

No. 13

BOOKS

SHALL WE WAKE THE PRESIDENT? BY TEVI TROY

HOOVER INSTITUTION

September 20

At some point, the next President will get that 3 AM call. Tevi Troy's book about White House reactions to natural disasters, economic meltdowns, and acts of war—which he discusses at this event—contains helpful, if predictable, anecdotes such as FDR's Great Depression plan and Obama-era checks on cyberterrorism threats. But the next chief might want to skip the chapter on weather events: Troy, who ran President George W. Bush's Domestic Policy Council from 2005 to 2007, largely blames the handling of Hurricane Katrina on local officials, not the executive missteps that history remembers. *Free*; hoover.org.

No. 14

MUSIC

LEON BRIDGES

WOLF TRAP

September 10

Bridges's music is a throwback to the smoke-filled studios of Motown. Some critics have accused him of lacking originality, but *Rolling Stone* called his debut album "the best kind of nostalgia trip." Hey, music critics, have your debates elsewhere—when you're hearing Bridges's soulful voice outdoors at the Filene Center as the summer wanes, there are better things to do than argue. \$29.50 to \$55; wolftrap.org.

No. 15

MUSIC

FARM AID

JIFFY LUBE LIVE

September 17

Thirty-one years ago, Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp organized a concert to support family farms. For the third time since then, the all-day festival is coming to Washington, with performances by its three founders plus Dave Matthews, Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats, and more. The activist angle remains, with local and organic foods at the concession stands and exhibits on topics such as beekeeping and sustainable papermaking. \$49.50 to \$189.50; farmaid.org.

No. 16



MUSEUMS

"NO MAN'S LAND: WOMEN ARTISTS FROM THE RUBELL FAMILY COLLECTION"

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

September 30–January 8

Mannequin/nutcracker hybrids, electric neon nudes, and anatomical figures woven from straw are just some of the eccentric works in this exhibit, in which more than three dozen artists from 15 countries use painting and sculpture to expand on themes born in the 1970s feminist art movement. Their depictions of the female body as well as challenges to traditional "women's work" will leave you thinking about gender norms, too. \$10; nmwa.org.

No. 17

BOOKS

GHOSTS OF HAVANA BY TODD MOSS

POLITICS AND PROSE

September 10



Diplomats jealous of the CIA's star treatment in pop culture might want to read this new thriller. Moss, a former deputy assistant secretary of State Department crisis manager Judd Ryker as he battles shadowy factions maneuvering to undermine America's thaw in relations with Cuba. Art imitated life when President Obama made a historic announcement about normalization with the communist country while Moss was writing his yarn. The author spoke with *Washingtonian* in advance of his appearance at Politics and Prose (*free*; politics-prose.com).

How has the diplomatic community responded to your State Department hero?

They like that I'm trying to express their frustrations. Diplomats feel the CIA or the military gets all the glory in fiction and films. In many ways, our foreign policy is set much more by diplomats than it is by soldiers and spies.

Do you base your characters on real Washingtonians?

Four of the main characters are soccer dads from Rockville. Like others in the book, they are composites of people I know. People come to me at parties and ask if they are in the book. I tell them parts of everyone I know are in it. Maybe that helps to build a fan base.

The book's timing is fortuitous.

I was halfway through the first draft when President Obama made the surprise December 2014 announcement about normalization. Now it looks like the first American commercial flights to Cuba will begin September 7, which is the day after the book comes out.

You went to Cuba just before Obama's visit. How do Cubans view this new normal?

While many are optimistic that normalization will bring about big change, there's also been a bit of a backlash. A few days after he visited, the entire front page of *Granma* [the official Cuban newspaper] was an open letter from Fidel Castro to Obama saying, "Don't think you are coming here to change us."

