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For immediate release

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Maryland Public Television hosts series of community events throughout the spring as part of NEA Big Read initiative

Events celebrate Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude by author Ross Gay

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television (MPT) has launched its National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program exploring Ross Gay’s *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* with a series of events and observances taking place through June 1.

In *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, Ross Gay demonstrates the practice of gratitude while never losing sight of the loss that animates it. Through 24 lyric poems, the book offers a luminous exploration of death, life, and their many tides. MPT’s NEA Big Read activities celebrate the book by focusing on and building upon its primary motif of gratitude.



MPT’s activities began with a [virtual kick-off event](#) on March 27. On April 15, the statewide public TV network hosted yoga and meditation at [Manor Mill](#) in Monkton, Md. Other observances include:

- **Poetry Writing Contest:** Through May 12, writers aged 16 and older are invited to submit an original poem aligned with the project’s theme of gratitude. The top three submissions will receive prizes totaling \$1,000. More details are available at <https://bit.ly/3Le7L1X>.
- **Ten Days of Gratitude Challenge:** Through May 31, individuals of all ages can participate in 10-day challenge highlighting aspects of their lives for which they are grateful. A printable tracker and additional information about the challenge can be found at <https://bit.ly/3LATii8>.
- **Community Book Discussions:** Local libraries and community organizations are invited to host book discussions surrounding *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*. Participating organizations receive “discussion in a box” kits containing copies of the book, discussion guides, promotional materials, and other resources. Groups can register at <https://bit.ly/3n6SiJ7>.
- **Open Mic Night at the Mill:** MPT will host an open mic night at Manor Mill on Thursday, June 1, where attendees will listen to readings from the Poetry Writing Contest as well as have an opportunity to read other works on stage. The event is free, but registration is required. More information about the event is available at <https://bit.ly/420Az4P>.

Complimentary copies of the book can be requested at <https://bit.ly/420KMy8>. For more details about MPT's Big Read activities, visit mpt.org/NEABigRead.

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the power of a shared reading experience. MPT is one of 62 community organizations nationwide participating in the 2022-2023 NEA Big Read.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.