

Senior
Statesmen of
Virginia

www.seniorstatesmen.org



The purpose of SSV, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational and advocacy organization, is to enable seniors to identify and articulate their viewpoints on the issues affecting all the citizens of Virginia; to encourage knowledge of and active participation in the public processes of government; to disseminate information about the social, governmental, and educational institutions; and to prepare resolutions stating positions on member-selected issues for distribution to appropriate public officials.



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the **Senior Statesmen of Virginia** will be held on
Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 1:30 – 3 p.m.
at the **Senior Center, Inc., 1180 Pepsi Place**

Unconventional Oil: Illuminating the Global Paradigm Shift to New Petroleum Fuels

Life as we know it--when it comes to oil--is profoundly changing. And there are as many opportunities as there are challenges and risks associated with 21st century oils.



DEBORAH GORDON is a nonresident senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Energy & Climate Program), where her policy research focuses on oil, climate, and transportation issues in the United States, China, and globally.

Since 1996 she has been a policy consultant specializing in transportation, energy, and environmental policy for non-profit, foundation, academic, public, and private-sector clients. From 1996 to 2000 she founded and co-directed the Transportation and Environment Program at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and from 1989 to 1996 she founded and then directed the Transportation Policy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Additionally, Gordon has worked at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (1988-1989), under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Gordon began her career as a chemical engineer with Chevron (1982-1987).

The program will be moderated by SSV board member **Grace Zisk**. The program is free and open to the public.

In case you missed the February 13, 2013, meeting of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia...

Douglas A. Blackmon is the Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*, chair of the University of Virginia's Miller Center Forum, and a contributing editor at the Washington Post. The book is the story of how after the Civil War and full citizenship had been extended to the formerly enslaved African-Americans, something happened that most of us don't know about. Even though the freed former slaves were incredibly impoverished and had been denied education for generations, there was a tremendous move by African-Americans to grab onto real citizenship and participate in elections on a huge scale. They wanted to get away from the folks who controlled them before, and it's largely a fairy tale that many so loved their masters they wanted to stay behind. They swarmed into schools and the first real public schools were set up. The literacy rate skyrocketed to be comparable with that of poor whites. They began to

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In case you missed the February 13 SSV meeting, continued...

acquire property and were moving into the mainstream of American life.

But then a terrible thing begins. First, white Southerners couldn't resurrect the cotton economy without four million slave workers, and they simply could not conceive of any equitable labor arrangements. Thus there was a tremendous need economically to figure out how to get as many African-Americans into a condition as close to slavery as possible. At the same time, whites wanted to stop African-Americans from exercising their civil rights and get them out of the political process. Beginning in the 1870s laws were passed that were designed to essentially criminalize black life. It became a crime for any farmer to sell his produce after dark which meant the African-Americans could only sell to the land owner. It also became a crime to walk beside a railroad or to speak loudly in the company of a white woman or to romance or have physical activity with a white woman. But the most insidious laws that were passed imposed tremendous penalties for vagrancy – if you couldn't prove you had a job you were arrested. Also, it was a crime for a farm worker (who may have been repeatedly lashed, deprived of his fair share of the crops, starved, his wife abused by the landowner, etc.) to look for another job. Overwhelmingly these laws were only applied to African-Americans. Payments to sheriffs and others were based on a fee system—you had to pay a fee to who arrested you, witnesses against you, the court, and the jailer. The fine for vagrancy might be \$5, but the fees could add up to \$100 – a full year's pay. To pay the fine and fees, the convicts were leased or sold back to the same landowner, or to work in coal mines, lumber camps, turpentine camps—all the new industries dependent on this forced labor. The terror of having this happen was greater than even the fear of mob violence, and it resulted in African-Americans going along generation after generation with whatever was imposed upon them. This system persisted right up to the 1940s.

You can listen to the entire presentation on the Charlottesville Podcasting Network at:

<http://www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/>.



The Senior Statesmen of Virginia is pleased to **welcome** two new members: **Herbert Hanft**, 1320 Branchlands Drive, Apt 3-J, Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-964-9343; and **Lillian Inge**, 1527 Rutledge Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903, 434-295-6610.

Mark your calendar (all to be held at the Senior Center, Inc., 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 10: Delegates report on **2013 Legislative Session**

Wednesday, May 8: **Report on City/County issues** by the Charlottesville Mayor **Satyendra Huja** and Albemarle Board of Supervisors Chair **Ann Mallek**.

Wednesday, June 12: **Dr. Pamela Ross**, Associate Professor in UVa Emergency Medicine, speaking on **national health care issues**.

Membership in the SSV is open to all past and present citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Join now!** Annual dues are just \$20.00. Mail your check in the amount of \$20.00 (payable to "SSV") to Senior Statesmen of Virginia, P.O. Box 6591, Charlottesville, VA 22906. Telephone: 434-806-4474. E-mail: jimp@videoprovirginia.com

Please visit our website at: www.seniorstatesmen.org/

Senior Statesmen of Virginia

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