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Renowned Poet to Read at College

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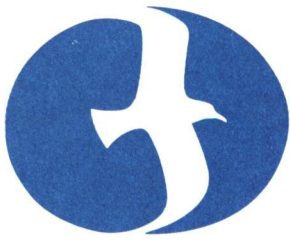


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SRC *Newsbulletin*

Salve Regina - The Newport College

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Office of Public Information

FOR RELEASE APRIL 20, 1978

RENOWNED POET TO READ AT COLLEGE

The Newport College - Salve Regina's Ochre Court will be the setting for a poetry reading to be given by Ruth Whitman on Thursday, April 27 at 8 p.m.

The reading promises to be a major literary event. A dynamic and gifted poet, Whitman has won sixteen awards for her writing, including the Guinness International Poetry Award. Her public readings have drawn large and appreciative audiences.

Whitman is an instructor in poetry at Radcliffe, where she graduated in 1944, and did graduate work in the Greek Classics. She was director of poetry in the schools for the Massachusetts Council on the Arts for three years, visiting lecturer at Trinity College, Hartford, and lecturer at the University of Denver.

Poetry is a way of life to Ruth Whitman. She has been writing since the age of nine, reading, imitating, and studying virtually every English poet since the 1600's. "I certainly learned from them," she commented. "You sharpen your ears. You get very strong. It is like working at the barre if you are a ballet dancer. You have something to draw on besides your raw instinct."

-MORE-

A Coeducational College of Arts and Sciences

Ruth Whitman (continued)
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Ruth Whitman was born in New York, however, she has spent her entire adult life in New England, living and working in Newport, Middletown, and Boston.

She published her first book of poetry in 1963, Blood and Milk Poems (October House). After her first book she spent time making translations into English from French, Modern Greek and Yiddish from various publications of poetry. Other of Miss Whitman's publications include The Marriage Wig and Other Poems (Harcourt, Brace, 1968) The Passion of Lizzie Borden: New and Selected Poems (October House, 1973). Miss Whitman's most recent publication is Tamsen Donner: A Woman's Journey. The book is the re-creation in poetry and prose of the journal which the historic Tamsen Donner, a woman from Newburyport, Mass., kept on the rigorous journey she made as a pioneer woman along the Oregon Trail from Illinois to California in 1846.

"I work very hard to perfect what I am writing," she comments. "Sometimes I can spend days thinking about a word." Whitman also strives to be understood; "I have things about life to say to people, not necessarily to poets," she remarks.

The reading is sponsored by The Newport College's Fine Arts Committee. Admission is \$1.00 for the general public.