

Agatha Christie – Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie (Sep 15, 1890 – Jan 12, 1976), was an English crime novelist, short story writer, and playwright. She is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around her fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, a murder mystery, *The Mousetrap*, and six romances under the name Mary Westmacott. In 1971 she was elevated to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for her contribution to literature. *Guinness World Records* lists Christie as the best-selling novelist of all time. In 1955, Christie was the first recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's highest honor, the Grand Master Award.



Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born in 1890 in South West England. Agatha, as the only child at home taught herself to read by the age of five. Her father died after a series of heart attacks, when Agatha was eleven. By age of 18 she was amusing herself with writing short stories. In 1912 Agatha met Archie Christie, an aviator. Their courtship was a whirlwind affair; both were desperate to marry but with no money. It was the “excitement of the stranger” that attracted them both. They married on Christmas Eve 1914.

During the First World War Agatha turned to writing detective stories. Her debut novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was published in 1920 and introduced the detective Hercule Poirot, who became a long-running character in many of Christie's works, appearing in 33 novels and 54 short stories. So where did the inspiration for Hercule Poirot come from? During the First World War there were Belgian refugees in most parts of the English countryside including in Torquay. Although he was not based on any particular person, Agatha thought that a Belgian refugee, a former great Belgian policeman, would make an excellent detective for *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. Hercule Poirot was born. Following the war Agatha continued to write – experimenting with different types of thriller and murder mystery stories, creating first Tommy and Tuppence and then Miss Marple in quick succession. Miss Jane Marple, introduced in the short-story collection *The Thirteen Problems* in 1927, was based on Christie's grandmother and her "Ealing cronies".

In 1925 after returning from a Grand Tour of the British Empire begun in 1922, the family was reunited and settled in the suburbs outside London. It was a difficult time for Agatha – her mother had died and she was often alone clearing out the family home in Torquay and struggling to write the next novel. Archie and Agatha's relationship, strained by the sadness in her life, broke down when Archie fell in love with a fellow golfer and friend of the family. One night in early December, overwhelmed and with close friend and secretary Carlo away for the night, Agatha left their daughter Rosalind and the house to the care of the maids without saying where she was going. Her car was found abandoned the next morning several miles away. A nationwide search ensued. It eventually transpired that Agatha had somehow travelled to Kings Cross station where she took the train to Harrogate and checked into the Harrogate Spa Hotel under the name of Theresa Neale. Having been recognized by the hotel staff, who alerted the police, she did not recognize Archie when he came to meet her. Possibly concussed but certainly suffering from amnesia, Agatha had no recollection of who she was. An intensely private person, made even more so by the hue and cry of the press, Agatha never spoke of this time with friends or family. Archie & Agatha eventually divorced in 1928. Late in 1928 Agatha wrote her first Mary Westmacott novel, *Giant's Bread*, not a detective novel but a work of fiction about a composer forced to work for financial reasons.

One of Agatha's life-long ambitions had been to travel on the Orient Express, and her first journey took place in the autumn of 1928. Persuaded by a dinner party conversation, Agatha set off for Baghdad and from there travelled to the archaeological site at Ur where she became friends with the Woolleys who ran the dig. Next year she met the twenty-five year old an archaeologist-in-training (25 yrs old) Max Mallowan and they married. The atmosphere of the Middle East influenced her, as can be seen in books such as *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Death on the Nile*, *Murder in Mesopotamia*, *Appointment With Death* and *They Came to Baghdad*, as well as many of her short stories.

At the end of 1946, Agatha's cover as Mary Westmacott was blown by an American reviewer of *Absent in the Spring*. She was disappointed as she had enjoyed the freedom to write without the pressure of being Agatha Christie. The 1940s and 50s saw much time-consuming work with theatrical productions which also limited the time Agatha could devote to writing. Agatha's last public appearance was at the opening night of the 1974 film version of *Murder on the Orient Express* starring Albert Finney as Hercule Poirot. Her verdict: a good adaptation with the minor point that Poirot's moustaches weren't luxurious enough.

Bella Abzug (Jul 24, 1920 – Mar 31, 1998) was a leading liberal activist and politician in the 1960s and 1970s, especially known for her work for women's rights.

The daughter of Russian immigrants, Abzug grew up in the Bronx, New York, where her father ran a butcher shop. Even in her youth, she was competitive and would beat everyone, including the boys in all sorts of competitions. When her father died, Abzug, then 13, was told that her orthodox synagogue did not permit women to say the (mourners') Kaddish, since that rite was reserved for sons of the deceased. However, because her father had no sons, she went to the synagogue every morning for a year to recite the prayer, defying the tradition of her orthodox congregation.

She decided at an early age that she wanted to be a lawyer. At Hunter College, Abzug demonstrated her natural leadership abilities as the president of the student council there. She went on to earn her law degree from Columbia University in 1947. Abzug had applied to the Harvard Law School, but she was rejected because of her gender.



After graduating from Columbia University's law school, Bella Abzug worked as a lawyer for a number of years. She started in labor law and then moved on to tackling civil rights cases. She appealed the case of Willie McGee, a black man convicted in 1945 of raping a white woman in Mississippi and sentenced to death by an all-white jury who deliberated for only two-and-a-half minutes. Abzug lost the appeal and the man was executed. She also defended many people who had been accused of communist activities by Senator Joseph McCarthy. In the 1960s, she became involved in the antinuclear and peace movements. Abzug helped organize the Women Strike for Peace in 1961. To promote women's issues and to lobby for reform, she helped establish the National Women's Political Caucus with Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, and to have a greater impact on the political process, she served in the House of Representatives from 1971 to 1977.

To have a greater impact on the political process, Bella Abzug ran for Congress in 1970, winning a seat in the House of Representatives. She took office in 1971, and made a bold move on her first day in Congress. Abzug introduced a bill to remove all U.S. troops from Vietnam. While the measure didn't pass, the bill was just the first of many efforts by Abzug to advance the causes she believed in.

Abzug became famous for and oftentimes criticized for her outspokenness on the issues. She fought tirelessly for women's rights and for civil rights in general. She was one of the first members of Congress to support gay rights, introducing the first federal gay rights bill, known as the Equality Act of 1974, with fellow Democratic New York City Representative, Ed Koch. She chaired historic hearings on government secrecy and was chair of Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights. She was voted by her colleagues the third most influential member of the House as reported in *U.S. News & World Report*. Often recognized by her vibrant hats, Bella reminded all who admired them: "It's what's under the hat that counts!"

In 1976, Abzug ran for the U.S. Senate but was defeated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, losing by a margin of only 1%. After leaving the House in 1977, Abzug made a bid for mayor of New York City, but lost to Ed Koch in the primaries. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to co-chair the National Advisory Committee for Women in 1978.

She tried again for public office in 1986, running for a seat in the House of Representatives for New York's Westchester County, but she lost out to her Republican opponent. While public office eluded her, she continued to work on many causes in the 1980s and 1990s. Abzug also established the Women's Environmental Development Organization (WEDO). As WEDO president, she became an influential leader at the United Nations and at UN world conferences, working to empower women around the globe. Among its early successes was the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet held in Miami in 1991, where 1,500 women from 83 countries produced the Women's Action Agenda 21. Extending its perspective into the next century, this is a blueprint for incorporating women's concerns into development and environmental decision-making at all levels.

In 1994 she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, traveled to China in 1995 for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, and was honored, on March 6, 1997, at the United Nations as a leading female environmentalist. The following year, *Ms. Magazine* named her a role model.

Betty Friedan (February 4, 1921 – February 4, 2006) was a writer, feminist and women's rights activist who wrote *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) and co-founded the National Organization for Women.

A leading figure in the women's movement in the United States, her 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique*, throughout which Friedan encouraged women to seek new opportunities for themselves. The book quickly became a sensation, creating a social revolution by dispelling the myth that all women wanted to be happy homemakers, and marking the start of what would become Friedan's incredibly significant role in the women's rights movement and is often credited with sparking the second wave of American feminism in the 20th century.

Friedan did more than write about confining gender stereotypes – she became a force for change. Pushing for women to have a greater role in the political process, she co-founded the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966, subsequently serving as its first president. She also fought for abortion rights by establishing the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (now known as NARAL Pro-Choice America) in 1969. Additionally, with other leading feminists such as Gloria Steinem and Bella Abzug, Friedan helped create the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971.

In 1970, after stepping down as NOW's first president, Friedan organized the nationwide Women's Strike for Equality on August 26, the 50th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution granting women the right to vote. The national strike was successful beyond expectations in broadening the feminist movement; the march led by Friedan in New York City alone attracted over 50,000 people. In 1971, Friedan joined other leading feminists to establish the National Women's Political Caucus.

Friedan was also a strong supporter of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that passed the United States House of Representatives (by a vote of 354 - 24) and Senate (84 - 8) following intense pressure by women's groups led by NOW in the early 1970s. Following Congressional passage of the amendment, Friedan advocated for ratification of the amendment in the states and supported other women's rights reforms: she founded the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws but was later critical of the abortion-centered positions of many liberal feminists. Regarded as an influential author and intellectual in the United States, Friedan remained active in politics and advocacy for the rest of her life, authoring six books. As early as the 1960s Friedan was critical of polarized and extreme factions of feminism that attacked groups such as men and homemakers. One of her later books, *The Second Stage* (1981), critiqued what Friedan saw as the extremist excesses of some feminists.

She married Carl Friedan (né Friedman), a theater producer, in 1947 while working at UE News. She continued to work after marriage, first as a paid employee and, after 1952, as a freelance journalist. The couple divorced in May 1969, and Carl died in December 2005. Friedan stated in her memoir *Life So Far* that Carl had beaten her during their marriage; friends recalled having to cover up black eyes from Carl's abuse in time for press conferences. But Carl denied abusing her in an interview with *Time* magazine shortly after the book was published, describing the claim as a "complete fabrication". She later said, on *Good Morning America*, "I almost wish I hadn't even written about it, because it's been sensationalized out of context. My husband was not a wife-beater, and I was no passive victim of a wife-beater. We fought a lot, and he was bigger than me."



Dolores Huerta (born in New Mexico, April 10, 1930) is an American labor leader and civil rights activist who was the co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers' Union (UFW). Huerta helped organize the Delano grape strike in 1965 in California and was the lead negotiator in the workers' contract that was created after the strike.



Her parents divorced when Huerta was three years old, and her mother moved to Stockton, California with her children. Huerta's grandfather helped raise Huerta and her two brothers while her mother juggled jobs as a waitress and cannery worker until she could buy a small hotel and restaurant. Her mother's community activism and compassionate treatment of workers greatly influenced her daughter.

Discrimination also helped shape Huerta. A schoolteacher, prejudiced against Hispanics, accused Huerta of cheating because her papers were too well-written. In 1945 at the end of World War II, white men brutally beat her brother for wearing a Zoot-Suit, a popular Latino fashion. In 1955 Huerta began her career as an activist when she co-founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO) which led voter registration drives and fought for economic improvements for Hispanics. She also founded the Agricultural Workers Association. Huerta met activist César Chávez, with whom she shared an interest in organizing farm workers. In 1962, they founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), the predecessor of the United Farm Workers' Union (UFW), which formed three years later. Huerta served as UFW vice president until 1999.

Despite ethnic and gender bias, Huerta helped organize the 1965 Delano strike of 5,000 grape workers and was the lead negotiator in the workers' contract that followed. Throughout her work with the UFW, Huerta organized workers, negotiated contracts, advocated for safer working conditions including the elimination of harmful pesticides. She also fought for unemployment and healthcare benefits for agricultural workers. Huerta was the driving force behind the nationwide table grape boycotts in the late 1960s that led to a successful union contract by 1970.

On June 5, 1968, Huerta stood beside Robert Kennedy on a speaker's platform at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles as he delivered a victory statement to his political supporters shortly after winning the California Democratic presidential primary election. Only moments after he finished his speech, Kennedy was wounded by gunfire inside the hotel's kitchen pantry. Huerta had walked with him several minutes before. Kennedy died the next day.

In September 1988, Huerta was severely beaten by San Francisco Police officers during a peaceful and lawful protest of the policies/platform of then-candidate for President George H.W. Bush. The beating was caught on videotape and broadcast widely on local television news. Later, Dolores won a large judgment against the SFPD and the City of San Francisco for the attack, the proceeds of which she used for the benefit of farm workers. As a result of this assault and the suit, the SFPD was pressured to change its crowd control policies and its process of officer discipline.

Huerta took a leave of absence from the union to focus on women's rights. She traversed the country for two years on behalf of the Feminist Majority's Feminization of Power: 50/50 by the year 2000 Campaign encouraging Latinas to run for office. The campaign resulted in a significant increase in the number of women representatives elected at the local, state and federal levels. She also served as National Chair of the 21st Century Party, founded in 1992 on the principles that women make up 52% of the party's candidates and that officers must reflect the ethnic diversity of the nation.

In 1973, Huerta led another consumer boycott of grapes that resulted in the ground-breaking California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which allowed farm workers to form unions and bargain for better wages and conditions. Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Huerta worked as a lobbyist to improve workers' legislative representation. During the 1990s and 2000s, she worked to elect more Latinos and women to political office and has championed women's issues.

Dolores was inducted in the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, the first Latina inductee. She was named 1 of the 3 most important women of the year in 1997 by *Ms.* magazine. She was an inaugural recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights from Bill Clinton in 1998. *Ladies' Home Journal* recognized her as one of the '100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century', along with Mother Teresa, Margaret Thatcher, Rosa Parks, and Indira Gandhi.

Huerta is president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which she founded in 2002. It is a charitable community benefit organization that organizes at the grassroots level, engaging and developing natural leaders. DHF creates leadership opportunities for community organizing, leadership development, civic engagement, and policy advocacy in the following priority areas: health & environment, education & youth development, and economic development.

Dolores is the recipient of many honors including the Presidential Medal of Freedom (in 2012). As of 2015, she was a board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation, the Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, and the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (November 12, 1815 – October 26, 1902) was an American suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the Seneca Falls Convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is often credited with initiating the first organized women's rights and women's suffrage movements in the United States. Stanton was president of the National Woman Suffrage Association from 1892 until 1900.



In 1840 Elizabeth Cady Stanton married a reformer Henry Stanton (co-founder of the Republican Party). The word "obey" was omitted from the marriage oath, and for their honeymoon went to London to attend the World's Antislavery Convention. There Cady Stanton met Lucretia Mott, the leading American female abolitionist, and began to study the Anglo-American traditions of women's rights.

In 1848, with the help of Mott, she organized the world's first women's rights convention. Despite Mott's reluctance, she insisted on including the right to woman suffrage in its resolutions. In 1851, Cady Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, with whom she formed a lifelong partnership based on their common dedication to women's emancipation. Three years later, she addressed the New York legislature on an omnibus women's rights bill. In 1860, most of the legal reforms she sought in women's status, with the notable exception of enfranchisement, were secured.

In 1868 at the Women's Suffrage Convention in Washington, D.C., Elizabeth Cady Stanton, at age 52, gave a powerful speech which begins as such: "I urge a sixteenth amendment, because 'manhood suffrage,' or a man's government, is civil, religious, and social disorganization. The male element is a destructive force, stern, selfish, aggrandizing, loving war, violence, conquest, acquisition, breeding in the material and moral world alike discord, disorder, disease, and death. See what a record of blood and cruelty the pages of history reveal! Through what slavery, slaughter, and sacrifice, through what inquisitions and imprisonments, pains and persecutions, black codes and gloomy creeds, the soul of humanity has struggled for the centuries, while mercy has veiled her face and all hearts have been dead alike to love and hope!"

The speech ends as such "With violence and disturbance in the natural world, we see a constant effort to maintain an equilibrium of forces. Nature, like a loving mother, is ever trying to keep land and sea, mountain and valley, each in its place, to hush the angry winds and waves, balance the extremes of heat and cold, of rain and drought, that peace, harmony, and beauty may reign supreme. There is a striking analogy between matter and mind, and the present disorganization of society warns us that in the dethronement of woman we have let loose the elements of violence and ruin that she only has the power to curb. If the civilization of the age calls for an extension of the suffrage, surely a government of the most virtuous educated men and women would better represent the whole and protect the interests of all than could the representation of either sex alone."

Cady Stanton also diverged from the mainstream women's movement over religion. Her deep dislike of organized religion grew out of a traumatic youthful conversion experience. In the 1880s, she visited England, where she was influenced by freethinkers and biblical critics. Back in the United States, she learned that Christian political activists were attempting to close public institutions on the Sabbath, undo divorce law liberalization, and even establish Christianity as the state religion. Determined to oppose them, she found herself on a collision course with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, a new generation of suffrage leaders, and even Anthony. In 1898 she published *The Woman's Bible*, a scholarly but irreverent feminist commentary, for which the National American Woman Suffrage Association censured her. Although embittered, she continued her independent course on behalf of women's emancipation until her death.

Eva Perón (May 7, 1919 – July 26, 1952) was the first lady of Argentina and used her position to fight for women's suffrage and improving the lives of the poor.

María Eva Duarte was born in Los Toldos, Argentina. She grew up poor, dreaming of becoming an actress. Perón and her sister, Erminda, often made up little performances together in their youth. Her mother, Juana Ibaguren, had four children with her father, Juan Duarte. While the couple never married, Juana used the last name Duarte for herself and the children. Juan Duarte also had a legitimate wife and family. When he died in a car accident in 1926, his wife shunned Perón and her family at the funeral and were asked to leave the church.



After moving to Buenos Aires in the 1930s, she had some success as an actress. Perón was about 20 years old when she started her own entertainment business, the Company of the Theater of the Air, which produced radio programs. In 1943, she enjoyed one of her greatest successes: she signed a five-year contract with *Radio Belgrano*, which assured her a role in a popular historical-drama program called *Great Women of History*, in which she played Elizabeth I of England, Sarah Bernhardt, and the last Tsarina of Russia. Eventually, Eva Duarte came to co-own the radio company. Eva began her career in politics, as one of the founders of the Argentine Radio Syndicate (ARA).

In 1944, at a fundraiser to raise money to aid the victims of an earthquake, Eva Duarte met Colonel Juan Perón for the first time. He was 48 and she was 24. She promptly became the colonel's mistress. Eva referred to the day she met her future husband as her "marvelous day". Eva had no knowledge of or interest in politics prior to meeting Perón, therefore, she never argued with him or any of his inner circle, but merely absorbed what she heard.

In May 1944, it was announced that broadcast performers must organize themselves into a union, and that this union would be the only one permitted to operate in Argentina. Shortly after the union formed, Eva Duarte was elected its president. She began a daily program called *Toward a Better Future*, which dramatized in soap opera form the accomplishments of Juan Perón. Often, Perón's own speeches were played during the program. When she spoke, Eva spoke in ordinary language as a regular woman who wanted listeners to believe what she herself believed about Juan Perón.

In October 1945 Juan Perón was arrested by his opponents within the government who feared that due to the strong support of the workers and the poor of the nation, Perón's popularity might eclipse that of the sitting president. Six days later, between 250,000 and 350,000 people gathered in front of Argentina's government house to demand Perón's release, and their wish was granted. Despite Eva's childhood illegitimacy, and having an uncertain reputation, Perón was in love with Eva, and her loyal devotion to him even while he had been under arrest touched him deeply, and so he married her, providing a respectability she had never known. Eva and Juan were married discreetly in a civil ceremony in October and in a church wedding in December.

Eva Perón used her position as first lady to fight for women's suffrage and improving the lives of the poor, and became a legendary figure in Argentine politics. She also unofficially ran the ministries of health and labor in her husband's government. Eva became a legendary figure in Argentine politics. A skilled speaker, she was adored by the poor citizens she worked hard to help. It was during this phase of her life that she first encouraged the Argentine population to refer to her not as "Eva Perón" but simply as "Evita", which is a Spanish nickname roughly equivalent to "Little Eva" or "Evie."

The Eva Perón Foundation was created in July 1948. Its funding began with 10,000 pesos provided by Evita herself. The foundation began as the simplest response to the poverty (Evita) encountered each day in her office and the appalling backwardness of social services – or charity, as it was still called – in Argentina. On April 9, 1951, Golda Meir, then Labor Minister of Israel, met with Eva Perón to thank her for the aid the Eva Perón Foundation had given to Israel.

Perón made her last public appearance in June 1952, at her husband's second inauguration. The following month, she succumbed to her illness: Perón died at the age of 33. She was given a funeral fit for a head of state, showing how much public support she had from the Argentine people at the time.

Gloria Steinem (born March 25, 1934) is an American feminist, journalist, and social political activist who became nationally recognized as a leader and a spokeswoman for the American feminist movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

After finishing her degree in 1956, Steinem received a fellowship to study in India. She first worked for Independent Research Service and then established a career for herself as a freelance writer. One of her most famous articles from the time was a 1963 expose on New York City's Playboy Club for *Show* magazine. Steinem went undercover for the piece, working as a waitress, or a scantily clad "bunny", at the club. In the late 1960s, she helped create *New York Magazine*, and wrote a column on politics for the publication. Steinem became more engaged in the women's movement after covering an abortion speak-out which was held in a church basement in Greenwich, New York (Steinem had had an abortion herself in London at the age of 22). She published an article, "After Black Power, Women's Liberation", which brought her to national fame as a feminist leader.



In 1971 Steinem joined other prominent feminists, such as Bella Abzug and Betty Friedan, in forming the National Women's Political Caucus, which worked on behalf of women's issues. She also took the lead in launching the pioneering, feminist *Ms* magazine. It began as an insert in *New York* magazine in December 1971; its first independent issue appeared in January 1972. Under her direction, the magazine tackled important topics, including domestic violence. *Ms*. became the first national publication to feature the subject on its cover in 1976.

As her public profile continued to rise, Gloria Steinem faced criticism from some feminists, including the Redstockings, for her association with the CIA-backed Independent Research Service. Others questioned her commitment to the feminist movement because of her glamorous image. Undeterred, Steinem continued on her own way, speaking out, lecturing widely, and organizing various women's functions and also writing extensively on women's issues.

In 1986, Steinem faced a very personal challenge when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, which she overcame with treatment. That same year, she explored one of America's most iconic women in the book *Marilyn: Norma Jean*. She became a consulting editor at *Ms*. magazine the following year after the publication was sold to an Australian company.

Steinem found herself the subject of media scrutiny with her 1992 book *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem*. To some feminists, the book's focus on personal development to be a retreat from social activism. Steinem was surprised by the backlash, believing that a strong self-image to be crucial to creating change. "We need to be long-distance runners to make a real social revolution. And you can't be a long-distance runner unless you have some inner strength," she explained to *People* magazine. She considers the work to be "most political thing I've written. I was saying that many institutions are designed to undermine our self-authority in order to get us to obey their authority," she told *Interview* magazine.

In 2000, Steinem did something that she had insisted for years that she would not do. Despite being known for saying that a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle, Steinem decided to get married. She wed David Bale, an environmental and animal rights activist and the father of actor Christian Bale. At the age of 66, Steinem proved that she was still unpredictable and committed to charting her own path in life. Her wedding raised eyebrows in certain circles. But unfortunately Bale died of brain cancer in 2003. "He had the greatest heart of anyone I've known," Steinem told *O* magazine.

In 2005, Steinem, Jane Fonda, and Robin Morgan co-founded the Women's Media Center, an organization that works "to make women visible and powerful in the media". In 2013, Gloria Steinem received the Medal of Freedom from President Obama. Steinem currently travels internationally as an organizer and lecturer, and is a media spokeswoman on issues of equality.

Golda Meir (May 3, 1898 – December 8, 1978) was the fourth Prime Minister of Israel and the first woman in that position.

Golda was born in Kiev, Russian Empire (present-day Ukraine). Her father moved the family to Milwaukee in 1906. While in high school, she became an active member of Young Poale Zion, which later became Habonim, the Labor Zionist youth movement. She spoke at public meetings, embraced Socialist Zionism and hosted visitors from Palestine. Her mother wanted her to leave school and marry, but she demurred. She went to live with her married sister, Sheyna Korngold in Denver, CO. The Korngolds held intellectual evenings at their home, where Meir was exposed to debates on Zionism, literature, women's suffrage, trade unionism, and more. In her autobiography, she wrote: "To the extent that my own future convictions were shaped and given form... those talk-filled nights in Denver played a considerable role." In Denver, she also met Morris Meyerson, a sign painter, whom she later married in December 1917. When Golda and Morris married, settling in Palestine was her precondition for the marriage. She was a committed Labor Zionist and he was a dedicated socialist. Together, they left their jobs to join a kibbutz in Palestine in 1921.



In the British Mandate of Palestine, they joined a kibbutz. Her duties included picking almonds, planting trees, working in the chicken coops, and running the kitchen. Recognizing her leadership abilities, the kibbutz chose her as its representative to the Histadrut, the General Federation of Labour.

In 1928, Meir was elected secretary of *Moetzet HaPoalot* (Working Women's Council), which required her to spend two years (1932–34) as an emissary in the United States. In 1934, when Meir returned from the United States, she joined the Executive Committee of the Histadrut and moved up the ranks to become the head of its Political Department. This appointment was important training for her future role in Israeli leadership.

In July 1938, Meir was the Jewish observer from Palestine at the Évian Conference, called by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States to discuss the question of Jewish refugees' fleeing Nazi persecution. Delegates from the 32 invited countries repeatedly expressed their sorrow for the plight of the European Jews, but outlined why their countries could not help by admitting the refugees. The only exception was by the Dominican Republic, which pledged to accept 100,000 refugees on generous terms. Meir was disappointed at the outcome and she remarked to the press, "There is only one thing I hope to see before I die and that is that my people should not need expressions of sympathy anymore.

In June 1946, the British Government cracked down on the Zionist movement in Palestine, arresting many leaders of the Yishuv Meir took over as acting head of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency during the incarceration of Moshe Sharett. Thus she became the principal negotiator between the Jews in Palestine and the British Mandatory authorities. After his release, Sharett went to the United States to attend talks on the UN Partition Plan, leaving Meir to head the Political Department until the establishment of the state in 1948. Meir was one of 24 signatories of the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948.

On May 10, 1948, four days before the official establishment of Israel, Meir traveled to Amman, Jordan, disguised as an Arab woman for a secret meeting with King Abdullah I of Transjordan at which she urged him not to join the other Arab countries in attacking the Jews. When Abdullah asked her not to hurry to proclaim a state Meir replied: "We've been waiting for 2,000 years. Is that hurrying?"

In 1949 Meir was elected to the Knesset as a member of Mapai and served continuously until 1974. From 1949 to 1956, she served as Minister of Labour. While serving in this position, Meir carried out welfare state policies, orchestrated the integration of immigrants into Israel's workforce, and introduced major housing and road construction projects. In 1956, she became Foreign Minister under Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

After Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's sudden death in February 1969, the party elected Golda Meir as his successor. The world's fourth and Israel's first and only woman to hold such an office, she has been described as the "Iron Lady" of Israeli politics, though her tenure ended before that term was applied to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion used to call Meir "the best man in the government"; she was often portrayed as the "strong-willed, straight-talking, grey-bunned grandmother of the Jewish people". Meir resigned as prime minister in 1974, the year following the Yom Kippur War.

Grace Hopper (December 9, 1906 – January 1, 1992) is best known for her trailblazing contributions to computer programming, software development, and the design and implementation of programming languages. A maverick and an innovator, she enjoyed long and influential careers in the U.S. Navy and the computer industry. She helped develop a compiler that was a precursor to the widely used COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language) and became a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Grace Hopper studied math and physics at Vassar College. After graduating from Vassar in 1928, she proceeded to Yale University, where, in 1930, she received a master's degree in mathematics. That same year, she married Vincent Foster Hopper, becoming

Grace Hopper (a name that she kept even after the couple's 1945 divorce). Starting in 1931, Hopper began teaching at Vassar while also continuing to study at Yale, where she earned a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1934 – becoming one of the first few woman to earn such a degree.

Hopper, who became an associate professor at Vassar, continued to teach until World War II compelled her to join the U.S. Naval Reserve in December 1943 (she opted for the Navy, as it had been her grandfather's branch of service). She was commissioned as a lieutenant in June 1944. Given her mathematical background, Hopper was assigned to the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project at Harvard University, where she learned to program a Mark I computer.

After the war, Hopper remained with the Navy as a reserve officer. As a research fellow at Harvard, she worked with the Mark II and Mark III computers. She was at Harvard when a moth was found to have shorted out the Mark II, and is sometimes given credit for the invention of the term "computer bug" – though she didn't actually author the term, she did help popularize it.

Wanting to continue to work with computers, Hopper moved into private industry in 1949, first with the Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation, then with Remington Rand, where she oversaw programming for the UNIVAC computer. In 1952, her team created the first compiler for computer languages (a compiler renders worded instructions into code that can be read by computers). This compiler was a precursor for the Common Business Oriented Language, or COBOL, a widely adapted language that would be used around the world. Though she did not invent COBOL, Hopper encouraged its adaptation.

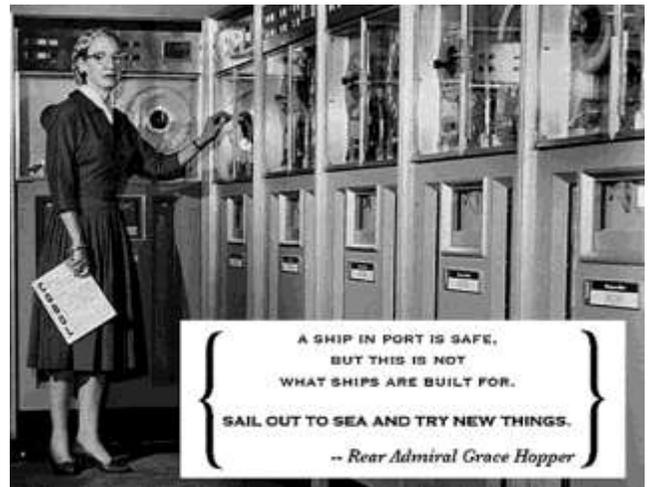
Hopper retired from the Naval Reserve in 1966, but her pioneering computer work meant that she was recalled to active duty – at the age of 60 – to tackle standardizing communication between different computer languages. Nicknamed "Amazing Grace" by her subordinates, she remained with the Navy for 19 years. When she retired in 1986, at age 79, she was a rear admiral as well as the oldest serving officer in the service.

Saying that she would be "bored stiff" if she stopped working entirely, Hopper took another job post-retirement and stayed in the computer industry for several more years. She was awarded the National Medal of Technology in 1991—becoming the first female individual recipient of the honor. At the age of 85, she died in Arlington, Virginia, on January 1, 1992 and was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1997, the guided missile destroyer, USS Hopper, was commissioned by the Navy in San Francisco. In 2004, the University of Missouri has honored Hopper with a computer museum on their campus, dubbed "Grace's Place." On display are early computers and computer components to educator visitors on the evolution of the technology.

In addition to her programming accomplishments, Hopper's legacy includes encouraging young people to learn how to program. The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women In Computing Conference is a technical conference that encourages women to become part of the world of computing, while the Association for Computing Machinery offers a Grace Murray Hopper Award. Grace was known as the grandmother of COBOL. Additionally, on her birthday in 2013, Hopper was remembered with a "Google Doodle."

In 2016, Hopper was posthumously honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama.





Harriet Tubman (~1820 – March 10, 1913) escaped slavery to become a leading abolitionist. She led hundreds of enslaved people to freedom along the route of the Underground Railroad.

Around 1844, she married a free black man, John Tubman. Although little is known about him or their time together, the union was complicated because of her slave status. Since the mother's status dictated that of children, any children born to Harriet and John would be enslaved. Such blended marriages – free people of color marrying enslaved people – were not uncommon on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where by this time, half the black population was free. Most African-American families had both free and enslaved members. Tubman changed her name from Araminta to Harriet soon after her marriage.

In 1849 Tubman fled Maryland, leaving behind her free husband of five years, John Tubman, and her parents, sisters, and brothers. "Mah people mus' go free," her constant refrain, suggests a determination uncommon among even the most militant slaves. She returned to the South at least nineteen times to lead her family and hundreds of other slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Utilizing her native intelligence and drawing on her boundless courage, she eluded bounty hunters seeking a reward for her capture, which eventually went as high as forty thousand dollars. She never lost a fugitive or allowed one to turn back. She was considered the "Moses" of the black people.

Two things sustained her: the pistol at her side and her faith in God. The gun afforded some protection from the ever-present slave catchers and their dogs; however, she also purportedly threatened to shoot any escaped slave who tried to turn back on the journey since that would threaten the safety of the remaining group. Tubman told the tale of one man who insisted he was going to go back to the plantation when morale got low among a group of fugitive slaves. She pointed the gun at his head and said, "You go on or die." Several days later, he was with the group as they entered the United Province of Canada.

In honor of her courageous efforts to rescue family and friends from slavery, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison named her "Moses", alluding to the prophet in the Book of Exodus who led the Hebrews to freedom from Egypt. Though nicknamed "Moses", Tubman's daring missions to Maryland remained virtually unknown, and her identity was a carefully guarded secret. She did sing a version of "Go Down Moses" to signal to her refugees along the path to freedom – she changed the tempo to indicate that it was either safe or too dangerous to proceed. Like other Underground Railroad conductors, Tubman used various methods of communication specific to her own needs. Contrary to current popular belief, there were no common "codes" used by conductors. In the north, however, the song "Go Down Moses" was openly sung by Black regiments during the Civil War. After the war, various black-faced minstrels included the song in their acts which helped popularize it. During the 20th century, people of all races sang it as a spiritual to pay tribute to Tubman or to various struggles for freedom.

Tubman's resistance to slavery did not end with the outbreak of the Civil War. Her services as nurse, scout, and spy were solicited by the Union government. For more than three years she nursed the sick and wounded in Florida and the Carolinas, tending whites and blacks, soldiers and contrabands. Tubman was a short woman without distinctive features. With a bandanna on her head and several front teeth missing, she moved unnoticed through rebel territory. This made her invaluable as a scout and spy under the command of Col. James Montgomery of the Second Carolina Volunteers. As leader of a corps of local blacks, she made several forays into rebel territory, collecting information. Armed with knowledge of the location of cotton warehouses, ammunition depots, and slaves waiting to be liberated, Colonel Montgomery made several raids in southern coastal areas. Tubman led the way on his celebrated expedition up the Combahee River in June 1863. For all of her work, Tubman was paid only two hundred dollars over a three-year period and had to support herself by selling pies, gingerbread, and root beer.

After the Civil War, Harriet returned to Auburn, New York, and continued to help blacks forge new lives in freedom. She cared for her parents and other needy relatives, turning her residence into the Home for Indigent and Aged Negroes.

In her later years, Tubman worked to promote the cause of women's suffrage. A white woman once asked Tubman whether she believed women ought to have the vote, and received the reply: "I suffered enough to believe it." Tubman began attending meetings of suffragist organizations, and was soon working alongside women such as Susan B. Anthony and Emily Howland. Tubman traveled to New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C., to speak out in favor of women's voting rights. She described her actions during and after the Civil War, and used the sacrifices of countless women throughout modern history as evidence of women's equality to men. When the National Federation of Afro-American Women was founded in 1896, Tubman was the keynote speaker at its first meeting.

Tubman was buried with semi-military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn.



Imelda Marcos (born July 2, 1929) is a Filipino politician and widow of the former President of the Philippines. Known for her flamboyant lifestyle, she took an active role in the political life of her husband, Ferdinand Marcos. While many Filipinos lived in scarcity and poverty, she became notorious for her extravagant spending, which often included expenses up to 5 million dollars or more in one go. She travelled to New York and other fancy destinations around the world to splurge on property and fashion.

From a very young age, Imelda was fascinated by beauty pageants and dreamt of living an extremely extravagant lifestyle. She soon entered a number of beauty pageants and was crowned, 'Rose of Tacloban' at the age of 18. She also earned the title of 'Miss Philippines'.

In 1950, she moved to Manila and worked in music stores and began taking voice lessons at the University of Santo Tomas. She became popular with the students and the crowds as she was believed to be an extremely gifted singer.

In 1953, she appeared on a number of magazine covers and her popularity increased. She was also named the 'Muse of Manila' by the mayor of Philippines. In the same year, she met Ferdinand Marcos and after eleven day courtship, they got married. From 1960 to 1965, she travelled around the country in a bid to meet and acquaint herself with the politicians, who could help her husband, Ferdinand, rise to power. In 1966, Ferdinand Marcos became the 10th President of the Philippines.

During her time as the first lady, she journeyed around the world, spent extravagantly and was elected to the national congress. She became infamous for her wasteful ways and came to be known for her large and ostentatious collection of jewelry, property, shoes, clothes and other luxurious items. While millions of countrymen suffered in poverty, the Marcos' lived a hedonistic, over-the-top life, which not only affected their public image but also led to various corruption-related charges.

In the mid-1970s, Marcos served as the governor of the metro Manila area. She systematized many costly remodeling and development projects and later, served in the provisional national assembly as the minister of human settlements. In 1972, Ferdinand declared martial law, making himself the country's dictator. This move allowed him to impede growing bitterness among the people and to prevent the opponents from deposing him from power. His government dealt with tyranny and brutality to suppress any opposition.

She orchestrated lavish public events using millions of dollars from public funds to eulogize her husband's government and to lift her public image. She also got the Miss Universe 1974 pageant organized in Manila in a large auditorium with a capacity of 10,000, which was constructed in less than 3 months at her behest.

During the 1986 presidential elections, she supported her husband in his bid to be re-elected, but the failing support of the public and the non-violent People Power revolt at EDSA drove the Marcos' out of their own country and they fled to Hawaii. Her husband Ferdinand Marcos died in exile in 1989 and Imelda returned to the Philippines contested for presidency in 1992. Predictably, she won a very small percentage of the vote.

She was convicted of racketeering in America by an American court. She was also charged with embezzlement of \$200 million by the Philippines government which was used to buy real estate in New York City. She was acquitted in this case and she returned to the Philippines in 1991 only to be arrested the following day, with the government hoping to recoup lost funds believed to be held by the former first lady. Upon being released on bail, Marcos sought political power for herself once again, running for president the following year. She lost her election bid to military leader Fidel Ramos and soon found herself in another court battle. Convicted on corruption charges in 1993, she received a lengthy prison sentence and \$4.3 million fine. Her conviction was later overturned in 1998 by her country's supreme court, the same year in which she withdrew from her second presidential run.

A first lady no longer, Marcos has struck out on her own as a political force. She won her first election since returning from exile in the mid-1990s, serving as a member of the country's House of Representatives for several years. In 2010, she won election to become the representative for the province where her late husband was born and where the Marcos family still wields political clout.

Marcos, however, may never fully emerge from the shadows of her past. Though most of the 900 civil and criminal cases filed against the Marcoses have been dismissed, Imelda continues to face legal challenges. In 2010, a court ordered Marcos to pay back almost \$300,000 in funds believed to be taken from the National Food Authority during her husband's reign. And in 2016, her famed jewelry collection, worth \$21 million, was also ordered by the government to be auctioned off.

Jane Goodall (born April 3, 1934) is a British primatologist, ethologist, anthropologist, and UN Messenger of Peace. Considered to be the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees, Goodall is best known for her over 55-year study of social and family interactions of wild chimpanzees since she first went to Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania in 1960. She is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots programme, and has worked extensively on conservation and animal welfare issues. She has served on the board of the Nonhuman Rights Project since its founding in 1996.

As a child, her father gave Goodall a lifelike stuffed chimpanzee named Jubilee. Her fondness for the toy started her early love of animals. Today, Jubilee still sits on Goodall's dresser in London. "My mother's friends were horrified by this toy, thinking it would frighten me and give me nightmares."



In 1957, at the invitation of a childhood friend, she visited South Kinangop, Kenya. Through other friends, she soon met the famed anthropologist Louis Leakey, then curator of the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi. Leakey hired her as a secretary and invited her to participate in an anthropological dig at the now famous Olduvai Gorge, a site rich in fossilized prehistoric remains of early ancestors of humans.

At Leakey's prompting, Goodall agreed to do a long-term study of the behavior of chimpanzees, hoping that it would yield important evolutionary information. Few studies of chimpanzees had been successful; either the size of the safari frightened the chimps, producing unnatural behaviors, or the observers spent too little time in the field to gain comprehensive knowledge. Leakey believed that Goodall had the proper temperament to endure long-term isolation in the wild.

While Leakey searched for financial support for this proposed Gombe Reserve project, Goodall returned to England to work on an animal documentary for Granada Television. In July 1960 Goodall returned to Africa and established a camp on the shore of Lake Tanganyika in the Gombe Stream Reserve. Her first attempts to closely observe a group of chimpanzees failed; she could get no nearer than 500 yards before the chimps fled. After finding another suitable group of chimpanzees to follow, she established a nonthreatening pattern of observation, appearing at the same time every morning on the high ground near a feeding area along the Kakaombe Stream valley. The chimpanzees soon tolerated her presence and, within a year, allowed her to move as close as 30 feet to their feeding area. After two years of seeing her every day, they showed no fear and often came to her in search of bananas.

Goodall used her newfound acceptance to establish what she termed the "banana club," a daily systematic feeding method she used to gain trust and to obtain a more thorough understanding of everyday chimpanzee behavior. Using this method, she became closely acquainted with more than half of the reserve's 100 or more chimpanzees. She imitated their behaviors, spent time in the trees, and ate their foods. She is credited with making the first recorded observations of chimpanzees eating meat and using and making tools. Tool making was previously thought to be an exclusively human trait, used, until her discovery, to distinguish humans from animals. She also noted that chimpanzees throw stones as weapons, use touch and embraces to comfort one another, and develop long-term familial bonds. The male plays no active role in family life but is part of the group's social stratification. The chimpanzee "caste" system places the dominant males at the top. The lower castes often act obsequiously in their presence, trying to ingratiate themselves to avoid possible harm. The male's rank is often related to the intensity of his entrance performance at feedings and other gatherings.

From 1970-1975, Goodall held a visiting professorship in psychiatry at Stanford University. In 1973 she was appointed honorary visiting professor of Zoology at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, a position she still holds. After attending a 1986 conference in Chicago that focused on the ethical treatment of chimpanzees, she began directing her energies toward educating the public about the wild chimpanzee's endangered habitat and about the unethical treatment of chimpanzees that are used for scientific research.

Goodall's stance is that scientists must try harder to find alternatives to the use of animals in research. Goodall's efforts to educate people about the ethical treatment of animals extends to young children as well. Her 1989 book, *The Chimpanzee Family Book*, was written specifically for children, to convey a new, more humane view of wildlife.

In recognition of her achievements, Goodall has received numerous honors and awards, including the Gold Medal of Conservation from the San Diego Zoological Society in 1974, the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize in 1984, the Schweitzer Medal of the Animal Welfare Institute in 1987, the National Geographic Society Centennial Award in 1988, and the Kyoto Prize in Basic Sciences in 1990. She was named a Messenger of Peace by the United Nations in 2002 and a Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II of England in 2003.

Many of Goodall's endeavors are conducted under the auspices of the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education, and Conservation, a nonprofit organization located in Ridgefield, Connecticut.



Joan of Arc / Jeanne d'Arc (January 6, 1412 – May 30, 1431) is considered a heroine of France for her role during the third phase of the Hundred Years' War and was canonized as a Roman Catholic saint.

She was born in a village in north-east France. She was not taught to read or write, but her pious mother instilled in her a deep love for the Catholic Church and its teachings.

At the age of 13, Joan began to hear voices, which she determined had been sent by God to give her a mission of overwhelming importance: to save France by expelling its enemies, to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination late in the Hundred Years' War, and to install Charles as its rightful king. As part of this divine mission, Joan took a vow of chastity. At the age of 16, after her father attempted to arrange a marriage for her, she successfully convinced a local court that she should not be forced to accept the match.

In May 1428, Joan made her way to Vaucouleurs, a nearby stronghold of those loyal to Charles. Initially rejected by the local magistrate, she persisted, attracting a small band of followers who believed her claims to be the virgin who (according to a popular prophecy) was destined to save France. When the magistrate relented, Joan cropped her hair and dressed in men's clothes to make the 11-day journey across enemy territory to Chinon, site of the crown prince's palace.

Joan promised Charles she would see him crowned king at Reims, the traditional site of French royal investiture, and asked him to give her an army to lead to Orléans, then under siege from the English. Against the advice of most of his counselors and generals, Charles granted her request, and Joan set off for Orléans in March of 1429 dressed in white armor and riding a white horse. After sending off a defiant letter to the enemy, Joan led several French assaults against them, driving the Anglo-Burgundians from their bastion and forcing their retreat across the Loire River.

After such a miraculous victory, Joan's reputation spread far and wide among French forces. She and her followers escorted Charles across enemy territory to Reims, taking towns that resisted by force and enabling his coronation as King Charles VII in July 1429. Joan argued that the French should press their advantage with an attempt to retake Paris, but Charles wavered, even as his favorite at court, Georges de La Trémoille, warned him that Joan was becoming too powerful. The Anglo-Burgundians were able to fortify their positions in Paris, and turned back an attack led by Joan in September.

In the spring of 1430, the king ordered Joan to confront a Burgundian assault on Compiègne. In her effort to defend the town and its inhabitants, she was thrown from her horse, and was left outside the town's gates as they closed. The Burgundians took her captive, and brought her amid much fanfare to the castle of Bouvreuil, occupied by the English commander at Rouen.

In the trial that followed, Joan was ordered to answer to some 70 charges against her, including witchcraft, heresy and dressing like a man. The Anglo-Burgundians were aiming to get rid of the young leader as well as discredit Charles, who owed his coronation to her. In attempting to distance himself from an accused heretic and witch, the French king made no attempt to negotiate Joan's release.

In May 1431, after a year in captivity and under threat of death, Joan relented and signed a confession denying that she had ever received divine guidance. Several days later, however, she defied orders by again donning men's clothes, and authorities pronounced her death sentence. On the morning of May 30, at the age of 19, Joan was taken to the old market place of Rouen and burned at the stake.

In 1456, an inquisitorial court authorized by Pope Callixtus III examined the trial, debunked the charges against her, pronounced her innocent, and declared her a martyr. In the 16th century she became a symbol of the Catholic League, and in 1803 she was declared a national symbol of France by the decision of Napoleon Bonaparte. She was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920. Joan of Arc is one of the nine secondary patron saints of France. Known as the Maid of Orléans, she had long been considered one of history's greatest saints, and an enduring symbol of French unity and nationalism.

Joan of Arc has remained a popular figure in literature, painting, sculpture, and other cultural works since the time of her death, and many famous writers, filmmakers and composers have created works about her. Cultural depictions of her have continued in films, theater, television, video games, music, and performances to this day.



Julia Child (August 15, 1912 – August 13, 2004) was an American chef, author and television personality. She is recognized for bringing French cuisine to the American public with her debut cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, and her subsequent television programs, the most notable of which was *The French Chef*.

Julia Child and her siblings were raised in comfort – they were all sent to private schools, and the family had servants, including a cook. The children, all of whom were unusually tall, loved outdoor sports. In 1930 Julia went to Smith College in Massachusetts, where she majored in history. After graduation she took a job as a copywriter for a furniture company in New York City and enjoyed an active social life.

At the outbreak of World War II (1939-1945) Julia joined the Office of Strategic Services, hoping to work as a spy. She was eventually sent abroad, but she worked as a file clerk, slept on cots, and wore an army uniform. While in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1943 she met Paul Cushing Child, a member of a distinguished Boston family, who was working as a maker of maps. Their romance bloomed when both were assigned to China. It was there that Paul, a noted lover of fine food, introduced her to cooking.

After the war Julia began to study cooking in Beverly Hills, California. She and Paul were married in September 1946 and moved to Washington, D.C., where he had taken a position with the Foreign Service. After he was sent to Paris, France, in 1948, Julia came to appreciate French food. She decided she wanted to learn about French cooking and, after studying the language, she enrolled at the famous Cordon Bleu cooking school. With two fellow students, Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle, she formed a cooking school called L'Ecole des Trois Gourmandes (School of the Three Gourmets). Julia began working on a cookbook with Simone Beck, writing while following her husband as he was sent to different parts of Europe.

In 1961 Paul retired, and the Childs settled in a large house with a well-equipped kitchen in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Julia's book, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, was published the same year. With its clear instructions and explanations and its many useful photographs, it was an immediate success. Child was hailed as an expert, and she began writing articles on cooking for magazines and newspapers.

In 1963, after appearing on a television panel show, Child began a weekly half-hour cooking program, *The French Chef*. The show ran nationally for ten years and won Peabody and Emmy Awards, including the first Emmy award for an educational program. Though she was not the first television cook, Child was the most widely seen. She attracted the broadest audience with her cheery enthusiasm, distinctively warbly voice, and unpatronizing and unaffected manner. This proved even more successful than her book: her off-beat style, good humor, knowledge, and flair for teaching made her very popular.

Julia Child had a large impact on American households and housewives. Because of the technology in the 60s, the show was unedited, causing her blunders to appear in the final version and ultimately lend "authenticity and approachability to television."

The French Chef Cookbook, based on the television series, was published in 1968. More well-received cookbooks and television shows followed, and in the 1970s and 1980s Child wrote regular columns for magazines and made many appearances on television in addition to hosting her own show. She was also a founder of the American Institute of Wine and Food, an association of restaurants dedicated to increasing knowledge of food and wine.

Although saddened by Paul's death in 1994, Julia brought out a new book and television series combination in each of the next two years. She also continued to host an annual trip to Italy for food lovers. In 2000 Child won the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest honor. In 2001 she moved to Montecito, California, and oversaw the opening of a restaurant named after her, Julia's Kitchen in Napa, California.

Child's use of ingredients like butter and cream has been questioned by food critics and modern-day nutritionists. She addressed these criticisms throughout her career, predicting that a "fanatical fear of food" would take over the country's dining habits, and that focusing too much on nutrition takes the pleasure from enjoying food. In a 1990 interview, Child said, "Everybody is overreacting. If fear of food continues, it will be the death of gastronomy in the United States. Fortunately, the French don't suffer from the same hysteria we do. We should enjoy food and have fun. It is one of the simplest and nicest pleasures in life."



Katharine Meyer "Kay" Graham (June 16, 1917 – July 17, 2001) was an American publisher. She was America's first female Fortune 500 CEO. As the renowned publisher she led her family's newspaper, *The Washington Post*, for more than two decades. She guided the newspaper to national prominence, most notably when it published The Pentagon Papers and reported on the Watergate scandal.

Graham's father was a financier and, later, a public official. He bought *The Washington Post* in 1933 at a bankruptcy auction. Graham began working for the *Post* in 1938. Her father was Jewish and her mother was Lutheran, from a family of German descent. Along with her four siblings, Graham was baptized as a Lutheran but attended an Episcopal church.

Graham's parents owned several homes across the country, but primarily lived between a veritable "castle" in Mount Kisco, New York, and a smaller home in Washington, D.C. Graham often did not see much of her parents during her childhood, as both traveled and socialized extensively, and was raised in part by nannies, governesses and tutors. Katharine endured a strained relationship with her mother. Agnes Meyer was reportedly very negative and condescending towards Katharine, which had a negative impact on Katharine's self-confidence.

In June 1940, she was married in a Lutheran ceremony, to Philip Graham, a graduate of Harvard Law School. Philip Graham became publisher of the *Post* in 1946, when Eugene Meyer handed over the newspaper to his son-in-law. Katharine recounts in her autobiography, *Personal History*, how she did not feel slighted by the fact her father gave the *Post* to Philip rather than her: "Far from troubling me that my father thought of my husband and not me, it pleased me. In fact, it never crossed my mind that he might have viewed me as someone to take on an important job at the paper."

Philip Graham dealt with alcoholism and mental illness throughout his marriage to Katharine. On Christmas Eve in 1962, Katharine found out her husband was having an affair. At a newspaper conference in Phoenix, Arizona, Philip apparently had a nervous breakdown. He was placed in a psychiatric facility near Washington, D.C. but in August 1963 committed suicide. Katharine Graham never remarried.

Katharine Graham assumed the reins of the company and of the *Post* after Philip's suicide. She was de facto publisher of the newspaper from 1963 onward, held the title of president from at least 1967, then formally held the title of publisher from 1969 to 1979 and that of chairwoman of the board from 1973 to 1991.

On June 17, 1971, she made the difficult decision to have the *Post* publish the classified Pentagon Papers. Excerpts from these documents, which delved into the history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, appeared the next day. Graham took this step after the *New York Times*, the first newspaper to land a set of the Papers, had been barred from further publication by court order.

Her legal team feared that publishing might imperil her company. Yet Graham also knew that the newsroom, after struggling to obtain the documents, would resent any delay in publication, and she feared losing talented people. Graham was vindicated by a 6-3 Supreme Court ruling, issued on June 30, 1971, which supported freedom of the press and stated that the information in the Pentagon Papers didn't place government security at risk. Her actions helped elevate the national profile of the *Post*.

After taking over at the Washington Post Company, Graham was often the only woman at meetings. Her ability to contribute was usually dismissed by the men around her, which Graham, who'd been raised to believe women were men's intellectual inferiors, usually accepted. As the only woman to be in such a high position at a publishing company, she had no female role models and had difficulty being taken seriously by many of her male colleagues and employees. Graham outlined in her memoir her lack of confidence and distrust in her own knowledge. The convergence of the women's movement with Graham's control of the *Post* brought about changes in Graham's attitude and also led her to promote gender equality within her company. In 1972 she became the first female Fortune 500 CEO, as CEO of the Washington Post company.

After a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex in June 1972, two reporters at the *Washington Post* – Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein – dug into the story. They would uncover a tale of corruption and complicity that would link back to Richard Nixon's White House, but unearthing the scope of the scandal took time, during which the Nixon administration did its best to minimize the story and disparage the *Post*. Though Graham sometimes wondered if the entire Watergate story would ever be brought to light, she consistently supported her reporters. In the end, the existence of Nixon's tapes was revealed and the president resigned, leaving Graham grateful to no longer be a target of his administration.

In 1997 she received the Freedom medal. In 2000 Graham was named as one of the International Press Institute's 50 World Press Freedom Heroes of the past 50 years. In 2002, Katharine Graham was presented, posthumously, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush and the same year, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Malala Yousafzai (born July 12, 1997) is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai wrote an anonymous diary about life under Taliban rule in north-west Pakistan. She was shot in the head by militants for daring to go to school.

In early 2009, Malala started to blog anonymously on the Urdu language site of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Using the name "Gul Makai," she described being forced to stay at home, and she questioned the motives of the Taliban. Her first BBC diary entry was at age 11 under the blog heading "I am afraid," where she described her fear of a full-blown war in her beautiful Swat Valley, and her nightmares about being afraid to go to school because of the Taliban.



Pakistan's war with the Taliban was fast approaching, and on May 5, 2009, Malala became an internally displaced person (IDP), after having been forced to leave her home and seek safety hundreds of miles away. On her return, after weeks of being away from Swat, Malala once again used the media and continued her public campaign for her right to go to school. Her voice grew louder, and over the course of the next three years, she and her father became known throughout Pakistan for their determination to give Pakistani girls access to a free quality education. Her activism resulted in a nomination for the International Children's Peace Prize in 2011. That same year, she was awarded Pakistan's National Youth Peace Prize. But, not everyone supported and welcomed her campaign to bring about change in Swat. On the morning of October 9, 2012, 15-year-old Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban on a bus heading home from school.

That same day, she was airlifted to a Pakistani military hospital in Peshawar and four days later to an intensive care unit in Birmingham, England. Once she was in the United Kingdom, Malala was taken out of a medically induced coma. Though she would require multiple surgeries, including repair of a facial nerve to fix the paralyzed left side of her face, she had suffered no major brain damage. In March 2013, after weeks of treatment and therapy, Malala was able to begin attending school in Birmingham.

After the shooting, her incredible recovery and return to school resulted in a global outpouring of support for Malala. On July 12, 2013, her 16th birthday, she visited New York and spoke at the United Nations. Later that year, she published her first book, an autobiography entitled "I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban." On October 10, 2013, in acknowledgement of her work, the European Parliament awarded Malala the prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

In 2014, through the Malala Fund, the organization she co-founded with her father, she traveled to Jordan to meet Syrian refugees, to Kenya to meet young female students, and finally to northern Nigeria for her 17th birthday. In Nigeria, she spoke out in support of the abducted girls who were kidnapped earlier that year by Boko Haram, a terrorist group which, like the Taliban, tries to stop girls from going to school.

In October 2014, Malala, along with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner. At age 17, she became the youngest person to receive this prize. Accepting the award, Malala reaffirmed that "This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change."

Currently residing in Birmingham, Malala is an active proponent of education as a fundamental social and economic right. Through the Malala Fund and with her own voice, Malala Yousafzai remains a staunch advocate for the power of education and for girls to become agents of change in their communities.



Margaret Sanger (September 14, 1879 – September 6, 1966) was an American birth control activist, sex educator, writer, and nurse. Sanger popularized the term "birth control", opened the first birth control clinic in the United States, and established organizations that evolved into the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Margaret was one of 11 children born into a Roman Catholic working-class Irish American family. However, her father, Michael, became an atheist and an activist for women's suffrage and free public education. Her mother, Anne, had several miscarriages, and Margaret believed that all of these pregnancies took a toll on her mother's health and contributed to her early death at the age of ~45. The family lived in poverty as her father, an Irish stonemason, preferred to drink and talk politics than earn a steady wage.

Seeking a better life, Sanger attended Claverack College and Hudson River Institute in 1896. She went on to study nursing at White Plains Hospital four years later but in 1902 married the architect William Sanger and gave up her education.

In 1910 they moved to Greenwich Village and Margaret started a publication promoting a woman's right to birth control (a term that she coined). The area was a bohemian enclave known for its radical politics at the time, and the couple became immersed in that world. They socialized with the likes of writer Upton Sinclair and anarchist Emma Goldman. Sanger joined the Women's Committee of the New York Socialist Party and the Liberal Club. A supporter of the Industrial Workers of the World union, she participated in a number of strikes.

Sanger started her campaign to educate women about sex in 1912 by writing a newspaper column called "What Every Girl Should Know." She also worked as a nurse on the Lower East Side, at the time a predominantly poor immigrant neighborhood. Through her work, she treated a number of women who had undergone back-alley abortions or tried to self-terminate their pregnancies. Sanger opposed abortion, but primarily as a societal ill and public health danger which would disappear if women were able to prevent unwanted pregnancy, and she fought to make birth control information and contraceptives available. She also began dreaming of a "magic pill" to be used to control pregnancy. "No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother," Sanger said.

In 1914, Sanger started a feminist publication called *The Woman Rebel*, which promoted a woman's right to have birth control. The monthly magazine landed her in trouble, as it was illegal to send out information on contraception through the mail. The Comstock Act of 1873 prohibited the trade in and circulation of "obscene and immoral materials."

Rather than face a possible five-year jail sentence, Sanger fled to England. While there, she worked in the women's movement and researched other forms of birth control, including diaphragms, which she later smuggled back into the United States. Sanger returned to the US in October 1915, after charges against her had been dropped.

She began touring to promote birth control, a term that she coined. In 1916 she opened the first birth control clinic in the U.S. in Brooklyn, NY. Sanger and her staff, including her sister, were arrested during a raid of the Brooklyn clinic nine days after it opened. They were charged with providing information on contraception and fitting women for diaphragms. Sanger and her sister spent 30 days in jail for breaking the Comstock law. Later appealing her conviction, she scored a victory for the birth control movement. The court wouldn't overturn the earlier verdict, but it made an exception in the existing law to allow doctors to prescribe contraception to their female patients for medical reasons. Around this time, Sanger also published her first issue of *The Birth Control Review*.

In 1921, Sanger established the American Birth Control League, a precursor to today's Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She served as its president until 1928. In 1923, while with the league, she opened the first legal birth control clinic in the United States in New York City, staffed by all-female doctors, as well as a clinic in Harlem with an all African-American advisory council, where African-American staff were later added.

Wanting to advance her cause through legal channels, Sanger started the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control in 1929. The committee sought to make it legal for doctors to freely distribute birth control. One legal hurdle was overcome in 1936, when the U.S. Court of Appeals allowed for birth control devices and related materials to be imported into the country.

Sanger opposed censorship throughout her career. She viewed birth control primarily as a free-speech issue, rather than as a feminist issue, and when she started publishing *The Woman Rebel* in 1914, she did so with the express goal of provoking a legal challenge to the Comstock laws banning dissemination of information about contraception.

Sanger lived to see another important reproductive rights milestone in 1965, when the Supreme Court made birth control legal for married couples in its decision on *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

Margaret Sanger died in 1966, and is widely regarded as a founder of the modern birth control movement.

Margaret Thatcher (October 13, 1925 – April 8, 2013) was a British stateswoman who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990 and Leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990. She was the longest-serving British prime minister of the 20th century and the first woman to have been appointed. A Soviet journalist dubbed her the "Iron Lady", a nickname that became associated with her uncompromising politics and leadership style. As Prime Minister, she implemented policies that have come to be known as Thatcherism.



The daughter of a local businessman, Thatcher was introduced to conservative politics by her father, who was a member of the town's council. She was accepted to Oxford University, where she earned a degree in chemistry, and worked as a research chemist. Politically active in her youth, Thatcher served as president of the Conservative Association at the university. Two years after graduating from college, she made her first bid for public office as the conservative candidate for a Dartford parliamentary seat in the 1950 elections. Thatcher knew from the start that it would be nearly impossible to win the position away from the liberal Labour Party. Still she earned the respect of her political party peers with her speeches. Defeated, Thatcher remained undaunted, trying again the following year, but once more unsuccessful.

In 1952, Thatcher put politics aside for a time to study law. She qualified as a barrister in 1953 but she didn't stay away from the political arena for too long. Thatcher won a seat in the House of Commons in 1959, representing Finchley. Clearly a woman on the rise, Thatcher was appointed Parliamentary Undersecretary for Pensions and National Insurance in 1961. Thatcher was the youngest woman in history to receive such a post, and among the first MPs elected in 1959 to be promoted. When the Labour Party assumed control of the government, she became a member of what is called the Shadow Cabinet, a group of political leaders who would hold Cabinet-level posts if their party was in power.

When Conservatives returned to office in June 1970, Thatcher was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Science, and dubbed "Thatcher, milk snatcher," after her abolition of the universal free school milk scheme. She found her position frustrating, not because of all the bad press around her actions, but because she had difficulty getting Prime Minister Edward Heath to listen to her ideas. Seemingly disenchanted on the future of women in politics, Thatcher was quoted as saying, "There will not be a woman prime minister in my lifetime – the male population is too prejudiced."

Thatcher soon proved herself wrong. While the Conservative Party lost power in 1974, Thatcher became a dominant force in her political party. She was elected leader of the Conservative Party in 1975, beating out Heath for the position. With this victory, Thatcher became the first woman to serve as the opposition leader in the House of Commons. England was in a time of economic and political turmoil, with the government nearly bankrupt, employment on the rise and conflicts with labor unions. This instability helped return Conservatives to power in 1979. As party leader, Thatcher made history in May 1979, when she was appointed Britain's first female prime minister.

In 1976, Thatcher made a foreign policy speech which lambasted the Soviet Union for seeking "world dominance". Nicknamed her "Britain Awake" speech, a Soviet journalist wrote a piece in *Red Star* entitled "Iron Lady Raises Fears" (alluding to "Iron Chancellor" Bismarck of imperial Germany). *The Sunday Times* covered the *Red Star* article the next day and Thatcher embraced the epithet a week later; in a speech she compared it to the Duke of Wellington's nickname "The Iron Duke". The metaphorical nickname followed her throughout her political career, and has become a generic descriptor for strong-willed female politicians.

As prime minister, Thatcher battled the country's recession by initially raising interest rates to control inflation. She was best known for her destruction of Britain's traditional industries through her attacks on labor organizations such as the miner's union, and for the massive privatization of social housing and public transport.

In April 1982, during her first term, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. This British territory had long been a source of conflict between the two nations, as the islands are located off the coast of Argentina. Taking swift action, Thatcher sent British troops to the territory to retake the islands in what became known as the Falklands War. Argentina surrendered in June 1982.

In her second term, from 1983 to 1987, Thatcher handled a number of conflicts and crises, the most jarring of which may have been the assassination attempt against her in 1984. Undaunted and unharmed, Thatcher insisted that the conference continue, and gave a speech the following day.

During the 1980s she made a close alliance with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and built a relationship with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, while still standing firm in opposition to the Soviet empire. Without question, she was one of America's closest and most important friends and was instrumental in winning the Cold War for the West.

Returning for a third term in 1987, Thatcher sought to implement a standard educational curriculum across the nation and make changes to the country's socialized medical system. However, she lost a lot of support due to her efforts to implement a fixed rate local tax – labeled a poll tax by many since she sought to disenfranchise those who did not pay it. Hugely unpopular, this policy led to public protests and caused dissension within her party. Thatcher initially pressed on for party leadership in 1990, but eventually yielded to pressure from party members and resigned in November 1990.



Marie Curie (November 7, 1867 – July 4, 1934) 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.

Maria Skłodowska was born in Warsaw, in the Russian partition of Poland. On both the paternal and maternal sides, the family had lost their property and fortunes through patriotic involvements in Polish national uprisings aimed at restoring Poland's independence. This condemned the subsequent generation, including Maria, her elder sisters and her brother, to a difficult struggle to get ahead in life.

When she was ten years old, Maria began attending the boarding school of J. Sikorska; next she attended a *gymnasium* for girls, from which she graduated in June 1883 with a gold medal. After a collapse, possibly due to depression, she spent the following year in the countryside with relatives of her father, and the next year with her father in Warsaw, where she did some tutoring. Unable to enroll in a regular institution of higher education because she was a woman, she and her sister Bronisława became involved with the clandestine Flying University (sometimes translated as *Floating University*), a Polish patriotic institution of higher learning that admitted women students.

At the beginning of 1890, Bronisława (who a few months earlier had gotten married) invited Maria to join them in Paris. Maria declined because she could not afford the university tuition; it would take her a year and a half longer to gather the necessary funds, so in late 1891 she left Poland for France. In Paris, Maria (or Marie, as she would be known in France) enrolled at the University of Paris (Sorbonne), proceeding with her studies of physics, chemistry, and mathematics.

In 1894 she was introduced to Pierre Curie but it was their mutual interest in natural sciences that drew them together. Pierre was an instructor at the School of Physics and Chemistry. Their mutual passion for science brought them increasingly closer, and they began to develop feelings for one another. Eventually Pierre proposed marriage, but at first Marie did not accept as she was still planning to go back to her native country. Pierre, however, declared that he was ready to move with her to Poland, even if it meant being reduced to teaching French. Meanwhile, for the 1894 summer break, Marie returned to Warsaw, where she visited her family. She was still laboring under the illusion that she would be able to work in her chosen field in Poland, but she was denied a place at Kraków University because she was a woman. A letter from Pierre convinced her to return to Paris to pursue a Ph.D. In July 1895 they were married and Marie's dark blue outfit, worn instead of a bridal gown, would serve her for many years as a laboratory outfit.

In 1895, the existence of X-rays was discovered, though the mechanism behind their production was not yet understood. In 1896, it was discovered that uranium salts emitted rays that resembled X-rays in their penetrating power. This discovery of radioactivity inspired Marie and Pierre Curie to further investigate this phenomenon. They examined many substances and minerals for signs of radioactivity. They found that the mineral pitchblende was more radioactive than uranium and concluded that it must contain other radioactive substances. From it they managed to extract two previously unknown elements, polonium and radium, both more radioactive than uranium.

The couple later shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics. She succeeded her husband as Head of the Physics Laboratory at the Sorbonne, gained her Doctor of Science degree in 1903, and following the tragic death of Pierre Curie in 1906, she took his place as Professor of General Physics in the Faculty of Sciences, the first time a woman had held this position.

In 1910 she successfully produced radium as a pure metal, which proved the new element's existence beyond a doubt. She also documented the properties of the radioactive elements and their compounds. Radioactive compounds became important as sources of radiation in both scientific experiments and in the field of medicine, where they are used to treat tumors. She won her second Nobel Prize in 1911 in Chemistry.

Marie Curie was appointed Director of the Curie Laboratory in the Radium Institute of the Sorbonne, founded in 1914. She was also the first woman to become a professor at the Sorbonne, and in 1995 became the first woman to be entombed on her own merit with the "great men" in the Panthéon in Paris.



Maya Angelou (April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014) was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and was 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.

Although born in St. Louis, Angelou spent much of her childhood in the care of her paternal grandmother in rural Stamps, Arkansas. When she was not yet eight years old, she was raped by her mother's boyfriend and told of it, after which he was murdered; the traumatic sequence of events left her almost completely mute for several years. This early life is the focus of her first autobiographical work, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and tells of her life up to the age of 17, which made literary history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman and brought her international recognition and acclaim.

From 1951 to 1954, she was married to a Greek sailor named Anastasios Angelopoulos. When she began her career as a nightclub singer, she took the professional name Maya Angelou, combining her childhood nickname with a form of her husband's name. Although the marriage did not last, her performing career flourished. She toured Europe with a production of the opera *Porgy and Bess* in 1954 and 1955. She studied modern dance with Martha Graham, danced with Alvin Ailey on television variety shows, and recorded her first record album, *Calypso Lady*, in 1957.

Angelou met novelist John Oliver Killens in 1959 and, at his urging, moved to New York to concentrate on her writing career. In 1960, after meeting civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and hearing him speak, she and Killens organized "the legendary" *Cabaret for Freedom* to benefit the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

She joined the Harlem Writers Guild, where she met several major African-American authors. With the guidance of her friend, the novelist James Baldwin, she began work on the book that would become *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Published in 1970, it received international acclaim and made the bestseller list. The book was banned in many schools during that time as Maya's honesty about having been sexually abused opened a subject matter that had long been taboo in the culture. Later, the book would become a course adoption at college campuses around the world.

As the writer of the movie drama *Georgia, Georgia* (1972), she became one of the first African American women to have a screenplay produced as a feature film. She also acted in movies and appeared in several television productions, including the miniseries *Roots* (1977) for which she earned an Emmy nomination for her cameo role as Kunta Kinte's grandmother.

Angelou was invited by successive Presidents of the United States to serve in various capacities. President Ford appointed her to the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and President Carter invited her to serve on the Presidential Commission for the International Year of the Woman. In 1982, she was named the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

Beginning in the 1990s, she made around 80 appearances a year on the lecture circuit, something she continued into her eighties. Among numerous honors was her invitation to compose and deliver a poem, *On the Pulse of Morning*, for the inauguration of President Bill Clinton in 1993. She celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in the poem *A Brave and Startling Truth* (1995) and eulogized Nelson Mandela in the poem *His Day Is Done* (2013), which was commissioned by the U.S. State Department and released in the wake of the South African leader's death. In 2011 Angelou was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mother Teresa /Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu / Agnes Rosebud (August 26, 1910 – September 5, 1997) was the founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor.

Born in Macedonia to parents of Albanian-descent, and after living in Macedonia for eighteen years, she moved to Ireland and then to India, where she lived for most of her life.

During her early years Teresa was fascinated by stories of the lives of missionaries and their service in Bengal; by age 12, she was convinced that she should commit herself to religious life. Teresa left home in 1928 at 18 to join the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland to learn English with the view of becoming a missionary.



She arrived in India in 1929 and began her novitiate in Darjeeling, in the lower Himalayas, where she learnt Bengali and taught at St. Teresa's School near her convent. Teresa took her first religious vows in May 1931. She chose to be named after Thérèse de Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries; because a nun in the convent had already chosen that name, Agnes opted for its Spanish spelling (Teresa).

Teresa took her solemn vows in May 1937 while she was a teacher at the Loreto convent school in Entally, eastern Calcutta. She served there for nearly twenty years, and was appointed its headmistress in 1944. Although Teresa enjoyed teaching at the school, she was increasingly disturbed by the poverty surrounding her in Calcutta

In September 1946, Teresa experienced what she later described as "the call within the call" when she travelled by train to the Loreto convent in Darjeeling from Calcutta for her annual retreat. "I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them. It was an order. To fail would have been to break the faith.

She began missionary work with the poor in 1948, replacing her traditional Loreto habit with a simple, white cotton sari with a blue border. Teresa adopted Indian citizenship, spent several months in Patna to receive basic medical training at Holy Family Hospital and ventured into the slums. She founded a school in Motijhil, Kolkata, before she began tending to the poor and hungry. At the beginning of 1949 Teresa was joined in her effort by a group of young women, and she laid the foundation for a new religious community helping the "poorest among the poor".

In October 1950, Teresa received Vatican permission for the diocesan congregation which would become the Missionaries of Charity. In her words, it would care for "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone". By 1997 the 13-member Calcutta congregation had grown to more than 4,000 sisters who managed orphanages, AIDS hospices and charity centers worldwide, caring for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless and victims of floods, epidemics and famine.

In 1952, Teresa opened her first hospice with help from Calcutta officials. Those brought to the home received medical attention and the opportunity to die with dignity in accordance with their faith: Muslims were read the Quran, Hindus received water from the Ganges, and Catholics received extreme unction.

She opened a hospice for those with leprosy, calling it Shanti Nagar (City of Peace). The Missionaries of Charity established leprosy-outreach clinics throughout Calcutta, providing medication, dressings and food. The Missionaries of Charity took in an increasing number of homeless children; in 1955 Teresa opened Nirmala Shishu Bhavan, the Children's Home of the Immaculate Heart, as a haven for orphans and homeless youth.

The congregation began to attract recruits and donations, and by the 1960s it had opened hospices, orphanages and leper houses throughout India. Teresa then expanded the congregation abroad, opening a house in Venezuela in 1965 with five sisters. Houses followed in Italy, Tanzania and Austria in 1968, and during the 1970s the congregation opened houses and foundations in the United States and dozens of countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

The first Missionaries of Charity home in the United States was established in the South Bronx area of New York City, and by 1984 the congregation operated 19 establishments throughout the country. By 1996, Teresa operated 517 missions in over 100 countries. Her Missionaries of Charity grew from twelve to thousands, serving the "poorest of the poor" in 450 centers worldwide.

In 1979 she received the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work. She died in September 1997 and was beatified in October 2003. In December 2015, she was declared a saint in a canonization Mass held by Pope Francis in the Vatican.

Muriel (Mickie) Siebert (September 12, 1928 – August 24, 2013) was known as *The First Woman of Finance* despite being preceded in owning a brokerage by the controversial Victoria Woodhull. Siebert was the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange and was the first woman to head one of the NYSE's member firms.

In 1954, at the age of 22, she drove a used Studebaker 700 miles from Cleveland to Manhattan and began knocking on doors. With only \$500 in savings, she knew that she had to find a job quickly or face having to return home.

After Merrill Lynch rejected her because she lacked a college degree, Siebert decided to stretch the truth a bit. During her interview at the brokerage firm of Bache & Co. for an entry-level research analyst position, she answered "yes" when asked if she had a degree, figuring that she could eventually make up whatever credits she lacked. Siebert got the job at Bache and proceeded to learn the brokerage business from the ground up. (She never did find the time to complete her degree.) Given accounts that none of the more experienced analysts wanted, she used her knack for interpreting financial reports-quarterly and year-end earnings statements, annual reports, and balance sheets-to predict where certain industries were headed financially. Her analyses proved to be accurate, and Siebert began to rise through the ranks.

In 1967, she founded her own firm, Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc., beginning by doing research for institutions, and buying and selling financial analyses. That same year, she applied for a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. Of the first ten men she asked to sponsor her application, nine denied her.

The NYSE itself insisted on a new condition before considering Siebert's application. It insisted that Siebert obtain a letter from a bank offering loans of \$300,000 at the near record \$445,000 seat price. But banks would not commit to lend her the money until the NYSE would agree to admit her. Siebert finally was elected to membership on December 28, 1967. In 1975, when the Securities and Exchange Commission first permitted broker commissions to be negotiable, she criticized the discount brokers vehemently; she ran numerous ads calling the discounters and the rates "low ball".

In 1977, she was named Superintendent of Banks for the State of New York, with oversight of all of the banks in the state, regulating about \$500 billion. Not one bank failed during her tenure, despite failures nationwide. When she learned New York Governor Hugh Carey had appointed her to the position, Siebert recalled thinking, "Mickie, you know you're a college dropout. You've done pretty well as a college dropout!".

Siebert was an outspoken advocate for women and minorities in industry. She was quoted as saying, "American business will find that women executives can be a strong competitive weapon against Japan and Germany and other countries that still limit their executive talent pool to the male 50 percent of their population," as well as "men at the top of industry and government should be more willing to risk sharing leadership with women and minority members who are not merely clones of their white male buddies. In these fast-changing times we need the different viewpoints and experiences, we need the enlarged talent bank. The real risk lies in continuing to do things the way they've always been done.

In 1990, she created the Siebert Entrepreneurial Philanthropic Plan, through which she shared half of her firm's profits from new securities underwriting with charities of the issuers' choices. The program offers buyers of new securities a chance to help charities in their communities. And when many small shopkeepers lost their businesses during the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Siebert gave money to women entrepreneurs to help them get back on their feet. She served as president of the New York Women's Agenda in 1998. During her term NYWA developed a program advocating "Financial Literacy for Women", which continued until her death.

In honor of Siebert's 30th anniversary on the New York Stock Exchange, she rang the closing bell on January 5, 1998. Likewise, on December 28, 2007, exactly 40 years after her election to the membership of the New York Stock Exchange, she rang the closing bell in celebration.

In 1994 Siebert was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

In 2016, Siebert Hall at the New York Stock Exchange was dedicated in honor of her. This was the first time a room at the New York Stock Exchange was named after an individual.





Odetta Holmes (December 31, 1930 – December 2, 2008) was an American singer, actress, guitarist, songwriter, and a civil and human rights activist, often referred to as "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement".

Odetta Holmes, later known simply as Odetta, was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Growing up in the Deep South during the Great Depression, she fell in love with the work songs she heard people singing to ease the pain of the times. "They were liberation songs," she later recalled. "You're walking down life's road, society's foot is on your throat, every which way you turn you can't get from under that foot. And you reach a fork in the road and you can either lie down and die or insist upon your life ... those people who made up the songs were the ones who insisted upon life.

After Odetta's father died when she was a child, she and her mother moved across the country to Los Angeles. It was on the train to California that Odetta had her first significant experience with racism. "We were on the train when, at one point, a conductor came back and said that all the colored people had to move out of this car and into another one," she remembered. "That was my first big wound.

Although Odetta loved singing, she never considered whether she had any particular vocal talent until one of her grammar school teachers heard her voice. She then had operatic training from the age of 13. She continued to study music in college. She later insisted, however, that her real education came from outside the classroom. "School taught me how to count and taught me how to put a sentence together," she acknowledged. "But as far as the human spirit goes, I learned through folk music." And as far as her musical development went, Odetta said her formal training was "a nice exercise, but it had nothing to do with my life.

While on tour with *Finian's Rainbow*, Odetta fell in love with folk music when, after a show in San Francisco, she went to a Bohemian coffee shop and experienced a late-night folk music session. "That night I heard hours and hours of songs that really touched where I live," she said. "I borrowed a guitar and learned three chords, and started to sing at parties." Later that year, she left the theater company and took a job singing at a San Francisco folk club. In 1953, she moved to New York City and soon became a fixture at Manhattan's famed Blue Angel nightclub. "As I did those songs, I could work on my hate and fury without being antisocial," she said. "Through those songs, I learned things about the history of black people in this country that the historians in school had not been willing to tell us about or had lied about.

The 1960s, however, were Odetta's most prolific years. During that decade, she lent her powerful voice to the cause of black equality so often so that her music has frequently been called the "soundtrack of the Civil Rights Movement." She performed at political rallies, demonstrations and benefits. In 1963, during the March on Washington, Odetta gave the most iconic performance of her life singing from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after an introduction by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Odetta also recorded more than a dozen albums during the 1960s.

Odetta's popularity waned after the 1960s, and she recorded only several more albums over the remaining four decades of her life. One of the greatest American folk singers of all time, Odetta has been cited as a prominent influence by such legendary musicians as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Janis Joplin. President Bill Clinton presented her with a National Medal of Arts in 1999. In 2004, she was made a Kennedy Center honoree and in 2005, the Library of Congress awarded her its Living Legend Award. Her highly acclaimed final album was a live recording performed when she was 74 years old in 2005. Her music inspired a generation of civil rights activists who helped tear down the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow to build a more equal and just United States of America.

In her later years, after the popularity of folk music had declined, Odetta made it her mission to share its potency with a new generation of youth. "The folk repertoire is our inheritance. Don't have to like it, but we need to hear it," she said. "I love getting to schools and telling kids there's something else out there. It's from their forebears, and it's an alternative to what they hear on the radio. As long as I am performing, I will be pointing out that heritage that is ours.

Odetta continued performing right up until almost the day of her death on December 2, 2008, at the age of 77. She had hoped to perform at President Barack Obama's, inauguration but tragically passed away just weeks before he took office.

Rosa Parks (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) was an activist in the Civil Rights Movement, whom the United States Congress called "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement".



In 1900, Montgomery had passed a city ordinance to segregate bus passengers by race. Conductors were empowered to assign seats to achieve that goal. According to the law, no passenger would be required to move or give up their seat and stand if the bus was crowded and no other seats were available. Over time and by custom, however, Montgomery bus drivers adopted the practice of requiring black riders to move when there were no white-only seats left.

The first four rows of seats on each Montgomery bus were reserved for whites. Buses had "colored" sections for black people generally in the rear of the bus, although blacks composed more than 75% of the ridership. The sections were not fixed but were determined by placement of a movable sign. Black people could sit in the middle rows until the white section filled; if more whites needed seats, blacks were to move to seats in the rear, stand, or, if there was no room, leave the bus. Black people could not sit across the aisle in the same row as white people. The driver could move the "colored" section sign, or remove it altogether. If white people were already sitting in the front, black people had to board at the front to pay the fare, then disembark and reenter through the rear door.

For years, the black community had complained that the situation was unfair. Parks said, "My resisting being mistreated on the bus did not begin with that particular arrest. I did a lot of walking in Montgomery.

On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Parks refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a segregated Montgomery, Alabama bus, which spurred on the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott that helped launch nationwide efforts to end segregation of public facilities. The city of Montgomery had no choice but to lift the law requiring segregation on public buses. Rosa Parks received many accolades during her lifetime, including the NAACP's highest award.

Parks' act of defiance and the Montgomery bus boycott became important symbols of the modern Civil Rights Movement. She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation. She organized and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including Edgar Nixon, president of the local chapter of the NAACP; and Martin Luther King, Jr., a new minister in town who gained national prominence in the civil rights movement.

At the time, Parks was secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP. She had recently attended a Tennessee center for training activists for workers' rights and racial equality. She acted as a private citizen "tired of giving in". Although widely honored in later years, she also suffered for her act; she was fired from her job as a seamstress in a local department store, and received death threats for years afterwards.

Shortly after the boycott, she moved to Detroit, where she briefly found similar work. From 1965 to 1988 she served as secretary and receptionist to John Conyers, an African-American US Representative. (On December 5, 2017 in the wake of allegations that he had sexually harassed female staff members Conyers announced his resignation, effective immediately from Congress.) She was also active in the Black Power movement and the support of political prisoners in the US.

Parks received national recognition, including the NAACP's 1979 Spingarn Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, and a posthumous statue in the United States Capitol's National Statuary Hall. When she died, she was the first woman and third non-US government official to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. California and Missouri commemorate Rosa Parks Day on her birthday February 4, and Ohio and Oregon commemorate the occasion on the anniversary of the day she was arrested, December 1.

Sandra Day O'Connor (born March 26, 1930) was the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, serving as an Associate Justice. A Republican, she was considered a moderate conservative and served for 24 years from her appointment in 1981 by Ronald Reagan to 2006.

After graduating from Stanford University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in economics, Sandra Day O'Connor attended the university's law school and received her degree in 1952, graduating third in her class. Despite her impeccable qualifications, O'Connor struggled to find employment in the legal field due to a heavy bias against women as attorneys. She began her legal career working for the county attorney of San Mateo for free, after turning down a paid position as a legal secretary. Once she proved herself as an asset, she got a job as the deputy county attorney.

From 1954-57, O'Connor moved overseas and served as a civilian lawyer for the Quartermaster Masker Center in Frankfurt, Germany. She returned home in 1958 and settled in Arizona. There she worked at a private practice before returning to public service, acting as the state's assistant attorney general.

In 1969, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona State Senate to fill a vacated seat. In 1970, she kept that seat when she was elected to the State Senate for a full term as a Republican. She was reelected to that position twice, even serving as the first female majority leader in any state senate.

She moved to her first position in the judiciary in 1975 after winning the election for a seat in the Superior Court of Maricopa County, and was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court of Appeals four years later. She worked in the state supreme court for only two years before President Ronald Reagan nominated her in 1981 to become the first female justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court. She was unanimously approved by the Senate.

As a judge, Sandra Day O'Connor developed a solid reputation for being firm but just. Outside of the courtroom, she remained involved in Republican politics. In 1979, O'Connor was selected to serve on the state's court of appeals. Only two years later, in 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated her for associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. O'Connor received unanimous approval from the U.S. Senate and broke new ground for women when she was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

As a member of the country's highest court, O'Connor was considered to be a moderate conservative, who tended to vote in line with the Republican platform, although at times broke from its ideology. She often focused on the letter of law, and voted for what she believed best fit the intentions of the U.S. Constitution.

In 1982, she wrote the majority opinion in *Mississippi University for Women v. Hogan*, in which the court ruled 5-4 that a state nursing school had to admit men after traditionally having been a women's-only institution. In 1992, O'Connor served as the swing vote that reaffirmed the *Roe v. Wade* decision in the abortion rights case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, despite the Republican push to overturn *Roe*.

In 1999, O'Connor sided with the majority opinion in the sexual harassment case *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education* that ruled the school board in question was indeed responsible for protecting a fifth-grade student from unwanted advances from another student.

O'Connor was also the deciding vote on the controversial *Bush v. Gore* case in 2000. The ruling effectively ended the recount of votes for the contested 2000 presidential race, thereby upholding the original certification of Florida's electoral votes. George W. Bush thus went on to serve his first term as president, with O'Connor later admitting that perhaps the highest court should not have weighed in based on the circumstances of the election.

O'Connor retired from the court on January 31, 2006. Since her retirement, O'Connor has received numerous accolades. Arizona State University named its law school after the distinguished justice in 2006 and President Obama honored her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

For 24 years, Sandra Day O'Connor was a pioneering force on the Supreme Court. She'll long be remembered for acting as a sturdy guiding hand in the court's decisions during those years and for serving as a swing vote in important cases.



Sojourner Truth (~1797 – November 26, 1883) was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist and is best known for her improvised speech on racial inequalities, "Ain't I a Woman?" delivered at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in 1851. Truth was born into slavery but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court in 1828 to recover her son, she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man.



Truth was born Isabella Bomfree, a slave in Dutch-speaking Ulster County, NY in 1797. She was bought and sold four times, and subjected to harsh physical labor and violent punishments. In her teens, she was united with another slave with whom she had five children, beginning in 1815. In 1827 – a year before New York's law freeing slaves was to take effect – Truth ran away with her infant Sophia to a nearby abolitionist family, the Van Wageners. The family bought her freedom for twenty dollars and helped Truth successfully sue for the return of her five-year-old-son Peter, who was illegally sold into slavery in Alabama.

Truth moved to New York City in 1828, where she worked for a local minister. By the early 1830s, she participated in the religious revivals that were sweeping the state and became a charismatic speaker. In 1843, after declaring that the Spirit called on her to preach the truth, renamed herself Sojourner Truth. In 1844, she joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in Northampton, Massachusetts. Founded by abolitionists, the organization supported women's rights and religious tolerance as well as pacifism.

As an itinerant preacher, Truth met abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. Garrison's anti-slavery organization encouraged Truth to give speeches about the evils of slavery. She never learned to read or write. In 1850, William Lloyd Garrison privately published her book, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*, who she had dictated to Olive Gilbert. As one of the first accounts of a female former slave, the *Narrative* was a powerful weapon in the abolitionist cause, in which Truth was an active speaker and protestor, known for her insight, courage and wit. Truth survived on sales of the book, which also brought her national recognition. The same year she spoke at the first National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, MA. She met women's rights activists as well as temperance advocates – both causes she quickly championed.

By 1850 Sojourner was also one of the first activists to make the connection between the rights of slaves and black people and those of women. In her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio in 1851, Truth proclaimed, "I could work as much and eat as much as a man ... and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman?" Her speech demanded equal human rights for all women as well as for all blacks. Advocating for women and African Americans was dangerous and challenging enough, but being one and doing so was far more difficult. In it, she challenged prevailing notions of racial and gender inferiority and inequality by reminding listeners of her combined strength (Truth was nearly six feet tall) and female status.

During the 1850's, Truth settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where three of her daughters lived. She continued speaking nationally and helped slaves escape to freedom. In 1858, when someone interrupted a speech and accused her of being a man, Truth opened her blouse and revealed her breasts. During the Civil War she helped recruit black troops for the Union Army and organized supplies for them.

Her Civil War work earned her an invitation to meet President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. That same year she was employed by the National Freedman's Relief Association in Washington, D.C., where she worked diligently to improve conditions for African-Americans by helping freed slaves find jobs and build new lives. While in Washington, DC, she lobbied against segregation, and in the mid 1860s, when a streetcar conductor tried to violently block her from riding, she ensured his arrest and won her subsequent case. In the late 1860s, she collected thousands of signatures on a petition to provide former slaves with land, though Congress never took action.

In addition to her heroic deeds, Truth is known for her revolutionary ideas and biting sense of humor. Remarking on her own lack of formal education, she quipped, "I can't read, but I can read people." She suggested to suffragettes that they engage in direct action, "Sisters, I ain't clear what you be after. If women want any rights more than they's got, why don't they just take them, and not be talking about it?" Finally, in response to white male abolitionists who taunted her, she revealed her radical theological view by asking them "Don't you believe in Jesus?" When they said they did, she said, "Well, Jesus is the son of God and Mary. Man had nothing to do with it".

In 1986 the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative postage stamp honoring her. And in 2017 Rutgers University renamed its College Avenue Apartments to the Sojourner Truth Apartments to honor Sojourner Truth. Sojourner Truth and her parents were owned as slaves by people related to the first president of Rutgers University.



Valentina Tereshkova (born March 6, 1937) is a retired Russian cosmonaut, engineer, and politician. She is the first woman to have flown in space, having been selected from more than 400 applicants and five finalists to pilot Vostok 6 on June 6, 1963.

Valentina was born in a village in western Russia. As a young woman, she worked in a textile mill and parachuted as a hobby. She was chosen to be trained as a cosmonaut in the USSR's space program. On June 13, 1963, she became the first woman to travel into space. In just under three days, she orbited the earth 48 times. After her space flight, she served in the Communist Party and represented the USSR at numerous international events.

It was her parachuting experience that led to her being chosen, in 1962, for training as a cosmonaut in the Soviet space program. During the late 1950s and 1960s, the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union escalated for space travel supremacy. The competitiveness between the two nations for "one upping" achievements was fierce and the Soviets were determined to be the first to send a woman into space.

Four women were chosen to become cosmonauts, but only Tereshkova actually went into space. On June 16, 1963, Vostok 6 was launched, with Tereshkova aboard. The first woman to travel in space, she called out, "Hey sky, take off your hat. I'm on my way!" as the craft took off. Tereshkova orbited the earth 48 times in 70.8 hours – just under three days. (By way of comparison, Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, orbited the earth once; and the four American astronauts who flew before Tereshkova orbited a total of 36 times.) While she was orbiting, she spoke with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, who said, "Valentina, I am very happy and proud that a girl from the Soviet Union is the first woman to fly into space and to operate such cutting-edge equipment."

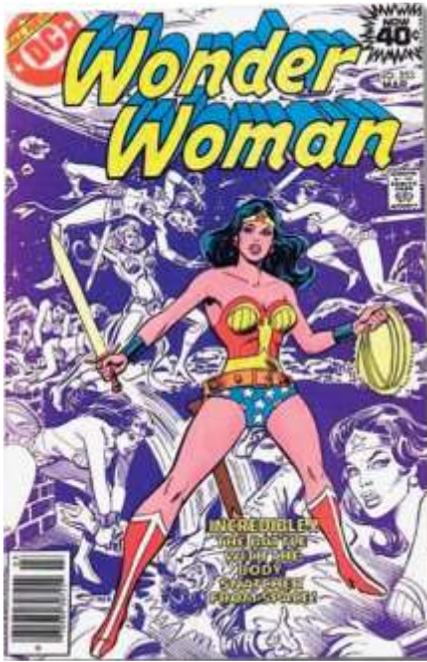
When she returned from her voyage – parachuting from her space craft to earth from 20,000 feet – Tereshkova was given the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

Despite the success of Tereshkova's flight, it was 19 years before another woman (Svetlana Savitskaya, also from the USSR) traveled to space. However, Valentina remains the only woman ever, to have been on a solo space mission. Many accounts suggest that women cosmonauts did not receive the same treatment as their male counterparts. The first American woman to go to space was Sally Ride in 1983.

Tereshkova graduated with distinction from the Zhukovsky Military Air Academy in 1969. She became a prominent member of the Communist Party, and represented the USSR at numerous international events, including the United Nations conference for the International Women's Year in 1975. She headed the Soviet Committee for Women from 1968-87, was pictured on postage stamps, and had a crater on the moon named after her.

In 2007, Vladimir Putin invited Tereshkova to celebrate her 70th birthday. At the time, she said, "If I had money, I would enjoy flying to Mars." In 2015, her space craft, Vostok 6, was displayed as part of an exhibit at the Science Museum in London called "Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age." Tereshkova attended the opening, and spoke lovingly about her spacecraft, calling it "my lovely one" and "my best and most beautiful friend – my best and most beautiful man."

In 2017, London's Science Museum opened a temporary exhibit called "Valentina Tereshkova: First Woman in Space," which celebrated her contributions through artifacts as well as photographs.



Wonder Woman is a fictional superhero appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics. She is a founding member of the Justice League, goddess, and Ambassador-at-Large of the Amazon people. The character first appeared in *All Star Comics* #8 in October 1941 and first cover-dated on *Sensation Comics* #1, January 1942. In her homeland, the island nation of Themyscira, her official title is Princess Diana of Themyscira, Daughter of Hippolyta. When blending into the society outside of her homeland, she adopts her civilian identity Diana Prince. Diana Prince was the name of an army nurse who wanted to be with her fiancé but was unable to arrange for money to do so. As Wonder Woman needed a secret identity to look after Steve, and because both of them looked alike, Wonder Woman gave the nurse money to go to her fiancé in exchange for the nurse's credentials and took Diana Prince as her alias.

Originally it was that that she was sculpted from clay by her mother Queen Hippolyta and given life by Aphrodite, along with superhuman powers as gifts by the Greek gods. In recent years, there was the revelation that she is the daughter of Zeus and Hippolyta, jointly raised by her mother and her aunts Antiope and Menalippe.

Wonder Woman's Amazonian training helped to develop a wide range of extraordinary skills in tactics, hunting, and combat. She possesses an arsenal of advanced technology, including the Lasso of Truth, a pair of indestructible bracelets, a tiara which serves as a projectile, and, in older stories, a range of devices based on Amazon technology.

Wonder Woman was created by William Moulton Marston (and others). Marston was also the creator of a systolic-blood-pressure-measuring apparatus, which was crucial to the development of the polygraph. Marston's experience with polygraphs convinced him that women were more honest than men in certain situations and could work more efficiently. Marston designed Wonder Woman to be an allegory for the ideal love leader; the kind of women who (he believed) should run society. "Wonder Woman is psychological propaganda for the new type of woman who should, I believe, rule the world", Marston wrote.

Initially, Wonder Woman was an Amazon champion who wins the right to return Steve Trevor – a US intelligence officer whose plane had crashed on the Amazons' isolated island homeland – to "Man's World" and to fight crime and the evil of the Nazis. During this period, Wonder Woman joined the Justice Society of America as the team's secretary. Wonder Woman adhered to an Amazon code of helping any in need, and never accepting a reward for saving someone.

Under writer Robert Kanigher, Wonder Woman's origin was revamped (along with other characters' origins). The new origin story increased the character's Hellenic and mythological roots: receiving the blessing of each deity in her crib, Diana is destined to become "beautiful as Aphrodite, wise as Athena, as strong as Hercules, and as swift as Hermes."

At the end of the 1960s Wonder Woman surrendered her powers in order to remain in Man's World rather than accompany her fellow Amazons to another dimension. Wonder Woman began using the alias Diana Prince and opens a mod boutique. She acquired a Chinese mentor named I Ching, who taught Diana martial arts and weapons skills. Using her fighting skill instead of her powers, Diana engaged in adventures that encompassed a variety of genres, from espionage to mythology

In the early 1970s she regained superhero status in the *Justice League of America* and the World War II era. After 1985 Wonder Woman's original story was rewritten, depicting her as an emissary and ambassador from Themyscira to Patriarch's World, charged with the mission of bringing peace to the outside world.

Wonder Woman is a powerful, strong-willed character who does not back down from a fight or a challenge. Yet, she is a diplomat who strongly "favors the pen", and a lover of peace who would never seek to fight or escalate a conflict. She's simultaneously both the most fierce and most nurturing member of the Justice League; and her political connections as a United Nations Honorary Ambassador and the ambassador of a warrior nation makes her an invaluable addition to the team. With her powerful abilities, centuries of training and experienced at handling threats that range from petty crime to threats that are of a magical or supernatural nature, Diana is capable of competing with nearly any hero or villain.

Many writers have depicted Diana in different personalities and tone; between both of her diametric extremes; that of a worldly warrior, a highly compassionate and calm ambassador, and sometimes also as a naive and innocent person, depending on the writer. What has remained constant, and is a mainstay of the character, is her nurturing humanity: her overwhelming belief in love, empathy, compassion, and having a strong conscience.