WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
Social Activity Toolkit

#WORLDxHerStory

PRESENTED BY:

FUNDED BY:

REVOLUTION OF THE HEART:
THE DOROTHY DAY STORY
WELCOME TO WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH!

In March, WORLD CHANNEL shines a spotlight on the diverse women whose leadership, creativity, and determination have built this country alongside their male counterparts. This month, we invite audiences to reflect on the contributions of extraordinary American women, and to bring their own stories to the conversation—sourced from family, community, and the lived experience of American women who continue to drive our nation forward.

The activities in this toolkit are designed to engage and inspire in a variety of settings - in personal reflection, in the classroom, at the family dinner table, at the office, and in community gathering spaces. This Women’s History Month, WORLD invites you to watch and engage with critically important stories throughout the month of March.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF UPCOMING TITLES, REVIEW OUR PROGRAMMING GUIDE HERE.

A Short History of Women's History Month

What we now call Women’s History Month originally began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California, where the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a “Women’s History Week” celebration in 1978; the organizers chose the week of March 8, so as to coincide with International Women’s Day. The idea quickly caught fire as other communities initiated their own Women’s History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a coalition of women’s groups—led by the National Women’s History Project (now the National Women’s History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition, and in February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 a National Women’s History Week.

As the popularity of the celebration grew and women continued to assert their seat at the national table, Congress passed Public Law 100-9 in 1987, designating March as “Women’s History Month.”

Women’s History Month 2020

This year, Women’s History Month also celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution which extended the franchise to women (enacted August 26, 1920). As a result, the official theme of Women’s History Month 2020 is “Valiant Women of the Vote,” as designated by the National Women’s History Alliance. Learn more about the centennial, here.

WORLD CHANNEL is a 24/7, full-service multicast channel featuring public television’s signature nonfiction documentary, science, and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. Our mission is to inform and inspire with real stories from around the world. You can find WORLD Channel through your local PBS station and can access our programming directly on WORLDCHANNEL.ORG.
This month, WORLD Channel will present over 60 films and programs that highlight the extraordinary contributions of women from American history and the programs that tell their stories.

**Women From American History and the Programs that Tell Their Stories**

**The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber**

Wednesday, March 18

Ruth Gruber was an American journalist, photographer, writer, humanitari an, and a United States government official. She was a recipient of the Norman Mailer Prize.

**Lois Delores**

Sunday, March 1

Originally from New Mexico, Lois Delores Huerta is a labor leader and civil rights activist who, with her former husband Cesar Chavez, co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers. Huerta received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

**Leah Chase: The Queen of Creole Cuisine**

Saturday, March 7

Leah Chase, “the Queen of Creole Cuisine,” was born January 6, 1923, in New Orleans, Louisiana, of Catholic Creole parents. In 1945, she met and married musician Edgar “Dooky” Chase II, whose parents owned the Dooky Chase Restaurant. Because of Chase, the Dooky Chase Restaurant is known for its good food, antiques and original African American art.

**Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story**

Monday, March 9

Dorothy Day was an activist who worked for such social causes as pacifism and women’s suffrage through the prism of the Catholic Church. She co-founded The Catholic Worker, a newspaper promoting Catholic teachings that became very successful and spawned the Catholic Worker Movement, which tackled issues of social justice.

**It’s All in the Game: The Leta Andrews Story**

Saturday, March 14

Leta Andrews retired in 2014 as the nation’s youngest high school basketball coach. Leta won 1,416 games and led 15 teams to state tournament berths over a 52-year coaching career.

**Miriam Beerman: Expressing the Chaos**

Monday, March 16

Miriam Beerman is an American painter and printmaker. In 60+ years as a visionary artist, Miriam has overcome loss and tragedy, yet remains creative and strong. Her haunting paintings are housed at prestigious cultural institutions, including the Met and Whitney.

**Georgia O’Keeffe: A Woman on Paper**

Monday, March 16

Georgia O’Keeffe was an American artist. She was best known for her paintings of enlarged flowers, New Mexico landscapes. O’Keeffe has been recognized as the “Mother of American modernism.”

**Bringing Home the Caterpillar:**

Thursday, March 26

Susan LaFlesche Picotte was a Native American doctor and reformer in the late 19th century. She is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree.

**American Masters:**

LADIES' KNICKERS

Monday, March 30

Helen Gurley Brown was a publisher and editor who championed women’s liberation. She was the first editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan magazine and the author of the bestselling book "Sex and the Single Girl." Brown was a key figure in the women’s movement and a pioneer in the field of women’s media.

**American Masters:**

Maya Angelou

Sunday, March 29

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 was credited with bringing social justice into the prism of the Catholic Church. She co-founded The Catholic Worker, a newspaper promoting Catholic teachings that became very successful and spawned the Catholic Worker Movement, which tackled issues of social justice.

**American Masters:**

Dorothy Day

Monday, March 23

Dorothy Day was an activist who worked for such social causes as pacifism and women’s suffrage through the prism of the Catholic Church. She co-founded The Catholic Worker, a newspaper promoting Catholic teachings that became very successful and spawned the Catholic Worker Movement, which tackled issues of social justice.

**American Masters:**

Humphrey Bogart

Sunday, March 22

Humphrey Bogart was an American actor known for his rugged charm and distinctive voice. He was one of Hollywood’s leading men during the Golden Age of Hollywood and is perhaps best known for his roles in films such as "Casablanca," "High Sierra," and "The Maltese Falcon." Bogart was also known for his off-screen relationships with actress Lauren Bacall and social activist Jane Russell.

**American Masters:**

Georgia O’Keeffe

Monday, March 23

Georgia O’Keeffe was an American artist known for her paintings of New Mexican landscapes and floral subjects. She was associated with the New York School and became one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

**American Masters:**

Leah Chase

Saturday, March 7

Leah Chase was a highly respected chef and businesswoman known for her restaurant Dooky Chase and her contributions to American cuisine. She was also a civil rights activist and a prominent voice for racial equality.

**American Masters:**

Lorraine Hansberry

Monday, March 20

Lorraine Hansberry was an African American playwright and activist. She is best known for her play "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize. Hansberry was a leading figure in the civil rights movement and a strong advocate for social justice.

**American Masters:**

Joni Mitchell

Saturday, March 28

Joni Mitchell was a Canadian singer-songwriter known for her distinctive voice and poetic lyrics. She was a key figure in the folk rock movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and her music has had a lasting impact on popular culture.

**American Masters:**

Georgia O’Keeffe

Monday, March 23

Georgia O’Keeffe was an American artist known for her paintings of New Mexican landscapes and floral subjects. She was associated with the New York School and became one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

**American Masters:**

Lorraine Hansberry

Monday, March 20

Lorraine Hansberry was an African American playwright and activist. She is best known for her play "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize. Hansberry was a leading figure in the civil rights movement and a strong advocate for social justice.

**American Masters:**

Joni Mitchell

Saturday, March 28

Joni Mitchell was a Canadian singer-songwriter known for her distinctive voice and poetic lyrics. She was a key figure in the folk rock movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and her music has had a lasting impact on popular culture.

**American Masters:**

Georgia O’Keeffe

Monday, March 23

Georgia O’Keeffe was an American artist known for her paintings of New Mexican landscapes and floral subjects. She was associated with the New York School and became one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

**American Masters:**

Lorraine Hansberry

Monday, March 20

Lorraine Hansberry was an African American playwright and activist. She is best known for her play "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize. Hansberry was a leading figure in the civil rights movement and a strong advocate for social justice. Hansberry was a key figure in the black power movement and the youngest American to win a New York Critics’ Circle award.
QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

Expression Through the Arts
Many women whose accomplishments we celebrate during Women’s History Month used artistic expression to share their perspective on the world.

- From Janis Joplin and Lorraine Hansberry to Louisa May Alcott and Georgia O’Keeffe—what lessons can you learn from these artists?
- Who are other women artists or creatives that you think are similarly accomplished?
- What can you do to amplify your own talents and work to impact those around you with your creativity?

In First Place
Susan LaFlesche Picotte, the first Native American to earn a medical degree, Annie Oakley, a world famous marksman and Amelia Earhart, the first female pilot— all blazed a trail for women who came after them.

- From your perspective, in which male dominated careers have women made the most headway?
- What fields or jobs still struggle the most with female representation?
- How do you reconcile the progress that has been made with the fact that the United States, France, China, Mexico and Japan are all countries that have never had a female head of state?

Charting Your Own Course
From poets to pilots, coaches to community activists, in honor of Women’s History month, we celebrate great women who have charted their own course and lived outside of the narrow ‘acceptable’ roles for women. Reflect on a woman highlighted in this month’s film collection or in your own life who has blazed her own trail (maybe it’s you!). How did her decisions impact her life and the lives of others?

- What challenges did she face?
- What successes did she celebrate?
- What is the greatest lesson you take from her life?

Activism
Dolores Huerta, Dorothy Day, Ruth Gruber, Maya Angelou- women from different eras and diverse backgrounds, united by the common bond of activism. Take a few minutes to explore how each woman fought for and impacted her community in a positive way.

- What common threads can you identify across their experiences?
- What unique talents did they each bring to their work?
- Why have women been so often at the helm of social progress and innovation?

Honoring Legacy
Women’s History Month gives us the opportunity to reflect upon amazing women in history and our lives, honoring their legacy and accomplishments.

- What are you most proud of accomplishing in your own life?
- When you look back on your life, what do you hope your legacy will be?

Share your thoughts on social media, Use the hashtag #WORLDxHerStory to join the conversation:
ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION AND SHARING

Interactive Map of the USA
States where featured women (p.3) originate are highlighted in red and linked to the website with the women’s biography. When two women are from the same state click the state for one and the state abbreviation on the right side of the map for the other.

Your Women’s History Month
Everyone has a connection to someone who has done something extraordinary. Consider your family, community, and the people you work with, and share a brief story about a woman in your life who has made a significant contribution to your community, our country, or to the world. Include a photo and a brief statement about what they did to earn your admiration. Use the hashtag #WORLDxHerStory to join the conversation and enjoy the stories submitted by others.

LINKS AND RESOURCES FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

WOMENSHISTORYMONTH.GOV
NATIONALWOMENSHISTORYALLIANCE.ORG/2020-THEME
INTERNATIONALWOMENSDAY.COM
KIDSKONNECT.COM/HISTORY/WOMENS-HISTORY-MONTH
NEA.ORG/TOOLS/LESSONS/WOMENS-HISTORY-MONTH.HTML
THECURRENT.ORG/FEATURE/2020/02/12/SELECT-FEATURED-ARTISTS-WOMENS-HISTORY-MONTH-2020
2020CENTENNIAL.ORG