



## *Local Women Of Leadership Past and Present*

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**TONI MORRISON**  
**NOVELIST**  
**ESSAYIST**  
**PROFESSOR**  
2/18/1931 - 8/5/2019

One of the most celebrated writers of our time, Toni Morrison won numerous awards for her challenging and often ground-breaking works. Among these honors was the Nobel Prize in Literature, which she received in 1993. She was the first African American woman to achieve that recognition. Morrison's works explore Black identity and the legacy of slavery in America in powerful, poetic language. Her works have been translated and acclaimed in many countries around the globe and continue to resonate worldwide. In 1988, Morrison received the American Book Award and Pulitzer Prize for her novel, *Beloved*. Some of her other best known novels include *The Bluest Eye*, *Song of Solomon*, and *Sula*. Other notable achievements include winning the 1996 National Book Foundation's Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. In 2012, President Obama awarded Morrison the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In the latter part of her career, she won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle, and in 2015 published her 11th and final novel, *God Help the Child*. In addition to her work as a novelist and essayist, Morrison was a Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. She was a long-time resident of Grand View-on-Hudson -- her home with a grand view across the Hudson, just a short walk along the river to Nyack. More information about Toni Morrison is in Bill Batson's Nyack Sketch Log here: [Calibrating Toni Morrison's Full Measure](#)