

## Local Leading Literary Ladies

### Margaret Cezair-Thompson

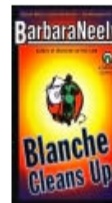


Margaret Cezair-Thompson was born in Jamaica, West Indies. She is the author of two novels, *The True History of Paradise* (Dutton-Plume 1999) and *The Pirate's Daughter* (Unbridled Books 2007). Other publications include short fiction, essays, and articles in *Callaloo*, *the Washington Post*, *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Graham House Review*, and *Elle*. Her screenplay, *Photo Finish*, about a Jamaican-American athlete, was sold to Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions. The author teaches literature and creative writing at Wellesley College and currently resides in Massachusetts.



### Barbara Neely

Barbara Neely is a novelist, short story writer, and author of the popular Blanche White mystery novels. The first book in this series, *BLANCHE ON THE LAM*, won the Agatha, the Macavity, and the Anthony -- three of the four major mystery awards for best first novel -- as well as the Go On Girl! Book Club award for a debut novel. Ms. Neely has also had an extensive public sector career. She designed and directed the first community-based corrections facility for women in Pennsylvania, directed a branch of the YWCA, and headed a consultant firm for non-profits. She resides in Jamaica Plain, MA.



#### Blanche White

1. *Blanche on the Lam* (1992)
2. *Blanche Among the Talented Tenth* (1994)
3. *Blanche Cleans Up* (1998)
4. *Blanche Passes Go* (2000)

## Patricia Powell



Patricia Powell, the 2004 Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor of Writing at MIT, is the author of three novels, "Me Dying Trial" (1993), "A Small Gathering of Bones" (1994) and "The Pagoda" (1998). Powell-- who was born in Jamaica, grew up in England and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1982--often weaves gender, race and sexuality into her work. "The Pagoda" considers the politics of all three in 19th-century Jamaican society. "Me Dying Trial" explores the lives of Caribbean women in rural Jamaica and North America, while "A Small Gathering of Bones" explores the complexity of homosexuality and AIDS. Powell received the Lila-Wallace Readers Digest Writers Award and in 1993 was a finalist for the Granta/Best of Young American Novelists Award. She previously visited MIT in 1997 as one of the participants in the "Colored Girls with Pens: Writing by Women of Color" series. She resides in metro Boston.

