

HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY

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Fall 2002

The National Women's History Museum will be hosting a reception and viewing of *American Women: A Selection from the National Portrait Gallery* at 6:30pm on October 23. This exhibition is presented by the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) which is co-hosting the reception with the NWHM. The NWHM is proud to work with the Gallery to commemorate the accomplishments of these women who embody American history. Those highlighted range from activists to entertainers to spiritual leaders. The diverse accomplishments of American women are shown through this exhibition's unique combination of portraiture, history, and biography.



This exhibition is the first in the Washington, DC area since NPG began building renovations in 2000. Due to the renovations, NPG is presenting *American Women* in the Smithsonian Institution's International Gallery. Patrons can enter The International Gallery from the copper-domed kiosk of the S. Dillon Ripley Center on Jefferson Drive between the "Castle" and the Freer Gallery of Art.



Mary McLeod Bethune, educator and reformer

The NWHM event is open to members for \$30.00. For \$55.00 non-members can pay for the reception and join the NWHM. Those wishing to attend are urged to RSVP as soon as possible. Due to regulations, we will be unable to accept money at the event. An online invitation and RSVP are available at www.nwhm.org.

"American Women," at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, runs through December 1. Seventy images of influential American women are on display, including the images of Mary McLeod Bethune and Pocahontas seen here.

Did you know?

The painting of Pocahontas (above) is the oldest in the National Portrait Gallery's collection.

CREATING A NATIONAL COALITION

The NWHM is in the beginning stages of creating a national coalition of organizations that support the Museum. The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), Women in Aerospace, The National Congress of Black Women, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society have joined the original coalition members Women In Military Service For America Foundation Inc, The National Woman's Party, the National Education Association, Hadassah and many others who had supported the NWHM's efforts to move the Suffrage Monument into the Capitol. The coalition will include a broad spectrum of women's organizations and civic groups. We are working with other organizations currently to build this coalition. Together we can make the National Women's History Museum a reality!

The idea of working together towards common goals is not an unusual one for women's organizations. As the name implies, the General Federation of Women's Clubs was formed out of a collection of different women's organizations. In April of 1890 sixty-three women's clubs attended a convention in New York City. It was at this convention, organized by Jane Cunningham Croly president of the New York based women's club Sorosis, where the General Federation of Women's Clubs was formed. Since its inception, the GFWC has worked for the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, the inclusion of seatbelts in automobiles, the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act, among other successful campaigns. We look forward to working with them and other national organizations in future endeavors.

ROSIE THE RIVETER

After the success of the *Clandestine Women* exhibition, the NWHM and the Women In Military Service For America Memorial decided to open another temporary exhibition in 2003. This exhibition, like *Clandestine Women*, is scheduled to open in March in conjunction with Women's History Month. We're in the early stages of development for this exhibition, but the theme will be "Women at War on the Homefront."

In the wake of such acclaimed films as *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Thin Red Line*, as well as the popular television mini-series *Band of Brothers*, it seemed only fitting to highlight the contributions American women made on the homefront of World War II. While men defended democracy and the nation, these women made it possible through the "Miracle of Production" that occurred in the United States at that time.



NWHM

National
Women's
History
Museum

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

A Different Point of View

IN MEMORIAM

The National Women's History Museum is saddened by the loss of long time friend and supporter Representative Patsy T. Mink. Congresswoman Mink had served as the representative of the 2nd District of Hawaii for 24 years. Throughout her time in office, she was dedicated to women's rights, civil rights, and education. She is perhaps best known as one of the sponsors of Title IX of the Education Amendments.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

The National Women's History Museum, along with the National Council of Women's Organizations and many other women's groups, has joined an effort spearheaded by the National Congress of Black Women (NCBW), seeking to include Sojourner Truth in the Suffrage Monument located in the Capitol Rotunda. NCBW has provided assurances that the inclusion of Truth's image has historical justification. NCBW also maintains that it is feasible to incorporate Truth's image without damaging the existing statue or removing it from the Capitol.

There is historical precedent for altering the statue. When the statue was given to Congress by the National Women's Party on February 15, 1921, it was ordered that an inscription by the sculptress, Adelaide Johnson, be whitewashed before the ceremony. Ultimately, the decision to alter the statue is now, as it was then, up to Congress.

Fast Facts:

- * Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in 1797
- * Her given name was Isabella Baumfree
- * In 1827 she escaped from slavery; with the passage of the New York Anti-Slavery Act in 1828 she was officially granted freedom
- * She is best known as an abolitionist and crusader for women's rights
- * Her most famous speech "Ain't I A Woman?" was delivered at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio in 1851

Want to proudly show the world your support of the NWHM?

Need a gift for that special someone?

**Visit the ONLINE STORE at
www.nwhm.org**

***Just click on the
'Museum Store' link!***



*All proceeds from
the Museum Store
support NWHM efforts*

CELEBRATE THESE WOMEN BORN IN AUTUMN

Lena Madeson Phillips (9/15/1881) in 1919 founded the National and International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (BPW). BPW's mission is to promote "equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information."

Agnes De Mille (9/18/1905) was a dancer and choreographer who revolutionized dance in America. Some of her most famous creations are the 'Dream Ballet' in the musical *Oklahoma* and the ballet *Rodeo*. In 1980 she received a Kennedy Center Honor for her work in the arts.

Dr. Mary Eagle Pennington (10/8/1872) was a chemist who in 1907 took the civil service exam and signed it as 'M.E. Pennington' so that she would not be denied a position based on gender. While working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, her research into impure dairy products was used to develop standards for inspecting milk. In 1908, she became the chief of the Department of Agriculture's Food Research lab.



Edith Head (10/28/1907) was the first woman to head the design department for a major Hollywood studio. She holds a record as the costume designer with the most Oscar wins, and is also the most honored woman in Academy Awards history.

Detail of a photograph of Edith Head, from *American Women: Selections from the National Portrait Gallery*

Did you know?

Abigail Adams's letters were published by her grandson in the 19th century. They are considered some of the most important documentation of the Revolutionary era.

Abigail Smith Adams (11/11/1744) served as the First Lady during the term of her husband, John Adams. She is remembered for writing to him during the Second Continental Congress and urging him to "*Remember the Ladies*." Despite her suggestion, the Declaration of Independence was still written as "all men are created equal." She was also the mother of the 6th president, John Quincy Adams.



Marianne Moore (11/15/1887) was a Pulitzer Prize winning poet known for her witty and satirical works, as well as her eccentric fashion sense - she often wore a cape and a tri-cornered hat. She was the acting editor of *The Dial*, a literary magazine, 1925-1929. Perhaps her best known line is from the poem *Poetry*, where she referred to poetry as "*imaginary gardens with real toads in them*."

Bronze of Marianne Moore
from *American Women: Selections from the National Portrait Gallery*

MADAM GOVERNOR

Election Day is November 5, and this year there are 148 women running on major party tickets in Senate, House, and gubernatorial races throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and The Virgin Islands.

Since 1776, there have only been 20 female governors in the United States and Puerto Rico, six of which are currently serving. Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first female governor in the US, but only by a matter of days. On November 9, 1925 she and Miriam Amanda Ferguson were elected Governors of Wyoming and Texas, respectively. Ross was inaugurated 15 days before Ferguson, and is therefore considered the 'first.' Governor Ferguson was re-elected in 1933. The first woman to be elected not succeeding her husband was Ellen Grasso of Connecticut. She served from 1975 until 1980.

Did you know?

Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift became the first Governor to give birth while serving her term. She gave birth to twins in May 2001.

There have only been two woman vs. woman elections for governor in the United States. Kay Orr defeated Helen Boosalis in the 1986 Nebraska gubernatorial race. The second is to be determined: Mazie Hirono and Linda Lingle are currently running for Governor of Hawaii.

Yes! I want to continue supporting the National Women's History Museum

Ms., Mrs., Mr., Dr. _____

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The National Women's History Museum
is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible in
accordance with the law.

NL Fall 2002

Letter from our President



I was reminded about a fundamental objective behind the founding of the National Women's History Museum a few days ago during lunch with a long-time colleague. Like many of us, she wanted to learn more about the Museum and responded enthusiastically to our plans. She then shared a story about how history influenced her as a child whose first name was Susan and last name began with the letter 'B.' She confided that her childhood fantasy was to marry 'Mr. Anthony' so she would be known as 'Susan B. Anthony,' one of the few women whose name appeared in history books. As you undoubtedly suspect, she ended up marrying a man with a different last name. When the marriage ended in divorce, a close childhood friend consoled her by observing "Now you can look for Mr. Anthony!"

As someone who shares the name 'Susan B.' I can relate fully to this story. We look to history to provide role models, but our society offers girls few examples of individual achievement or acknowledgement of the central role women have played in transmitting culture through the generations. If anything, the situation has gotten worse as school instruction in history has declined and the opportunity to learn about women's accomplishments has correspondingly diminished. The National Women's History Museum aims to reverse this depressing trend. Through educational programming and exhibitions we can provide role models - not all of them named 'Susan B.' - to future generations.

Susan B. Jollie
President
National Women's History Museum

Facts and Figures:

The National Park Service categorizes 107 of their sites as historic sites/parks.
Only 10 of these sites specifically explore the historic achievements or cultural contributions of women.

Most History and Social Studies textbooks dedicate only 3% of text to women's accomplishments.

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*Courtesy of the
 United States
 Postal Service*



THEIR STAMP ON THE WORLD

On September 12 the United States Postal Service released a set of four stamps commemorating women in journalism. The women honored are Marguerite Higgins, Ida Tarbell, Nellie Bly, and Ethel L. Payne (shown clockwise from top left). These women were able to change the world with the power of their words.

Higgins, a Pulitzer Prize winning war correspondent, had covered World War II, the Nuremberg Trials, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, among many other things. She died in 1966 from a disease she most likely contracted while reporting in Vietnam. Tarbell, a pioneer of investigative journalism, is best known for her book *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, which outlined the illegal means used by John D. Rockefeller to monopolize the oil industry. In 1911 the Supreme Court broke the Standard Oil monopoly. Bly exposed the injustice of poverty, such as inadequate medical care, the stories of female prisoners, and the Pullman Railroad strike in 1894 - in which she told the story from the strikers point of view. She is best known, however, for breaking the fictitious record set by Phileas Fogg when she traveled around the world in 72 days. Payne began her career as a features writer for the *Chicago Defender*. She served as the *Defender's* Washington bureau in the early years of the civil rights movement. Payne was among the civil rights leaders present when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Did you know?

* The first woman featured on a US postage stamp was Queen Isabella. In 1893 a stamp commemorating Christopher Columbus and his voyages to the New World acknowledged the Spanish queen's pivotal role as his patron.

* The first American woman depicted on a US postage stamp was Martha Washington. Her stamp was introduced in 1902.