

OHIO HISTORICAL MARKER INSTALLATION
HONORING TONI MORRISON
AUGUST 12, 2021



LORAIN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CARNEGIE CENTER
329 W. 10TH ST. • LORAIN, OHIO

4:00 pm Welcome & Recognition of Honored Guests
Carnegie Center Front Lawn

4:30 pm Reception
Carnegie Center North Room, 2nd floor

RSVP August 5, 2021
440-245-2563 or info@lorainhistory.org



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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
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TONI MORRISON

Nobel Prize winning author Toni Morrison – born Chloe Ardelia Wofford in Lorain in 1931 – worked at the Lorain Public Library which was then located here in the Carnegie Center.

During high school, Morrison worked in the library as a “pusher,” where she re-shelved books from a library cart. Morrison said that she “was slow because I kept reading the books instead of putting them back fast. So, I got promoted to the catalog department, where I worked until I went away to college.”

After graduating from Lorain High School, Morrison attended Howard University where she earned a B.A. in English and was a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. It's there that she took the nickname Toni.

Toni Morrison won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, becoming the first African-American woman to win this prestigious award.

Morrison's lifelong passion for language was fostered and forged here in the melting pot of Lorain, Ohio. Surrounded by books on the shelves of this building, a young Morrison read “everything there was in the library” and analyzed the language choices that authors made and “the different ways to say the same thing...the different choices that the authors were making in order to tell me something, or make me see something...that was fantastic.”

Morrison's literature has inspired millions of readers around the world, telling stories about African-Americans beyond the white gaze. Her work has forever changed the literary canon.

Toni Morrison passed away on August 5, 2019.



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