

**HoCoPoLitSo**  
 Howard County Poetry and Literature Society  
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ANNUAL  
 REPORT  
 FY 2005  
 JULY 2004-JUNE 2005

**HoCoPoLitSo**  
 Howard County Poetry & Literature Society  
 ENLARGING THE AUDIENCE FOR CONTEMPORARY POETRY & LITERATURE SINCE 1974

Plan to join us!  
 Friday, February 24, 2006



## 19TH YEAR ON THE AIR

*The Writing Life*, a cable television series, airs on local educational cable stations, accessible to more than two million Marylanders. This writer-to-writer talk show has been funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maryland Humanities Council as well as by local sponsors and viewers.

In FY 2005 two new editions were produced at the Howard Community College TV studio: Irish poet **Michael Coady** hosted by George O'Brien, debuted April 2005, and novelist and short story writer **Edward P. Jones** hosted by E. Ethelbert Miller, debuted June 2005. Newly re-discovered archival tapes with **Gwendolyn Brooks** at the Library of Congress and Nobel Prize-winning **Saul Bellow** with students at Howard Community College were re-edited and enhanced for broadcast in March and September 2005 respectively.

Encore editions airing during the year included **Amiri Baraka** hosted by E. Ethelbert Miller (1998) in July; **Brian Bedford** and Friends Read Molière (1998) in August; Tribute to **Josephine Jacobsen** (1908-2003) in September (2003); **Edgar Sillex** hosted by Michael Collier (2000) in October; **Li-Young Lee** hosted by Michael Collier (1996) in November; Four Maryland Poets Laureate: **Flint, Clifton, Pastan, Whittemore** (1999) in December; **Robert Bly** hosted by Cornelius Eady (1997) in January; **Hilary Tham** hosted by Allan Starkey (1993) in February and in May, **Ann Darr** hosted by Roland Flint (1995).

## COMING UP THIS WINTER

*The Writing Life*, can be seen on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in Howard County on cable channel 71, HCC-TV.

### JANUARY 2006

*Elizabeth Spires* hosted by **Michael Collier** (Encore 2003)

Elizabeth Spires, author of a powerful book of poems, *Now the Green Blade Rises*, talks with poet and friend Michael Collier. She comments that "poems are milestones in our lives." Ms. Spires reads "The Paper Maker," "Riddle," "My Mother's Doll," "Guzzle" and "In Heaven It is Always Autumn."

### FEBRUARY 2006

*Rita Dove* hosted by **Michael Collier** (Encore 1999)

In celebration of Rosa Parks who died October 25, 2005, TWL presents Rita Dove discussing her collection of poems in *On the Bus With Rosa Parks*. She reads: "In the Lobby of the Warner Theatre," Washington, D.C., "Rosa," "The Pond," "Porch View: 6 p.m. Early Spring," and "Lady Freedom Among Us."

### MARCH 2006

*Sherman Alexie* hosted by **Edgar Sillex** (Encore 2005)

Poet and teacher Edgar Gabriel Sillex engages award-winning author Sherman Alexie in a lively and amusing conversation about the writing process, the intersections of culture and creativity, and the impact of Alexie's work on perceptions of Native American life in the 21st century.



Lucille Clifton



Michael Collier



Michael Glaser



Linda Pastan



Reed Whittemore

## 31st Anniversary Highlights

■ To open HoCoPoLitSo's 31st program year and celebrate HoCoPoLitSo's 30th Anniversary as well as honor founder Ellen Conroy Kennedy, Five Maryland Poets Laureate saluted HoCoPoLitSo with a reading and reception on Sunday, November 14, 2004, at Howard Community College, Columbia, MD. Poets **Lucille Clifton, Michael Collier, Michael Glaser, Linda Pastan** and **Reed Whittemore** read from their work and that of friend and colleague, the late Roland Flint. Each poet shared a favorite poem and a favorite Ellen story. Reed Whittemore was moved to an impromptu poem dedicated to the woman whose name is synonymous with HoCoPoLitSo.

■ On November 18, 2004, Board Chair, David Barrett, along with Sandra Barrett and Deputy Director Pamela Simonson, represented HoCoPoLitSo at a *Tribute to Lucille Clifton* at the Danny Kaye Theatre in New York City. Former HoCoPoLitSo visitors were on hand to offer accolades to Lucille Clifton. HoCoPoLitSo co-sponsored this event, attended by more than 500 people, with the Poetry Society of America. The PSA, founded in 1910, reaches people with poetry on a daily basis through poetry readings, events and *Poetry in Motion*, which places poems on subways and buses.

■ Poet **Michael Coady**, from County Tipperary, read at the *27th Evening of Irish Music and Poetry*, on February 25, 2005 at the Jim Rouse Theatre, Columbia, MD. Mr. Coady, who consented to appear when Mr. Hugo Hamilton took ill, received a standing ovation after reading from *One Another* (2003), a publication that creatively integrates poetry, prose, and photography. Once again, His Excellency Noel Fahey Ambassador, The Republic of Ireland,

introduced the evening. A concert of traditional Irish music with musicians Dominick Murray, Linda Hickman, Tony DeMarco, Terry Winch, Jesse Winch, and Grace Griffith and stepdancers Maura Hodgetts and Caitlin Golding followed.

■ In cooperation with the Division of English/World Languages, Maryland Poet Laureate **Michael Glaser** read to Howard Community College students and others at Howard Community College in the Burrill Galleria on April 11, 2005. Mr. Glaser engaged the audience with poetry and storytelling; many of the poems appealed to the students in their descriptions of school and family life.

■ On Friday, May 6, 2005 Pulitzer Prize winning author **Edward P. Jones** read from *The Known World* (2004) and entertained questions from an audience of 108 at Howard Community College, Burrill Galleria. Mr. Jones was interviewed the next day by poet E. Ethelbert Miller for a new edition of *The Writing Life*. HoCoPoLitSo hosted Mr. Jones for the first time in 1994.

■ In cooperation with the Howard County Library and the Howard County Center for African American Culture, HoCoPoLitSo partnered in this year's Columbia Festival of the Arts to produce a Juneteenth (June 19th) event on the secret codes of the Underground Railroad called "Signifying Freedom" at the Central Library. A unique mixture of historical literature, facts and spirituals filled the afternoon. Panelists included the co-author of *Hidden in Plain View*, **Dr. Raymond Dobard**, gospel singer **Katie Davenport**, and Executive Director of the Howard County Center of African-American Culture, **Wylene Burch**.



## From The Director

In a year of global hardship and recovery, HoCoPoLitSo has weathered its own excitements in the wake of the retirement of its dear founder, Ellen Conroy Kennedy, and in its transition to a new space at Howard Community College.

The loyalty of its long-term Friends and supporters, the hard work of its Board of Directors to effect the transition and form new community partnerships, and its own strong foundation and focus on its mission have served the organization well this year.

Students continued their annual experiences with the Folger's rollicking "Bill's Buddies" and with HoCoPoLitSo's Writer-in-Residence. The community responded with applause and ovation to Irish poet Michael Coady. Many of us remember the quiet but powerful voice of Edward P. Jones reading from *The Known World*, and the fascinating intersections of the work on the Underground Railroad by author Dr. Raymond Dobard, spiritualist Katie Davenport, and historian Wylene Burch at the Juneteenth event at the central library. And, just this fall, a packed Smith Theatre was galvanized by the provocative performance of writer Sherman Alexie.

I'm grateful for all the new friends made this year. I thank the board of directors and you, a Friend of HoCoPoLitSo, for helping to make Howard County a sustaining and enriching place for those who create and appreciate literature.

**Tara Hart, Managing Director**



Tara Hart

## Student Audiences

Between November 2004 and April 2005, more than 820 students from Howard County's eleven public high schools had the opportunity to hear and discuss the merits of poetry with Maryland Poet Laureate Michael Glaser. He captured the attention of students and teachers alike when he read poems based on memories he had of the 7th and 8th grade by illustrating that there is just as much fear in being a parent of a student as there is in being a student. Author of several collections of poetry, *Being a Father*, *A Lover's Eye*, and *In the Men's Room and Other Poems*, he has edited two anthologies of Maryland poets, *The Cooke Book* and *Weavings 2000: The Maryland Millennial Anthology*.

On Tuesday, April 12, students from Cradlerock School, Elkridge Landing Middle and Patuxent Valley Middle were bussed to the Jim Rouse Theatre at Wilde Lake High School to celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday with "Bill's Buddies," four actors from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington. The audience of more than 700 students was treated to scenes from *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Following the program, select high school students participated in an interactive workshop.

For twenty-four years HoCoPoLitSo has awarded prizes to the winners of its All-County Writing Competition and honored students nominated by their teachers for Promise and Achievement in Language Arts. HoCoPoLitSo presents book prizes with hand-inscribed bookplates in the hope of fostering lifelong reading habits and a love of literature. The tradition continued this year as HoCoPoLitSo board members made pre-

sentations at eleven high school honors assemblies.

The six creative writing winners were **Renee Davidson** (Howard) (first and second place), and **Chante R. Sessomes** (Centennial) in the personal essay category; **Erica Szalkowski** (Hammond), **Sarah Brodine** (Hammond), and **Renee Davidson** (Howard) in the poetry category; and in the short story category, **Leah Klatte** (Reservoir) and **Rebecca Watts** (Howard) (second and third place). This year's judges were Virginia Pausch, retired head, Howard High School English department; Timothy Singleton of the *Baltimore Sun*, and Nora Scanlan, retired Howard County high school guidance counselor.

In addition, twenty-two students were chosen by their English Departments to receive HoCoPoLitSo's "Promise and Achievement Awards." The honorees were: **Kelsey Elder**, **Jimmy McQuilkin** (Atholton), **Heather Chalfin**, **Joseph McCord** (Centennial), **Carly Barron**, **Timothy Burt** (Glenelg), **Shelby Swinburne**, **Fiona Schram** (Hammond), **Cliffe Hichar**, **Rebecca Watts** (Howard), **Chantal Hall**, **Jason Pabst** (Long Reach), **Amanda Aaron**, **Ingrid Greenlee** (Mt. Hebron), **Nicholas Hopkins**, **Jessica Rennenkampf** (Oakland Mills), **Brittany Gerretson**, **Vinnie Cabido** (Reservoir), **Maura Dieringer**, **Sarah Hamersley** (River Hill), **Amiel Stanek** and **Colin Riley** (Wilde Lake). The twenty-seven students in all received books by Lucille Clifton, Hugo Hamilton, Edward P. Jones, Garrison Keillor, Alice McDermott, Linda Pastan, Elizabeth Spires, and Eudora Welty.



Edward P. Jones

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