



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

The Speaker Series

presented by

The English Department

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrating National Poetry Month 2016

Monday, April 11, 2016, 5:30-7:00 pm
Room 316, Marillac Hall, Queens Campus

“Women's Writing: Never Done”

Maria Lisella, Queens Poet Laureate,
will talk about writing as a poet, journalist, essayist, and curator

Native New Yorker, and Queens born and bred, **Maria Lisella** is the sixth winner in the competition for Queens Poet Laureate, 2015-2018, and the first Italian American. She is the author of the collection, *Thieves in the Family* (NYQ Books), and the two chapbooks, *Amore on Hope Street* (Finishing Line Press) and *Two Naked Feet* (Poets Wear Prada). Her work has appeared in *The New York Quarterly*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Feile Festa*, *Voices in Italian Americana*, *First Literary Review-East*, and *New Verse News*, and will appear in the forthcoming anthology, *The Traveler's Vade Mecum*, published by Red Hen Press. She is a charter member of Brevitas, an online poetry circle that stages the Festival of the Short Poem, annually, at the Bowery Poetry Club, and publishes a selection. She is on the Board of the Italian American Writers Association and co-curates its readings, the longest running literary series in Greenwich Village. Additionally, she is the Vice President of the educational organization, the Vito Marcantonio Forum. As an award-winning travel writer and editor, she has visited 60 countries and is currently a New York Expert for *USA Today*, and heads the social media committee for the New York Travel Writers Association.

“*Thieves in the Family* reads like a scrapbook of memories from working-class Queens and a collection of postcards from the Global Village. Maria Lisella, “a Mediterranean hybrid with the suspicious heart of a peasant on both sides of the Atlantic,” is attuned to our world. Like a satellite dish, she picks up not only local broadcasts from her Italian American neighborhood but also distant signals from places that are transforming both Astoria and Italy: Cuba, Ecuador, India, Mozambique, and Poland. A citizen of Babel, Lisella teaches us to speak in tongues and to survive in a world that is simultaneously falling apart and coming together. If you have been caught in the crossfire between tradition and desire, have fudged a job application or a citizenship exam, have begged, borrowed, or stolen to nurse a sick parent or feed a hungry child, read this book. *Thieves in the Family* will steal your heart and rifle your brain.”

--Anthony Di Renzo, author of *Bitter Greens* and *Trinàcria: A Tale of Bourbon Sicily*

Thieves in the Family can be purchased at the event for \$18.00, for Lisella to sign; cash only.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1559197557706291>