

HoCoPoLitSo

Howard County Poetry and Literature Society
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway • Horowitz Center 200 • Columbia, MD 21044

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marie Howe to read at HoCoPoLitSo's 7th Annual Blackbird Poetry Festival

HoCoPoLitSo's guest for its seventh annual **Blackbird Poetry Festival** is former New York State Poet Laureate and acclaimed author **Marie Howe**. The Blackbird Poetry Festival, to be held April 28, 2016, on the campus of Howard Community College, is a day devoted to verse, with student workshops, book sales, readings and patrols by the poetry police. The Sunbird poetry reading, featuring Ms. Howe, as well as Washington, D.C., poet Sandra Beasley and Howard Community College students, will start at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Howe will read from and discuss her most recent work, *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time*, as well as new, unpublished poems, during the Nightbird Poetry Reading, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Theatre of the Horowitz Center for Visual and Performing Arts. Nightbird general admission tickets are \$20 each (students and seniors are \$15) available on-line at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2476204> or by sending a self-addressed envelope and check payable and mailed to HoCoPoLitSo, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Horowitz Center 200, Columbia, MD 21044.

Acclaimed poet and teacher Marie Howe served as the Poet Laureate of New York State from 2012 to 2014. Her mentor and former U.S. Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz said: "Marie Howe's poetry is luminous, intense, and eloquent, rooted in an abundant inner life. Her long, deep-breathing lines address the mysteries of flesh and spirit, in terms accessible only to a woman who is very much of our time and yet still in touch with the sacred."

Marie Howe is the author of three volumes of poetry: *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* (2009); *What the Living Do* (1997); and *The Good Thief* (1988). She also co-edited a book of essays, *In the Company of My Solitude: American Writing from the AIDS Pandemic* (1994). Her poems have appeared in publications including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *Harvard Review*, and *The Partisan Review*.

Sandra Beasley, author of books of poetry, including her latest, *Count the Waves* (2015), and memoir, including *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life* (2011), will read and offer workshops.

Roaming poetry police (who will be checking for poems in pockets), book sales and student readings offer a festival atmosphere throughout campus.

For more than 40 years, HoCoPoLitSo has nurtured a love and respect for the contemporary literary arts and global literary heritage in Howard County. The society sponsors literary readings and writers-in-residence outreach programs, produces *The Writing Life* (a thirty-minute writer-to-writer talk show), and partners with other cultural arts organizations to support the arts in Howard County, Maryland. For more information, visit www.hocopolitso.org.

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