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Media Release • For immediate release

Date: January 24, 2017

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Howard County Library System
**Annual Fundraising Gala to Celebrate
Cultures of the World and Community Diversity**

ELLCOTT CITY, MD - Howard County Library System (HCLS) will celebrate cultures of the world and the diversity of the community at **Evening in the Stacks: An International Affair** on **Saturday, February 25 from 7 to 11 pm**. The annual fundraising event will be held at the Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center located at 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City, Maryland.

This year's glamorous night of colorful entertainment and enlightening insights will feature an intriguing conversation with author **Nadia Hashimi**. Ms. Hashimi will discuss her international bestselling work, *The Pearl That Broke Its Shell* along with her other novels set in Afghanistan, including her newest book *A House Without Windows*.

HCLS ambassadors of the world will welcome guests to the red carpet. A lively lion dance performance will get the party started as it winds its way through the branch's global village. Guests will enjoy dancing to live music by The Junkyard Saints, entertaining cultural performances and strolling personalities throughout the evening.

A delicious array of internationally themed food and drink will be focal points within the global village. Guests can grab a pint at a British pub, sample baba ganoush at a middle eastern bazaar, savor the tastes of a South American pampas grill, and enjoy a variety of stir fries at the Royal Tai table. French pastries and an ice cream sundae bar complete the menu.

Guests are encouraged to represent their own culture with authentic, traditional dress. Cocktail attire with an international flair is also welcome. Black tie optional.

For tickets and additional details visit **hclibrary.org/stacks**.

All proceeds from Evening in the Stacks benefit the Library's educational initiatives.

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