

Citizens for Media Literacy
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**NPR essayist to headline
First Amendment series**

Andrei Codrescu -- poet, essayist and National Public Radio commentator -- will kick off a "Citizenship and the First Amendment" lecture series at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, April 16 in Jubilee Community Center at 46 Wall Street in downtown Asheville, N.C.

The series of four lectures on consecutive Thursday evenings is sponsored by the Asheville-based Citizens for Media Literacy and public radio station WCQS-FM. All lectures begin at 7:15 p.m. Admission is free.

Codrescu's talk is entitled "**Season of the Witch: Symbolism, Censorship and Sin -- Reflections on the First Amendment.**" A native of Romania, Codrescu is a naturalized American citizen and professor of literature at Louisiana State University.

His NPR essays are published in two books: "A Craving for Swan" and "Raised by Puppets Only to be Killed by Research." His latest books include "The Hole in the Flag," based on his trips to Romania in 1989 and 1990, and "Belligerence," a book of poems.

The "Citizenship and the First Amendment" series is designed to raise public awareness about the need for citizen involvement in protecting and upholding the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of "freedom of speech and the press, and the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances."

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Other lectures in the series are:

April 23: **“Secrets: How Government Keeps the Public From Knowing How Its Money is Spent”** by Angus Mackenzie, director of the Media Alliance Freedom of Information Project and lecturer in the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley. Mackenzie’s talk is based on his forthcoming book from Farrar, Straus & Giroux by the same title.

April 30: **“What Citizens Need to Know About the First Amendment”** by Jane Kirtley, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C. Kirtley is editor of the quarterly journal, “The News Media and the Law,” and is the author of “Shield Laws and Reporter’s Privilege: A National Assessment.”

May 7: **“Voices of a Nation: American Press Freedom, Past and Future”** by Dwight L. Teeter, dean of the School of Journalism at the University of Tennessee and the 1991 Society of Professional Journalists’ Distinguished Professor of the Year. Teeter is co-author of “Voices of a Nation: A History of the Media in the United States.”

The “Citizenship and the First Amendment” series will be broadcast live by public radio station WCQS-FM. The series will be offered on tape free of charge to National Public Radio affiliates nationwide. For more information about the series, call Citizens for Media Literacy at 704-255-0182.

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