

# ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY & ENCORE LEARNING

~~~~~SPECIAL EVENT~~~~~

## Film Documentary



## BEST OF ENEMIES

The 1968 Buckley vs. Vidal Debates Revisited

**Date: Monday, June 13, 2016**

**Time: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

**Place: Arlington Central Library**

In the summer of 1968 television news changed forever. Last in ratings, ABC hired two towering public intellectuals to debate each other during the Democratic and Republican national conventions. William F. Buckley Jr. was a leading light of the new conservative movement. Gore Vidal, a democrat and cousin to Jackie Onassis, was a leftist novelist and polemicist. Armed with deep-seated distrust and enmity, Vidal and Buckley believed each other's political ideologies were dangerous for America. Like rounds in a heavyweight battle, they pummeled out policy and personal insult—their explosive exchanges developing into vitriolic name-calling. Live and unscripted, they kept viewers riveted. Ratings for ABC News skyrocketed. And a new era in public discourse was born. This film was an Official Selection of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival.

Interview subjects include many journalists familiar with the debates/debaters including Frank Rich (*NY Times*), Brooke Gladstone (*NPR*), Christopher Hitchens (Fmr. Writer *Vanity Fair*), William Sheehan (Fmr. Pres. *ABC News*), Richard Wald (Fmr. Head *NBC News*), Fred Kaplan (Gore Vidal's biographer), Reid Buckley (brother of Wm. F. Buckley), Andrew Sullivan (Fmr. Editor, *New Republic*), Dick Cavett, several professors of journalism, and many others.

**Registration:** No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome

**Directions:** The Arlington Central Library is located at 1015 N. Quincy Street between Washington Boulevard and Fairfax Drive. Parking is free at the Library or take Metro to Virginia Square on the Orange line.

*This program is jointly sponsored by Encore Learning and the Arlington Public Library. For details, call the library at 703-228-5996 or call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144. See [www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net) for more information on special events, clubs and academic courses for those over 50.*

