

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[hkennedy@chicagoshakes.com](mailto:hkennedy@chicagoshakes.com)**NAVY PIER AND CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER PARTNER FOR TEA CELEBRATING GWENDOLYN BROOKS***Brooks Permissions links literary organizations and young writers at a unique event**"The only sanity is a cup of tea"**~ Gwendolyn Brooks*

As part of the exciting year-long centennial honoring Gwendolyn Brooks, ***Brooks Permissions*** is proud to present **Tea with GB** in partnership with ***Navy Pier*** and ***Chicago Shakespeare Theater*** on Monday, May 1 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. This event pays homage to Ms. Brooks, as well as, her love of tea, her commitment to young writers and her history-making Pulitzer Prize win announced on May 1, 1950 for her book ***Annie Allen***.

Spokespeople from the following major Chicago literary organizations (*in alphabetical order*) —

- Brooks Permissions
- Poetry Foundation

- Chicago Shakespeare Theater
- Third World Press Foundation

- Guild Literary Complex
- Young Chicago Authors

will mingle with student writers and share their thoughts on Gwendolyn Brooks and ways their organizations can assist young writers now and in the future. Attending students, educators and families represent the schools below—

- Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy (*Chicago*)
- Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School (*Harvey*)
- Barbara A. Sizemore Academy (*Chicago*)

- Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School (*Oak Park*)
- Gwendolyn Brooks Elementary School (*DeKalb*)

One student from each school will read or perform a poem of his or her own based on the theme of a favorite piece by Gwendolyn Brooks.

Special treats include a performance from the ***Aurora Performance Group*** which illuminates the work of Gwendolyn Brooks through dramatic readings and poetry set to music and ***Barbara Gaines***, the Founder and Artistic Director of ***Chicago Shakespeare Theater*** will share similarly themed sonnets from Shakespeare and Ms. Brooks. All of this while savoring the beautiful views from ***Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Skyline Room on Navy Pier***, one of Chicago's most outstanding landmarks.

Seats are limited. Please call Cynthia Walls at 773.324.4844 (***Brooks Permissions***) to reserve your seats today.

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**GWENDOLYN BROOKS** was born in Topeka, Kansas, June 7, 1917, she was brought home to Chicago after her first few weeks of life. The first Black person to ever win the Pulitzer Prize (1950), she received over 70 honorary degrees and many other honors, including Poet Laureate of Illinois (30+ years) and Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. Ms. Brooks created and sponsored countless awards, herself. To date, five schools have been named after her, as well as the Illinois State Library Building and several other libraries, award programs and cultural centers.

**BROOKS PERMISSIONS** was founded in 2001 and is committed to demonstrating the continued relevance of Ms. Brooks' work in the 21st century and beyond. The Company was initially created to be the official licensing firm for the literary works of Gwendolyn Brooks after her passing in 2000. Brooks Permissions processes numerous requests for Ms. Brooks' works annually, working with mainstream, educational, and independent publishers, as well as individual artists for projects ranging from literary anthologies and academic course packs to theatrical performances, multimedia projects and more! The Company has now expanded, offering products and programming, which will shed more light on the life and works of Ms. Brooks. Our new book, SEASONS: A Gwendolyn Brooks Experience is now available at [www.gwendolynbrooks.net](http://www.gwendolynbrooks.net).

**ABOUT OUR PARTNERS**

**NAVY PIER** is the People's Pier, Chicago's lakefront treasure, welcoming all and offering dynamic and eclectic experiences through partnerships and programs that inspire discovery and wonder.

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier one of the top-attended leisure destinations in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than nine million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. In 2017, Navy Pier continues to celebrate its centennial with a series of special events and programming, year-round rides on the *Centennial Wheel* and ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts as part of the Centennial Vision. Navy Pier, as a non-profit organization, maintains and manages the 50-acre pier that is being redeveloped as a contemporary, environmentally responsible urban space. More information is available at [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com).

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER** (CST) is a leading international theater company and a recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award®. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and Executive Director Criss Henderson, CST is dedicated to creating extraordinary production of classics, new works and family programming; to unlocking Shakespeare's work for educators and students; and to serving as Chicago's cultural ambassador through its World's Stage Series. Through a year-round season encompassing more than 650 performances, CST attracts 225,000 audience members annually. One in four of its audience members is under eighteen years old, and today its education programs have impacted the learning of over one million students. CST is proud to take an active role in empowering the next generation of literate, engaged cultural champions and creative minds. Throughout 2016, CST spearheaded the international arts and culture festival, Shakespeare 400 Chicago, a yearlong, citywide celebration of the playwright's 400-year legacy. More information is available at [www.chicagoshakes.com](http://www.chicagoshakes.com).