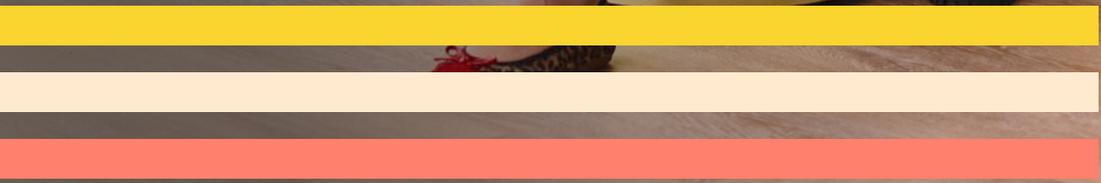




MARCH 2026

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH RESOURCE GUIDE





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PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to center, honor, celebrate, and uplift the contributions and voices of women in our society. This guide will provide resources to UW staff during Women's History Month and beyond. Women's History is American History!

OUTCOMES

This guide will help participants to:

- Build awareness and empathy
- Increase cultural competency
- Cultivate a sense of belonging and community
- Identify and reflect upon ones own cultural identity

THE HISTORY BEHIND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month stems from International Women's Day, first celebrated on March 8, 1911. Decades later, the local school district in Sonoma, CA celebrated Women's History Week in 1978.

Shortly after, in 1979, several organizations celebrated and advocated for Women's History Week together: Sarah Lawrence College, the Women's Action Alliance, and the Smithsonian Institution.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8, 1980, as Women's History Week by presidential proclamation. In the following years, Congress passed joint resolutions proclaiming Women's History Week.

Then, in 1987, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9, which officially designated March 1987 as the first Women's History Month. Since then, Presidents from 1988 onward have all made an annual proclamation of Women's History Month.

2026 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH THEME

For 2026, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) proudly presents the theme “Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future”.

This theme honors the women who have and are reimagining and rebuilding systems to ensure long-term sustainability- environmental, economic, educational, and societal. It recognizes the powerful leadership of women in creating a future that is rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity for all.

 [2026 Women's History Month Theme](#)

7 WAYS TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

1. Explore online exhibitions with the National Women's History Museum
2. Share quotes from famous women.
3. Read books or stories written by women.
4. Support women-owned businesses.
5. Make a Women's Empowerment Playlist.
6. Volunteer with a nonprofit that empowers women & girls.
7. Share about an inspirational woman in your life.

 For more details visit: [Meaningful WHM Ideas for Work](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA CAPTION EXAMPLES

Use these examples below to spread awareness about Women's History Month!



Here's to the women who have paved the way, shattered glass ceilings, and inspired generations. May we continue to celebrate their strength, resilience, and achievements not just this month, but every day. Let's honor their stories, amplify their voices, and strive for a future where equity and empowerment are the norm. Happy Women's History Month! 🧑‍🦰💪
#WomensHistoryMonth #EmpoweredWomen #StrongerTogether



Cheers to the trailblazers, the change-makers, and the unsung heroes who have shaped history with their courage and determination. This Women's History Month, let's recognize the invaluable contributions of women past and present, and commit to creating a world where every woman can thrive. Here's to celebrating progress, honoring resilience, and championing equity for all. #WomensHistoryMonth #CelebrateWomen #Empowerment



This Women's History Month, we honor the remarkable achievements and unwavering resilience of women across the globe. From breaking barriers in boardrooms to leading groundbreaking research, women continue to shape industries, drive innovation, and inspire future generations. Let's use this month as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue, action, and advocacy, ensuring that workplaces everywhere foster inclusion, diversity, and equal opportunities for all. Here's to celebrating the past, present, and future achievements of women everywhere. #WomensHistoryMonth #Inclusion #Diversity #Empowerment



This Women's History Month, we honor the remarkable achievements and unwavering resilience of women across the globe. From breaking barriers in boardrooms to leading groundbreaking research, women continue to shape industries, drive innovation, and inspire future generations. #WomensHistoryMonth

SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

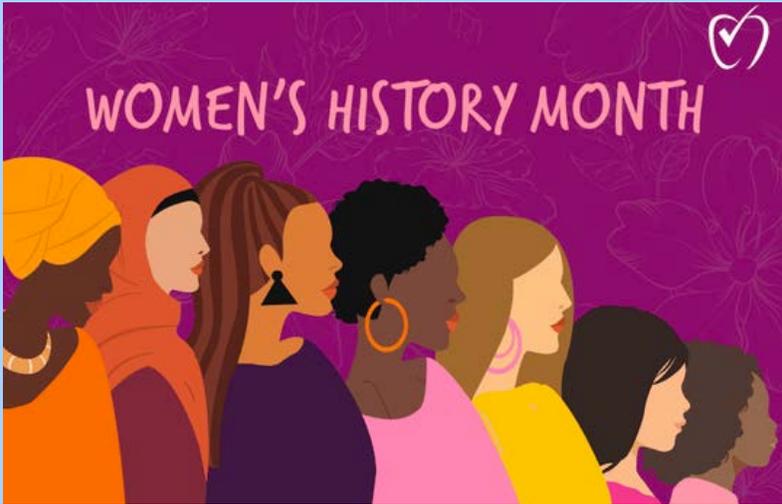
1. Pair Your Social Media Posts with Meaningful Action
2. Share How Women's History Month fits into Your Company's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Goals
3. Share Women's History Month Quotes on Social Media
4. Share What You're Watching, Reading, & Listening to This Women's History Month
5. Use Women's History Month Hashtags
6. Share About Women's History with Your Followers
7. Collaborate with Women Content Creators
8. Amplify Women's Voices



View more social media tips and details [here](#).

ZOOM BACKGROUNDS

CLICK IMAGES TO DOWNLOAD



FAMOUS QUOTES

“

Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.

Marie Curie

“

**I am a woman /
Phenomenally /
Phenomenal woman /
That's me.**

Maya Angelou

“

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.

Audre Lorde

“

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained.

Helen Keller

“

Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got.

Janis Joplin

“

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

Mother Teresa

“

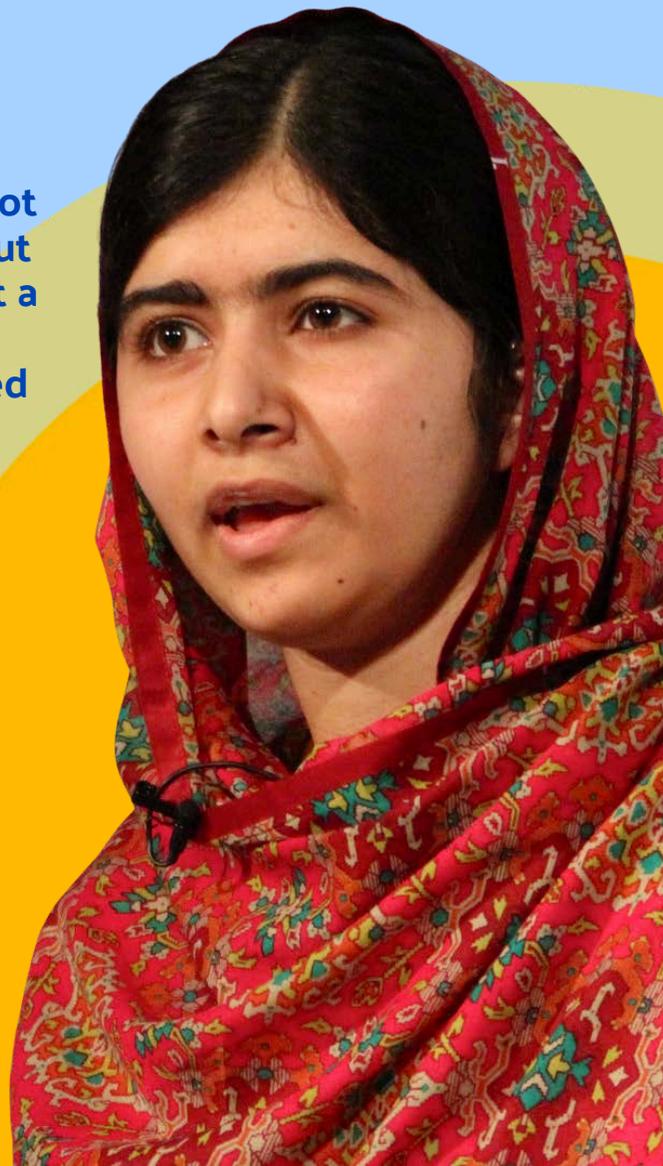
I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.

Malala Yousafzai

“

You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.

Michelle Obama



MUSIC PLAYLIST

- [Celebrating Women in Music](#)
(YouTube)
- [Women's History Month Playlist](#)
(Spotify)
- Respect by Aretha Franklin
- Run the World (Girls) by Beyoncé
- Most Girls by Hailee Steinfeld
- Brave by Sara Bareilles
- I Am Woman by Emmy Meli
- Stronger by Britney Spears
- Superwoman by Alicia Keys

PODCASTS

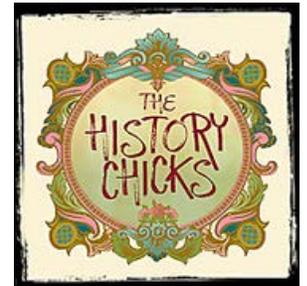
Click the images below to register with FeedSpot and listen.

podcasts.feedspot.com/women_history_podcasts



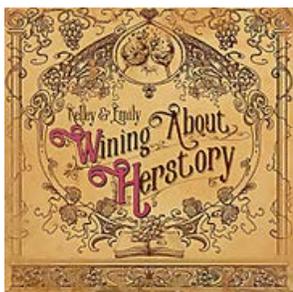
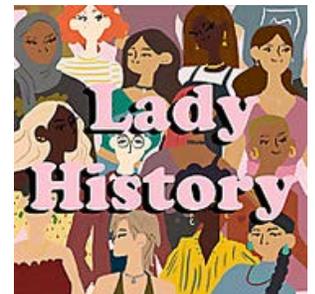
Thinking back to our history classes growing up, we had one question: Where the ladies at? Enter, Womanica. In just 5 minutes a day, learn about different incredible women from throughout history. On Wonder Media Network's award-winning podcast, we're telling the stories of women you may or may not know – but definitely should.

We will introduce you to female characters in history, factual or fictional via our podcast and shownotes. The podcast episodes will go into greater detail as we chat about the challenges, failures and successes, times, and all the juicy bits that we find interesting about the life of our subject.



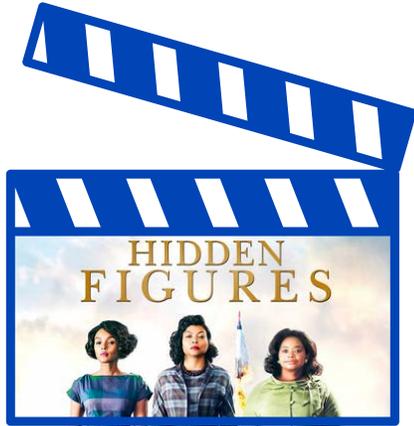
What'sHerName women's history podcast is hosted and produced by academic sisters Olivia Meikle and Katie Nelson. Committed to reclaiming forgotten history, What'sHerName tells the stories of fascinating women you've never heard of (but should have).

Lady History is the podcast where we cover the stories of the world's most iconic women. From ladies who saved the day to ladies who committed crimes. From women who broke barriers, to women who built them. We're covering the good, the bad, and the ugly of women's history.



Join long time gal pals, Kelley & Emily, as they swap stories about incredible women from history over a cheap bottle of wine. They take wining to a whole new level. Women's history has never been this tipsy!

WHM MOVIES



[Hidden Figures](#)
[\(2016\)](#)



[Little Women](#)
[1994/2019](#)



[He Named Me Malala](#)
[2015](#)

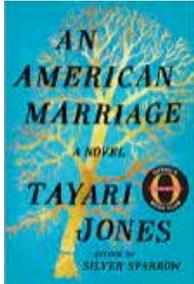


[Frida](#)
[2002](#)

 [50 Films to Watch During Women's History Month](#)

 [13 Films Full of Female Empowerment](#)

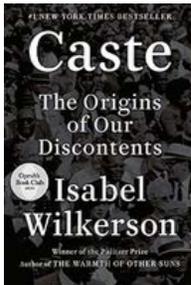
WHM ADULT READS



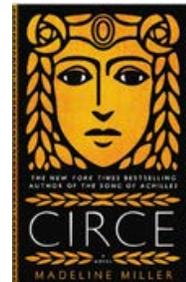
An American Marriage
Tayari Jones



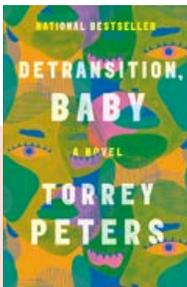
Becoming
Michelle Obama



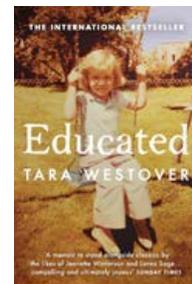
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents
Isabel Wilkerson



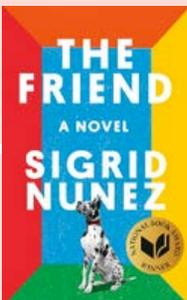
Circle
Madeline Miller



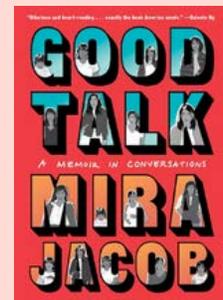
Detransition, Baby
Torrey Peters



Educated
Tara Westover



Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations
Mira Jacobs

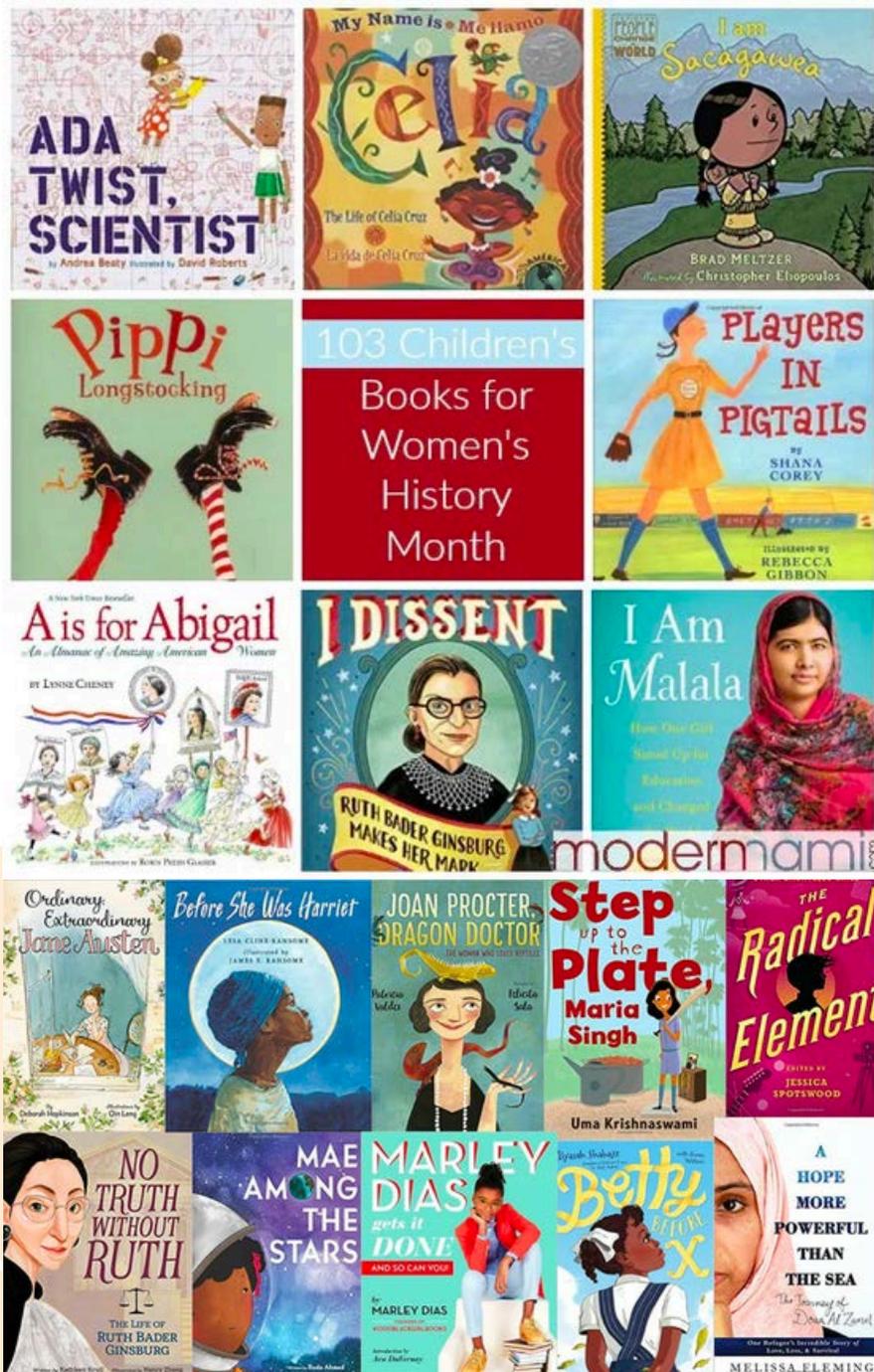


Visit here for [Must Reads for Women's History Month](#)

WHM CHILDREN'S BOOKS

[32 Inspiring Books for Women's History Month](#)

[103 Children's Books for Women's History](#)



UNITED WAY LEADER HIGHLIGHTS

All Presidents, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), and Executive Directors within our California United Way network dedicate themselves tirelessly to achieving equitable outcomes for all Californians. Notably, women lead 20 out of the 29 local United Ways within the network. This month presents a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on the women who guide our organizations and celebrate their numerous successes and accomplishments.

Join us in honoring their hard work and unwavering commitment to these initiatives.



TARA ART

Executive Director, Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way

Tara Art is passionate about making a difference in the Yuba-Sutter-Colusa community. With a strong background in sales and real estate, she brings energy, creativity, and a deep understanding of people to her role as Executive Director.

Tara has built her career on connecting with others, finding solutions, and creating opportunities that make a lasting impact. As an active member of Rotary, Tara believes in the power of service above self and is dedicated to helping local families thrive. Her proven leadership experience, strong sales background, and role as a realtor in the local residential and commercial space, provides additional skills that translate directly to nonprofit management and community engagement. Her leadership at United Way is fueled by her belief that when a community comes together, real change happens.

KRISTEN BIRTWHISTLE

**President & CEO,
United Way of San Joaquin County**

Kristen Spracher-Birtwhistle became President/CEO of United Way of San Joaquin County in January, 2019. She has over 25 years of experience in executive leadership, management and operational administration of medical groups, and consultant services. She was instrumental in start-up of the award-winning Child Abuse Prevention Services Program for the Northern California Region.

Her work has included expansive support of community benefit initiatives from building a clinic on the campus of elementary schools, to construction and implementation of a medical clinic on wheels that traveled to all corners of the community, to establishment of a Women's Wellness Conference that ran for over 12 years. She is one of the founders of Pacific's Advancing Women's Leadership forum, is a past ATHENA and Susan B. Anthony recipient and the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award from University of the Pacific. She is also the founder of The Eleanor Project a program dedicated to the advancement of women, their causes and mentorship between young and established women.





KALIE BRISBON

CEO,

United Way of Northern California

Kalie Brisbon is a community and social services professional who specializes in nonprofit organizations, youth development, early childhood education, and leadership. Before joining United Way of Northern California in January 2019, she worked as a health educator and reproductive health specialist with Planned Parenthood Northern California.

She also served as a program specialist for the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, a youth activities counselor for Disney Cruise Line, and facility manager for Open Line Group Home. Kalie holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Simpson University. In her free time, she is a dedicated volunteer and skater with Shasta Roller Derby, enjoys exploring the outdoors, and spending time with her ten nieces and nephews. She is committed to increasing the awareness of support resources and building a collaborative community through all her projects.

YVETTE LOPEZ BROOKS

CEO, United Way of Santa Cruz County

Brooks recently stepped down from her position as Mayor of Capitola to dedicate herself to this new role of Chief Operating Officer of Santa Cruz County. Brooks served as a two-term Capitola City Council Member from 2018 to 2025, serving twice as Mayor during that time. Her leadership in Capitola was marked by a commitment to equity, collaboration, and innovative policymaking. She successfully championed projects such as Capitola's first universally designed playground and spearheaded initiatives fostering inclusivity and diversity within city governance.

With over 15 years of experience at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Brooks has been at the forefront of championing equitable access to education and resources for students. For over three years, she has served as the Executive Director of Your Future Is Our Business (YFIOB), where she implemented work-based learning initiatives connecting Santa Cruz County students with career opportunities and mentorships. "Together with the United Way team, I look forward to building a healthier and more equitable future for Santa Cruz County, ensuring that every resident has access to the tools and resources they need to thrive. I am honored to serve in this capacity and continue creating opportunities for youth, families, and communities across the region."





KEISHA BROWDER

**President & CEO,
United Way Bay Area**

Keisha Browder is a courageous leader who adeptly navigates challenges while seeking out opportunities to pave the way for marginalized communities. Keisha is the first Black chief executive for the organization since its founding more than a century ago.

Prior to joining UWBA, Keisha served in various roles at United Way of Santa Cruz County, including CEO, Director of Development and Marketing, and Associate Executive Director. Her 25-year nonprofit experience includes leading initiatives ranging from youth well-being to the Community Assessment Project that have earned national recognition for their equity-centered approach to creating a culture of health. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and is a graduate of the University of Washington and Stanford University's Graduate School of Business Nonprofit Management Institute. Keisha and her family are proud to call the Bay Area their home, where they enjoy the great outdoors, innovation, and the serenity of peace.

ELISE BUIK

**President & CEO,
United Way of Greater Los Angeles**

In March 2005, Elise Buik made history by becoming the first female President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Greater Los Angeles. Elise has been instrumental in transforming United Way into a community impact organization that identifies social issues, convenes experts, partners with other organizations, and crafts innovative solutions and policies.

Under her leadership, United Way launched its strategic 10-year action plan, Creating Pathways Out of Poverty. She was honored with the “2009 Nonprofit CEO of the Year” award from the Los Angeles Business Journal, the “Leadership Award” at Peace Over Violence’s 37th Annual Humanitarian Awards, and the “Non-profit Leadership & Responsibility Award” at the 28th Annual Edmund G. “Pat” Brown Institute of Public Affairs Awards Dinner. Recognized as Nonprofit CEO of the Year by the Los Angeles Business Journal, she continues to champion racial justice and equity to build a more inclusive L.A. Elise is also a wife and mother to two small boys, Hudson and Davis.





LISA CARREÑO

**President & CEO,
United Way of the Wine Country**

Lisa Carreño has been an attorney, non-profit, and community leader on both the east and the west coasts for over three decades. Focused on social justice, family violence prevention, LGBTQI and immigrant rights, and access to higher education in the past, Lisa joined United Way of the Wine Country as its President and CEO in August 2018 to help lead a new business model design, strategic planning, community building, and organizational change management

Since joining the staff, Lisa has led United Way through emergencies, disasters, and the pandemic to help build an aligned, integrated, and profitable foundation that serves this five-county region—Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties—as the leading philanthropic agent for equity-centered systems change and family financial stability. Lisa graduated cum laude with her BA in Latin American history in 1984 and obtained her JD from the Columbus School of Law in 1988. Lisa is the only Latina to chair the Sonoma County Fair Board of Directors during its 82-year history and was the first member of the community appointed to serve on the Editorial Board for the Press Democrat newspaper.

ROSEMARY CASO

**President & CEO,
United Way of Tulare County**

Rosemary is a native of Tulare, CA. She holds an undergraduate degree in childhood development from San Jose State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. She has a robust skill set that includes public speaking, fundraising, event planning, nonprofit leadership, and event management.

She is a member of the Visalia Rotary Club, the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force, and the Hispanic Roundtable, and she serves as president of the Tulare County Child Care Planning Council. Rosemary is very active in the Portuguese community. She served as the president for the Portuguese Celebration in Tulare and was the first female to do so. “It is important to me to treat people with respect and integrity. We need to be lifting others up and helping them when they’re down, not kicking them, and it is their chance to rise.”





KATY CASTAGNA

President & CEO, United Way Monterey County

Katy has a Bachelor's degree from Brown University with concentrations in Anthropology and Latin American Studies, and an MBA with an emphasis in nonprofit management from The Anderson School of Management at UCLA. She has over 35 years of experience working and volunteering in public and nonprofit organizations in Southern California and Monterey County.

Since 2015, she has served as President and CEO of United Way Monterey County and is leading the organization's focus on financial stability for families through access to affordable quality child care, housing, and financial literacy. Katy's current community involvement includes the Rotary Club of Monterey (Board of Directors), the CSUMB Business Advisory Council (Member), and the American Cetacean Society Monterey Bay Chapter (Treasurer). A graduate of Brown University, Katy holds an MBA from The Anderson School of Management at UCLA. She lives in Monterey with her husband and their two children. Among her other interests, she volunteers with the American Cetacean Society, a whale and dolphin conservation organization.

DR. DAWNTÉ EARLY

**President & CEO,
United Way California Capital Region**

Dawnté Early, a distinguished authority in health equity, public health, and mental health, currently serves as the President and CEO of United Way California Capital Region. Her extensive experience and expertise have positioned her at the helm of the organization's mission to end poverty in the Capital Region.

Her focus is on empowering children to thrive academically, investing in families, and addressing the systemic racial disparities that persist in schools. Beyond her significant role at United Way, Dr. Early made history in 2021 when she was elected to the West Sacramento City Council, becoming the first Black councilmember ever elected and being part of the first all-female city council in the history of West Sacramento. She earned a master's degree in child development and a PhD in human development with a minor in quantitative psychology from UC Davis. Dawnté is a wife and mother of two. As an active community member and passionate volunteer, she leads her daughter's Girl Scout Troop and coaches basketball for the West Sacramento Parks and Recreation league.





STEPHANIE NATHAN

**President & CEO,
United Way Fresno and Madera Counties**

Stephanie Nathan, MPH, is an accomplished public health professional and dedicated community leader. With 15 years of experience in public health across the corporate, academic, and local government sectors, Stephanie has demonstrated expertise in management, strategic planning, grant administration, policy development, and systems and environmental change efforts.

Her significant contributions include leading Madera Public Health towards accreditation and implementing performance management and quality improvement systems. Deeply involved in the Madera community, she serves as President of the Madera NAACP, city of Madera Community Development Block Grant Commissioner, and school site council member. Her outstanding service was recognized with the 4 Around 40 award from the Madera Chamber of Commerce in 2022. Stephanie holds a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Public Health degree with a specialization in Health Policy and Leadership from Loma Linda University. Outside of her professional commitments, Stephanie is active in Remnant Church Madera and cherishes her roles as a wife and mother to a 9-year-old daughter. She finds joy in reading, traveling, and indulging in well-deserved naps.

REBECCA OLDENBURG

**Executive Director,
Mojave Valley United Way**

Rebecca, originally from Long Beach and a proud graduate of Long Beach City College, has been a cherished local resident for the past year. With a diverse background in community support roles—ranging from security and police officer positions to being a dedicated caretaker for her mother—Rebecca brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our community.

As our new Executive Director, Rebecca is passionate about promoting education, health, and economic stability in the Barstow area. She believes in the power of people and businesses working together to make a difference. Currently, she is focusing on securing funding for essential programs like the Kids Pack Program, School Tools Program, Senior Citizen programs, and many more! Rebecca is dedicated to serving the residents of our community, and under her leadership, Mojave Valley United Way will continue to thrive and make a positive impact.



RACHAEL OROSE

**President & CEO,
United Way of San Diego County**

For more than 25 years, Rachael Orose has served in the nonprofit sector, leading and working with national, regional, and local organizations to expand resources and pathways for children and families in low-income and historically disinvested communities.

Rachael is an entrepreneurial social-sector leader driven by a lifelong commitment to building engaged learners and strengthening communities. As President and CEO of United Way of San Diego County, Rachael is focused on advancing education and economic mobility initiatives that create lasting social change and opportunity for all San Diegans. Originally from Michigan, Rachael holds a graduate degree in public and nonprofit administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and an undergraduate degree in the same field from Grand Valley State University. Rachael is also a mom, avid traveler (with only 2 states left to visit in the U.S.), reader, two-time cancer survivor, and National Parks enthusiast.





SUSAN B. PARKS

**President & CEO,
Orange County United Way**

After a 15-year history of volunteering with the organization, Sue Parks became the President and CEO of Orange County United Way in 2017. She was also a former Board member and one of the founding members of Orange County United Way's Women's Philanthropy Fund. She is dedicated to achieving the United Way mission by delivering long-term solutions in education, financial stability, health, and housing.

She is an influential advocate for change, inspiring philanthropy and social responsibility. Under her leadership, Orange County United Way launched initiatives to address critical issues like homelessness, financial security, and student success. During the pandemic, Parks played a key role in securing emergency rental assistance for thousands of residents. She also led the organization's involvement in advancing health equity through the Equity in OC Initiative. Previously, as an entrepreneur and business executive, Sue was passionate about community service and involvement throughout Orange County, including her annual "Walk with Parks" event. She holds an impressive track record and has received numerous awards and recognition for her leadership and contributions.

LOUISE REED

Executive Director, United Way of Nevada County

After living in the Bay Area for many years, Louise and her family bought a small farm and moved to Nevada County in 2021. Her career history began in advertising and marketing. She has been involved in creating brands, being a brand ambassador, and developing and executing communications strategies and messaging.

Louise has been an extremely involved volunteer with children, working as PTA President at two different schools and as a board member for the Alameda Education Foundation and the Alameda Soccer Club. She currently volunteers for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a nationwide group of over 8 million volunteers working towards common-sense gun laws. Louise continues to lead United Way of Nevada County by providing strong support to local community partners and filling any gaps in their social services. "I am so excited to help United Way of Nevada County provide strong support to our local community partners and fill in any gaps in our social services. It's important to me that everyone in the County knows we are here to help."





DR. GWENDOLYN DOWDY-RODGERS

**CEO & President,
Arrowhead United Way**

Gwen is the President and CEO of Arrowhead United Way. She continues to lead by example and advocate for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. Gwen is considered “a champion of the people,” and she fights every day to ensure there is equity for all youth and their families.

Gwen has over ten years of experience advocating for foster youth and their families throughout San Bernardino County. She is the founder of the Young Women’s Empowerment Foundation (YWE), which provides leadership training and advocacy to protect and educate young women in the community. As the President of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, she has helped to develop Restorative Practices, PBIS, Youth Courts, and other Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies to assist students in the district. She works directly with teachers and principals in various capacities and provides leadership for several community organizations. Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers has a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from California Baptist University, a Master’s in Human Resource Management, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Liberty University.

DR. ALÍA A. RODRIGUEZ

President & CEO,
Corona-Norco United Way

Rodriguez has been serving the public for over 18 years throughout Riverside County. Her experiences in local government and the non-profit sectors give her a unique set of skills that have been proven to improve cultures, processes, and policies in the organizations she has worked with.

She is the CEO and Domestic Violence Advocate at the Corona-Norco United Way, an Adjunct Professor in the History and Government Department at California Baptist University, and is also the CEO of her own consulting company, Alia Rodriguez Independent Advising (ARIA). Additionally, she serves on various boards, commissions, and committees throughout the county, including the Corona Regional Medical Center, the Community Action Partnership, and as the Chair of the Corona Chamber of Commerce Executive Leadership Roundtable. She and her husband have two children, two rescue dogs, and live in the City of Riverside.





KIMBERLY STARRS

**President & CEO,
Inland SoCal United Way**

Kim has worked in the United Way network for 18 years and was named President and CEO for Inland SoCal United Way & 211 in April 2023. In partnership with the team at ISCUW, she was instrumental in the expansion of the agency from \$2.7M in annual revenue to more than \$300M raised over three years.

She has a background in program administration and development, fundraising, and marketing, and has a well-rounded understanding of United Way, 211, and Non-Profit Administration. Kim was born and raised in the Inland Region of Southern California. She recently attained her Master of Business Administration and holds a CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive) credential. She is the Board Chair for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Inland Empire Chapter, and has served as an AFP board member for 6 years. Kim is proud of her mixed Mexican, European, and Indigenous heritage and believes that diversity strengthens every relationship. She lives with her partner and two children.

LIZ SUMMER

CEO,

United Way of San Luis Obispo County

Since moving to the Central Coast with her family 30 years ago, Summer has built an impressive career, working for major institutions such as Merrill Lynch, Pacific Premier Bank, and SESLOC Credit Union, where she most recently served as Senior Vice President of Business Services. Beyond her career in finance, Summer co-founded and served as General Manager of a local lifestyle magazine in the early 2000s.

In 2016, her dedication was recognized when she was named San Luis Obispo's Citizen of the Year. Her dedication to community service is expected to propel the organization forward in its mission to support local residents in need. Summer said, "It is an honor to serve those who are impacted by United Way's programs and services. Becoming the CEO of this decades-old organization is my way of giving back to this wonderful place I call home." Summer's deep roots in the Central Coast extend to her personal life as well. Married for nearly 40 years, she and her husband have raised three children, all of whom now live and work locally. The family also includes three grandchildren, furthering their connection to the area.





NANETTE VILLARREAL

Executive Director, Kings United Way

Nanette has been the Executive Director of Kings United Way since 2005. She is responsible for the overall operations of the organization, including human resources, resource development, and adherence to agency policies established by the Board of Directors. She has worked for Community Benefit Organizations for more than thirty years.

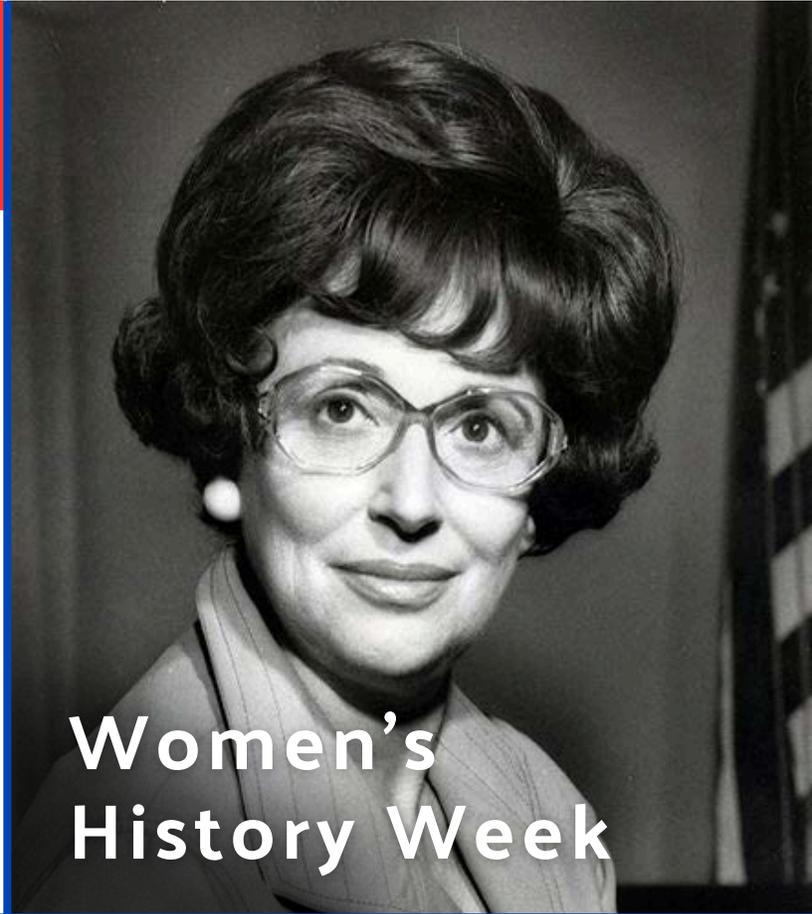
Her expertise is in resource development work to support marginalized communities. Nanette's proven track record and her ability to bring in funding and resources have garnered goodwill and a positive reputation within the community. She was honored by The Hanford Chamber of Commerce in 2017 with the "Career Achievement Award." Under her leadership, programs and resources such as 211 and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) have continued to thrive and provide community members with the building blocks for a good life. Nanette attended California State University, Fresno, and received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology.

DAILY FACTS

Sources: [biography.com](https://www.biography.com) | [olds.us](https://www.olds.us)

**MAR
1**

On this day in 1978, Women's History Week was first observed in Sonoma County, California. Nine years later, on March 1, 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating March as Women's History Month. This day is also the birthday of Gladys Spellman, who was the first woman elected president of the National Association of Counties in 1972.



**Women's
History Week**

**MAR
2**

On this day in 1955, nine months before Rosa Parks entered the history books for not giving up her seat to a white person at the front of a bus, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested for doing the same. Colvin was also one of the plaintiffs in the case of *Browder v. Gayle*, the case that ended up overturning bus segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama.



**Claudette
Colvin**

DAILY FACTS

MAR
3

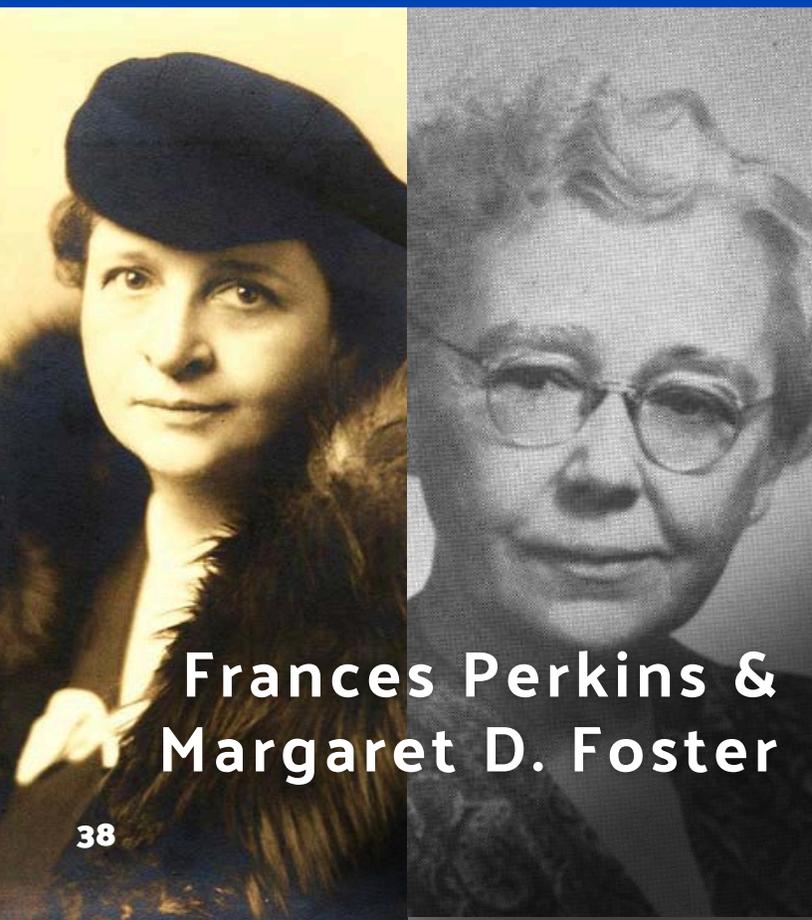
On this day in 1913, the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, DC occurred, where over 8,000 women gathered to demand a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote. Also on this day, Jackie Joyner-Kersey was born in 1962. She is considered one of the world's greatest female athletes. She holds the record in the long jump (1988) and the heptathlon (1986), and she won 3 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze medals in 4 Olympic Games.



Women's
Suffrage March &
Jackie Joyner-Kersey

MAR
4

On this day in 1933, Frances Perkins became United States Secretary of Labor, the first female member of the United States Cabinet. Margaret D. Foster, born on this day in 1895, is recognized as the first female chemist to work for the United States Geological Survey. She worked on the Manhattan Project, in the Chemistry and Physics Section.

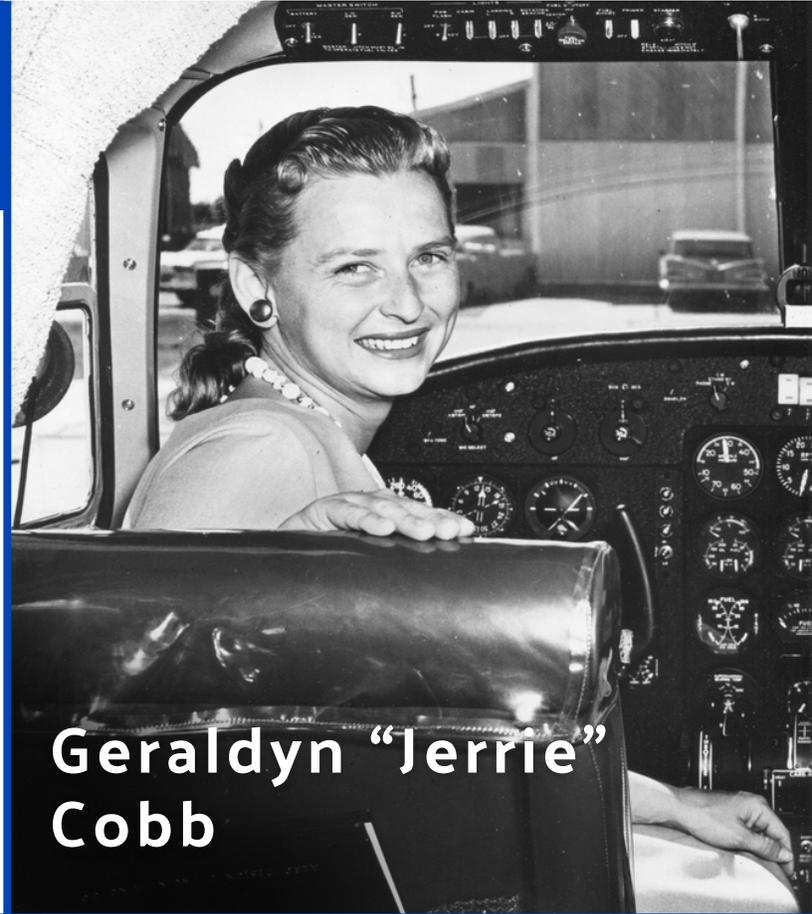


Frances Perkins &
Margaret D. Foster

DAILY FACTS

**MAR
5**

On this day in 1931, Geraldyn (Jerrie) Cobb was born. She was a record-setting aviator and the first woman to pass qualifying exams for astronaut training (1959), but she was not allowed to train because of her gender.



**Geraldyn "Jerrie"
Cobb**

**MAR
6**

Born in 1924, Sarah Caldwell was the founder, conductor, and artistic director of the Opera Company of Boston.

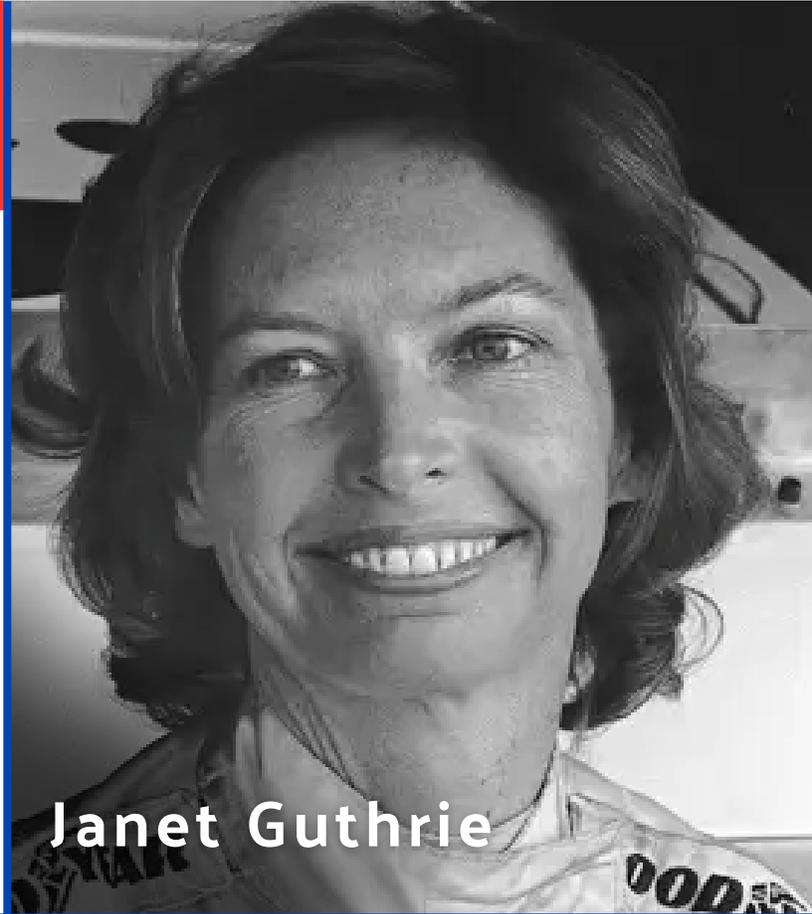


Sarah Caldwell

DAILY FACTS

MAR
7

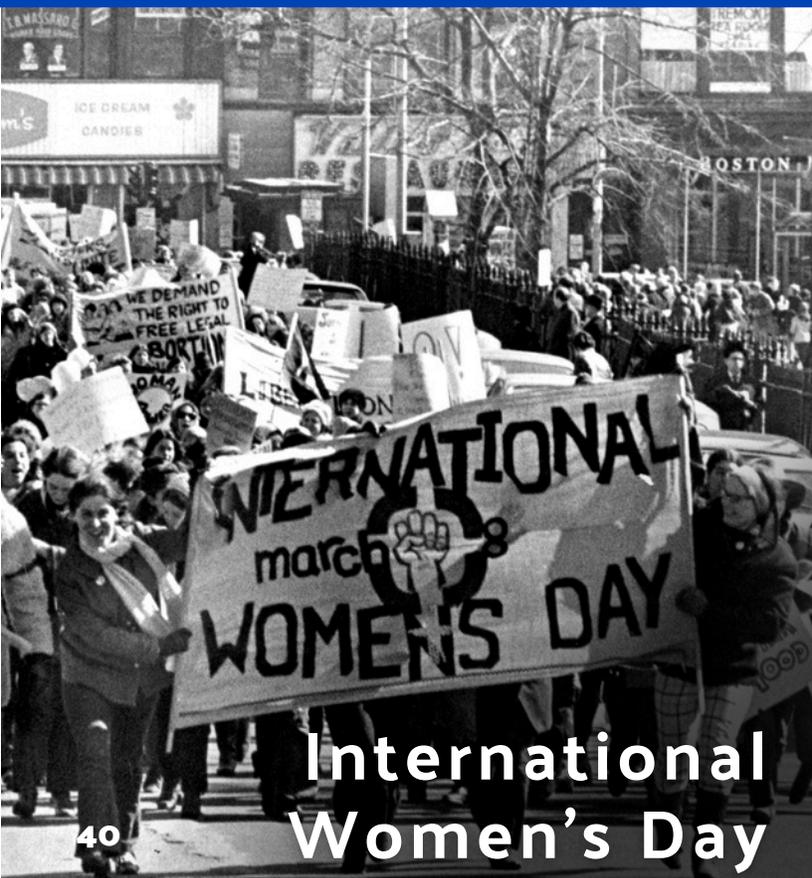
On this day in 1938, Janet Guthrie was born. She became a female race car driver and qualified for and competed in the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500 in 1977.



Janet Guthrie

MAR
8

In 1914 on this day, International Women's Day was held, creating a national and global awareness around women's issues.



International
Women's Day

DAILY FACTS

MAR
9

On this day in 1959, the first Barbie doll debuted, creating a symbol of both female empowerment and unrealistic beauty standards.



Barbie

MAR
10

On this day in 1898, Josephine Groves Holloway, organization executive, college registrar, and social worker, founded the first unofficial Girl Scout troop for African American girls in 1924. She worked for two decades to have her troops recognized by the Nashville Girl Scout Council in 1942.

**Josephine Groves
Holloway**

DAILY FACTS

MAR
11

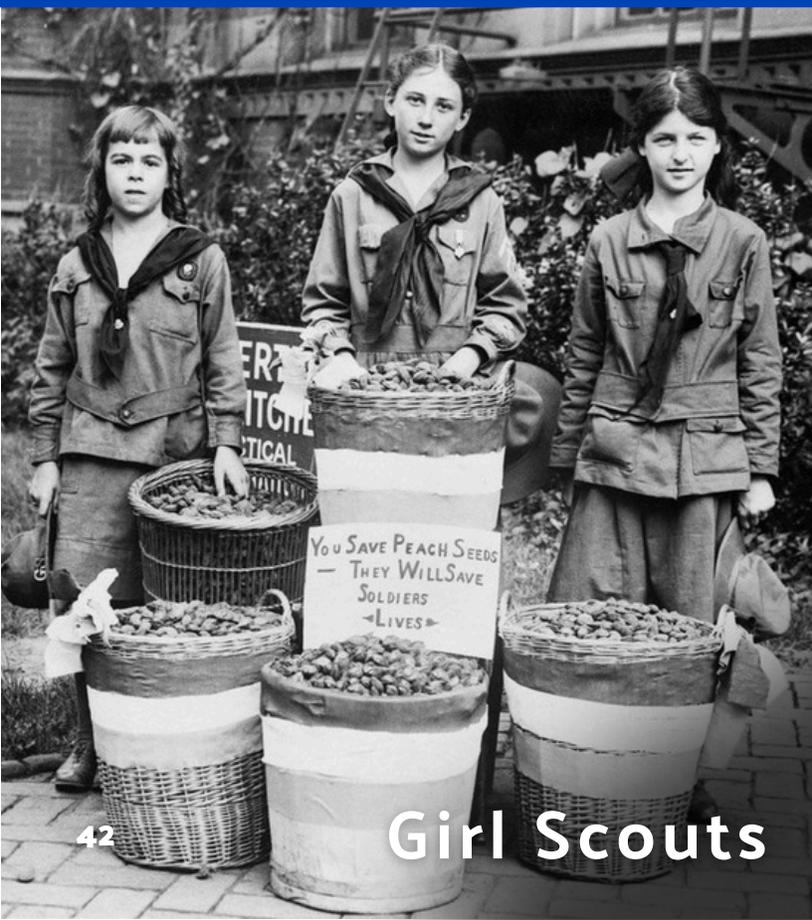
On this day in 1993, Janet Reno became the first woman to be confirmed as the U.S. Attorney General.



Janet Reno

MAR
12

On this day in 1912, the first-ever Girl Scouts meeting was held in Savannah, Georgia. The organization has grown to 1.7 million members.



Girl Scouts

DAILY FACTS

MAR
13

On this day in 1986, Susan Butcher won the Alaskan dog sled race called the Iditarod, becoming only the second woman to ever do so.



Susan Butcher

MAR
14

On this day in 1997, Simone Biles, the most decorated American gymnast, who won four gold medals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, was born.

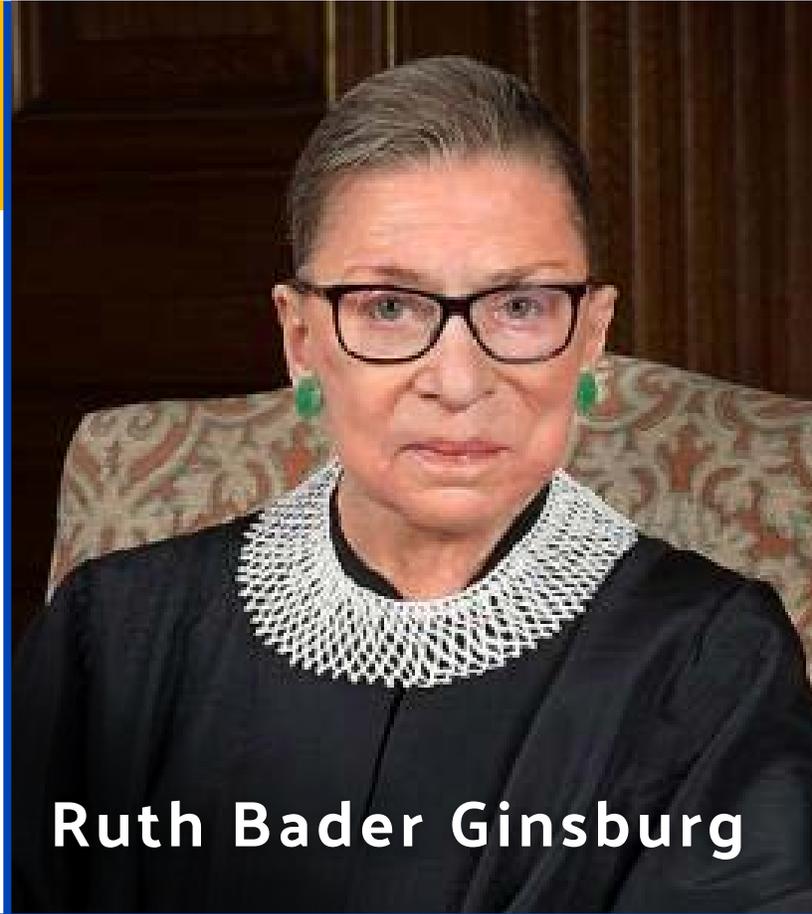


Simone Biles

DAILY FACTS

MAR
15

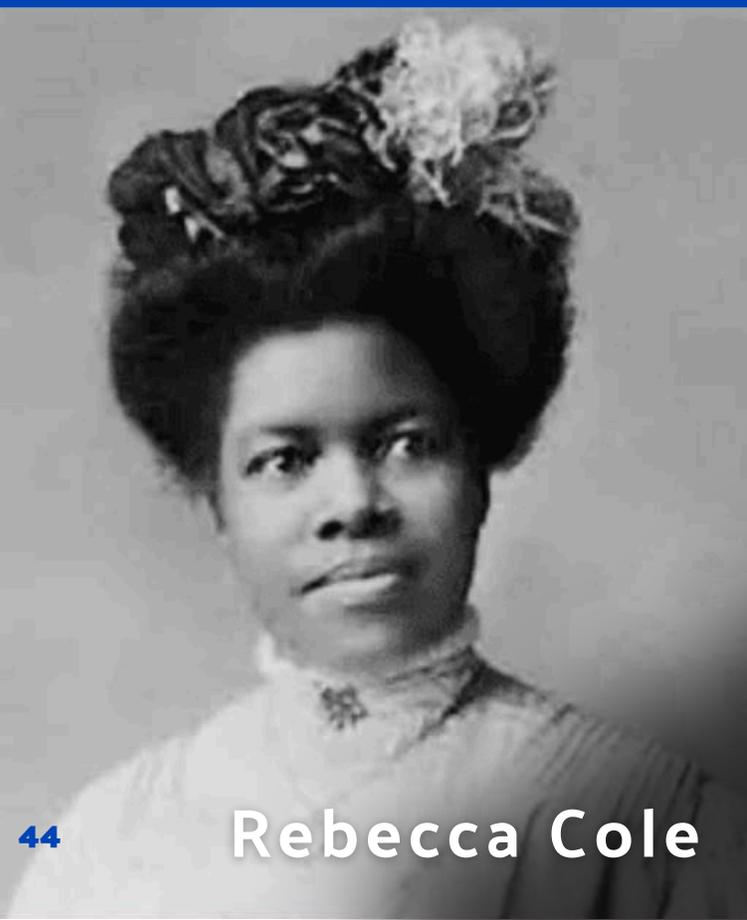
Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born on this day in 1933. She was the second female U.S. Supreme Court Justice and spent her legal career advocating for women's rights before taking the bench.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

MAR
16

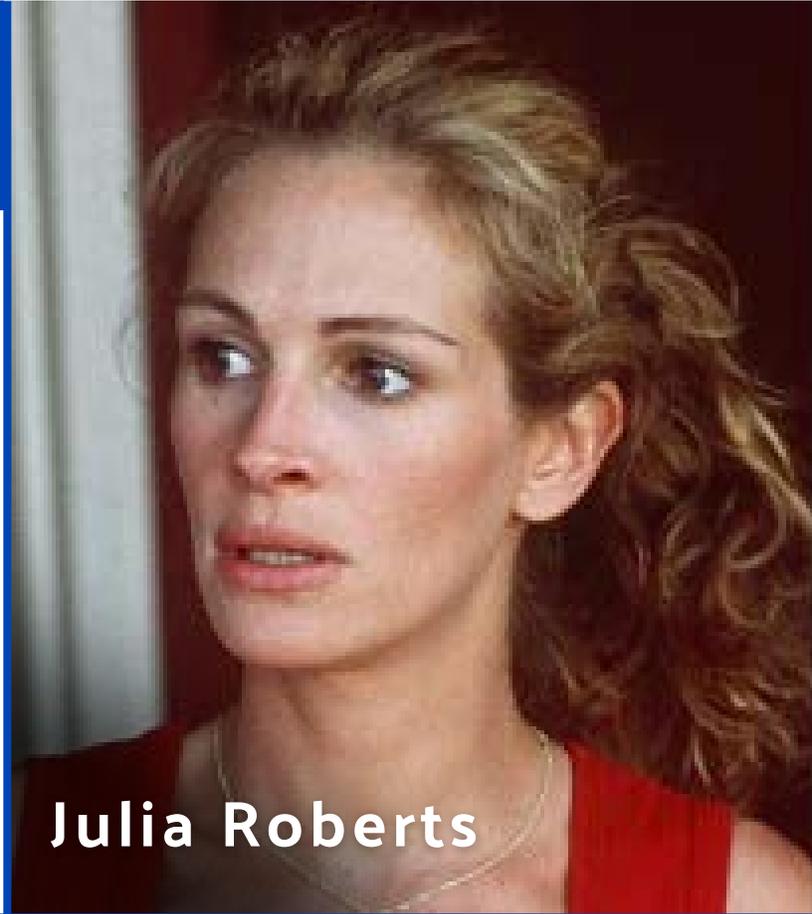
On this day in 1846, Rebecca Cole was born. She became the second African American woman to become a doctor in the United States in 1867. The first African American woman to become a doctor was Rebecca Lee Crumpler in 1864.



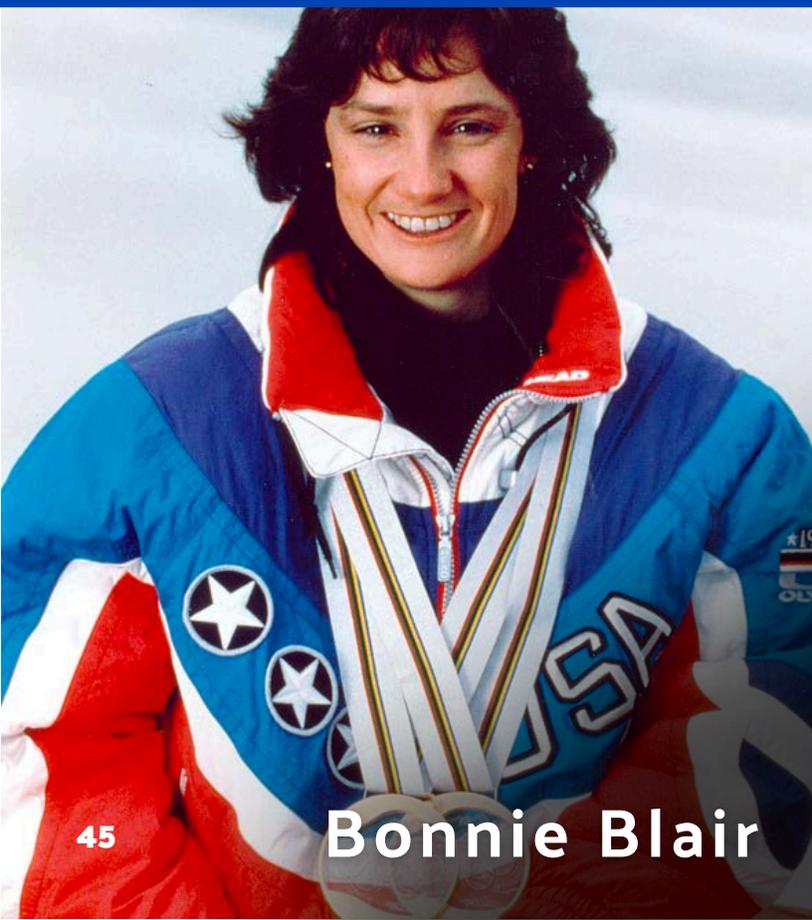
DAILY FACTS

MAR
17

In 2000, Julia Roberts became the first female actor ever to earn \$20 million for a single film in *Erin Brockovich*.



Julia Roberts



Bonnie Blair

MAR
18

On this day, five-time Olympic speed skating gold medalist and the most decorated female Winter Olympian in U.S. history, Bonnie Blair, was born.

DAILY FACTS

MAR
19

The 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, was signed into law on August 26, 1920. But at the time, a number of other laws prohibited Native American, African American, Asian American, and Latinx American women from voting. It wasn't until 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, that all women could vote.



The 19th Amendment

MAR
20

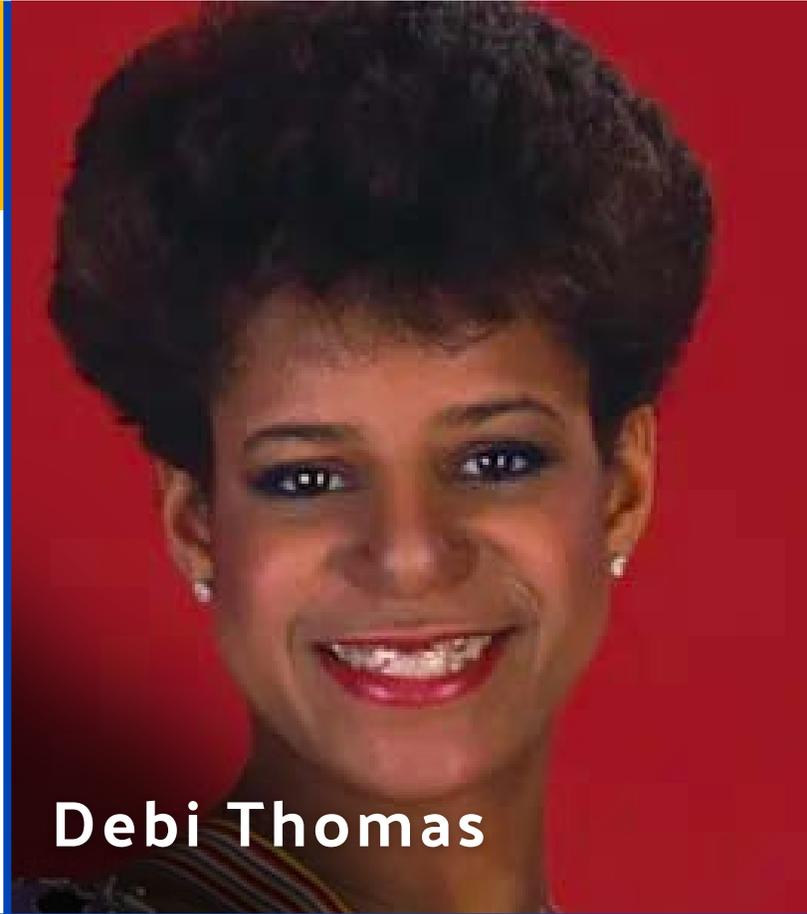
In 1982 Joan Jett's "I Love Rock 'n Roll" hits No. 1 on the Billboard charts. Jett is a pioneer for female rock musicians.



DAILY FACTS

MAR
21

In 1986 Debi Thomas became the first African-American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship.



Debi Thomas



Equal Rights
Amendment

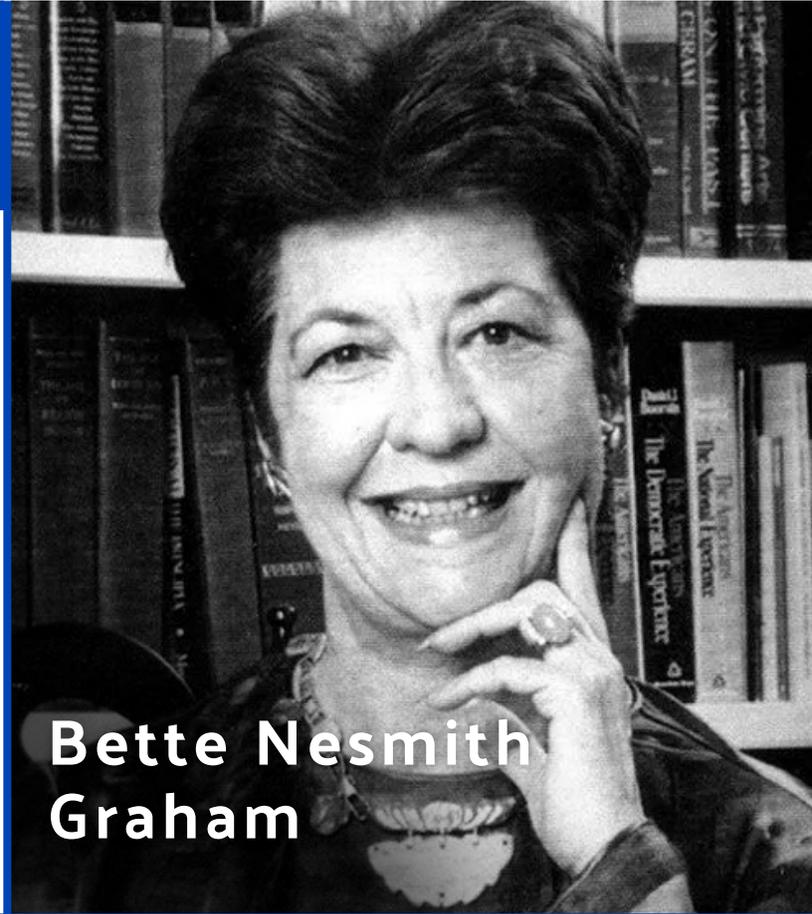
MAR
22

In 1972, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment, which granted equal rights for women but was never ratified by the required three-fourths (38) of the 50 states until 2020.

DAILY FACTS

MAR
23

Bette Nesmith Graham, the inventor of Liquid Paper correction "white-out," was born on this day in 1924.



Bette Nesmith
Graham

MAR
24

Sally Ride became the first woman in space on June 18, 1983, when she flew on the space shuttle Challenger. It wasn't until her death that her obituary revealed her partner of 27 years was Tam O'Shaughnessy, making her also the first gay astronaut.

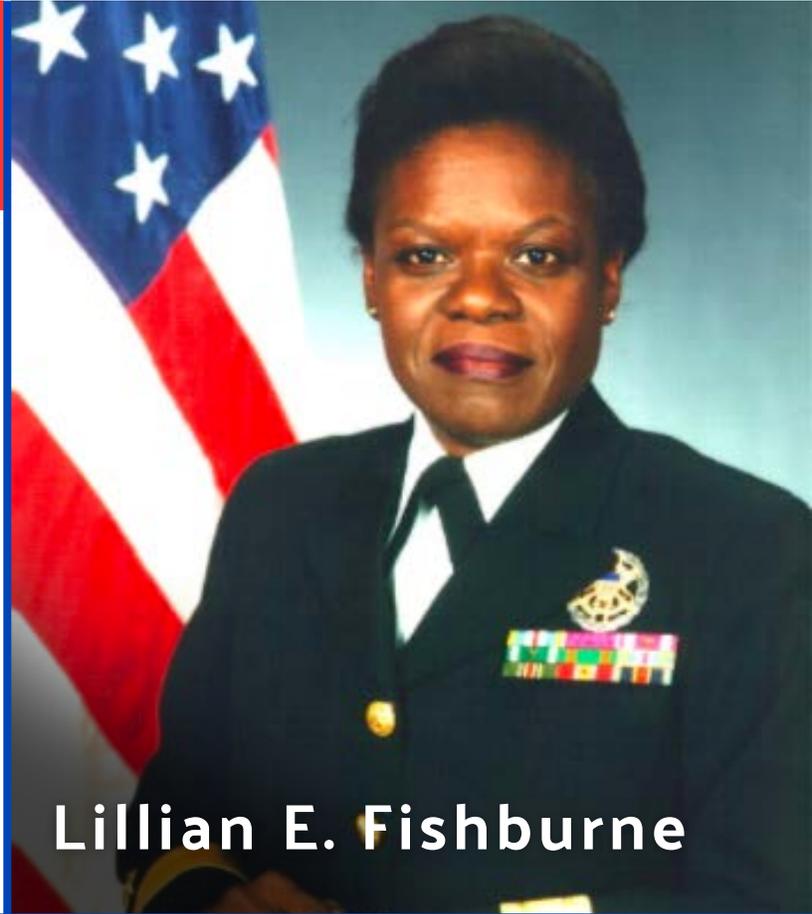


Sally Ride

DAILY FACTS

MAR
25

Born on this day in 1949, Lillian E. Fishburne in 1998 became the first African American female to hold the rank of Rear Admiral in the United States Navy.



Lillian E. Fishburne

MAR
26

On this day in 1940, Nancy Pelosi was born. She became the first and so far the only female Speaker of the House in 2007. Ten years earlier, the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor, was born.



**Nancy Pelosi &
Sandra Day O'Connor**

DAILY FACTS

MAR
27

In March of 2023, Michelle Yeoh made history by winning the Academy Award for Best Actress for her starring role in the movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once." In her acceptance speech, she said, "For all the little boys and girls who look like me watching tonight, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities."



Michelle Yeoh

MAR
28



Deb Haaland & Sharice Davids

After running for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, Secretary Haaland became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a State Party and serve in Congress. When Davids was sworn into the 116th Congress, she became one of the first two Native American women to serve in Congress.

DAILY FACTS

MAR
29

Ellen Ochoa (born May 10, 1958) is an American engineer, former astronaut, and former director of the Johnson Space Center. In 1993, Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery.



Ellen Ochoa

MAR
30

Joan Chandos Baez is an American singer, songwriter, musician, and activist. Her contemporary folk music often includes songs of protest and social justice. Baez has performed publicly for over 60 years, releasing more than 30 albums.

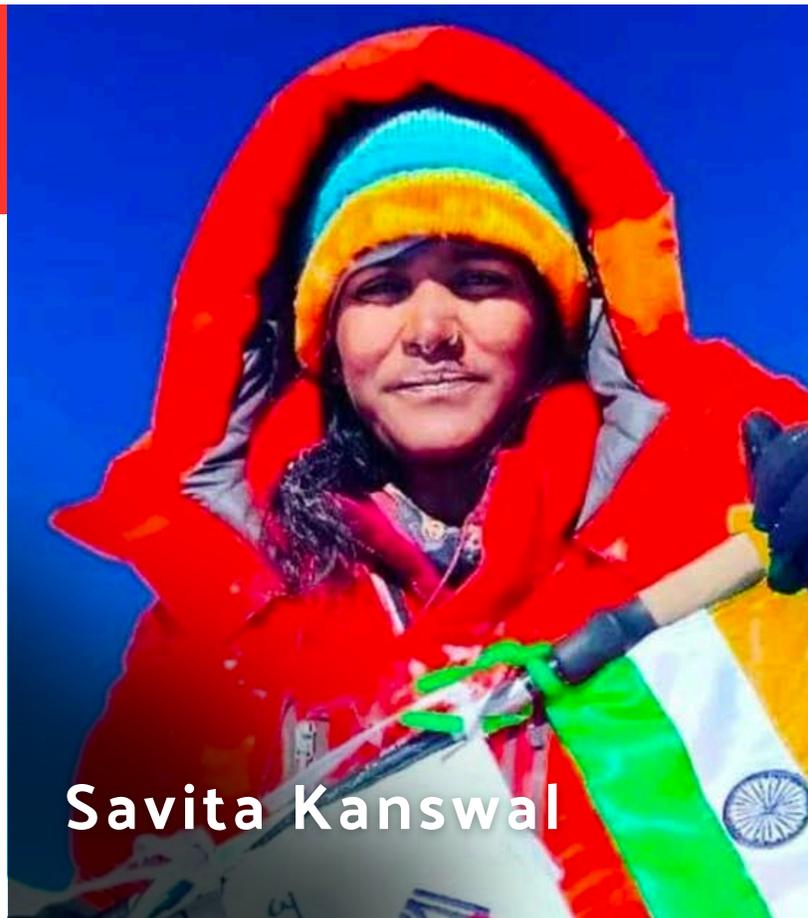


Joan Baez

DAILY FACTS

MAR
31

Savita Kanswal was an Indian mountaineer hailing from Uttarakhand. She is the first Indian woman to conquer both Mount Everest and Makalu within 16 days. She died in an avalanche accident on October 4, 2022. In January 2024, she posthumously received the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, the highest honor in adventure sports in India.



Savita Kanswal

A YouTube video thumbnail featuring Savita Kanswal in a red climbing jacket and multi-colored beanie, holding a small Indian flag. The background shows a snow-capped mountain peak, likely Mount Everest. The text on the thumbnail includes: "Savita Kanswal The First Indian Woman To Climb Mt E...", "A LITTLE MORE ABOUT", "FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO", "MB MT. EVEREST", and "Watch on YouTube". There are also logos for "HT Lifestyle" and "Copy link".

2026 WHM IN-PERSON EVENTS



Mar 26
5:30 - 8pm

Women's History Month Celebration

San Pedro



Mar 22
11:30 am

LA Voices: We Can Do It! Free Performance

Los Angeles



Mar 7
11 am

Women History Crawl, Sonoma State Historic Park

Sonoma



Mar 21
10 am

The M Factor 2, Before The Pause Perimenopause (\$)

Berkeley

2026 WHM VIRTUAL EVENTS



Mar 1
4-6 pm

[Special Virtual Documentary Night!
Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement](#)



Mar 3
4-5 pm

[The Women Pioneers Of American TV
with Evan Weiner](#)



Mar 6
9-10 am

[BNHA Hands on History Series:
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper](#)



Mar 11
12-1:30 pm

[AccessAbility Arts Presents:
Power of Women](#)



Mar 12
3-4:30 pm

[The Cost of Being Strong: Black
Women, Health, and Wholeness](#)