Women's History Month

March 2010

UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES WOMEN OF COURAGE

Eight exceptional women are being recognized by the U.S. secretary of state as "Women of Courage."

The award "pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide" and "recognizes the courage and leadership shown as they struggle for social justice and human rights."

The 2009 recipients are Wazhma Frogh of Afghanistan, Norma Cruz of Guatemala, Suaad Allami of Iraq, Ambiga Sreenevasan of Malaysia, Hadizatou Mani of Niger, Veronika Marchenko of Russia, Mutabar Tadjibayeva of Uzbekistan, and Reem Al Numery of Yemen.

Milestones in U.S. Women's History

Some of the outstanding people and events that moved women's rights forward

1776 Abigail Adams is an early champion of women's rights. In a letter to her husband John Adams — who later becomes the second U.S. president — she urges the lawmakers of the Continental Congress to "Remember the Ladies.... Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands."

1848 U.S. Women's Rights Movement is sparked at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Delegates issue a Declaration of Sentiments calling for equality with men, including the right to vote.

1849 Elizabeth Blackwell is the first woman to graduate from medical school in the United States. She becomes a pioneer in women's education in medicine.

1850 Escaped slave Harriet Tubman becomes a leader in the Underground Railroad, helping hundreds of slaves to their freedom in the years before the Civil War. During the war, she serves as a nurse, spy and scout for the Union forces.

1851 Abolitionist and former slave Sojourner Truth gives her famous Ain't I a Woman? speech to the Ohio Women's Rights Convention. She is an eloquent champion of the rights of African Americans and women.

1869 Wyoming, then a U.S. territory, is the first jurisdiction to grant women the right to vote. Many Wyoming legislators — all male — hope it will attract more single marriageable women to the region.

1878 Soprano Marie Seilka is the first African-American artist to perform in the White House; she sings for President Rutherford B. Hayes.

1881 Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross, expanding on the original concept of the International Red Cross to include assisting in national disasters as well as wars.

1887 Journalist Nellie Bly pioneers investigative journalism. As a reporter for the New York World, she feigns insanity and is committed to a women's insane asylum to expose abusive conditions. In 1889, she circles the globe in 72 days, a world record.

1900 Golfer Margaret Abbott is the first American woman to win a medal in the Olympics. At the Paris games, she takes the gold medal.

1916 Jeannette Rankin of Montana is the first woman elected to Congress, serving two nonconsecutive terms. She casts the only vote in Congress against war on Japan after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

1920 The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, becomes law when it is ratified by two-thirds of the states. The League of Women Voters is founded.

1921 Bessie Coleman becomes the first African-American woman to earn an aviation pilot's license and the first American of any race or gender to earn an international pilot's license.

1925 Nellie Tayloe Ross is the first woman governor of a state (Wyoming). In 1933, she is appointed first female director of the U.S. Mint.

1926 Gertrude Ederle is the first woman to swim the English Channel. Only five men swam the Channel before her, and she cuts two hours off their fastest time.

1931 Jane Addams is the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Addams is an advocate for the poor, a pacifist, a reformer and a feminist.

1932 Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight by a woman across the Atlantic. She is the first woman to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

1932 Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. She is also the first to chair a Senate committee and to preside over the Senate.

1933 Frances Perkins is sworn in as secretary of labor. She was appointed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the first woman ever to serve in the U.S. Cabinet.

1953 Jacqueline Cochran is the first woman to break the sound barrier. During her career, she sets more speed and altitude records than any of her contemporaries, male or female.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, thus sparking the U.S. civil rights movement.

1962 Rachel Carson's book, Silent Spring, calls attention to the dangers of agricultural pesticides. It inspires a national environmental movement in the United States.

1963 Betty Friedan publishes The Feminine Mystique, which galvanizes the women's rights movement. The Equal Pay Act prohibits paying women less than men for the same job.

(Continued on page 23)

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2010

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — A PROCLAMATION

Countless women have steered the course of our history, and their stories are ones of steadfast determination. From reaching for the ballot box to breaking barriers on athletic fields and battlefields, American women have stood resolute in the face of adversity and overcome obstacles to realize their full measure of success. Women's History Month is an opportunity for us to recognize the contributions women have made to our Nation, and to honor those who blazed trails for women's empowerment and equality.

Women from all walks of life have improved their communities and our Nation. Sylvia Mendez and her family stood up for her right to an education and catalyzed the desegregation of our schools. Starting as a caseworker in city government, Dr. Dorothy Height has dedicated her life to building a more just society. One of our young heroes, Caroline Moore, contributed to advances in astronomy by discovering a supernova at age 14.

When women like these reach their potential, our country as a whole prospers. That is the duty of our Government -- not to guarantee success, but to ensure all Americans can achieve it. My Administration is working to fulfill this promise with initiatives like the White House Council on Women and Girls, which promotes the importance of taking women and girls into account in Federal policies and programs. This council is committed to ensuring our Government does all it can to give our daughters the chance to achieve their dreams.

As we move forward, we must correct persisting inequalities. Women comprise over 50 percent of our population but hold fewer than 17 percent of our congressional seats. More than half our college students are female, yet when they graduate, their male classmates still receive higher pay on average for the same work. Women also hold disproportionately fewer science and engineering jobs. That is why my Administration launched our Educate to Innovate campaign, which will inspire young people from all backgrounds to drive America to the forefront of science, technology, engineering, and math. By increasing women's participation in these fields, we will foster a new generation of innovators to follow in the footsteps of the three American women selected as 2009 Nobel Laureates.

Our Nation's commitment to women's rights must not end at our own borders, and my Administration is making global women's empowerment a core pillar of our foreign policy. My Administration created the first Office for Global Women's Issues and appointed an Ambassador at Large to head it. We are working with the United Nations and other international institutions to support women's equality and to curtail violence against women and girls, especially in situations of war and conflict. We are partnering internationally to improve women's welfare through targeted investments in agriculture, nutrition, and health, as well as programs that empower women to contribute to economic and social progress in their communities. And we are following through on the commitments I made in Cairo to promote access to education, improve literacy, and expand employment opportunities for women and girls.

This month, let us carry forth the legacy of our mothers and grandmothers. As we honor the women who have shaped our Nation, we must remember that we are tasked with writing the next chapter of women's history. Only if we teach our daughters that no obstacle is too great for them, that no ceiling can block their ascent, will we inspire them to reach for their highest aspirations and achieve true equality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2010 as Women's History Month. I call upon all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of American women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

Honored Women in Our History

Mary Katherine Goddard 1738–1816
Printer Declaration of Independence; Publisher; Baltimore Postmaster
Abigail Adams 1744–1818
Women's Rights Advocate; First Lady Influential in Government Affairs
Sacajawea 1784–1812
Frontier Guide; Shoshone woman sold to fur trader; interpreter; guide
Sarah Grimke 1792–1873
Abolitionist/Women's Rights Activist; southern women writer/lecturer
Mary Lyon 1797–1849
Founder Mount Holyoke College; endowed seminary for women
Sojourner Truth 1797–1883
Abolitionist/Suffragist; free black; famous speech “”Ain't I a Woman”
Catharine Beecher 1800–1852
Author/Educator; Guided women in education and healthy family life.
Dorothea Dix 1802–1887
Social Reformer; worked for the mentally ill and jail reform.
Angelina Grimke 1805–1879
Abolitionist/Women's Rights Activist; southern women writer/lecturer
Ernestine Rose 1810–1892
Suffragist/Reformer; joined Stanton to fight for married women's rights
Elizabeth Caty Stanton 1815–1902
Women's Rights Activist; Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls
Maria Mitchell 1818–1889
Astronomer/Professor; discovered a comet which was named for her
Lucy Stone 1818–1893
Abolitionist/Women's Rights Activist/Suffragist; Women's Journal
Susan B. Anthony 1820–1906
Suffragist; 19th Amendment named “Anthony Amendment”

The overarching theme for March 2010 is Writing Women Back into History

In 2010, in celebration of our 30th Anniversary, we will be highlighting themes from previous years. Each of these past themes recognizes a different aspect of women's achievements, from ecology to art, and from sports to politics.

The history of women often seems to be written with invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are often not included in the history books.

National Women's History Month provides an excellent venue to recognize and celebrate women's historic achievements as well as an opportunity to honor women within our families and communities

Source: www.nwhp.org.

History of National Women's History Month

The Beginning

As recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978. We chose the week of March 8 to make International Women's Day the focal point of the observance. The activities that were held met with enthusiastic response, and within a few years dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week, over one-hundred community women participated in the Community Resource Women Project, an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries, and we were staging a marvelous annual parade and program in downtown Santa Rosa, California.

Local Celebrations

In 1979, a member of our groups was invited to participate in Women's History Institutes at Sarah Lawrence College, attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When they learned about our county-wide Women's History Week celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations and school districts. They also agreed to support our efforts to secure a Congressional Resolution declaring a "National Women's History Week." Together we succeeded! In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution.

Overwhelming Response

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska, and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials all of their public schools. Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

The Entire Month of March

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

Source: www.nwhp.org.

Honored Women in Our History

Harriet Tubman 1820–1913
Fugitive Slave/Rescuer of Slaves/Spy & Scout for the Union Army

Elizabeth Blackwell 1821–1910
First Women Doctor; Opened N.Y. Infirmary for Women & Children 1857

Clara Barton 1821–1912
Nurse; Founder of American Red Cross; Led Disaster Relief Work

Mary Shadd Cary 1823–1893
Teacher/Lawyer; born free, taught free blacks; law degree Howard Univ.

Frances Watkins Harper 1825–1911
Abolitionist/Lecturer/Author; published articles, poems and stories

Matilda Joslyn Gage 1826–1898
Women's Rights Activist, Historian, Suffragist; Newspaper Editor; Author

Emily Dickenson 1830–1886
Poet; recluse; majority of work not published until after her death

Belva Lockwood 1830–1917
Lawyer/Women's Rights Activist; Won case for Eastern Cherokee Nation

Mary Harris "Mother" Jones 1830–1930
Labor Organizer; campaigned for miner and child labor work reforms

Queen Lili'uokalani 1838–1917
Last Reigning Monarch of Hawaii; forced to abdicate 1893; US territory

Frances Willard 1839–1898
Temperance Leader/Feminist; Pres. National Woman's Temp. Society

Sarah Winnemucca 1844–1891
Indian Rights Activist; laison between Nevada Paiutes and U.S. Army

Emma Lazarus 1849–1887
Poet/Translator; sonnet The New Colossus base of Statue of Liberty

Susette La Flesche Tibbles 1854–1903
Indian Rights Activist/Author; Lectured in the East for Indian Rights

Honored Women in Our History

Mary Eliza McDowell 1854–1936
Social Reformer; helped clean up Chicago River; founded a settlement house
Juliette Low 1860–1927
Founder of Girl Scouts of America
Jane Addams 1860–1935
Social Worker; Founded Hull House, Chicago; Nobel Peace Prize 1931
Ida B. Wells–Barnett 1862–1931
Journalist; organized anti–lynching societies in many cities
Mary Church Terrell 1863–1954
Women's Rights Activist; lectured against lynching/discrimination
Marietta Pierce Johnson 1864–1938
Founded Organic School of Ed. In Alabama
Anne Sullivan 1866–1936
Teacher; Helen Keller's teacher through graduation from Radcliffe in 1904
Madam C.J. Walker 1867–1919
Entrepreneur; America's 1st black women millionaire. Cosmetics
Emma Goldman 1869–1940
Social Reformer/Anarchist; deported for inciting worker strikes
Alice Hamilton 1869–1970
Physician/Social Reformer; hazards in workplace reform
Alice Hamilton 1869–1970
Occupational Safety & Health Pioneer; dangers of industrial poisons
Martha Brookes Hutcheson 1871–1959
One of 1st women landscape architects in U.S.
Mary Anderson 1872–1964
Labor Activist; 1st Director of Women's Bureau US Dept. of Labor
Willa Cather 1873–1947
Writer/Editor; Pulitizer Prize One of Ours 1923; pioneer experience.
Rose O'Neill 1874–1944
Illustrator/Author; pioneer female cartoonist; created Kewpie doll

Women of Our Time:
Twentieth Century Photographs from the National Portrait Gallery

Maya Ying Lin, born 1959
When Maya Lin handed in her proposal for a Vietnam War memorial as a project assignment for an architecture course at Yale, her professor thought it rated no more than a B. When she submitted it to a nationwide competition for a Vietnam War memorial in Washington, D.C., it fared considerably better. Her plan for a stretch of black marble inscribed with the names of the soldiers who had died in the conflict, the judges said, was "a memorial of our own times" that "could not have been achieved in another time or place." So saying, they awarded Lin the commission. The final memorial proved even more compelling. As people streamed past it upon its completion in 1982 and touched the etched names of fallen soldiers they had known, it was clear that Lin had struck an extraordinary emotional chord with the public.

Artist: Michael Katakis

Anne Sexton, 1928 -1974
In the mid-1950s, Anne Sexton experienced repeated mental breakdowns, and she began writing poetry as part of her therapy. It was not long before this therapeutic exercise became a vocation. Using her poetry to probe the dark emotional recesses of her life, she published To Bedlam and Part Way Back in 1960, which quickly established her as an important new voice. Other volumes followed, including Live or Die, which claimed a Pulitzer Prize in 1967. But such distinctions could never ease Sexton's deep-rooted insecurities and fears, and in 1974 she committed suicide.
As this photograph attests, Sexton often radiated a confident poise that belied her emotional difficulties. Recalling Sexton's performance at a poetry reading in 1961, a friend thought, "She . . . carried herself like a model."
When Sexton reported the reading to her therapist, however, she said, "I was scared the whole time."

Source: http://www.npg.si.edu/cexh/woot/index.htm

Julia Child, 1912 - 2004

Until well into her thirties, Julia Child had never given much thought to food. In 1948, however, with her husband stationed in Paris, she began taking classes at France's Cordon Bleu cooking school, and suddenly her husband was declaring himself a "Cordon Bleu widower." With two French friends she started a cooking school and began collaborating with them on Mastering the Art of French Cooking, which is still considered one of the finest American books on French cuisine. Child's career as a cooking expert had yet to reach its full bloom, however. In 1963, she made her debut as The French Chef on public television. Speaking in a high, chirpy voice, she made mistakes and dropped food. But audiences loved her as much for her frailties as for her expertise, and by the late 1960s she had clearly become a significant force in shaping America's dietary mores.

Artist: Hans Namuth

Sylvia Plath, 1932 - 1963

When poet Sylvia Plath posed for this picture, she was enjoying one of the happier periods of her adult life: she sensed her own creative powers advancing steadily and had overcome, she said, her "fear of facing a blank page." The next year, her grounds for optimism were reinforced when her volume The Colossus and Other Poems appeared in England to complimentary reviews. But as her dark and often despairing verse attested, Plath remained a deeply tormented individual, and she committed suicide in 1963.
Plath was not widely known during her lifetime, but she has now come to be regarded as one of the more important poetic voices of mid-twentieth-century America. Adding further to her reputation is The Bell Jar, her autobiographical novel about a troubled college girl coming to grips with her individuality, which enjoyed great popularity in the early 1970s.

Artist:

Rollie McKenna

Honored Women in Our History

Gertrude Stein 1874–1946
Writer; 1st book, Three Lives, about three working women, 1909
Violet Oakley 1874–1961
Muralist/Illustrator; pioneering female muralist; designed magazine covers
Mary McLeod Bethune 1875–1955
Educator/Presidental Advisor; minority affairs; Vice Pres. NAACP
Gertrude Bonnin 1876–1938
Indian Rights Activist; Founder National Council American Indians 1926
Caroline Rose Foster 1877–1977
Farmer/Deputy Sheriff/Community Organizer/ Benefactor; donated farm
Lillian Gilbreth 1878–1972
Industrial Engineer; Professor Purdue University, women in industry
Nannie Helen Burroughs 1879–1961
Educator; Founder of National Training School for Women & Girls
Margaret Sanger 1879–1966
Nurse/Birth Control Advocate; Founder Planned Parenthood of America
Mary Aloysius Molloy 1880–1954
Educator/Innovator; developed curriculum for women's college
Frances Perkins 1880–1965
Government Leader; Sec. of Labor, 1st woman to hold cabinet position
Helen Keller 1880–1968
Advocate for Disadvantaged; 1st deaf/blind person to earn college degree
Jeannette Rankin 1880–1973
Congresswoman/Suffragist/Peace Activist; 1st woman U.S. Congress
Nina Otero–Warren 1881–1965
Educator/Politician/Suffragist; Superintendent of Schools , New Mexico
Rose Schneiderman 1882–1972
Union Organizer; N.Y. garment industry, Women's Trade Union League

Honored Women in Our History

Eleanor Roosevelt 1884–1962
Humanitarian/Writer; Delegate to United Nations; Declare of Human Rights
Ethel Percy Andrus 1884–1967
Founder of AARP; Nursing Home Reform Legislation
Jovita Ida'r 1885–1946
Journalist; free schools for Mexican children; injustices by Texas Rangers
Alice Paul 1885–1977
Suffragist/Founder of Congressional Union; jailed for activities
"Ma" Rainey 1886–1939
Blues Singer; recorded 92 songs in 1920's; "Mother of the Blues"
Maria Montoya Martinez 1887–1980
Artist/Potter; Tewa Indian Village, New Mexico; used ancient techniques
Georgia O'Keeffe 1887–1986
Artist; bold, contemporary art, depicting forms found in nature
Matilda Elizabeth Frelinghuysen 1888–1969
Philanthropist; New England Conservatory of Music/Masterworks Chorus
Tye Leung Schulze 1888–1972
Interpreter; Chinese interpreter Angel Island Detention Center
Marjory Stoneman Douglas 1890–1998
Naturalist/Author; The Everglades: River of Grass
Pear Buck 1892–1973
Author; Pulitzer Prize The Good Earth, Nobel Prize 1938; humanitarian.
Mary Pickford 1893–1979
Actress; Broadway, silent & talking films; Co–Founder United Artists
Martha Graham 1894–1991
Dancer/Choreographer; Awarded the Medal of Freedom by Pres. Ford
Dorothea Lange 1895–1965
Photographer; documented human conditions during the depression

Rosa Parks, 1913 - 2005

On December 1, 1955, an African American seamstress named Rosa Parks took a seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Local segregation laws required her to yield that seat should a white passenger want it, and when she refused to honor such a demand, she found herself arrested. It was a minor incident that might well have ended when she paid her ten-dollar fine. Instead, her act of defiance sparked a yearlong protest that forced the city to give up its racist practices in public transportation. More significant, however, Parks's action had ushered in a decade of agitation that would bring an end to much of the legalized racial discrimination in America.
Photographer Ida Berman took this picture in the summer of 1955, while Parks was attending a workshop in community activism at Highlander Folk School in Tennessee.

Artist: Ida Berman

Ella Fitzgerald, 1917 - 1996

Ella Fitzgerald entered a Harlem talent contest in the mid-1930s, intending to do a dance. On stage, however, her legs froze, and in desperation she launched into song. Her fallback alternative proved good enough to win the contest, and so began a singing career that would make Fitzgerald the "First Lady of Song." Blessed with a voice capable of seamlessly spanning three octaves, Fitzgerald soon perfected her remarkable gifts for vocal improvisation, known as "scat" singing. Her "songbook" recordings of American standards, made from 1956 to 1964, are the definitive tributes to Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and others. Fitzgerald's respectful understanding of a composer's intentions made these songwriters some of her most ardent fans. "I never knew how good our songs were," lyricist Ira Gershwin once said, "until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them."

Artist: Lisette Model

Dorothy Day, 1897 - 1980

In her younger days, Dorothy Day had sympathized with the ideals of socialism and communism. After her conversion to Catholicism, though, she sought to express her reformer's impulse in ways more in keeping with her new religious convictions. In the early 1930s, she co-founded the Catholic Worker, a newspaper dedicated to redressing injustice while promoting the communal values of Christianity. As the paper's circulation soared to 150,000, Day and her allies began implementing its editorial message by making the New York tenement that housed its offices into a refuge for the poor and hungry. Soon similar Catholic Worker "Houses of Hospitality" sprang up across the country. Day's dedication to improving the human condition led some to call her "a saint." She had no patience with that, however, claiming that "when they say you are a saint what they mean is that you are not to be taken seriously."

Artist: Vivian Cherry

Marianne Moore, 1887 - 1972

The author of more than a dozen volumes of verse, Marianne Moore received virtually every major literary award-including the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award-that the United States had to offer. Her innovative and exquisitely crafted poems, one critic declared, "bear the indisputable mark of high style," and another described the meanings found in her clean metaphors and symbolism as "exhilarating." But perhaps the highest tribute came from fellow poet T. S. Eliot, who placed Moore's work among "the small body of durable poetry written in our time."

Moore's poems were filled with references to members of the animal kingdom, and when Life did a story on her in 1953, its editors asked photographer Esther Bubley to photograph the poet as she encountered some of the non-human creatures mentioned in her works.

Artist: Esther Bubley

Honored Women in Our History

Elizabeth Donnell Kay 1895–1987
Environmentalist; herb business; co–founder Pine Job Environ. Sciences Ctr.
Bessie Coleman 1896–1926
Pioneering Pilot;1st licensed black woman pilot; stunt flyer; lecturer.
Maria Lopez de Hernandez 1896–1986
Civil Rights Activist; equal education for Mexican–American children
Amelia Earhart 1897–1937
Aviator; 1st woman to fly Atlantic solo; many "firsts"; disappeared trying.
Lillian Smith 1897–1966
Author; 1st southern journal to include black and white authors
Margaret Chase Smith 1897–1966
Senator; 1st to challenged Senator McCarthy on the senate floor
Dorothy Day 1897–1980
Social Reformer; writer, suffragist, speaker, activist and publisher.
Felisa Rincon DeGautier 1897–1994
Political Activist; Suffragist Puerto Rico; Mayor San Juan
Septima Clark 1898–1987
Educator/Civil Rights Activist; teacher training and voter registration
Florence Reece 1900–1986
Labor Song Writer; Which Side Are You On, coal miners strike 1931
Margaret Mead 1901–1978
Anthropologist/Author; Presidental Medal of Freedom, scientific research
Sister Claretta Easter 1901–1998
Science & Ecology Teacher/Registered Certified Tree Farmer
Alicia Dickerson Montemayor 1902–1989
Latina Activist/Artist; worked to improve lives of Latino families
Barbara McClintock 1902–1992
Nobel Prize Scientist/Geneticist; National Medal of Science 1970

Honored Women in Our History

Marian Anderson 1902–1993
Singer; Sang at Lincoln Memorial; 1st black singer Metropolitan Opera
Essie Parrish 1903–1979
Kashaya Pomo Doctor; religious, spiritual & political leader of tribe
Ella Baker 1903–1986
Civil Rights and Voting Rights Activist; organizing throughout the South
Virginia Foster Durr
1903–1999 Civil Rights Activist/Author; from family of former slave owners.
Margaret Bourke–White 1904–1971
Photojournalist; Fortune & Life Magazines recording historical events
Lillian Hellman 1905–1984
Playwright,/Screenwriter/Author; The Children's Hour, blacklisted
Maggie Kuhn 1905–1995
Activist Senior Citizens/Author; founded Gray Panthers
Alice Yu 1905–2000
Teacher; 1st Chinese–American teacher in San Francisco School Dist.
Esther Peterson 1906–1996
Labor Educator/Government Official; Commission of Status of Women
Rachel Carson 1907–1964
Biologist/Writer/Environmentalist; The Silent Spring, dangers of DDT
Laura Capon Fermi 1907–1977
Science Author/Community Activist; dangers of pollution from coal burning
Virginia Apgar 1909–1974
Physician; 1st Full Professor of Anesthesiology at Columbia University
Jacqueline Cochran 1910–1980
Pilot; 1st woman pilot to break sound barrier; winner of 200+ awards
Annie Dodge Wauneka 1910–1997
Healer; 1st women elected to Navajo tribal council 1951; Medal of Freedom

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884 - 1962

When Franklin D. Roosevelt took the presidential oath in March 1933, his wife Eleanor entered the White House declaring that she was "just going to be plain, ordinary Mrs. Roosevelt. And that's all." The promise was not long kept. Soon Eleanor Roosevelt was deeply engrossed in the politics of her husband's New Deal. Touring the nation's depression-ridden communities, she returned to Washington to promote federally sponsored planned communities. She made speeches and gave press conferences where she addressed such matters as child labor and sweatshops. Most important, she was her husband's conscience, urging him toward measures that he might otherwise have avoided in the name of expedience. As she herself put it after FDR's death, "I think I sometimes acted as a spur even though the spurring was not always welcome."

Artist: Clara Sipprell

Billie Holiday, 1915 - 1959

Renowned for making songs her own, Billie Holiday once explained, "I hate straight singing. I have to change a tune to my own way of doing it. That's all I know." This attitude characterized not only her singing style but her life as well. Having endured a difficult childhood, Holiday moved to New York City in 1927. Although intent on fashioning a musical career, she began performing to supplement her meager income as a housemaid. Success onstage led to recording opportunities and, beginning in 1937, a close working relationship with Count Basie's band. Holiday later joined the Artie Shaw Orchestra, becoming one of the first African American singers to headline an all-white band. Despite the stardom she achieved, Holiday suffered various personal crises during the last two decades of her life, several of which were the result of drug and alcohol abuse.

Artist: Sid Grossman

Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, 1911 - 1956

Babe Didrikson Zaharias could be irritatingly boastful, and her dismissive attitude toward fellow athletes guaranteed she would win no congeniality contests. Still, no one could deny that she fully made good on her boasts and not just in one sport but in many. In baseball she could throw a ball 313 feet into home plate; in swimming she missed setting a freestyle record by one second; and at the 1932 summer Olympics she won gold medals in the eighty-meter hurdles and the javelin. Yet it was in golf where Didrikson left her most impressive mark. By the time she helped found the Ladies Professional Golf Association in 1948, she had won forty amateur golf titles, and she claimed thirty-one more on tour with the LPGA. When asked to explain the secret of her remarkable game, she wisecracked, "I just loosen my girdle and let the ball have it."

Artists: Harry Warnecke and Robert Cranston

Dorothy Parker, 1893 - 1967

There is a beautiful, waiflike quality to this image of Dorothy Parker. But prevailing public perceptions of this critic, poet, and short story writer tended more toward visions of the tough cynic whose penchant for witty barbs made her a leading light in the 1920s of New York's legendary Algonquin circle of literati and journalists. Today Parker's reputation rests largely on her short stories. Set in the cosmopolitan, upper-class world of New York City, her tales bespeak a splendid ear for dialogue and focus on the darker side of male-female relationship. At their best they have been compared favorably to the work of Ring Lardner and Ernest Hemingway.

Artist: George Platt Lynes

Honored Women in Our History

Dorothy Height 1912–
Humanitarian; Pres. Nat. Council of Negro Women, Citizens Medal Award
Chien–Shiung Wu 1912–1997
Scientist; Nuclear Physics; National Science Medal 1975
Martha Wright Griffiths 1912–2003
Congresswoman; 1964 Civil Rights Act
"Babe" Didrikson Zaharias 1914–1956
Athlete; Gold Medals 1932 Olympics, Javelin throw, 80 meter hurdles
Mary Tsukamato 1915–1998
Educator/Writer/Cultural Historian; interned WWII
Emma Tenayuca 1916–1999
Labor Organizer; worked to improve conditions of poor people/children
Edna Hibel 1917–
Artist; internationally renowned painter, colorist, stone lithographer
Fannie Lou Hamer 1917–1977
Civil Rights Activist; Led Mississippi delegation to Nat. Demo. Convention
Katharine Graham 1917–2001
Publisher; Washington Post, printed the Pentagon Papers
June Clair Wayne 1918–
Painter/Lithographer/Author; founded Tamarind Lithography Workshop
Gertrude B. Elion 1918–1999
Nobel Prize Biologist; 1st woman National Inventor's Hall of Fame
Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima 1919–2006
Civil Rights Activist; reparations to interned Japanese–Americans WWII
Gerda Lerner 1920–
Historian; two–volume Women in History (1986, 1993)
Bella Abzug 1920–1998
Congresswoman; Founder of Women's Strike for Peace and WEDO
Betty Reid Soskin 1921–
Cultural Anthropologist /Writer; deep sense of culture, place and purpose

Honored Women in Our History

Yoshiko Uchida 1921–1992
Author; Japanese–American literature for children
Constance Baker Motley 1921–2005
1st African–American Woman Appointed to Federal Judiciary
Yuri Kochiyama 1922–
Civil Rights Advocate; interned; founded Asian American for Action
Jade Snow Wong 1922–2006
Artist/Author; work in enamels & pottery; book Fifth Chinese Daughter
Alice Coachman 1923–
Olympic Athlete; 1st black woman gold metal winner, high jump 1948
Miriam Schapiro 1923–
Artist; self–titled style of "femmage;" created installation *The Womanhouse*
Shirley Chisholm 1924–2005
US Congress/Educator; 1st black woman to seek nomination for Pres.
Aileen Hernandez 1926–
Union Organizer/Human Rights Activist; Chairs Ca. Women's Agenda
Nancy Spero 1926–
Painter; co–founded first U.S. collective of women artists; political activist
Leontyne Price 1927–
Opera Diva/Author; sang televised opera Tosca by Puccini
Patsy Mink 1927–2002
Congresswoman; 1st Asian–American elected to Congress, 12 terms
Althea Gibson 1927–2003
Olympic Athlete; 1st black tennis player to win Wimbledon; ladies golf
Coretta Scott King 1927–2006
Civil Right Activist; Pres. MLK Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change
Ilia J. Fehrer 1927–2007
Land Preservation Advocate–Assateaque Island National Seashore

Mae West, 1893 - 1980

Mae West was not one of Hollywood's more distinguished acting talents. Nor was she a great screen beauty. Still, there was something compelling about her sly, hand-on-hip earthiness. Today, her portrayals of worldly wise sex sirens remain some of the most memorable moments in American movies. Beginning her career in vaudeville, she advanced to Broadway, where her greatest success was as the lead in Diamond Lil, a play of her own creation. In 1931 she went to Hollywood, and two years later her films I'm No Angel and She Done Him Wrong were setting box-office records. By 1935 she numbered among Hollywood's highest-paid stars. Today, she is still remembered for such suggestively delivered lines as "When I'm good, I'm very good, but when I'm bad, I'm better."

Artist: C. Kenneth Lobben

Emma Goldman, 1869 - 1940

The scowling stolidity of this likeness bespeaks an individual who did not mind a little controversy. And Emma Goldman not only tolerated controversy, she welcomed it with open arms. Born in Russia, she became a convert to anarchism in 1890, and in advancing her cause's drive, she readily accepted resorting to violent tactics. Among her first acts as an anarchist was collaboration in an attempt to assassinate Carnegie Steel executive Henry Clay Frick in 1892. Finally, America had its fill of "Red Emma." In 1919 she was deported to Russia, where she soon became disillusioned with its new Bolshevik regime.
This picture dates from a brief visit to the United States that authorities allowed Goldman to make in 1934. When asked by a reporter if time had modified any of her ideas, she answered "no," adding, "I was always considered bad; I'm worse now.

"*Artist: Carl Van Vechten*

Willa Sibert Cather, 1873 - 1947

Willa Cather never got over her traumatic childhood move from Virginia to the flat, treeless expanses of the Nebraska plains, and when she returned as an adult to Nebraska, she often could not wait to leave "for fear of dying in a cornfield." Yet as a novelist, she found her most important subject matter in the pioneer experience of the Great Plains. When her book O Pioneers! appeared in 1913, one critic called it the "most vital, subtle . . . piece of the year's fiction." Many of her subsequent efforts-among them My Ántonia, A Lost Lady, and One of Ours-were greeted with similar accolades. Shortly after this picture ran in Vanity Fair, Cather published Death Comes to the Archbishop, and in the face of its warm reception, the magazine featured another likeness of her, this time billing her as "heir apparent" to Edith Wharton.

Artist: Edward Jean Steichen

Jeannette Pickering Rankin, 1880 - 1973

In the summer of 1916, having led a successful campaign for enfranchising women in her native Montana, Jeannette Rankin announced her intention to run for the U.S. House of Representatives. The following November, she became the first woman ever elected to Congress, arriving in Washington in the spring of 1917 a national celebrity. Her fortunes quickly soured, however, when, in her first important House vote, this lifelong pacifist joined a small number of congressmen in saying "no" to American entry into World War I. Running counter to the current wave of wartime fervor, that "no" killed Rankin's chances for reelection. Elected to the House again in 1940, she was on hand when the question of America's entry into World War II came to the floor. True to her principles, she again voted "no," the only person in Congress to do so.

Artist: L. Chase

Honored Women in Our History

Maya Angelou 1928–
Author/Poet; Civil Rights; Orig. Poem Pres. Clinton's Inauguration.
Graciela Olivarez 1928–1987
Lawyer/Professor; Chair, Mexican–American Legal Defense & Edu. Fund
Lupe Anguiano 1929–
Protector of Earth/Activist for the Poor; United Farm Workers' Volunteer
Joanna Macy 1929–
Eco–philosopher/Author; scholar of Buddhism
Beverly Sills 1929–2007
Opera Diva; radio star at age 7, Chairwoman of Lincoln Center
Dolores Huerta 1930–
Labor Union Administrator; co–founded United Farm Workers Union
Sandra Day O'Connor 1930–
Supreme Court Justice; 1st woman Supreme Court Justice; Stanford Law
Wilma Vaught 1930–
Retired Brigadier General; Air Force's 1st female general
Mary Louise Defender Wilson 1930–
Storyteller; Dakotah/Hidatsa traditions connecting the ancient to present
Faith Ringgold 1930–
Painter/Quilter/Author; famous for painted story quilts
LaDonna Harris 1931–
Indian/Civil Rights Activist; organization to improve life of Native Americans
Toni Morrison 1931–
Nobel Prize Author; 1st African–American women to win prize; Pulitzer
Margaret Bryan Davis 1931–
Behavioral Biologist/Professor; history of migration of forest communities
Brownie Ledbetter 1932–
Civil Rights Activist; founded Arkansas Fairness Council, social issues

Honored Women in Our History

Nancy Skinner Nordhoff 1932–
Philanthropist & Environmentalist; visionary projects; retreats for women
Mary Taylor Previte 1932–
Advocate Juvenile Justice; taught survival skills to youth in urban areas
Pamela A. Frucci 1932–
Teacher/Community Activist/Township Trustee; waste reduction activist
Ruth Bader Ginsburg 1933–
Supreme Court Justice; Harvard Graduate; Editor Law Review
Juana Gutierrez 1933–
Political Activist/Community Organizer; Madres de Este Los Angeles
Jill Ker Conway 1934–
Educator/Writer/Historian; Ph.D Harvard; Pres. Smith College
Gloria Steinem 1934–
Women Rights Activist/Writer; Co–founder of Ms Magazine
Jane Goodall 1934–
Wildlife Researcher/Educator/Conservationist; study of chimpanzees
Ada Deer 1935–
Native American Activist; treaty rights; Deputy of Indian Affairs; educator
Sylvia Alice Earle 1935–
Oceanographer/Environmentalist; National Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm
Rose Marie Williams McGuire 1936–
Artist/Educator/Poet/Illustrator; Found Objects is theme of her art
Mary Arlene Appelhof 1936–2005
Biologist/Educator/Publisher; vermicomposting Worms Eat My Garbage
Marian Van Landingham 1937–
Artist/Community Leader; created Torpedo Factory Art Center
Helen Caldicott 1938–
Physician/Author/Speaker; anti–nuclear activist; Smithsonian honoree

Helen Adams Keller, 1880 - 1968

Struck by an illness that left her both blind and deaf at nineteen months, Helen Keller spent her next five years locked in a solitary universe that those around her were incapable of penetrating. In early 1887, when a new teacher named Anne Sullivan came into her life, she began to connect to others, and by summer she was writing her first letter. Keller's progress did not stop there. By 1904, when she graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College, she had written a best-selling autobiography, and her rise out of silent darkness had made her a much-admired symbol of the human spirit's power to overcome adversity.

This photograph ran with an article by Keller published in Century magazine in 1905. In it, she explained how she used her sense of touch to experience the world.

Artist: Charles Whitman

Susan Faludi, born 1959
Gloria Steinem, born 1934

When Time magazine ran this cover image of Susan Faludi standing behind a seated Gloria Steinem in March 1992, it was an apt pairing. To begin with, both were feminists. While Steinem, founder of Ms. magazine, belonged to the older generation of women's activists, Faludi, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Wall Street Journal reporter, represented feminism's younger generation. They were also both authors of current best-sellers that offered two sides of the most recently minted feminist coin.
Faludi's book, Backlash, took as its thesis the view that in the 1980s forces had coalesced to hamper the progress in securing women's rights. Steinem's book, Revolution from Within, was more individually oriented, contending that enlarging life's possibilities hinged largely on self-understanding. Although many feminists felt betrayed by Steinem's message, she countered that "when one member of a group changes, the balance shifts for everyone," which in turn "shifts the balance of society."

Artist: Gregory Heisler

Katharine Meyer Graham, 1917 - 2001

In the summer of 1963, in the wake of her husband Philip's suicide, Katherine Graham had to decide whether she ought to succeed him at the helm of her family's media company and flagship newspaper *The Washington Post.* Terrified at the prospect, she later compared her decision to stepping of a ledge with her eyes closed. 'The surprise' she said 'was that I landed on my feet.' But she did a lot more than landed on her feet. Under her guidance, the *Post* grew into one of the most influential newspaper in the world, and following its crucial role in exposing the Nixon administration's Watergate scandals in the early 1970s, she herself came to be regarded as one of the most important women in America.

Artist: Richard Avedon

Fannie Lou Hamer, 1917 - 1977

The daughter of poor sharecroppers, Fannie Lou Hamer joined the civil rights movement at age forty-five, when she agreed to work in a voter registration drive for Mississippi blacks. Joining in the fight to end the South's systematic disenfranchisement of African Americans cost Hamer her job. She was not to be deterred, however. By the summer of 1964,

having made significant inroads on registration, she was at the Democratic National Convention, challenging the legitimacy of Mississippi's all-white delegation. Winning only two seats for her cause, she considered the effort a failure. Yet Hamer and her following had clearly jolted the national conscience, and the days of whites-only politics in the South were numbered.
Hamer is here seen participating in the March Against Fear from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, in June 1966 to dramatize the determination of African Americans to win recognition for their full rights as citizens.

Artist: Charmian Reading

Honored Women in Our History

Anne Bowes LaBastille 1938–
Ecologist/Author of Woodswoman and Women and Wilderness
Marian Wright Edelman 1939–
Children Rights/Civil Rights Activist; Founder Children's Defense Fund
Judy Chicago 1939–
Artist/Author/Educator; created multimedia project, The Dinner Party
Eleanor Smeal 1939
President and Founder of the Feminist Majority Foundation, political activist
Maxine Hong Kingston 1940–
Author; books speak to the heritage/ contributions of Chinese–Americans
Jaune Quick–To–See Smith 1940–
Abstract Painter/Lithographer; acclaimed American Indian artist
Wilma Rudolph 1940–1994
Olympic Athlete; three gold medals track & field; crippled as a child
Buffy Sainte–Marie 1941–
Singer; Cree Indian; supported Native American rights through song
Minnijean Brown Trickey 1941–
Civil Rights Activist Who Integrated Central High School in 1957
Elizabeth Eckford 1942–
Student Integrator; Little Rock, Arkansas 1957
Rachel Binah 1942–
Community Activist; organized to stop oil drilling off the Calif. North Coast
Billy Jean King 1943–
Tennis Star/Women's Rights Activist; most Wimbledon titles; Title IX
Tania Leon 1943–
Composer/Conductor; Cuban immigrated to NY; Broadway The Wiz
Vilma Martinez 1943–
Civil Rights Attorney; Pres. Mexican–American Legal Defense Fund

Honored Women in Our History

Mary S. "Mimi" Cooper 1943–
Teacher/Environmental Activist/Director of Rachel Carson Council
Kathleen Eagan 1943–
Mayor/Community Activist/Funder; fought to protect the Truckee River
Linda Chavez–Thompson 1944–
Labor Leader; 1st women & person of color Vice President AFL–CIO.
Barbara Haney Irvine 1944–
Pres. Alice Paul Institute; preservation of women's historic sites
Mary Ruthsdotter 1944–
Co–Founder National Women's History Project; 1980
Wilma Mankiller 1945–
American Indian/Civil Rights Activist; successfully occupied Alcatraz
Arlene Blum 1945–
Bio–Physical Chemist/Mountaineer/Environmental Activist/Author
Judy Kellog Markowsky 1945–
Environmental educator and activist
Judith F. Baca 1946–
Artist; Los Angeles Youth Mural Project/World Wall promoting peace
Shirley Jackson 1946–
Physicist; 1st black woman Ph.D. MIT; Pres. Rensselaer Poly Institute
Kitty O'Neal 1946–
Stuntwoman; appeared on Bionic Woman; fastest woman on skies
Harilyn Rousso 1946–
Disabled Rights Activist; worked for the rights of the disabled
Carol Moseley Braun 1947–
1st Black Women US Senator; Ambassador to New Zealand & Samoa
Mary Cleave 1947–
Environmental Engineer & Astronaut; mission specialist at NASA

Althea Gibson, 1927 - 2003

In 1955 Althea Gibson almost retired from tennis. Had she done so, she would have denied herself her greatest moments. Two years later, Gibson, who started her career playing paddle tennis in New York's Harlem neighborhood, was claiming both the British and United States singles titles. Clearly, at age thirty she was at the top of her game, and she remained there the following year when she repeated her British and American triumphs.

When Gibson posed for this photograph in 1957 back on her home turf in Harlem, tennis was not a great sporting interest in African American communities. As she reached the top ranks of tennis in 1957, however, that began to change, at least for awhile. As one of her fans recalled years later, "everyone went out and bought a new racquet."

Artist: Genevieve Naylor, 1915 - 1989

Marilyn Monroe, 1926 - 1962

Marilyn Monroe was perhaps the greatest sex symbol ever to come out of Hollywood. She also turned out to be quite a good actress, and although she was often difficult on the set, she was capable of delivering some astonishingly original performances. As Billy Wilder, director of one of her finest films, Some Like It Hot, once put it, getting "three luminous minutes" of Monroe up on the screen was well "worth [the] week's torment" that it sometimes cost.
This picture was taken during Monroe's trip to Korea in 1954 to entertain American armed forces stationed there. By now, she was one of Hollywood's top-grossing stars, and G.I.s crowded by the thousands to catch a glimpse of her. They were not disappointed. The maker of the picture was a navy medic, David Geary, who had come to one of her performances armed with a new Argus camera.

Artist: David D. Geary

Frances Perkins, 1880 - 1965

The reserved Frances Perkins spoke in a quiet, genteel accent. Nevertheless, as Franklin Roosevelt's secretary of labor and the first woman ever to serve in a cabinet post, she managed to hold her own among FDR's dynamic New Dealers. Under her leadership, the Department of Labor became more influential than it had ever been. Among the most personally satisfying moments of her twelve-year tenure was the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Included in that watershed law was a ban on child labor and a provision for a minimum wage, measures that Perkins had advocated ever since her early days as a labor reformer in New York.
Clara Sipprell's likeness shows Perkins wearing the pearl necklace that was part of her signature garb. Not present, however, is the three-cornered hat that was her most reliable sartorial trademark during her tenure at Labor.

Artist: Clara Sipprell

Ethel Waters, 1896 - 1977
Carson Smith McCullers, 1917 - 1967
Julie Harris, born 1925

This photograph was taken for Life magazine in the wee morning hours of January 6, 1950, and despite its sense of letdown, the picture is really all about triumph. Earlier that evening, Ethel Waters (far left) and Julie Harris (far right) had opened on Broadway in Carson McCullers's own adaptation of her novel The Member of the Wedding. By the time of the photograph, it had become clear that the play was a smash. McCullers's adaptation, wrote one reviewer, was "masterly," and Waters's performance had been "rich and eloquent." But perhaps the plaudits that meant the most went to young Harris. At first Harris could not grasp the meaning of what was happening to her as she took curtain call after curtain call for her poignant portrayal of a motherless tomboy. But as the reviews flooded in, it was clear that she had become the theater's newest star.

Artist: Ruth Orkin

Honored Women in Our History

Hillary Rodham Clinton 1947–
Secretary of State; former U.S. Senator working on environmental issues
Mollie Beattie 1947–1996
1st Woman to head U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; enforces wildlife laws
Cindy Marano 1947–2005
Economic Justice Activist and Public Policy Visionary
Susan Love 1948–
Women's Health & Breast Cancer Research Expert; Surgeon; Advocate
Leslie Marmon Silko 1948–
Author/Poet; Pueblo Indian traditional stories, Laguna Woman 1974
Barbara K. Byrd 1949–
State Secretary–Oregon AFL–CIO/Coordinator Oregon Apollo Alliance
Rebecca Adamson 1950–
Native American Advocate; Cherokee Nation, Reservation Land Reform
Sonia Manzano 1950–
Actress; Broadway Godspell; Sesame Street; Emmy Award
Ann Hancock 1950–
Executive Director of Climate Protection Campaign
Hunter Lovins 1950–
President Natural Capitalism; Time Magazine's "Hero of the Planet" 2000
Sally Ride 1951–
Astronaut; 1st woman in space; PhD Astrophysics; Scripps Institute
Lois Marie Gibbs 1951–
Executive Director, Center for Health, Environment and Justice
Lynn Cherry 1952–
Author; award winning environmental and educational children's books
Sarah Buel 1953–
Attorney/Domestic Violence Activist; battered women & children's clinic

Honored Women in Our History

Rebecca Bell 1953–
Environmental Education Specialist; embedded public school curriculum
Linda M. Hiltabrand 1953–
Environmental Protection Specialist, IL Dept. Nat. Resources
Dr. Meg Lowman 1953–
Pioneer of canopy ecology; biologist; science educator
Harmony Hammond 1954–
Artist/Writer; lectures and writes on feminist art and lesbian art
Sharon Rose Mtola 1954–
Conservationist; founder and director of Belize Zoo
Jenny Blaker 1955–
Coordinator Cotati Creek Critters; planted native trees along waterway
Mary Hultman 1955–
Educational Naturalist; established Sanders Wildlife Rehab. Center
Abbe Lane 1955–
As Mayor of W. Hollywood, CA, initiated nation's 1st Green Building Ordinance
Anita Hill 1956–
Lawyer; testified Senate Judiciary Committee on sexual harassment
Mae Jemison 1956–
Astronaut; Medical Degree Cornell Univ., Peace Corps Africa
Suzanne Lewis 1956–
1st Woman Superintendent Yellowstone National Park
Joanelle Romero 1957–
Red Nation Media Internet & Television Channel; filmmaker, actress
Amy Goodman 1957–
Journalist for Democracy Now; issues of peace & war, global warming
Ellen Ochoa 1958–
Astronaut; 1st Latina; 9 day mission aboard Discovery

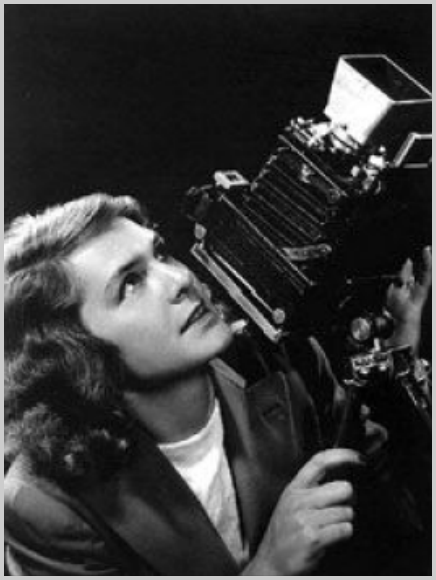
Marian Anderson, 1897 - 1993

Arturo Toscanini said that Marian Anderson had a voice that came along "once in a hundred years." When one of her teachers first heard her sing, the magnitude of her talent moved him to tears. Because she was black, however, Anderson's initial prospects as a concert singer in this country were sharply limited, and her early professional triumphs took place mostly in Europe. Ultimately, her musical gifts also won her recognition in the United States. In 1939 Anderson became the focus of a highly publicized racial incident, which began when the Daughters of the American Revolution blocked her appearance at its Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The affair generated great sympathy for Anderson and culminated with her concert at the Lincoln Memorial, which became a defining moment in America's civil rights movement.

Artist: Philippe Halsman

Margaret Bourke-White, 1906 - 1971

When news photographer Margaret Bourke-White went to Philippe Halsman's studio in 1943 to have this likeness made, she specified that the image should have a sleek, glamorous edge to it. At the moment, however, her fame was resting on accomplishments that were decidedly more gritty than glamorous, namely her many coups in covering the fronts of World War II for Life. In June 1941, she had scooped her entire profession with her dramatic pictures of German air raids over Moscow. Then, when she was on her way to cover the African front, a German submarine torpedoed the ship she was on, and she found herself recording fellow passengers as they scrambled for survival. A few months later, Bourke-White became the first woman allowed to go on a combat flying mission.



Artist: Philippe Halsman

Anna May Wong, 1905 - 1961

Blessed with a complexion once likened to a "rose blushing through ivory," Anna May Wong had by the mid-1920s become Hollywood's most important Asian American actress. But that was quite different from being a leading actress of Caucasian extraction. Unwilling to run counter to prevailing American prejudices, the film industry assiduously avoided granting full star status to nonwhites, so even when a script's heroine was Asian, studios inevitably tapped a white actress for the part over Wong. Worse yet, Wong often found herself playing secondary stock characters of the more unsavory sort that were patterned on racial stereotypes. Still, she had her moments on the screen. In Shanghai, starring Marlene Dietrich, some observers thought that she upstaged Dietrich in all the scenes they shared.

Artist: Nickolas Muray

Amelia Mary Earhart, 1897 - 1937

A seasoned pilot, Amelia Earhart readily consented in 1928 to travel as a passenger on a transatlantic flight. Upon emerging from the plane in Wales, she was catapulted to overnight fame as the first woman to fly the Atlantic, and she soon became the leading female spokesperson for America's infant aviation industry. Four years later, her reputation took a quantum leap when she piloted a solo flight across the Atlantic.
Here, Earhart is perched in the unfinished fuselage of the Lockheed Electra in which she intended to circle the globe. That journey began on June 1, 1937, when Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, took off from Florida. By mid-month they were in India, where she phoned her husband to tell him what a fine time she was having. Unfortunately, some two weeks later, her plane disappeared over the South Pacific, never to be heard from again.

Artist: Unidentified Artist

Honored Women in Our History

Dr. Roz Iasillo 1958–
Developed 1st environmental science class for secondary educ. In IL
Rebecca S. Halstead 1959–
Commanding General, 3rd Corps Support Command, Germany"
Maya Lin 1959–
Architect/Sculptor; Vietnam Memorial; Civil Right Memorial, Alabama
Pam Iorio 1959–
Mayor of Tampa, FL; working to make Tampa a green city
Osprey Orielle Lake 1959–
Sculptor/Lecturer/Teacher; pioneering female monument maker
Winona LaDuke 1960–
Author/Environmentalist; Founding Dir. White Earth Land Recovery Project
Robin Roberts 1960–
Athlete/TV Sports Journalist; basketball; 1000 point career
Lorna Simpson 1960–
Photographer; pioneer of conceptual photography
Tammy Cromer–Campbell 1960–
Photographer/Author/Filmmaker; With Fruit of the Orchard
Dr. Jeannie McLain 1960–
Research Microbiologist with USDA; focus on water recycling
Pamela S. Chasek 1961–
Founder/Editor Earth Negotiations Bulletin; climate change awareness
Mignon Leticia Clyburn 1962–
South Carolina Public Service Commissioner/ Editor & Publisher
Toshi Reagon 1964–
Singer/Song Writer; genre blending rock to R & B
Wendy Abrams 1965–
Founder Cool Globes; raising awareness of global warming & solutions

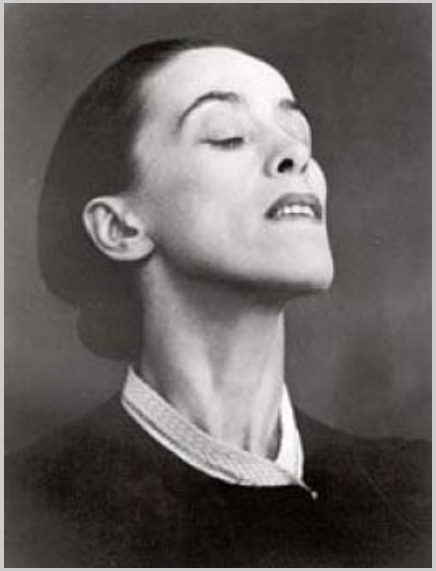
Honored Women in Our History

Lihua Lei 1966–
Artist; creates multimedia installations embracing life and her own disability
Lora Ledermann 1967–
Businesswoman protecting environment through recycling and pro–bono work
Edna Campbell 1968–
Professional Athlete–Basketball; Breast Cancer Spokesperson
Rebecca Walker 1969–
Youth Organizer; founder Third Wave Foundation for young women/teens
Eryn Klosko 1971–
Educator/Author; teaches science of global warming and sustainability
Donna Lewis 1972–
Curator/Author/Educator; active wildlife rehabilitator
Monique Mehta 1973–
Executive Director Third Wave Foundation/ Community Organizer
Sunshine Goodmorning 1974–
National Park Service Maintenance Office/EEO Committee
Julia Butterfly Hill 1974–
Environmental Hero; lived 2 years on Redwood tree to save forest
Stephanie Avery 1975–
Director–Special Projects YWCA; developed ECO CAMPS; built trails
Caitlin Alexandra Dunbar 1989–2004
Girl Scout Nature Center founded in her name to honor her love of nature

SOURCE:
http://www.nwhp.org/whm/honorees_timeline.pdf

Martha Graham, 1894 - 1991

Most would agree that anyone starting out in dance past the age of twenty is unlikely to go very far in the profession. One extraordinary exception was Martha Graham, who did not enroll in a dance class until she was twenty-two. Premising her approach to dance on the belief that movement grew out of emotion, Graham eventually went on to form her own dance company and continued to perform until she was seventy-five. Along the way, she also choreographed scores of original works and became a leading force in the creation of modern American dance.



This likeness was made when Graham and her company were performing in San Francisco. When some audiences members there found Graham's approach a bit too avant-garde the dancer noted, "No artist is ahead of his time. He is his time; it is just the others are behind the time."

Artist: Sonya Noskowiak

Katharine Houghton Hepburn, 1907 - 2003

When Katharine Hepburn struck this theatrical pose for Edward Steichen in 1933, she was one of America's rising stars. Her much-praised performance the previous year in the Broadway play The Warrior's Husband had led to a movie contract with RKO studios, and her first film, A Bill of Divorcement, had earned her much critical acclaim. Hard on its heels came the screen version of Little Women, in which, one critic said, she created "one of the most memorable heroines of the year."
When this picture ran in Vanity Fair, it was meant as a portent of yet another Hepburn triumph-her return to Broadway in The Lake. The play was a disaster, however, and for the next several years, Hepburn's career had some rough patches. Still, over a career that lasted more than fifty years, Hepburn won four Best Actress Oscars, a feat that remains unequaled today.

Artist: Edward Jean Steichen

Josephine Baker, 1906 - 1975

From her beginnings in vaudeville, Josephine Baker exhibited a verve and sensuality that stood out even in a chorus line. Having grown up in poverty in St. Louis, she seized the opportunity in 1925 to travel to Paris in the Harlem music and dance ensemble La Revue Nègre. With a reputation for daring outfits and a performance style that was at once erotic and comic, Baker became a star. Ernest Hemingway, who regularly frequented the Club Joséphine, where Baker served as "hostess," called her "the most sensational woman anyone ever saw . . . or ever will." After the outbreak of World War II, Baker threw herself behind the Allied cause, working with refugees and performing for the troops. In later years she became a vocal civil rights proponent, insisting on integrated audiences wherever she performed.

Artist: Stanislaus Julian Walery

Aimee Semple McPherson, 1890 - 1944

Aimee Semple McPherson's mother was determined from early on that her daughter should dedicate herself to the work of God. Yet she had little inkling of just what that meant for American religion. By her mid-twenties, armed with a theatrical flair and limitless energy, McPherson was traveling the East Coast, stirring up religious fervor wherever she stopped. Before long, she had her own magazine and was crisscrossing the entire country, preaching several times a day and leaving in her wake countless stories of miraculous faith healings. Cynics dismissed her, but they could not deny her extraordinary power to hold audiences spellbound.
When she posed for this portrait in the Gerhard Sisters' St. Louis studio, McPherson was in midst of a multicity gospel tour, preaching to overflow audiences three times a day.

Artist: Gerhard Sisters Studio

Margaret Higgins Sanger, 1879 - 1966

As a nurse on New York's crowded Lower East Side, Margaret Sanger saw firsthand how constant childbearing contributed to the cycle of poverty, and in 1912 she gave up nursing to devote herself to the promotion of birth control. Faced with laws forbidding dissemination of contraceptive information, Sanger's crusade had much opposition. But by 1921, when Sanger founded the Birth Control League, her movement had begun to win adherents in respectable quarters. Many years of battling were left before birth control would become part of mainstream social thinking, but with Sanger leading the way, that outcome increasingly seemed to be all but inevitable.

This photograph was taken shortly after Sanger's thirty-day imprisonment in 1917 for opening her first birth control clinic. Shortly before her release, the police ordered her to submit to fingerprinting. When she refused, a prolonged physical struggle ensued, from which she emerged the winner.
Artist: Ira L. Hill

Isadora Duncan, 1877 - 1927

Dancer Isadora Duncan scorned the rigid rules of classical ballet and instead defined her art as an expression of natural instinct and inner feeling. Raised in a bohemian atmosphere that almost preordained her departures from convention, she began devising spontaneously choreographed pieces in the 1890s. By the early 1900s she was touring Europe, where her work won a considerable following. In the United States, however, many were scandalized by her minimal costumes and the sensual quality of her performances. Nevertheless, she had her American defenders.

The maker of this picture, Arnold Genthe, was a friend and great admirer of Duncan. "Her body was not beautiful," he recalled in his memoir. "But when she danced, the nobility of her gestures could make it into something of superb perfection and divine loveliness."

Artist: Arnold Genthe

WOMEN'S ISSUES MAJOR FOCUS OF U.S. POLICY

A Voice in Support of Women's Progress

In March, the world observes International Women's Day and the United States observes Women's History Month. While women have made great strides in many areas where they once were marginalized, there is still much work to be done in areas including education, health and gender-based violence.

"If half of the world's population remains vulnerable to economic, political, legal and social marginalization, our hope of advancing democracy and prosperity will remain in serious jeopardy," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said at her Senate confirmation hearing. "We still have a long way to go, and the United States must remain an unambiguous and unequivocal voice in support of women's rights in every country, every region, on every continent."

Ending Gender-Based Violence in Africa

According to the World Health Organization, one in three women around the world will experience violence in her lifetime, either through the form of domestic, sexual, and / or psychological abuse, or mutilation and murder. The Obama administration and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a longtime defender of human rights, have taken a number of decisive actions to help stop violence against women and girls both in the United States and around the world. Raising awareness about gender-based violence is the first step.

Source: http://www.america.gov/

Milestones in U.S. Women's History

Some of the outstanding people and events that moved women's rights forward

1964 Patsy Mink of Hawaii is the first Asian-Pacific-American woman elected to Congress. Margaret Chase Smith becomes the first woman to run for a U.S. presidential nomination on a major party ticket (Republican; Barry Goldwater wins the nomination).

1964 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race or sex.

1968 Shirley Chisholm is the first black woman elected to Congress. In 1972, she becomes the first black candidate for a presidential nomination on a major-party ticket (Democrat), and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination (George McGovern wins the nomination).

1972 Title IX of the Education Amendments bans sex discrimination in schools. Enrollment of women in athletics programs and professional schools increases dramatically.

1978 Women's History Week first is celebrated in Sonoma County, California. (Congress passes a resolution on National Women's History Week in 1981.)

1981 Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving until 2006. Jeane Kirkpatrick becomes the first female U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

1983 Astronaut Sally Ride is the first American woman in space, flying on the shuttle Challenger. She flies a second shuttle mission in 1984.

1984 Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first woman nominated for vice president by a major party (Democrat) when she is selected as Walter Mondale's running mate.

1985 Wilma Mankiller is elected first female principal chief of an American Indian nation, the Cherokee Nation.

1987 Congress expands Women's History Week to a monthlong event celebrated in March.

1989 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida is the first Hispanic-American woman elected to Congress.

1992 Astronaut Mae Jemison, a physician, is the first African-American woman in space, flying aboard the space shuttle Endeavour as a mission specialist.

1993 Toni Morrison becomes the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature. Janet Reno is the first woman attorney general of the United States.

1995 Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins is the first woman to pilot a space shuttle. In 1999, she becomes the first woman to command a space shuttle.

1997 Madeleine Albright is sworn is as the first woman U.S. secretary of state. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, she became a U.S. citizen in 1957.

2001 Elaine Chao becomes secretary of labor, the first Asian-American woman to be appointed to a president's Cabinet in American history.

2005 Condoleezza Rice is the first African-American woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state.

2006 Captain Nicole Malachowski debuts as the first female demonstration pilot in the U.S. Air Force's air demonstration squadron team, the Thunderbirds.

2007 Nancy Pelosi is sworn in as the first female speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, one of the most powerful posts in the U.S. government.

2007-2008 Hillary Rodham Clinton is the first woman to become a leading candidate for a presidential nomination, mounting a fierce challenge against Barack Obama, the ultimate winner of the Democratic Party's nomination and election. In 2009, Clinton is sworn in as secretary of state, becoming the first former first lady to serve in a president's Cabinet.

2009 Michelle Obama becomes the first African-American first lady of the United States.

2009 In the 111th Congress, a record 17 women serve in the Senate and 73 women serve in the House of Representatives. This total of 90 seats equals 17 percent of the 535 seats in Congress. In addition, three women serve as delegates to the House of Representatives from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington.

Source: http://www.america.gov/

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