

Understanding

DIVERSITY | DIALOGUE | FAITH | FREEDOM

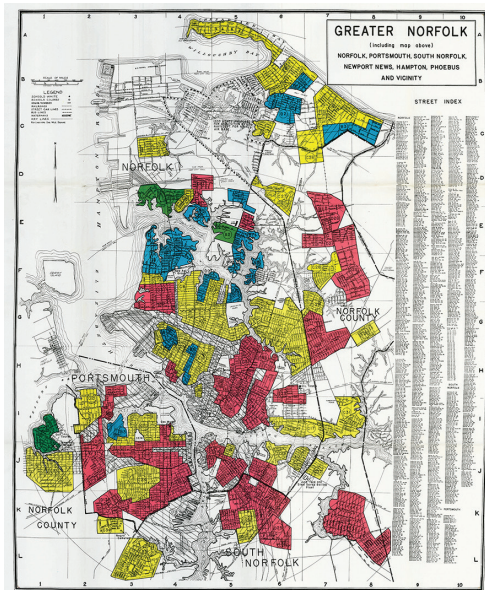
Monday, February 21 | 7–8:30 PM
GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Creating a Play on Civic and Racial Dynamics in Coastal Virginia

The In[HEIR]itance Project

The In[HEIR]itance Project is a national arts organization that helps unconnected neighbors navigate challenging civic conversations through collaborative theatre projects. Using the unique history of Coastal Virginia and the book of Exodus, the I[H]P has recently generated community dialogue on racial dynamics, redlining, and displacement. This work is the basis for a play I[H]P is creating for the 2022 Virginia Arts Festival. During this February event, I[H]P will share scenes and initial ideas for the play, and the audience is asked to give feedback to help hone and shape the stories into the play itself. The play premieres Thursday, May 5, 2022 at Norfolk's historic Attucks Theatre.

Support provided by the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and Virginia Humanities.



Tuesday, April 12 | 7–8:15 PM

GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
JUSTINE L. NUSBAUM LECTURE



Social Murder and the Geography of Injustice

Compounding Socio-Environmental Impacts of Segregation in Coastal Virginia

JOHNNY FINN

The lines of racial segregation in most U.S. metropolitan areas are as stark today as at any point since Reconstruction. This is not an accident, and it didn't happen overnight. Dr. Johnny Finn provides an overview of the theoretical and historical underpinnings of racial segregation in Coastal Virginia. He then presents his research on today's landscape of racial, economic, and environmental inequality that is the legacy of nearly a century of segregationist housing policies; and reflects on important next steps for our region.

John C. Finn, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Geography and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology at Christopher Newport University. His research focuses on racial capitalism, critical landscape studies, and environmental justice to better document ongoing economic, environmental, and health impacts of persistent racial segregation in the United States and to advocate for a more racially and environmentally just future. For the last four years, Dr. Finn has directed the mixed-methods project, "Living Apart: Geography of Segregation in the 21st Century."

This annual endowed lectureship pays tribute to the life of Justine Nusbaum, a local humanitarian who was born in 1900 and whose compassion and generosity reached people of diverse religions, races, and nationalities.

Tuesday, February 8 | Noon–1 PM

GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THE OVERLOOKED VOICES OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The Resilience and Recovery of Mississippi Black Women

OPHERA DAVIS

Dr. Ophera Davis brings new voices to the forefront as Black women from Mississippi share their stories of survival and recovery before, during, and after Katrina. These women provide, in their own words, lessons learned and strategies for how to rebuild life after disasters. A book signing immediately follows the presentation.



Ophera A. Davis, Ph.D., is an author, independent scholar, and 20-year affiliate faculty member who has taught in African studies and psychology departments at colleges in Boston. This spring, Virginia Wesleyan welcomes Dr. Davis as our visiting scholar in the university's new Africana Studies Program.

Sponsored in partnership with Virginia Wesleyan's Africana Studies Program and Office of Gender and Sexuality Equity.

Thursday, March 24 | Noon–1 PM

LIGHTHOUSE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY
CLARKE HALL

DEDICATION OF THE PEACE POLE AT VWU

No Justice, No Peace

*How Black and White Americans Define
Peace Differently*

JEFFREY TOUSSAINT

Most White Americans describe peace as the absence of war or the lack of threat of direct violence from an individual or group. Black Americans, on the other hand, frame peace as the absence of direct, structural, and cultural violence of systemic racism. For the first 30 minutes of this event, Dr. Jeff Toussaint shares insights from his research on how Black and White Americans conceptualize peace differently, and then offers practical tips for how to become more effective peacemakers. Afterward, we will move to the Peace Garden to dedicate the planting of a Peace Pole and share refreshments.

Jeffrey Toussaint, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology-Criminal Justice at VWU, earned his Ph.D. at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His current research focuses on the intersection of race, racism, anti-racism, and peace. Dr. Toussaint's work examines how living in a racialized society shapes and informs our ways of experiencing peace.

The Peace Pole is made possible by the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Peacemaking Committee in recognition of peacemaker William Granville Sale, Jr.

Thursday, March 31 – Saturday, April 2 | 7 PM

Sunday, April 3 | 2 PM

GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Tickets: vwu.tix.com Free to VWU students, faculty, and staff.

ROE

DIRECTOR SALLY SHEDD

VWU Theatre presents ROE. Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that legalized abortion, is still fiercely debated 50 years later. In this play, Lisa Loomer cuts through the headlines and rhetoric to share the post-Roe divergent personal journeys of lawyer Sarah Weddington and plaintiff Norma McCorvey ("Jane Roe"). Shocking, humorous, and poignant, ROE reflects the polarization in America today while illuminating the pain and passion of each side.

TALK BACK SESSIONS

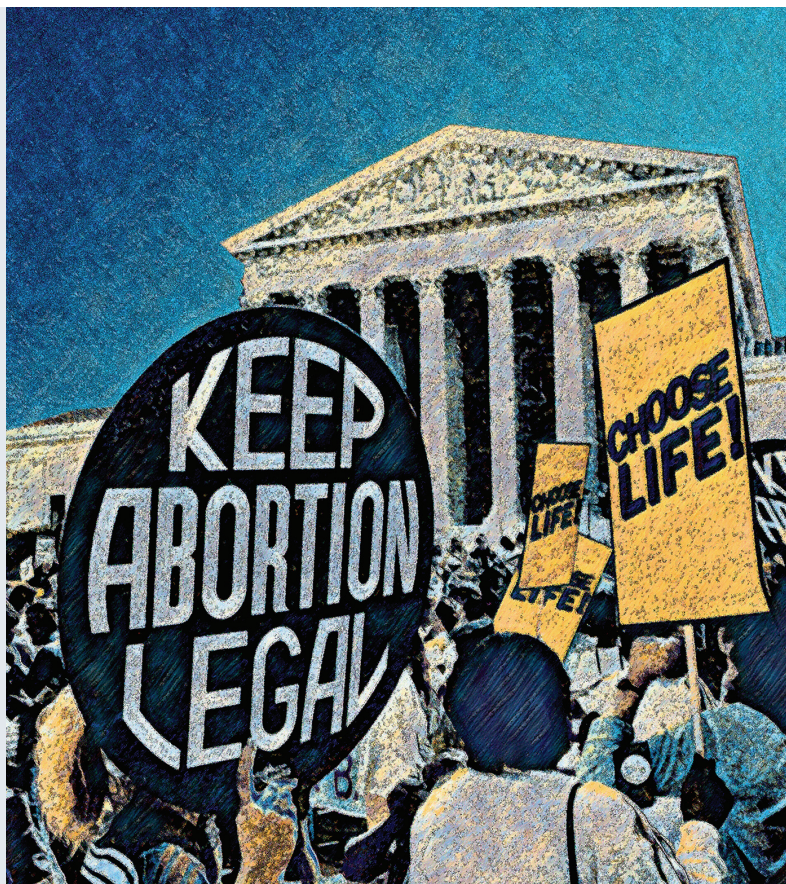
The Robert Nusbaum Center, in collaboration with VWU's Office of Gender and Sexuality Equity and VWU Theatre, is pleased to host opportunities to reflect on and discuss issues raised in the play.

MARCH 31 – APRIL 2

Facilitated discussions immediately following the evening performances offer safe space for civil conversations about the major points of tension in the play.

APRIL 3

A panel representing diverse perspectives discusses historical, legal, theological, cultural, and personal challenges raised by ROE.



PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP

Incivility seems to be the norm now in public life. Communication across diverse perspectives is too often caustic and crass. Leaders are even praised for communicating in ways that were previously considered intolerable in a civil society. This series of events focuses on building skills for communicating positively and effectively.

We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with the Konikoff Center for Learning of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater and the Simon Family JCC's Lee & Bernard Jaffe Family Jewish Book Festival, in coordination with the Jewish Book Council, which has made these two events possible.

Your Story Well Told

COREY ROSEN

Tuesday, February 15

Noon–1 PM

GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

During this one-hour workshop, Corey Rosen, award-winning writer, actor, and storytelling teacher, leads participants in activities that give them the chance to explore how storytelling can be used to bridge and reconcile religious, racial, and ideological differences.

Corey Rosen has hosted 105 live events for The Moth, The Moth StorySLAM, and its GrandSLAM. Rosen has been featured on The Moth Radio Hour and in many podcasts, and he has been credited in movies such as Mission: Impossible, several Star Wars films, and Disney's A Christmas Carol. In addition, he has directed television commercials and Emmy Award-winning short films.



ACHIEVING THE UNACHIEVABLE

The Power of Networking and Failures

THE PERSPECTIVE OF A WORLD-RENOWNED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER



ROIE GALITZ

Tuesday, March 1 | Noon–1 PM

GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Roie Galitz is a world-renowned wildlife photographer who travels to the world's most extreme habitats and documents animals as never seen before. Based on Galitz's personal experience as an extreme adventurer and wildlife photographer, this talk focuses on setting seemingly impossible goals and reaching them through networking, self-empowerment, and negotiating failures.

Roie Galitz, known to many from his three TED talks, is not only a world-renowned wildlife photographer and environmental diplomat, but also a Greenpeace Ambassador and featured speaker around the globe.

EXTREME RELIGION

A MONDAY EVENING ZOOM SERIES

Exorcism, female circumcision, and free love with multiple partners are far beyond most of our religious experiences. Yet for some people of faith, they are normal. Baruch Spinoza once said, "I have made a ceaseless effort not to ridicule, not to bewail, nor to scorn human actions, but to understand them." This series invites three authors to VWU, over Zoom, who help us understand more clearly religious practices that some may see as peculiar—or even indefensible.

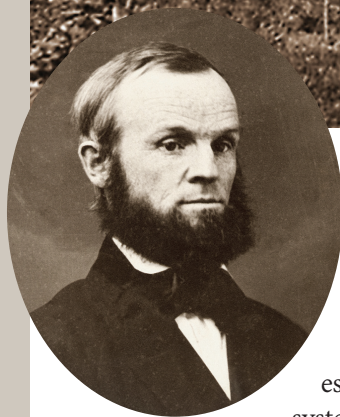
To register for the Zoom events, call the Nusbaum Center at 757-455-3129.

Monday, March 7 | 7–8 PM | Registration required by March 3

Electric Sex, Sticky Love, and Complex Marriage

Religion, Sex, and the Oneida Community

ELLEN WAYLAND-SMITH



For many Americans, the word “Oneida” is associated with fine silverware. The origin of the utopian community that came to make such silverware is less well known. In the mid-19th century, John Humphrey Noyes established a revolutionary community in rural New York centered on achieving a life free of sin through God’s grace. Yet it also espoused equality of the sexes and “complex marriage,” a system of free love where sexual relations with multiple partners

was encouraged. In *Oneida: From Free Love Utopia to the Well-Set Table*, Dr. Ellen Wayland-Smith—a scholar and a descendant of John Humphrey Noyes—describes the captivating story of the community’s evolution. In this Zoom presentation and discussion, she introduces us to the community and focuses on its most unusual and misunderstood practice: “complex marriage.”

Ellen Wayland-Smith, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Writing at the University of Southern California. She is the author of Oneida: From Free Love Utopia to the Well-Set Table and of The Angel in the Marketplace: Jean Wade Rindlaub and the Selling of America.



Monday, March 21 | 7–8 PM | Registration required by March 17

The Religious Case for Female Genital Cutting

ELLEN GRUENBAUM

In *The Female Circumcision Controversy*, Dr. Ellen Gruenbaum points out that Western outrage and efforts to stop genital mutilation often provoke a strong backlash from people in the countries where the practice is common. While she looks at the validity of Western arguments against the practice, she concentrates particularly on the complex attitudes of those who practice it and on indigenous efforts to end it. Dr. Gruenbaum humanizes the adherents of the practice, shows the complexities of it, helps readers move beyond indignation, and gives them hope. In this Zoom presentation and discussion, she shows us an important method in working toward social change and answers our questions.

Ellen Gruenbaum, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita and former Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Purdue University. Using a feminist anthropological framework, Dr. Gruenbaum's research focuses on women's health issues, human rights, religious practices, and development in Africa and the Middle East.



Monday, April 25 | 7–8:30 PM | Registration required by April 21

A CONVERSATION WITH AN AMERICAN EXORCIST

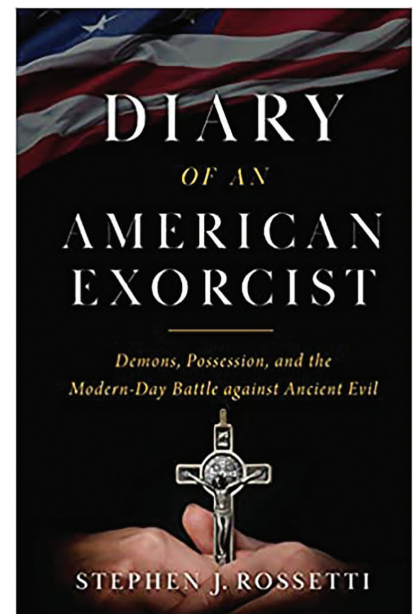
Demons, Possession, and the Modern-Day Battle against Ancient Evil

STEPHEN ROSETTI

In the gospels, Jesus exorcises demons and also explicitly tells his disciples to heal, preach, and cast out demons. If Christians do not see exorcism as normative to their faith—and many Christians do not—in what sense are they being true to his example and command? Msgr. Stephen Rossetti has participated in hundreds of exorcisms. In *Diary of an American Exorcist*, he gives a personal, inside look at the

intense experiences and practices of an exorcist. In this Zoom presentation, Dr. Rossetti reflects on his book and answers your questions.

Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti, Ph.D., is President of the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal and a Research Associate Professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. A licensed psychologist, Dr. Rossetti is the author of The Joy of Priesthood and several other books. For decades he has worked toward the prevention of child sexual abuse and raising awareness of its effects on victims. He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Msgr. Rossetti has also served as Chaplain for the Washington Nationals since 2009.



Saturday, February 26 | 7:30–10:30 PM
GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Tickets: \$25. Limited seating; pre-purchase strongly suggested.

This event includes a conversation with stars from the film, followed by a dessert reception.

TANGO SHALOM

DIRECTOR GABRIEL BOLOGNA
115 MIN | USA | 2020 | ENGLISH | PG-13

It is fitting that a comedy is the first film collaborated on by the Vatican, a Hasidic Synagogue, a Mosque, and a Sikh Temple. From the director of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *Tango Shalom* features an award-winning ensemble cast that includes Lainie Kazan, Renee Taylor, Joseph Bologna and *Dancing with the Stars* pro Karina Smirnoff.

Moshe Yehuda, a Hasidic Rabbi and amateur Hora dancer, enters a Tango competition to save his Hebrew



school from bankruptcy. Due to his orthodox beliefs, however, he is not allowed to touch a woman. Moshe—at odds with his family, the Grand Rabbi of his orthodox sect, and the entire Hasidic community—asks a Catholic priest, a Muslim Imam and a Sikh holy man to help him dance in the Tango contest “without sacrificing his sacred beliefs.” *Tango Shalom* tests the bonds of family and community, as well as the bounds of tolerance and faith.

Sunday, February 27 | 2:30–4:30 PM
GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Tickets: \$12. Limited seating; pre-purchase strongly suggested.

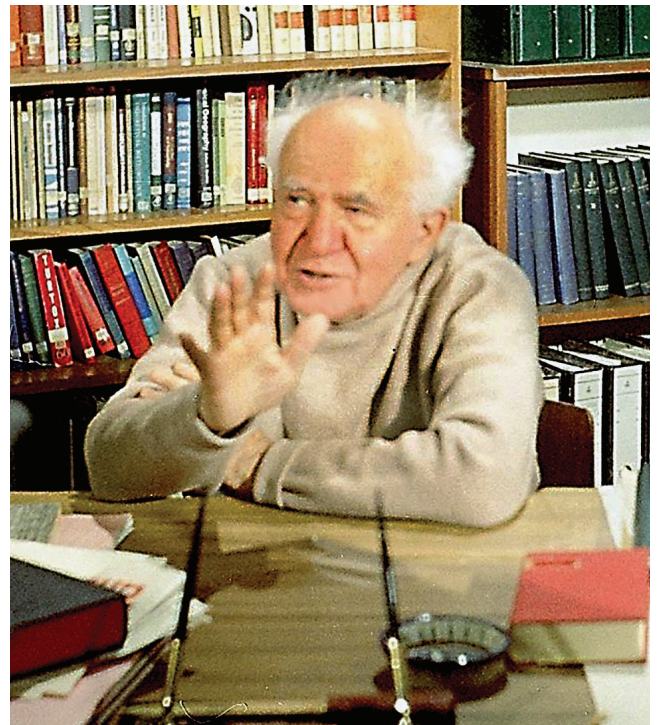
This event includes a discussion with world renowned producer Yael Perlov.

BEN GURION EPILOGUE

DIRECTOR YARIV MOZER | PRODUCER Yael PERLOV
70 MIN | ISRAEL | 2016 | HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | NOT RATED

Newly discovered 1968 interview footage shows David Ben Gurion at age 82, five years before his death. Living in the seclusion of his home in the desert, remote from all political discourse, he offers his perspective on the Zionist enterprise. His introspective soul-searching is the focus of this film, and his reflections provide a surprising vision for today's crucial decisions and for the future of Israel.

Yael Perlov is the two-time winner of the Israeli Academy Prize for film, laureate of the Art of Film prize of the Ministry of Art and Culture, senior lecturer at the Film and Television Department at Tel Aviv University, and a visiting scholar at Duke University.



To purchase tickets and for information about additional films offered by the Virginia Festival of Jewish Film, go to JewishVA.org/FilmFestival. Offered in partnership with the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater as part of the 29th Annual Virginia Festival of Jewish Film presented by Alma & Howard Laderberg.

FACE MASKS
are required at all
in-person events.

Unless otherwise noted, all events
are free and open to the public.

TICKETS & REGISTRATION

Purchase tickets for
Virginia Festival of Jewish Film events
at JewishVA.org/FilmFestival

Purchase tickets for the
VWU Spring Play **ROE**
at vwu.tix.com

Register for Zoom events by calling the
Nusbaum Center at **757-455-3129**
or online at vwu.edu/nusbaumcenter



Craig Wansink, Ph.D.

Joan P. and Macon F. Brock Jr. Director of the
Robert Nusbaum Center, and Professor and
Chair in the Department of Religious Studies

Kelly Jackson

Associate Director of the Robert Nusbaum Center

757.455.3129

vwu.edu/nusbaumcenter

NusbaumCenter@vwu.edu

Understanding

DIVERSITY | DIALOGUE | FAITH | FREEDOM

is published twice a year by the
ROBERT NUSBAUM CENTER
at Virginia Wesleyan University
EDITOR Craig Wansink, Ph.D.
MANAGING EDITOR Kelly Jackson
ART DIRECTOR Christine Hall

FEBRUARY

- 8 **The Overlooked Voices of Hurricane Katrina**
The Resilience and Recovery of Mississippi Black Women
Ophera A. Davis, Ph.D.
Tuesday, Noon–1 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 15 **Your Story Well Told**
Corey Rosen
Tuesday, Noon–1 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 17 **Homely, Friendly, Erotic, and Divine**
The Four Loves of C.S. Lewis
Terrence Lindvall, Ph.D.
Thursday, Noon–1 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 21 **Creating a Play on Civic and Racial Dynamics in Coastal Virginia**
IN[HEIR]ITANCE PROJECT
Monday, 7–8:30 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 26 **Tango Shalom**
VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF JEWISH FILM
Followed by discussion with film's stars, and dessert reception
Saturday, 7:30–10:30 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 27 **Ben Gurion Epilogue**
VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF JEWISH FILM
Followed by discussion with producer
Yael Perlov
Sunday, 2:30–4:30 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center



MARCH

- 1 **Achieving the Unachievable**
The Power of Networking and Failures
Perspective of a World-Renowned Wildlife Photographer
Roie Galitz
Tuesday, Noon–1 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 7 **Electric Sex, Sticky Love, and Complex Marriage**
Religion and the Oneida Community
Ellen Wayland-Smith, Ph.D.
ZOOM LECTURE
Monday, 7–8 PM
Registration required by March 3
- 21 **The Religious Case for Female Genital Cutting**
Ellen Gruenbaum, Ph.D.
ZOOM LECTURE
Monday, 7–8 PM
Registration required by March 17
- 24 **No Justice, No Peace**
How Black and White Americans Define Peace Differently
PEACE POLE DEDICATION
Jeffrey Toussaint, Ph.D.
Thursday, Noon–1 PM
Lighthouse Center for Exploration and Discovery, Clarke Hall
- 31 **ROE by Lisa Loomer**
VWU SPRING PLAY
Directed by **Sally Shedd, Ph.D.**
Thursday, 7 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center

APRIL

- 1-2 **ROE by Lisa Loomer**
Friday & Saturday, 7 PM
3 Sunday, 2 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 12 **Social Murder and the Geography of Injustice**
Compounding Socio-Environmental Impacts of Segregation in Coastal Virginia
John C. Finn, Ph.D.
JUSTINE L. NUSBAUM LECTURE
Tuesday, 7–8:15 PM
Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center
- 25 **A Conversation with an American Exorcist**
Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti, Ph.D.
ZOOM LECTURE
Monday, 7–8:30 PM
Registration required by April 21



VIRGINIA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

5817 Wesleyan Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit 27

Thursday, February 17 | Noon–1 PM | GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Homely, Friendly, Erotic, and Divine

The Four Loves of C.S. Lewis

TERRY LINDVALL

C.S. Lewis scholar Dr. Terry Lindvall unpacks Lewis's classic work, *The Four Loves*, from its chilly inception to its practical wisdom. In this short book, Lewis, with his wife Joy, highlights four kinds of love—*storge*, *philia*, *eros*, and *agape*—experiences of loving that help us enjoy gifts bestowed by God. But be forewarned, as Lewis noted about their danger, "Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal."

Terrence Lindvall, Ph.D., has held VWU's C. S. Lewis Chair in Communication and Christian Thought since 2006. He is a prolific author on Lewis, as well as on film and humor.

This presentation is part of the VWU Love Liberally symposium held annually around Valentine's Day to explore the concept of love through a variety of disciplinary lenses. For information on other opportunities, please visit the VWU website at vwu.edu.

