



## PAULI MURRAY: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist and Civil Rights Activist

**Pauli Murray – The Research, Writing and Making of the Biography** (Grades 4-12) In this program, Jennings includes reading and reviewing Murray's papers at the Schlesinger library as well as documenting and verifying sources, and obtaining permissions.

**Pauli Murray and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment** – Pauli Murray was a visionary. She was the first person to realize that the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision which ensconced Jim Crow Laws and customs into life in the South, ignored the mandates of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. This led to almost seventy years of social injustice toward blacks through the Jim Crow era. Even though her writings were used to win the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision which desegregated schools, Murray never received that credit—she was only a woman after all. The presentation shines the spotlight on current events like voter suppression, women's right to reproductive choice, rights to gay marriage which are all examples in which the mandates of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment are in play, and, in the case of *Roe v. Wade*, have once again been ignored. The presentation emphasizes the need to vote and protect voting rights so that all other human rights can be protected. (Grades 9-12) (45 min. inc. Questions)

**FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT** - Will work with your school to structure a presentation for parents and children.