



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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*Rise.  
Let us combine.  
There are no  
magics or elves  
Or timely godmothers  
to guide us.  
We are lost, must  
Wizard a track through  
our own screaming weed.  
Closing lines from Annie Allen  
~ Gwendolyn Brooks*



**#GLOBALGWEN CELEBRATES GWENDOLYN BROOKS’S HISTORIC PULITZER PRIZE**

*May 1st the cultural community comes together for a unique 70th anniversary event  
with special recognition from **Governor J. B. Pritzker** (Illinois) and **Mayor Lori Lightfoot** (Chicago)*

Even in the middle of our current “screaming weed” there are always reasons to celebrate. On May 1, 1950 former Illinois Poet Laureate **Gwendolyn Brooks** was the first Black person to *ever* win the **Pulitzer Prize** in any category for her book, Annie Allen. **Brooks Permissions** is happy to convene **#GlobalGwen**, honoring the legacy of this literary pioneer with an online celebration by organizations and individuals reading and responding to her work on **Friday, May 1st**.

Born in Topeka, Kansas, June 7, 1917, Gwendolyn Brooks was raised in Chicago. She received more than 50 honorary degrees and many other honors, including Poet Laureate of Illinois (30+ years) and Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, along with her Pulitzer Prize. Ms. Brooks, herself, created and sponsored countless awards to young and old. Her commitment to literature and community is lovingly returned by the organizations and individuals supporting **#GlobalGwen**.

The community has turned out in force for this epic event. We are proud to include AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM, FURIOUS FLOWER (James Madison University), ILLINOIS HUMANITIES, LIBRARY of AMERICA, THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY, POETRY FOUNDATION, THIRD WORLD PRESS FOUNDATION, SCHOMBURG CENTER for RESEARCH in BLACK CULTURE and the home of the Gwendolyn Brooks archives, the RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY (University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana). **#GlobalGwen** represents a range of artistic genres and ages with groups like BRONZEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BURST INTO BOOKS, CHICAGO LITERACY ALLIANCE, CHICAGO LITERARY HALL of FAME, CHICAGO WRITERS ASSOCIATION,, DARIUS COLQUITT & COMPANY, DIASPORAL RHYTHMS, GROUND ORCHID, GUILD LITERARY COMPLEX, GWENDOLYN BROOKS CENTER (Chicago State University), GWENDOLYN BROOKS CULTURAL CENTER (Western Illinois University), GWENDOLYN BROOKS LIBRARY (Chicago State University), HAIKU FESTIVAL, Reva and David LOGAN CENTER for the ARTS (University of Chicago), SEMINARY CO-OP BOOKSTORES and YOUNG CHICAGO AUTHORS (Louder Than A Bomb). And we’ve got room to grow! Interested groups can reach us at [info@gwendolynbrooks.net](mailto:info@gwendolynbrooks.net), subject line **#GlobalGwen**.

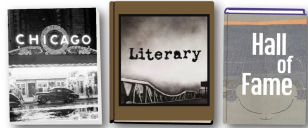


**#GlobalGwen is not just for organizations.** We invite everyone to join us online. Create a photo or video reading from any book by Gwendolyn Brooks. Post it on the social media platform(s) of your choice. Or respond to a work by Gwendolyn Brooks. Introduce it, then perform it, dance it, paint it, sing it, etc. And don’t forget to share it! **#GlobalGwen**

*“Life is for us and is shining.  
We have a right to sing.”  
from “A Little Girl’s Poem”  
~ Gwendolyn Brooks*

**RECORD!  
CONNECT!  
INSPIRE!**

# #GlobalGwen Participating Organizations



AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM  
<https://www.instagram.com/americanwritersmuseum>

BRONZEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
<http://www.Bronzevillehistoricalsociety.wordpress.com>

BURST INTO BOOKS  
[www.burstintobooks.org](http://www.burstintobooks.org)

CHICAGO LITERACY ALLIANCE  
[www.chicagoliteracyalliance.org](http://www.chicagoliteracyalliance.org)

CHICAGO LITERARY HALL of FAME  
<https://chicagoliteraryhof.org>

CHICAGO WRITERS ASSOCIATION  
[www.chicagowrites.org](http://www.chicagowrites.org)

DARIUS COLQUITT & COMPANY  
<http://www.dariuscolquitt.com/GwendolynBrooks70>

DIASPORAL RHYTHMS  
<https://youtu.be/vWkUWrXEjy0>

FURIOUS FLOWER  
<https://www.jmu.edu/furiousflower/>

GROUND ORCHID  
[GroundORchid.com](http://GroundORchid.com)

GUILD LITERARY COMPLEX  
[www.guildcomplex.org](http://www.guildcomplex.org)

GWENDOLYN BROOKS LIBRARY  
[library.csu.edu](http://library.csu.edu)

GWENDOLYN BROOKS CENTER  
[csu.edu/gwendolynbrooks/](http://csu.edu/gwendolynbrooks/)

HAIKU FESTIVAL  
[Haikufest.com](http://Haikufest.com)

ILLINOIS HUMANITIES  
[ilhumanities.org](http://ilhumanities.org)

LIBRARY of AMERICA  
[www.loa.org](http://www.loa.org)

LOGAN CENTER/UofC  
<https://arts.uchicago.edu/logan-center/program>

POETRY FOUNDATION  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/video/142394/we-real-cool>

RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY/UofI  
<https://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/>

SCHOMBURG CENTER for  
RESEARCH in BLACK CULTURE  
<https://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg>

SEMINARY CO-OP BOOKSTORES  
[www.instagram.com/57thstreetbooks](https://www.instagram.com/57thstreetbooks)

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY  
[www.newberry.org](http://www.newberry.org)

THIRD WORLD PRESS FOUNDATION  
<https://thirdworldpressfoundation.org/>

YOUNG CHICAGO AUTHORS  
LOUDER THAN A BOMB  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hfyps](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hfyps)

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
GWENDOLYN BROOKS CULTURAL CENTER  
[www.wiu.edu/student\\_services/gwendolyn\\_brooks\\_cultural\\_center/](http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/gwendolyn_brooks_cultural_center/)