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# March is NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## March 8 is National Women's Day

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### Sonia Sotomayor

#### Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Born June 25, 1954

Sotomayor was born in The Bronx, New York City, to Puerto Rican-born parents. Her father died when she was nine, and she was subsequently raised by her mother. Sotomayor graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 1976 and received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1979, where she was an editor at the Yale Law Journal. She worked as an assistant district attorney in New York for four-and-a-half years before entering private practice in 1984. She played an active role on the boards of directors for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the State of New York Mortgage Agency, and the New York City Campaign Finance Board.

Sotomayor was nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H. W. Bush in 1991; confirmation followed in 1992. In 1997, she was nominated by President Bill Clinton to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Her nomination was slowed by the Republican majority in the United States Senate, but she was eventually confirmed in 1998. On the Second Circuit, Sotomayor heard appeals in more than 3,000 cases and wrote about 380 opinions. Sotomayor has taught at the New York University School of Law and Columbia Law School.

In May 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Sotomayor to the Supreme Court following the retirement of Justice David Souter. Her nomination was confirmed by the Senate in August 2009 by a vote of 68–31. While on the court, Sotomayor has supported the informal liberal bloc of justices when they divide along the commonly perceived ideological lines. During her tenure on the Supreme Court, Sotomayor has been identified with concern for the rights of defendants, calls for reform of the criminal justice system, and making impassioned dissents on issues of race, gender



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### Berta Cáceres Honduran Activist

March 4, 1971—March 2, 2016

Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores, was a Honduran environmental activist, indigenous leader, and co-founder and coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras. She won the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2015, for "a grassroots campaign that successfully pressured the world's largest dam builder to pull out of the Agua Zarca Dam" at the Río Gualcarque.

She was assassinated in her home by armed intruders, after years of threats against her life. A former soldier with the US-trained special forces units of the Honduran military asserted that Cáceres' name was on their hitlist months before her assassination.



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### Edie Windsor LGBT Rights Activist

June 20, 1929–September 12, 2017

Edith "Edie" Windsor, was an American LGBT rights activist and a technology manager at IBM. She was the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court of the United States case *United States v. Windsor*, which successfully overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and was considered a landmark legal victory for the same-sex marriage movement in the United States.

Windsor was honored by the National Computing Conference in 1987 as a "pioneer in operating systems."



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### Sally Ride

#### First American Woman to go into Space

May 26, 1951–July 23, 2012

Sally Kristen Ride was an American astronaut, physicist, and engineer. Born in Los Angeles, she joined NASA in 1978 and became the first American woman in space in 1983. Ride was the third woman in space overall, after USSR cosmonauts Valentina Tereshkova and Svetlana Savitskaya.

Quotes:

"The stars don't look bigger, but they do look brighter."

"When you're getting ready to launch into space, you're sitting on a big explosion waiting to happen."

"I liked math—that was my favorite subject—and I was very interested in astronomy and in physical science."



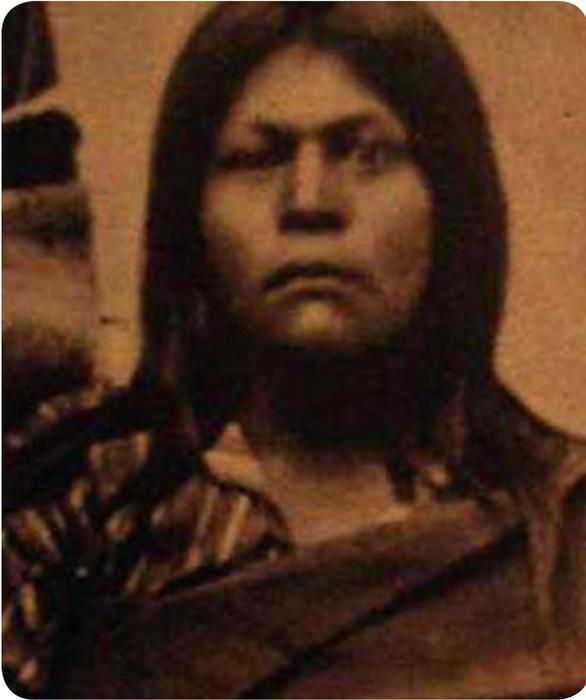
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### Toypurina Medicine Woman / Rebel

1760–1799

Toypurina was a Medicine woman of the Tongva nation—a nation also known as the Gabrieliño, due to their association with the Spanish mission San Gabriel. She is famous for her opposition of the colonial rule by Spanish Missionaries in California, and for her part in the planned 1785 rebellion against the mission San Gabriel, where she recruited six of the eight villages which participated in the attack.

According to trial records, Toypurina was forcibly coerced into being baptized in 1787 at Mission San Gabriel. Shortly after, she was moved to Mission San Carlos Borromeo. Two years after her Baptism, she married a Spaniard and soldier named Mañuel Montero, who had been serving at el Pueblo de Los Angeles, and received a tract of land from the governor. They lived in Monterey and had three children together (Cesario, Juana de Dios, and Maria Clementina). There is debate between scholars over whether her marriage to this soldier was a sign of her accepting Spanish religion and ways of life, or whether the marriage was one of convenience; Toypurina seeking marriage as a way to protect herself from the often harsh conditions of Spanish missions. On May 22, 1799, Toypurina died at Mission San Juan Bautista in northern Alta California at age 39.



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### We'wha

Zuni Native American from New Mexico

1849-1896

She was the most famous lhamana, a traditional Zuni gender role, now described as mixed-gender or Two-Spirit. Lhamana were male-bodied but performed primarily feminine tasks, wearing a mixture of women's and men's clothing and doing a great deal of women's work as well as serving as mediators.

We'wha is the subject of the book *The Zuni Man-Woman* by Will Roscoe. The anthropologist Matilda Coxe Stevenson also wrote a great deal about We'wha, and even hosted her on their visit to Washington D.C. in 1886. During that visit, We'wha met President Grover Cleveland and was generally mistaken for a cisgender woman. One of the anthropologists close to her described We'wha as "the strongest character and the most intelligent of the Zuni tribe". She is historically known mainly for transgender identity. In the nineteenth century this status was called berdache, being anatomically one sex but performing tasks that were equated with the other. During her lifetime, she came in contact with many European-American settlers, teachers, soldiers, missionaries, and anthropologists. One anthropologist she met was Matilda Coxe Stevenson, who would later become a prominent figure in We'wha's life. Stevenson wrote down her observations of We'wha, going on to state, "She performs masculine religious and judicial functions at the same time that she performs feminine duties, tending to laundry and the garden."



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### Queen Liliuokalani Queen of Hawaii

September 2, 1838–November 11, 1917

Liliuokalani was the first queen regnant and the last sovereign monarch of the Kingdom of Hawaii, ruling from January 29, 1891, until the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893. The composer of "Aloha Oe" and numerous other works, she wrote her autobiography *Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen* during her imprisonment following the overthrow.



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### Frida Kahlo Mexican Artist

July 6, 1907–July 13, 1954

Frida Kahlo de Rivera was a Mexican artist who painted many portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by the nature and artifacts of Mexico. Inspired by the country's popular culture, she employed a naïve folk art style to explore questions of identity, postcolonialism, gender, class and race in Mexican society.



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### Sacagawea Explorer

May 1788–December 20, 1812

Sacagawea was a Lemhi Shoshone woman who is known for her help to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in achieving their chartered mission objectives by exploring the Louisiana Territory. Sacagawea traveled with the expedition thousands of miles from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean



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### Michelle Obama

#### First African American First Lady

Born January 17, 1964

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is an American writer, lawyer, and university administrator who was First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She is married to the 44th U.S. President, Barack Obama, and was the first African-American First Lady.

#### Quotes

There are still many causes worth sacrificing for, so much history yet to be made.

I never cut class. I loved getting A's, I liked being smart. I liked being on time. I thought being smart is cooler than anything in the world.

If my future were determined just by my performance on a standardized test, I wouldn't be here. I guarantee you that.



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### Ruth Bader Ginsburg Associate Judge – Supreme Court

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Ginsburg was appointed by President Bill Clinton and took the oath of office on August 10, 1993. She is the second female justice of four to be confirmed to the court.

#### Quotes

My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent.

Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation.

The state controlling a woman would mean denying her full autonomy and full equality.



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## Maya Angelou

### American Poet

April 4, 1928–May 28, 2014

Maya Angelou was an American poet, singer, memoirist, 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.

Quotes:

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Nothing will work unless you do.

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.



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### Mother Theresa Saint

August 26, 1910–September 5, 1997

Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu commonly called Mother Teresa, and known in the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary. She was born in Skopje, then part of the Kosovo Vilayet of the Ottoman Empire. Wikipedia

#### Quotes

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.

Peace begins with a smile..

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.



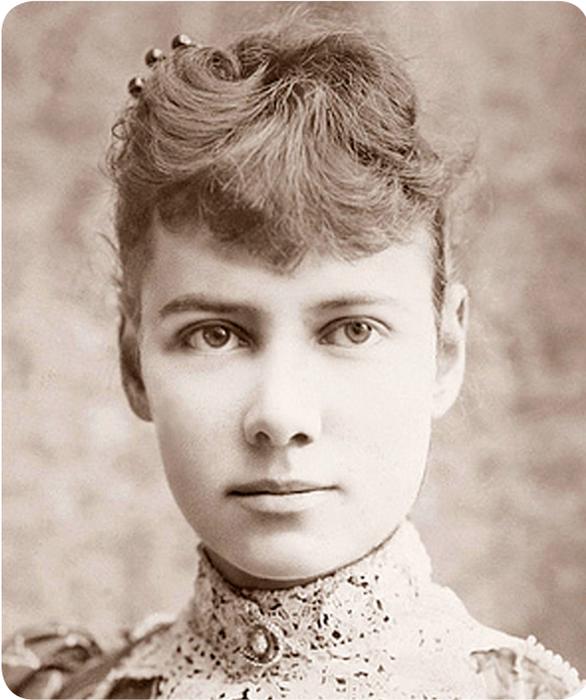
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### Nellie Bly

#### American Journalist

May 5, 1896—October 4, 1964

Elizabeth Cochran Seaman, better known by her pen name, Nellie Bly, was an American journalist who was widely known for her record-breaking trip around the world in 72 days, in emulation of Jules Verne's fictional character Phileas Fogg, and an exposé in which she worked undercover to report on a mental institution from within. She was a pioneer in her field, and launched a new kind of investigative journalism. Bly was also a writer, industrialist, inventor, and a charity worker.



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### Huda Sha'arawi

Egyptian Feminist, Founder of Egyptian Feminist Union

June 23, 1879–December 12, 1947

At the time, women in Egypt were confined to the house or harem which she viewed as a very backward system. As seen in all of her pictures, Huda is wearing a Hijab. Sha'arawi resented such restrictions on women's movements, and consequently started organizing lectures for women on topics of interest to them. This brought many women out of their homes and into public places for the first time. Sha'arawi even convinced them to help her establish a women's welfare society to raise money for the poor women of Egypt. In 1910, Sha'arawi opened a school for girls where she focused on teaching academic subjects rather than practical skills such as midwifery.

After World War I, many women took part in political actions against the British rule. In 1919, Sha'arawi helped organize the largest women's anti-British demonstration. In defiance of British authority orders to disperse, the women remained still for three hours in the hot sun.

Sha'arawi made a decision to stop wearing her veil in public after her husband's death in 1922. Within a decade of Huda's act of defiance, few women still chose to wear the veil. Her decision to unveil was part of a greater movement of women, and was influenced by French born Egyptian feminist named Eugénie Le Brun,<sup>[6]</sup> but it contrasted with some feminist thinkers like Malak Hifni Nasif. After returning from the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in Rome, she removed her face veil in public for the first time, a signal event in the history of Egyptian feminism. Women who came to greet her were shocked at first then broke into applause and some of them removed their veils. In 1923, Sha'awi founded and became the first president of the Egyptian Feminist Union.



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### Malala Yousafzai Pakistani Activist

Born July 12, 1997

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. She is known for human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children in her native Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwest Pakistan, where the local Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school. Her advocacy has grown into an international movement, and according to former Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, she has become "the most prominent citizen" of the country.[5]



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### Wu Zetian Only Female Chinese Monarch

624-705

Empress Wu Zetian, of the Tang Dynasty, was the only female monarch of China, and ruled the empire for over half a century. While her actions have been a subject for debate for more than ten centuries, Wu Zetian remains the most remarkable, influential and mysterious woman in Chinese history.

Wu Zetian's parents were rich and of noble families. As a child she was taught to write, read the Chinese classics and to play music.



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### Cleopatra Pharaoh

69 BC–30 BC

Cleopatra VII Philopator was the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, nominally survived as pharaoh by her son Caesarion. She was also a diplomat, naval commander, linguist, and medical author.



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### Catherine the Great Empress of Russia

May 2, 1729–November 17, 1796

After her husband, Peter III, had died, Catherine took the throne as Empress of Russia. She pushed for social and political reforms and put together documents that dictated how the legal system would run. Viewed as a backward society at the time, Russia saw reforms in the arts and education. Catherine sought to provide education through free schooling across Russia and devoted many projects to the arts.



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### Queen Elizabeth II Queen of England

Born April 21, 1926

The present Queen of the United Kingdom is to be credited for modernizing the monarchy. In her early years as a princess, she served in World War II by joining the Auxilliary Territorial Service and worked as a driver and mechanic. She was the first to have a royal ceremony televised (her coronation) and was also the first queen to condone divorce. Though she plays but a small role in enforcing political opinions, she still regularly meets with her prime minister.



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### Marie Curie Polish Scientist

November 7, 1867–July 4, 1934

Marie Skłodowska Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences.

#### Quotes:

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.

Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.

I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy.



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### Helen Keller

#### Author and Activist

November 7, 1867–July 4, 1934

Helen Adams Keller was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

#### Quotes

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.



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### Tegla Chepkite Loroupe Athlete

Born March 9, 1973

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 kilometres and previously held the world marathon record.



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### Rachel Carson Scientist

May 27, 1907–April 14, 1964

Rachel Louise Carson was an American marine biologist, author, and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.

Quotes:

Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.

In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth.



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