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E-Newsletter | February 2011

Mark Your Calendars: Mosaic Film Screening

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011: Celebrate the 100th anniversary of **International Women's Day** and **Women's History Month** by joining Her Story Media for a screening a film version of the play "**Mosaic: Voices of Women's Suffrage**" on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 from 6pm - 8pm at the Hotel Boulderado in Boulder, CO. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$5 (students are free).

[RSVP MOSAIC Film on March 8th](#)



The cast of "Mosaic: Voices of Women's Suffrage"

Her Story Celebrates Black History Month Women Poets and Writers

Women poets and writers have added immeasurably both to our lives and to American culture. Their words have brightened our days, made us think about our lives, and brought critical issues to our attention. February is Black History Month; this month we feature Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, and



Gwendolyn Brooks

Gwendolyn Brooks' first poem was published when she was thirteen years old. By age 17, she was submitting her poetry to the *Chicago Defender*, an African-American newspaper. She said "I am interested in telling my particular truth as I have seen it." Her truth was what she had seen on the south side of Chicago. Her 1945 poetry volume *A Street in Bronzeville* received critical acclaim and led her to a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1949, her collection of verses, *Annie Allen*, was published. This volume contained a series of poems that traces an African-American girl through to womanhood; it was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Gwendolyn Brooks was the first black poet to win this prize. She has been called a poet who has discovered the neglected miracles of everyday existence. In 1988, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Maya Angelou has inspired generations of women, African-Americans and all people as a role model who defied social norms and overcame prejudice, discrimination and abuse. After being raped by her mother's boyfriend, she withdrew from society and was mute for five years. With her grandmother's encouragement, she gradually emerged as a very talented artist. She worked as an actor before turning to writing. In 1970, her first autobiographical work, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, became a best seller and was nominated for a National Book Award. In 1972, she became the first African-American woman to have a feature film developed from her work, the screenplay and musical score *Georgia Georgia*. Her writings have brought her numerous awards and have been nominated for a Tony Award, an Emmy Award, and a Pulitzer Prize. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1998. Angelou says: "How important it is for us to recognize our heroes and she-
roes!"



Maya Angelou



Alice Walker

Andrea Roth

The first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for a novel is writer **Alice Walker**. In the 1960s, she worked in Georgia to register voters, worked with Head Start in Mississippi, and took a job with the Welfare Department in New York City. Her first book of poetry was published in 1968. *The Color Purple*, published in 1982, is a novel freely based on the life experiences of her great-grandmother. It won a Pulitzer Prize and was made into a movie directed by Steven Spielberg. Its cast included Oprah Winfrey. Walker is also widely known as having recovered and championed the work of another talented African-American

author: Zora Neale Hurston. Walker has received the American Book Award and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Look up these women and read from their published works. They will inspire you and lift your spirits!

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

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