

YOUR WEEKLY READER

Rescuing Reading Project

Thomas Nelson Community College
December 14, 2006

The Big Read: One Peninsula, One Book

Through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, libraries and other organizations on the Virginia Peninsula will

work together to promote Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in the spring of 2007.

NPR radio personality and action-figure [Librarian Nancy Pearl](#) will officially kick off the program at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8 at Fountain Plaza II in Newport News City Center.

Lucy Anne Hurston, Zora Neale Hurston's niece, will present the finale, an author talk at Hampton Public Library at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 3.



Look for programs on anthropology, folklore and the Harlem Renaissance in addition to book discussions at any of these partner locations: Hampton, Newport News and York County public libraries, Newport News Public Schools, Thomas Nelson Community College and Christopher Newport University.

English faculty at TNCC have volunteered to undertake an on-line professional seminar concerning Hurston's work. They will then serve as subject-area experts for book groups around the Peninsula.

The College's Spring 2006 Book Circles will also include *Their Eyes Were Watching God* as one of the selections that participants can read for this student book club, meeting on Friday, April 13, 2007.

This program is part of [The Big Read](#), an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.



Happy Holidays

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, Solstice, Saturnalia, New Year's, or some other winter festival, best wishes to all our readers for the holidays and the new year.



Students, Faculty, Staff Share Reactions to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* at the Fall 2006 Book Circles
Photo: Marlene Waters

Best Books of the Year

A typical feature in book circles at this time of year is the short list of favorite or best books of the past year (in some measure a marketing device for holiday gift book buying).

One particularly interesting discussion of people's faves occurred on WBUR's NPR radio program, *OnPoint* with Tom Ashbrook for Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

The program featured guests Charlotte Abbott (senior editor at *Publisher's Weekly*), Oscar Villalon (book editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*), Francine Prose (author of *Reading Like A Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and For Those Who Want to Write Them*), and David Nasaw (author of *Andrew Carnegie*), as well as call-ins from listeners.

Audio of the program, entitled "[Best Books of the Year](#)," is downloadable from its Web site.