Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
There are 18 Honorees of the 2013 National Women in History Month.

- The women chosen are all extraordinary visionaries and role models in the STEM fields, where women are still noticeably underrepresented.
- View 11 of these outstanding women.
Marlyn Barrett is a coordinator of science instruction for Worcester County Public Schools and a project director for a grant which provides professional development for 135 teachers in 14 counties throughout Maryland. Her responsibilities include directing the grant, meeting with other county coordinators and higher education partners, and teacher training, impacting thousands of Maryland students and inspiring them to become the future of science.
Elizabeth Blackwell was the first fully accredited female doctor in the United States. She, along with her sister, Emily, founded the first medical school for women, resulting in greater acceptance of female physicians, more opportunities for meaningful work for American women, and stricter standards for medical schools as a whole.
Grace Hopper was a pioneering computer scientist and Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Hopper joined the Navy Reserve during World War II and worked as one of the first programmers of the Harvard Mark 1 Computer. She later wrote the first computer programming compiler (1952) and conceptualized COBOL, one of the first modern programming languages (1954). Upon her retirement she was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the highest non-combat award given by the Department of Defense.
Mary G. Ross  (1908–2008)
Mechanical Engineer

Mary Ross was the first woman engineer at Lockheed’s Missiles Systems Division (1952), and the first known Native American woman engineer. At Lockheed, Ross designed missiles and rockets, and developed systems for human space flight and interplanetary missions to Mars and Venus. After retiring, she began a second career as an advocate for women and Native Americans in engineering and mathematics.
Dian Fossey (1932–1985)
Primatologist and Naturalist

For 18 years Dian Fossey studied, lived amongst, and befriended the gorillas of Rwanda. Fossey made many discoveries about gorillas including understanding gorilla vocalizations, gorilla group hierarchies and social relationships, and gorilla diet and recycling of nutrition. Her book, Gorillas in the Mist (1983) documented her intense study of these animals and the need to protect them from the constant threat of poachers and neglect.
Sally Ride (1951-2012) Educator, Astronaut, Physicist

Sally Ride beat out 1,000 other applicants for a spot in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA). In 1983, astronaut and astrophysicist Sally Ride became the first American woman in space aboard the space shuttle Challenger. Ride died on July 23, 2012 at the age of 61.

Hattie Alexander developed the first effective remedies for Haemophilus influenzae, reducing the mortality rate from nearly 100 percent to less than 25 percent. Alexander was also among the first scientists to identify and study antibiotic resistance, which she correctly concluded was caused by random genetic mutations in DNA. In 1964, she became the first woman elected president of the American Pediatric Society.
Alice Hamilton
1869–1970
Chemist/Physician

Alice Hamilton was a chemist and physician who directed the first governmental commission to investigate industrial hazards in the workplace, such as exposure to dangerous chemicals. Because of her work, laws were passed to protect employees from occupational hazards. In 1919 she became the first female faculty member of Harvard Medical School.
Rita Colwell, Ph.D. served as the first woman Director of the National Science Foundation (1998-2004), where she exemplified the importance of STEM education by her leadership in K-12 STEM education, graduate STEM education, and the increased participation of women and minorities in science and engineering. Colwell has also served in many leadership and advisory positions for scientific organizations and government agencies. Her award-winning scientific work is focused on water borne diseases of public health significance.
Lilly McDaniel Ledbetter
Born 1938

Lilly Ledbetter was the plaintiff in the American employment discrimination case Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. In 2009 Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to loosen the timeliness requirements for the filing of a discrimination suit so long as any act of discrimination, including receipt of a paycheck that reflects a past act of discrimination, occurs within the 180 day period of limitations. She has since become a women's equality activist.
Susan Solomon (1956) Atmospheric Chemist

Susan Solomon is the Ellen Swallow Richards Professor of atmospheric chemistry and climate science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her groundbreaking research on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as the cause of the Antarctic ozone hole was part of the basis of the international treaty that has effectively regulated damaging chemicals. She is also a leader in climate science, and is best known for seminal work showing that climate changes due to human increases in carbon dioxide will last for more than a thousand years.
Can You Identify Women of Great Vision and Achievement Whose History Is Our Strength?

Take the Quiz
Who became the first female Secretary of State of the United States, appointed by President Clinton in 1997?

- Madaline Albright
- Sally Reed
- Mother Theresa
Born Marie Jana Korbelová in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She attended Wellesley College, in Wellesley, Massachusetts majoring in political science and graduated in 1959. She was appointed Ambassador to the United Nations in 1993 and in 1996 was appointed by Pres. Clinton as United States Secretary of State. With unanimous confirmation she became the first woman to become the United States Secretary of State and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government.
Who was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. Congress and was a founding member of the National Women’s Political Caucus?

- Patsy Mink
- Natalie Cole
- Miss Piggy
Mink was the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman elected to Congress. She was also the first woman elected to Congress from the state of Hawaii, and became the first Asian American to seek the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party in the 1972 election, where she stood in the Oregon primary as an anti-war candidate. In recognition of her contributions towards equal rights Congress named the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act the "Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act".
Who was imprisoned and then hanged for her Quaker faith in Boston in 1660, and 400 years later her statue was placed in front of the Boston State House?

- Mary Dyer
- Dona Filipa Perestello e Moniz
- Pocahontas
Mary Barrett Dyer  
1611-1660  
Religious activist

An English Puritan turned Quaker who was hanged in Boston, Massachusetts for repeatedly defying a Puritan law banning Quakers from the colony. She is one of the four executed Quakers known as the Boston martyrs. A bronze statue of her stands in front of the Massachusetts State House in Boston, a copy stands in front of the Friends Center in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and another in front of Stout Meetinghouse at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.
Who wrote "The Feminine Mystique" in 1968 and became a leading figure in the Women's Movement?

- Betty Friedan
- Gloria Steinem
- Helen Reddy
Born Betty Naomi Goldstein in Peoria, Illinois. In 1957, for the 15th reunion of her graduating class she was asked to survey her classmates on how they used their education. She found that 89% were not using their education. Most were unhappy in their roles. She analyzed the results and found that both women and men were trapped in limiting roles. In 1963 she turned her work into a book, The Feminine Mystique -- which explores the idea of women finding fulfillment beyond traditional roles. It became a best-seller. Betty Friedman is one of the founders and first president of the National Organization for Women (NOW).
Who became the first woman vice-president candidate on a major political party ticket when selected in 1984?

- Rosalind Carter
- Geraldine Ferraro
- Elizabeth Dole
Ferraro grew up in New York City and became a teacher and lawyer. She joined the Queens County District Attorney's Office in 1974, where she headed the new Special Victims Bureau that dealt with sex crimes, child abuse, and domestic violence. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, In 1984 she was the first female Vice Presidential candidate representing a major American political party.
Who was the United States delegate to the United Nations who championed and won approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948?

- Jacqueline Kennedy
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Elizabeth Truman
Eleanor Roosevelt  
1884-1962  
First Lady, Politician, Author

Who wrote the path-breaking book, "On Death and Dying" in 1969 which educated and supported helpers who provide compassionate care?

- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
- Louisa May Alcott
- Elizabeth Kunkel
Elisabeth Kübler was born in Zürich, Switzerland. She moved to the United States in 1958. She was appalled by the hospital treatment of patients in the US who were dying. She began giving a series of lectures featuring terminally ill patients, forcing medical students to confront people who were dying. In 1969 she wrote *On Death and Dying*, her theory of the five stages of grief. In 2007 she was inducted into the American National Women’s Hall of Fame.
Who introduced America to French cooking in her books and television series from 1963 through the 1990's?

- Paula Deen
- Martha Stewart
- Julia Child
Born Julia Carolyn McWilliams in Pasadena, California. She attended Smith College and majored in English. She married Paul Child and in 1948 they moved to Paris, France. There she attended cooking school and studied with private chefs. In 1961 the book *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* which she co-authored. It became a best-seller and skyrocketed her career in TV cooking show, *The French Chef*. 
What woman has won a total of 56 Grand Slam tennis competitions events and 9 Wimbledon women's singles titles?

- Serena Williams
- Chris Evert
- Martina Navratilova
Martina Navratilova
1956
Retired Czech American Tennis Pro

Navratilova was born Martina Šubertová in Prague, Czechoslovakia. In 1975 the Czech Republic stripped her Czech Citizenship stating she was becoming “too Americanized” In 1981 she became an American Citizen. Billie Jean King, former World No. 1 player, said in 2006 that Navratilova is "the greatest singles, doubles and mixed doubles player who's ever lived."
Who served as the first National President for BPW from 1919-1920

- Gail Laughlin
- Lena Forrest
- Adelia Prichard
Gail Laughlin
1868-1952
Lawyer, Suffragist, Feminist, State Legislator

Born in Robbinston, Maine, Gail vowed at an early age of twelve to commit her life to the cause of women’s emancipation. Today, her life stands as an unflinching account of her tenacious efforts to elevate women’s status in male-dominated society. She received a B.A. in 1894 from Wellesley College. In 1898, she graduated from Cornell University with her law degree. A woman of extraordinary abilities, Laughlin’s crusade for women was primarily inspired by her strong opposition against gender prejudices. In 1919 she became Pres. of the newly formed NFBPWC.
Who is the current BPW/PA president?

- Catherine Caccia
- Aleta Richmond
- Diane Lewis
Who is the current Ambassador to the United Nations?

- Susan Rice
- Janet A. Napolitano
- Kathleen Sebelius
How many women currently hold seats in the U.S Congress?

- 65
- 89
- 97
In the history of the U.S Congress how many women total to date have served in the U.S Congress

- 150
- 102
- 292
When was the first women’s rights convention held and where?

- 1800 New York, New York
- 1848 Seneca Falls, New York
- 1888 Washington, DC
Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an abolitionist and leading figure of the early woman's movement. An eloquent writer, her Declaration of Sentiments was a revolutionary call for women's rights across a variety of spectrums. Stanton was the president of the National Woman Suffrage Association for 20 years and worked closely with Susan B. Anthony. She organized the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls 1848.
How many Women in History answers did you get correct? Not sure? The answers are listed on the UPBPW website.

Thank you for attending the Women in History event.

See you again next year. Study hard.