

NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

319 West 107th Street, New York City

Meet tonight's Writers at the Roerich
Friday, October 17, 2025

AIDA ZILELIAN is a first-generation American-Armenian writer, storyteller and educator. She is the author of novels *The Legacy of Lost Things* and *All The Ways We Lied*. Aida has told stories across the country, most recently televised on PBS' *Stories from the Stage*. She is currently a storyteller in residence with Keepsake House. This year, Aida is co-producing and co-hosting the first Armenian storytelling show in NYC, *The Armenian Power Hour*. She was a speaker coach for two TEDx speakers this past May. Her debut poetry chapbook *Dissonance* won the Swan Scythe contest and was released in June. <https://www.aidazilelian.com>

Recently featured on *The Poet and the Poem* at the Library of Congress, **MARIA LISELLA's** collections include: *Thieves in the Family* (NYQ Books), *Amore on Hope Street* (Finishing Line Press) and *Two Naked Feet* (Poets Wear Prada). New work appears in the anthologies: *Stronger Than Fear: Poems of Empowerment, Compassion, and Social Justice; Without a Doubt*, and *NYC through the Eyes of the Poets Who Live Here*. The sixth Queens Poet Laureate, she is an Academy of American Poets Fellow; poetry editor for VIA—*Voices in Italian Americana*; a correspondent for *La Voce di NY* and *Never Stop Traveling*. A resident of Queens, New York, Maria Lisella co-curates the Italian American Writers Association readings. <https://marialisella.contently.com/>

Author, concert pianist, visual artist and composer **ELENI TRAGANAS'** award-winning activities have been listed in *Who's Who in America*®, *Who's Who in the World*®, and other biographical publications. Author of the debut novel *Twelfth House*, and *Shaded Pergola*, a collection of short poetry and haiku with original illustrations, her work has been published in 100+ literary magazines. She has performed in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, and many of the major music capitals of Europe, where she also appeared under the aegis of the U.S. State Department. She is a prize-winner of the Palma D'Oro International Competition in Italy, a guest soloist at several international music festivals and featured soloist with The Israel Symphony, the Athens State Orchestra, the Municipal Concerts Orchestra, the American Symphony Orchestra, and other ensembles. She has recorded for EMI records, West German Broadcasting Co., WQXR, SiriusXM, among others. She has held over 40 nationally-curated exhibitions of her artwork, is the founder/director of the literary forum *Woodside Writers* and Editor-in-Chief of *The Woodside Review*. <https://elenitraganas.com>