Program Theme

EMPOWERED CITIZENSHIP

What does it mean to be a citizen in contemporary times, and how does that align with the ways we lead and show up in the world as individuals?

As we enter an election year, how can we reclaim our agency and fully lean into our individual responsibility – to each other and to the world? Our theme of empowered citizenship will bring conversations to the forefront about what it means to be a citizen, the rights and responsibilities it entails, and how we can all unite to foster progress and greater understanding.

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Hauenstein Center
Grand Valley State University
401 Fulton Street West
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6431

gvsu.edu/hc
(616) 331-2770



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CHARLES W. LOOSEMORE AUDITORIUM
401 Fulton Street W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504



L.V. EBERHARD CENTER
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Wheelhouse Talk

TaRita Johnson: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

January 18 | 5 pm | Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

This event continues our partnership with the GVSU Office of Inclusion & Equity as part of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week. We are honored to welcome TaRita Johnson, Senior Vice President of Talent & Diversity at The Right Place. With a professional journey spanning education, social work, business, and community engagement, she joins us to weave together her story with the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Common Ground Initiative

Bipartisan Policy Panel: Immigration

January 25 | 6 pm | Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

No policy debate is as deeply entwined with the concept of citizenship as that of immigration policy. How do we choose who can become an American and what should their path to citizenship look like? What expectations should we have of immigrants and what expectations should they have of us? The Common Ground Initiative will convene a bipartisan panel featuring Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, Theresa Cardinal Brown, and David Bier, to assess the problems facing our immigration system and identify potential solutions.



Wheelhouse Talk

Frederik Meijer Lecture Series

February 16 | 5 pm | Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

For the second year, we are proud to partner with the GVSU Frederik Meijer Honors College on the Frederik Meijer Lecture Series. This series provides local and national presentations that focus on issues of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship from the perspective of students, faculty members, and participants in business throughout the region.



Presidential Studies

Mourning the Presidents: Loss and Legacy in American Culture

February 20 | 6 pm | Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

The death of a chief executive, regardless of the circumstances, is always a moment of reckoning and reflection. *Mourning the Presidents* offers a unique approach to understanding American culture and politics by uncovering parallels between different generations of mourners, highlighting distinct experiences, and examining what presidential deaths can tell us about societal fissures at various critical points in the nation's history, right up to the present moment. Author and historian Matthew Costello examines how different generations and communities of Americans have eulogized and remembered U.S. presidents since George Washington's death in 1799.



Common Ground Initiative

Progressive / Conservative Summit: Constitutional Reform with Jeffrey Rosen

February 29 | L.V. Eberhard Center

In 1787, fifty-five Americans gathered in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention, drafting the document that would act as the supreme law of the United States: the Constitution. The Constitution has since been amended 27 times by generations of Americans seeking to achieve "a more perfect union." Today, progressives and conservatives agree that additional change is needed in our country, but disagree on individual reforms. Thinkers from both sides increasingly advocate the use of constitutional reform to address policy issues such as healthcare, election systems, and more. Join the Common Ground Initiative and Jeffrey Rosen, CEO of the National Constitution Center for this half day event to explore the future of constitutional reform and learn how we can walk in the footsteps of the founders.



Presidential Studies

King Hancock: The Radical Influence of a Moderate Founding Father

March 14 | 6 pm | Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

Best known for his famous signature, John Hancock is often overshadowed by many of his colleagues in the founding of our nation. With middle-of-the-road and often shifting political views, how did John Hancock become an influential figure amid a radical time and place? Historian and author Brooke Barbier provides a spirited account of John Hancock's life, tracing a moment when passion was on the side of compromise and accommodation proved the basis of profound social and political change.



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