

Joanna Fuhrman

Household Tips for a New Era

Protect the Constitution using a musical instrument carved from an abandoned sofa.

Bake a cake shaped like the world you want to become.

Instead of a stripper, put your loud-mouthed uncle and his cable TV inside.

Frost the cake with Coca-Cola buttercream, so he has no desire to leave.

Imagine your lungs belong to a 10-foot dolphin.

Remember to breathe for more than one person.

Test the air for the spit molecules of self-proclaimed patriots.

With the right je ne sais quoi, a non-stick muffin tin can double as a rape defense mechanism.

Wear the right shade of half-price eye shadow to see clearly under martial law.

Write down what you see, laminate and label.

Invent a new language out of the sounds the vacuum cleaner makes when it's unplugged.

Hand wash your ideals.

Believe in fragments, cloud language, glass doorknobs
and quartertones.

Sweep away stereotypes, candy wrappers, canned sitcom
laughter and empty Viagra bottles.

Knit a blanket large enough to cover the history of
denial.

Hide your magnified solidarity under lavender potpourri.

Sing to the baby in your sling.

Translate the pedagogy of her cries.

Joanna Fuhrman is the author of 5 books of poetry, most recently *The Year of Yellow Butterflies* (Hanging Loose Press 2015) and *Pageant* (Alice James Books 2009). New poems appear in current or forthcoming issues of *ACM*, *Boog City*, *Conduit*, *Fence*, *Hanging Loose*, *Posit*, *Requited Journal* and *The Saint Ann's Review*. She teaches creative writing at Rutgers and in private workshops.