Literary Luminaries Lead the Way

By Tara Hart and Susan Thornton Hobby

HoCoPoLitSo’s board and staff have been thinking about legacy.

In our forty-fifth season, we lost Ellen Conroy Kennedy, who founded HoCoPoLitSo with the idea that literature was not something extraneous. Words and stories matter, Kennedy believed, and could change the world.

In her honor, friends and family set up a memorial fund that will help bring to Howard County the caliber of writer that Kennedy recruited while she was alive—powerful authors of all kinds who moved audiences to laughter and tears.

There’s a Greek proverb, “A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.” Ellen is no longer with us in person, but we are honored to tend the literary trees she planted in hopes of a better world, and as good stewards we actively seek extra hands in this effort to sustain her legacy.

We are thrilled to announce that a generous new donor, local philanthropist and lifelong supporter of the arts and civil liberties, Lillian Bauder, has made HoCoPoLitSo the gift of funding to support HoCoPoLitSo’s school programs. Her generosity supports the writer-in-residence program, which is in its 29th year, sending poet Steven Leyva, virtually, into classrooms all over Howard County. The funding also supports the high school writing competition and senior book awards given for Promise and Achievement in the Literary Arts. Bauder also established the Bauder Author Lecture and the Don Bauder Awards for writing and creative expression at Howard Community College; these author and student-centered events are organized by the Howard County Book Connection, a committee formed in partnership with HoCoPoLitSo.

We’re so grateful for the funds that help HoCoPoLitSo fulfill Ellen Kennedy’s vision of a vibrant, sustaining, and enlightening literary landscape right here in our backyards.

In trying times, turning to the wisdom of words and seeking to learn from diverse new perspectives are not just advisable, but vital. Please help us continue to share with you the words and stories that Kennedy believed can, and must, change the world.

Poetry Moments

HoCoPoLitSo was founded to celebrate diverse literary heritages and to foster literary appreciation in diverse populations, including varying gender, ethnic and cultural identities, age groups, and income levels. We believe that opening a book, reading a poem, or attending a literary event can be a powerful humanistic journey of exploration, education, and enlightenment. We all benefit when we seek to deepen and extend our understanding of the experiences of others and ourselves.

We are profoundly saddened and outraged by the violence perpetrated against Black lives and by the ongoing systemic lack of accountability. We believe Black lives matter, and we stand in solidarity with all those seeking to effectuate long-lasting change in our communities.

HoCoPoLitSo’s introduced its Poetry Moment series on Juneteenth as a safe way to address, extend, and deepen these crucial conversations needed, especially in pandemic times. See article on page 4 for more information.
The Year In Review

A HARLEM RENAISSANCE - OCTOBER 5, 2020

Stephanie Wall, speaking on behalf of County Executive Calvin Ball, offered a welcome to those who attended HoCoPoLitSo’s season opener, A Harlem Renaissance Speakeasy. This partnership event, under the direction of Sue Kramer, celebrated HoCoPoLitSo’s 45th season and Arts Collective’s 25th. The evening explored the artistry of the 1920s and ’30s with jazz, song, poetry, food, and signature cocktails in an intimate nightclub setting created at Howard Community College. Petra Martin and The Jazz Masters, Jon Ozmunt, Wes Biles, Jeff Neal, and Vaughn Ambrose enchanted the audience with the music of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Cab Calloway. Harlem Renaissance poets were represented by Shaw Sebastian Naar (Langston Hughes), Chania Hudson (Gwendolyn Bennett), Alan W. King (Claude McKay), Faye McCray (Alice Dunbar Nelson), Nana Owusu (Countee Cullen) and Linda Joy Burke (Georgia Douglas Johnson) as emcees. Musical theatre performances were provided by Jamar Brown, Mayumi B. Griffie, and Valerie A. Higgs. This joint venture with the Arts Collective was an immersive excursion into Black history, with many in the audience clad in period costume.

Musician Martin O’Malley with novelist Alice McDermott at 42nd Irish Evening.

PHOTO BY FRED TANCORDO

42ND EVENING OF IRISH MUSIC & POETRY - FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Novelist and Pulitzer-Prize finalist Alice McDermott introduced her latest work, a play that examines intergenerational relationships in an Irish family, to a full house in Smith Theatre at Howard Community College (HCC). Her reading was followed by a rousing concert of electric Irish music performed by O’Malley’s March, with musicians Martin O’Malley, Jared Denhard, Jim Eagan, Sean Cominsky, Peter Miller, Ralph Reinoldi, and Jaime Wilson. Dancers from the Teelin School of Irish Dance joined them on stage for several numbers. The evening ended with a sing-a-long that brought the audience to their feet!

Student Programming

Writer-in-residence Teri Ellen Cross Davis visited six Howard County public schools prior to Maryland’s Covid-19 shutdown. Ms. Davis encouraged students to consider using poetry as a way to explore and share their past experiences and examine their feelings while creating empathy and connection to others. More than 345 students met with Davis at Centennial, Hammond, Homewood, Long Reach, Reservoir, and River Hill high schools.

On October 12, 2019, six students joined Maryland Poet Laureate Grace Cavalieri for a poetry workshop at the HCC campus and recorded a podcast.

futureofchildren.net/emerging-writers/

On October 26 and November 2, 2019, HoCoPoLitSo participated in Columbia Art Center’s Plein Air event. Students Xan Hopkins (Oakland Mills), Victoria Sanchez-Benitez (Wild Lake), Adrian Nwakalor (Atholton) along with Isaiah and Miles McCray inspired painters by reading nature poetry.

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS MODIFIED

For thirty-nine years the Howard County Poetry and Literature Society (HoCoPoLitSo) has awarded book prizes to honor students nominated by their teachers for Promise and Achievement in Language Arts. To foster lifelong reading habits and a love of literature, HoCoPoLitSo presents book awards with personalized bookplates. The tradition continued this year with modifications. Instead of HoCoPoLitSo board members making presentations at Howard County high schools’ honors assemblies for graduating seniors, books were delivered to students’ schools or mailed directly to students with the assistance of board members Susan Thornton Hobby and Anne Reis (Homewood media specialist), and Howard County schools’ secondary language arts coordinator, Nancy Czarnecki. Due to the timing of the competition, the All-County Writing Competition was cancelled when schools closed in March 2020.

Twenty-eight students were chosen by their English Departments to receive HoCoPoLitSo’s Promise and Achievement Award in Language Arts. The honorees were: Victoria Adler, Cameron Goodwin-Schoen (Atholton), Helen Pantoulis, Tobias Moser (Centennial), Kaitlyn Walker, Harrison Young (Glencol), Rose Kinder, Christopher Parris, Jr. (Hammond), Dré Campbell, Gale Freeman (Homewood Center), Emily Gorny, Richard Zhou (Howard), Autumn Saledo, Andrew Vesy (Long Reach), Audrey Casper, Jiwoo Moon (Marriotts Ridge), Ian Roe, Douglas Stewart (Mt. Hebron), Mikh Kelly, Maheshwari Shukla, Genesis Houston, Kiana Macharia, (tie) (Oakland Mills), Esha Bhatti, Melissa Rayo (Reervoir), Tess Redman, Chutian Weng (River Hill), and Ananya Chand and Aden Noyes (Wildle Lake).

Supported by a donation from local philanthropist Lillian Bauder, the program gave students books by outstanding contemporary poets and writers including Maya Angelou, Carrie Brown, Michael Dirda, Lauren Groff, Joy Harjo, Colum McCann, Alice McDermott, Randy Pausch, Stanley Plumly, Jason Reynolds, and Ocean Vuong.

A note of appreciation to Padraic Kennedy and Andrea Martinez for their years of service as they retire from HoCoPoLitSo’s board in FY 2020. Kennedy’s dedication is unsurpassed and he’ll remain on the program committee. Martinez was a motivating force behind this year’s Harlem Renaissance event. Thank you.

B O A D O F D I R E C T O R S

David H. Barrett
Tara Hart
Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes
Susan Thornton Hobby
Padraic Kennedy
Kathleen Larson
Andrea Martinez
Faye McCray
Anne Reis
Tim Singleton
Laura Yoo

H O C O P O L I T S O S T A F F

Pamela Simonson
Managing Director
443.518.4568
www.HoCoPoLitSo.org

Kathy Stowe
Program Coordinator
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Horowitz Center 200, Columbia, Md 21044

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS
HoCoPoLitSo is grateful to all who encourage our community’s literary activities through financial and in-kind donations, and volunteer support. This list includes gifts made from July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Serial gifts are merged. Thank you.

PLATINUM BENEFACTORS
$10,000 to $24,999
Dr. Lillian Bauder & Don Bauder
In honor of student programming
Howard County Arts Council
through a grant from the Howard County Government

GOLD BENEFACTORS
$5,000 to $9,999
Columbia Film Society
Howard Community College
Howard Community College’s Arts Collective
Padrac & Ellen Conroy Kennedy
Mary Donegan & Dan Kamerman

SILVER BENEFACTORS
$2,500 to $4,999
The Howard Hughes Corporation

BRONZE BENEFACTORS
$1,000 to $2,499
Alpha Phi Alpha Foundation
Edward & Fern Hamlim
Ken & Elizabeth Lundeen
Sabra Taj & Kyle Reis

SPECIAL SPONSORS
$250 to $499
Anne V. Barker
David H. Barrett
R. Berry
In memory of Staff Sergeant William Wentworth Sr.
Mary Pandolfini
Jack Farrell**
Susan Harada
Thomas Hicks**
Carolyn Kelenem***
Kathy & William Larson***
Barbara Lawson
Judy Lobbin
Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes
Suzi Padrick***
Ruth Penn
Naazim Pirzada
Alan & Pamela Ray**
Anne Reis
Kenneth & Mary Ellen Walsh
Women’s Giving Circle

PATRONS
$100 to $249
Calvin Austin
Mary Azrael
Elizabeth Bubbo & Lloyd Knowles
Dianne Connelly
Nancy Gazzicki
In honor of poets-in-residence
Tina Dmwoiddle***
Louise Dow
Kay Sandetti
Timothy Gillen
Patrick Green
In honor of Pamela Simonson
John & Katie Herington
Mary Kenney
Pearl Lafer
In memory of Fern Eisner

SPONSORS
$50 to $99
Anne V. Barker
David H. Barrett
R. Berry
In memory of Staff Sergeant William Wentworth Sr.
Mary Pandolfini
Jack Farrell**
Susan Harada
Thomas Hicks**
Carolyn Kelenem***
Kathy & William Larson***
Barbara Lawson
Judy Lobbin
Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes
Suzi Padrick***
Ruth Penn
Naazim Pirzada
Alan & Pamela Ray**
Anne Reis
Kathleen O. Bowen
Lizzie P. Finley
In memory of student programming
Howard County Arts Council
through a grant from the Howard County Government

DONORS
$50 to $99
Mary Brandenburg
Mike & Lois Clark
Eileen Clegg
John Connell
Mary Donovan
Mary Ellen Duncan
Wm & Berna Durkin**
Dr. Vernon Gray
Patricia Harwood
Maryllyn M. Johnson
Michael Kamerman
Barbara Lavateros
C. B. Lovell
Russell & Philippini
In memory of Joan Philippini
Mary Pike
Margaret Nicholas

FRIENDS
UP TO $49
Ann Bracken
In memory of Dorothy and
Denny Lynch
Virginie Mason
HeLEN & Joe Mitchell
Zelenak S. Morris
In memory of Steven L. Morris
Esen & Ralph Paradiso
In memory of Ellen Kennedy
& Dan Kamerman
Michael Schaub
Delphine Peck
Anne Reis
Katherine Riggins
Barbara Russell
Michael Schaub
Pamela Simonson
In memory of Erin Hayden
Melissa Wilkins
Edward Young**

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
IN HONOR OF ELLEN CONROY
KENNEDY
(Funds will be dedicated to enhance artist fees)
Lillian Bauder
Helen Carter
Columbia Film Society
Maggie & Steve Grief
Susan Thornton Hobby
Kathleen Hurwitz
Joan & Steven Lanco
Kathleen Larson
Doris Ligon
Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes
E. Ethelbert Miller
Barbara Russell
Helen Schwartz
Pamela Simonson
Tim & Beth Singleton
Andrew Steck
Mary Toth

VOLUNTEERS
Ann Bracken
Norma Broadwater
Linda Joyce Burke
Emily Carter
Helen Carter
Richard Carter

ENDOWMENT GIFTS
Ensure HoCoPoLitSo’s FUTURE. Gifts and pledges to the HoCoPoLitSo Fund at the Community Foundation of Howard County from February 1996-October 15, 2020.

NOBEL CIRCLE
$20,000 and up
Padrac & Ellen Kennedy
Jean & Bob Mooy
In memory of Betsy Hurni Flanagan
Patty Rouse

LITERARY LIONS
$10,000 – $19,999
Hamel Family Fund
Peter & Beth Horowitz
Michael Moon
In honor of Jean Moon
The Columbia Foundation

LAUREATE CIRCLE
$1,000 – $9,999
Alpha Phi Alpha
Barbara Lawson
Harry “Chip” Lundy
Darn & Steve Mack
Donald & Brigitte Manekin
In honor of Ellen Conroy Kennedy
Lanny Morrison & Lynne Nemeth
Morris & Edie Range

PULITZER CIRCLE
$500 to $999
Ann Barney & Steve Van Order
David Barrett
Saundra Barrett

Lucille Clifton
Dianne M. Connell
Frank & Margaret Lee Conroy
Minta D. Davis
In honor of Ellen Conroy Kennedy
Paula & Franco Enaud
In honor of Padrac and Ellen Kennedy
Sandra B. Goolsby
Marylin Riggs
In honor of Padrac and Ellen Kennedy
Kris Jacob
Jackie Shorten
Helen Carter
E. Ethelbert Miller
Mary Toth
Eisen & Ralph Paradiso
Lawrence Poemery
In memory of Nora Kennedy Pomery
Jim & Patty Rouse
Charitable Foundation
Tim & Beth Singleton
Allan Stark
Marvin & Marcia Thomas
Emerson & Celionta Walden

SUSTAINER
$100-$249
Anne & George Barker
Frederick & Catherine Chicone
Edward & Joan Cochran
Mary Donovan
Philip & Barbara Gallagher

Douglas Heinrichs & Diane Kilgallen
Susan Thornton Hobby
Michael & Carolyn Kelenem
Linda & Katherine Herbert
Janice Kiner
Donna Lyle
Richard & Mary Louise McCally
Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes
Helen & Joe Mitchell
Russell & Philippini
In memory of Joan Philippini
Mary Pike
Margaret Nicholas

GIFTS IN HONOR OF ELLEN CONROY KENNEDY
Judith Adams
Steve Alpren
Virginia Bates
Kathleen O. Bowen
Ann Bracken
PatricK & Judith Clancy
Eileen Clegg
Mary Anne Cole
Dianne M. Connely
Joan Corbin
Helen Rosalind Cowie
Joetta Cramm
Dauculis Books
Ginny D’Aitolo
Bona A. Daniel
William Dove

Joan Greenberg & Barbara Lawson
In memory of Frederick Clifton
Thomas & Mary Louise Virgie Mason
Sylvia Padow
Russell (Joan) Philippini
Michael & Louise Rimer
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Rodbell
Nora Scanlan
Lawrence & Patricia Taubman
Margot Treeth
In memory of Raphael Treeth
Bayard Waterbury
Terence Winch

PARTICIPANT
Up to $99
Ann Augustine
In honor of Robert M. Vaeth
Ann Barney
In memory of Jessalyn G. Barney
Cradelia Birdsong
Mr. & Mrs. John Block
Susan & Jeremy Clayton
Eileen Clegg
Daphne O. Connelly
Richard Dowling
Naomi Hayman
Joanne Knownes
Jack Knox
Kathleen B. Larson

Joan Nemeth
Susan Thornton Hobby
Anne V. Barker
Mary Pat Kamerman
Nicki Eger
Will Hill
Emily Hobby
Pinhan Huang
Kathy Hurwitz
Irving Jimenez
Henry Johnson
Ilean Johnson
Renee Kalu
Sushanti Khosla
Chris Kline
Katherine Kong
Zaida Lebron
Rebecca Legler
Carlos Lopez
Anastasia Mantzari
Kathy Marshall
Traves Matthews
Ryna May
Sharon McKinley
Stephanie Lemanghri May
Daniel Nairn
Julia Payne
Linda Poschel
Yuli/Lenda Cheeks Simpson
Laura Showan
Nicole Sloan
Shana Smedmore
Fred Tancordo
Kathy Torres
Nicasia Trouper
Barb Van Winkle
Naila Tillman
Atheia Zischang

Dr. Catherine Gira
Mary T. Gould
John Harding
Dr. Tara Hart
Ken Jennings
Hazel Swann Jones
Mary M. Kamerman
Chaya Kaplan
Kathleen Larson
Pearl D. Laufic
Barbara Lawson
Alexander Leak
Adelle K. Levine
Anne R. Markham
Virgie A. S. Markham
Russell & Mary Louise McCally
Jean M. Michael
Barbara Merke
Helen Russin Mitchell
Gail Moore
Lanny Morrison & Lynne Nemeth
Eisen & Ralph Paradiso
Lawrence Poemery
In memory of Nora Kennedy Pomery
Tim & Beth Singleton
Hannie Snow
Hilary Tham
Marvin & Martha Thomas
Verity Wen-Turney
Melissa A. Wilkins

443.518.4568 • www.facebook.com/HoCoPoLitSo • www.twitter.com/HoCoPoLitSo
JOIN US ON ZOOM
Friday, February 19, 2021

43rd Annual
Irish Evening

The Writing Life
Produced at Dragon Digital TV on the campus of Howard Community College, The Writing Life, HoCoPoLitSo’s writer to-writer talk show, streams on YouTube.com/HoCoPoLitSo.

Four new editions were produced this year: Jason Reynolds hosted by Laura Shovan (October 2018); Ordinary Wonder with Michael Collier, Elizabeth Spires and David Yezzi (October 2018); Vona Groarke hosted by Cóilín Parsons (March 2019); Beth Ann Fennelly hosted by Teri Ellen Cross Davis (April 2019).

Marilyn Chin, who was interviewed for the series in April 2018, posted the edition on the Poets & Writers website, www.pw.org/content/marilyn_chin_1

Upcoming Events

• Wilde Readings
  Second Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. on Facebook Live

• Friday, February 19, 2021 via Zoom
  The 43rd Irish Evening will host novelist Joseph O’Neill, with dancers from the Teelin School of Irish Dance, and a concert of Irish music orchestrated by Jared Denhard. Tickets available Dec. 1

• Thursday, April 29, 2021
  The Blackbird Poetry Festival will feature USSR-born poet, critic, translator Ilya Kaminsky

Poetry Moments
In an effort to address, extend, and deepen the conversation around Black Lives Matter and to support the crucial need for understanding the concerns of our diverse community, HoCoPoLitSo created Poetry Moments. Poems from some of the nation’s most well-known Black poets, including Rita Dove, E. Ethelbert Miller, Tara Betts, and Terrance Hayes, offer perspective, insight, and reflection.

Poetry Moments, which began on Juneteenth, are posted weekly on Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. hocopolitso.org/category/poetry-moment/