



# THE BIG READ

comes to  
NEW YORK CITY



## EVENTS CALENDAR FEBRUARY - JUNE 2008



RUBY DEE



KIM BROCKINGTON



REV. MALIKA LEE WHITNEY



LUCY ANNE HURSTON

**Sat., February 16, 2008, 3pm-6pm**  
**THE BIG READ KICK-OFF**  
Schomburg Center (135th St. & Lenox Ave.)#2, 3 Trains to 135th St.

A kick-off celebration for Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston at the historic Schomburg Center. Storyteller/author **Rev. Malika Lee Whitney** will host an evening of storytelling, community participation and dramatic performances. **Actress Kim Brockington** offers a dramatic performance dedicated to Zora and **Lucy Anne Hurston**, the author of *Speak, So You Can Speak Again*, will share intimate details about Ms. Hurston's life. Share your favorite passage from *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

**Wed., February 20, 2008, 6pm**  
**FILM: ZORA IS MY NAME**  
Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza, Dweck Center/718 230-2100

Join us for a screening of "Zora Is My Name," directed by Neema Barnette and starring actors Ruby Dee and Louis Gossett, Jr. The film celebrates the stories, songs and folklore that were Zora's heritage and inspiration.

**Saturday, February 23, 2008, 3pm-6pm**  
**STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**  
Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza # 2, 3 trains to Grand Army Plaza/718.230.2100

Enjoy an afternoon of storytelling, discussion and fun! **Featured** guests: actress **Ruby Dee**; **Lucy Anne Hurston**, author of *Speak, So You Can Speak Again*; **Neema Barnette**, director of "Zora Is My Name"; **Dr. Brenda Greene**, Medgar Evers College, Center for Black Literature; and actress **Kim Brockington**. Storyteller **Tammy Hall** and the **Griot Reading Series** host storytelling and crafts workshop for kids. **Free gifts!**

**Wed., Feb. 27, 2008, 6pm-8pm**  
**BROOKLYN BIG READ KICK-OFF**  
Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St. #2, 3, 4, 5 trains to Borough Hall

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz,

**BOOK DISCUSSIONS:** In March 2008, the Brooklyn Public Library will host 18 book discussions, an online discussion and two film screenings to celebrate Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. You may download the book discussion schedule and link to the online discussion at [www.africanvoices.com](http://www.africanvoices.com).

For information visit [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org) or call: 718.230.2100. If you have a book club and would like to sponsor a book discussion call 212.865.2982.

Dr. Joyce Duncan and the African Folk Heritage Circle host an evening of storytelling to welcome to Brooklyn **Lucy Anne Hurston**, the author of *Speak, So You Can Speak Again*.

**Wed., March 5, 2008, 10:30am • Cost: \$6**  
**HERSTORY of LORRAINE HANSBERRY & ZORA NEALE HURSTON**  
Dwyer Cultural Center, 258 St. Nicholas Ave. & 123rd St./212 459-1854

Community Works celebrates two legendary writers. Performed by award-winning actress/director **Elizabeth Van Dyke**.

**Wed., March 5, 2008, 10:15am & 12:15pm**  
**GET THE WORD OUT!!**  
Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University  
**Cost: \$6/Community Works: 212 459-1854**

Harlem Renaissance to Hip Hop — the hottest young poets introduce you to the dynamic art of spoken word! From Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston to Tupac and Nas!

**Sat., March 8, 2008, Hue-Man Bookstore & Cafe, 4pm-5:30pm**  
**Eatonville to Harlem: Exploring Zora Neale Hurston's Vision of Ownership.**  
2319 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (bet. 124th & 125th Sts.)/212 665-7400

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* chronicles one of America's first Black towns and Black mayors. It is loosely based on her family's history in Eatonville, Florida. **Rev. Malika Lee Whitney** will host a discussion on race, class and property. Explore the themes in Ms. Hurston's classic novel and today's battle to preserve Harlem's cultural identity and property in the face of gentrification.

**Friday, March 28, 2008, 9am-12pm**  
**YOUNG WRITERS CELEBRATE ZORA**  
Medgar Evers College, Founder's Auditorium, 1650 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn  
Call: 718.270.4811

The National Black Writers Conference hosts an intergenerational conversation on Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* led by high school students from the college's Center for Black Literature. Featured guest: **Valerie Boyd**, the author of *Wrapped In Rainbows*, a biography on Zora Neale Hurston's life.

**Sunday, June 29, 2008, 3:30pm-6:30pm**  
**RHYMES, RHYTHMS & RITUALS**  
Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem (120th St. & 5 Ave.)/2, 3, 4, 5 trains to 125th St.  
Call: 212 865-2982

African Voices' Rhymes, Rhythms & Rituals 2008 poetry festival will honor Zora Neale Hurston's legacy as a Harlem Renaissance writer with musical and storytelling performances dedicated to her work. The event will serve as a closing ceremony for African Voices Big Read programs. Families and youth come out and have fun!



African Voices



HARPER PERENNIAL  
[www.harperperennial.com](http://www.harperperennial.com)



COMMUNITY WORKS NEW YORK CITY  
Building Community Through Art and Education

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. Additional sponsors and cultural partners include The Brooklyn Public Library, WNYC, WABC-TV, *Amsterdam News*, *Our Time Press*, HarperPerennial, Community Independence Foundation, Community Works, MoCada, Griot Reading Series, Medgar Evers College-Center for Black Literature, the Harlem Book Fair, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Harlem Arts Alliance, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Hue Man Bookstore & Cafe, African Folk Heritage Circle, I.S. 286, P.S. 165, Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center, NAACP Roy Wilkins Center, Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th C.D., Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council, New York City Dept. of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts.