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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2020 Frederick Speaker Series Line-up Announced

FREDERICK, MD, July 25, 2019 - Entering its eighth year, [The Frederick Speaker Series](#) has developed a reputation for bringing world-class speakers to the Frederick community. The 2020 line-up includes; Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian, **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, first woman of color in space, scientist and physician, **Dr. Mae Jemison**, best-selling author and leading political satirist, **P.J. O'Rourke** and best-selling author and sustainable food advocate, **Michael Pollan**. All series events are held at the Weinberg Center for the Arts.

Tickets for all four speakers will go on sale to Weinberg Center members on Thursday, August 8 at 10:00 AM and to the general public on Thursday, August 15 at 10:00 AM. Tickets may be purchased online at weinbergcenter.org, by calling the Weinberg Center Box Office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 W. Patrick Street in Frederick, Maryland. For more information about becoming a Weinberg Center member and gaining early access to tickets, please visit weinbergcenter.org/support.

A separately ticketed meet-and-greet reception will take place immediately following each presentation. These exclusive events provide a chance for fans to meet the speakers, take pictures, and obtain autographs. All proceeds from the meet-and-greet receptions will benefit children's programs at Frederick County Public Libraries.

Doris Kearns Goodwin | Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Doris Kearns Goodwin's career as a presidential historian and author was inspired when, as a 24-year-old graduate student at Harvard, she was selected to join the White House Fellows. During her time in one of the nation's most prestigious programs for leadership and public service she worked with President Lyndon Baines Johnson and later assisted him in the writing of his memoirs. Goodwin then wrote "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream," which became a national bestseller and achieved critical acclaim. It was re-released in spring 2019, with a new foreword highlighting President Johnson's accomplishments in domestic affairs that have stood the test of time. Many of Goodwin's books have been adapted into television and film projects. Her book, "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," served as the basis for Steven Spielberg's hit film, "Lincoln." Well known for her appearances and commentary on television, Goodwin is frequently seen in documentaries including Ken Burns' "The History of Baseball" and on news, cable networks, and shows like "Meet the Press" and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." She was awarded the Charles Frankel Prize, the Sarah Josepha Hale Medal, the New England Book Award and the Carl Sandburg Literary Award.

Dr. Mae Jemison | Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:30 PM

The product of a Middle American upbringing, Dr. Mae Jemison was raised in Chicago. She entered Stanford University at the age of 16 on a scholarship, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. She then earned her doctorate in medicine at Cornell University Medical College. Prior to joining the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1987, she worked in both engineering and medicine, as a general practitioner and as a medical officer with the Peace Corps in West Africa. During her six years at NASA, Dr. Jemison became the first woman of color in space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. She resigned from NASA in 1993, becoming founder and president of two technology companies in addition to founding and chairing a non-profit organization. Dr. Jemison serves as Bayer Corporation's national science literacy advocate. She has presented to the United Nations on the uses of space technology, appeared as a host and technical consultant for the Discovery Channel and was the subject of the PBS Documentary "The New Explorers." In her speeches, Dr. Jemison inspires and encourages audiences, taking them on an exciting and diverse voyage which mirrors her life, focusing on exploration of the frontiers of science and human potential.

P.J. O'Rourke | Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7:30 PM

P.J. O'Rourke has established himself as America's premier political satirist. Both Time and The Wall Street Journal have labeled him "the funniest writer in America." He is the best-selling author of 20 books including "Parliament of Whores," "Republican Party Reptile," and his latest book, "None of My Business: P.J. Explains Money, Banking, Debt, Equity, Assets, Liabilities, and Why He's Not Rich and Neither Are You." He is a contributing editor at the Weekly Standard, H. L. Mencken Research Fellow at the Cato Institute, a regular panelist on NPR's "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me," and editor-in-chief of the web magazine American Consequences. Born in Toledo, Ohio, O'Rourke received a bachelor's degree from Miami University and a master's degree in English from Johns Hopkins, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. After graduate school he worked at small newspapers in Baltimore and New York. In the early 1970s he joined The National Lampoon. He then became a foreign correspondent and has since covered crises and conflicts in more than 40 countries. O'Rourke has written for such diverse publications from The Wall Street Journal to Car and Driver, and Rolling Stone. He lives in rural New England, as far away from the things he writes about as he can get.

Michael Pollan | Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 8:00 PM

For thirty years, Michael Pollan has been writing books and articles about the places where the human and natural worlds intersect: on our plates, in our farms and gardens, and in the environment. Pollan is the author of eight books, six of which have been New York Times bestsellers. A four-hour Netflix miniseries and two PBS documentaries have been based on his books. Pollan has been a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine since 1987 and has received numerous awards. In 2009 he was named one of the top 10 "New Thought Leaders" by Newsweek magazine. His essays have appeared in many anthologies and in addition to being published regularly in the New York Times Magazine, his articles have appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's Magazine, Mother Jones, Gourmet, Vogue, Travel + Leisure and more. In 2010 he was chosen by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He has been a professor of journalism at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism and a professor of the practice of non-fiction at Harvard and the university's first Lewis Chan Lecturer in the Arts. In addition to teaching, Pollan lectures widely on food, agriculture, and health.

For your convenience, [click here](#) for a dropbox link containing images of this season's speakers.

ABOUT THE FREDERICK SPEAKER SERIES

Since its inception in 2013, the Frederick Speaker Series has featured notable personalities such as Cal Ripken Jr., General Colin Powell, Tom Brokaw, George Takei, Bill Nye, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Ted Koppel, Dr. Temple Grandin and Bob Woodward.

Presenting sponsors this season include the Weinberg Center for the Arts and Frederick County Public Libraries.

ABOUT THE WEINBERG CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts presenters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in the historic Tivoli Movie Theater in downtown Frederick, MD, the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike. Weinberg Center events are made possible this season with major support from the City of Frederick, the Maryland State Arts Council, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and other corporate and individual donors.

Frederick Speaker Series Sponsors

