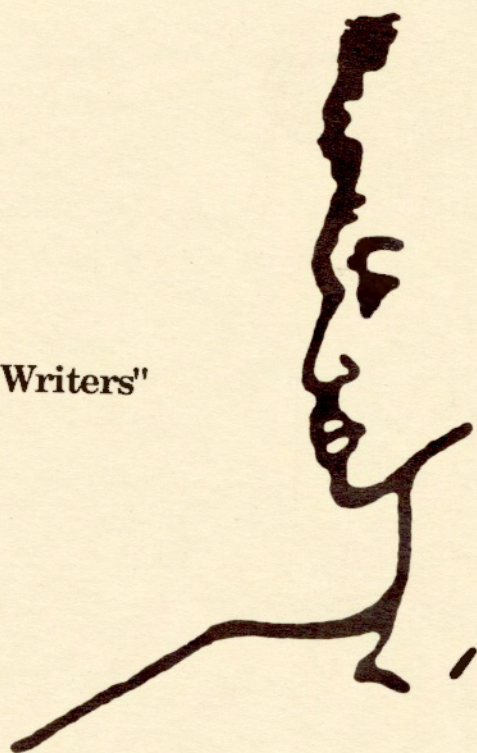


**African American Writers
Claiming Our Own Voices**

"Conversations with West Indian Writers"

Richmond Chapter
National Coalition of 100
Black Women



"Conversations with West Indian Writers"

featuring

Daryl Cumber Dance

Kamau Brathwaite

Erna Brodber

and

Velma Pollard

An evening of conversations and readings
followed by an autographing reception

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Friday, June 10, 1994

6:30 p.m.

PROFILE

The Richmond Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women is pleased to present "Conversations with West Indian Writers," the fourth program in the series, "African-American Writers: Claiming Our Own Voices." The purpose of the series is to focus the attention of the community on African-American writers and their works and to provide a public forum in which contemporary intellectuals can dialogue with the community as they explore issues of critical importance in the ongoing struggle for African-American freedom.

* * * * *

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW) is a nonprofit, voluntary organization dedicated to community service, leadership development, and the enhancement of career opportunities through network and programming.

In the winter of 1970, a small group of women met in New York City to assess the problems and opportunities facing Black women in the wake of the Civil Rights and Women's movements. Calling themselves the Coalition of 100 Black women, they initiated programs that sought to identify, augment, and project the leadership potential of African-American women and to deal with the salient issues of the day: the crisis of the Black family; career advancement, especially in the corporate sector; and political and economic empowerment.

The efforts of the small group of women were so successful that the number of members in the New York City Coalition soon surpassed the "100" in the Coalition's name, and women throughout the country sought to replicate the group's programs. By October 1981, under the administration of the then New York president, Jewell Jackson McCabe, the decision was made to make the Coalition a national organization. Within three short years, 43 chapters in 17 states and the District of Columbia had been organized. By 1994, 62 chapters in 21 states and the District of Columbia had been organized, with more than 7,000 women as members.

The Richmond Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women was chartered in September 1983. A proactive feminist organization of more than 100 women, it has established itself as a catalyst for change in the lives of African-American women and the African-American family in the greater Richmond metropolitan area.

City of Richmond



MAYOR

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

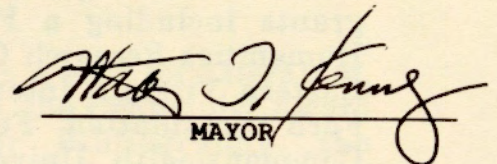
Proclamation

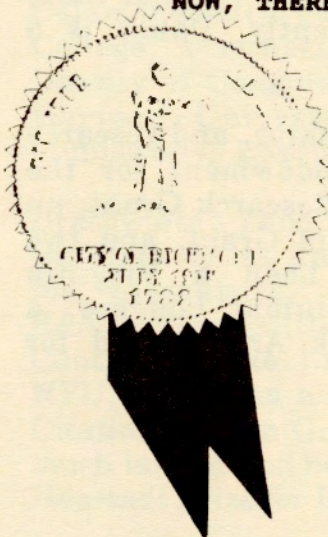
- WHEREAS:** the narrative word has been a unifying and consolidating force throughout the African-diaspora, and
- WHEREAS:** the voices of West-Indian writers contribute a significant element to the narrative of the people of the African diaspora in the Americas, and
- WHEREAS:** the Richmond Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women is a community based organization of African-American women that lists among its major purposes the centrality of intellectual exchange beyond the walls of the academy, within the community, and
- WHEREAS:** the Richmond Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women has created and successfully perpetuated its African American Writers series, "African American Writers: Claiming Our Own Voices" to focus the attention of the entire community on African American writers and writers of the African diaspora and their works, and
- WHEREAS:** Daryl Cumber Dance, Kamau Brathwaite, Erna Brodber, and Velma Pollard are scholars, writers and theorists par excellence who have come to Richmond, Virginia to share of their wisdom, experience, and insight with the Richmond community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Walter T. Kenney, Mayor, City of Richmond, do hereby proclaim the week of June 5 through June 12 as:

"WEST INDIAN WRITERS WEEK"

in the City of Richmond.


MAYOR





DARYL CUMBER DANCE

Daryl Cumber Dance is one of the pre-eminent authorities writing and lecturing on the folklore and literature of the Caribbean. Her landmark publications *New World Adams: Conversations with Contemporary West Indian Writers* (1992) and *Fifty Caribbean Writers* (1986) provide ready access to information regarding the writers of the Caribbean for both the scholar and the lay person. *Fifty Caribbean Writers* was recognized as an outstanding reference book of 1986 by *Library Journal*.

Additional publications include *Folklore from Contemporary Jamaicans* (1985), *Shuckin' and Jivin': Folklore from Contemporary Black Americans* (1978), and *Long Gone: The Mecklenburg Six and the Theme of Escape in Black Folklore* (1987). Dance is also the author of numerous articles in the fields of literary criticism, folklore, anthropology, cultural studies, and popular culture.

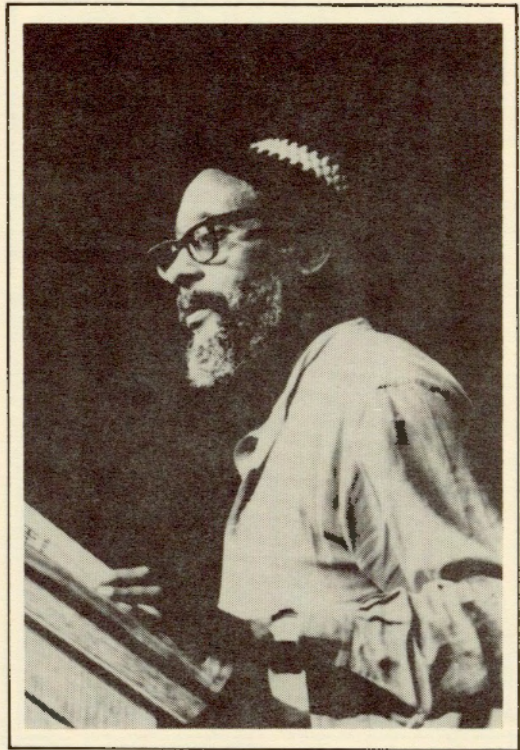
She received her A.B. and her Master's in English from Virginia State University, then Virginia State College, and received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia.

Dance has held university positions at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of California at Santa Barbara, Virginia State College, and Virginia Union University. Currently, Dance is a professor of English at the University of Richmond.

Dance is the recipient of numerous awards, fellowships, and research grants including a Fulbright, two National Endowment for the Humanities Research Grants, a Robert R. Moton Research Grant, an Eastern Virginia International Studies Consortium Grant, and two Ford Foundation Fellowships. Dance has been a Virginia Commonwealth University African-American Alumni honoree, a Danforth Associate, and has received the Black Arts Award for Excellence in the Literary Arts Award.

KAMAU BRATHWAITE

Kamau Brathwaite is one of the rare scholars whose creativity is as profound and well-developed as is his intellect. Widely recognized as one of the foremost writers of the African diaspora, Brathwaite has published work in nearly every discipline imaginable. In addition to his ten collections of poetry, Brathwaite is also a playwright, an essayist, a short story writer, a literary critic, a bibliographer, a historian, and an astute chronicler of cultural studies.

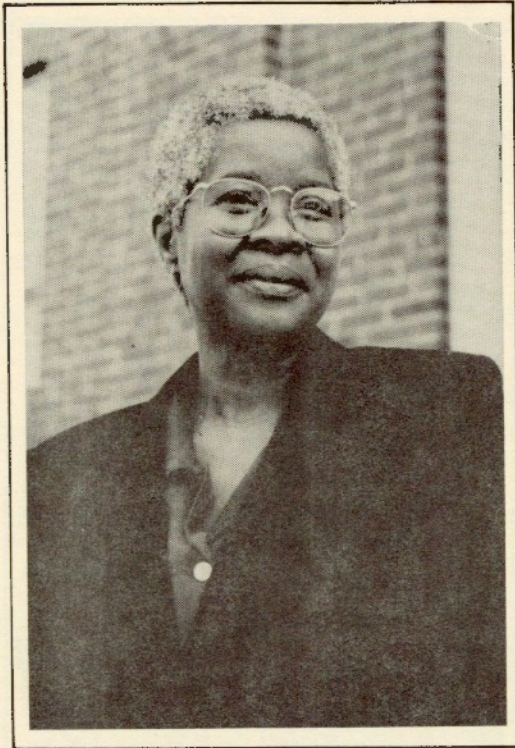


His numerous publications in these various fields include *Rights of Passage* (1967), *The Arrivants* (1973), *Other Exiles* (1975), *Sun Poem* (1982), *X/Self* (1987), *Roots* (1986) for which he was awarded the 1986 Casa de las Americas Prize for Literary Criticism, *Middle Passages* (1992), *The Zea Mexican Diary* (1993) and *Barabajan Poem* (1994).

He received his B.A. and Certificate of Education from Pembroke College, Cambridge, and his Ph.D. from the University of Sussex.

Professor Brathwaite has held teaching positions at the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica, the University of the West Indies at St. Lucia, Pembroke College, Cambridge, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, University of Nairobi, Boston University, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of Mysore, India, Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, Fulbright Research Person, Library of Congress, and at the W. E. B. DuBois Research Institute, Harvard University. Currently, Brathwaite is a professor of Comparative Literature at New York University.

Brathwaite's honors include receiving the Bussa Award for Literature, the Casa de las Americas Prize for Poetry 1976, the Centennial Award for Literature, the Musgrave Medal for Bibliography, the BA/Commonwealth Poetry Prize, the Bussa Award for Literature and Contribution to Bajan Culture, the Golden Dozen Teaching Award, NYU, status as a Companion of Honour of Barbados, and a Special Citation for the Gabriela Mistral Inter-American Culture Prize. This much lauded and honored writer was most recently awarded the \$40,000 Neustadt Prize for Literature in 1994.



ERNA MAY BRODBER

Erna May Brodber's novels and short stories are well-known throughout the Caribbean and the world. Her novels include *Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home* (1980), *Myal* (1988) and *Louisiana* (1994).

In addition to her creative writing, she is a sociologist/anthropologist who has published extensively in many prestigious journals. Her sociological/anthropological interests span the spectrum from the social history of the Caribbean to the street foods of Kingston.

Brodber has also lectured extensively and has conducted many workshops on an impressively wide range of topics. Some of her lectures/ workshops topics include, "Abandonment of Children in Jamaica," "Social Structure of Jamaica," "Abandonment and Solutions to the Jamaican Family Problems," "Youth as a Resource in Human Development," "Roots and Reggae: Ideological Tendencies in the Recent History of Afro-Jamaica," "Nature vs. Order: The Afro-Jamaican Family in the Early Twentieth Century," and "Popular Music in Jamaica in the 1970s and 1980s."

She received her B.A. from the University College of the West Indies in London, her Master's from the University of the West Indies and McGill University, and her Ph.D. from the University of the West Indies at Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.

Brodber's awards include being named the Caribbean and Canadian Regional Winner in the Commonwealth Writer's Prize and receiving a Fulbright Scholarship for African Women's Studies at Clark-Atlanta University.

Brodber has had a long and exemplary career consistently acquiring impressive appointments in sociology, anthropology, and/or literature at the University of the West Indies, the Ford Foundation Consortium, the Jamaica Children's Service Society, the School of African and Asian Studies, University of Sussex, Clark-Atlanta University, and Gettysburg College. Since 1993, Brodber has held the position of DuPont Visiting Scholar at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

VELMA POLLARD

Velma Pollard is the chair of the Department of Educational Studies at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. In addition to many critical articles, Pollard's numerous publications include two volumes of poetry: *Crown Point and Other Poems* (1988) and *Shame Trees Don't Grow Here* (1992), and a volume of short fiction: *Considering Women* (1989). Her novella *Karl* (1992) won the Casa de las Americas Literary Award in 1992. Another novel, *Homestretch*, was published earlier this year.



Pollard received her B.A. from the University College of the West Indies, a Master's from McGill University in Montreal, a Master's from Teachers' College at Columbia University, and her Ph.D. from the University of the West Indies at Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.

She has held teaching positions at many distinguished institutions including Kingston College in Jamaica, St. Georges College in Trinidad, Government Polytechnic in Trinidad, Knox College in Jamaica, Hunter College, CUNY New York, and the University of Guyana, Guyana, South America.

Professor Pollard is the recipient of several prestigious awards including a Jamaican Government Scholarship, a Fulbright Hays Senior Research Fellowship, and a creative Writing Fellowship from the University of Miami. Much of Pollard's scholarship has been devoted to landmark explorations of Caribbean women's writing and the unique semiotic particularities of the Rastafarian language. Pollard is also a recognized literary critic having published articles on the creative writing of Kamau Brathwaite and Olive Senior among others. Pollard has also edited or co-edited three anthologies of Caribbean literature.

LIST OF SELECTED WORKS IN CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Prepared by Carmen R. Gillespie

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- Collins, Merle. *Because the Dawn Breaks! Poems Dedicated to the Grenadian People*. London: Karla Press, 1985.
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Drama

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Alkebulan-Akil
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Claudia Helene Jemmott
Jackie McDonnough
One Force Books
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, October 8, 1994
2:00 p.m.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Langston Hughes Festival

**"My Soul Has Grown Deep Like the Rivers
The Life and Work of Langston Hughes"**

featuring Arnold Rampersad,
Steve Tracy, Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper
and Onwuchekwa Jemie

Join our four distinguished panelists for a journey through the twentieth century with one of America's great literary talents. This program, the first in the series, "Claiming Our Own Voices: Echoes of Africa, *Discussions By and About African-American Writers*," is a collaboration between the Richmond Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Look for details this summer.

Made possible by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Museum Collections Accessibility Initiative.

1994 African-American Writers' Series Committee

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Consultants to "Conversations with West Indian Writers"

Kevin Concannon
Dr. Norrece Jones, Jr.
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Richmond Chapter
National Coalition of 100 Black Women
Post Office Box 27844
Richmond, Virginia 23261-7844
(804) 257-0445