

ers, Poetry, and The Yale Review.

Her marriage, on September 17, 1939, to Henry Blakely, whom she had met the previous year, produced two children, Henry, (1940), and Nora, born in 1951. A crucial step in her poetic development was taken in 1941, when she and her husband enrolled in Inez Cunningham Stark's poetry workshop, in which the students were required to read modern poets and to produce poetic exercises that were held to, and judged by, the strictest standards. Brooks began to achieve recognition in 1943, when she won an award at the Midwestern Writers' Conference; she would receive three more awards from the same organization in the next two years. In 1945, the year her first book appeared, Mademoiselle selected her as one of its "Ten Young Women of the Year." In 1946, she won a \$1000 award

from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as a Guggenheim fellowship, which was renewed the following year. Not yet thirty, she was fully launched as a serious poet.

In 1949, she published Annie Allen, a series of poems that traces the progress to womanhood of a Black girl. It was for this volume that she won the



Pulitzer Prize in 1950.

In 1967, an established and

respected poet, she attended a writer's conference at Fisk University where, she says, she rediscovered her blackness. Her subsequent poetry broke new ground for her, reflecting the change that occurred at Fisk. The Mecca, a book-length poem about a mother searching for her lost child in a Chicago housing project, shows this new direction. This volume was nominated for the National Book Award for poetry. Her other work includes children's books, an autobiography, and a collection of poetry about South Africa. Her work is collected in a single volume titled: BLACKS.

Brooks themes were based on her involvement and concern with black pride, black identity and solidarity, black humanism, and caritas, a maternal vision. And naturally coming up in her generation, she was concerned with racial discrimination; the civil rights movement of the fifties; black rebellion of the sixties; a concern with complacency in the seventies; black leadership.

In the Mecca (1968), Riot (1969), Black Position, No. 2 (1972), Capsule Course in Black Poetry Writing (1975), Black Love (1982 and Coming Home (1992) are just a few from the long list of major works that the late Brooks contributed to the literary world.

The career of Gwendolyn Brooks is virtually without parallel in American literature. She achieved extraordinary success at an early age, winning the Pulitzer Prize for poetry with her second book when she was in her early thirties.

In 1968 she was named Poet Laureate for the State of Illinois, an honor in which the whole state would recognize her talent. Also, she became poetry consultant to the Library of Congress, one of the highest honors an American author can achieve. Lastly, a Jr. High in Harvey Illinois and The Gwendolyn Brooks Center at the University of Illinois were named after her. Gwendolyn Brooks's contributions with literature and poetry make her an inspiration.

Entertainment Guide

The Luv Jonz Every Thursday Evening

The Luv Jonz is Portland's Thursday night lounge which features live hip-hop/jazz by the David Parks Panic Project, live poetry and music d.j.'ed by O.G. One. This is for adults 25 and over only. No sneakers, jeans, baseball hats or athletic wear of any kind. The lounge is located at The House of Grooves, 13 NW. 13th & Burnside in downtown.

Columbia Symphony's March Concert Friday, March 23

Huw Edwards leads the Columbia Symphony Orchestra of Portland in a performance titled "National Pride" on Friday, March 23, at 8 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW. Jefferson in Portland. Oregon Symphony clarinetist Yoshinori Nakao is the featured soloist. A pre-concert talk begins at 7:15 p.m. Call 503/234-4077 or Fastixx at 503/224-8499.

Women's History Month Book Party Saturday, March 24

Women's History Month celebration and book launch for the new edition of "The Radical Women Manifesto: Socialist Feminist Theory, Program and Organizational Structure." Festivities include a presentation on the radical roots of the fight for equal rights, a tribute to trailblazing foremothers and readings from the book. This event will be held on Saturday, March 24, 6 p.m. at Radical Women, located at 819 N. Killingsworth. Call 503/240-4462.

Chinese Take-Out Saturdays, March 24 and 31

"Chinese Take-Out" is an innovative and imaginative theatre production for adults, will be performed at the Deloris Winningstad Theatre located at 1111 SW. Broadway. The show varies with what the audience chooses to "takeout." Our host takes our order from a menu of Chinese food names, and then serves the order in the form of several vignettes. It is a brilliant conceptual piece, unique and fully developed. The pieces range from whimsical to bawdy. Call 503/248-0557.

Oscar Night America Sunday, March 25

Volunteers of America Oregon's 5th Annual Oscar Night America Gala will be held on March 25 at the Portland Art Museum, Downtown Portland. The only Portland Academy Awards gala event officially sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences - will offer Portland movie fans a chance to celebrate Oscar night in grand style, view a live broadcast of the Annual Academy Award Ceremony over a four-course dinner and bid on fantastic items like a Mercedes 380 SL and a 17' Sun Ray Ski Boat. The VIP reception starts at 3 p.m. and the live broadcasts of the Academy Awards from Hollywood begins at 5 p.m.

Whitman College Choir Sunday, March 25

The award-winning Whitworth College Choir will perform in 11 cities throughout the Pacific Northwest as part of its 2001 spring concert tour. The 68-member ensemble will perform works from such composers as Jacob Handl, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Johann von Herbeck and William Dawson, and the free concert will include a repertoire of music spanning the Baroque period to the 20th century. The event will be at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 4300 Main Street in Vancouver, WA. on Sunday, March 25, 7 p.m. Call 360/694-3363.

A Sultan's Feast Tuesday, March 27

At the Portland Art Museum is an exhibition of Ottoman Art from the Khalili Collection. As a complement, the museum is having an Empire of the Sultans: Cultural History Series that includes a food sampling called "A Sultan's Feast." Terrie Chrones, educator and Ottoman culinary expert, will discuss Ottoman cuisine and culture, followed by a sampling of Turkish mezza, or appetizers, and wine. The event will be on Tuesday, March 27 at 6 p.m. in the Stevens Room of the museum.

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