

Required Readings

The best things you'll read this semester probably aren't on your syllabus. And the authors are here in town to prove it.

Marita Golden. *Don't Play in the Sun: One Woman's Journey Through the Color Complex.* Author, professor and poet Marita Golden internalizes the "black is beautiful" message of the '60s. Her book is part memoir, part social history. To learn more about what Golden's doing for writers in the black community, visit the Hurston/Wright Foundation's website at www.hurston-wright.org. >> *Thurs., Feb. 17, 7pm. Free. Free Library, 1901 Vine St. 215.686.5322. www.library.phila.gov*

Rosalyn Story. *More Than You Know.*

Rosalyn Story is a violinist with the Fort Worth Symphony and the author of *And So I Sing*, a nonfiction work about black opera singers. *More Than You Know* is her first novel, a love story about how long-buried family secrets devastate the marriage between a brilliant saxophonist and a singer. >> *Mon., Feb. 21, 7pm. Free. Robin's Bookstore, 108 S. 13th St. 215.735.9600. www.robinsbookstore.com*

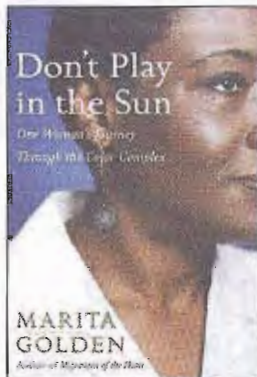
Oni Lasana and Pat McLean

Hosted by Louise Bierig, the Women's Writing and Spoken-Word Series is a nurturing environment that celebrates women in the craft of multigenre writing. Philadelphia native Oni Lasana is in the studio working on *Oni Lasana Sister Wings! Spoken Wordsongs, Bass n' Beats* at the Artist Loft. When not traveling for performances, she often drops in on the spoken-word scene in Philly. McLean is the author of two self-published books of poetry, *A Sister Speaks Of ...* and *Ain't Gonna Bite My Tongue No More*. She's currently working on her first collection of short stories. >> *Mon., March 7, 7pm. Free. Robin's Bookstore, 108 S. 13th St. 215.735.9600. www.robinsbookstore.com*

Ari Fleischer. *Taking Heat: The President, the Press, and My Years in the White House.*

Former Bush administration press secretary Ari Fleischer gives a behind-the-scenes look, recalling his experiences in the West Wing and encounters with the White House press corps. He speaks on topics from the 2000 election and the aftermath of 9/11 to his decision to leave the White House. >> *Mon., March 7, 8pm. \$6-\$12. Free Library, 1901 Vine St. 215.686.5322. www.library.phila.gov*

Tim O'Brien. *The Things They Carried.* This is the closing event of the One Book,



One Philadelphia project sponsored by the Free Library. O'Brien contributes to a literary discussion by presenting his acclaimed Vietnam War-inspired book *The Things They Carried*, now standard reading material in many English and history classes. >> *Tues., March 15, 7pm. Free. Free Library, 1901 Vine St. 215.686.5322. www.library.phila.gov*

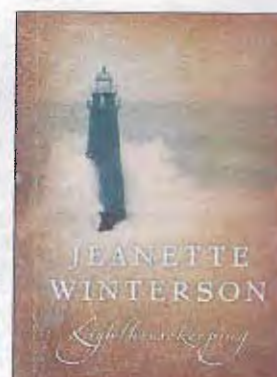
Hal Sirowitz. *Mother Said, My Therapist Said.* The book of poems *Mother Said, My Therapist Said* has been adapted for the stage in Norway, made into a cartoon, and will be released on CD with music composed by Alla Borzova and sung by Paul Sperry. John Flansburgh of They Might Be Giants has recorded Sirowitz for Hello Records, and TMBG spoke about him during their Mother's

Day interview on NPR's *Studio 360*. Sirowitz has performed on MTV's *Spoken Word Unplugged* and is the former Poet Laureate of Queens, N.Y. >> *Thurs., March 24, 6pm. Free. Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk. 215.573.WRIT. www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh*

Camille Paglia. *Break, Blow, Burn: Camille Paglia Reads Forty-Three of the World's Best Poems.* Camille Paglia's study on world poetry has been five years in the making. Known for her controversial views on politics, religion and sexuality in American culture, the University of the Arts professor is a self-proclaimed atheist and libertarian. The title *Break, Blow, Burn* comes from a line of poetry by 17th-century poet John Donne, who penned the phrase. "No man is an island." >> *Tues., April 5, 7pm. Free. Free Library,*

world's highest-paid woman in print journalism. She's written gossip columns for the New York *Daily News*, *Newsday* and the *New York Post*. Her latest book uses food to bait her readers into buying the celebrity gossip she's dished out throughout her career. This memoir/cook-book has her watching Nicole Kidman devour a basket of fried chicken at the Four Seasons, and being tempted by fattening cookies sent by Renée Zellweger. >> *Thurs., April 7, 8pm. \$6-\$12. Free Library, 1901 Vine St. 215.686.5322. www.library.phila.gov*

Jeanette Winterson. *Lighthousekeeping.* British author Jeanette Winterson's writing is as unique as her thumbprint, and just as personal. Her early work *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* recounts her experience growing up gay in an



1901 Vine St. 215.686.5322. www.library.phila.gov

Caroline Bergvall. *Goan Atom.*

The England-based Caroline Bergvall has authored such books as *Eclat*, *Jets-Poupée* and *Goan Atom*. Hearing her perform is similar to listening to someone flip the dial across a band of radio stations. She performed her hybrid-genre work at Temple's Poets and Writers Series last fall, and is scheduled to be a guest lecturer for Temple University's English department this spring. >> *Wed., April 6, 3pm. Free. Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk. 215.573.WRIT. www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh*

Liz Smith. *Dishing: Great Dish—and Dishes—From America's Most Beloved Gossip Columnist.* This "Grand Dame of Dish" is considered the

adoptive home of working-class evangelists. *Lighthousekeeping* introduces a girl named Silver who, through storytelling, gives meaning to her own life experience. >> *Thurs., April 14, 7pm. Free. Free Library, 1901 Vine St. 215.686.5322. www.library.phila.gov*

The Moonstone Poetry Series

This edition of the ongoing series is hosted by Justin Vitiello, with an open reading by Jena Osman. Osman teaches in the graduate writing program at Temple University and co-edits *Chain Magazine* with Juliana Spahr. Osman is a key participant and organizer of Temple's Poets and Writers Series. >> *Tues., April 26, 7pm. Free. Robin's Bookstore, 108 S. 13th St. 215.735.9600. www.robinsbookstore.com*

—Julie Vitto