



# GARDNER A. SAGE LIBRARY

## NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### July's Virtual Book Display

This month we celebrate the July birthdays of notable historic and current literary giants. From Nelson Mandela to Margaret Walker, explore the works and life of these impactful writers. Search the booklist on the following pages to find out how to access all of these titles from the Sage Library. Click on the book title to access the ebook directly or search our [online catalog](#).



**Walter Francis White**, born July 1, 1893, Atlanta, GA

Walter Francis White was a leading civil rights advocate of the first half of the twentieth century. As executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1931 to 1955, he was one of the major architects of the modern African American freedom struggle. Read more about White in, [Walter White: The Dilemma of Black Identity in America](#) by Tom Dyja.

**Charlotte Perkins Gilman**, born July 3, 1860, Hartford, CT  
Gilman was an American feminist, lecturer, writer, and publisher who was a leading theorist of the women's movement in the United States. Some of her most noted works are [Herland](#) and [The Yellow Wall-Paper](#).



**Naomi Long Madgett**, born July 5, 1923, Norfolk, VA

Madgett is an African American award-winning poet and former English professor. She is the senior editor and founder of Lotus Press which specializes in the publication of poetry books by Black poets. Read poems like [Fifth Street Exit, Richmond](#) and [Images](#) online through the Digital Theological Library.

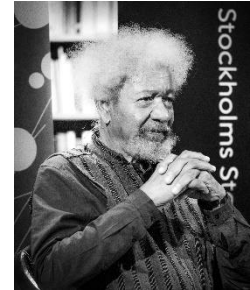
**Margaret Walker**, born July 7, 1915, Birmingham, AL  
Walker was an American poet and writer. She is known for her part in the Chicago Black Renaissance. Her first novel [Jubilee](#) is regarded as the first work by a black writer to speak out for the liberation of the black woman.





**June Jordan**, born July 9, 1936, Harlem, New York, NY  
Jordan was one of the most widely-published and highly-acclaimed Jamaican American writers of her generation. She was also a self-identified bisexual+ poet, essayist, teacher, and activist. Her writing explores fundamental struggles of her era including civil rights, women's rights, and sexual freedom across several genres. Read [His Own Where](#) or find other works about Jordan in [Life as Activism: June Jordan's Writings from the Progressive](#) by Stacy Russo.

**Wole Soyinka**, born July 13, 1934, Abeokuta, Nigeria  
Soyinka is a Nigerian playwright, poet and essayist. In 1986 he became the first African to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Soyinka was a political prisoner during Nigeria's civil war, but he continued to write poems and notes criticizing the Nigerian government. Despite his imprisonment, in September 1967, his play *The Lion and the Jewel* was produced in Accra, Ghana. Read more about Soyinka's life and work in [Wole Soyinka: Politics, Poetics, and Postcolonialism](#) by Biodun Jeyifo.



**Mari Evans**, born July 16, 1923, Toledo, OH  
Evans was a poet, writer, and dramatist associated with the Black Arts Movement. She was the recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the Indianapolis Public Library Foundation. Her poems are grounded in personal narratives and some of her best-known works include "Speak the Truth to the People," "To Be Born Black," and "I Am a Black Woman." Read more by Evans in [Shaping Memories: Reflections of African American Women Writers](#) by Joanne V. Gabbin.

**Nelson Mandela**, born July 18, 1918, Mvezo, South Africa  
Mandela was a famed South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist. In 1994 he became the President of South Africa, making him the country's first Black head of state and the first to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. Read more about Mandela in [I Know This to be True](#) by Geoff Blackwell.



**Alice Dunbar Nelson**, born July 19, 1875, New Orleans, LA  
Nelson was an American poet, journalist, and political activist. She was among the first generation born free in the South after the Civil War. She was one of the prominent African Americans involved in the Harlem Renaissance and her African American, Anglo, Native American, and Creole heritage contributed to her understandings of gender, race, and ethnicity. Along with the theme of mixed-race heritage, she is also known for her portrayal of the complicated reality of African American women and intellectuals, addressing topics such as racism, oppression, family, work, and sexuality. Read Nelson's short stories in [Goodness of St. Rocque & Other Stories](#).

**Emma Lazarus**, born July 22, 1849, New York, NY  
Lazarus was an American author of poetry, prose and translations, and worked as an activist for Jewish causes. She was one of the first successful and highly visible Jewish American authors who advocated for Jewish refugees. Her 1883 sonnet “The New Colossus” is inscribed on a bronze plaque, installed in 1903, on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Read this poem and other works by Lazarus in [The Poems of Emma Lazarus](#).



**Alexandre Dumas**, born July 24, 1802, Villers-Cotterêts, France  
As one of the most widely-read French authors, his works have been translated into numerous languages and his novels have been adapted into nearly 200 films. His most famous works are *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. Read other works by Dumas in [The Short Stories of Alexandre Dumas](#).

**Chester Himes**, born July 29, 1909, Jefferson City, MO  
Himes was a screenwriter and novelist. In 1958 he won France's Grand Prix de Littérature Policière for his *Harlem Detective* series. He was one of the first Black mystery writers. His works *If He Hollers Let Him Go* and *The Lonely Crusade* charted the experiences of the wave of Black migrants to Los Angeles and the Black experience in America. Read about Himes in [Dear Chester, Dear John](#) by Lori Williams and [The Noir Atlantic: Chester Himes and the Birth of the Francophone African Crime Novel](#) by Pim Higginson.

