

**Signs of the Time Project
Harlem Heritage Markers Project
supported by the Why We Are Still Here
nonprofit organization**

My niece's daughter, Katie Madison, lives and works in Harlem with her partner Deborah Cowell. Katie is a tireless composer/musical theater artist/writer and Debbie is a journalist. Under the auspices of Why We Are Still Here, they collaborated on the second of many plaque installations throughout Harlem. Debbie lead the overall research and Katie compiled the history of Pauli Murray's immense contributions to the world. It was Pauli's research and strategy that Thurgood Marshall used to win the historic case, *Brown vs Board of Education*, that ended decades of racial segregation in America's public schools. Pauli was Marshall's student for 10 years, and he used one of her papers to win the case. She was also a poet and an artist. I am saddened that I didn't know her legacy sooner.

The link for Why We Are Still Here follows. It is a vibrant organization that highlights Harlem's place as an incubator for intellectual, cultural, social, political and cultural movements in the Harem community and the African diaspora-past and present.

Katie included this statement in her email to me: "We all make contributions to the world simply by existing and showing up every day. Whether we write, work, teach, learn, create, perform, or care, birth, grow, change, speak, listen, swim or crawl, it matters."

I am so proud to have a personal connection to Katie and Debbie's work and to share it with all of you,

[For more information:](https://whilewearestillhere.org/)

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--offered by Morgan Hewitt