

Power of the Pen

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the emotions of her enormous losses. "When I first started writing I dedicated my writing to them [her family], because I didn't even have enough willpower to really want to live" Glass said. But after a few weeks of sharing her stories and listening to others share theirs at the workshop, she began to take some comfort in the fact that she was not alone in her struggle.

That familial structure Write Around Portland offered was something Glass was yearning for. The 57-year-old Glass then began writing more stories of family and heritage.

"I'm a believer that you can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been," she said.

Her story, "Aunt Lorene's Birthday" is one of her favorites and was published by Write Around Portland in a collection of works crafted

by fellow workshop-goers. It is the tale of her hardworking aunt who seemingly never missed an opportunity to make a friend or make someone feel welcomed in her presence.


When her aunt passed later that summer Glass took the news hard; she was born into her arms. To combat the grief, Glass began reaching out to family whom she had long known about but never knew personally. When her lost relatives heard how she had honored her aunt Lorene in her work, they were quick to send her a gift; a book complete with photos and anecdotes of family members long passed.

It's a gift Glass has taken great pride in. Her next dream is to learn how to use a computer so she can discover more about her family history; she hopes this will help her become a better writer. Until then, she has to find a new journal to write in because the pages of the old one have all been filled.



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Write Around Portland graduate Verna Glass finds healing in her own words.

CALENDAR for May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Mother Goose Day May Day Worthy Wage Day For child care providers.	☾ 2 Dr. Benjamin Spock Born in 1903	3 Space Day National Sun Day Constitution Memorial Day in Japan	4 Kentucky Derby takes place today National Weather Observers' Day
5 Leo Lionni born, 1910 Cinco de Mayo Children's Day In Japan	6 Eiffel Tower opens to the public in 1889	7 National Teacher Day 1st Stamp Collection Started Pulitzer Prize Estab- lished (1917)	8 National School Nurse Day No Socks Day	● 9 Eleanor Estes born, 1906 First Newspaper Cartoon In the USA in 1754.	10 Clean Up Your Room Day Christopher Paul Curtis born, 1953	11 Twilight Zone Day Peter Sis born, 1949 Mark Lupica (BDay)
12 Mother's Day International Nurses Day Kite Day Limerick Day	13 Tulip Day	14 1804 Lewis & Clark Expedition Multnomah County Library --6:00pm Biophilic Design, The Architecture of Life 512 N. Killingsworth Li- brary Portland, Or 97217	15 Norma Fox Mazer born, 1931 Frank L. Baum Author of The Wizard of Oz - born in 1856.	16 First US Nickel Minted In 1866, called the 'Shield Nickel'.	17 First Kentucky Derby In 1875 Gary Paulson born, 1939	☾ 18 Armed Forces Day International Museum Day Visit Your Relatives Day
19 Circus Day The Ringling Brother's Circus opened in 1884.	20 Victoria Day Celebrated in Canada Lindbergh Flight Day in 1927 Mary Pope Osborne born, 1949	21 American Red Cross Founded Founded by Clara Barton in 1881.	22 Arnold Lobel born, 1933 Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day	23 Margaret Wise Brown born, 1910 Scott O' Dell born, 1898 Penny Day	24 Mary Had A Little Lamb Published in 1830. First Morse Code Message Sent	○ 25 Martha Alexander born, 1920 National Missing Children's Day
26 Blueberry Cheesecake Day	27 Memorial Day Golden Gate Bridge Opens in 1937 Masking Tape Patented in 1930	28 Jim Thorpe Born in 1888	29 John F. Kennedy Born in 1917 Andrew Clements born, 1949	30 Ice Cream Freezer Patented In 1848 by William Young.	☾ 31 Jay Williams born, 1981 World No Tobacco Day	