Many of our nation's founders considered slavery ethically immoral, but other factors—particularly economic ones—influenced them to embrace it. To that end, the Constitution they created—our DNA—has shaped economic and social structures, laws, and public policy in ways that have disadvantaged certain groups. It has shaped us in meaningful ways, but also in ways that have fallen short of our highest ideals relating to race and gender. Learn how the Constitution frames our understanding of American democracy and how we—as a country—continue to be shaped through changes like the 15th and 19th Amendments.

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The DNA of the United States: The U.S. Constitution

NEXUS INTERFAITH DIALOGUES: EXODUS IN AMERICA

Monday, September 27 | 7–8:30 PM
JANE P. BATTEN STUDENT CENTER, PEARCE SUITE

Exploring Coastal Virginia’s Racial Legacy of Place and Displacement

Intense issues in our community’s history relate to race and displacement. How can such issues be approached thoughtfully and creatively?

The In[HEIR]itance Project (I[H]P), a national arts organization, creates space for communities to navigate challenging conversations through collaborative theater projects inspired by sacred texts. Those attending will be co-creators in a play that explores the racial dynamics of the region’s legacy of place and displacement in relation to themes from the Book of Exodus. The finished play premieres at the 2022 Virginia Arts Festival. This evening’s interactive salon—facilitated by I[H]P co-founders Chantal Pavageaux, Jon Adam Ross, and Ariel Warmflash—is the first step in this process.

This program made possible, in part, by the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and Virginia Humanities.

Thursday, October 7 | 7–8:30 PM
JANE P. BATTEN STUDENT CENTER, PEARCE SUITE

Faith Perspectives on Why Exodus Matters in Coastal Virginia

In America’s Prophet, author Bruce Feiler claims that no figure has inspired Americans more than Moses and that no book of the Bible has influenced Americans more than Exodus. In Exodus, Black Americans have found hope and inspiration, Jews have found identity and an origin story, and Christians have found deeper appreciation for freedom and the responsibilities created by the ten commandments. But—on a personal level—why else does Exodus matter?

HUBB Co-leaders Rabbi Rosalin Mandelberg (Ohef Sholom Temple), Rev. Dr. Sharon Riley (Faith Deliverance Christian Center), and The Rev. John Rohrs (St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church) discuss the historical significance of the Book of Exodus and its enduring importance in their faith. They each highlight specific passages and themes from Exodus that continue to inspire, ground, and guide them as pastors.

Nexus is sponsored in partnership with the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) and Hands United Building Bridges (HUBB). Hands United Building Bridges (HUBB) is an interfaith, interracial network of clergy, congregations, and community leaders in Coastal Virginia.