

## Artist Notes

*Ain't I a Woman?*, 2004 – 2024, 150 handkerchiefs, Embroidery on Silk

### 1) Jane Addams

Jane Addams was born on September 6, 1860, in the small town of Cedarville, Illinois, one of eight children. With her father dead, Jane and the rest of her family moved to Philadelphia where she attended the Women's Medical College, once more trying to live her childhood dream. Yet, she became ill once again, and had even more of an emotional setback when her brother, Weber, had a mental breakdown.

Jane never graduated. Instead, she took her first trip with her stepmother to Europe from 1883 to 1885, but it wasn't until 1887, when she travelled again to Europe with a group of friends, that her life began to take direction. When Jane travelled to London, she found herself amazed at the huge amount of poverty that England's industrialization had caused. She also saw a settlement house called *Toynbee Hall*, used in order to teach workmen, from which sprouted her interest in social reform.

When Jane returned to the United States, she travelled to Chicago and turned an old mansion there into a settlement house called *Hull House* which she used in order to care for children, give medical care, and try to clean up the disease-causing waste on the city streets. While in Chicago, she also managed to enlighten and educate the poor and spoke often at church groups and women's clubs and also talked to college students. One aspect of the *Hull House* that was very important to Jane Addams was the Art Program. The art program at *Hull House* allowed Addams to challenge the system of industrialized education, which "fitted" the individual to a specific job or position.

In 1898, Jane began to become known throughout the nation for her speeches and was even recommended to meet with President Woodrow Wilson by a close friend of his, Charles R. Crane, who had heard her speak. She even tried to stop World War I from coming, even though it was inevitable. She also encouraged meditation and became an officer of the Progressive party and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, of which she became president in 1915. She was even offered a job by the Red Cross, but she refused because it was run by the military and hence, supported war.

In 1931, Jane received the Nobel Prize for all she had done, including her help with the worldwide disarmament after World War I, Hull House, and many other accomplishments. She died on May 21, 1935, having written many books on prostitution, women's rights, juvenile delinquency, and militarism, and trying to achieve her dream of making every child happy.

### 2) Susan B. Anthony

*"Women must not depend upon the protection of a man, but must be taught to protect herself."*

Susan Brownell Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in the small town of Adams, Massachusetts, the second of eight children. In 1827 her family moved to Battenville, New York, and moved once more in 1845 to Rochester, New York, where they remained. Right away, Anthony was smart and demonstrated leadership, attending boarding schools and teaching when she was 15 till she was 30. In 1849, she became the president of the Rochester Branch of the Daughters of Temperance, a group dedicated to prohibiting alcohol. This was the first of many societies and associations that she was part of in her lifetime.

In 1853, Anthony created the *Women's State Temperance Society*. She was also part of the *American Anti-Slavery Society* from 1856 until 1861, formed the *Women's Loyal League* in 1863 for slave emancipation, and also founded the *National Woman's Suffrage Association* with her college, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in 1869. Anthony and Stanton published a newspaper called *The Revolution*, sending out the word for women's rights, saying "Men their rights and nothing more, women their rights and nothing less." Also in 1870, she founded and became president of the *Workingwomen's Central Association*.

In 1878, Anthony wrote the Susan B. Anthony amendment, which on August 18, 1920, after her death, turned into the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. She also founded the *International Council of Women*, made up of 48 countries, in 1888, the *National Woman's Suffrage Association* in 1890 (of which she was president until 1900), and the *International Woman Suffrage Council* in 1904. She was also able to make the University of Rochester accept women, starting in 1900.

Anthony died on March 13, 1906, in her home on Madison Street in Rochester, New York, from pneumonia and heart failure, having led the only non-violent revolution that has occurred in the United States, fighting for women's rights. Her last public words, "Failure is impossible," turned into the suffrage movement's chant. On July 2, 1979, the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin was created in her honour.

### **3) Judy Chicago**

Judy Chicago (Chicago, IL, 1939) is an artist, author, feminist, and educator, whose career now spans four decades. Chicago pioneered in the early 1970s, through unique programs for women at California State University, Fresno, and later at the California Institute of the Arts. Her art has been frequently exhibited in the United States as well as internationally, and her ten published books have brought her art and philosophy to readers around the world. She is the recipient of numerous grants, awards, and honorary degrees from prestigious colleges and universities. Her work is in the collections of Museums worldwide.

### **4) Saint Joan of Arc**

Also called Jeanne d'Arc and Jeanne la Pucelle, Joan of Arc was born in France, near the border of Burgundy, on January 6, 1412. At first, Joan seemed like a normal child, but then at age 13, she began to hear voices that she believed were St. Michael the Archangel, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and St. Margaret of Antioch. The voices told her that her mission was to save France, and at their bidding, Joan went to the castle of the Dauphin Charles of France at Chinan and told him what the voices told her.

Soon, Joan was sent with an army to Orleans and succeeded in raising the English siege on May 8, 1429. After that, Joan began to win many more battles against the English, taking France back piece by piece. This included the battle of Paris, but Joan and her army failed because they had not been supplied adequately enough. On July 17, 1429, Joan escorted the Dauphin to be crowned as King Charles VII in Rains Cathedral. This never would have happened if not for Joan.

However, in May 1430, Joan was captured during a battle and sold to an Englishman named John of Luxembourg for 10,000 crowns. Then, she was put on trial for sorcery and heresy. The Dauphin made no attempt to save her, although it is thought that the English would have taken a ransom. Instead, she was convicted by the Inquisition and burned at the stake in the St. Rouen churchyard on May 30, 1431, when she was less than twenty years old. Jean Massieu, who witnessed her death says, "The pious woman asked, requested, and begged me, as I was near her at her end, that I would go to the near-by church and fetch the cross to hold it raised before her eyes to the threshold of her death, that the cross with God hung upon be continually before her eyes in her lifetime."

In 1456, Charles VII annulled Joan's conviction in order that he not owe his reign to one of the Devil's pawns. In 1904, she was considered Venerable, in 1908, was recognized as Blessed, and finally, in May 1920, she was canonized by the Pope and became a Saint. She even has her own holiday, a French national holiday on a specified Sunday.

### **5) Aspasia of Miletus**

Although not much is known about Aspasia, her birth has been determined as falling somewhere in between 460-455 B.C. in Miletus, Greece. Sometime around 445 B.C., Aspasia moved to Athens and acted as a hetaira, a kind of prostitute, but one that was almost treated like the upper class. There, she met the most powerful and influential men in Athens, including Pericles, to whom she became a mistress.

Aspasia is thought to have had a great influence over Pericles, even though she wasn't his wife. It was she who convinced Pericles, the ruler of Athens in part of the Classical Period, to go to war against Samos over a border dispute. She also bore him a son which they also named Pericles. Pericles, the son, later became a general and was executed sometime after the death of Aspasia.

While in Athens, Aspasia wrote many orations, for she is thought to be the leader of rhetoric in the Classical Age. She also discussed philosophy with Socrates, who called her his teacher. One of her lessons involved a husband and a wife, whom she convinced that they would never be happy as long as they were searching for ideal spouses. It is thought that because of this talent, both Pericles and Aspasia were targets for Pericles' enemies. Once, Aspasia was accused of impiety, but Pericles was able to defend her well enough so that she was acquitted.

In 429 B.C., Pericles was killed by the plague, and in 428 B.C., Aspasia met a sheep seller named Lysicles, who soon became her husband. She taught him etiquette and public speaking so well that he became a prominent political leader in Athens.

After this point, nothing more is known of Aspasia other than that she died around 410 B.C. Yet she was one of the few Greek women still remembered today and her name is used often by playwrights and historians to demonstrate the philosophy, rhetoric, and politics of the Classical Age in Greece, as well as the lives of Socrates and Pericles. She was also one of the few to have chosen her own name -- Aspasia, meaning "Greatly Welcomed." Lastly, while she lived, she had taught, in some ways, the same philosophy as Plato and Socrates, two well-known Greek philosophers to whom much is attributed.

## **6) Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor**

*"We're not asking for superiority for we have always had that; all we ask is equality."*

It would seem that not much is known about Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor. She was born in 1879 in Danville, Virginia, and later moved to Richmond, Virginia, where she was mostly raised. Her first marriage lasted only 10 years, but it was her second marriage that was most important.

In 1906, when she visited England, she met an influential, rich man named Waldorf Astor, and they were soon married. In 1910, Waldorf was elected to Parliament and Nancy immediately also involved herself in government.

In 1919, Waldorf and Nancy became Viscount and Viscountess, and then Nancy won a huge majority of the votes to put her in a vacated seat in the House of Commons, and was the first woman elected into the British Parliament.

Astor was also a member of the Tory party (the political opposite of the Whig party), and she focused mostly on women and children's issues. She was also the first female in Parliament to introduce a bill. The bill she introduced was a bill prohibiting the selling of alcohol to an individual under eighteen years of age.

Astor retired from Parliament in 1945 and died in 1964 when she was 85 years old.

## **7) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**

Aung San Suu Kyi was born in 1945 in Yangon, Myanmar, what was formerly recognized as Rangoon. She was educated in India and England, where she attended the University of Oxford. There, she met a man named Michael Aris and soon they were married.

In 1988, Aung returned to Myanmar, sharing her new revelations about democracy inspired by Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. Also in that year, she created the National League for Democracy (also known as NLD; see image at bottom of this page).

In July 1989, Aung was put under house arrest by the military government for appearing at and creating mass gatherings about democracy. The problem was that mass gathering were illegal in Myanmar.

While still under house arrest, in May 1990, 80% of the seats in Parliament were elected to the NDL. However, the government refused to allow the seats to be taken.

On July 10, 1995, Aung was released from house arrest, yet she refused to leave the country because if she left, she could never return again. She continued spreading the thoughts of democracy because she thought Myanmar needed democracy to survive. After all, Myanmar has one of the worst human rights ratings in the world.

In 1990, Aung won the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and also the Nobel Prize in 1991. In 1996, Aung was once more put under virtual house arrest, although she still received her doctor of laws degree in Washington D.C. at American University in 1997 and wrote a book titled *Freedom from Fear and Other Writings* about her father and Myanmar.

## **8) Jane Austen**

Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775 at Steventon, Hampshire, England, and she was schooled at Oxford and Southampton. Only after settling in Chawton in 1809 she began to publish her literary works anonymously, such as *Sense and Sensibility* in October 1811 and *Pride and Prejudice* in January 1813. Then she published *Manfield Park* and *Emma* in May 1814 and December 1815 respectively. Sadly, Austen became ill in 1816 and had to be moved to Winchester for treatment on May 24, 1817. She died on July 18, 1817, and although she most likely died of Addison's disease, her cause of death is truly unknown.

## **9) Ella Baker**

Ella Baker was born December 13, 1903 in Norfolk, Virginia. She was brought up from the start with a strong feeling towards equality between blacks and whites, for she used to listen to her grandmother's tales about when she was a slave, how her owner had whipped her because she had refused to marry the man who he wanted her to marry.

Ella attended Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and graduated as valedictorian in 1927 and then moved to New York City. In 1930, Ella joined the *Young Negroes Cooperative League* in order to develop economic power for blacks using collective planning. In 1940, Ella joined the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People* (NAACP), and became the field secretary and director of branches. Although she resigned in 1946, she still played an active role and still fought to desegregate the public schools of New York City.

In 1957, she moved to Atlanta where she helped organize the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference* (SCLC), Martin Luther King's new organization, and also helped with *Crusade for Citizenship*, a voter registration campaign.

In 1960, Ella founded the *Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee* (SNCC) after a group of black college students refused to leave Carolina A&T University's cafeteria after having been denied service on February 1 of that same year.

Ella Baker died on her birthday, December 13, in 1986, at the age of 83 in New York City.

## **10) Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike**

In 1940, she married S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, who was prime minister of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Her husband was assassinated in 1959, so his party called the *Sri Lanka Freedom Party* (SLFP) chose Sirimavo to be their leader.

In 1960, SLFP won the election, and Sirimavo became prime minister. Her program was the same one that her husband used. She kept the Sinhalese language and culture along with the Buddhist religion, had a socialist economic police, and kept neutrality when dealing with foreign relations. While prime minister, she established Sinhalese as the only official language.

However, in 1965, she had lost popularity, and did not win the election. Nonetheless, she was prime minister again in 1970. This time she further restricted free enterprise, carried out reforming land, nationalized industries, and created a new constitution that made an executive presidency and turned Ceylon into the republic Sri Lanka.

Again, in 1977, she lost popularity and lost the election, SLFP winning only eight of 168 National Assembly seats. In 1980, she was barred from political office and stripped of her rights.

In 1986, President Jayawardene gave her rights back and she lost the election in 1988 again. In 1989, she joined and became the leader of her adversarial party. In August 1994, her daughter, Chandrika, won the election and appointed Sirimavo prime minister once again, and they governed against Tamil separatists.

## **11) Clara Barton**

Clara Barton was born on December 25, 1821 in Oxford, Massachusetts. From early childhood she had a great interest in the military, because her father would tell her stories of when he was a soldier.

When Clara was eleven years old, her brother David was injured and she had to take care of him for two years straight. This gave her further practice for her occupation in the future. When she was 15, she began teaching, and taught until she was 33 years old in 1854. Then she moved to Washington D.C. In April 1861, the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment arrived in Washington D.C. and Clara rushed for supplies with which to care for them.

At the Battle of Bull Run in the Civil War, Clara ran out of supplies and put an ad in a newspaper asking for donations. Needless to say, she received a lot of supplies and was very well off from that point forward. In 1862, Clara's permission was granted to travel where the ill soldiers were taken so she could further take care of them, and she did for the rest of the war.

For four years after the war had ended, Clara participated in many groups. She first supervised a missing soldier search, and then for a while helped Susan B. Anthony with the suffrage movement. She also became a black rights activist.

In 1869, Clara went vacationing in Europe, but instead found herself helping the International Red Cross. When she returned home in 1873, she returned with the Iron Cross of Merit from the German Emperor.

The US didn't have a Red Cross like she had participated in while in Europe, so she decided to create it in the United States. In 1881, the *National Society of the Red Cross* was organized and she was able to build the headquarters a block from the White House in Washington D.C. with donated money from John D. Rockefeller. Since she founded it, she became its first president, and directed the Red Cross' activities for 23 years.

In 1898, she travelled to Cuba with supplies and even spent six weeks in Galveston, Texas, helping with the flood control. However, in 1904, she resigned at 82 years old.

Clara died in Glen Echo, Maryland, in 1912. Her body was shipped back and buried in Oxford, Massachusetts. She is now known as the *Angel of the Battlefield*.

## **12) Florence Bascom**

Florence Bascom was born in 1862 in Williamston, Massachusetts, the youngest of six children. In 1877, Florence enrolled in her father's college where he was a professor, the University of Wisconsin, and was able to get her Bachelor's degrees in Art and Letters in 1882 and her Bachelor's degree in science in 1884. While at the University of Wisconsin, Florence learned about geology, of which she had always had a fascination ever since she went on her father's tours.

In 1889, after Florence graduated, she decided to attend Johns Hopkins University and receive a Ph.D. in geology, which she did in 1893, even though she had to sit behind a screen (for women were not yet allowed) so she wouldn't bother the male students. She was the second woman to get a Ph.D. in geology.

Florence also taught various subjects including geology while she attended college and graduate school. She taught at Hampton University (then called Hampton Institute for Negroes and American Indians) from 1884 to 1885, Rockford College from 1887 to 1889, and Ohio State University from 1893 to 1895. Then, in 1895, Florence founded the geology department at Bryn Mawr College and was also a professor of geology there.

Florence Bascom is considered to be the "first woman geologist in this country." She was the first woman to be part of the Geological Survey in 1896, the first woman to show her own paper in front of the Geological Society of Washington, the first woman to participate in the Council of Geological Society of America, and also the first woman to hold any office (she was vice-president) in the Geological Survey of America. She was an expert in petrography, crystallography, and mineralogy, and was also the associate editor of a newspaper that ran from 1896 to 1905 called the *American Geologist*. Florence definitely deserves to be recognized for all she has accomplished.

## **13) Simone de Beauvoir**

Simone de Beauvoir was born as Simone Lucie-Ernestine-Marie-Bartrand de Beauvoir on January 9, 1908 in Paris, France. She attended Sorbonne for an education and in 1929 passed agrégation in philosophy. From 1931 to 1943, Simone was a teacher, but in 1943, started her true writing career.

Most of Simone's works included her opinions of existentialism, the belief in individuality and freedom of individuality, as well as her feminist beliefs. In 1943, Simone wrote *She Came to Stay*, illustrating how the human conscience treats other consciences as opponents and what society's meaning was. In 1954, *The Mandarins*, winning the Prix Goncourt, a type of award. This book talked about leaving personal status in

exchange for political activism. In 1964 came *A Very Easy Death*, dealing with the issue of aging and society's attitude towards the elderly.

Simone also wrote a couple autobiographies, where she usually put her own life in the time period that she lived in and saw how things worked out. Probably one of Simone's most famous works was an essay called *The Second Sex*. This dealt with the abolition of what Simone called the "eternal feminine", equality between the male and female sexes, and woman's role in society. This became a true classic of feminist literature.

Through her own writings, Simone de Beauvoir became a forerunner of the feminist movement and was an advocate of existentialism. Simone died on April 14, 1986 in Paris, France at 76 years old.

## 14) Aphra Behn

Aphra Behn was born Aphra Johnson in 1640 in England, and much of what is known about her is a guess on the exact year or time period that each occurrence happened. When she was around 23, she lived in Suriname for about a year and then in 1664 married her Dutch husband, which gave her the last name Behn. It is thought that he died when they had been married only about a year.

In 1667, Aphra became Agent 160 for Charles II in Antwerp, but in 1668 she was imprisoned. Then, in 1670, Aphra began writing plays and books. Her first was a play called *The Forced Marriage* and it was performed at Lincoln's Inn Fields. After that point, she wrote at least one play/book per year.

In February 1671, Aphra published *The Amorous Prince*, and she edited and published *Covent Garden Drollery* in 1672. She produced *The Dutch Lover* in 1673 and completed *The Revenge: Or a Match in Newgate* and *The Woman Turned Bully* in 1675.

In the summer of 1676, Aphra produced her sole tragedy *Abdelazer* and also another play called *The Town Fop*. She was very busy in 1677, producing and publishing *The Rover*, producing *The Debauchee* in February and *The Counterfeit Bridegroom* in September. Then came *Sir Patient Fancy* (January 1678), *The Feigned Courtesans* (1679), *The Young King* (1679), *The City Heiress* (1682) and *Like Father, Like Son* (1682). However, unlike most of the others, *Like Father, Like Son* did not do very well as a play and flopped. Following this decline, Aphra stopped writing plays for a short period of time.

In 1683, Aphra published the first epistolary novel in English literature - *Love Letters Between a Nobleman and His Sister*. She also wrote two books of poems, *Poems on Several Occasions* in 1684 and *Miscellany* in 1685. In 1686, Aphra published *The Lover's Watch* and produced *The Lucky Chance*. Then, in 1687, she produced *The Emperor of the Moon*.

In 1688, she wrote her three fiction novels: *The Fair Jilt*, *Agnes de Castro*, and *Oroonoke*. *Oroonoke* was a study of racism and slavery, and although she never directly criticized slavery as the narrator (unlike Harriet Beecher Stowe, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*), her protagonist does criticize it.

Aphra Behn died on April 16, 1689, and she was buried in Westminster Abbey. She was the first professional woman writer, a forerunner to English literature, and an important novel innovator.

## 15) Ruth Fulton Benedict

Ruth Fulton was born in New York City in 1887. Her father died when she was only eighteen months old, so her mother moved the family around a lot. They travelled to Missouri and Minnesota before they found their home in Buffalo, New York in 1898. Ruth graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College and then left the United States to spend some time in Europe with some college friends. Then in 1910, Ruth was a social worker, and from 1911 to 1914 approximately, she was a teacher.

In 1914, Ruth married a biochemistry professor from Cornell Medical School named Stanley Benedict. After five years of marriage, Ruth began taking courses, first at Columbia University and then at the New School for Social Research. It was these courses that sparked her interest in anthropology, the study of the origin, behaviour, and development of human beings. From 1925 to 1940, Ruth served as editor of the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*.

In 1948, Ruth became the first woman to be promoted to a full professor of the Faculty of Political Science. She travelled to California to learn from the Indians there, and researched the Serrano, Zuñi, Cochiti, and

Pima. She also went to Arizona and researched the Mescalero Apache and also the northwest to study the Blackfoot. From her experiences, Ruth wrote three books: *Tales of the Cochiti Indians* was published in 1931, *Patterns of Culture* was published in 1934, and *Zuñi Mythology* appeared in 1935. It was *Patterns of Culture* however, that became a bestseller as it explained what "culture" really was to common people. She also wrote an essay on Mary Wollstonecraft, but it remained unpublished.

Ruth also travelled to Japan, and during World War II, Ruth helped out in the Office of War Information. It was from this experience that she wrote *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: Patterns of Japanese Culture* in 1946. This, too, became a bestseller, and is still today a classic in the study of Japanese culture. She died on September 17, 1948, in her birthplace: New York City.

## **16) Elizabeth Blackwell**

Elizabeth Blackwell was born in 1821 near Bristol, England. When she was eleven, a fire destroyed her father's business and her family moved to New York City. In the following years, they moved around a lot. They found themselves in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1835 and Cincinnati, Ohio in 1838, where her father died. After her father's death, Elizabeth and her family opened a private school in order to support the family.

Elizabeth also taught at a school in Kentucky, although she soon tired of the boring routine and decided to go into medicine, becoming a surgeon. So, she was privately tutored by male doctors and also applied to such colleges as Yale, Harvard, and Bowdoin. Yet, she was turned down because she was a woman.

However, in 1848, she was accepted by Geneva College in western New York state. That summer, she attended a program put on by Philadelphia Hospital and practiced medicine for the first time. She graduated from Geneva College in 1849, the first woman to have a medical degree, and also became a United States citizen.

Elizabeth travelled back to Europe and while in Paris, she attended and completed a midwife course. However, she also contracted the eye disease called ophthalmia, which left one of her eyes blind and severely crushed her dream of becoming a surgeon. However, she wouldn't give up her goal of helping people. She went back to New York in 1851 and adopted an orphan named Katharine "Kitty" Barry. She spent a lot of her time writing papers on good hygiene's importance, and managed to catch the eye of a Quaker organization which began to refer patients to her.

Because of her many patients, Elizabeth opened an office in a run-down house in New York in 1853. Her sister Emily and a Dr. Marie Zakrzewska helped out with the patients, and this office became the New York Infirmary for Women and Children.

In 1858, Elizabeth returned to England and became the first woman on the Medical Register of the United Kingdom. In 1868, she established the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, returning to New York in 1869. In 1871, she created the *National Health Society*, and in 1875, Elizabeth became a professor of gynaecology at the Royal Free Hospital (then called the New Hospital) of the London School of Medicine for Women. Elizabeth died at 89 years of age in 1910.

## **17) Bonnie Kathleen Blair**

Bonnie was born on March 18, 1964 in Cornwall, New York. Right from the start, Bonnie was very skilled at skating, and began entering speed skating races when she was just four years old. In 1986, she won the world short-track title for speed skating in Chamonix, France. Then, in 1987, she created a world record in a 500 meter speed skating race. Also in that year, she won her first world sprint championship, and her brother was diagnosed with a brain tumour. So, Bonnie began her fundraising for the *American Brain Tumour Association*.

On February 22, 1988, at the Olympics in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Bonnie won a gold medal in the 500m and a bronze medal in the 1000m. At the Olympics in Albertville, France, in 1992, she won a gold medal for both the 500m and the 1000m. She also received both gold medals again at the Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, on February 23, 1994. Also in that year, she won the world sprint title and the 500m and 1000m World Cup races. Then, in 1995, she won the world sprint title and the 500m and 1000m World Cups again. Also in 1995, she broke her own 1000m speed skating record on her birthday, March 18,

Bonnie Blair was not just a speed skater, for she did many others things that helped the world. In 1993, she helped distribute necessities after the flood that hit the Midwest. She contributed \$5,000 of her bonus money to Olympic Aid for Bosnia. She also helped fundraise with Olympic Aid-Atlanta in order to help war victims all around the world.

Today, Bonnie is now retired from speed skating, her last race having been on March 18, 1995, when she broke her own 1000m record.

## **18) Rosa Bonheur**

Rosalie Bonheur (known as Rosa Bonheur) was born in 1822 in Bordeaux, France. She was trained to be an artist by her father, who also operated an art school and was an artist himself. Rosa would practice painting by copying pictures in the Louvre and observing animals, her models in most of her paintings. When her family moved into a more rural area in the country, Rosa found it much easier to observe cows, goats, sheep, and horses, and she even went in slaughter houses. She felt more comfortable around animals in male clothing, so she was granted permission by the government to cross-dress. During the winter, because she could not work outside, she would bring the animals in the house. She had a sheep, a goat, and a squirrel, plus numerous rabbits, ducks, chickens, and snails, and at one point, she also had an otter.

When she was 19, Rosa entered a show to see how her two paintings, *Deux lapins* and *Chevres et moutons* would do. They ended up doing pretty well, so she moved on to World Fairs.

In 1948, Rosa painted her first important work, called *Ploughing in Nivernais*, which was put in the Luxembourg Gallery in Paris by the French government. Then, one year later, Rosa stopped running her father's art school, for he had passed away. So, she put much of her effort into painting, creating *The Horse Fair* in 1853, which made her famous, and *Weaning the Calves* in 1887, both of which are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It was in 1853 that she was awarded the Grand Cross of the French Legion of Honour by Napoleon III, but she didn't receive it until many years later.

In 1896, women were finally allowed into art schools, but Rosa had already made it on her own. She painted all the way up to her death, which occurred on May 25, 1899, when she was 77 years old.

## **19) Louise Arner Boyd**

Louise Arner Boyd was born in 1887 in San Rafael, California, near San Francisco. When she was only 13 years old, she inherited all of her family's fortune and began to travel around Europe. In 1924, she visited the Arctic on a Norwegian cruise liner, and this one visit sparked her interest in polar exploration. So, in 1926, she took some friends from Norway to the Arctic Ocean on a Norwegian ship to see more of this beautiful Arctic.

In 1928, Louise began her first Arctic expedition, her mission being to find the missing Norwegian Arctic explorer Roald Amundsen, who had gone missing while looking for another missing explorer, an Italian named Umberto Nobile. She not only led the expedition, but financed it as well with her inheritance, for her family had been very wealthy. Her expedition travelled over 16,100 kilometres, roughly equal to about 10,000 miles, but she never found a trace of Amundsen. Yet, she received the Chevalier Cross of the Order of Saint Olav by the Norwegian government for all she accomplished.

Louise started taking annual trips to the Arctic in 1931. That year, she explored northeast Greenland and studied glacial formations, plant life, and animal life on the De Geer Glacier. She received recognition from this by having an area named after her. It was called Louise Boyd Land.

Louise began another expedition in 1933, sponsored by the American Geographic Society. Once again, she examined glacial formations, but she also measured offshore ocean depths. She also did more ocean-depth research in the Arctic northeast of Norway in 1937 and 1938. With this research, she helped prove the presence of an underwater mountain range between Jan Mayen Island and Bear Island.

No expeditions were made in 1939 and 1940 because of World War II, but she did lead an expedition in 1941 sponsored by the United States. In this expedition, she examined the effects of the poles' magnetic phenomena on radio communications and also served as a military strategy advisor. For serving this rank, she was given the Certificate of Recognition by the United States in 1949.



In 1955, Louise became the first woman to fly over the North Pole. After that point, she spent the rest of her life in San Francisco, California, where she died in 1972.

## **20) Pearl S. Buck**

Pearl Sydenstricker was born in 1892 in Hillsboro, West Virginia. However, she spent most of her childhood in China, and learned Chinese as her first language, then English. She was educated by her mother and a Confucian scholar who was her Chinese tutor until she was 15. When she was 15 years old, she was sent to a Shanghai boarding school where she stayed until she was 18. Then she went back to Virginia in the United States and attended the Randolph-Macon Women's College, studying psychology. She graduated from there in 1914 and returned to China to teach.

While in China, Pearl met and married Dr. John Lassing Buck and they lived together in a village in North China. There she worked as a teacher and her husband's interpreter until they moved to Nanking. In Nanking, she taught English and American literature at a university. In 1926, Pearl received her Master of Arts in Literature at Cornell University and a year later she moved back to China. However, Pearl and her family were soon evacuated to Japan.

In 1931, Pearl wrote her breakthrough novel called *The Good Earth*, which became very popular and was even made into a movie. One million eight hundred thousand copies were sold in the first year and it won the Pulitzer Prize in 1932. Pearl wrote two sequels to *The Good Earth*: *Sons* in 1932 and *A House Divided* in 1935.

In 1936, Pearl became a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. In 1938, she received the Nobel Prize for Literature, awarded by the Swedish Academy. A year later, she wrote *The Patriot* and also adopted nine children, adding to the children she already had. During World War II, Pearl lectured and wrote on democracy and American feelings towards Asia. She wrote *The Angry Wife* in 1949 and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1951. In 1952, Pearl wrote *The Hidden Flower* and she and her husband became part of the East and West Association, created to promote mutual understanding between the United States and Asia.

Pearl S. Buck died on March 6, 1972 at 80 in Danby, Vermont. She was a women's rights crusader, a philanthropist, and a popular author of novels on life in China. Before her death, Pearl had been working on a third sequel to *The Good Earth* called *The Red Earth*, but it was never completed.

## **21) Marie Anne de Cupis de Camargo**

Marie was born in 1710 in Brussels, Belgium to her Spanish family. She was instructed in dance early on by Francoise Prevost, and made her first appearance on May 5, 1726 when she was 15 years old. She debuted in the Paris Opera ballet "Les caracteres de la danse", starting her dancing career.

In her debut, Marie was the first woman to execute the entrechat quatre, a jump where the dancer crosses his/her legs four times in the air. She also improved this jump in 1730. Marie also is said to have invented the 90-degree turnout. Another thing that she did to influence dance was to change the heeled shoes in ballet to slippers, and she also shortened her ballet skirt. Both of these changes were further used in ballet's future.

In 1734, Marie retired from dancing and became the mistress of the Comte de Clemont, but they never married. However, she returned to dancing for 10 years in 1741, and danced 78 ballets with great success. She retired for good from ballet in 1751 on a French government pension and died in 1770.

Still, Marie set a fashion during her time with her popularity in many art forms, not just dancing. There were many dishes in her name, including some of the chef Escoffier's most famous dishes: Souffle' a' la Camargo, Bombe Camargo, Filet de Bouef Camargo, and Ris de Veau grilles Camargo. There were also many paintings and portraits done of her, including one by Lancret titled Camargo. A Camargo ballet was created by Retipa and Minkus about the time when Marie and her sister were abducted by the Comte de metun in 1928. Two operas were also written about her, one by Enrico de Leva and the other by Charles Le Cocq. Finally, the Camargo Society was founded in London in 1930 in her name.

## 22) Rachel Carson

Rachel Carson was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania on May 27, 1907 and grew up in her birth town of Springdale. She graduated from Chatham College (formerly known as the Pennsylvania College for Women) in 1929, then studied at the Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratory. In 1932, Rachel received her Master of Arts in zoology from John Hopkins University. During the Great Depression, Rachel wrote radio scripts for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and also wrote natural history article in the Baltimore Sun for the payments. In 1936, Rachel became scientist and editor for the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, and later became Editor-in-Chief. In 1937, she wrote an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* called *Undersea* in lyric prose and also wrote the book "Under the Sea-Wind" in 1941.

In 1952, Rachel resigned from service to the government and began to concentrate on her writing. She wrote *The Sea Around Us* in 1952 and *The Edge of the Sea* in 1955. Both of these books made her famous as a naturalist and a writer.

During World War II, Rachel changed her interest from marine biology and the seas to pesticides, feeling as if the use of synthetic chemical pesticides in the war was wrong. In 1962, she published her most well-known work called *Silent Spring*. This book challenged the government and agricultural scientists and also called for a change in humankind's attitude towards the natural world. This book caused her to be attacked verbally by the government and the chemical industry. In 1963, Rachel testified before Congress for new pesticide policies.

Rachel died in Silver Spring, Maryland on April 14, 1964 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer. She was an influential writer, scientist, and ecologist.

## 23) Catherine The Great

Catherine was born in 1729 in Stettin, Prussia, which is now Szczecin, Poland. Her original name was Sophie Fredericke Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst and she was a German princess. Sophie moved to Russia in 1744 and was married in 1745 to the Grand Duke Peter of Holstein. Sophie converted her religion from Lutheranism to Russian Orthodox, and her husband Peter became Peter III of Russia in 1762. However, her husband was not very well liked and did much to antagonize his people and the courts, so Sophie and the imperial guard overthrew him, and Sophie was declared empress Catherine II.

Much of what Catherine did when she ruled led to improvements in Russia. She won two important wars against the Ottoman Empire, expanding Russia to the Black Sea's shores. Agreements were made with Austria and Prussia that created partitions with Poland, and more area in Europe belonged to Russia. Like Peter the Great, Catherine supported westernization, improving the Russian government through the influence of the west. She bolstered the autocratic government in the Age of Enlightenment with Montesquieu's *The Spirit of Laws* prayerbook. She also convened the Legislature Commission to try a political reform, but this produced no results.

Probably the greatest hardship in Catherine's reign, the thing that caused the most changes in both government and the Russian's attitude towards Catherine, was the Pugachew Rebellion. This was a rebellion started by a man named Yemelyan Pugachew who claimed he was Catherine's husband, Peter III. In truth, Catherine's husband had been killed by one of her lovers' brothers, but Pugachew played on the doubt that he actually died. Pugachew gained many supporters from many of the different classes in Russia, and took the city of Kazan' and was close to getting Moscow. However, Pugachew and his supporters were no match for the Russian army, and they were defeated. Pugachew was surrendered by his men, tried in Moscow, and executed after being pronounced guilty.

After the Pugachew Rebellion, Catherine instituted many changes of government to try to reunite the Russian classes once more. These changes resolved around decentralization, the distribution of functions and power, gentry's participation. The land units were subdivided into provinces and then into districts to give the local governments more power. The courts and the procedures of the judicial branch of government were further organized. Catherine tried to separate the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, but failed. She extended the serfdom throughout Russia and transferred the church property to the state. She also started colonization of the Volga River and southern Russia.

However, Catherine's main interest was also in culture and education. She established boarding schools like the Smolny Institute for Girls and the Russian Academy of Letters. Public publishing houses were licensed

and because works could now be published, journalism flourished. Hospitals and medical colleges were founded, surgical and medical equipment was being made in Russia, and they were leading the war in disease control.

Right when Catherine was preparing to fight France during the French Revolution, Catherine had a stroke and died in 1796. Catherine's son, Paul, took over her throne after her death. Catherine did so much for Russia during her reign that she was called Catherine the Great more often than Catherine II. Her greatness gives her a place in my list.

## **24) St. Catherine**

St. Catherine was born on March 25, 1347 in Siena, Italy. When she was a young girl, she began to see visions that she believed were from God. So, when she was seven years old, she pledged herself to God, and when she was 17, she became a nun. In 1366, Catherine began to tend to the ill, especially the ones with horrible infectious diseases. She also served the poor, and was always happy, even though she occasionally starved herself to be closer to Christ.

In 1370, Catherine received a vision of Purgatory, Heaven, and Hell, that told her to go into public life. So, Catherine began doing accomplishments for the world, like trying to reform the clergy and the Papacy's states, trying to restore peace to Italy, and trying to unite all Christians. Sometime after 1375, Catherine was sent on a mission by the Pope to keep Pisa and Lucca's neutrality. Then, in June 1376, Catherine became the ambassador of the Florentines in Avignon. She tried to make peace and failed, but she did convince the Pope to return to Rome.

In 1377, Catherine learned the skill of writing, for she had always depended on her "secretaries" to accomplish that task for her. Then, in 1378, she was sent once more on a peace mission to Florence. This time she succeeded, although an attempt was made on her life while she was there.

In November 1378, Catherine was summoned by the Roman claimant Urban VI to work towards the Catholic church's reformation. Then, in 1380, she created a reconciliation between Pope Urban VI and the Roman Republic. However, she died soon after on April 29, 1380 in Rome. The many works that she completed, including *Dialogue*, around 400 letters, and a series of *Prayers*, are now classics of Italian literature.

## **25) Chien-Shiung Wu**

Chien-Shiung Wu was born in 1912 in Shanghai, China. In 1934, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in China, and two years later, she travelled to the United States. After receiving her Ph. D. from the University of California at Berkeley, she taught at Smith College before settling down at Princeton University in 1944. During World War II, Chien worked on the Manhattan Project and she also held several honorary positions at several Chinese Universities. She also became a professor of physics at Columbia University.

Chien was elected president of the American Physical Society, and became the first woman to do so. In 1957, she became a full professor at Columbia University, and she accomplished even more the year after. She became the first woman awarded the Research Corporation Award, received an honorary doctor of science degree from Princeton University, and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1964, Chien became the first woman to receive the Comstock prize from the National Academy of Sciences. Then, in 1972, at Columbia University, Chien became the Pupin Professor of Physics. Chien died in 1997, having contributed much in atomic research, beta decay, and weak interactions.

## **26) Cleopatra**

Cleopatra, actually known as Cleopatra VII, was born in Egypt in 69 B.C. In 58 B.C., her father Ptolemy XII was expelled from power, so Cleopatra helped him regain his power. However, her father died in 51 B.C., and Cleopatra and her brother Ptolemy XIII took the throne. In 48 B.C., Cleopatra was exiled by her brother, who had taken control as supreme Pharaoh. So, Cleopatra created an army in Syria and joined forces with Roman Julius Caesar, who became her lover and supported her cause. With his help, Ptolemy XIII was killed in 47 B.C. and Caesar pronounced Cleopatra as queen of Egypt.

As it was a custom, Cleopatra married her younger brother, 11-year-old Ptolemy XIV. Cleopatra also had a child whom she named Caesarean and later became Ptolemy XV. He was thought to be Caesar's child, not Ptolemy XIV's. Then, Caesar was assassinated and her husband, Ptolemy XIV, was poisoned and died. Although Cleopatra has been implicated with possible having poisoned him, we are unsure if she really did poison him or not.

After knowing him for a few years, Cleopatra married Mark Antony around 35 B.C., even though he was also married to a woman named Octavia. Together, they had a pair of twins who they named Cleopatra Selene and Alexander Helios, and also another child who was named Ptolemy XVI. In 32 B.C., war was declared upon Egypt from Octavius, the brother of Mark Antony's other wife, because Antony had left Octavia for Cleopatra. Antony and Octavia soon divorced, but Cleopatra still was forced into war.

Sadly, Cleopatra's army was defeated in the Battle of Actium, and many sorrowful events followed. Mark Antony heard that Cleopatra had died, so he fell on his own sword in 31 B.C., effectively committing suicide. Cleopatra built a temple in Antony's honour called the Caesarium, which had the two small obelisks called "Cleopatra's Needles" in it. These obelisks were later given to America and Britain as gift in the 1800's. One is now in the Embankment in London, and the other is in Central Park in New York City.

Saddened by Antony's death, Cleopatra killed herself in 31 B.C., although it is much disputed over whether she simply poisoned herself or let her asp (a type of snake) complete her death. Although her life has ended, her fame continues. She has been the basis for many works of literature, including Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra*, John Dryden's *All for Love*, and George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*. She has also had many movies titled and made about her, including ones in 1914, 1934, and 1963, among others.

## **27) Juana Ines de la Cruz**

Juana was born in 1651 in Mexico. When she was only 3, she convinced a teacher to give her reading lessons, yet her mother found out and had them stopped. However, by age 6, Juana could read all the literature in her grandfather's library. When she was 10, her grandfather died, and she had to go live with her aunt and uncle. Her aunt and uncle hired a Latin scholar for Juana, but after ten or eleven lessons, Juana surpassed what the scholar could teach her and continued learning by herself.

When Juana was a teenager, she met Mexico's governor and he was so impressed by her that she was allowed to stay at his house as a servant. While there, Juana read many of the Spanish novels coming from Spain and when she attended the governor's parties, she met many important people. She also wrote poems, and her written plays were performed at the governor's palace.

Juana chose, reluctantly, to join a convent after the governor's time in power ended, for she did not want to marry. However, the convent horrified her so much that she left that place and tried another. This one fit Juana's interests, as it had servants and gave her lots of free time. She took her vows and stayed there. She spent most of her free time writing books, most of which became Spanish bestsellers. Yet, her writing was very much criticized by the clergy, particularly by archbishop Francisco de Aguiar, a man who had great misogyny (hatred of women).

Soon after, Juana was tricked into having her argument about a sermon published, and she was put in danger of being sentenced by the Inquisition. A few months later, she wrote what is usually considered her best work: *La Respuesta*. This work argues that women needed an education and outlined a way how it could be done.

Near the end of her life, Juana gave up writing. She died in 1695 while caring for her sisters who had contracted the plague. She was one of the greatest playwrights and poets of her time, and she was the first person on her continent to argue verbally through writing for a woman's right to an education.

## **28) Marie Curie**

Marie Curie was born as Maria Sklodowska in Warsaw, Poland on November 7, 1867. At age 16, she won a gold medal for graduating from secondary school and then started working as a teacher to help support her family. When she was 18, she worked as a governess and financed her sister through medical school with the money she received.

In 1891, Marie went to Paris and worked at a laboratory of the physicist Gabriel Lippman. There, in 1894, she met Pierre Curie, and they were married on July 25, 1895. In the summer of 1898, Marie and Pierre discovered the element Polonium. A few months later, she and Pierre also discovered Radium. Marie also obtained pure metallic radium with A. Debierne and in 1903, Marie won the Nobel Prize in Physics jointly with her husband and another scientist. She became the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize in Physics.

Marie then introduced a different teaching method at Sevres, a school for girls, that was based on demonstrations of experiments. She was made chief assistant of the laboratory at Sevres in 1904.

On April 19, 1906, Marie's husband, Pierre, died, but she was still able to continue her scientific work. She became the first female head of Laboratory at the Sorbonne University in Paris in 1906 and also received another Nobel Prize, this one in Chemistry, in 1911. She was the first person ever to win two Nobel Prizes. In 1922, Marie became a member of the Academy of Medicine.

On July 4, 1934, Marie died of leukaemia, probably caused by her exposure to radiation during her experiments. She had been a woman who had contributed much to the study of radioactivity, among other things. In 1995, her ashes were enshrined under the dome of the Pantheon in Paris, the first woman to be laid there for her own merits. In 1996, a movie debuted about her and her husband called "Les Palmes de M. Schutz." Marie has two craters named after her (one on the moon, one on Mars) as well as a NASA rover with her name. Her image is on many stamps and coins worldwide, though especially in Poland, her birth country.

## **29) Agnes George de Mille**

Agnes George de Mille was born in 1905 in New York City. She attended UCLA (the University of California in Los Angeles) and chose to become a ballet dancer. Her debut was in a ballet in New York City, and after that date, she began to tour Europe.

In 1932, Agnes moved to London where she attended Madame Marie Rambert's Ballet Club. It was here that she learned how to fully dance ballet and also how to choreograph. In 1937, she danced in the premiere of Antony Tudor's Dark Elegies and became a hit. In 1939, she joined the American Ballet Theatre. It was after that date that she began to choreograph many ballets and write her own books.

Agnes' other accomplishments include creating the Agnes de Mille Theatre in 1953 and receiving, in 1976, New York's greatest achievement award in the arts: the Handel Medallion. She suffered from a stroke in 1975, but she soon recovered. Agnes died on October 7, 1993, a great dancer and important choreographer.

## **30) Emily Dickinson**

Emily Dickinson was born on December 10, 1830 in Amherst, Massachusetts. She attended Amherst Academy for two years and Holyoke Female Seminary for one year. At Amherst Academy, Emily met the principal named Leonard Humphrey, and he gave her interest in books. But it also seems as if a law student, Benjamin F. Newton, gave her love of literature as well.

For most of her life, Emily was a recluse, staying in her house by herself and never really coming out or seeing anybody. Her one true acquaintance was Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who published her poetry after her death. It was in the 1850's that Emily is thought to have begun her poetry, but it wasn't till 1858 that she began writing her poems in ink and put them in little booklets (meaning they were worthy enough for her to keep forever).

In May 1855, it is thought that Emily met a man named Charles Wadsworth who touched off an explosion of her creative poems in the early 1860's. A number of letters to Wadsworth were found among her poems.

Although Emily was considered a recluse most of her life, her last years were even more reclusive. She spent her days baking bread, tending her garden, and staring out the window. She grew obsessed with death, almost as if she knew that her time would come soon. Legends were even begun about her: the woman in white and the eccentric recluse.

Emily Dickinson died on May 15, 1886 of Bright's disease, leaving behind over 2,000 poems that were published by Higginson after her death. Many of her poems are compared today to those of the Henry David Thoreau, for her writing seems to echo how he wanted to live. Stated by Tombstone "close to the bone,

concentrating on the very essence of what she saw and felt in phrases that strike and penetrate like bullets, and with an originality of thought unsurpassed in American poetry."

### **31) Amelia Earhart**

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. She planned to go to college, but after encountering four wounded World War I soldiers on the street, she decided to go into nursing. Hence, during World War I, Amelia worked in Canada as a military nurse, and after the war was over, returned to her family, where she became a social worker at the Denison House in Boston, Massachusetts. There, Amelia started to teach immigrant children the English language.

In 1920, Amelia took a ten-minute plane ride that changed her life. After that flight, she knew she was meant to fly. So, she earned \$1,000 to use as a fee for flying lessons by working many different jobs. After ten hours of instruction, Amelia was ready to fly alone.

Amelia took her first solo flight in 1921 and bought her own plane a year after. Still, flying was only a hobby at hers; she still taught English at the Denison House. However, from June 17 to 18, 1928, Amelia was a passenger on a plane called Friendship that flew from America to England. She became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Her story of the flight was covered by publisher George Putnam, whom Amelia later married in 1931.

From May 20 to 21, 1932, Amelia crossed the Atlantic solo and also established a new time record for the flight: 13.5 hours. For this feat, she received a medal from president Herbert Hoover.

A few years after 1932, Amelia became the first woman to fly successfully from Hawaii to California. Then, in June 1937, Amelia and navigator Fred Noonan set out to fly around the world. They left Miami, Florida, and passed South America, Africa, Thailand, Singapore, Java, and Australia. But when they left New Guinea for Howland Island, they disappeared. The only thing left was a frantic message to the US Coast Guard at 8:45 p.m. on July 2, 1937.

Amelia Earhart, Fred Noonan, and Amelia's plane were never found. In 1939, Amelia's husband, George Putnam, wrote a book in tribute to her titled "Soaring Wings".

### **32) Marian Wright Edelman**

Marian Wright Edelman was born on June 6, 1939 in Bennettsville, South Carolina. She attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1960 and Yale University Law School in 1963. After Yale, Marian began registering African Americans for voting in Mississippi. Then, she moved to New York City where she became an attorney for the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People).

In 1964, Marian passed her bar exam in Mississippi, becoming the first African American to do so. Immediately after, she began to fight for the funding of a Head Start program. From 1964 to 1968, Marian was the director of the Legal Defense and Education Fund in Jackson, Mississippi. She withdrew from that office when she moved to Washington D.C. in 1968.

While in Washington D.C., Marian started a public interest firm called the Washington Project of the Southern Center for Public Policy. She then became the director at Harvard University's Center for Law and Education from 1971 to 1973. In 1973, Marian created the Children's Defense Fund in Washington D.C. and became its president.

Marian received the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship award in 1985. Lastly, she created Stand for Children, a foundation like the Children's Defense Fund. She is still alive today.

### **33) Eleanor of Aquitaine**

Eleanor of Aquitaine was born in the Middle Ages sometime around 1122. Unlike most women in those days and some of the men, Eleanor was very well educated. When she was a child, her mother and her little brother died, as well as her father in 1137. Eleanor became the richest heiress in France, since her family had left her all their money.

Since she was very wealthy, Eleanor was set up to be married to the King, Louis VII. Although they did not get along, they had a child named Marie in 1145 and Louis VII allowed Eleanor to govern Aquitaine, for he knew how she knew the Aquitainians better than any other ruler.

When the Second Crusade began, Eleanor accompanied her husband to Palestine. However, they soon disagreed on what to do next. Eleanor thought they should drive back the Turks in the north, but Louis disagreed. Anyhow, the Crusade turned out to be a failure and Eleanor and Louis both visited the Pope and pleaded for a divorce. However, the Pope turned them down.

After returning to France, Eleanor's marriage worsened, although another daughter was born in 1150. They finally convinced the Pope to divorce them in 1152. A few weeks later, Eleanor met and married Duke Henry Plantagenet of Normandy. With Eleanor's help and support, Henry became King of England and owned much of France. Eleanor bore him three daughters and five sons.

In 1169, Eleanor became the Duchess of Aquitaine and restored Aquitaine's order. In 1170, she reconciled her relationship with her first-born daughter Marie.

When Henry and Eleanor's sons revolted against Henry in 1173, Eleanor backed them fully, and all of them were imprisoned by Henry until the year of his death, 1189. Her son, Richard I (also known as Richard the Lionhearted) became king and followed much of Eleanor's advice while ruling. Eleanor retired in Aquitaine and stayed in the abbey of Fontevraud. She died there in 1204, at 82 years old, very old for her time.

### **34) Beatrix Jones Farrand**

Beatrix Cadwalader Jones was born in New York on June 19, 1872. In 1893, she began reading, photographing, observing, and writing down details about Bar Harbour, Maine, a place where her family would go each year. She also spent much of her time admiring gardens. From 1890 to 1891, she studied at the Arnold Arboretum, where she learned how to landscape, which was to be her profession. In 1896, her parents divorced, but that did not keep her from starting to be a landscape artist. A year later, in 1897, she designed and constructed a small cemetery in Seal Harbour, Maine. This very well may have been her first actual project. After that, she constructed many gardens, most of them in New York State, but also including the East Gardens for the White House.

In 1912, Beatrix designed the landscape plan for the Graduate College at Princeton. One year later, she met her future husband, Max Farrand. They married on December 17, 1913, yet she still continued with her occupation. In 1914, she was appointed by the University of Princeton as the supervising landscape architect. In 1916, she designed a rose garden for the New York Botanical Gardens, although it was not created until 1989, after her death.

In the 1920's, Beatrix worked at Yale University and in 1923 became its consulting landscape gardener. In 1927, she was named as a member of the Garden Club of Philadelphia.

Beatrix Jones Farrand died in 1959, the first and only female charter fellow in the ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects). She was a great landscaper whose works will forever be seen and admired.

### **35) Edith Flanigen**

Edith Flanigen was born on January 28, 1929 in the city of Buffalo, New York. She graduated from D'Youville College in Buffalo as valedictorian and class president. In 1952, she gained her Masters from Syracuse University in Inorganic-Physical Chemistry. After her graduation, she began researching for the Union Carbide Corporation, as well as a joint venture of the AlliedSignal and the Union Carbide called the UOP.

In 1956, Edith started working with molecular sieves, "crystal compounds with molecular-sized pores" which were used as filters of mixtures as well as catalysts. Throughout her career, she invented over 200 different synthetic substances, including her most important called "zeolite Y." "Zeolite Y" was used to refine petroleum, a catalyst used in converting crude oil into gasoline. She also co-invented a type of synthetic emerald that was used in jewellery for only five or ten years during the mid-1900's.

In 1992, Edith received the Perkin Medal and decided to retire from her occupation in 1994. Her inventions have made gasoline production safer, cleaner, and greater. Her sieves are also used in environmental clean-up and water purification.

### **36) Anne Frank**

Anneliese Marie Frank was born on June 12, 1929 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. In 1933, her family moved to Holland without her to flee from the Nazis who were gaining power in Europe. The Nazis were prosecuting people of the Jewish faith, putting them in concentration camps of torture, even killing them. Anne's family thought it best to flee from Hitler and his minions, for they, too, were Jewish. Anne soon joined them in February 1934.

On July 6, 1942, Anne and her family went into hiding during the Holocaust in the "Secret Annex," an attic above her father's office. There they stayed for 25 months, until August 4, 1944. They were betrayed to the Nazis and all eight people (Anne's family, another family, and another man) were put in concentration camps. On August 8, 1944, all eight were put in the Westerbork concentration camp. Some of them were separated, and Anne and some others were transferred to Auschwitz on September 3, 1944. Then, on October 6, 1944, Anne and her sister Margot were moved to the concentration camp Bergen-Belson. It was there that Anne died in March 1945 of typhus, dying within days of her sister Margot.

Anne left behind a diary of her days in the attic, a diary which she had received on her 13th birthday. A woman named Miep Giles found it, and it was published in 1947. It was translated in 67 different languages and is now one of the most widely read books. Also, "The Diary of Anne Frank" opened on Broadway in 1955, and the play has been done at my high school, Brunswick High School, by an all-star cast. Anne Frank is one girl who has influenced all, and will not be forgotten.

### **37) Rosalind Elsie Franklin**

Rosalind Elsie Franklin was born on July 15, 1920 in London, England. She was educated at one of the only girls' schools with classes in physics and chemistry. When she was 15, Rosalind decided to become a scientist, but her father wanted her to become a social worker. Nonetheless, she entered Newnham College in Cambridge in 1938, and graduated in 1941.

In 1942, Rosalind worked at the British Coal Utilization Research Association studying carbon and graphite microstructures. In 1945, she earned her doctorate in physical chemistry from Cambridge University.

From 1947 to 1950, Rosalind worked at the Laboratoire Central des Services Chimiques de L'Etat in Paris, where she learned techniques in X-ray diffraction. Then, in 1951, she returned to England and worked in the lab at King's College in Cambridge. It was there that she was given the responsibility for the DNA project, and she worked somewhat awkwardly with Maurice Wilkins.

Rosalind almost cracked the DNA code, but Wilkins gave some of her DNA pictures to James Watson and Francis Crick, and they solved it. Rosalind moved to a lab at Birkbeck College where she studied the tobacco mosaic virus and the polio virus.

In 1956, Rosalind became sick with ovarian cancer and died on April 16, 1958 in London, England from the cancer. Four years after her death, Maurice Wilkins, Francis Crick, and James Watson received a Nobel Prize for the discovery of Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA). There is a lot of controversy over how much Rosalind contributed, but it has been agreed that she did contribute enough so that she should have some credited to her.

### **38) Betty Naomi Friedan**

Betty Friedan was born as Betty Naomi Goldstein in Peoria, Illinois on February 3, 1921. She graduated in 1942 with a degree in psychology. She was offered a scholarship to receive her Ph. D. in 1944, but she declined the offer, moving to New York City and working as a workers' press reporter.

It was there in New York City that Betty noticed the workplace discrimination, especially the discrimination against women. In 1947, she married a Soldier Show Corporation actor named Carl Friedan and together they had a child. When Betty was pregnant with her second child in 1949, she was fired from her job at the workers' press because she had asked for maternity leave. Instead, Betty became a full-time wife and mother. It was through this experience that she realized that it was a myth that women were satisfied being only housewives and mothers. She decided to survey other female graduates of Smith College, and she discovered that many other women were unsatisfied as well.



Taking action, Betty wrote an article on how women felt about the issue and strived to get it published, but all the publishers were male and none would print it. Nonetheless, Betty did not give up. She made her article into a book called *The Feminine Mystique*. When it was finally published, it sold over 3 million copies. After that, Betty toured the country and lectured on her ideas in the women's movement. She met with women in Washington and created the "first major structure of the women's movement": NOW, the National Organization for Women, which was founded in 1966. She became its first president, wanting women to be present in society's mainstream and to have full equality.

In 1970, Betty resigned from office, choosing to concentrate more on political reform, writing, and teaching, which she still does to this day.

### **39) Elizabeth Gurney Fry**

Elizabeth Gurney was born on May 21, 1780, in Norwich, England, the fourth of twelve children. In 1799, she became a strict Quaker and religion became her life. On August 19, 1800, Elizabeth married the wealthy and orthodox Quaker Joseph Fry. They had their first child in 1822 and ended up having eleven children. She became a Quaker minister in 1811.

A turning point in Elizabeth's life was her visit to Newgate Prison in London in 1813, where she visited the prisoners in the women's section. When she noticed the prisoners' conditions, she was appalled and determined to do something about it. She created the Maternal Society in Brighton that same year, but didn't get started helping the prisoners until 1816, when she had enough confidence to devote herself to the prisoners' welfare.

It was in 1816 that Elizabeth began to do something about the treatment of the female prisoners at Newgate Prison. She first established a school for the prisoners' children, then created a classification system for the prisoners that included regulations for dress, supervision, education, and employment. In April 1817, she founded the Ladies' Association for the Reformation of the Female Prisoners in Newgate. It was extended in 1821 with the British Ladies' Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners, an organization thought to be the first women's organization in Britain nationwide.

From her accomplishments, Elizabeth became a national figure. She made journeys throughout Britain, visiting prisons as well as speaking on Quaker beliefs and prison reforms. She pleaded for better treatment of prisoners, religious toleration, and the abolition of slavery. In 1827, she wrote a handbook on her views of Newgate's prisoners called *Observations on the Visiting, Superintendence, and Government, of Female Prisoners*. She also created the Institution for Nursing Sisters (also called the Fry Nurses) in London in 1840 as an attempt to modernize Britain.

Elizabeth died from a stroke on October 13, 1845, in Ramsgate. She is buried in the Friends' Burial Ground at Barking on October 20, 1845. She was the creator of many things: District Societies for the poor, a Servants' Society, and libraries for England's coastguard, among others.

### **40) Margaret Fuller**

Margaret Fuller was born Sarah Margaret Fuller on May 23, 1810, in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, one of nine children. She attended Misses Prescotts's school in Groton, Massachusetts, and then spent time in Cambridge, where she received some further education. In 1833, she became a teacher of young children at Groton farm. Sadly, her father, Timothy Fuller, died in 1835, and Margaret became the head of the family. A year later she taught German and Italian at Bronson Alcott's Temple School, and she also met and became friends with Transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson in Concord.

For two years, between 1837 and 1839, Margaret taught at Hiram Fuller's Green Street School in Providence, Rhode Island. Also in 1839, she translated Eckermann's *Conversation with Goethe* and moved to Jamaica Plain with her family and started Boston and Cambridge Conversation classes. She was also a member of the Transcendental Club along with Emerson, Louisa May Alcott, W. E. Channing, and Jones Very, among others.

From July 1840 to July 1842, Margaret was the editor of the magazine *The Dial*, and even included some of her own articles in it. In 1841, Brook Farm was created, but both she and Emerson decided not to join because they believed in their individuality so much. A year later, in 1842, Margaret completed and published the translation of *Correspondence of Fraulein Guderade and Bettina von Arnim*. In 1844, she

published her first book, *Summer on the Lake*, which detailed some of her own accounts. It also helped her receive her job as a literary critic for the *New York Daily Tribune*, and then she moved to New York.

Margaret completed *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, which became a classic of feminist thought, and published *Papers of Literature and Art* in 1846. Also in 1846, Margaret acted as a foreign correspondent in Europe for the *Tribune*. She travelled to Italy in 1847 and fell in love with and married Marchese Ossoli. She gave birth to their son, Angelo, named after one of his father's middle names, on September 5, 1848. Then, in 1849, Margaret was chosen as the director of a Roman hospital during the sieges of Rome and took care of the sick and dying.

On May 17, 1850, Margaret, her husband, and her son died while sailing for America due to an ocean accident. In 1852, her friends Emerson, W. E. Channing, and J.F. Clarke wrote a book in tribute to her called *Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli*.

## **41) Indira Gandhi**

Indira Gandhi was born in Allahabad, India, on November 19, 1917, an only child. In order to receive a well-rounded education, Indira attended Visva-Bharat University in West Bengal and the University of Oxford. In 1942, Indira met and married Feroze Gandhi, a member of the national Congress Party like herself.

In January 1966, Indira was elected as the president of the Congress Party after the death of the former president. She also became the Minister of Information and broadcasting as well as Prime Minister of India. However, one year later, she lost the election, but she won the election again in 1971.

Also in 1971, Indira aided in the creation of Bangladesh (formerly East Bengal) by supporting East Bengal in a war against Pakistan. Once more, bad luck came Indira's way, and in March 1972, she was accused of violating the election's rules. In 1975, she was deprived of her position, but she tried to keep her seat by putting India in an emergency state.

Once more, in 1977, Indira lost the election, but her supporters created the Congress (I) Party (with the "I" standing for "Indira") and they both were able to regain the election in 1980. However, Indira repeatedly received threats about India's political integrity, and even some Sikh extremists used violence with their autonomous demands. In order to stop the Sikh extremists, Indira bombed the Golden Temple of the Sikhs in June 1984. Around 450 Sikhs were killed in this bombing.

Seeking revenge for the bombing of the Golden Temple, two Sikh extremists, posing as Indira's bodyguards, assassinated Indira on October 31, 1984, in India's capital of New Delhi. One gunman was killed, and the other was wounded. Indira had done much for her native country of India, including all that is mentioned above, but she also established close relations between India and the Soviet Union and developed India industrially.

## **42) Sarah & Angelina Grimke**

Although two separate women in being and entity, these two women were so important together and couldn't be separated. So, these women count as one unit. I'm sure they would have liked it this way.

Sarah was born on November 26, 1792, and Angelina was born on February 20, 1806. Around 1821, Sarah went to visit Philadelphia and met the Society of Friends, which she became a member of in 1821, staying in Philadelphia. Angelina, following her sister's lead, became a member of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia in 1829, though she also became a Quaker. The beginning of their great importance was started by Angelina, however. Angelina wrote a letter to William Lloyd Garrison on how slavery should be abolished, and it was published in his newspaper, *The Liberator*. So, Angelina continued writing.

In 1836, Angelina wrote *An Appeal to the Christian Women of the South*, a pamphlet that addressed the moral view against slavery. This time, Sarah followed her lead and wrote *An Epistle to the Clergy of the Southern States*. Both joined the AntiSlavery Society and began preaching privately on how it should be abolished. Then, someone came up to them and reminded them that women deserve rights too. So, they started preaching on women's rights, too.

In 1837, Angelina wrote *An Appeal to the Women of the Nominally Free States*, and in 1838, Sarah wrote *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman*. Also in 1838, Angelina married Theodore

Dwight Weld, an abolitionist like Sarah and Angelina. Sarah, Angelina, and Weld together wrote *Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses*.

This book marked the end of Sarah and Angelina's preaching for slavery's abolition and women's rights. Sarah and Angelina spent the rest of their years working at Weld's school and moving to West Newton, Massachusetts, and Boston. Sarah died on December 23, 1873, and Angelina died on October 26, 1879.

### **43) Caroline Lucretia Herschel**

Caroline Lucretia Herschel was born in Hannover, Germany, on March 16, 1750. Her father died when she was 17, so she went to Bath to live with and take care of her brother, William. When William would conduct choirs or bands, Caroline would be singing in the choir. When William was studying Algebra and Geometry, Caroline would be learning Algebra and Geometry at his side. Caroline and William shared a very close relationship.

Another one of William's odd jobs was the making of telescopes, some that he would use to observe celestial bodies. It was during this period that Caroline began to take an interest in astronomy. Then, in 1781, William discovered the planet now known as Uranus, and in 1785, they moved to Windsor. There, Caroline was given a telescope by her brother, and she spent hours on end searching the skies for flying comets.

In 1786, Caroline and William moved to the "Observatory House", the place where Caroline spotted her first comet, sometimes called "first lady's comet". Also in this year, William got married, and this dramatically changed Caroline's lifestyle, although she never wavered from astronomy.

Between the years of 1786 and 1797, Caroline spotted eight different comets, an exciting feat. In 1798, she wrote a book called *Index to Flamsteed's Observations of the Fixed Stars* detailing many different stars in the sky. However, after this year till around 1822, Caroline gave up her astronomy and cared for William's son.

In 1822, tragedy struck when William died. Caroline moved back to Hannover away from him and once again picked up her astronomy. She created a catalogue of 2500 nebulae (plural of nebula, the birthplace of stars) and received a gold medal from the Royal Astronomical Society for her catalogue in 1826. In 1835, Caroline became a member of the Royal Astronomical Society and she and Mary Somerville became the first honorary women members. She also was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 1838.

Caroline died in Hannover, Germany, on January 9, 1848. In 1889, a minor planet was named Lucretia in tribute to her.

### **44) Judith E. Heumann**

Judith E. Heumann is an enormously influential woman who pioneered for equality for people with disabilities. When she was 18 months old, she was diagnosed with polio, and had to spend her life in a wheelchair. She was allowed to attend school until the 4th grade, though she did graduate from two colleges: Long Island University (1969) and University of California at Berkeley (1975). It was from the University of California at Berkeley that she received her Master of Arts in Public Health Administration. She wanted to be a teacher, but was turned down by the New York City school system because she used a wheelchair. In response, she filed a suit against them and won.

However, Judith did much with societies that envelope how much she has accomplished. She helped develop the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and also helped draft the Americans with Disabilities Act. She was Vice President of WID (World Institute on Disability) and also was the director of its Research and Training Centre. Judith also helped found the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities and Disabled in Action (of which she was also president).

Judith was also a member of many groups, including the National Advisory Council of the Centre for Women Policy Studies, Tools for Living in the Community, the Over 60's Health Centre, the National Council on Independent Living, and the National Rehabilitation Association.

Judith, from 1975 to 1982, was Deputy Director of the Centre for Independent Living, and although she was no longer the Deputy Director in 1982, she stayed a member until 1993. After 1982 until 1983, Judith served as the assistant to California's State Department of Rehabilitation.

Since June 1993, Judith has been assistant secretary of the Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and she also manages the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the Office of Special Education Programs. In 1995, at the International Congress on Disability in Mexico City, Judith represented the Secretary of Education Riley. Now, Judith is married to Jorge Pineda and lives in the United States' capital, Washington D.C.

#### **45) Dorothy Mary Crowfoot Hodgkin**

Dorothy Mary Crowfoot was born in Cairo, Egypt, on May 12, 1910. She attended Somerville College at Oxford in 1932 and received a Chemistry degree. While in college, Dorothy used x-ray crystallography to show atomic structure and discovered that crystals are made of atoms in repeating, regular patterns.

In 1933, Dorothy began her real crystallography research. She determined the structural atom layout and certain molecules' molecular shape. She also recorded the first x-ray diffraction pattern of a globular protein with Dr. J. D. Bernal. This determined that a protein molecule's arrangement is perfectly definite and that mother liquid is needed to surround protein crystals in order to study them. Also with her research, she showed crystal packing molecules and their scheme of hydrogen bonds. This was a great chemical breakthrough because they were the first analyses made from 3-D calculations.

In 1934, Dorothy returned to Oxford University and took x-ray photographs of insulin by herself, changing modern biology. Then, in 1937, she graduated from Cambridge University with a doctorate and married Dr. Thomas Hodgkin.

Between 1942 and 1949, Dorothy worked to identify penicillin's structure, which she established in 1945 with x-ray crystallography, and then made further clarifications. In 1947, she became a member of Britain's scientific organization, the Royal Society.

From 1948 to 1956, Dorothy served as a tutor at Cambridge University and Oxford University. In 1955, she took the first x-ray diffraction pictures of Vitamin B-12. In 1956 and 1958, she received the Royal Medal and became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, respectively.

In 1961, Dorothy determined the structure of the naturally-occurring Vitamin B-12, and since Vitamin B-12 helps build red blood cells, it became a treatment for anemia. From 1960 to 1977, Dorothy was at Oxford University as the Royal Society Wolfson Research Professor. In 1964, she won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her structure of Vitamin B-12. In 1965, she became a member of the Order of Merit, endowed by Queen Elizabeth II. Then, finally, in 1969, she completed insulin's structure and it became helpful in treating diabetes.

In 1970, Dorothy was Britol University's Chancellor and from 1972 to 1978, she was President of the International Union of Crystallography. She received the Copley Medal (1976), retired in 1977, and received the Longstaff Medal, Lamonosov Gold Medal, and Lenin Peace Prize in 1978, 1982, and 1987, respectively.

Dorothy died from a stroke in Ilmington, England, on July 29, 1994. She had done much to contribute to the field of chemistry, but she had also adopted over 75 children in need of homes from many different countries around the world.

#### **46) Mary Phelps Jacob**

A New York Socialite named Mary Phelps Jacob created the first modern brassiere in 1913. It was made out of two silk handkerchiefs and some pink ribbon, and was a savior after those corsets that were usually worn. The corsets were made out of steel rods and whaleback bones, and were not only uncomfortable, but protruded from women's clothing at times.

So, Jacob created the bra, and received a patent for this "Backless Brassiere" on November 3, 1914. She sold many copies under her production name, Caresse Crosby, but she soon became bored. She chose to sell the patent for \$1,500 to the Warner Brothers Corset Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut. However, Warner Brothers Corset Company made \$15 million off the brassiere in the following 30 years.

Jacob died in 1970 after her brassiere had undergone many transitional changes. She is on my list because of this question: would the world be the same without the modern-day bra? Of course not!

## **47) Helen Keller**

Helen Keller was born on June 27, 1880, in the state of Alabama in the United States. As an infant she was healthy, lively, and happy, but when she was 19 months old she contracted a horrible fever and she was left deaf and blind.

So, Helen communicated by using specific signs that meant specific words, like wrapping her arms around herself and shivering if she wanted ice cream. But her attitude began to go downhill when she was 5 and discovered other people would talk with their mouths. This made her very upset, so she threw tantrums which got worse as she got older. When she was almost seven years old, her family got her a tutor: Anne Sullivan.

Helen had finally found her match, for Anne could control her with sheer willpower and force. Soon, Anne began teaching Helen words by signing them into Helen's hand (forming letters with her fingers) so Helen could feel them. Anne spelled out "water" and splashed water on Helen's hand repeatedly. Finally, Helen realized what words related and their spellings.

Anne and Helen's progress continued for almost fifty years. Helen learned how to read and write Braille, a language where letters are made from a series of raised dots. Helen also learned Tacoma, reading people's lips by touching them as they moved and feeling the vibrations. This was an amazing feat because this is very difficult to do and a very small sum of people can accomplish this. And, of course, Helen learned how to speak verbally.

In 1888, Helen and Anne attended Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts. Then, in 1894, they attended Wright-Humason School for the Deaf in New York together. While in Radcliffe College, Helen wrote her own autobiography titled *The Story of My Life*. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1904. Then, in 1932, Helen was elected vice president of the United Kingdom's Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Helen died in 1968, having accomplished many feats. In addition, she had helped set up the American Foundation for the Blind and had been a fervent socialist and suffragette. Helen Keller International, an organization devoted to the blind, was created in her honour.

## **48) Billie Jean King**

Billie Jean Moffitt was born in Long Beach, California, in 1943. As a kid, she was very interested in tennis and learned it at a very young age. She attended college at California State College at Los Angeles (then Los Angeles State College). When she was 18 in 1962, Billie Jean surprisingly defeated the world's leading women's tennis player, Margaret Smith Court, at Wimbledon. After this incident, nothing could stop her and she became one of the most successful players in tennis history.

Billie Jean won the Wimbledon singles tournament in 1966, 1967, 1972, 1973, and 1975. She won the doubles in 1961, 1962, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1979. Then, she won the mixed doubles at Wimbledon (doubles with a male partner) in 1967, 1971, 1973, and 1974. Her total of 20 Wimbledon titles set a record as well.

Billie Jean also won a lot of championships at the U.S. Championships. She won the singles in 1967, 1971, 1972, and 1974, and she won the doubles in 1964, 1967, 1974, 1978, and 1980.

In 1965, Billie Jean married a law student named Larry King, and in 1967 became the first woman since 1939's Alice Marble to win singles, doubles, and mixed in Wimbledon and the U.S. Championships. In 1968, she also won the Australian championships, and in 1972, she won the French Open. Also important was her win over Bobby Riggs in 1973 where she demonstrated her point that there should be equal treatment for women in sports.

Also in 1973, Billie Jean cofounded the Women's Tennis Association. In 1974, she established the Women's Sports Organization with swimmer Donna de Varona, track star Wyomia Tyus, diver Micki King, and cyclist and speed skater Sheila Young. Lastly, in 1996, she coached the women's Olympic tennis team.

## **49) Aleksandra Mikhaylovna Kollontai**

Aleksandra Mikhaylovna was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, on March 31, 1872. She was the daughter of an Imperial Russian Army general and married a man named Vladimir Mikhaylovna Kollontai. In 1898, Aleksandra abandoned society and her position and joined the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party, spreading the word for revolution. She also travelled to the United States where she tried to stop the U.S. from participating in World War I.

During the Bolshevik Government's reign, Aleksandra was a commissar for public welfare and she helped remodel Russian society. She improved the status of women, removed the ridicule attached to illegitimate children, simplified the procedures for marriage and divorce, and advocated the practicing of free love. She was also accused of putting off her activities for a love affair, and she would have been executed if Vladimir Lenin had not intervened.

Aleksandra also worked for the Workers' Opposition, demanding democracy in Russia, and she became a member of the People's Communist for Foreign Affairs in 1922.

Aleksandra was the first woman to serve as minister to another country. From 1923 to 1925, she served as minister to Norway. From 1926 to 1927, she served as minister to Mexico. She served as minister to Norway again from 1927 to 1930, and then as Sweden's from 1930 to 1945. In 1943, she became a true ambassador, and in 1944, she conducted a negotiation for an armistice between Russia and Finland during World War II.

Aleksandra died in Moscow on March 9, 1952. After her death, a book was published encompassing all her works. It was called *Selected Writings of Alexandra Kollontai*.

## **50) Elizabeth Kubler - Ross**

Elizabeth was born on July 8, 1926, in Switzerland. After World War II, she volunteered at the International Voluntary Service for Peace (IVSP). She helped both concentration camp victims in Poland and Germany and Germans rebuild their lives. When she returned to Switzerland, she married and became a doctor, graduating from the University of Switzerland with a medical degree in 1957.

In the late 1950's, Elizabeth came to the United States and practiced medicine. She had originally wanted to be in paediatrics, but she instead went into psychiatry, getting a degree in 1963 from the University of Colorado. There in Denver, she lectured on death and dying and when she moved to Chicago, Illinois, she continued her studies, holding a weekly seminar on death for dying patients, sceptical teachers, and health students. In 1969, Elizabeth published her book *On Death and Dying*, which discussed the stages of dying.

Elizabeth is still living today, a pioneer for the advancement of the studying of death. She holds over 25 honorary doctorates and also received the Ideal Citizen Award and the Modern Samaritan Award. She also tried to set up a home for children infected with AIDs in Virginia, but, sadly, did not reach her goal.

## **51) Susette La Flesche Tibbles**

Susette La Flesche was born on the Omaha Reservation in Nebraska in the year 1854. Since she was Native American, her name was Inshata Theumba, meaning "bright eyes." She went to a Presbyterian school for an English language education and then continued her education in Elizabeth, New Jersey. After her schooling, she returned to the Omaha Reservation and taught at a school of government.

Soon, Susette became involved in the struggle for justice for her people. She took up the cause of the Ponca tribe, that their lands had been taken and their people had died from that effect. Susette made a tour with the Ponca chief, Standing Bear, lecturing on the unfairness of the actions. This lecturing caused the Dawes General Allotment Act to be passed in 1887.

In 1881, Susette married Thomas H. Tibbles, who had released the Ponca and established their rights as Native Americans to protect them from further actions. He worked as the editor of the newspaper, Omaha Herald, and they settled down together on the Omaha Reservation. Susette wrote and illustrated stories of Native culture and also anonymously wrote the book *Ploughed Under: The Story of an Indian Chief*.

Susette died near Sanborn, Nebraska, on May 26, 1903.

## **52) Wilma Mankiller**

Wilma Pearl Mankiller was born in Oklahoma in 1945, part of a Cherokee tribe. She lived in California for most of her childhood, however. She also married for 11 years, but then divorced. She worked for the Pit River Tribe in education programs, but when she moved back to Oklahoma, things began to change.

In 1979, Wilma attended the University of Arkansas on a happy note, but 1980 came with a sad note. Wilma was diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease called myasthenia gravis, but she wouldn't let her disease stop her from doing what she wanted. In 1986, because of her failing health, she received a kidney transplant, ending up with the kidney of her brother, Don. She was also named American Indian Woman of the Year, and she married her long-time friend, Charlie Soap. She also took care of his son from a previous marriage, Winterhawk.

In 1987, Wilma became the first woman of the Cherokee to be made Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. She was named Ms. Magazine's Woman of the Year, too. In the next three consecutive years, she received more awards: the John W. Gardner Leadership Award (1988), the U.S. Public Health Service's Indian Health Source Award (1989), and the OSU Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award (1990).

Wilma died in 2010. Her autobiography, *A Chief and Her People* was published in 1993.

## **53) Barbara McClintock**

Barbara McClintock was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on June 16, 1902. She lived most of her childhood with her aunt and uncle because her mother had emotional problems and couldn't handle her. In 1908, she moved with her family to Brooklyn, New York, and began to have fun playing the piano and ice skating.

In 1923, Barbara received her Bachelor of Arts in the study of cells, cytology. She also received her Masters and Doctorate, using part of her time to identify corn chromosomes. In 1931, the National Research Council gave her a fellowship and for two years, she researched genetics at Cornell University, the University of Missouri, and the California Institute of Technology.

Barbara became a faculty member at the University of Missouri in 1936. She left in 1941 because she had been discriminated against because she was female. She also couldn't advance to a higher position. Instead, in 1944, she became president of the Genetics Society of America and also became the third woman to be given the honour of being named to the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1951, Barbara made one of her greatest discoveries. She stated that gene positions on chromosomes aren't fixed, but "jump" or move around in random patterns. It was this accomplishment, among others, that began to grant her many awards. The National Academy of Sciences gave her the Kimber Genetics Award (1967), she was given the National Medal of Science by President Richard Nixon (1970), and she also received the highest award available in science in the United States: the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award (1981).

Barbara also received the Nobel Prize in medicine/physiology in 1983, the first woman to do so. She died nine years later on September 2, 1992.

## **54) Catherine de Medici**

Catherine de Medici was born in Florence, Italy, on April 13, 1519. Although she was the daughter of a duke and a princess, she was quickly orphaned. She was educated by nuns in both Rome and Florence.

In 1533, Catherine's life changed. She married duc d'Orleans, Henry, who became King Henry II of France in April 1547. Catherine bore him ten children and seven of them lived, three girls and four boys. She was appointed regent in 1552 in the absence of Henry, who was at the siege of Metz, and got to experience a bit of what it was like to rule a country.

In July 1559, Catherine's husband died and her son, Francis II, assumed the throne. Together with her son, Catherine stood up against those who opposed the crown. In March 1560, Catherine demonstrated her influence in the Conspiracy of Amboise. She created the Edict of Amboise and then the Romorantin, which showed the difference between sedition and heresy and separated faith and allegiance. Although this didn't fully solve the problem of the conspiracy, these actions made actions against the throne less probable.

On December 5, 1560, her son Francis II died and she appointed another of her sons, Charles IX, regent. She also appointed Antoine de Bourbon lieutenant general.

Between 1560 and 1570 was a hard time for Catherine because of the many civil wars that occurred. In 1561, she tried to win the favour of both factions' leaders that were fighting, but didn't succeed. She formed the Colloquy of Poissy, which was supposed to force reconciliation between the factions, but it didn't work. She also passed the Edict of January in 1552, stating the law of Calvinist coexistence in society. However, this didn't stop the war, but started another outbreak. In 1563, she stopped the first civil war with her Edict of Amboise, and in March 1568, she ended the second with her Peace of Longjumeau. The Treaty of Saint-Germain ended the third civil war, but she had no hand in that treaty.

The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre happened on August 23 and 24 in 1572 in Paris, and Catherine was blamed for it. This was because of two reasons. One, she was thought to be the head of France and therefore, she was responsible for what occurred in France. Two, she appeared to be one who person who actually allowed the massacre to occur. However, her part in the massacre is, in truth, unconfirmed.

In March 1574, Catherine's son in power, Charles IX, died, and she became regent until Henry III returned from Poland. Throughout the rest of her life, she made her greatest achievement: she saved France long enough for Henry IV of the Bourbons to assume the throne.

Catherine died in Blois, France, on January 5, 1589, having accomplished much, including the creation of chateaus that she had designed and built in her spare time.

## **55) Lise Meitner**

Lise Meitner was born on November 7, 1878, in Vienna, Austria, one of eight children. From early childhood, she had an interest in mathematics and physics, and when she was 23, she attended the University of Vienna. She graduated from the university in 1906 with a Ph.D. in physics.

Lise moved to Berlin in 1907, becoming the chemistry assistant to Wilhelm Ostwald. There, she tested alpha and beta radiation and developed the recoil method to conduct her experiments.

In 1914, Lise was working with her partner, Otto Hahn, when he was drafted for World War I. Lise chose to write articles for the Brockhaus Encyclopaedia when he was gone, but she was forced to stop when the editor found out she was a woman and wouldn't publish her articles. So in July 1915, Lise became an x-ray technician for the war effort. However, she soon became homesick and returned to Berlin in 1916.

When she returned to Berlin, Lise began trying to discover the element on the periodic table that was between thorium and uranium. Hahn returned for a short while and together in 1918, they discovered the long-awaited element between thorium and uranium: protactinium.

In 1923, Lise became a lecturer in the physics department of the University of Berlin, the first woman to do so. She won the Leibniz prize and the Leiben prize, and she also received Nobel Prize nominations for ten consecutive years.

In 1933, Hitler began taking control of Germany and Lise began to fear for her life and her job because she was Jewish. However, she refused to leave her studies because she believed she was protected by her Austrian lineage. So, she and Hahn began looking for elements above uranium in 1934. However, on March 12, 1938, Hitler invaded Austria and she became susceptible to the Third Reich's laws.

Instead of having Lise remain in Germany, Hahn and her friends planned her escape, which she did on July 12. Still, she continued to work with Hahn, communicating by letters. However, she couldn't have her name on any publications because she was a runaway, so Hahn was receiving all the credit in their partnership. Together, Hahn and Lise discovered fission, the separation of atom nuclei (and thus the formation of a different element) by bombarding the nuclei with neutrons. In 1946, Hahn alone received the Nobel Prize for the discovery of fission. However, he gave a tribute to her in his acceptance speech, praising her great role in the discovery, and gave Lise all the reward money from the prize.

Lise died in 1968. In 1992, Meiternium was the name given to element 109 in her honour.



## **56) Rigoberta Menchu Tum**

Rigoberta Menchu Tum was born in 1959 in north-western Guatemala to a Quiche-Mayan family. When she was young, a couple of her siblings and friends died because of unsafe labour conditions and extreme poverty. Because of this, Rigoberta never had a formal education. When she was just eight years old, she worked with her family as a migrant agricultural labourer on large coastal farms. After that, she worked in Guatemala City as a maid.

Soon, Rigoberta began to protest against human-rights abuses by the military. However, this put her life in danger and in 1981, she went into exile in Mexico to hide from the Guatemalan authorities that were hunting her down. Her mother, father, and brother had been murdered, but she escaped. In Mexico, she spoke on the cruel treatment of the indigenous people in Guatemala, hoping she could make a difference.

In 1983, Rigoberta published *Me Llamo Rigoberta Mencho Y Asi Nacio La Conciencia*, later translated into English and titled *I, Rigoberta Menchu*. This book made her famous and she became a symbol of the brutality endured by native and marginalized people.

In 1992, Rigoberta received the Nobel Peace Prize, allowing her to return to Guatemala and work to make the treatment of her people and others better. In 1998, she published *Rigoberta: La Nieta de los Mayos*, later translated into English and titled *Crossing Borders*.

## **57) Maria Montessori**

Maria Montessori was born in Ancona, Italy, in 1870. She was the first woman to become a physician in Italy and studied at the University of Rome. She specialized in psychiatry and paediatrics and taught medical school at the University of Rome.

Maria's began working with children by accepting speaking engagements in Europe relating to peace efforts, helping with the women's movement, and also performing as an activist in the child labour law reform. This caused her to become well-regarded and well-known in Europe.

In 1901, Maria became the Director of the University of Rome's new Orthophrenic School. She began to initiate the reform wave for mentally handicapped children. She first took the idea of initiating a scientific approach to the education of these children from Jean Itard and Edouard Seguin. The Child Study School of Thought took her in as a member.

Maria studied her mentally handicapped children, figuring out what they wanted, who they were inside, and what were the best working methods when interacting with them. These studies allowed "deficient" adolescents to pass the Italian public school's standard grade six tests, but they were denied entry because of their conditions.

In 1907, Maria coordinated day-care centres for children that were too young for public education. These came to be called "Children's Houses." Her experiment turned out very hectic, however, but she had the older children help out and also used some puzzles that she had used with her mentally handicapped children. The results were that the children began to settle themselves, played with the puzzles, and learned everyday living skills. Their behaviour also changed as well. They went from wild and unruly to proper, graceful, and diligent. Maria also taught them to read and write so that the four and five-year-olds were working on problems fit for kids in 3rd grade or higher. She also built tables and chairs instead of desks so the students could interact more with each other.

This way of teaching came to be called the Montessori method. It expanded and became widely used. Schools were set up using it in both Europe and North America.

Maria died in 1952, a great pioneer for education of mentally handicapped children.

## **58) Mother Teresa**

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in 1910 in Skopje, now the capital of Macedonia. When she was 18, she became part of Ireland's Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Loreto. She trained in Dublin, Ireland and Darjeeling, India.

Agnes took her vows to become a nun in 1937, the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and service to the poor. She also decided that her name would be Theresa after the patron saint of foreign missionaries, Saint Theresa of Lisieux.

Mother Theresa worked as a principal at a high school in Kolkata, but the sight of the sick and dying in the streets made her change her mind of what to do. In 1948, she was allowed to leave her office to help the sick. In 1950, she and her helpers formed the Missionaries of Charity and Mother Theresa was the leader.

In 1952, Mother Theresa established in Kolkata the Pure Heart (Nirmal Hriday) Home for Dying Destitutes and in 1979, she received the Nobel Peace Prize for her accomplishments.

In 1990, Mother Theresa's health was declining and she had to cut back on her activities. However, a book of her quotations and anecdotes Mother Theresa: In My Own Words was published. A year later, she chose Sister Nirmala to be the next leader of the Missionaries of Charity. She died on September 5, 1997.

## **59) Baroness Murasaki Shikibu**

Murasaki Shikibu was born around 978 A.D. in Kyoto, Japan to the Fujiwara family. Her real name is unknown, but it is thought that she possibly got her name from the name of her novel's heroine. Not much is known about her, for she wrote in a diary from 1007 to 1010 and that is the only real source of her known biography. She was educated by her father and learned the language of Chinese. While in her early 20's it was necessary for her to marry a distant relative and together, they had their only child, a daughter, in 999. However, her husband died in 1001.

After this event, Murasaki chose to join the court. It was there that she wrote what she is known for today: Genji-monogatari, also called The Tale of Genji in English. It told facts about the upper class of society while integrating the story of a prince named Genji who has a life full of complications. It was written sometime between 1001 and 1010 and was published in 1011. This book became very popular and was read out loud throughout Japan. It also influenced (for centuries) Japan's literature by establishing a standard. Many imitations or works based on Genji-monogatari were written as well.

Close to nothing is known about Murasaki's later years of life. It is simply known that she died around 1014 A.D. in Kyoto, Japan. In 1935, her book was translated into English by Arthur Waley, and it was produced as an animated movie in 1987 and honoured as a "cultural masterpiece." Murasaki Shikibu was the best known author from the Heian period in Japan and may very well have been the first modern novelist in the world.

## **60) Florence Nightingale**

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy, on May 12, 1820. Named after her birthplace, Florence spent most of her childhood in London, Derbyshire, and Hampshire. Although she didn't attend school, her father taught her well, so well in fact, that she could do mathematics, history, and philosophy, and spoke Greek, French, Italian, Latin, and German.

On February 7, 1837, Florence heard the voice of God, telling her that she had a mission. However, Florence had no idea what that mission was. She found out in 1846 when a friend sent her a book called the Year Book of the Institution of Protestant Deaconesses, which taught her elementary nursing techniques. In 1852 in London, she was given the position of superintendent of the Institution for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen. However, Florence wanted more.

In March 1854, the Crimean war began. Florence volunteered as a nurse with a group of other women and left her home on October 21, 1854. On November 5, 1854, she arrived in Barrack Hospital at Scutari. There, the condition of the facilities were inadequate, but Florence was able to make do. She came up with 200 scrubbing brushes, washed patients clothes, and supplied the hospital, among other things. She would personally attend to every patient and did not allow any other woman in the wards after 8:00 p.m. Florence would check on and comfort the patients at night, walking the halls with a lamp. It was because of this that the soldiers gave her the nickname, "The Lady with the Lamp."

In May 1855, Florence went to the battlefield in Crimea, but she became sick with the Crimean fever and was told she only held authority in Barrack Hospital. Still, on March 16, 1856, she became widely known as superintendent of the Female Nursing Establishment of the Military Hospitals.

After all her patients had been released, Florence returned to England and even consulted with Queen Victoria in October 1856. From this meeting came a promise for a royal commission from the Queen. This royal commission, the Royal Commission on the Health of the Army, was created in 1857, and this commission also formed an Army Medical School in 1857 as well. Another royal commission was created as well in 1859, and this commission established a Sanitary Department in 1868.

In 1860, Florence created the Nightingale School for Nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital. This was the first of its kind, and Florence reformed the workhouses and trained the midwives and nurses herself. However, her health began to fail her. She had been an invalid starting in 1857, and in 1901, she became completely blind. Florence died in London, England, on August 13, 1910. She had been asked, previously, if she wanted to be buried in Westminster Abbey, but she declined the offer.

## **61) Georgia O'Keeffe**

Georgia O'Keeffe was born on November 15, 1887, just outside of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She knew right from the start that she wanted to be an artist, and by the time she moved to be with her parents in Virginia in 1903, she had already taken five years of art lessons in both Wisconsin and Virginia.

In 1905, Georgia graduated from high school and went to the Art Institute of Chicago to learn art, living with her aunt in Chicago. However, she soon came down with typhoid fever and decided to change schools. Instead, she attended the Art Student League in New York City starting in 1907. She left in 1908 to move back to Chicago, where she became a commercial artist.

In 1909, Georgia moved back to Virginia and enrolled in another college. Yet she left, again, in 1912, for she had applied for a drawing supervisor position in a school in Texas and received the job. She stayed there till 1914, when she began to attend Columbia Teacher's College in New York City. Then she left that college to be a teacher at South Carolina's Columbia College. It was after this that she began to paint how she felt, not how she was taught.

A friend gave Georgia's paintings to a man named Alfred Stieglitz in 1916, and he posted ten of them in his gallery. Also, that year, Georgia taught at the West Texas State Normal College. There, she began to paint watercolours of Texas' canyons.

In April 1917, Georgia opened her first solo show, but she soon after became sick and had to resign from teaching. In 1918, she returned to New York and began a relationship with Stieglitz, who was still married at the time. During their relationship, Stieglitz helped her painting career by arranging her shows and selling her paintings, and when he divorced his wife in 1924, they married in December of that same year. She also started painting flowers that year when the New York winters arrived at their home.

From 1925 to 1937, Stieglitz and Georgia lived in New York in the Shelton Hotel, but Georgia spent most of her time traveling for inspiration for her paintings. Beginning in May 1929, she travelled first to Taos, New Mexico, which she called "the faraway" and adored. She painted many things there, including the church at Ranchos de Taos with a dark, blue sky and a silhouette, as no artist had done before. She also became fascinated by the crosses on the sides of the roads and on the churches, as well as the bones of dead animals in the desert.

Georgia's husband, Stieglitz, died on July 13, 1946. She buried his ashes at the side of Lake George. From that point forward, she had to assume her own art's responsibilities, for Stieglitz had always taken care of them when he was alive. In 1962, she became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1970, she was invited to the Whitney Museum.

In 1971, Georgia's eyesight was rapidly failing and in 1972, she had to stop painting. However, she did take up pottery with the help of her new friend, Hamilton. On March 6, 1986, she died in Santa Fe, having changed the ways of modern art. Her friend, Hamilton, spread her ashes into the wind over her "faraway."

## **62) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was born as Swarup Kumari Nehru in Allahabad, India, on August 8, 1900. She was the daughter of a nationalist leader and the sister of the first independent India prime minister. By 1921, Swarup had already completed her private education abroad, and married Ranjit Sitaram Pandit. As it was a custom after marriage, her name changed to show she was married to Ranjit Sitaram Pandit. So, she chose her name to be Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. After her marriage, she became a supporter of the Nationalism

movement in India and was imprisoned three times for her belief and actions. She also entered Allahabad's municipal government, then entered the United Province's legislative assembly.

From the years 1946 to 1948 and 1952 to 1953, Vijaya led India's delegation to the United Nations, and she also started being ambassador. From 1947 to 1949, she was the ambassador of India to Moscow and from 1949 to 1951, she was ambassador to Washington and Mexico. After she became the first female president of the United Nations General Assembly in 1953, she was also the ambassador in London and the commissioner to Dublin from 1954 to 1961.

Vijaya governed the state of Maharashtra from 1962 to 1964 and was part of the Indian parliament called Lok Sabha from 1964 to 1968. In 1977, she joined the Congress for Democracy and left the Congress Party. In 1978, she was appointed to the United Nations Human Rights Commission as an Indian representative. Lastly, in 1979, she published her book *The Scope of Happiness: A Personal Memoir*.

Vijaya died in Dehra Dun on December 1, 1990 at the age of 90.

### **63) Emmeline Pankhurst**

Emmeline Pankhurst was born in Manchester, England, on July 14, 1858. In 1879, she married a lawyer who had created in England the first women's suffrage bill and the Married Women's Property Acts, Richard Marsden Pankhurst. In 1889, Emmeline created the Women's Franchise League which, in 1894, gave married women the right to vote not in the House of Commons, but in local office elections. Then, in 1903, she established WSPU, the Women's Social and Political Union. On October 13, 1905, her daughter, Christabel, and Annie Kenney, were arrested for technical police assault as well as the refusal to pay fines after demanding women's suffrage at a Liberal party meeting.

In 1906, Emmeline moved to London, but she still controlled WSPU's actions from there, campaigning against the Liberal government's party candidates. She was jailed three times between 1908 and 1909, and in 1910, she made a truce with the government which the government broke when they blocked a women's suffrage bill. Also, in July 1912, WSPU turned to arson to get their point across and try to be granted suffrage. Emmeline and others were put in prison, but they refused to eat and had to be let out of prison because of the "Cat and Mouse Act," the Prisoners Act of 1913.

During World War I (beginning in 1914), Emmeline and the others stopped the suffrage campaign because of the war. During that time, she wrote her autobiography, *My Own Story*, and visited Russia, Canada, and the United States, lecturing on women's suffrage. After the war, she lived in Canada, the United States, and Bermuda at different times, but went back to England in 1926. There in England, she was chosen as the Conservative party's candidate for a constituency. However, her health began to fail and she didn't make it.

A couple weeks before Emmeline's death, an act was passed establishing voting equality for both men and women called the Representation of the People Act of 1928. Emmeline died in London, England, on June 14, 1928.

### **64) Rosa Parks**

Rosa Louise McCauley was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. At age 2, Rosa moved to Pine Level, Alabama, to live with her grandparents, and at age 11, attended a private school called Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. She then attended Alabama State Teachers College and married Raymond Parks. They settled down together in Montgomery, Alabama, and joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

On December 1, 1955, Rosa's whole life changed when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. For violating Montgomery's ordinance, she was arrested and fined. However, this act began the modern civil rights movement. In combination with Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa boycotted the city's bus company for a duration of 382 days. This caused the Supreme Court to rule that the ordinance under which Rosa was fined was wrong. They also put out a law against racial segregation on public transportation. She also later received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize.

In 1957, Rosa moved with her husband to Detroit, Michigan. There, she served as part of U.S. Representative John Conyers' staff. The Rosa Parks Freedom Award was created in her honour by the Southern Christian Leadership Council as well.

When Rosa's husband died, she created the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development which annually sponsors Pathways to Freedom, summer programs for teens where they tour the country and learn about the civil rights movement.

## **65) Eva Peron**

One of five children, Maria Eva Duarte was born in Argentina in 1919. When she was seven years old, her father died, and she, along with her mothers and sisters, had to work as cooks for a rich family in order to survive. In 1933, when she had an acting part in the play "Student's Arise", she decided that she was going to be an actress. So, she went to Buenos Aires to find acting jobs, which was very difficult. She worked as a model at times and got parts in a few plays, including "La Senora de Perez," but it was hard to have enough food and money to live on. However, when she dated the owner of Sintonia Magazine, she found that she had enough food, money, and jobs and realized that having an impressive boyfriend was directly related to how well she did. At the time, she also worked as a radio host at Radio Argentina, Radio Belgrano, and a third radio station.

Eva then persuaded a party to be hosted by Colonel Anibal Imbert, and this changed her life forever. There, she met Colonel Juan Domingo Peron, then the secretary of the United Offices Group. As they began to fall in love, Juan became Under Secretary at the War Ministry and the head of Secretary of Labour and Welfare. On February 24, 1944, Juan refused to resign and the president of Argentina was forced to resign instead. Juan soon became the vice president to the new president, and Eva stayed with him.

It was Eva who convinced Peron to help the workers, and she also persuaded him into putting her mother's boyfriend and herself into Director of Posts and Telegraphy positions. It would seem that Eva had a lot of influence over Juan, for he would ask for her advice at times. But then, on October 9, Juan was asked to resign again from office, but this time because of Eva. Juan resigned, and when he returned home, Eva got his friends to give him their support. She also asked him to get his papers, for there was a crowd outside and he had to speak in front of them. He wasn't arrested after this, but he was put in jail. After Eva managed to release him, the people in the streets were yelling "Peron for President!"

On December 9, Eva and Juan were married at a small wedding. Then, Juan ran for president and was highly supported by the poor. He was elected on March 28 and Eva became the First Lady. As First Lady, she had all the Argentinians call her by her more informal and friendly name, Evita, and helped out the poor and the country as much as she could. She organized the Peronista party's women's branch, showing her support of women's rights. She also created the Eva Peron Foundation, which helped people get money, housing, and clothing. Mostly, she helped out the poor, whom she called "los descamisados," meaning "the shirtless ones," by establishing orphanages for children, among other things. Eva also toured Europe and was received well in Spain, but was not well received in France, Great Britain, or Italy. She certainly must have been happy to return to her country of Argentina.

In 1951, Eva decided she would run for vice president. The descamisados supported her, but the military didn't because they didn't want a female vice president. So, Eva was unable to become vice president. Sadly, she died at a fairly young age on July 26, 1952.

## **66) Christine de Pizan**

Christine de Pizan was born in 1364 in Venice, Italy. When she was five years old, she went with her father and her family to live in the court of France's Charles V. There she was very well educated, learning French in addition to Italian, and she most likely knew Latin as well.

In 1380, Christine married a court secretary named Etienne du Castel. However, also that year, the king died and a new king appeared in his place reducing all the incomes of Christine's family, including her husband's. Soon after this change, Christine's father died, and her husband, Etienne, died in 1390 after her father. From that point forward, at the age of 25, Christine had to support her mother, her niece, and her three children.

Christine began writing poems and stories in order to earn money to support her family, and found that it worked quite well as a source of income. Her first poem was very lengthy and contained examples from her own life as well as the lives of others, and was called The Changes of Fortune. This was very rare in Christine's time, for autobiographical implications or writings were not very common. She also wrote a collection of 99 tales called The Epistles of Othea, The Road of Long Study, and The Book of the Deeds and

Good Manners of the Wise King Charles V, which she was asked to write by his brother, Philip the Bold, duke of Burgundy.

In 1405, Christine wrote her own autobiography titled Vision of Christine. Also, that year, she wrote The Book of the City of the Ladies in order to silence the critics who were insulting her. She also further tried to silence those critics with her 1406 book The Treasure of the City of Ladies: Or the Book of the Three Virtues.

One occurrence that influenced Christine was Louis of Orleans' assassination and the civil strife that followed, both of which horrified her. She chose to write, in 1410, Lamentations on the Civil War and The Book of Feats of Arms and Chivalry in response. The Book of Feats of Arms and Chivalry later became one of the first books of hers to be translated into English.

In 1418, Christine retired from writing and joined a convent. Her last known poem was written there in 1429, and was titled Hymn to Joan of Arc. It was written in tribute to Joan of Arc for her inspirational successes. One year later, in 1430, Christine de Pizan died.

## **67) Pocahontas**

Pocahontas was born in Gloucester County, Virginia, in March 1595. Her real Native American name, given by her father, Chief Powhatan, was Matoaka. Her pet name was Pocahontas, meaning "my favourite daughter" and "frolicsome." In 1607, settlers came to the Chesapeake Bay area and a man named John Smith, the military leader of Jamestown, was taken prisoner by her people some years later. Pocahontas was the one who saved John Smith's life, possibly having flung herself over him as he was about to be clubbed to death, but this has not been proven true. After saving him, she urged her Native American people that he be returned to Jamestown and her father, Chief Powhatan, honoured her request.

From this point forward, Pocahontas began to visit Jamestown frequently, often bearing food for the hard-working settlers. It was her friendship that helped preserve the peace between the Native Americans and the settlers.

In 1609, John Smith returned to England and the friendship between the settlers and the Native Americans began to deteriorate. Then, in the spring of 1613, she was taken prisoner by Captain Samuel Argall, wanting to use her to create a permanent peace between the settlers and the Native Americans. She was not treated badly however and she was converted to Christianity and baptized as Lady Rebecca.

Once Chief Powhatan had paid the ransom for Pocahontas, Pocahontas was free to go back to her people. However, during her kidnapping, she had fallen in love with a settler named John Rolfe. Very soon after, Pocahontas and John Rolfe were married with the agreement of Chief Powhatan and Virginia's governor, Sir Thomas Dale. In 1616, she and John Rolfe travelled to England and there, her image was worshipped through the country and she was even presented to King James I. But when she was planning to return to America, she came down with small pox and died in Gravesend, Kent, England, in March 1617.

## **68) Queen Anne**

Anne was born on February 6, 1665, in London, England, the daughter of James II, King of England. In 1672, her father converted to Catholicism, but Anne remained Protestant. In 1683, her marriage was arranged to Prince George of Denmark, and they were married.

In 1688, her father was overthrown by the anti-Roman Catholic Glorious Revolution of 1688. It was called the Glorious Revolution because there was no bloodshed, and Anne's sister, Mary, and her husband, William of Orange, took over the throne. However, William of Orange died in 1702, and Anne became Queen of England.

The first action Queen Anne completed was making the disgraced John Churchill into the duke of Marlborough. Also named the army's captain-general, Marlborough won many victories over the French from 1701 to 1714 in the War of the Spanish Succession, also called Queen Anne's war in the United States. In politics, she favoured the Tory party over that of the Whig party, but she first excluded the Tories from office to be fair. In 1710, she stopped this exclusion from office. But perhaps her greatest feat was the fact that during her reign, England and Scotland were at peace with each other and were united.

Anne died on August 1, 1714, in London, England. She was also known for her era of manners and her influential styles of furniture, architecture, clothing, art, and others.

## **69) Queen Elisabeth I**

Elizabeth I was born in England on September 7, 1533, the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. When she was just three years old, her mother was beheaded because of her father's accusation that Anne Boleyn committed adultery and treason. Because of this, Elizabeth was pronounced as illegitimate and put last in order of the throne. Her half-sister, Mary, was first in line (from her father's first marriage) until her half-brother, Edward, was born in 1537. Although Elizabeth was then third in line for the throne, her father treated her very affectionately. Her father's sixth wife, Catherine Parr, educated Elizabeth in rhetoric, history, theology (being Protestant), moral philosophy, and the languages of Greek, Latin, French, English, and Italian.

In 1547, Elizabeth's father died, and Edward became the king. Catherine Parr remarried to a man named Thomas Seymour. However, in 1549, Catherine died and Seymour was beheaded for being accused of wanting to marry Elizabeth to gain the throne of England. At this time, Elizabeth's life was in danger, but she didn't let it get to her.

In 1553, Edward died, and Mary assumed the throne. Mary (sometimes coined Bloody Mary), who was Catholic, unlike Elizabeth, began to massacre Protestants in order to bring Catholicism back to England. Again, Elizabeth's life was in danger, this time because she was Protestant, and at one point, she was locked in the Tower of London and almost beheaded.

On November 17, 1558, "Good Queen Bess" (Elizabeth) took the throne after Mary died. Queen Elizabeth had many suitors, but she married none of them. In 1559, she passed the Act of Supremacy that declared her as the head of the church, settling the religious question between the Catholics and the Protestants. She also began to portray herself as the "Virgin Queen." Elizabeth did many wonderful things for England during her rule. She extended England overseas with John Cabot, William Hawkins and Sir Francis Drake, reduced her council's size, removed the debased currency in the monetary system, passed a law that all able-bodied men should work the land, and created treaties with Scotland and France in order to end hostilities.

Elizabeth died in England on March 24, 1603. Later, the last part of the 16th century was called the Elizabethan Age, a time when literature and art flourished with William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Johnson, and Edmund Spenser, among others.

## **70) Queen Isabella**

Isabella was born in Madrigal de las Altas Torres, Castile, on April 22, 1451. When she was three years old, her brother became King Henry IV and when she was thirteen, she was brought to his court so he could watch her. On September 19, 1498, she was proclaimed as the king's heiress by the Accord of Toros de Guisando. However, out of her many suitors, Henry wanted her to marry the king of Portugal, Alfonso V. Without the king's permission, she married Ferdinand of Aragon instead in October 1469. Because of this, the Accord became void and she was rejected as heiress.

In 1474, her brother the king died, and there were two rivals for the throne: Isabella and Joan, Henry's daughter. Isabella took the throne, but the first four years of her reign were marked by civil war with Joan's faction. On February 24, 1479, Isabella's army defeated them and the same year, the head of Aragon died. Ferdinand became Aragon's king and with Ferdinand and Isabella married, Aragon and Castile were united.

Together, Ferdinand and Isabella conquered Granada and Spain emerged as an actual country. With the crown, Isabella gained control over the military orders of Calatrava, Santiago, and Alcántara. Soon after, a young man named Christopher Columbus came to enlist their aid in financing his voyages after being turned down by other royalty figureheads. Isabella and Ferdinand chose to finance his voyage and the New World was discovered for the Spanish. Unlike other nationalities, Isabella was ready to recognize the Native American's rights. When Columbus brought some back as slaves, Isabella ordered their release.

Isabella also played an important part in the reformation of Spain. She reformed the Spanish churches, although concentrating mostly on the reform of the Poor Clares, a group of nuns who believed in strict poverty. She rejected the Pope's Italian cardinal in favour of her Spanish candidate and rejected the Pope's

appointment of his nephew as the archbishop of Seville as well. She also set up schools for the different classes of people.

Isabella died in Medina del Campo, Spain, on November 26, 1504, having made many significant changes in Spanish society.

## **71) Queen Victoria**

Victoria was born in England on May 24, 1819. Her father died when she was only eight months old, and when she was eighteen, she ascended the English throne after the death of William IV. It was her reign that made England grow both economically and socially. Called the Victorian Era, it was known for Victoria's *laissez-faire* ways, meaning "hands-off." Her first law was passed in 1832, the Reform Act that gave legislative authority to the House of Lords and executive authority to the House of Commons.

In 1840, she married her German cousin, Prince Albert. Together, they organized the Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851, although this was mostly attributed to Albert. They used the proceeds to build industrial and cultural museums in Kensington. However, in 1891, Albert died of typhoid, and Victoria became a recluse for more than 25 years in mourning. Although she was named the Empress of India in 1878, she only began to reappear after the Golden Jubilee of 1887, celebrating her 50th year ruling.

During her reign, Queen Victoria doubled England in size, kept England almost free of war (with only three small exceptions), had non-existent European entanglements, formed the Liberal and Conservative parties, and broadened suffrage with the Reform Acts of 1867 and 1884.

Victoria ended up having the longest reign in history, dying on January 22, 1901.

## **72) Jeannette Rankin**

Jeannette Rankin was born near Missoula, Montana, on June 11, 1880. In 1902, she graduated from the University of Montana, and soon after, she attended the New York School of Philanthropy. In 1909, she decided on a career in social work and moved to Seattle, Washington. Then, from 1909 to 1914, she campaigned in Washington, California, and Montana for women's suffrage. In 1914, she became the National American Woman Suffrage Association's legislative secretary.

In 1916, Jeannette became the first woman to become elected into the House of Representatives. There, she introduced a bill that gave women independent citizenship and hygiene instruction during maternity and their children's infancy. However, it did not pass. Then, in 1917, she voted against declaring war on Germany. This gave her great unpopularity and she ended up losing her seat in the House in 1918.

In 1940, Jeannette won a seat in the House once more by running on an anti-war platform. However, once more she stimulated her unpopularity by voting against declaring war on Japan after Pearl Harbor was harmed (and the only person to vote against the declaration of war, I might add).

Although Jeannette lost politically, she participated in the National Consumer League and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, among others. In the 1960's, she established a homestead for women in Georgia and also participated in the anti-war effort against the Vietnam War. When she was 87 years old, on January 15, 1968, she led over 5,000 women, the "Jeannette Rankin Brigade," to oppose Indochina's hostilities at the bottom of Capitol Hill.

Jeannette died in Carmel, California, on May 18, 1973, a great anti-war activist.

## **73) Sally Ride**

Sally Ride was born in Encino, California, on May 26, 1951. When she was ten years old, she began playing tennis and found that she really liked it and excelled at it. So, when she was old enough to attend college, she went to the Westlake School for Girls in Los Angeles, California, on a tennis scholarship, graduating in 1968. Then she attended Swarthmore College, but dropped out to become a professional tennis player. However, after three months of pro tennis, she decided to enrol in college again, this time at Stanford University.



By the time Sally was 27, she had her Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Masters' degrees as well as her Ph. D. It was then that she heard about NASA's call for astronauts and she applied for the position. She, along with five other women and 28 men, was chosen out of 8,000 candidates. In 1977, she underwent astronaut training while working for NASA. She served as the communications officer for the space shuttle Columbia's second and third flights in November 1981 and March 1982.

In 1983, Sally went up in space on the shuttle Challenger, the first American woman to do so. She went into space on the Challenger again one year later. However, when she was about to go up again on the Challenger in 1986, the Challenger exploded, and she was sent instead to NASA's headquarters in Washington, D.C. There, she created the "Office of Exploration" and a report on the space program's future titled Leadership and America's Future in Space.

Sally retired from NASA after over 343 hours in space in 1987 and became a Science Fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control. Then, in 1989, she was named the California Space Institute's Director and the University of California at San Diego's Professor of Physics.

In June 1999, Sally became Executive Vice President and a Board of Directors member of SPACE.com. She was named President in September of the same year, but soon resigned. She has written many books for children and many biographies have been written about her in her lifetime. She has also received many awards, including the National Spaceflight Medal, which she received twice. She is still living and making a difference in our world today.

## **74) Eleanor Roosevelt**

Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City, New York, on October 11, 1884. Both of her parents and one of her brothers died before she was ten years old, so she and her surviving brother were raised by her relatives. When she was 15, she attended Allenswood girls boarding school in London, England. In 1902, she had to return to New York even though she was happy in England because she had to prepare for her induction into society. It was then that she began teaching at a Manhattan Lower East Side settlement house.

On March 17, 1905, Eleanor married her distant cousin, Franklin Roosevelt, in New York City, New York. Together, they had six children, but one died as an infant. She was elected to the Senate in 1911, but in April 1917, she returned to volunteer work. With the war going on, she visited wounded soldiers and participated in the Navy's Marine Corps Relief Society and a canteen of the Red Cross. In 1921, Eleanor joined the Women's Trade Union League and took an active role in the democratic party. She also became a member of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the League of Women Voters.

Then, Eleanor's husband became president of the United States, and she became first lady. She had regular press conferences with women correspondents, became the president's "eyes and ears", wrote a newspaper column every day called "My Day", helped with child welfare, housing reform and equal rights for all racial minorities and women, defended African Americans rights, and helped new political parties get a new start in government.

In 1945, Franklin died and Eleanor was appointed as a United Nations delegate and was the Commission on Human Rights' chairman from 1946 to 1951. In 1948, she helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in 1961, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy appointed her as his Commission on the Status on Women's chair.

Eleanor died in New York City, New York, on November 7, 1962, of a rare form of tuberculosis. She is buried at Hyde Park where her husband lived and where their library stands.

## **75) Sakajawea**

Whether spelled Sakajawea, meaning "Boat Launcher", or Sacagawea, meaning "Bird Woman", Sakajawea played an important role in history. She rose the Native American woman to higher levels of admiration and respect, among other recognitions. She was most likely born in 1790 in Eastern Idaho, a Native American of the Shoshoni tribe. When she was just ten years old, she was kidnapped by the Hidatsa, another tribe, and was brought to the North Dakota border. There, she was eventually sold to Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur trader. They were married and soon after, Sakajawea became pregnant.

Charbonneau was soon hired by the Corps of Discovery, the name of Lewis and Clark's expedition, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. He was ordered to bring Sacajawea and their son, Jean Baptiste, for two reasons: one, to keep the party peaceful with the people they met on the expedition, and two, a Native American interpreter and guide was necessary.

As Charbonneau, Clark, Lewis, and Sacajawea and her son travelled, it was because of Sacajawea that they bypassed rough terrain. She also kept the horses and food fresh during the whole expedition because of her brother, chief Cameahwait, and scavenged for food when it was scarce. Clark wrote all about her in his journal, praising her repeatedly. It was he that offered that Jean Baptiste be taken to St. Louis, away from abusive Charbonneau. In the end, she did take Jean Baptiste to St. Louis and Jean Baptiste was raised as Clark's own. It was also Clark who named a river Sacajawea in her tribute.

It is at this point that history becomes unclear. One story says that Sacajawea died of "putrid fever" on December 20, 1812. Clark's accounts seem to confirm that she died. However, there is a second story. There was a Native American woman that married a few times, had more children, and was reunited with her son, Jean Baptiste. She was called Porvo and she knew inside facts on the expedition, spoke French, had a Jeff Medal around her neck, spoke politically, introduced the Shoshoni to the Sun Dance Ceremony, and advocated for the Shoshoni's need of agriculture. Porvo died on April 9, 1884 and is buried at Fort Washakie in honour of the expedition. Historians and scientists today believe that Porvo was most likely Sacajawea.

Recently, the Golden Dollar coin was created in Sacajawea's memory. The front shows Sacajawea with her son, Jean Baptiste, on her back, and the back shows an eagle, the United States of America's symbol. This was done in tribute to Sacajawea, for the expedition never could have been successful without her, and it was very important to history and the settling of the west.

## **76) Margaret Sanger**

Margaret Louise Higgins was born in Corning, New York, on September 14, 1879, the sixth of eleven children. In 1896, she attended the Claverack College and the Hudson River Institute. Then, four years later in 1900, she entered the White Plain Hospital nursing program. Two years later, she met William Sanger and they were married. They settled down in Hastings, New York, but moved back to the city, choosing New York City in 1910. There, she joined the Liberal Club and the Women's Committee of the New York Socialist Party. She also began joining strikes, like 1912's strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts and 1913's Paterson, New Jersey strike.

Also in 1912, Margaret started a newspaper column daily about sex called "What Every Girl Should Know." She began arguing for family limitation (not repeated pregnancies) and stood up against the 1873 Comstock law, arguing for birth control availability. In March 1914, she published *The Woman Rebel*, but it was banned. She was indicted for obscenity law violation, but she got out on bail in October, acquired the alias Bertha Watson, went to England, and released 100,000 copies of a pamphlet called *Family Limitation*, giving information on the use of and applying contraceptives.

In October 1915, Margaret returned to the United States to face the charges of her actions. However, all the charges were dropped when her daughter suddenly died. Soon after, she went on a tour nationwide to promote the use of birth control. In 1916, she opened the first birth control clinic in the United States in Brownsville in Brooklyn, New York. The clinic ended up being raided and she was arrested, but she didn't give up. In 1921, she created the American Birth Control League and in 1923, established a new, doctor-run, legal birth control clinic called the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau.

In 1929, Margaret created the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control. One year later, she formed the Birth Control International Information Center. In 1936, physicians were exempt from the Comstock Law's ban on birth control marital impartation by the United States Court of Appeals. In 1939, she combined the American Birth Control League and the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, which became what is now called Planned Parenthood. Then, in 1952, she founded IPPF, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and was its president until 1959. Lastly, in 1965, the Supreme Court made birth control available for married couples.

On September 6, 1966, Margaret Sanger died in a Tucson nursing home.

## **77) Sappho**

Not much is known about Sappho's life or works, most likely because she lived in the ages before year 0 A.D. She was born in 613 B.C. on the island of Lesbos, Greece, either in Mytilini or Eressos. She was orphaned when she was six years old, but she did name her daughter after her mother, Cleis. Her daughter's father was possibly Cercylas, who was probably Sappho's husband and died at age 35. Sappho was also exiled to Sicily, most likely from her political activities. But probably what she is best known for is her sexual preference: she preferred females, but was, in fact, bisexual.

The other thing Sappho is best known for is her poetry. It was written for her friends, usually women, and she used an Aeolic dialect and numerous meters, one which was named the Sapphic stanza after her. She also composed and performed songs and poems called epithalamiums that are usually sung about marriage. But whether epithalamiums or not, Sappho's principal idea in her writing was love.

In the second and third centuries before Christ (B.C.), Aristophanes and Aristarchus put Sappho's works into nine books, organized by meter. These works not only influenced Roman poets, but also other readers and scholars. However, Sappho's writings were left out in 500 A.D. when others were being reproduced. It wasn't till the 1890's that her poems were collected as much as possible. In 1925, the first modern collection of Sappho's works was published by Oxford University Press. Most of her works are in fragments. Her most complete poem is thus:

Sappho died in 570 B.C., the first known woman author and the individual who founded women's literature. She was called the "tenth muse" by Plato and is recognized as the muse of lesbian lovers today.

## **78) Rose Schneiderman**

Rose Schneiderman was born in Poland in 1884. When 1890 came around, her family moved to the United States, the Lower East Side of New York City, New York, to be exact. There, she worked as a cap lining stitcher from the age of 13 years old. After working there for many years, she got the United Cloth, Hat, and Cap Makers Union to admit women with her combined strike in 1905.

In 1907, Rose became the Women's Trade Union League's New York Branch's vice president and also, from 1917 to 1919, was its sole organizer in the Eastern States. In 1918, she went up in position to the New York Branch's president and in 1928, she became the National Women's Trade Union League's national president.

From 1937 to 1944, Rose worked at the New York State Department of Labor. Also, throughout the 1930's, she was a National Recovery Administration official as well as a friend of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Because of this friendship, she also became a President Franklin D. Roosevelt brain trust member.

Rose died in 1972, having also helped the campaign for the women's suffrage amendment.

## **79) Gloria Steinem**

Gloria Marie Steinem was born in Toledo, Ohio, on March 25, 1934. She was tutored by her mother instead of having a formal education because her family was on the road a lot. In 1944, Gloria's parents divorced and Gloria moved back to Toledo with her mother. There, at only ten years old, she had to take care of her sick mother, cook, clean, attend school, and shop for food. At that time, Shirley Temple orphan movies were her favourite movies because Shirley always got a good pair of parents in the end.

During her senior year at high school, Gloria moved to Washington D.C. on an invitation from her sister. There, she got accepted to Smith College, which she attended in 1952. She majored in government, studied abroad in Switzerland, and wrote for Smith College's newspaper. She first became a feminist when she realized that her sick mother wasn't being treated as well as the male patients. It was feminism and women's rights that she spoke of when she travelled to India. When she returned to the United States, she couldn't get a job because she was female.

Finally, Gloria was hired by *Help!* magazine as an editorial assistant. During this period, she also became a contributor to *Esquire* and other magazines. In addition, she decided to go undercover as a *Playboy* bunny waitress to write an article on discrimination and sexual harassment of women. This article was published in June 1963, but it was not taken seriously.

Soon after, Gloria began writing for the TV show *That Was the Week That Was*. She also wrote a story on the presidential campaign of Senator George McGovern. It was this article that helped her land a job at New York magazine. There, she used the job to write on feminism, tracing the start of the movement to Sarah and Angelina Grimke and the start of the women's liberation movement to Betty Friedan.

Gloria participated in the New York City Women's Strike for Equality and teamed up with Dorothy Pittman Hughes. Together, they founded an organization to start women's education programs, the organization called the Women's Action Alliance. Also, in 1972, they published their own magazine on feminism called *Ms.* In 1972, *McCall's* magazine named Gloria "Woman of the Year."

Other miscellaneous things that Gloria did are: argued for legal abortion (which was given in Supreme Court case *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973), founded *Ms. Foundation of Women*, the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Women's Political Caucus, and published *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, *Marilyn: Norma Jean*, *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem*, and *Moving Beyond Words* in 1983, 1986, 1992, and 1994, respectively.

## **80) Lucy Stone**

Lucy Stone was born in West Brookfield, Massachusetts, on August 13, 1818. She attended the first woman's college, Oberlin College in Ohio, and graduated in 1847. After that, she became one of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society's lecturers and also spoke on her own about women's rights. In 1850, she organized the first national women's rights convention.

In 1855, Lucy married the Ohio abolitionist Henry B. Blackwell. However, she kept her maiden name as her last name, showing her protest against inequality between men and women. This keeping of the maiden's name became legal under the Lucy Stone Law. Lucy also supported Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Women's National Loyal League during the Civil War.

In 1861, Lucy was elected president of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association, which she also helped organize. Also, that year, she went to Kansas and New York and joined the women's suffrage amendment campaigns there. In 1898, she organized the New England Woman Suffrage Association and in November 1869, Lucy formed the American Woman Suffrage Association. This organization helped raise money for the *Women's Journal*, a weekly magazine that first appeared in 1870. In 1872, she became *Women's Journal's* co-editor with her husband.

After 1890, Lucy was a National American Woman Suffrage Association executive board chairman until her death. She died in Dorchester in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 18, 1893.

## **81) Harriet Beecher Stowe**

Harriet Beecher Stowe was born on June 14, 1811, in Litchfield, Connecticut, one of thirteen children. Her father was a Calvinist preacher that expected his sons to be preachers, too. Because of this forced upbringing, two of Harriet's brothers killed themselves. As for her sisters and herself, they were supposed to be good Calvinist women. Harriet's sister, Catherine, founded a seminary called the Hartford Female Seminary, and Harriet attended school there and also taught there after graduation until 1832.

In 1832, Harriet's father was accepted as president of the Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, so their whole family moved there. While in Cincinnati, Harriet made friends with her only true friend, Eliza Tyler. Eliza married a man named Calvin Stowe who was a professor at Lane Theological Seminary. However, Eliza died sometime around 1835, a year after Harriet started writing. Harriet comforted Calvin after Eliza's death, and then they decided to get married in sacrament for Eliza in 1836.

They had seven children, the first being two twin girls that were named Eliza and Harriet. However, Calvin only received \$600 annually for his occupation, and that wasn't enough to support their entire family. So, Harriet wrote when they needed money, receiving \$2 per page. In 1843, Harriet published her first book, *Mayflower*. Then, in 1850, Calvin received a position as a professor of Natural and Revealed Religion at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine (where I live at this very moment!), and they moved there. In that same year, the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, saying slaves that were caught in the north had to be returned to their owners and also giving Harriet inspiration for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

In 1851, Uncle Tom's Cabin appeared in serial format in the National Era, a magazine that closely resembled a newspaper, and was published in Washington D.C. as an abolitionist paper. Soon afterwards, Stowe had an offer from a publisher in Boston to make it into a book. He said that if they split the manufacturer's cost, they would each receive half of the profits. However, Harriet couldn't afford to pay the \$500 manufacturer's cost, so instead, the publisher paid the manufacturer's cost and she only received 10% of the profits. In 1852, Uncle Tom's Cabin was published as a whole book, selling 3,000 copies the first day and 10,000 copies the first week. Three hundred thousand copies were sold over the first year, making a total of \$10,000 the first year.

In 1860, there were thirty different copies in Britain of Uncle Tom's Cabin, twelve in Germany, five in France, and 23 others in other countries. Although this cost Harriet money, her opinion on slavery was spreading. Uncle Tom's Cabin was the first American book to sell a million copies and was also the best-selling book of the 19th century.

In 1853, Harriet wrote a companion to Uncle Tom's Cabin titled A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin. Both of these books together generated hate mail, one letter which included the ear of a slave and told her more would happen to the slave if she didn't stop writing. Harriet didn't stop, and wrote a few more books on slaves in the mid 1850's. In 1859, Harriet turned back to religious writings, and in 1896, she died in Connecticut at 85 years old.

## **82) Harriet Russell Strong**

Once again, the inevitable has occurred. I have under covered another woman who history does not seem to know much about, and I really don't have anyone else of this genre on this list either. This is Harriet Russell Strong.

Harriet Russell Strong of Oakland was born in 1844. She was an engineer and an entrepreneur who had the patent for many different types of dams and water storage systems. She especially believed in water conservation and irrigation of water sources.

During World War I, there was a food shortage. So, in Washington D.C., Harriet proposed a counter plan for the shortage. Her plan was to use the Grand Canyon as a reservoir after detouring the Colorado River into it. However, she was rejected by a Congressional Committee for a reason which Harriet could only assume was because she was female (which it most likely was).

So, from that point forward, Harriet spent the rest of her life fighting for women's rights and water conservation. She died in 1929, history not recording enough of what she was. Once more, my apologies on the brevity of this woman; it could not be helped.

## **83) Bertha von Suttner**

Bertha von Suttner was born in Prague, Bohemia, in the Austrian Empire, on June 9, 1843. She was the Suttner family's governess starting in 1873 and she became engaged to the engineer and novelist Baron Arthur Gundaccar von Suttner. However, both their families opposed the relationship, so Bertha became Alfred Nobel's Paris secretary-housekeeper and secretly married Arthur.

In 1889, Bertha published her major novel Die Waffen nieder!, meaning "Lay Down Your Arms!". It was a novel of pacifism, an opposition to all war and hostility or a belief that disputes should be handled by peaceful rather than forceful, war-like, or violent means, and has been compared to Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin. In 1891, Bertha established an Austrian pacifist organization in addition to her novel.

As for Alfred Nobel, Bertha corresponded with him until his death in 1896. They last met after her peace conference in Zurich in August 1892. It is thought today that she may have influenced him in the Nobel Peace Prize establishment, that he wouldn't have created the prize without her.

From 1892 to 1899, Bertha was an editor for an international pacifist journal named after her best known novel, Die Waffen nieder!. In 1905, she received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Bertha died in Vienna, Austria, on June 21, 1914. In 1919, Ellen K. S. Key wrote a book about her and Florence Nightingale called Florence Nightingale und Baroness von Suttner.

## **84) Emma Tenayuca**

Emma Tenayuca was born on December 21, 1916, in San Antonio, Texas, one of eleven children. She lived with her grandparents during her childhood to ease her parent's strife. When she was 16 years old, she joined the labour movement and found out all about the Finck Cigar Company strikes. She graduated from Brackenridge High School in 1934 and became an elevator operator. However, she was still in the labour movement, and was arrested once when she joined the Finck Cigar Company picket line.

In 1937, in San Antonio, Emma was named the Workers' Alliance's general secretary for ten chapters. Also, she was asked to be the strike representative in January 1938 for the pecan shellers, which she accepted. The problem was that the pecan dust made the workers have high tuberculosis rates and as workers, they had inadequate restrooms and cleaning facilities. Their wages had also been cut in half, unfairly.

Soon, Emma was granted permission to speak at the Municipal Auditorium at a small Communist party meeting on August 25, 1939. However, the auditorium was stormed with people who hated Communists and the whole meeting got really violent. Emma got out of there safely, but from that point forward, she received many death threats.

Emma was blacklisted after that incident and she was forced to leave San Antonio. She moved to San Francisco instead and in 1952, she got her teacher's certificate. She then taught at Harlandale school in San Antonio once she was allowed back in Texas. In 1974, she graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University and received her Master's degree in Education. She retired in 1982.

Emma died on July 23, 1999, having established minimum wage for all workplaces nationally, among other achievements.

## **85) Valentina Vladimirovna Nikolayeva Tereshkova**

Valentina Vladimirovna Nikolayeva Tereshkova was born in Maslennikovo, Russia, on March 6, 1937. In 1961, she volunteered for a cosmonaut program (a cosmonaut is the Russian form of astronaut) and was accepted because she was an "accomplished amateur parachutist." Before this incident, however, Valentina was a textile worker. From 1962 to 1990, Valentina was a U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet member, which is the U.S.S.R National Parliament.

On June 16, 1963, Valentina became the first woman in space and the first non-test pilot cosmonaut in the Vostok 6. She orbited the Earth 48 times in 71 hours. She landed back on Earth on June 19 and after that experience, she left the program.

On November 3, 1963, Valentina married fellow cosmonaut Andriyan G. Nikolayev. Their daughter, Yelena, the first child of parents that have both been in space, was born in 1964. However, they later divorced. From 1974 to 1990, Valentina served as a Supreme Soviet Presidium member, which is the Soviet government's special panel.

Valentina was also named a Soviet Union hero and received the Order of Lenin, a prestigious award, twice.

## **86) Margaret Thatcher**

Margaret Hilda Roberts was born in Grantham, England, in 1925. She attended the University of Oxford and earned her chemistry degrees. Then, from 1947 to 1951, she used her degrees as a research chemist.

In 1951, Margaret married Denis Thatcher and two years later, in 1963, she became a tax lawyer after passing the bar exam. In 1959, she was elected to the House of Commons by the Conservative party. This was her first start in politics, which would soon become an important part in her life. From 1970 to 1974, she was the Minister of Science and Education under Edward Heath. With this position, she abolished free milk in schools, although this caused much protest.

In 1975, Margaret won the leadership of the Conservative party and in 1979, the Conservative party became the leading party. Also, that year, she became the first female prime minister and held the position from 1979 to 1990. She was also the first person to win the election for three consecutive terms. She decreased the role of the government in the economy of England and privatized housing, education, and health care.

In 1982, the Falkland Islands, belonging to Argentina and the United Kingdom jointly, were taken totally by Argentina. Reacting, Margaret sent her own forces to take them back and succeeded in defeating them. On June 1983, the Conservative party won the election and was in power again, but in October 1984, a murder attempt was made on Margaret's life. Luckily, she survived the bomb in Brighton's Grand Hotel, but she resigned in November 1990.

### **87) Alexandrine Pieterella Francoise Tinne**

Alexandrine Pieterella Francoise Tinne was born in The Hague, Netherlands (Holland), on October 17, 1835. She was a Dutch explorer of northern Africa, but it was strange to have a female explorer going to different continents at that time. She wanted to map the White Nile in Sudan, Africa, as her goal. In 1861, she went on her first expedition on the Nile with her aunt and mother. She travelled to Gondokoro, Sudan, where she was supposed to meet the British explorer John Hanning Speke. However, he never showed and she went to find the Nile's source by herself. She went west near the Gazelle River (Bahr al-Ghazal) and the Sobat River, investigating near Lake Chad, especially the Nile Basin. Sadly, her mother and aunt and a few others died of fever during her expedition.

In 1863, Alexandrine made her expedition to the upper Nile again. She entered a region called the Azande near the north-eastern basin of the Congo River. But, after this expedition, she lived in Cairo, Egypt, until 1867.

In 1869, Alexandrine picked up her African explorations again. She wanted to be the first woman to traverse the Sahara Desert. She was waiting for an Arab caravan to take her southward when she was side-tracked and decided to go with guides to see the Tuareg tribes and their nomadic tendencies. Near Ghat, Libya, on August 1, 1869, she was robbed and murdered by those Tuareg guides in the desert of Libya on route from Tripoli to Lake Chad. She had been about to visit those Tuareg tribesmen that killed her.

### **88) Sojourner Truth**

Isabella Baufree (Sojourner Truth's real name) was born in a Dutch county called Ulster County in New York, one of thirteen children. She was born to slave parents, so in effect, she was a slave as well. She was sold to her first master at eleven years old, speaking only Dutch, but she quickly learned English in the company of her cruel master. Her third master, John Dumont, had Isabella marry Thomas, another of his slaves, and even though it was a kind of forced marriage, they had five children.

Dumont also promised Isabella freedom a year before the emancipation in New York in 1828. But Dumont went back on his word, and Isabella ran away from his control with her infant.

Isabella then lived in New York City, working as a religious commune domestic. Then, in 1843, she received a spiritual vision and changed her name to Sojourner Truth. She travelled through Connecticut and Long Island, New York, lecturing on God as a savior.

Finally, Sojourner settled in Northampton, Massachusetts. There, she joined the Northampton Association for Education and Industry, working with Olive Gilbert, William Lloyd Garrison, and Frederick Douglass for abolition of slavery.

In 1850, Sojourner published *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*, and a year later, in Akron, Ohio, she spoke on women's rights at a convention. After the Civil War, Sojourner worked towards aiding newly-freed southern slaves and even petitioned Congress to give some land in the "new West" to the former slaves. However, that petition failed.

Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Michigan, in November 1883.

### **89) Harriet Tubman**

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Pucktown, Maryland, one of eleven children. Starting at the age of five, Harriet was beaten repeatedly in order to break her strong spirit, and when she was thirteen, she received a fractured skull when trying to defend a slave from his/her cruel master. So, when Harriet was in her teens, she tried to escape the horrors of slavery with her brothers. However, their mission to escape was foiled and they were returned to their masters.

During the summer of 1849, Harriet traded her prize quilt for Underground Railroad information and soon after, she escaped. She had no plan or destination, but she did know to follow the North Star called the "Drinking Gourd" because of a directional Underground Railroad song. Finally, she arrived in Philadelphia, but she soon found that her freedom alone was not enough.

From 1850 until the Civil War, Harriet helped over 300 fugitive slaves escape with the help of Thomas Garrett and others. Many of them she brought to St. Catherine, Canada, where they would be safe. At one point, there was as much as a \$40,000 reward for her, the most ever offered. Yet still Harriet was not captured.

During the Civil War, Harriet was a nurse, a spy, and a scout, and Thomas Garrett, her partner for many of the trips, died in 1871. Harriet joined Thomas Garrett in death in 1913. Her birth year hasn't been exactly determined, so it isn't known how old she was when she died. But, it has been determined she was born between 1816 and 1823. Harriet Tubman was the "Moses of her people". She deserves that name because of her epic, heroic expeditions leading fugitive slaves to the promised land where they would be safe.

## **90) Tz'u Hsi**

Tz'u Hsi was born in Peking, China, on November 29, 1835. She started out as no more than the Hsien-feng emperor's concubine. Then, in 1856, she gave birth to their son and the emperor died soon after. Hence, the boy became the emperor T'ung-chih, but he was too young. Instead, the regency governed, which was usually a group of elders, but the power instead was given to Ts'u Hsi and two other partners.

During Tz'u Hsi's rule, the government revitalized, the great Taiping Rebellion was quelled, the Nien Rebellion was stopped, foreign languages were added in schools, custom service was installed, arsenals were created in Western style, and the first Chinese foreign service office was created.

In 1873, Tz'u Hsi's son became old enough to rule and became full emperor, but she still had the power. She named her adopted nephew (who was only three years old) as the heir so she could still be regent. Then, in 1881, one of her partners died and she became sole regent after displacing her last partner.

In 1889, Tz'u Hsi retired from the office to live in her northwest Peking palace. But in 1898, the new emperor instituted radical proposals to stop China's corruption, and Tz'u Hsi didn't like them. So, she confined him in the palace and took the power of the regency again. In 1900, the Boxer Rebellion, occurred and she was forced to flee Peking for her life and had to accept the peace agreement's terms. In 1902, she reverted from her thoughts in 1898 and decided to eliminate China's corruption as best she could.

Tz'u Hsi died in Peking, China, on November 15, 1908, the day after the real emperor died.

## **91) Yoshiko Uchida**

Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda, California, in 1922. When she was 12 years old, she visited Japan to see what some of her culture was like, for she was Japanese-American. However, once there, she didn't feel at home and didn't totally belong to their culture or the American culture. She was confused about how to feel. Then, during World War II, she was taken from the University of Berkeley in her senior year and sent to a Japanese-American internment camp where she suffered because of bigotry and racism. This was because Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese at the start of America's entrance into the war, and the United States simply didn't feel comfortable with people of Japanese lineage living freely in the United States with Japanese lineage. Because of her experiences, Yoshiko found it in herself to write books for children, usually about the Japanese-American experience.

In 1971, Yoshiko published *Journey to Topaz*. It was called *Journey to Topaz* because it concerns a Japanese family's experiences and conclusions at an internment camp in Topaz, Utah. In the novel, a young girl, Yuki, has to deal with feelings about the Japanese's bombing of Pearl Harbor and whether she is really American or Japanese. In the end, Yuki discovers that she's really truly both American and Japanese.

In 1982, Yoshiko published another book, this one called *A Jar of Dreams*. This book is about a girl, Rinki, and her relationship with her aunt from Japan. Rinki has to deal with racist attitudes against her father from some white men. In the end, her father confronts the men who had said the insults, and the white man ends up backing down. This novel was highly praised for its discussion of the Depression's integration problems.



Yoshiko's 1982 *Desert Exile* contained experiences and information on the internment camps that existed. Here are some pictures of hers that were in *Desert Exile*:

## **92) Phyllis Wheatley**

America's first African American poet, Phyllis Wheatley, was born in 1753 in Senegal, Africa. When she was seven years old, she was taken from Africa to the colonies of America and sold to John and Susannah Wheatley in Boston, Massachusetts. She was first going to be the attendant to Susannah as well as a servant, but instead she was raised as one of the Wheatley's children.

The Wheatleys taught Phyllis how to write and read English and at age 12, she was reading Latin and Greek classics and the bible. Phyllis wrote her first poem at age 13.

In 1770, Phyllis wrote a poem on evangelist George Whitefield's death. This turned her into a Boston sensation and in 1773, she published *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, a collection of 39 of her poems. Most of them she wrote in heroic couplet and contained elegies. It was the first book by an African American to be published.

Eventually, Phyllis received her freedom, and in 1778, she married a free African American man. She died in poverty, but that wasn't the end of her influence. In the 1830's, abolitionists used her poetry as proof that slavery should be abolished.

## **93) Mary Wollstonecraft**

Mary Wollstonecraft was born in the 1750's, a major protester for women's rights. She started protesting at an early age because of her father's abuse of her mother and her father's favoritism towards her brother. She also decided early on that she would not simply cook and clean and take care of her husband, the house, and the children. So, at age 19, Mary became a paid companion and, at age 21, stated that she would never marry because marriage gave the husband ownership of all the property, including herself. So she rescued her sister from a miserable marriage and worked seven years as a governess, planning her future.

When she was 28, Mary wrote *Maria*, her semi-autobiographical novel. Then, she moved to London and worked as an editor and professional writer, and specialized in women and children.

In 1789, the French Revolution began and inspired Mary with an interest in politics. In 1790, she wrote the essay *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* that focused on the French Revolution's humanitarian ideals. Then, in 1792, she followed it up with a study: *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*.

Also in 1792, Mary's passion for men began to take hold. She fell in love with a married man, Henry Fuseli and then, at age 34, had a relationship with Gilbert Imlay. He claimed that she was his wife to protect her from prison or death, but they were never married. Still, they had a daughter, Fanny, in May 1794. Soon after, he left her and Fanny, and Mary became depressed and attempted suicide twice. Luckily, she didn't succeed.

In 1796, Mary had another relationship, this time with philosopher and novelist William Godwin. In March 1797, they married and had a child together, Mary Shelley (author of *Frankenstein*), on August 30, 1797. However, the doctor had to operate on Mary because the placenta wouldn't come out after the birth. Sadly, Mary got an infection, and died on September 10, 1797. That summer, she had been writing *The Wrongs of Women: or Maria*. After her death, William wrote *Memoirs of the Author of the Vindication of the Rights of Women* in her honour.

## **94) Rosalyn Sussman Yalow**

Rosalyn Sussman Yalow was born in New York City, New York, on July 19, 1921. She attended Hunter College and the University of Illinois, receiving her Ph.D. in physics in 1945. Then, from 1945 to 1950, she taught at Hunter College.

In 1947, Rosalyn joined the staff at the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital and served as the Mount Sinai School of Medicine's research professor. Thirty years later, she received the Nobel Prize in medicine for the radio immunoassay procedure's application to biomedical research.

Rosalyn and her partner were responsible for the use of iodine as a tracer for the diagnosis of thyroid disease, investigated serum protein distribution in the human body, discovered (in insulin-treated patients' plasma) traces of insulin-binding antibodies, studied gastrin, the parathyroid hormone, the human growth hormone and corticotrophin, and made a procedure that enable today's doctors to diagnose hormonal excesses or deficiencies and the diseases that are associated with them.

## 95) Musine Kokalari

Musine Kokalari (1917 -1983) was a writer and political activist during one of the most important periods of political developments in Albania and the Western Balkans, before, during and after World War II. She was a founder and the main figure of the first Social Democratic Party of Albania, which was, at the same time, one of the first significant political bodies opposing the Enverist regime. Consequently, Musine spent most of her life as a political prisoner and tortured due to her social democratic beliefs, from which she never backed down.

Thus, in history, Musine was one of the first intellectuals who sacrificed her comfort for the benefit of democracy, as a woman who refused to submit to the iron and manly regime. What is more, Musine was one of the first and rarest to oppose and categorically reject conformism, conservatism and totalitarianism. She stood up to the hegemony and monopoly of the party-state, a party that insisted on uniform thinking and one-dimensional political activism, according to party dictates, and under a top-down conception of the way homeland, patriotism and the general good are perceived.

When she was arrested on January 23rd, 1946 by Enver Hoxha's regime and sentenced as a "saboteur and enemy of the people" by the Tirana Military Court to 30 years in prison (July 2nd, 1946), which was later reduced to 20, Musine Kokalari held the following stand:

*"I do not need to be a communist to love my country! I love my country even though I am not a communist. I want its progress. Even though you won the war, even though you won the elections, you cannot persecute those who hold different political views from you. I think differently from you, but I love my country. I do not apologize because I haven't done anything wrong".* In Musine's character we find three basic features of political activity and human freedom intertwined: intellectuality, determination, and sustainability. She said (wrote) what she believed, acted as she was convinced, and inspired as she spoke. Thus, she thought freely, engaged freely and lived freely.

She was born on February 10th, 1917 in Adana, Turkey. In 1921, Musine Kokalari, together with her family, returned to Gjirokastra, the city of family ancestry. From a young age, Musine showed a special passion for literature and folklore.

Originally educated in Tirana, she studied at the Faculty of Modern Literature at La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy. Musine Kokalari published her literary work titled *As My Old Woman Says* in 1941, which addressed women's issues and the patriarchal society.

In addition to her own literary work, she also undertook important publicity initiatives. Throughout 1942, Musine Kokalari's name was included in the Italian Encyclopaedia as a talented writer with high literary potential. As part of the anti-fascist initiative in Albania, in June 1943 she contributed to the publication of *The Albanian Woman* magazine under the nickname "Tacitta". In 1944, Musine published her two works titled *Around Homeland* and *How Life Shook*.

From the beginning of 1942, Musine Kokalari was engaged in anti-fascist and anti-communist movements in Rome. In 1943, she was one of the main founders and inspirers of the Social Democratic Party. As part of this political project, on January 1st, 1944 she published the first issue of *The Voice of Freedom* newspapers the official newspaper of the Social Democratic Party.

In February 1944, Musine published the program of the Social Democratic Party, calling for political freedom, the right of every citizen to practice freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom to vote: "The main reason for the restriction of political freedom is [the lack of] social justice". Kokalari supported the idea of a Balkan Confederation, which appeared at the beginning of the 20th century, by most of the social democratic parties of the Balkan Peninsula.

Her brothers, Muntaz and Veysim Kokalari, were shot without trial on November 12th, 1944. Persecuted from the shooting of the brothers, and being a founder of the Social Democratic Party and "The Voice of Freedom" press body, Musine Kokalari was arrested twice during November 13-28, 1945. During the same month, she was engaged in an intellectual and political movement which she called "The Democratic Coalition". This movement represented all opposition groups demanding the postponement of the December 2nd, 1945 elections, where not a single party, except for the communist one, could register with their candidates and platforms. In "The Democratic Coalition", Musine was the only representative of the Social Democratic Party, and at the same time, the main political figure of this coalition. This demand meant the development of the first pluralistic elections in Albania. All the signatories of the first note were arrested on January 1946.

At that time, Musine Kokalari was arrested to be held in prison for a long time, where she faced terrible tortures of the regime. In 1964, after 16 years of imprisonment in the notorious prison of Burrel, isolated and under the strict surveillance of security agents, Musine Kokalari spent another 19 years of her life in internment in Rreshen, from where she retired with a half salary. She worked as a streetsweeper for 11 years in the construction enterprise, among bricks, mortar and concrete.

Despite constant persecution and a lack of minimum conditions, Musine Kokalari managed to finish her book, in hiding, titled *How the Social Democratic Party was Born* where she explained her progressive and democratic alternative.

Musine Kokalari was one of the first 30 imprisoned writers to be recorded in 1960 by the Troika Committee (the PEN Club precursor). In 1980, Musine Kokalari was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was refused treatment at the state oncology hospital. Failure to cure the disease, and the many pains and sufferings under persecution caused her death in complete isolation in August 1983. She was reburied in 1991 in Shish – Tufina.

In 1993, Musine Kokalari was declared "Martyr of Democracy" by the President of the Republic of Albania.

## **96) Parashqevi Qiriazi**

A few women have accomplished what Parashqevi Qiriazi undertook and achieved in her lifetime. Born on June 2, 1880, in Manastir, she devoted her life to the Albanian language's alphabet and to learning the written Albanian language. She later became one of the central figures of the Albanian Enlightenment during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Following in the footsteps of her sister, Sevasti Qiriazi, Parashqevi continued her studies at the Istanbul college for girls, "Robert College," focusing on literature, where she distinguished herself through her student activities. Subsequently, she became a teacher and, just a few months later, assumed the role of the head of the Albanian Girls' School in Korçë, Albania. As pioneers in the emancipation of Albanian women and girls, the Qiriazi sisters hold an esteemed position in the history of Albanian education and culture. They are particularly remarkable for establishing their girls' school during a challenging period when the country faced significant backwardness, and women were oppressed, marginalized, and kept in ignorance and obscurity.

Parashqevi embraced the view and mission of Gjerashim Qiriazi, believing that only through education could the soul of a nation emerging from darkness be transformed and liberated. She understood that a nation would experience swifter progress during its renaissance if women and girls, as the core of the family, were educated. Parashqevi dedicated herself to the education of Albanian girls, striving for their upliftment and cultural enlightenment. She achieved this through her involvement with the "Morning Star" association and her contributions to the press of her time, as explained by the researcher of her life and work, Teuta Toska.

In 1908, Parashqevi served as the envoy of the Girls' School at the significant Congress of Manastir, where she was appointed as the secretary of the eleven delegates tasked with addressing the issue of the Albanian alphabet. Subsequently, in 1909, she authored the Primer using the new Albanian alphabet and also composed the Albanian alphabet anthem. Parashqevi, alongside her sister, is renowned for her contributions to the emancipation of Albanian women and for her pivotal role in establishing the first women's association, "Morning Star," in the city of Korça in 1912. In 1913, she successfully earned her master's degree in education from Oberlin College in Ohio. Her master's thesis was dedicated to designing a national education system for the recently liberated Albania. Parashqevi's significant contributions to the emancipation of Albanian girls and women led UNESCO, on the 50th anniversary of her passing, to draw comparisons with

prominent international figures. They noted, "Her pioneering role in the education and emancipation of women in the Ottoman Empire can only be compared with the achievements of Marianne Hainisch in Austria, Annestine Beyer in Denmark, or Maria Montessori in Italy."

Parashqevi and Sevastia also made contributions to the periodical "Shqiptarja," published by the organization "Gruaja Shqiptare", which operated between 1928 and 1939. The magazine was known for featuring "provocative" articles aimed at challenging conservative ideologies that opposed the women's movement and its demands. In 1914, due to the Greek occupation of Korçë during World War I, Parashqevi, together with her sister, left Albania for Romania and later traveled to the United States, where she became a prominent figure in the Albanian-American community. She returned to Albania in 1921.

Parashqevi remained a steadfast anti-fascist during World War II, starting with the Italian invasion in 1939. Her anti-fascist stance led to her and her sister's imprisonment and exile to the Anhalteleger Dedinje camp near Belgrade by pro-Nazi units. She survived and returned to Tirana after the war. Unfortunately, further persecution followed her and her sister's family, this time from the communist regime, due to her brother-in-law Kristo Dako's pro-monarchy stance.

## **97) Erifili Bezhani**

Erifili Bezhani graduated from the Faculty of Law, at the University of Aix-en-Provence, in France. During the years 1941-1942, she practiced as a lawyer in Marseille, where she became engaged to a French lawyer. Due to some family circumstances, in 1943, he returned with his sister, Evrinomi, who graduated from the same university, to his hometown, Vlorë, and after a year, together with his mother, they settled in Tirana. She became active in the anti-communist movement of the "Democratic Union" group, which included members of the group of Deputies, Liberal Democrats, Social Democrats, etc. Her permanent friends with whom she socialized were well-known intellectuals of the time such as Gjergj Kokoshi, Thoma Orogollai, doctor Isuf Hysenbegasi, Dhimitër Pasko (Mitrush Kuteli), Qenan Dibra, Musine Kokalari, etc.

On May 16, 1947, after the sensational arrests of the group of Deputies, liberal-democrats, etc., Erifili Bezhani was arrested and by the end of the year, he was sentenced to 20 years of "deprivation of liberty" by the Military Court of Tirana. She is sent to the infamous Burrel prison, joining the history of anti-communist prisons in the first 4 Albanian anti-communist women, who experienced the bitter taste of inhumane torture along with imprisonment. The former political prisoner, Hysni Alimerko from Vlona, writes in his memoirs: "Erifili was sentenced almost at the same time as Musine Kokalari, Shega Këlcyra and Nurije Koculi, daughter of Qazim Koculi. They were the first 4 women who entered the hellish prison of Burrell. Later, Drita Kosturi and Raile Luzi came. All of them were strong and unyielding."

After his release from prison, due to several amnesties, Erifili Bezhani continued the ordeal of other sufferings. Since 1953, Erifili Bezhani could no longer work as a lawyer. The need for a living brought him into the world of translations. Thanks to her excellent knowledge of several languages, such as French, English, Italian, Greek and Russian (which she learned excellently while in prison), she works as a translator for several different institutions. In the middle of 1958, she was also banned from translating and the communist regime decided that she would do forced labor as a sweeper on the streets of Tirana and only on the third shift!

After 6 months of such work, he fell ill with an ulcer, was urgently hospitalized and died during the operation. It was February 15, 1959, when, 49 years old, she closed her eyes in the operating room, in the Tirana hospital.

## **98) Kushe Mica**

Kushe Mica, the founder of the first school for Albanian women and girls, was born in Shkodër on June 16, 1832. Her family, due to blood feud, moved to Shkodër from Dukagjini. She started teaching at the age of 27. A self-taught woman, for ten years she studied with the Venetian pharmacist Shjor Marko Rebeski and delved into the French and Italian languages. In 1859, she opened the first school for women in Shkodër, called Shkolla e Kushe Micë, where writing, reading, numbers (arithmetic), drawing, singing (music) and crafts were taught. The school was closed in 1904, 45 years after its establishment. It failed to become known as the first Albanian school for the reason that the educational program was not documented and Kushe Mica was not at the appropriate educational level.

## **99) Sevasti Qiriaz-Dako**

Born in 1871, Sevasti Qiriaz-Dako was the director and teacher of the first Albanian school for girls, a pioneer of national education, the education and emancipation of Albanian women and girls, a warrior, politician, and author of various texts. The poet and prominent national figure Naim Frashëri himself was the one who gave Sevastia the opportunity to study at "Robert College" in Istanbul and play an active role in women's education. She was the first Albanian woman to study at this American institution, which she completed in June 1891.

"Sister, you cannot do a better job for poor Albania than what you have decided to do together with your brother, for the emancipation of the women of our poor country. Your tasks now begin, and if you are loyal, persistent, and willing, you will be able to accomplish great things for the nation," Sevasti Qiriaz quoted Naim Frashëri in "Memories of Naim Beu."

Upon returning to Albania, Sevastia, who knew 7-8 foreign languages, participated in the establishment of the girls' school in Korça in 1891. This school also marked the beginning of secular education in the region. This was a significant step for the era, and perhaps one of the most modern, considering it occurred during a period when the Ottomans had ruled for five hundred years, keeping the Albanian people, especially women, in subjugation. Establishing a school for girls marked a decisive turning point toward emancipation. The esteemed benefactor of Albanians, the Englishwoman Edith Durham, also documented the Qiriaz sisters and the first school for girls.

"Korça is civilized. I received a very warm welcome at the Albanian School for Girls. The school was so 'modern' that I felt as if I had suddenly returned to Europe," she wrote two years after the school opened. Sevastia, along with her sister Parashqevi, also took part in the Congress of Elbasan and Manastir, primarily focused on the preparation of school textbooks. Sevasti Qiriaz-Dako published a grammar for primary schools and edited a series of history texts. Sevasti and Parashqevi, known as the Qiriaz Sisters, were the pioneering teachers and educators of the girls' school, yet their contributions extended far beyond education.

"Sevastia was the spiritual leader, while Parashqevia was an energetic person. Sevastia led, and Parashqevia executed. They set an example for what an Albanian woman should be, channelling their full potential for the benefit of their country," notes Teuta Toska, a researcher of the Qiriaz sisters' work.

"They accomplished tasks that are still challenging for women today. She even founded a political party in America to support the Albanian cause during that time. Sister Parashqevia served as a delegate at the Peace Conference in Paris," says Toska.

In 1914, due to conflicts with Greek forces in Korça, Sevastia, her husband, and their two children were compelled to leave Albania, resulting in the closure of the Girls' School. They spent nearly 12 months residing in Bucharest and Sofia before immigrating to the United States in 1915, where she would assist her husband in opening the first Albanian school in America. Sevastia assisted her sister in publishing the biweekly magazine "Morning Star" (1917–1920), and in this period, she and her husband became more deeply involved in the Vatra association and the Albanian national issue.

At the end of 1921, Sevasti Qiriaz-Dako and her children returned to Albania, where her husband had already gone back to work with the Albanian government. In her memoirs, Sevastia described conditions in Albania as "primitive" and expressed her inspiration to dedicate the remainder of her life to helping rebuild her nation. Due to her husband's roles as a minister and biographer of King Zog, Dako's name faded into obscurity during the communist regime after World War II. Her family endured persecution, including her sister Parashqevi, and her two sons were arrested and imprisoned. Exhausted by numerous hardships and the loss of her son, Sevastia passed away in August 1949.

## **100) Ikbal Cika**

She was the first Albanian female journalist in Albania. She made an important contribution to the growth of social emancipation and women's education. She was the editor-in-chief and the first administrator of the newspaper "Arbëria" and the owner of newspapers such as "Java", "Shpresa Kombëtare", "Ylli i Mëngjesit" and "Gruaja Shqiptare". She was a contributor and leader of the newspapers "Minerva", as well as "Arbenia",

“Rilindja e Arbërija”, “Vulneti i Arbërija”, etc. In the newspapers that she directed; she took a special interest in topics that dealt with Albanian women.

### **101) Marte Tunaj**

Marte Tunaj is the woman who provided hope for the raped women during the Kosovo war, bravely stepped forward as the first to testify before the court. Her testimony shed light on the horrors of violence, suffering, abuse, and mistreatment that she and others had endured during the war. She aimed to seek justice for the crime perpetrated against her body and bring the epilogue to light, demonstrating how sexual violence as a weapon of war had brutally assaulted her in the most barbaric ways imaginable.

“The world must know what happened to us, and we must confess,” was the message that Marte Tunaj conveyed to the other victims while she was still alive.

The violence against Marta occurred in May 1999. Her powerful statement led to the immediate arrest of the perpetrator, Milosh Jokic, by KFOR forces. However, her story did not conclude there. It was exceedingly challenging for her to disclose everything that transpired to her family and husband after the war.

“I summoned the courage and took it upon myself to report Jokic to the police. I did this not only for my own sake but also for the countless mothers and pregnant women who had suffered at the hands of Jokic. My husband only learned of this after the trial, and I am immensely grateful to him for standing by me until the end,” she confessed.

Tunaj reveals that her determination to testify as an Albanian woman from Kosovo was also motivated by her son Sherif, who was a member of the KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army) and was the sole minor in the entire Vitia region. Sherif himself had issued an appeal to all other women and girls in Kosovo who had suffered sexual and physical violence at the hands of Serbian forces, urging them not to remain silent but to report the crimes against them. He emphasized that this crime must be punished and not ignored by the institutions. Feride Rushiti, the director of the Kosovar Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (KRCT) expressed that Marte Tunaj’s courage to testify publicly and expose these crimes has been “immensely inspiring.”

“To publicly disclose such trauma entails not only confronting personal anguish but also grappling with stigma, prejudice, and injustice. Despite these challenges, Martja exhibited remarkable courage and heroism,” she remarked. Even the director of the Civic Initiatives Forum, Dajana Berisha, acknowledged, “Marte Tunaj should be honored for her courageous testimony against the crimes committed against women and girls in Kosovo. She broke the taboo surrounding this crime in Kosovar society.” Following their harrowing experiences, not only Marte Tunaj but all survivors of sexual violence during the last war had to contend with recognition of their status by the Government of Kosovo. Martja herself spoke out on this matter, stating, “I have the courage to speak on behalf of all victims of sexual violence so that the state will consider and do everything possible to provide them with a more dignified life. It is a tragedy that survivors of sexual violence are left to rely on charity. They require proper care and various medical treatments.”

Marte Tunaj passed away in 2016, never witnessing the decision of the Kosovo institutions, which, for the first time, officially recognized April 14 as the Day of Survivors of Sexual Violence during the last war. This day, as declared by the authorities, was established to “acknowledge the pain” of all survivors of sexual violence during the war and contribute to the collective memory.

### **102) Shote Galica**

Born Qerime Halil Radisheva in Drenica, Kosova, Shote was the only sister of 6 brothers. At 20 Years old, she married Azem Galica and in 1919, at the age of 26, she and her husband joined the Albanian uprising and fought Yugoslav forces in Junik.

At the time she was known for her ferocity in battle as well as her wisdom. She is credited with saying, “Jeta pa dije është si një luftë pa armë” (Life without knowledge is like a war without weapons). After Azem’s death in 1925, she took control of his band of kaçaks and fought with Bajram Curri (shoutout to my Tropojane mom’s side of the family) in Prizren (Kosova) and Lumë (Albania).

She eventually moved to Fushë-Krujë in Albania and in 1927, and at the age of 31, died. She was posthumously awarded the title of Heroinë e Popullit ("Heroine of the People") in Albania.

### **103) Sabiha Kasimati**

Sabiha Kasimati was born on September 15, 1912, in the city of Edirne, Turkey. With her family's return to Albania, she attended the French Lyceum in Korçë, and due to her excellent results, she was awarded a scholarship by the state to the University of Turin, Faculty of Biological Sciences. Sabiha Kasimati completed her doctoral studies in 1941 with outstanding results in ichthyology. That same year, she returned to Albania to contribute to science and education.

In 1943, she was appointed as a scientific employee in the first academic institution called the Royal Institute of Albanian Studies. However, due to health problems, she went to Italy for treatment, from where she returned in 1945. With the establishment of the dictatorship, she was initially employed at the Institute of Sciences, where she dedicated herself again to the field of ichthyology. In 1948, she completed her study on fish in Albanian waters. However, this study would be published in 1955 under the name of the Russian Anatoli Poljakov and the pioneers in the field of ichthyology, Ndoc Rakaj and Ndoc Filipi.

Seeing the political developments in the country, Sabiha Kasimati expressed her dissatisfaction with the governance of the communist state. For this reason, she began to be persecuted by the State Security. Her name was associated with the explosion at the Soviet Embassy and she was accused of participating in terrorist organizations and collaborating with foreign agencies, accusations she would never accept. A few days after the embassy incident, she was executed on February 26, 1951, along with 21 other intellectuals. In 2011, the year that marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her murder, the then President of the Republic of Albania, Bamir Topi, honored Sabiha Kasimati with the title "Honor of the Nation".

The "House of Leaves" Museum reminds that during the dictatorship period (with a population of one million inhabitants in 1945 and approximately three million in 1990) in Albania, about 18,000 people were imprisoned for political motives, nearly 8,000 of whom were women in Albania. Over 6,000 people were executed with or without trial for political motives, including 450 women.

### **104) Rita Levi Montalcini**

Rita Levi-Montalcini OMRI OMCA was an Italian neurobiologist. She was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly with colleague Stanley Cohen for the discovery of nerve growth factor. From 2001 until her death, she also served in the Italian Senate as a Senator for Life.

### **105) Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou was born in April 4, 1928 an American memoirist, poet, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. She died on May 28, 2014.

### **106) Louise Bourgeois**

Louise Joséphine Bourgeois was born in December 25, 1911 a French-American artist. Although she is best known for her large-scale sculpture and installation art, Bourgeois was also a prolific painter and printmaker. She died on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

### **107) Ariel Cahill Hollinshead**

Ariel Hollinshead was born 24 August 1929 an American cancer researcher and professor who spent her career at George Washington University. She was a pioneer in discovering tumor antigens and developing them as cancer vaccines. She is sometimes referred to as the "Mother of Immunotherapy. She died on September 10, 2019.

### **108) Virginia Woolf**

Born 1882-1941) Modernist English writer known for her literary innovations; she criticized the absence of women's voices in history and literature and strove to redress this through her work.

### **109) Agnodice**

Agnodice or Agnodike was a scientist of the 19 Century ± Agnodikē, c. 4th century BCE is a legendary figure credited as the first female midwife or physician in ancient Athens. Her story is told by the Roman author Gaius Julius Hyginus in his *Fabulae*.

### **110) Marian Wright Edelman**

She is an American activist for civil rights and children's rights. She is the founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund. She influenced leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr, and Hillary Clinton

### **111) Celia Cruz**

Celia Caridad Cruz Alfonso, known as Celia Cruz, was a Cuban singer and one of the most popular Latin artists of the 20th century. Cruz rose to fame in Cuba during the 1950s as a singer of guarachas, earning the nickname "La Guarachera de Cuba" Her many honours included three Grammy Awards and four Latin Grammys for recordings such as *Ritmo en el corazón* (1988; with Ray Barretto) and *Siempre viviré* (2000). In 2023 the U.S. government chose Cruz as part of its American Women Quarters Program, which features trailblazing women on quarter coin designs.

### **112) Trudi Ederle**

Gertrude Caroline Ederle was an American competition swimmer, Olympic champion, and world record-holder in five events. On August 6, 1926, she became the first woman to swim across the English Channel. Among other nicknames, the press sometimes called her "Queen of the Waves".

### **113) Shirin Ebadi**

Shirin Ebadi is an Iranian Nobel laureate, lawyer, writer, teacher and a former judge and founder of the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran. In 2003, Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her pioneering efforts for democracy and women's, children's, and refugee rights.

### **114) Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in 2020. She was nominated by President Bill Clinton to replace retiring justice Byron White, and at the time was viewed as a moderate consensus-builder.

### **115) Hypatia**

(370- 415) Roman mathematician and philosopher in Alexandria, Egypt; she was brutally murdered for her teaching that challenged the Christian Church.

### **116) Tegla Loroupe**

Tegla Chepkite Loroupe is a Kenyan long-distance track and road runner. She is also a global spokeswoman for peace, women's rights and education. Loroupe holds the world records for 25 and 30 kilometers and previously held the world marathon record.



**117) Jane Costance Cook Ga'axstal'a**

Jane Constance Cook (Ga'axstal'as) (1870–1951) was a First Nations leader and activist of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. Biography.

**118) Mary Two-Axe Earley**

Mary Two-Axe Earley OQ was a Mohawk and Oneida women's rights activist from the reserve of Kahnawake in Quebec, Canada.

**119) Olympe de Gouges**

Olympe de Gouges was a French playwright and political activist. She is best known for her Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen and other writings on women's rights and abolitionism. Born in southwestern France, de Gouges began her prolific career as a playwright in Paris in the 1780s.

**120) Elfriede Jelinek is an Austrian**

Elfriede Jelinek is an Austrian playwright and novelist. She is one of the most decorated authors to write in German and was awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in Literature for her "musical flow of voices

**121) Zenzile Miriam Makeba**

Zenzile Miriam Makeba, nicknamed Mama Africa, was a South African singer, songwriter, actress, and civil rights activist. Associated with musical genres including Afropop, jazz, and world music, she was an advocate against apartheid and white-minority government in South Africa.

**122) Harriet Martineau**

Harriet Martineau was an English social theorist. She wrote from a sociological, holistic, religious and feminine angle, translated works by Auguste Comte, and, rarely for a woman writer at the time, earned enough to support herself. The young Princess Victoria enjoyed her work and invited her to her 1838 coronation.

**123) Wangari Maathai**

Wangari Maathai was a Kenyan social, environmental, and political activist who founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 2004 she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

**124) Tony Morrison**

Chloe Anthony Wofford Morrison, known as Toni Morrison, was an American novelist and editor. Her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was published in 1970. The critically acclaimed *Song of Solomon* brought her national attention and won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

**125) Lady Murasaki**

Murasaki Shikibu was a Japanese novelist, poet and lady-in-waiting at the Imperial court in the Heian period. She was best known as the author of *The Tale of Genji*, widely considered to be one of the world's first novels, written in Japanese between about 1000 and 1012.

**126) Junko Tabei**

Junko Tabei was a Japanese mountaineer, author, and teacher. She was the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest and ascend the Seven Summits, climbing the highest peak on every continent.

**127) Cecilia Payne**

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin was a British-American astronomer and astrophysicist. In her 1925 doctoral thesis she proposed that stars were composed primarily of hydrogen and helium.

**128) Golda Meir**

Golda Meir was an Israeli politician who served as the fourth prime minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974. She was Israel's first and only female head of government and the first in the Middle East.

**129) Margaret Mead**

Margaret Mead was an American cultural anthropologist, author and speaker, who appeared frequently in the mass media during the 1960s and the 1970s. She earned her bachelor's degree at Barnard College of Columbia University and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia.

**130) Anne Sullivan Macy**

Anne Sullivan Macy was an American teacher best known for being the instructor and lifelong companion of Helen Keller. At the age of five, Sullivan contracted trachoma, an eye disease, which left her partially blind and without reading or writing skills.

**131) Ellen MacArthur**

Dame Ellen Patricia MacArthur DBE is a retired English sailor, from Whatstandwell near Matlock in Derbyshire, now based in Cowes, Isle of Wight. MacArthur is a successful solo long-distance yachtswoman.

**132) Lise Meitner**

Lise Meitner was an Austrian-Swedish physicist who was instrumental in the discoveries of nuclear fission and protactinium. Completing her doctoral research in 1905, Meitner became the second woman from the University of Vienna to earn a doctorate in physics.

**133) Ada E. Yonath**

Ada E. Yonath is an Israeli crystallographer and Nobel laureate in Chemistry, best known for her pioneering work on the structure of ribosomes. She is the current director of the Helen and Milton A. Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Structure and **Assembly of the Weizmann Institute of Science**.

**134) Doris Lessing**

Doris May Lessing CH OMG was a British novelist. She was born to British parents in Iran, where she lived until 1925. Her family then moved to Southern Rhodesia, where she remained until moving in 1949 to London, England.

**135) Teuta**

Teuta was the queen regent of the Ardiaei tribe in Illyria, who reigned approximately from 231 BC to 228/227 BC.

### **136) Sonya Delaunay**

Sonia Delaunay was a French artist born to Jewish parents, who spent most of her working life in Paris. She was born in the Russian Empire, now Ukraine, and was formally trained in Russia and Germany, before moving to France and expanding her practice to include textile, fashion, and set design.

### **137) Eva Hesse**

Eva Hesse was a German-born American sculptor known for her pioneering work in materials such as latex, fiberglass, and plastics. She is one of the artists who ushered in the post minimal art movement in the 1960s.

### **138) Barbara Hepworth**

Dame Jocelyn Barbara Hepworth DBE was an English artist and sculptor. Her work exemplifies Modernism and in particular modern sculpture. Along with artists such as Ben Nicholson and Naum Gabo, Hepworth was a leading figure in the colony of artists who resided in St Ives during the Second World War.

### **139) Lee Krasner**

Lenore "Lee" Krasner was an American painter and visual artist active primarily in New York whose work has been associated with the Abstract Expressionist movement. She received her early academic training at the Women's Art School of Cooper Union, and the National Academy of Design from 1928 to 1932.

### **140) Maya Lin**

Maya Ying Lin is an American architect, designer and sculptor. Born in Athens, Ohio to Chinese immigrants, she attended Yale University to study architecture.

### **141) Louise Nevelson**

Louise Nevelson was an American sculptor known for her monumental, monochromatic, wooden wall pieces and outdoor sculptures. Born in the Poltava Governorate of the Russian Empire, she emigrated with her family to the United States in the early 20th century.