

Transforming Narratives

From Baltimore stoops to the White House,
from outsider art to the art of dying well,
speakers transform their disciplines and their communities.

Simple supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Lecture @ 7:00 p.m.

Compline in the chapel offered following each lecture

March 8

Laura Wexler is co-founder and co-producer of "The Stoop" storytelling series, a Baltimore-based cultural event and podcast, in which ordinary people tell the extraordinary, true tales of their lives. Since 2006, Wexler has presented workshops in personal storytelling for organizations, businesses, and individuals. The curriculum is based on nearly two decades as a faculty member at the collegiate and graduate level teaching memoir writing, as well as her experience coaching more than 1000 individuals to tell their authentic narratives. Laura is the author of *Fire in a Canebrake: The Last Mass Lynching in America*.



March 15



Dr. Leana Wen runs America's oldest, continuously operating public health department, is a practicing Emergency room doctor, and advocates passionately for patients and communities. "Meet the 33-year-old genius solving Baltimore's opioid crisis" writes Mother Jones about Wen, who issued a blanket prescription for the antidote naloxone to all 620,000 residents of the city, a signature program which has saved over 530 people since 2015. Under her direction, the

Baltimore City Health Department leads the country in health innovations, including "B'More for Healthy Babies," a strategy resulting in a 38% reduction in infant mortality, and "Safe Streets," which treats gun violence as a contagious disease. With Dr. Josh Kosowsky, Wen is the author of *When Doctors Don't Listen*.

March 22

Rebecca Hoffberger is the co-founder, director, and principal curator of the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM), a unique national museum and education center devoted to championing creative intuition and invention. A long-time devotee of fresh thinking, societal betterment, and spirituality, Hoffberger was accepted to college at 15, but chose to accept legendary mime Marcel Marceau's invitation to become his first American apprentice in Paris. Interest in wordless expressions of those life experiences "too powerful for mere words" continued, inspiring her own ballet company and in 1995, the critically acclaimed AVAM, that playfully explores humanity's most serious subjects via original, thematic, annual mega exhibitions that combine art, science, philosophy and fun. Hoffberger believes, "Compassionate creative acts of social justice constitute life's highest performance art."



March 29



Phyllis Taylor is a Registered Nurse certified in hospice and palliative care, massage therapy and clinical hypnotherapy. She has served diverse populations in Hawaii, New Mexico, Vermont and Maryland in a variety of care settings. Taylor has been bedside for hundreds of deaths and has seen common threads that weave in and out of the processes involved in living until one dies. She has come to see that death awareness can transform how we live, and how we die. Taylor brings nearly 30 years in the healing arts to our conversation of Transformative Narratives.

April 5

April Ryan, 30-year journalism veteran, is White House correspondent and Washington Bureau Chief for American Urban Radio Networks. Since 1997, Ryan has covered four presidents, appeared regularly on *ABC This Week* and NBC's *Today Show*, and she currently hosts the daily feature "The White House Report" for 475 affiliated stations nationwide. Through her "Fabric of America" blog, Ryan delivers a "unique urban and minority perspective on the news." The Baltimore native is a second-generation Morgan State University graduate and the author of *The Presidency in Black and White* and *At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White*.

