

# Women's History Month: A Resource Guide

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commonfund

## Table of Contents

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### IF YOU WANT TO:

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Listen and learn	1
Watch and enjoy	2
Understand and connect	5
Read and explore	5
Investigate and absorb	6
Connect and contextualize	6

## Author

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## About Commonfund

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Commonfund was founded in 1971 as an independent asset management firm with a grant from the Ford Foundation. Together with or through its affiliates, Commonfund today manages customized investment programs for endowments, foundations and public pension funds. Among the pioneers in applying the endowment model of investing to institutional portfolios, we provide extensive investment flexibility using independent investment sub-advisers for discretionary and non-discretionary outsourcing engagements. Investment programs incorporate active and passive strategies in equities and fixed income, hedge funds, real assets and private capital. All securities are distributed through Commonfund Securities, Inc., a member of FINRA. For additional information about Commonfund, please visit [www.commonfund.org](http://www.commonfund.org).

# Celebrating Women's History Month: A Resource Guide

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## About Women's History Month

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of Persons Day on October 18.

The commemoration began in 1978 as "Women's History Day in Sonoma County, California, and was championed by Gerda Lerner and the National Women's History Alliance to be recognized as a national week (1981) and then month (1987) in the United States, spreading internationally after that.

To continue learning more, click [here](#).

## About This Resource Guide

Commonfund, in conjunction with our Women's History Month subcommittee, created a resource guide to help all of us celebrate the contributions of Women in all aspects of life. The [National Women's History Alliance](#) designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2022 theme is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." This theme is "both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a

recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history." In this guide we list a variety of different sources, some historical, some humorous, some entertaining, some inspirational and some infuriating, but with the hope of bringing light to some of the stories, accomplishments and contributions made by women to our society and the world at large.

## If you want to listen and learn:

### Podcasts

- [What'sHerName](#)

What'sHerName women's history podcast is hosted and produced by academic sisters Dr. Katie Nelson and Olivia Meikle. Committed to reclaiming forgotten history, What'sHerName tells the stories of fascinating women you've never heard of (but should have). Through compelling interviews with guest historians, writers, and scholars, Olivia and Katie bring to life the "lost" women of history. Fascinating and funny, thought-provoking and thoughtful, What'sHerName restores women's voices to the conversation.

- [Encyclopedia Womanica](#)

Thinking back to our history classes growing up, we had one question: Where the ladies at? Enter, Womanica. In just 5 minutes a day, learn about different incredible women throughout history. On Wonder Media Network's award-winning podcast, they tell the stories of women you may or may not know — but definitely should.

- [The History Chicks](#)

This isn't History 101 and there is no test. The goal is to introduce you to female characters in history, factual or fictional via podcast and show notes. An introduction, an overview and a little push to explore and learn more on your own. The show notes will give you a short look at the life of the person being discussed - basic facts and links to other sources to learn more. The podcast episodes will go into greater detail as they chat about the challenges, failures and successes, times, and all the juicy bits that they find interesting about the life of women. Sometimes, as opportunities present themselves, we will add Special Features here on our website that relate to the person that we are spotlighting.

- [Notorious Women](#)

"A comedy podcast about history's most notorious women." The hosts will take you back in time to learn about people like Norma McCorvey (the Jane Roe in *Roe v. Wade*), and sometimes even weave in current topics like coronavirus or commentary on the Oscar-winning film *Parasite*.

- [Queens Podcast](#)

If you want to learn about all the powerful women of history, Queens Podcast is the route you need to go down. The show focuses on "female rulers throughout history who handled their business and slayed." You'll learn about women like Nefertiti, Marie Laveau, and Empress Wu.
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- [Wonder Women](#)

Carrie Hope Fletcher and Celinde Schoenmaker believe there is a Wonder Woman in all of us. So grab a coffee and join them as they dive into topics such as female friendships, women that time forgot, love and sex and we hope we leave you feeling a little bit more wonderful than before.

- [HERstory](#)

An exploration of wonderful women in history.

- [The Profess-Hers Podcast](#)

Topics include Movies, TV, History, Culture, Music, Books: What they say about women and what women say about them. Written and hosted by two college professors.

- [Deviant Women](#)

The hosts of Deviant Women discuss a different 'deviant' woman from history, fiction, mythology and the contemporary world: those who aren't afraid to break the rules, to subvert the system, to explore, to seek and to challenge the status quo.

- [The Door History](#)

The goal of this podcast is to "even things out just a little bit" by highlighting important women's history stories in a world that focuses on men. The podcast travels back centuries in time to discuss the different women who set the cogs in motion for today's contemporary idea of feminism. You may not have heard of the podcast's subjects before, but you'll definitely recognize them and their achievements.

## If you want to watch and enjoy:

### Documentaries

Documentaries allow us to re-live historic moments and provide insight into our culture and society.

- *Advocate (2020)*

Lea Tsemel, a controversial figure in her native Israel, works as a human-rights attorney specializing in defending the underserved Palestinian community in Israel. The film focuses on the case of a teenage Palestinian boy on trial in Jerusalem and draws inspection on what it means to be an advocate.

Where to Watch: Film Movement Plus

- *American Master: How it Feels to Be Free (2021)*

Lena Horne, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson, Pam Grier – each a formattable trailblazer in her own right but their combined story illustrates what it takes to challenge an industry deeply steeped in gender and racial prejudice. This documentary focuses on their heartening journey through entertainment industry.

Where to Watch: PBS.org

- *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am (2019)*

This documentary investigates the trials and tribulations of the unflappable and defiant Noble Prize winner Toni Morrison. Toni and guests delve into the roles of author, professor, editor, mother, and wife and illustrate the greatness of the composition in the face of racial and gender inequality.

Where to Watch: Hulu

- *Margaret Atwood: A Word After A Word After A Word Is Power (2021)*

In this documentary, Author Margaret Atwood and guests discuss her work and life, from the early days in the sleepy Canadian wilderness to become an ever-resonant popular icon, as

she finishes the final chapters of the sequel to the Handmaid's Tale.

Where to Watch: Hulu, Amazon Prime

- *Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché (2018)*

Lost to history, the tale of Alice Guy-Blaché is explored in this investigative documentary. Inspired by Lumières's Cinématographe, Alice, a young French immigrant, dedicates her life to film and film production and along the way becomes a pioneer in the nascent American film industry before being shut out.

Where to Watch: Curiosity Stream, Hulu, Kanopy, Sling TV

- *Saudi Women's Driving School (2019)*

*"Without freedom, you cannot feel like you are a human being.... You feel like a thing. You are not a person."*

Until 2018, it was illegal for a woman to drive in Saudi Arabia. This documentary shows how a small allowance has affected Saudi culture, its patriarchal institutions, and draws into question on the roles gender should play in the greater society

Where to Watch: HBO, Netflix

- *Jane Goodall: The Hope*

Following in footsteps of the award-winning 2017 documentary Jane, this film examines Jane Goodall's activism and advocacy for animal rights and environment preservation around the world.

Where to Watch: National Geographic, Nat Geo Wild, Disney+, Hulu

- *Young Lakota (2013)*

The film centers on lives of three young Lakota as their tribe, the Oglala Sioux, finds

itself in the middle of a political firestorm. Confronted by high rape statistics and poor healthcare access, Cecilia Fire Thunder, the leader and the first female President of the Oglala Sioux tribe, forges a path in defiance of a proposed South Dakota law criminalizing all abortions. The documentary explores the interplay between political, cultural, and economic conditions as the young Lakota choose paths that will define their lives and impact their tribe.

Where to Watch: Kanopy

- *He Named Me Malala (2015)*

At the age of 15, Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban for daring to challenge the strictures on female education. This documentary follows Malala as she emerges to become a global activist for women's education and a symbol for courage with the support of her father.

Where to Watch: Amazon, GooglePlay, Vudu, and iTunes

## Movies

Movies, unlike documentaries, allow for more creative interpretation and allow filmmakers to bring different elements to life through storytelling.

- *Erin Brockovich (2000)*

An unemployed single mother becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply.

- *League of Their Own (1992)*

Two sisters join the first female professional baseball league and struggle to help it succeed amidst their own growing rivalry.

- *Battle of Sexes (2017)*

The true story of the 1973 tennis match between World number one Billie Jean King and ex-champ and serial hustler Bobby Riggs.

- *North Country (2005)*

A fictionalized account of the first major successful sexual harassment case in the United States, Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines, where a woman who endured a range of abuse while working as a miner filed and won the landmark 1984 lawsuit.

- *The Post (2017)*

A cover-up spanning four U.S. Presidents pushes the country's first female newspaper publisher and her editor to join an unprecedented battle between press and government

- *Miracle Worker (1962)*

The story of Anne Sullivan's struggle to teach the blind and deaf Helen Keller how to communicate.

- *Elizabeth (1998)*

The early years of the reign of Elizabeth I of England and her difficult task of learning what is necessary to be a monarch.

- *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (2020)*

Tensions rise when trailblazing blues singer Ma Rainey and her band gather at a recording studio in Chicago in 1927.

- *Radium Girls (2018)*

In the 1920s a group of factory workers advocate for safer work conditions after some of their colleagues become ill from radium exposure.

- *Evita (1996)*

The hit musical based on the life of Eva Perón (Evita Duarte), a B-picture Argentinian actress who eventually became the wife of Argentinian president Juan Domingo Perón, and the most beloved and hated woman in Argentina.

## If you want to understand and connect:

### Women in Finance

- [5 Historical Women in Money & Banking](#)
- [Women and Money: From 1865 to Today and Beyond](#)

## If you want to read and explore:

We have compiled a list of articles, websites, and resources about Women (especially women investors)

### Articles:

- [25 Famous Badass Women in History](#)
- [Have you heard of these 20 women who changed the world?](#)
- [The 25 Most Powerful Women in Politics](#)
- [Women in Leadership, Breaking Unwritten Rules is Part of the Process](#)
- [10 Great Warrior Women of the Ancient World](#)

### Relating to women in finance

- [Who's the Better Investor: Men or Women?](#)
- [Why Women Are Better Investors](#)
- [Why We Need Girls Who Invest](#)
- [A Summary of 20 Years of Research and Statistics on Women in Investing](#)

- [Research: Women Ask for Raises as Often as Men, but Are Less Likely to Get Them](#)
  - [Why women are better at making investment decisions](#)
  - [CFP Professional Demographics](#)
  - [Fidelity Investments Survey Reveals Only Nine Percent of Women Think They Make Better Investors than Men, Despite Growing Evidence to the Contrary](#)
  - [Mind the Gap: Women, Men, and Investment Knowledge](#)
  - [The Secrets of Women Investors](#)
  - [77% of investors made money in 2016 -- and women beat men again](#)
  - [Women & Financial Wellness: Beyond the Bottom Line](#)
  - [Women 80% More Likely to Be Impoverished in Retirement](#)
  - [Majority of Millennial Women Have Money to Invest, But Fear Holds Them Back](#)
  - [Women-managed funds are outperforming as tech exposure pays off, Goldman finds](#)
  - [The Financial Future is Female](#)
  - [Earnings Peak at Different Ages for Different Demographic Groups](#)
  - [The State of the Gender Pay Gap 2020](#)
  - [Women and Wealth: Fact Sheet](#)
  - [How America Saves](#)
- Educational, Cultural & Historic Virtual Resources and Websites:
- [Viewfinder: Women's Film and Video](#)  
Film and Video Series (Throughout 2021)

- [Virtual Women Filmmakers Festival: Lessons from Environmental Histories with Cecilia Vicuña](#)  
Virtual Film Festival (March 3)
- [Female Genius: Eliza Harriot and George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution](#)  
National Archives Museum (March 8)
- [Searching for Suffrage at the Library of Congress: Kimberly Hamilin](#)  
Book Talk (March 9)
- [Rediscovering Eleanor Roosevelt](#)  
Book Talk (March 18)
- [National Archives Comes Alive! Young Learners Program Meet Alice Paul](#)  
Historical Reenactor (March 18)
- [Working-Class Women, Race, and the U.S. Suffrage Movement](#)  
National Archives Museum (March 18)

## If you want to investigate and absorb:

### Books and other materials to read

- [Boys Will Be Boys: Gender, Overconfidence, and Common Stock Investment](#), by Barber, Brad M. and Terrance Odean
- [My Beloved World](#) by Sonia Sotomayo
- [Finding My Voice](#) by Valerie Jarrett
- [No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference](#) by Greta Thunberg
- [The Moment of Lift](#) by Melinda Gates
- [Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama
- [Bossypants](#) by Tina Fey
- [Little Women](#) by Luisa May Alcott

- [Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Bronte
- [The Source of Self Regard](#) by Toni Morrison
- [We are Not Born Submissive](#) by Manon Garcia
- [Women Don't Ask](#) by Linda Babcock and Sara Laschever
- [My Own Words](#) by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

## If you want to talk to connect and contextualize:

- [The National Museum of Women in the Arts](#)

The National Museum of Women in the Arts was incorporated in November 1981 as a private, nonprofit museum. During its first five years, NMWA operated from the Holladay residence, which hosted a temporary office and docent-led tours of the collection. In 1983, the museum purchased its building at 1250 New York Avenue, NW—a 78,810-square-foot Washington landmark near the White House that was constructed in 1908 as a Masonic Temple. It was refurbished in accordance with the highest design, museum, and security standards, and won numerous architectural awards.

In April 1987, NMWA opened the doors of our permanent location with the inaugural exhibition American Women Artists, 1830–1930, a survey curated by one of the country's foremost feminist art historians, Dr. Eleanor Tufts.

Beginning in 2021, the museum will begin its first full renovation since 1987, adding 3,000 square feet of gallery space, a new Learning Commons, and enhanced visitor accessibility.



- [She Should Run](#)

The She Should Run Community is an online meeting place for women who are considering a future run for office. Within the Community, you can find tools and resources, including The Incubator, video content, a virtual member directory, and more.

- [Girls on the Run](#)

Girls on the Run® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. You can partner with them on initiatives, connect with them locally, as well as support their initiatives.

For additional resources, please visit the [Commonfund](#) website to download our [Diversity and Inclusion: Ways to Make a Change](#) resource guide.