



CITYLIT

stage

JOIN US
NOVEMBER
1-3, 2019

CELEBRATING
15 YEARS OF
CITYLIT

CHESAPEAKE
ROOM
PIER 5
HOTEL

FEATURED GUEST ARTISTS:

Dominique Christina &
Kondwani Fidel

ALONG WITH

Marita Golden, Jaquira Díaz,
Etaf Rum, Rion Amlicar Scott
Erika Meitner, Joy Ike

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**CITYLIT STAGE:
Baltimore Book Festival**

**Pier 5 Hotel
Baltimore Inner Harbor
Chesapeake Room
711 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21202**

**November 1, 2 & 3, 2019
Friday-Sunday, 12pm-10pm
FREE!**



Since 2004, **CityLit Project** has existed as a small, literary arts nonprofit that builds and connects a literary community of avid readers and writers throughout Maryland, offering a wide range of programs, creating opportunities for growth, and platforms to engage emerging and established writers. CityLit produces events throughout the year advancing the cause of empowering language and writing skills in light of a changing publishing industry, amplifying voices of people of color, as well as those without affiliations. With 15 years of service and more, arts leaders in the Baltimore region recognize CityLit Project as a viable cultural institution.

This year's **CityLit Stage** kicks off our year-end fundraising campaign **\$15 for 15 Years Of CityLit**, where CityLit Stage attendees will have the opportunity to offer their financial support to CityLit to honor a decade and a half of our service to the region by presenting prominent authors, innovative programming, providing a place for writers to read, learn, and grow, and a place for readers to discover the power of story from authors who may not be on their radar. We want to raise **\$15,000** in gifts and pledges by year's end so we can continue to offer free programming to the general public. Look for our donation table while visiting the **CityLit Stage** or donate through our website – <http://bit.ly/SupportCityLit>. You can make a one-time donation of a minimum of \$15 or donate \$15 monthly (or more!) Many thanks to **T. Rowe Price Foundation** for leading our campaign with a generous gift in support of our mission!

This year's **CityLit Stage** also gives a special nod to writing the difficult story; to ordinary girls living extraordinary lives; to discovering the world inside a book; to the language of Arab-American queens; to revolutionary summers when the "*words loved me & I loved them back*"; to ancestral paths and healing in the aftermath; to keeping our hearts wild and feeding on the balm of hope. Join us to experience **Dominique Christina, Kondwani Fidel, Jaquira Diaz, Rion Amlicar Scott, Etaf Rum, Erika Meitner** and many more remarkable poets and writers, with a sprinkling of musical guest artists, including **Joy Ike**.

CityLit celebrates 15 years of bringing you the best ... all for free. COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

CityLit Project gives a resounding thanks to this year's musical guest artists:
Christen B., QueenEarth, and Joy Ike.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019



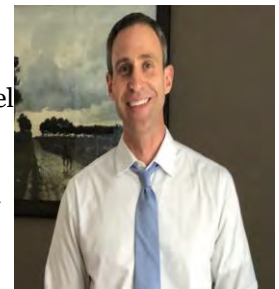
4:00 – 6:00 PM
FREE FRIDAY FEEDBACK

The ever-popular feature returns in its 7th year with five editors from exemplary regional magazines and presses. Journalists, poets and novelists will critique and provide guidance on ways to improve the work. Thirty-minute *One-on-One* conversations. Sign-up sheets available at the Festival opening. First come. First served. Five double-spaced pages. Only **18** 30-minute slots available. Must register in advance at the Festival opening. **Evan Balkan**, screenwriting; **Rebekah Kirkman**, *BmoreArt*, creative nonfiction; **Chelsea Lemon Fetzer**, *CityLit*, poetry, fiction; **Gabriella Souza**, fiction, creative nonfiction, and **Ian Anderson**, *Mason Jar Press*, memoir, fiction, poetry.

EVAN BALKAN

Area of expertise: screenwriting

Evan Balkan has published six books of nonfiction, including *The Wrath of God* as well as many essays and short stories. His novel *Spitfire* was published in Fall 2018 and his novel *Independence* is forthcoming. His screenplay *Spitfire*, adapted from his novel, won the 2016 Baltimore Screenwriters Competition and a Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund Fellowship, a Rocaberti scholarship, and was a semifinalist in the Screencraft Family Friendly Screenplay Competition and a finalist in the ISA Stowe Story Labs fellowship; his screenplay *Children of Disobedience* won the 2017 Baltimore Screenwriting Competition. He is a co-writer for the Television series, *Wayward Girls*. He coordinates the English Department at the Community College of Baltimore County, where he runs the creative writing program, and is an adjunct faculty member in the Johns Hopkins University's graduate Teaching Writing program.
evanbalkan.wixsite.com/evanbalkan



REBEKAH KIRKMAN

Area of expertise: creative non-fiction

Rebekah Kirkman is a writer and editor living in Baltimore. She is currently the Managing Editor at *BmoreArt*, a print and online journal covering arts and culture in the Baltimore region. She worked at the Baltimore City Paper from 2014 to 2017 as a writer, fact-checking coordinator, and visual arts editor. Her writing has appeared in the *Baltimore Beat*, *Hyperallergic*, *The Outline*, *Baltimore Fishbowl*, and elsewhere.
Twitter: @Rebekahkirkman

CHELSEA LEMON FETZER

Areas of expertise: poetry, fiction

Chelsea Lemon Fetzer holds an MFA in Fiction from Syracuse University. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in journals such as *Callaloo*, *Tin House*, *Mississippi Review*, *Minnesota Review*, and *Little Patuxent Review*. Her essay "Speck" appears in *The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives about being Mixed Race in the 21st Century*. Fetzer teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Baltimore. She also serves on the board of CityLit Project.





GABRIELLA SOUZA

Areas of expertise: fiction, creative nonfiction

Gabriella Souza lives and works as a writer and editor in Baltimore. She began her writing career as a journalist and has won local and national awards for her work that has appeared in *Brine Literary*, *USA Today*, *The Virginian-Pilot*, and *Baltimore Magazine*. Journalism provided her initial inquiry into character, which continues in her fiction work. She is motivated to explore emotions and experiences that are universal yet unique, using hints of fabulism to illustrate

the intensity of her character's emotions. She recently completed the MFA program at Antioch University in Los Angeles.

www.gabriellavsouza.com

Twitter: @GSouza_1

Instagram: @gabriellasouzawriter

IAN ANDERSON

Areas of expertise: memoir, fiction, poetry

Ian Anderson is a writer, designer, and Editor-in-Chief of Mason Jar Press. He lives in Baltimore with his wife and daughter.

www.masonjarpress.com





6:00 PM

MEMOIR: WRITING THE DIFFICULT STORY

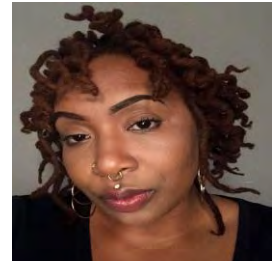
Three authors summon blades of courage by confronting a rapist in an effort to examine how it's possible for a good person to do a horrific thing; by grappling with and dismantling a form of self-hatred, and the dredge of colorism that stems from the oppression of white supremacy; by a walk back through a vulnerable past in the wake of violence, and the grind through the forces that create a "habit of fear". Join **Jeannie Vanasco**, *Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl*; **Petula Caesar**, *She's Such a Bright Girl: An American Story*; and **Karen Stefano**, *What the Body Remembers*, in a riveting and frank conversation about taking control, the what ifs and getting to grace with moderator **Sharea Harris**.

SHAREA HARRIS

Sharea Harris, MFA is a black woman from deep in the American south. A writer and academic, Sharea is continuously observing the song and dance of identity and environment; their birth of experience and its weight on us all. Sharea's work has appeared in magazines, lit journals, and on local and international stages. Sharea works in state art programming, reads for literary magazines, and facilitates writing workshops from a space like home, Baltimore MD. During the day she works in higher education as the assistant director of a writing center where she also teaches rhetoric and literature.

www.shareaharris.com

Twitter and Instagram: @sharea_rea



JEANNIE VANASCO

Jeannie Vanasco is the author of the memoir *Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl* and *The Glass Eye*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The Believer*, the *New York Times Modern Love* section, *NewYorker.com*, *Tin House*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. She lives in Baltimore and is an assistant professor of English at Towson University.

www.jeannievanasco.com

PETULA CAESAR

Petula Caesar is a journalist, author and poet. Caesar has been a contributing writer for Baltimore's former alternative weekly *City Paper*, *The Afro-American Newspapers* (Baltimore and DC editions), and *Baltimore Magazine*. She has shared her poetic works and her storytelling at popular Baltimore events like Artscape, Stoop Storytelling and Charm City Kitty Club. She has also travelled the East Coast with her storytelling and poetry. Her current book, *She's Such A Bright Girl: An American Story* tells stories of her upbringing and uses those stories to discuss colorism and its intersection with racism, prejudice, classism, white supremacy, and mental illness in the African American community. The book won an Honorable Mention at the North Street Books Prize for non-fiction.

www.petulacaesar.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/petulacaesar

Twitter: @PetulaCaesar

Instagram: @plcaesar



KAREN STEFANO

Karen Stefano is the author of the memoir, *What A Body Remembers: A Memoir of Sexual Assault and Its Aftermath* (Rare Bird Books 2019). She is the author of the short story collection *The Secret Games of Words* (1GlimpsePress 2015) and the how-to business writing guide, *Before Hitting Send* (Dearborn 2011). Her work has appeared in *Ms. Magazine*, *The Rumpus*, *Psychology Today*, *Writers' Digest*,

Tampa Review, *Epiphany*, and elsewhere. She is also a JD/MBA with more than twenty years of complex litigation experience.

www.stefanokaren.com

Twitter: @kstefano1

7:00 PM

**MUSICAL GUEST ARTIST: FROM THE SOUL: A SESSION
WITH CHRISTEN B**

Christen B seamlessly blends electronic and acoustic instruments with transcendent vocals leaving listeners in a state of euphoria! This Baltimore native is changing the way people experience music. She allows the audience to watch as she masterfully layers unique sounds while looping them on the spot and leaving the crowd wanting more!

www.christenbmusic.com

Twitter and Instagram: [@christenbmusic](#)





7:30 – 9:00PM

THE BONES, THE BREAKING, THE BALM: PRESENTING DOMINIQUE CHRISTINA & KONDWANI FIDEL

Two spoken word poets. One force. An intense, grounding experience, a reckoning with the truth, connecting the past to the present. An evening with 2017 National Poetry Series winner, educator, activist, **Dominique Christina**, author of *Anarcha Speaks: A History of Poems*, who revives the voice of the long-silenced Anarcha, an enslaved black woman subjected to the

painful medical experiments by 19th-century physician J. Marion Sims. “*we lost our mouths/ ’cross a mighty mighty ocean/ coulda died but we don’t know how.*” Baltimore’s literary gem **Kondwani Fidel**, author of *Hummingbird in the Trenches*, examines in breathtaking poetry and prose what it’s like to be young and black, living in America. An evening not to be missed.

DOMINIQUE CHRISTINA

Dominique Christina is an award-winning poet, author, educator, and activist. She holds five national poetry slam titles in four years, including the 2014 & 2012 Women of the World Slam Champion and 2011 National Poetry Slam Champion. Her work is greatly influenced by her family's legacy in the Civil Rights Movement and by the idea that words make worlds. Her poetry collections are: *The Bones, The Breaking, The Balm: A Colored Girl's Hymnal*, published by Penmanship Books, and *They Are All Me*. Her third book, *This Is Woman's Work*, is the radical exploration of 20 archetypal incarnations of womanness and the creative process. Her fourth book, *Anarcha Speaks* won the National Poetry Series Award in 2017 and was published by Beacon Press in 2018. She is a writer/actor for the HBO series *High Maintenance*.

www.dominiquechristina.com

Twitter: @nyarloka

Instagram: @DominiqueChristina



KONDWANI FIDEL

Kondwani Fidel has captivated audiences at conferences, literary events, and has lectured and taught classes at the University of East London while touring in the United Kingdom. Fidel’s lyrical poetry has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *CNN*, *The Root*, *The Independent*, *Mic*, and *Baltimore Sun* along with his inspiring narratives for brands such as Under Armour. His viral essay, *How a Young Boy has Been Decaying in Baltimore Since Age 10: A Death Note*, cemented Fidel as an authority in his city. In

2018, *The Baltimore Sun* honored Fidel in its heralded ‘Best of Baltimore’ issue for his courage, innovative thinking, and leadership in local schools and communities. Fidel is the author of his published collections, *Hummingbirds in the Trenches* (2018), and *Raw Wounds* (2017). Fidel is an M.F.A. candidate in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts at the University of Baltimore.

www.kondwanifidel.com

Twitter and Instagram: @kondwanifidel

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019



12:00 PM

UNTHINKABLE, UNSPEAKABLE, UNFORGETTABLE: CREATING COMPELLING CHARACTERS: A MASTER CLASS WITH MARITA GOLDEN

VIP BRILLIANT BALTIMORE TICKETED EVENT - \$55

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:

<https://brilliantbaltimore.com/event/unthinkable-unspeakable-unforgettable-creating-compelling-fictional-characters-a-master-class-with-marita-golden/>

HANDOUTS PROVIDED

Attendees will explore the characteristics of unforgettable fictional characters, and learn how to create confounding, conflicted, maddening characters, the kind that readers can't look away from and never forget. How to create a character willing to "go there" "say that" "break the rules"? Expect that and more. Memorable characters - Sethe in *Beloved*, Bigger Thomas in *Native Son*, Anna Karenina in the novel of the same name, are all bold, decisive and possess deeply complex interior lives. Learn the elements of creating dynamic characters in your writing. Led by co-founder and President Emeritus of the Zora Neale Hurston/ Richard Wright Foundation, **Marita Golden**, a veteran teacher of writing and acclaimed award-winning author of seventeen books, including *The Wide Circumference of Love*, which Just A Rebel Productions acquired for a television series, and the recently published, a multi-cultural anthology *Us Against Alzheimer's: Stories of Family Love and Faith* edited by Golden. Book signing follows the event.

MARITA GOLDEN

Co-founder and President Emeritus of the Zora Neale Hurston/ Richard Wright Foundation, **Marita Golden** is a veteran teacher of writing and an acclaimed award-winning author of seventeen works of fiction and nonfiction. As a teacher of writing she has served as a member of the faculties of the MFA Graduate Creative Writing Programs at George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University and in the MA Creative Writing Program at John Hopkins University. Other books by Golden include the novels *After* and *The Edge of Heaven* and the memoirs *Migrations of the Heart*, *Saving Our Sons* and *Don't Play in the Sun One Woman's Journey Through the Color Complex*. She is the recipient of many awards including the Writers for Writers Award presented by Barnes & Noble, and Poets and Writers and the Fiction Award for her novel *After* awarded by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

www.maritagolden.com

Twitter: [@maritagolden](https://twitter.com/maritagolden)



1:30 PM

MUSICAL GUEST ARTIST: QUEENEARTH

Singer songwriter **QueenEarth** has released 5 albums of original music, solo projects and collaborations, and travels with her educational concert, *QueerCore: Behind the Music*, to share stories for LGBT audiences and its allies.

www.queenearth.com

Twitter: [@MsQueenEarth](https://twitter.com/MsQueenEarth)



2:00 PM

ORDINARY GIRLS: JAQUIRA DÍAZ IN CONVERSATION WITH LUCILLE FUENTES

Jaquira Díaz's highly anticipated, electrifying debut work, *Ordinary Girl*, shares her unflinching memoir that gives voice to black and brown girls, queer and poor, who never saw themselves in books; where love triumphs a life as a repeat offender; and the struggles of a mother battling mental illness and addiction - a white woman who didn't know how to protect her brown children, become real talk for a real life, with **Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes**, author of *The Sleeping World* interviewing.

JAQUIRA DÍAZ

Jaquira Díaz is the author of *Ordinary Girls*, a memoir, and *I Am Deliberate*, a novel, both forthcoming from Algonquin Books. She is a 2016-18 Kenyon Review Fellow, and recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, two MacDowell Colony Fellowships, an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, a Florida Individual Artist Fellowship, the Carl Djerassi Fiction Fellowship from the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council, and an NEA Fellowship to the Hambidge Center for the Arts.

www.jaquiradiaz.com



GABRIELLE LUCILLE FUENTES

Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes is the author of *The Sleeping World* (Touchstone 2016). She has received fellowships from Yaddo, Hedgebrook, the Millay Colony, and the Blue Mountain Center. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *One Story: The New England Review*; *The Common*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *Slice*, *Pank*, and elsewhere. She grew up in a Cuban Irish American family in Wisconsin and is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland.

www.gabriellelucillefuentes.com

Twitter: @Glucyfuentes



3:00 PM

THE WORLD INSIDE A BOOK: CELEBRATING THE ART OF READING – FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG READERS

Co-editors **Claudia Bedrick** and *Brain Pickings'* Maria Popova (*who will not be appearing*), explore the beautifully illustrated, bestselling “feast of a book” *A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader* with some of today's most remarkable culture-makers, writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers—who reflect on the joys of reading, and how books broaden and

deepen human experience. A shared-love-of-books contributors, **Matthew Burgess**, *The Unbudgeable Curmudgeon* and **Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie**, *Laila's Happiness*, join Ana & Andrew series author, minimalist guru **Christine Platt** in the joys of writing children's literature and the power of storytelling as a tool for social change.

CLAUDIA BEDRICK

Claudia Zoe Bedrick is the publisher, editor and art director of Enchanted Lion Books, and independent publisher of children's books and illustrated books for all ages based in Brooklyn, NY. A graduate of Harvard College and a student of libraries and books across countries and cultures, Bedrick has grounded her publishing program with a deep belief in the creative imagination and in two vital words: “what if...,” focusing on books that spark the moral imagination—our deep capacity to understand the world around us and at the same time imagine other, finer possibilities than the harms and injustices in which we all live enmeshed.

www.enchantedlion.com

Twitter and Instagram: [@enchantedlion](https://twitter.com/enchantedlion)



MATTHEW BURGESS

Matthew Burgess is an Assistant Professor at Brooklyn College. He is the author of two books for kids: *Enormous Smallness: A Story of E. E. Cummings* and *The Unbudgeable Curmudgeon*. Several more titles are forthcoming, including *Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring*, *Make Meatballs Sing: The Life and Art of Corita Kent*, and *The Bear and The Moon*. Matthew has taught creative writing in NYC public schools for over

fifteen years, and he recently edited a new collection titled *Spellbound: The Art of Teaching Poetry*.

www.matthewjohnburgess.com

Twitter: [@MatthewBurgessJ](https://twitter.com/MatthewBurgessJ)



MARIAHADESSA EKERE TALLIE

LeFrak City, Queens native **Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie** is the author of *Layla's Happiness*, *Strut*, *Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation* and *Karma's Footsteps*. Her work has been widely published in journals and anthologies including *Listen up! BOMB*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*, *The Golden Shovel*, *The Breakbeat Poets*, and *The Breakbeat Poets Volume 2: Black Girl Magic*. She has performed poetry and taught in the United States, Namibia, The Netherlands, Belgium, and England. Her work is the subject of the film “I Leave My Colors Everywhere.” She is a Ph.D. student in the Theatre Arts and Performance Studies program at Brown University. Ekere is the mother of three galaxies who look like daughters.

www.ekeretallie.com

Twitter and Instagram: [@sageekere](https://twitter.com/sageekere)





CHRISTINE PLATT

Christine Platt is a passionate advocate for social justice and policy reform. A believer in the power of storytelling as a tool for social change, her literature centers on teaching diversity, equity, and inclusion.

www.christineaplatt.com

Twitter: @christineaplatt

Instagram: @afrominimalist



4:30 PM

THE LANGUAGE OF QUEENS: ARAB AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS SPEAK LIFE

In an unprecedented convening, five Arab American women poets, novelists, journalists read and discuss their work, and engage in a conversation that includes breaking silences, the culture of writing the real and the imagined, motherhood, and what it means to be authentic on the page. **Susan Muaddi Darraj**, with a forthcoming new middle-grade series *Farah Rocks*, debut novelist **Etaf Rum**, *A Woman is No Man*, Saudi American essayist **Eman Quotah**, and journalist **Laila El Haddad**, *Gaza Mom: Politics and Parenting in Palestine*, talk life with moderator, poet, editor, and community activist, **Zeina Azzam**.



SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ

Susan Muaddi Darraj won the American Book Award for *A Curious Land*, which also won the Arab American Book Award and the AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction. She was named a USA Ford Fellow in creative writing in 2018, and she launched the viral #TweetYourThobe campaign in 2019 to celebrate Palestinian culture. Susan's debut children's book series, *Farah Rocks*, will be published in January 2020 by Capstone Books; it is the first series for young readers to star a Palestinian American protagonist.

www.SusanMuaddiDarraj.com

Twitter and Instagram: @SusanDarraj

ETAF RUM

Etaf Rum was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York by Palestinian immigrants. She teaches English Literature in North Carolina, where she lives with her two children. Etaf also runs the Instagram account @booksandbeans, which has over 167,000 followers, and is also a Book of the Month Club Ambassador. Her favorite author is Sylvia Plath.

www.etafrum.com

Twitter and Instagram: @etafrum



EMAN QUOTAH

Eman Quotah's essays and stories have appeared in *Gargoyle*, *the Toast*, *the Establishment*, *the Rumpus*, *Necessary Fiction*, *the Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and other publications. She grew up in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, and Cleveland, Ohio. She lives in Rockville, Maryland.

Twitter and Instagram: @emanquotah

LAILA EL-HADDAD

Laila El-Haddad is a Palestinian American journalist and public speaker. She is co-author of *The Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian Culinary Journey*, and author of the memoir *Gaza Mom: Politics and Parenting in Palestine*. She frequently writes about the intersection and the negotiation of identity, food and politics. Through her work as a writer, culinary ethnographer and documentarian, she provides much-needed insight into the human experience of the region. In 2014, she was featured in the CNN program *Parts Unknown* with the late Anthony Bourdain as his guide in the Gaza Strip. El-Haddad received her B.A in Political Science and Comparative Areas Studies from Duke University in 2000, and her Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2002. Born in Kuwait to Palestinian parents from Gaza, she currently lives in Clarksville, Maryland with her husband, Yassine Daoud, and their four children.

www.LailaHaddad.com

Twitter and Instagram: @GazaMom





ZEINA AZZAM

Zeina Azzam is a Palestinian American poet, editor, and community activist. She volunteers for organizations that promote Palestinian human rights and the civil rights of vulnerable communities in Alexandria, Virginia, where she lives. Currently she works as publications editor at the think tank, Arab Center Washington DC. Zeina's poems are or will be published in *Pleiades*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Barzakh: A Literary Magazine*, *Infinite Rust*, *Heartwood Literary Magazine*, *Sukoon Magazine*, *Mizna*, *Lunch Ticket*, *The Fourth River*, *Split This Rock*, and the edited volumes *Bettering American*

Poetry (2019), *Making Mirrors: Writing/Righting by and for Refugees* (2019), *The Poeming Pigeon* (2017), *Write Like You're Alive* (2017), *Gaza Unsilenced* (2015), and *Yellow as Turmeric, Fragrant as Cloves* (2008). Zeina holds an M.A. in Arabic literature from Georgetown University, an M.A. in sociology from George Mason University, and a B.A. in psychology from Vassar College.

Twitter: [@zeina3azzam](https://twitter.com/zeina3azzam)

Instagram: [@zeina.azzam1](https://www.instagram.com/zeina.azzam1)



6:00 PM

BEAT THE BLUES WITH PEN PARENTIS: WRITERS, WHO ARE PARENTS, TOO, SHARE WAYS TO REFRAME CHALLENGES IN THE WRITING LIFE

Are rejections piling up? Fear of rejection holding you back? Perhaps you've never published or maybe you've tasted success but can't seem to get your work back out there? Celebrated authors join *Pen Parentis* founder **Milda De Voe**, an award-winning writer of poetry and interstitial fiction, and curator

and co-host of *Pen Parentis Literary Salons* **Christina Chiu**, winner of the James Alan McPherson Award for her novel, *Beauty*. For 10 years, *Pen Parentis* has provided audience-building performance opportunities and other resources to working writers who are also parents. **Dan Brady**, author of poetry collections *Strange Children* and *Subtexts*, forthcoming in 2020, **Melanie Hatter**, 2019 Kimbilio National Fiction Prize award-winner of *Malawi's Sisters*, novelist **Sonja Curry-Johnson**, author of the upcoming *Strike The Thick World Flat*, and **Susan Muaddi Darraj**, American Book Award winner for *A Curious Land*, whose children's book series, *Farah Rocks* debuts January 2020, share their resilience skills and strategies, practical advice, and new ways to reframe challenges. They'll discuss using discouragement as a motivator for their own work.

MILDA DE VOE

M. M. De Voe is an award-winning writer of poetry and interstitial fiction who founded the literary nonprofit *Pen Parentis* in 2014 to help writers stay on creative track after having children. She holds an MFA from Columbia University where she was a Writing Fellow after graduating from Notre Dame University in Baltimore, magna cum laude. Last summer, she was invited to be one of the inaugural participants of the Lithuanian Writers of the Diaspora in Vilnius. In addition to being the current executive director of *Pen Parentis*, she has won or was finalist for over 25 literary awards in various genres including science fiction, literary fiction, horror, poetry, "twitter poetry," urban fantasy, and novels.

www.mmdevoe.com

Twitter: @mmdevoe

Instagram: @penparentis



CHRISTINA CHIU

Christina Chiu is the winner of the James Alan McPherson Award. Her novel, *Beauty*, is available for pre-order. She is also author of *Troublemaker and Other Saints*, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in 2001, *Troublemaker* was alternate selection for BOMC and QPB, a nominee for a BOMC First Fiction Award, and winner of the Asian American Literary Award. Chiu has published in magazines and anthologies, including *Tin House*, *Charlie Chan is Dead 2*, *Not the Only One*, *Washington Square*, *World Wide Writers*, *The MacGuffin*, *the Asian Pacific American Journal*, *Acorn*, *Grandmothers:*

Granddaughters Remember, and *Not the Only One*. Her stories have won awards and honorable mention in literary contests such as *Playboy*, *Glimmer Train*, *New Millennium*, *New York Stories*, *World Wide Writers*, *Explorations*, and *El Dorado Writers' Guild*. The recipient of the Asian American Literary Award, Chiu also received the Robert Simpson Fellowship, the Alternate Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the Van Lier Fellowship; she won the New Stone Circle Fiction Contest, won second place in the *Playboy Fiction Contest*, and was nominated for the Stephen Crane First Fiction Award. She has been a Wiepersdorf Fellow and a Claire Woolrich Scholar. Chiu curates and co-hosts the *Pen Parentis Literary Salons* in New York City. She received her MFA in writing from Columbia University.

www.christinachiu.org

Twitter: @christinachiu8

Instagram: @Chrischiu13

DAN BRADY

Dan Brady is the author of the poetry collections *Strange Children*, and *Subtexts*, and two chapbooks, "Cabin Fever / Fossil Record" (Flying Guillotine Press) and "Leroy Sequences" (Horse Less Press). He is the poetry editor of *Barrelhouse*, a magazine and small press based in Washington, DC.

www.danbrady.org

Twitter and Instagram: @danbrady84



MELANIE HATTER

Melanie S. Hatter is an award-winning author of two novels and one short story collection. Selected by Edwidge Danticat, *Malawi's Sisters* won the inaugural Kimbilio National Fiction Prize, published by Four Way Books in 2019. *The Color of My Soul* won the 2011 Washington Writers' Publishing House Fiction Prize, and *Let No One Weep for Me, Stories of Love and Loss* was released in 2015. Melanie is a participating author with the

PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program and serves on the board of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation.

www.melanieshatter.com

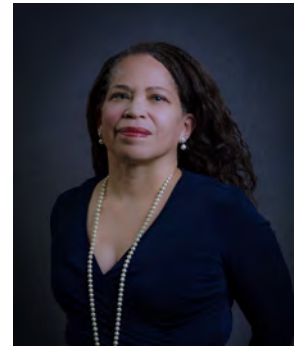
Twitter: @mshatter1

Instagram: @melanie_hatter

SONJA CURRY-JOHNSON

After 22 years of globetrotting as a military spouse and 17 years of teaching high school literature, **Ms. Sonja Curry-Johnson** earned an MFA in Fiction from George Mason University under the tutelage of the late Alan Cheuse. Her work has received praise and fellowships from Bread Loaf Writing Conference, The Squaw Valley Community of Writers Conference, The Virginia Center for Creative Arts, and The Northern Virginia Writing Project. Publications include essays and articles on new feminism, culture, politics and education in various theologies and online journals. She was a board member and regular contributor to the blog Letters2Trump, a platform that chronicles the voices of a variety of citizens concerned about the current administration. She teaches world literature and hosts a writing group of up and coming writers in Virginia all while not meddling in her adult children's lives even though she could really get in there...

www.facebook.com/SonjaDCJ



SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ

Susan Muaddi Darraj won the American Book Award for *A Curious Land*, which also won the Arab American Book Award and the AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction. She was named a USA Ford Fellow in creative writing in 2018, and she launched the viral #TweetYourThobe campaign in 2019 to celebrate Palestinian culture. Susan's debut children's book series, *Farah Rocks*, will be published in January 2020 by Capstone Books; it is the first

series for young readers to star a Palestinian American protagonist.

www.SusanMuaddiDarraj.com

Twitter and Instagram: @SusanDarraj



7:00 PM

SHORT STORIES MATTER: THE ART OF THE SHORT TALE

These prize-winning authors remind their fellow writers and readers that great written works are not always lengthy ones. This collection of authors proves this point well. **Rion Amlicar Scott's** new *The World Doesn't Require You* is a powerful follow-up of his debut collection, *Insurrections*, awarded the 2018 PEN/Bingham Prize for debut fiction; **Camille Acker**, author of *Training*

School for Negro Girls, with a wide-ranging cast of characters, all of whom call Washington, DC, home; **Elise Levine**, author of the recent collection *This Wicked Tongue*, and *Driving Men Mad*; and **Andria Nacina Cole**, whose short story *Leaving Women* won the Ploughshares' Cohen Award. Prepare to be informed, entertained, and wanting to write your own short tale.

RION AMLICAR SCOTT

Rion Amlicar Scott is the author of the story collection, *The World Doesn't Require You*. His debut story collection, *Insurrections*, was awarded the 2017 PEN/Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction and the 2017 Hillsdale Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. His work has been published in journals such as *The Kenyon Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *The Rumpus*, among others.

www.rionamlicarscott.com

Twitter and Instagram: @reeamilcarscott



CAMILLE ACKER

Camille Acker grew up in Washington, DC and is the author of the short story collection, *Training School for Negro Girls*. She holds a B.A. in English from Howard University and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from New Mexico State University. Her writing has received support from the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Voices of Our Nations Arts, and Millay Colony for the Arts, among others. She was a fiction co-editor for *Dismantle: An Anthology from the VONA/Voices Workshop*. She has taught at New Mexico State University,

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago Writers Studio, and Blue Stoop. Her writing has appeared in several outlets including *The New York Times Book Review*, *LitHub*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Electric Literature*, *VICE*, and *DAME Magazine*.

www.camilleacker.com

Twitter and Instagram: @cam_acker

ELISE LEVINE

Elise Levine is the author of the recent story collection *This Wicked Tongue*, the novels *Blue Field* and *Requests and Dedications*, and the story collection *Driving Men Mad*. Her work has also appeared in *Ploughshares*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and *Best Canadian Stories*, among others, and was a finalist for The Best Small Fictions 2018. She has taught creative writing at institutions including Johns Hopkins University and American University.





ANDRIA NACINA COLE

Andria Nacina Cole was raised in a house full of women and learned everything worth knowing about storytelling from their mouths. Lots of practice and careful study supplemented (a wee bit) by degrees in creative writing from Morgan State and Johns Hopkins Universities have helped her land short stories in *Hamilton Stone Review*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Fiction Circus* and *Ploughshares*, among others. Andria is the recipient of several Maryland State Arts Council awards, a Rubys Grants awardee and Baker Artist Awards finalist. In 2017, Baltimore *City Paper* named her Best

Storyteller. She is co-founder and director of the critical reading and writing program A Revolutionary Summer, which exposes Black girls to Black women literary and artistic giants to push them headfirst into self-love.

www.arevolutionarysummer.com

Twitter: @andrianacina

Instagram: @wildwomendontgettheblues

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019



12:00 PM

**A REVOLUTIONARY SUMMER: THE WORDS LOVED ME & I
LOVED THEM IN RETURN – ANDRIA NACINA COLE & THE
DAUGHTERS**

Co-founder and director **Andria Nacina Cole**, of the critical reading and writing program, *A Revolutionary Summer* share experiences with **the Daughters**. ARS is dedicated to shifting harmful narratives about Black women and girls through both the meaningful study and creation of art and the deliberate application of self-inquiry. A Revolutionary Summer exists “...to keep Black girls whole, to balance the scales, to offer up a Nobel Laureate, radical painter, love song, and afro picked to perfection for every stupid, shallow representation of her.” For eight Sundays every summer up to 21 young women gather to experience and discuss the creative works of consequential Black woman artists. Andria and her stellar team continue to lead Black girls to literature that reflects and affirms them on the CityLit Stage.

ANDRIA NACINA COLE

Andria Nacina Cole was raised in a house full of women and learned everything worth knowing about storytelling from their mouths. Lots of practice and careful study supplemented (a wee bit) by degrees in creative writing from Morgan State and Johns Hopkins Universities have helped her land short stories in *Hamilton Stone Review*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Fiction Circus* and *Ploughshares*, among others. Andria is the recipient of several Maryland State Arts Council awards, a Rubys Grants awardee and Baker Artist Awards finalist. In 2017, Baltimore City Paper named her Best Storyteller. She is co-founder and director of the critical reading and writing program A Revolutionary Summer, which exposes Black girls to Black women literary and artistic giants to push them headfirst into self-love.

www.arevolutionarysummer.com

Twitter: [@andrianacina](https://twitter.com/andrianacina)

Instagram: [@wildwomendontgettheblues](https://www.instagram.com/wildwomendontgettheblues)





1:00 PM

NEW LIT TALES: BEAUTY, ANCESTRY & HEALING IN THE AFTERMATH

This session is moderated by **Marion Winik**, host of *The Weekly Reader* podcast at WYPR and author of a dozen books, most notably her collection of witty, arresting portraits of various deceased people in the newly released *The Big Book of The Dead*. Winik discusses brave new work with authors **Judith**

Krummeck, whose *Old New Worlds* weaves the tale of related women separated by centuries sharing very similar challenges; **Melanie Hatter**, whose *Malawi's Sisters*, a powerful account of what happens to a family after the senseless murder of a young black woman won the Kimbilio National Fiction Prize selected by Edwidge Danticat; and **Christina Chiu**, author of the soon-to-be-released novel *Beauty*, which offers a fresh and bold telling of the Asian-American experience through three families. This dynamic trio will touch on how one writes stories involving ancestry, lineage, family and shared history, and how those stories can become more than just an interesting read.



MARION WINIK

University of Baltimore professor **Marion Winik** is the author of *The Big Book of the Dead* and winner of the 2019 Towson Prize for Literature. Among her nine other books are *First Comes Love* and *Highs in the Low Fifties*. Her award-winning *Bohemian Rhapsody* column appears monthly at BaltimoreFishbowl.com, and her essays have been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Sun*, and elsewhere. A board member of the National Book Critics Circle, she writes for *People*, *Newsday*, *the Washington Post*,

and *Kirkus Review* and hosts *The Weekly Reader* podcast at WYPR. She was a commentator on NPR for fifteen years.

www.marionwinik.com

Twitter and Instagram: @Marionwinik

JUDITH KRUMMECK

Judith Krummeck is a writer, broadcaster, and immigrant. Her new book, *Old New Worlds*, came out this fall. She is the author of a collection of essays, *Beyond the Baobab*, about her immigrant experience. Her work has also appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Atticus Review*, and *Baltimore Fishbowl*, amongst others. Since coming from Africa to the United States in the late 1990s, Judith has been the evening drive time host of Maryland's classical music station, WBJC. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts from the University of Baltimore.

www.judithkrummeck.com

Twitter: @judithkrummeck

Instagram: @jkrummeck



MELANIE HATTER

Melanie S. Hatter is an award-winning author of two novels and one short story collection. Selected by Edwidge Danticat, *Malawi's Sisters* won the inaugural Kimbilio National Fiction Prize, published by Four Way Books in 2019. *The Color of My Soul* won the 2011 Washington Writers' Publishing House Fiction Prize, and *Let No One Weep for Me, Stories of Love and Loss* was released in 2015. Melanie is a participating author with the

PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program and serves on the board of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation.

www.melanieshatter.com

Twitter: @mshatter1

Instagram: @melanie_hatter



CHRISTINA CHIU

Christina Chiu is the winner of the James Alan McPherson Award. Her novel, *Beauty*, is available for pre-order. She is also author of *Troublemaker and Other Saints*, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in 2001, *Troublemaker* was alternate selection for BOMC and QPB, a nominee for a BOMC First Fiction Award, and winner of the Asian American Literary Award. Chiu has published in magazines and anthologies, including *Tin House*, *Charlie Chan is Dead 2*, *Not the Only One*, *Washington Square*, *World Wide Writers*, *The MacGuffin*, *the Asian Pacific American Journal*, *Acorn*, *Grandmothers: Granddaughters Remember*, and *Not the Only One*. Her stories have won awards and honorable mention in literary contests such as *Playboy*, *Glimmer Train*, *New Millennium*, *New York Stories*, *World Wide Writers*, *Explorations*, and *El Dorado Writers' Guild*. The recipient of the Asian American Literary Award, Chiu also received the Robert Simpson Fellowship, the Alternate Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the Van Lier Fellowship; she won the New Stone Circle Fiction Contest, won second place in the Playboy Fiction Contest, and was nominated for the Stephen Crane First Fiction Award. She has been a Wiepersdorf Fellow and a Claire Woolrich Scholar. Chiu curates and co-hosts the Pen Parentis Literary Salons in New York City. She received her MFA in writing from Columbia University.



www.christinachiu.org

Twitter: @christinachiu8

Instagram: @Chrischiu13



2:00 PM

OH, BUT MY HEART IS WILD & MY BONES ARE STEEL: WOMEN POETS TAKE THE STAGE WITH PIQUE COLLECTION

In honor of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration, and the challenging history of women empowerment, including for women of color, CityLit Stage celebrates women poets featuring **Erika Meitner**, winner of the 2018 National Jewish Book Award in poetry and author of *Holy Moly Carry Me*;

Rachael Uwada Clifford, whose work has been selected to appear in 2019 Best New Poets anthology; **Chet'la Sebree**, winner of the 2018 New Issues Poetry Prize, whose new release *Mistress*, "sketches one of the most charged and intriguing figures in our nation's history" writes poet Evie Shockley, the story of Sally Hemings mulatta has never been told like this; **Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez**, a VONA/Voices alum, who debuts her chapbook *Coconut Curls y Café con Leche*; and Furious Flower Poetry Center's **Lauren K. Alleyne**'s new work *Honeyfishs*, about black immigrant women navigating external and internal identities, has published in *The Atlantic* and *Ms. Muse*. Baltimore-based **Pique Collective** is a quintet of modern musicians bringing together local artists, craft brews, and lively concerts of new and recent works. They will join the poets on stage with a musical rendition of the poets' work.

ERIKA MEITNER

Erika Meitner is the author of five books of poems, including *Ideal Cities* —a 2009 National Poetry Series winner; *Copia*; and *Holy Moly Carry Me*, winner of the 2018 National Jewish Book Award in poetry and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her poems have been published in *Best American Poetry*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Tin House*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. Meitner is currently an associate professor of English and the creative writing programs director at Virginia Tech.

www.erikameitner.com

Twitter: @rikam99



RACHAEL UWADA CLIFFORD

Rachael Uwada Clifford is a writer and poet living in Baltimore. The daughter of Nigerian immigrants, she was born in Tennessee and grew up in Georgia and New Mexico. She received her MFA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University, where she also taught creative writing. She was selected as a Best New Poet of 2019, and won first place in Glimmer Train's

Short Story Award for New Writers. She has received awards and fellowships from the Cave Canem Foundation, Kimbilio, The Mastheads, Ox-Bow School of Art, and the Maryland State Arts Council. Her fiction and poetry are forthcoming in *Glimmer Train* and *Best New Poets 2019*.

www.rachaeluwadaclifford.com

Twitter: @rachael_uwada

CHET'LA SEBREE

Chet'la Sebree is the Director of the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts and is an Assistant Professor of English. She is the author of *Mistress*, selected by Cathy Park Hong as the winner of the 2018 New Issues Poetry Prize, and *Field of Study*. Originally from the Mid-Atlantic region, she is a graduate of American University's MFA in Creative Writing program and has received fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Hedgebrook, the Vermont Studio Center, the Delaware Division of the Arts, the Stadler Center, and the Richard H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies. Her work has appeared in several anthologies and journals including *Kenyon Review*, *Colorado Review*, and *Guernica*.

www.chetlasebree.com

Twitter: @Nahtil

Instagram: @cnsebree





TATIANA FIGUEROA RAMIREZ

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in the mainland United States, **Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez** graduated with a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and is a VONA Voices Alumna, having worked with award-winning poets Willie Perdomo and Danez Smith. Tatiana currently performs, teaches poetry workshops, and hosts events in the greater Washington DC area, having previously done so in New

York, Philadelphia, Miami, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic at venues including New York University, The Kennedy Center, and The Howard Theatre. You can read her work in *The Acentos Review*, *Here Comes Everyone*, and *Queen Mob's Teahouse*, among other publications. She is the author of *Coconut Curls y Café con Leche*.

www.sincerelytatiana.com

Twitter and Instagram: @msauciana

LAUREN K. ALLEYNE

Lauren K. Alleyne is the author of two collections of poetry, *Difficult Fruit* and *Honeyfish*. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *The Atlantic*, *Ms. Muse*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Interviewing the Caribbean*, *The Crab Orchard Review*, among many others. Recent honors for her work include a 2017 Phillip Freund Alumni Prize for Excellence in Publishing (Cornell University), the 2016 Split This Rock Poetry Prize, and a Picador Guest Professorship in Literature. She is currently Assistant Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and an Associate Professor of English at James Madison University.

www.laurenkalleyne.com

Twitter and Instagram: @poetLKA



PIQUE COLLECTIVE

Pique Collective is a contemporary music ensemble that offers a variety of experiences for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Their mission is to produce high quality performance art and serve as a recurring option for entertainment seekers and art enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region. The core members perform on flutes, guitars, cello, keyboards, percussion, and vocals, and they frequently collaborate with other musicians, painters,

sculptors, poets, and entrepreneurs to present multi-media experiences. In addition to featuring original compositions and music by living composers, the ensemble typically presents concerts outside of the standard recital hall and they encourage audience members to interact with sensory specific elements.

www.piquecollective.com

Instagram: @piquecollective



4:15 PM -5:30 PM

**MUSICAL GUEST ARTIST: BREATHE...A MUSICAL MOMENT
WITH JOY IKE**

Joy Ike, whose music tinkers with pop, soul, folk, world fusion, was born to Nigerian immigrants. The singer/songwriter's music, voice, and writing have drawn comparisons to female musicians Nina Simone, Laura Nyro, and Regina Spektor, but her percussive piano-playing and soaring vocals give homage to her African upbringing. This Philadelphia-based artist possesses a powerful

instrument of a voice, which she wields with humble virtuosity. Join us for an evening that will leave you stoked with hope. Ike shares her latest release, *Bigger Than Your Box*, a joyously defiant work, that dares us to believe in ourselves, to knock down the walls of fear and doubt we build around ourselves. "This is an open-armed invitation to dive headfirst into the unseen", says Ike. We're here for it, and you should be, too.

JOY IKE

Polished and precise, yet buoyed with an airy grace, Joy Ike paints with a broad palette that defies easy categorization. Born to Nigerian immigrants, the singer/songwriter's music, voice, and writing have drawn comparisons to female musicians such as Nina Simone, Laura Nyro, and Regina Spektor. But her percussive piano-playing and soaring vocals give homage to her African upbringing. Leaving her career as a publicist in 2008, Joy has spent the last 11 years playing thousands of shows across the country. A write-up on NPR's *All Things Considered* says "The depth of subjects she tackles in her poetic lyrics are perfectly complemented by a unique blend of neo-soul, with just the right dash of pop...a truly compelling act to watch in person, with the ability to create an intimate setting in locations big and small." *Ike's CDs and merchandise will be available for purchase.*

www.joyike.com

Twitter: @joyike

Instagram: @joyikemusic



A Revolutionary Summer

WHO THEY ARE: A Revolutionary Summer is an intensive critical reading and writing program dedicated to shifting harmful narratives about Black women and girls through literature, art and self-inquiry.

www.arevolutionarysummer.com

Maryland Writers' Association

WHO THEY ARE: The Maryland Writers' Association (MWA) is a voluntary, not-for-profit association of writers at all levels dedicated to supporting the art, business, and craft of writing in all its forms.

www.marylandwriters.org

Libraries Without Borders

WHO THEY ARE: Libraries Without Borders is a non-profit organization that believes that regardless of circumstances, people should have equal access to information and life enhancing resources.

www.librarieswithoutborders.us/

The Inner Loop

WHO THEY ARE: A literary reading series and network for creative writers in the DC/Baltimore area.

www.theinnerlooplit.org

Yellow Arrow Publishing

WHO THEY ARE: Yellow Arrow is a Baltimore-based nonprofit supporting women writers.

www.yellowarrowpublishing.com/

Writers & Words

WHO THEY ARE: Writers & Words is a Baltimore reading series that features four readers each month, one in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and the genre-defying “wild card” category which in the past has included a playwright, a scientist, and a children’s book author (and everything in between). Writers & Words’ mission is to connect writers to other writers in the Baltimore literary community and beyond.

www.writersandwords.net/

The Baltimore Review

WHO THEY ARE: The Baltimore Review, founded in 1996, is a literary journal publishing poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. The journal publishes quarterly online issues as well as an annual print compilation.

www.baltimorereview.org

Iceland Readers Retreat

WHO THEY ARE: The Iceland Readers Retreat offers lectures and talks by renowned authors while we learn about the rich literary heritage of this book-loving nation. Our 2020 event features award-winning writer Adam Gopnik.

www.IcelandReadersRetreat.com

Zora's Den

WHO THEY ARE: A community of Black women writers that offers social engagement, support and encouragement. In Our Own Words is a reading series that further celebrates prominent and rising Black, female voices.

www.zorasden.com

Mason Creative Writing

WHO THEY ARE: Mason Creative Writing is a fine arts program and literary arts community based at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. In addition to graduate and undergraduate degree programs, Mason Creative Writing includes the Fall for the Book literary festival, Stillhouse Press, Poetry Daily, the New Leaves Writers' Conference, and the literary journals phoebe and So To Speak.

www.creativewriting.gmu.edu

Howard County Poetry & Literature Society

Founded in 1974, HoCoPoLitSo is a community-based not-for-profit arts organization that produces live and recorded readings and other literary events for the general public, including students, seniors, and inclusive audiences.

www.HoCoPoLitSo.org

City People: Black Baltimore in the Photographs of John Clark Mayden
Baltimore Lives: The Portraits of John Clark Mayden

WHO THEY ARE: *City People: Black Baltimore in the Photographs of John Clark Mayden* presents a selection of the artist's black-and-white street portraits taken since the 1970s. These photographs capture the ordinary joys and sorrows, quiet moments, and daily realities of Baltimore's African American neighborhoods. The companion volume *Baltimore Lives* contains 101 gorgeous reproductions of Mayden's photographs, with an introduction by the artist and art historian Michael D. Harris.

www.library.jhu.edu/city-people/

www.jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/title/baltimore-lives



CITYLIT STAGE Photographer **BEN MARCUS**

Ben Marcus is a photographer and videographer. Raised in Montgomery County, Maryland, he went to Philadelphia to study media production at Temple University, graduating in 2016. These days, he is working on projects for nonprofits in the Philadelphia and Baltimore area. As a lover of poetry and writing, he is excited to capture candid moments at the CityLit Stage this year. You can view samples of his work at benmarcusmedia.com."

