



Week of March 4, 2024

Volume 1



# POWER IN THE PEN WRITING WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

**Welcome New Members:  
Huda, Zainab, Larelle, Allissen,**

## Upcoming Events

PITP Podcast Listening Party – TBA  
Next Podcast readers are Chante`, Gail and Niecy  
We are attending the National Black Writer’s  
Conference on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**17th Annual NBWC-TALKSHOPS Tickets, Sat, Mar  
23, 2024 at 11:00 AM |**

**We will all attend the Round Tables**

**Talk shops Topics:**

**Publishing** - Ansel, Cathie, Beverly, Barbara,

**Memoir** - Niecy, Donna, Betty, Diane, Huda

**Book Proposals** - Carolyn, Gail,

**Fiction:** Beverly, Zainab, George,

**Poetry** - Hyacinth, Chante

This is Women’s History Month – write a free write or poem  
to honor a woman most people don’t know about & share



March Birthday

Shout Outs

Happy Birthday to

Margo McKenzie

Zena Conyers

Vanetta Ferguson

Shanell Johnson

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THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES  
DUE JANUARY 2024. PLEASE PAY  
USING THE PAYPAL QR CODE BEW.



## WOMEN IN HISTORY



**Gladys Mae West** (née Brown; born October 27, 1930) is an American mathematician. She is known for her contributions to mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of satellite geodesy models, that were later incorporated into the Global Positioning System (GPS). [gps history - Google Search](#)

**Georgia West was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame** during a ceremony in her honour at the Pentagon, December 6,

2018.

Like NASA mathematicians [Katherine Johnson](#), [Dorothy Vaughan](#), and [Mary Jackson](#), West is often called one of history's "hidden figures": individuals, often Black women, whose insightful contributions to science went unrecognized in their time because of their race or gender. In 2018 West was formally recognized for her contribution to the development of GPS by the Virginia General Assembly. [Gladys West | Biography, Accomplishments, & GPS | Britannica](#)

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*“Corbett is an expert on the front lines of the global race for a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, and someone who will go down in history as one of the key players in developing the science that could end the pandemic”., Dr. Anthony Fauci*

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### INSIDE STORY



## WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND FILM

As noted at the State of the Union Address by President Joe Biden, on March 7, 2024, the corona virus killed approximately 100 million Americans. It was the most devastating event experienced globally for most of the world. We are very proud of Kizzmekia Corbett, an African American Scientist leading the response in producing a vaccine to save lives. Dr. Corbett participated in Project SEED, a program founded by math teacher and psychologist William Johntz in 1963 to improve the educational outcomes of low-income and minority students, she studied chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel and continued her educational pursuits at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. [The Washington Post](#).

Corbett spent her summers at laboratories and earned a summer internship at the NIH, the very place where she would be instrumental in developing a vaccine for the [cor Kizzmekia Corbett, an African American Woman, is Praised as Key Scientist Behind COVID-19 Vaccine | National Urban League \(nul.org\)](#)

**Toussaint Welcome (1885 -1956)**, was an African American woman born in Lenox, Massachusetts, moved with her family to New York in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After marrying the inventor and entrepreneur Ernest Toussaint Welcome, The Toussaint Conservatory of Art and Music in Harlem came into being, an art school and photographic studio which ran for over 40 years. The Conservatory's first advertisement appeared in the first issue of the [National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People's](#) (NAACP) journal, The Crisis, in 1909. This was a full-page advertisement placed by Jennie for her art school and photographic studio referring to herself as, "The Foremost Fe-



*FRANCIS THOMPSON LIVED AS A WOMAN FOR TWENTY YEARS IN MEMPHIS, TN*

## PROFOUND PRONOUN

Francis Thompson was born a slave in Alabama in the 1800s. Francis Thompson was a transgender woman who wore dresses and shaved her face. She and another woman were brutally raped. They “boldly testified at a committee hearing held by the US Congress, and she stated that she and her roommate did not consent. Her testimony became infamous throughout the South and led to 10 years of persecution for her gender identity, harassment and accusations, including claims that she ran a brothel. Thompson was jailed in 1876 for “cross-dressing” and died later that year” [These 5 Black women made history — and here’s why you should know their stories | \(ted.com\)](#)

## WOMEN’S HISTORY AND WOMEN IN POLITICS

Politician, lawyer, and professor Barbara Jordan was an outspoken advocate for social equity. As a young Texan lawyer, Jordan volunteered for the Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and his running mate, Texan Lydon B. Johnson. Volunteering inspired Jordan to enter politics. After two unsuccessful campaigns, Jordan won a seat in the Texas Senate in 1966. She became one of two African Americans elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1972. In 1976, she became the first African American woman to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention. Jordan retired from politics and became a professor, teaching even after she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and began using a wheelchair. She lived with her companion Nancy Earl for over 20 years. [Twelve Black Women to Know | Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum \(si.edu\)](#)



## WOMEN MAKING THEIR MARK IN HISTORY

Running For My Life Film Screening and Talkback @Brownsville Heritage House

**Join us at the Brownsville Heritage House on April 20, 2024, at 3:00 PM for an exhilarating film screening and engaging talkback session!**

We watched, “Origin,” last month. If you haven’t seen it yet, please watch it as we will discuss it on the 30<sup>th</sup> as well

Ava DuVernay, American filmmaker and screenwriter



Chante Graham