

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH





## **Dolly Parton** (1946 – ) **Singer, Songwriter**

- Composed over 3,000 songs with more than 25 reaching #1 on the Billboard country music charts.
- Starred in several films as *Steel magnolias*, *Unlikely Angel*, and *A Smoky Mountain Christmas*.
- Supported several charitable efforts, mainly in literacy through her Dollywood Foundation.
- Founded the Imagination Library, a program that mails one book per month to an enrolled child from the time of birth until they reach kindergarten.
- Pledged \$1 million towards research at Vanderbilt University and encouraged others to make donations as well.

## **Soo Jung Lee 이수정 (1964 – )** **Forensic Psychologist, Professor**



- South Korean Forensic Psychologist and part of the country's first generation of criminal profilers.
- Professor of Forensic Psychology at Kyonggi University in Seoul.
- Worked numerous high-profile murder cases and believes stalking leads to more serious crimes, in response she helped introduced an anti-stalking bill now passed in South Korea.
- Former member of the Supreme Court's Sentencing Commission, the Supreme Prosecutors' Office's sexual violence taskforce and the National Police Agency's reform committee.

## Stacy Abrams (1973 – )

### American politician, lawyer, and author



- Served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2007 to 2017 and served as Minority Leader from 2011 to 2017.
- First black woman to be a major-party nominee for Governor. The controversial election brought concerns of voter suppression to the forefront of politics and became Abrams mission.
- Launched the Fair Fight 2020 initiative to make sure voters aren't illegally silenced or disenfranchised in upcoming elections, focused on protecting people of color, the poor, LGBTQ folks and seniors from the tricks of the imbalanced status quo.



## **Kristen Clarke (1975 – )**

**Lawyer, President and Executive Director of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**

- Focuses her work on protecting the rights of black Americans and other historically marginalized communities.
- Successfully led the effort to prevent the Trump administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census that could have prevented immigrant communities from being counted.
- Served as the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's Office.
- Led broad civil rights enforcement on matters including criminal justice issues, education and housing discrimination, fair lending, barriers to reentry, voting rights, immigrants' rights, gender inequality, disability rights, reproductive access and LGBT issues.



## **Jessica Ulrika Meir** (1977 – )

### **NASA Astronaut, Marine Biologist, Physiologist**

- Previous Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, following postdoctoral research at the University of British Columbia.
- Served as an Aquanaut on the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 4 (NEEMO 4) crew in September 2002.
- Selected by NASA to Astronaut Group 21 in 2013.
- Launched on September 25, 2019, to the ISS onboard Soyuz MS-15, where she will serve as a flight Engineer during Expedition 61 and 62.
- Was the first woman to participate in an all-female spacewalk alongside Christina Koch.

## **Christina Koch (1979 – )** **American Engineer and NASA Astronaut**



- Became an Engineer and Astronaut for NASA in 2013.
- Launched to the International Space Station as a Flight Engineer on Expedition 59, 60 and 61 in March 2019.
- Became the first woman to participate in an all-female spacewalk alongside Jessica Meir in October 2019.
- Received BS in Electrical Engineering and Physics, and a MS in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University.
- Completed advanced study while working for the Goddard Space Flight Center.
- Served with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as Station Chief for American Samoa.



## **Selena Quintanilla-Pérez (1971 – 1995)**

### **Singer, Songwriter, Fashion Designer**

- Credited for redefined Latin music, breaking barriers in the Latin music world and its subgenres of Tejano, cumbia, and Latin pop.
- Named one of the most intriguing people of the 20th century by *People* magazine.
- Won Female Vocalist of the Year award in 1987 for the Tejano Music Awards, and for nine consecutive years after.
- Released *Entre a Mi Mundo* (1992), which peaked at number one on the US Billboard Regional Mexican Albums chart for eight consecutive months.
- Won Best Mexican/American Album at the 1994 Grammy Awards, becoming the first recording by a female Tejano artist to do so.

## Janet Mock (1983 – )

### Writer, Producer, Director, Activist



- Built an exemplary career as a journalist and author, proving herself as writer, director and producer of the acclaimed FX show, *Pose* — where she made history in her directorial debut.
- Centers her efforts on LGBTQ and people of color, working to give them voices, representation in mainstream media, and employment opportunities in the media industry.
- First transgender woman to shape content at a major Hollywood company.
- Authored both, *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More* (2014), and *Surpassing Certainty: What My Twenties Taught Me* (2017).
- Created advocacy social media campaigns such as "Building An Online Army to Defend #GirlsLikeUs, #RedefiningRealness, and #StandWithMonica.



## **Sinéad Burke (1990 – )**

*“Design is an enormous privilege, but it is a bigger responsibility.”*  
**Writer, Academic, Influencer, Activist, Broadcaster**

- Campaigns to highlight the importance of inclusive design in all areas of life due to the practical challenges she faces in living and moving in a world that was not designed for people with disabilities.
- Co-founder of the Inclusive Fashion and Design Collective (IFDC), challenging designers to be inclusive to diversity and make fashion accessible for people with disabilities.
- Ambassador for the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Irish Girl Guides.
- Appointed as a member of the Council of State of Ireland, giving her the opportunity to advise the President on disability matters.

## **Blair Imani (1993 – )** **Writer, Activist and Historian**



- Advocates for the black, LGBTQ and Muslim communities.
- Being a writer and activist, Blair Imani has no fear to celebrate all of her identities at once, being a queer, black Muslim woman in America.
- Author of *Modern HERstory: Stories of Women and Nonbinary People Rewriting History* and the forthcoming, *Making Our Way Home: The Great Migration and The Black American Dream*.
- An official Ambassador for Muslims for Progressive Values, one of the oldest Muslim organizations to support the LGBTQ community.



## **Yara Shahidi** (2000 – ) **Actress, Model, Activist**

- Won an NAACP Image Award in the category of 'Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy.'
- Signed to model with New York's Women Management modeling agency, providing a platform to see more women of color in diverse roles.
- Founded Eighteen x 18 with social news publisher NowThis.
- Organized Yara's Club (a partnership with Young Women's Leadership Network (YWLN) of New York).
- Encouraged young adults to vote for the first time and was involved in mentorship programs.



## Xóchitl Guadalupe Cruz (2011 – ) Scientist, Inventor

- Earned recognition at only 8 years old by UNAM's Institute of Nuclear Sciences for her outstanding scientific achievement.
- Solved the problem in her small community of Chiapas, Mexico where resources are scarce and the majority of homes used firewood to heat water.
- Invented a device with recycled materials that uses solar power to heat water.
- Helped low-income families in her community while her invention is being considered as a solution for developing or deforested countries.

## Warsan Shire (1988 – )

### Poet, Writer



- Received various awards for her poetry, such as Brunel University's African poetry prize, first Young Poet Laureate for London in 2013, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in its "40 Under 40".
- Uses her poetry to connect with her home country in Somalia, to convey the lives of the people.
- Released a poetry pamphlet in 2011, *Teaching My Mother How To Give Birth*; her full collection was released in 2016.
- Her piece *For Women Who Are Difficult To Love* inspired Beyoncé's 2016 feature-length film *Lemonade*.
- Has read her poetry in various artistic venues throughout the world, including the UK, Italy, Germany, North America, South America, and Kenya.



## Miriam Defensor Santiago (1945-2016) Senator, UN Judge, Author, Three Branch Stateswoman

- The first Filipino and the first Asian from a developing country, to be elected in the United Nations as judge of the International Criminal Court.

*“Dare beyond your strength, hazard beyond your judgment, and in extremities, proceed in excellent hope. Bare the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances.”*

— Miriam Defensor Santiago, Stupid is Forevermore



## Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020) Supreme Court Justice

- Became Supreme Court Justice in 1993, and served for 27 years until her passing
- Won the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for her contributions to gender equality and civil rights
- Ginsburg believed that the law should be gender-blind and all groups are entitled to equal rights

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”



## Immaculee Ilibagiza (1972– ) Author & Motivational Speaker

- Rwanda genocide survivor and Human rights activist
- Recipient of: The Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace, the American Legacy's Women of Strength & Courage Award and the 2015 National Speakers Association Master of Influence Award.

*“When you start to see another human being as less than you, it's a danger.”*

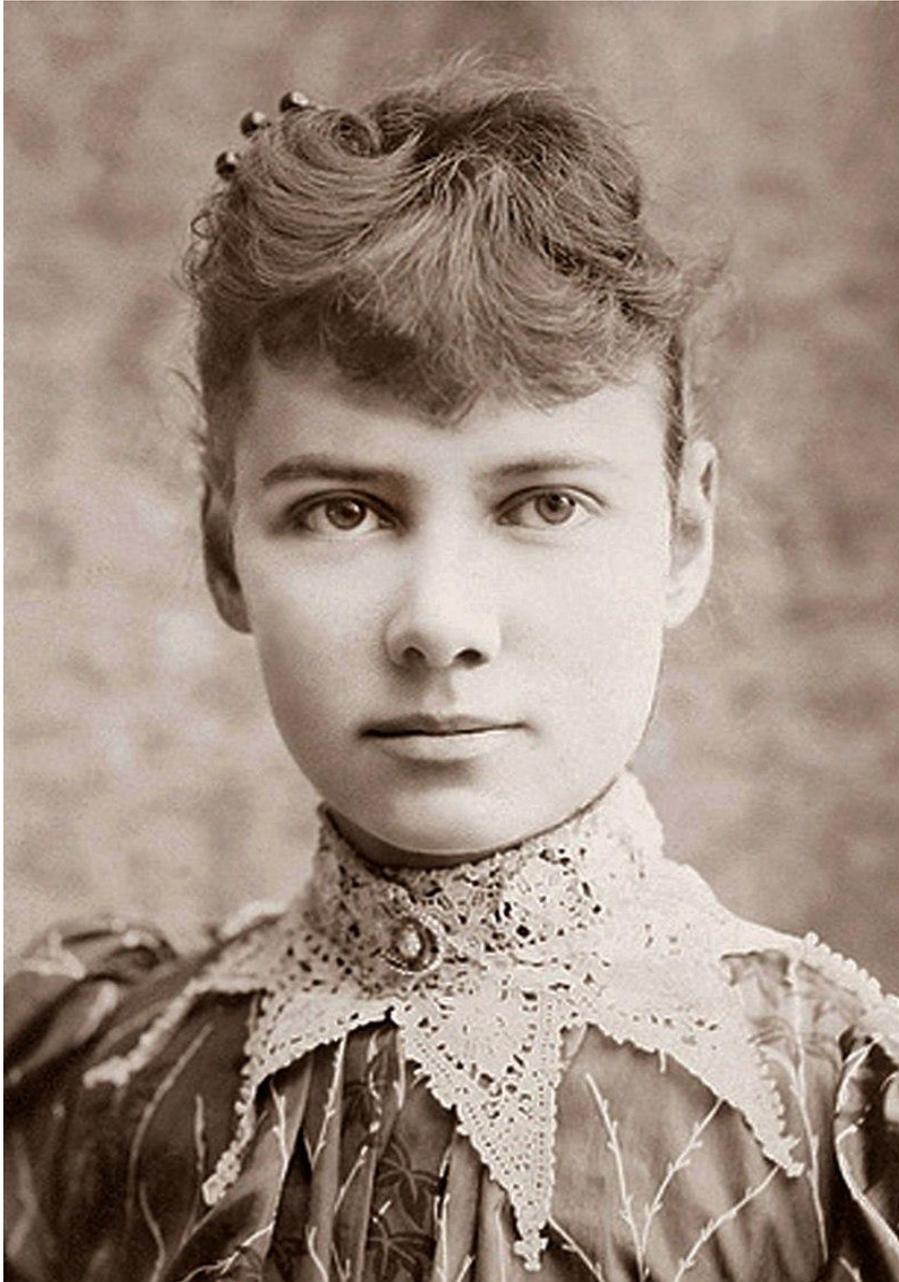
- Immaculee Ilibagiza



## Kim Bok Dong (1926-2019) Peace & Human Rights Activist

- Outspoken Activist and Leader for Women's rights and issues, she shared her personal experience as a “comfort woman”, a group of sexually exploited victims of war during WWII.
- Spent her life spreading awareness and demanding rightful reparations for the atrocities of war women suffered.
- Helped establish The Nabi (Butterfly) Fund to help female victims of war around the world.

"My hope is that descendants live at ease."



## Nellie Bly (1864-1922) American Journalist, Industrialist, Inventor, and Charity Worker

- She was a pioneer in her field and launched a new kind of investigative journalism
- Notably, she completed a record-breaking trip around the world in 72 days, she traveled using steamships and the existing railroad systems, and wrote of her adventures on the way
- Authored one of the first investigate published articles by a woman, titled *Ten Days in a Mad-House*; an exposé in which she worked undercover to report on a “mental institution” from within.



**Angela Davis (1944-)**  
**American Political Activist,  
Philosopher, Academic and Author**

- Authored over ten books on class, feminism, race, and the US prison system
- Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz

*“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.”*



## US Vice President Kamala Harris (1964-) American politician, Attorney, 49th Vice President of the United States

“At every step of the way, i’ve been guided by the words i spoke from the first time i stood in a courtroom: Kamala Harris, for the people.”

- Elected California’s Attorney General. Notable cases include when she won a \$20 billion settlement for Californians whose homes had been foreclosed on, as well as a \$1.1 billion settlement for students and veterans who were taken advantage of by a for-profit education company.
- In 2017, Vice President Harris was sworn into the United States Senate.
- In 2021, she was sworn in as the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected Vice President of the United States of America.



## Dr. Rosalind Franklin (1920 – 1958) Chemist and X-ray Crystallographer

- Her work was central to the understanding of the molecular structures of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), RNA (ribonucleic acid), viruses, coal, and graphite.
- Her work with X-ray diffraction images of DNA, which led to the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA; an accomplishment that would have been awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry by today's standards.



## Cicely Tyson (1924 – 2021) Actress and Fashion Model

- In a career which spanned more than seven decades, she became known for her portrayal of strong African-American women.
- Tyson received three Primetime Emmy Awards, four Black Reel Awards, one Screen Actors Guild Award, one Tony Award, an honorary Academy Award, and a Peabody Award.
- In November 2016, Tyson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian honor in the United States.
- In 2020, she was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame.



## Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett (1986-) American Viral Immunologist

- Selected to participate in Project Seed, a program for gifted minority students
- Contributed to the team that developed the Moderna Covid Vaccine
- Joined the NIH Vaccine Center as a postdoctoral fellow in 2014

*"You understand that your work will have to be mighty so that it can do your speaking."*



**Betty White (1922-)**  
**American actress, Comedian, and  
Author**

- Advocate for the welfare and health of animals
- Emmy and Grammy award winner, TV Land Legend Awards, TCA Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient.

*“Everybody needs a passion. That’s what keeps life interesting. If you live without passion, you can go through life without leaving any footprints.”*

- From her book, *If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won’t)*



**Toni Morrison (1931 – 2019)**  
**American Novelist, Essayist, Book  
Editor, and College Professor**

- Nobel Literature Prize (1993) recipient
- Awarded The Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama

*“If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it.”*

*“I tell my students, 'When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else. This is not just a grab-bag candy game.’”*

— Toni Morrison

## Mamie Till (1921 – 2003) American Educator and Activist

- Spread awareness about racial and civil injustices after the death of her son (Emmett Till)
- Inspiration and catalyst for many civil rights activist

*“With each day, I give thanks for the blessings of life—the blessings of another day and the chance to do something with it. Something good. Something significant. Something helpful. No matter how small it might seem. I want to keep making a difference.”*

— Mamie Till-Mobley, *Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America*





## Jeannette Rankin (1880 – 1973) American Politician, Women's Rights Advocate, and U.S. House of Representatives Member

- The first woman to hold federal office in the United States.
- Worked towards improving working conditions and healthcare for women and infants
- As a student she volunteered for a local women's' suffrage campaign in Washington state

*“I may be the first woman member of Congress, But I will not be the last.”*

— Jeannette Rankin



## Dr. Cecilia Payne (1900 – 1979) Astronomer and Astrophysicist

- British-born American astronomer who discovered that stars are made mainly of hydrogen and helium and established that stars could be classified according to their temperatures
- Recipient of the Annie Jump Cannon Award in Astronomy (1934), Rittenhouse Medal (1961), Award of Merit from Radcliffe College (1952), Henry Norris Russell Prize (1976)

*“I was to blame for not having pressed my point. I had given in to Authority when I believed I was right. That is another example of How Not To Do Research. I note it here as a warning to the young. If you are sure of your facts, you should defend your position.”*

— Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, *Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin: An Autobiography and Other Recollections*



## Renée Elise Goldsberry (1971-) American Actress, Singer and Songwriter

- Winner of the Tony award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical
- Grammy award winner for Best Musical Theater Album (2016: Hamilton)

*“I’m still learning every night, with every opportunity to write something, to sing something, to perform any work. Every opportunity to do these things brings me further along the journey, and the best part is, no matter how far along I go, I have so much more to learn.”*

— Renee Elise Goldsberry



## Brené Brown (1965-) American Professor, Lecturer, Author, and Podcast Host

- New York Times Best Selling author
- Has one of the most viewed Ted Talks, “The Power of Vulnerability”
- Voted one of the cities Most Influential Women by Houston Woman Magazine in 2009

*“I don’t have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness – it’s right in front of me if I’m paying attention and practicing gratitude.”*

— Brené Brown



## Phillipa Soo (1990-) Actress and Singer

- Graduate of The Juilliard School Acting program in 2012
- Received a 2016 Tony Award nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical, for her role as “Eliza Hamilton” in Hamilton on Broadway
- Performed on the Hamilton Musical Album that won an Emmy Award
- Started the Eliza Project initiative; the first private orphanage in New York City

*“You can't avoid the conversation of diversity and remembering that diversity goes beyond race and culture. It goes into gender and sexual orientation and all sorts of things.”*

— Phillipa Soo