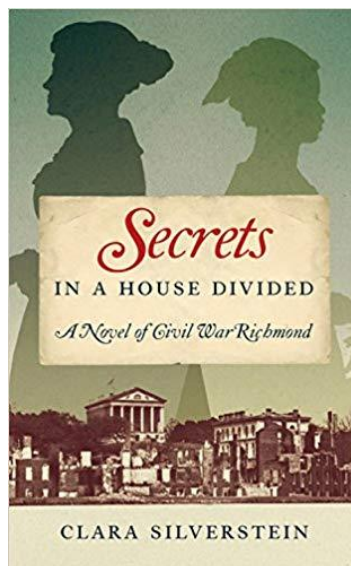




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Author Clara Silverstein to Appear at Herndon Branch Library

Author will discuss her book Secrets in a House Divided: A Novel of Civil War in Richmond

(Orlando, Florida) Author Clara Silverstein will discuss her historical novel *Secrets in a House Divided: A Novel of Civil War in Richmond* at the Herndon Branch Library in January. The event takes place in partnership with Writer's Block Bookstore of Winter Park. A book sale and signing will follow.

The novel – set in late 1800s Richmond, Virginia – explores the relationships between masters and slaves, husbands and wives, and parents and children as the Civil War drives them to a flash point. Though the story is set in the past, its focus on the roots of racism resonates today. Clara will discuss her book on Saturday, January 19 at 11 a.m. at the Herndon Branch Library, 4324 E. Colonial Drive.

“Any novel is a labor of love, and a historical novel is also a labor of research,” says Silverstein, a trained historian. “I grew up in Richmond and I always wondered what it was like to live there when it was under siege as the capital of the Confederacy. I wanted to explore the lives of soldiers, women and enslaved people at a time when their roles were in flux. To learn more about this time period, I read and reread many books by historians as well as letters, slave narratives, diaries, newspapers, and even recipes. Beside my desk I keep a map and a photo of Richmond in 1864. Both guided me as I wrote.”

Clara Silverstein is the author of *White Girl: A Story of School Desegregation* and three cookbooks. Her work has appeared on NPR’s *All Things Considered* and in publications including *American Heritage*, *Southern Cultures*, *Blackbird* and *The Boston Globe*. Clara is the former program director of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center and lives in the Boston area. To learn more, visit www.clarasilverstein.com.

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About the Orange County Library System

The Orange County Library System is a public library system that serves its patrons by providing access to collections, facilities, events and services that connect our community to the evolving world of ideas, information and technology. For more information on the Orange County Library system, visit ocls.info.

About Writer’s Block Bookstore

Founded in 2014 and located in beautiful downtown Winter Park, Writer’s Block Bookstore is Central Florida’s full-service independent community book store – hosting author events, book clubs and coordinating author school visits. Visit Writer’s Block Bookstore at 124 E. Welbourne Avenue, Winter Park or online at www.writersblockbookstore.com.