

*Women's  
History*

**MONTH**

**MARCH 2021**

*Honoring the accomplishments of Women*

The month of **March** marks the annually celebrated **Women's History Month** — an observance of the incredible accomplishments of women throughout history. But, why March? Let's take a look at how history got us here and what the month long holiday means to different people.

## CELEBRATING NELLIE LOUISE YOUNG



**Nellie Louise Young:** Dr. N. Louise Young, physician was first black woman to practice in Maryland." (June 7, 1907 - September 22, 1997) Young was born in [Baltimore](#), Maryland, to [Dr. Howard E. Young](#), Maryland's first African American pharmacist, and Estelle Hall Young. Her father's pharmacy served as a place of inspiration for Young as a child:

I admired the doctors...and I wanted to be able to send my prescriptions to my father's drugstore.

She attended the old Colored High School (now [Fredrick Douglass High School](#)) in Baltimore. Following her graduation in 1924, Young enrolled in [Howard University](#) where she earned her [bachelor of science](#) degree in social sciences and later obtained her medical degree from the [Howard University School of Medicine](#) in 1930. Young initially served as an intern at [Freedmen's Hospital](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#), after she was not accepted to the [Provident Hospital](#) in Baltimore due to the lack of housing accommodations for women. After her internship, Young opened her own practice in offices above her father's drugstore in 1932. In 1934, she accepted an invitation from W.E.B. DuBois to attend a NAACP conference. Around the same time, she was appointed staff physician at the Maryland Training School for Girls, where she served from 1933-1940. When the Baltimore health department budget was cut in 1933, Young volunteered her services to ensure coverage in the colored schools. Young also advocated for frank and practical sex education for girls.

Young believed that physicians should be free to choose their medical specialties "regardless of sex, race, color, and creed." Young's initial medical specialization was [pediatrics](#), but after the death of an infant, she switched her specialization to [gynecology](#). During that time, she became the only African American physician to receive training in birth control at the Baltimore Birth Control Clinic, where she was trained by [Dr. Bessie Moses](#). With funding from the Baltimore Birth Control Clinic, Dr. Young opened a [Planned Parenthood](#) Clinic, located at 1523 McCulloh Street, which was one of only three such clinics then staffed entirely by African Americans in the entire United States in May 1938. After ten years at the clinic, Young was granted residency to specialize in [ob-gyn](#) at Provident Hospital, where she served as chief from 1950 to 1963. She worked at several area hospitals, often integrating the staff, until her retirement in 1984 after fifty-two years of practicing medicine. Young died in 1997, at the age of 90, of [Alzheimer's disease](#). She is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Baltimore.

## CELEBRATING JUANITA MOODY



### Juanita Moody

#### **2003 Hall of Honor Inductee**

Recalling the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, former NSA senior Juanita Moody said that it "allowed us to take advantage of everything we had learned during World War II and post-World War II... and I felt that every day in my career in the Agency from the Cuban crisis on was affected by my experience at that time." In early 1943, Juanita Morris, at a small college in North Carolina, wished to contribute to the war effort and volunteered at the nearest recruiting office. By April, she was at the Army cryptologic headquarters at Arlington Hall Station. While awaiting her security clearance, the Signal Security Agency (SSA) put her into unclassified training in cryptanalysis; she became fascinated with the subject.

At the end of the war, her supervisor asked her to stay on, rather than be demobilized, and she agreed. In 1948, she married Warren Moody, a noncryptologic employee.

Ms. Moody supervised NSA's day-to-day -- sometimes, minute-by-minute -- response to the Cuban Missile Crisis as head of the major element responsible for Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) on that region. In addition to directing production and reporting, she frequently gave impromptu briefings to high-level civilian and military leaders. She often worked around the clock, grabbing only a few hours sleep on a cot in her office.

In the years following the Cuban Missile Crisis, Ms. Moody was assigned to higher positions within the production organization at NSA. She revolutionized SIGINT reporting, and put NSA into the White House Situation Room.

However, in the mid-1970s, she was one of NSA's spokespersons during Congressional hearings and was incorrectly identified by the media as having been involved in intelligence community abuses.

Juanita Moody retired from NSA in 1976 after 33 years of service. The previous December she had become the first recipient of the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement, presented by then Director of Central Intelligence George Bush.

## CELEBRATING CARSON & HAMILTON



**Rachel Louise Carson** (May 27, 1907 – April 14, 1964) was an American [marine biologist](#), author, and [conservationist](#) whose book [Silent Spring](#) and other writings are credited with advancing the global [environmental movement](#).

Carson began her career as an aquatic biologist in the [U.S. Bureau of Fisheries](#), and became a full-time nature writer in the 1950s. Her widely praised 1951 bestseller [The Sea Around Us](#) won her a U.S. [National Book Award](#), recognition as a gifted writer, and financial security. Her next book, *The Edge of the Sea*, and the reissued version of her first book, [Under the Sea Wind](#), were also bestsellers. This sea trilogy explores the whole of ocean life from the shores to the depths.

Late in the 1950s, Carson turned her attention to conservation, especially some problems that she believed were caused by synthetic [pesticides](#). The result was the book *Silent Spring* (1962), which brought environmental concerns to an unprecedented share of the American people. Although *Silent Spring* was met with fierce opposition by chemical companies, it spurred a reversal in national pesticide policy, which led to a nationwide ban on [DDT](#) and other pesticides. It also inspired a [grassroots](#) environmental movement that led to the creation of the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#). Carson was posthumously awarded the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) by President [Jimmy Carter](#).



**Margaret Heafield Hamilton** (born August 17, 1936) is an American [computer scientist](#), [systems engineer](#), and business owner. She was director of the Software Engineering Division of the [MIT Instrumentation Laboratory](#), which developed on-board flight software for [NASA's Apollo program](#). She later founded two software companies—Higher Order Software in 1976 and Hamilton Technologies in 1986, both in [Cambridge, Massachusetts](#). Hamilton has published more than 130 papers, proceedings and reports about sixty projects and six major programs. She is one of the people credited with coining the term "[software engineering](#)".

On November 22, 2016, Hamilton received the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) from president [Barack Obama](#) for her work leading to the development of on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo Moon missions.

## CELEBRATING SOJOURNER TRUTH



An excerpt from Sojourner Truth's most famous speech,  
**Ain't I A Woman?**

**Sojourner Truth** born

**Isabella "Belle" Baumfree**; c. 1797 – November 26, 1883)

was an American [abolitionist](#) and [women's rights](#) activist. Truth was born into [slavery](#) in [Swartekill, New York](#), but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son in 1828, she became the first [black](#) woman to win such a case against a white man. She gave herself the name Sojourner Truth in 1843 after she became convinced that God had called her to leave the city and go into the countryside "testifying the hope that was in her". Her best-known speech was delivered extemporaneously, in 1851, at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in [Akron, Ohio](#). The speech became widely

known during the [Civil War](#) by the title "[Ain't I a Woman?](#)", a variation of the original speech re-written by someone else using a stereotypical Southern dialect, whereas Sojourner Truth was from New York and grew up speaking [Dutch](#) as her first language. During the Civil War, Truth helped recruit black troops for the [Union Army](#); after the war, she tried unsuccessfully to secure [land grants](#) from the [federal government](#) for formerly enslaved people (summarized as the promise of "[forty acres and a mule](#)").

A [memorial bust of Truth](#) was unveiled in 2009 in Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center. She is the first African American woman to have a statue in the Capitol building. In 2014, Truth was included in [Smithsonian](#) magazine's list of the "100 Most Significant Americans of All Time".

Truth died early in the morning on November 26, 1883, at her Battle Creek home. On November 28, 1883, her funeral was held at the [Congregational-Presbyterian Church](#) officiated by its pastor, the Reverend Reed Stuart. Some of the prominent citizens of Battle Creek acted as pall-bearers; nearly one thousand people attended the service. Truth was buried in the city's Oak Hill

Cemetery. Frederick Douglass offered a eulogy for her in Washington, D.C. "Venerable for age, distinguished for insight into human nature, remarkable for independence and courageous self-assertion, devoted to the welfare of her race, she has been for the last forty years an object of respect and admiration to social reformers everywhere."



CELEBRATING BALTIMORE'S LILLIE MAE CARROLL JACKSON

# Black History Spotlight

NOTABLE BLACK FIGURES FROM BALTIMORE HISTORY



## Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson

LILLIE MAY CARROLL JACKSON PIONEERED THE TACTIC OF NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE TO RACIAL SEGREGATION USED BY MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND OTHERS DURING THE EARLY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

**Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson** was a dynamic figure in Baltimore, leading a charge in the city for equal rights for its Black citizens. Known to some as the “Mother of Freedom,” Mrs. Jackson’s fight against racism led the way for her descendants to add to her impressive legacy. Born on May 25, 1889 in Charm City, Jackson graduated from public school and began teaching. The shift from educating the young to fighting for civil rights happened under tense circumstances. While undergoing emergency surgery in 1918 for mastoiditis, a skull infection, she prayed to God to spare her life so that she could raise her children and be of service to people according to family accounts. From then, Jackson became a strong adversary of Jim Crow practices in Baltimore and beyond.

She joined forces with one of her two daughters, Juanita, in sponsoring the City-Wide Young Peoples forum in the '30s. The group launched an effective “Buy Where You Can Work” campaign, which urged Black shoppers to only support businesses that didn’t discriminate against them based on race. At the suggestion of Dr. Carl Murphy, son of Baltimore Afro-American newspaper founder John Murphy, she joined forces with the local NAACP and revived the chapter in 1935. Jackson served as its president for 35 years, before stepping down in 1970. During her tenure as Baltimore’s NAACP president, she led a series of campaigns and opened the Maryland state conference of the organization in 1946.

Jackson also helped Baltimore become the first Southern city to integrate schools after the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision. She was also instrumental in fighting for equal wages and the rights of Black citizens to enter segregated properties in the state. So relentless was Jackson that then-Governor Theodore McKeldin feared and respected her. McKeldin was famously quoted saying, “I’d rather have the devil after me than Mrs. Jackson. Give her what she wants.”

Under Jackson’s guidance the Baltimore NAACP became the largest branch of the organization. Jackson’s daughter, Juanita, would become the first Black woman to practice law in Maryland. She married Clarence Mitchell, Jr., whose brother became the first Black congressman in Maryland.

Jackson died in 1975 and was posthumously named to the Maryland Women’s Hall Of Fame in 1986. Her former home is now a museum, the only such structure named after a woman in the state of Maryland. The building houses several artifacts from the Civil Rights Movement.



The mission of the Lillie May Carroll Jackson School (LMCJS), a charter school in Baltimore city (2200 Sinclair Lane) serving girls in grades 5-8, is to offer a supportive 21st-century learning environment for scholars to reach their maximum

potential through rigorous academic course work, character development, and leadership opportunities. LMCJS envisions a world where all young women, regardless of their background, have the skills, tools, and qualities to develop as leaders in their communities and the world.



## CELEBRATING DOLORES HUERTA



**Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta** (born April 10, 1930) is an American [labor leader](#) and [civil rights](#) activist who, with [Cesar Chavez](#), is a co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the [United Farm Workers](#) (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.

Huerta has received numerous awards for her community service and advocacy for workers', immigrants', and [women's rights](#), including the [Eugene V. Debs](#) Foundation Outstanding American Award, the United States Presidential [Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights](#)<sup>[2]</sup> and the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#).<sup>[3]</sup> She was the first Latina inducted into the [National Women's Hall of Fame](#), in 1993.

Huerta is the originator of the phrase, "[Sí, se puede](#)". As a role model to many in the [Latino](#) community, Huerta is the subject of many [corridos](#) (Mexican or Mexican-American [ballads](#)) and murals.

Huerta spent three decades advocating for safer working conditions with the UFW. A key part of her platform was reducing harmful pesticides. As her movement grew more feminist in nature, this became more important as pesticides cause pregnancy complications such as: decreased fertility, spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, and developmental abnormalities.

In California, April 10 is Dolores Huerta Day.

Huerta championed women's rights in feminist campaigns during her time off from union work. She also fought for ethnic diversity in her campaigns. Huerta was an honorary co-chair of the [Women's March on Washington](#) on January 21, 2017.

President Obama gave out the Presidential Medals of Freedom in a ceremony honoring thirteen individuals, reports the Washington Examiner.



## CELEBRATING NANCY PELOSI



**Nancy Patricia Pelosi D'Alesandro**; born March 26, 1940) is an American politician serving as [Speaker of the United States House of Representatives](#) since 2019, and previously from 2007 to 2011. She has served as a U.S. representative from [California](#) since 1987. A member of the [Democratic Party](#), Pelosi is the only woman in U.S. history to serve as speaker. She was the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history from 2007 to 2021, when [Kamala Harris](#) became vice president. She is second in the [presidential line of succession](#), after Harris. Pelosi was first elected to [Congress](#) in 1987, following her father, [Thomas D'Alesandro Jr.](#), who served as a [U.S. representative from Maryland](#) and [Mayor of Baltimore](#), into politics. She is the [dean of California's congressional delegation](#), having begun her 18th term in 2021. Pelosi represents [California's 12th congressional district](#), which comprises four-fifths of the city and county of [San Francisco](#). She initially represented the [5th district](#) (1987–1993), and then, when district boundaries were [redrawn](#) after the [1990 Census](#), the [8th district](#) (1993–2013). Pelosi has led the House Democrats since 2003—the first woman to lead a party in Congress—serving twice each as [House Minority Leader](#) (2003–2007 and 2011–2019) and as Speaker (2007–2011 and since 2019). Pelosi was a major opponent of the [Iraq War](#) as well as the [Bush administration's 2005 attempt to partially privatize Social Security](#). During her first speakership, she was instrumental in the passage of many of the Obama administration's landmark bills, including the [Affordable Care Act](#), the [Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act](#), the [Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act](#), the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), and the [2010 Tax Relief Act](#). Pelosi lost the speakership in 2011 after the Republican Party won a majority in the House of Representatives in the [2010 elections](#). But she retained her role as leader of the [House Democratic Caucus](#) and returned to the role of House minority leader. In the [2018 midterm elections](#), the Democrats regained control of the House. When the [116th Congress](#) convened on January 3, 2019, Pelosi was again elected [Speaker](#), becoming the first former Speaker to return to the post since [Sam Rayburn](#) in 1955. Under Pelosi's leadership, the House of Representatives [impeached](#) President [Donald Trump](#), first on [December 18, 2019](#), and again on [January 13, 2021](#); Trump was acquitted both times by the [Senate](#).

On January 3, 2021, Pelosi was [reelected](#) to a fourth term as [Speaker of the House](#), which is expected to be her last, after a deal with progressives.

# National Women's History Month

## Influential Women at Johns Hopkins



**Redonda Miller, M.D., M.B.A.**

*President of The Johns Hopkins Hospital*

Redonda Miller is president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, a 1,100-bed academic medical center with \$2.5 billion in operating revenue and more than 10,000 employees.

Since her appointment in 2016, she has led successful efforts to expand the world-renowned hospital's focus on high value care, to enhance safety and the patient experience, and to improve the health of all populations.

During Dr. Miller's tenure, The Johns Hopkins Hospital has been consistently recognized for clinical excellence, maintaining its ranking among the top three hospitals in the nation on the U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll and earning its fourth consecutive Magnet designation for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In 2019, the hospital received gold certification for person-centered care from Planetree International, becoming the largest academic medical center in the world to be certified by the organization.

Dr. Miller arrived at Johns Hopkins as a medical student in 1988. She joined the medical faculty in 1997 and earned a master's degree in business administration from The Johns Hopkins University in 2004. Since then, she has served in several administrative roles of increasing responsibility, including vice chair of clinical operations for the Department of Medicine and senior vice president of medical affairs for the Johns Hopkins Health System.

A practicing internist, Dr. Miller continues to see patients, and her firsthand experience helps inform the decisions she makes to ensure that patients receive the highest quality care and that providers and staff members are supported in their work.

Dr. Miller is active in several community and professional organizations, volunteering her time as chair of the 2019 Greater Maryland Heart Walk and as a member of the Maryland Hospital Association's executive committee and the Gilchrist board of directors. Her many honors include being named among 100 great leaders in health care by Becker's Hospital Review and as one of the top 25 women leaders in health care in 2019 by Modern Healthcare magazine.



**Paula M. Neira, J.D., M.S.N., R.N., C.E.N.**

*Clinical Program Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Transgender Health*

Paula Neira graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1985. A surface warfare officer, she served as a regular and reserve officer, including in mine warfare combat during Operation Desert Storm. Her military decorations include three Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon as well as numerous unit, campaign and service awards. After leaving the Navy in 1991, Neira began her career as a registered nurse, became certified in emergency nursing, and focused her career on adult emergency care and trauma resuscitation. Neira served as the nurse educator in emergency medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital from 2008–2016, and in November 2016, she became the first clinical program director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Transgender Health. An attorney and member of the Maryland State Bar Association since 2001, Neira was a leader in the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, and for more than a decade has been recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on transgender military service. In 2015, Neira made naval history by becoming the first transgender Navy veteran to have her discharge documentation updated to reflect her correct name by order of the Navy. In 2016, the secretary of the Navy named her the co-sponsor of the USNS HARVEY MILK (T-AO-206), and in 2018, Neira was awarded the GLMA Achievement Award recognizing her work as an LGBTQ+ advocate and in advancing transgender health care.



# National Women's History Month

## Influential Women at Johns Hopkins



**Inez Stewart, M.Ed.**

*Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Johns Hopkins Medicine*

Inez Stewart has more than 25 years of experience in human resources management and a deep understanding of its role in academic

medicine. In her role at Johns Hopkins, she leads a team of human resources professionals who focus on attracting, engaging, developing and retaining the best people who will provide the highest quality of care for our patients. Stewart works collaboratively with the leadership of Johns Hopkins Medicine to create a culture of diversity and inclusion, pathways for employee development and advancement, and programs that invest in employee health and wellness. She also works with the human resource leaders and the health system's presidents to further the strategic priorities of Johns Hopkins. Before joining Johns Hopkins, Stewart served as vice president and chief human resources officer for Boston Children's Hospital. She has also held several senior executive human resources posts, including vice president of human resources at Tufts Medical Center and various vice-presidential posts with the Polaroid Corporation, Arthur D. Little Inc. and the Lotus Development Corporation. Stewart earned her bachelor's degree from Boston College and her master's degree, with a concentration in human resource management, from Cambridge College. She has served on the boards of many organizations, including Boston Children's Museum, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Rogerson Communities and Eastern Bank Corporation. She was president of the Conexcion board of trustees and is on the board of directors for the Hispanic Federation of New York. Stewart is the proud recipient of Boston Business Journal's Hispanic executives "20 on the Move" award and most recently the 2018 American Dream Award from the Maryland Hispanic Business Conference for her mentorship to young Hispanic/Latinx professionals.



**Bonnielin K. Swenor, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

*Director, Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center*

*Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

Bonnielin Swenor is an epidemiologist and associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute and the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is the founder and director of the Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center, which addresses health disparities for people with disabilities and aims to shift the paradigm from "living with a disability" to "thriving with a disability." Dr. Swenor's career is motivated by her personal experience with visual impairment, and her research focuses on establishing evidence, developing strategies and shaping policy to maximize health, inclusion and equity for people with disabilities. She is a principal investigator for the Swenor Research Group, a team that studies vision and aging issues, disability health inequities and inclusion, and access to care for people with visual impairments and other types of disabilities.

## CELEBRATING DANDRIDGE, HEPBURN & TAYMOR



### **Dorothy Dandridge**

Both a phenomenal singer and talented actress, Dorothy Dandridge was the first African American woman to be nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award after her performance in 1954's "Carmen Jones." Later, Dandridge earned legend status with her turn in "Porgy & Bess," released just six years before her untimely death in 1965.

### **Katharine Hepburn**

After her first Oscar for "Morning Glory" in 1933, Katharine Hepburn ruled the silver screen, winning a record-breaking four Academy Awards for Best Actress. She also bucked societal expectations of how women should talk, act and dress while building an acting career that spanned six decades.



### **Julie Taymor**

In 1997, Taymor became the first woman to receive a Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical for her adaptation of the Disney classic, *Lion King*. Following her successful theatre career she went on to direct the film *Frida*, and while she did not receive an Oscars nod herself (only five women in history have), the film earned five Academy Award nominations.

## CELEBRATING OPRAH, BIGELOW & DuVERNAY



### **Oprah Winfrey**

An American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and [philanthropist](#). She is best known for her talk show, [The Oprah Winfrey Show](#), broadcast from Chicago, which was the highest-rated television program of its kind in history and ran in national syndication for 25 years from 1986 to 2011. Dubbed the "Queen of All Media" she was the richest African American of the 20th century and North America's first black multi-billionaire, and she has been ranked the greatest black philanthropist in American history. By 2007, she was sometimes ranked as the most influential woman in the world. Now a mogul with a

multibillion dollar fortune, Oprah Winfrey came from the humblest of beginnings in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Winfrey has since gone on to earn multiple Academy Award nominations thanks to impressive acting performances in films like "The Color Purple" and "Selma."

### **Kathryn Bigelow**

In 2008, Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win an Academy Award for Best Director for her 2008 film "The Hurt Locker," which follows an IED removal team in the Iraq War. After "The Hurt Locker's" success, Bigelow has gone on to direct more critically acclaimed films, including 2012's "Zero Dark Thirty."



### **Ava DuVernay**

With her history-making 2014 film *Selma*, filmmaker Ava DuVernay became the first African American woman to be nominated for Best Director at both the Golden Globe Awards and the Academy Awards. Since then, DuVernay has produced the groundbreaking Netflix miniseries *When They See Us*, which

explores racial oppression in America through the lens of the infamous 1989 Central Park Five case.

## CELEBRATING DAVIS, FONDA, STREEP & HEPBURN



### **Bette Davis**

Before she was the subject of an iconic '80s song about her eyes, Bette Davis was one of Hollywood's brightest stars. The first-ever female recipient of the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, Davis' much-lauded film career lasted more than 60 years, earning her two Academy Award wins.

### **Jane Fonda**

A descendant of Hollywood royalty — she's the daughter of actor Henry Fonda — Jane Fonda has established her own place as one of film's most compelling comedic actresses. Before she was the star of Netflix's "Grace and Frankie," Fonda built a fitness empire with her trademark at-home exercise videos and stirred controversy as she protested the wars in Vietnam and Iraq.



### **Meryl Streep**

Frequently described as the best actor of her generation, Meryl Streep's iconic performances in films like "Doubt," "The Devil Wears Prada," and "Silkwood" have earned her three Academy Awards (of a record 21 nominations) and eight Golden Globes

### **Audrey Hepburn**

A British actress and humanitarian. Recognized as both a film and fashion icon, she was ranked by the [American Film Institute](#) as the [third-greatest female screen legend](#) from the [Golden Age of Hollywood](#), and was inducted into the [International Best Dressed List](#) Hall of Fame. Her last recorded performances were in the 1990 documentary television series [Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn](#).



## CELEBRATING FITZGERALD, BEYONCE & PINK



### **Ella Fitzgerald**

Dubbed the “First Lady of Song,” Ella Fitzgerald’s groundbreaking career spanned nearly six decades. In that time, she performed some of American music’s most notable songs, including “It Don’t Mean A Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)” and “Dream a Little Dream of Me.”



### **Beyoncé**

A writer, producer, actress, model, musician and cultural icon, Beyoncé is arguably the most influential celebrity of her

generation. She’s scored the most Grammy nominations of any female artist, winning 23 times, and has sold more than 160 million records as a solo artist and member of R&B group Destiny’s Child.



### **Pink**

Born Alecia Beth Moore, Pink is so much more than a pop star. An accomplished songwriter, she’s sold more than 40 million albums across the globe and blazed a fierce, edgy trail of her own with hits like “Just Like A Pill” and “Don’t Let Me Get Me” in an era when pop princesses dominated the airwaves.

## CELEBRATING JESSYE NORMAN



**Jessye Norman** (September 15, 1945 – September 30, 2019) was an American [opera](#) singer and recitalist. Ms. Norman, one of the most celebrated opera singer of her era, with a repertoire that spanned the operatic canon from [Wagner](#) to [Verdi](#) and from [Purcell](#) to [Poulenc](#), also venturing into jazz and [African American spirituals](#). She was able to perform [dramatic soprano](#) roles, but refused to be limited to that voice type. She was a commanding presence on operatic, concert and recital stages, associated with roles including Beethoven's [Leonore](#), Wagner's [Sieglinde](#) and [Kundry](#), [Cassandre and Didon](#) by Berlioz and Bartók's [Judith](#). *The New York Times* music critic [Edward Rothstein](#) described her voice as a "grand mansion of sound", and wrote that "it has enormous dimensions, reaching backward and upward. It opens onto unexpected vistas. It contains sunlit rooms, narrow passageways, cavernous halls." Norman trained at [Howard University](#), the [Peabody Institute](#), and the [University of Michigan](#). Her career began in Europe, where she won the [ARD International Music Competition](#) in [Munich](#) in 1968, which led to a contract with the [Deutsche Opera Berlin](#). Her operatic début came as Elisabeth in Wagner's [Tannhäuser](#), after which she sang as Verdi's [Aida](#) at [La Scala](#) in Milan. She made her first operatic appearance in the U.S. in 1982 with the [Opera Company of Philadelphia](#), when cast as Jocasta in Stravinsky's [Oedipus rex](#), and as Dido in Purcell's [Dido and Aeneas](#). She went on to sing leading roles with many other companies, including the [Metropolitan Opera](#), the [Lyric Opera of Chicago](#), the [Paris Opera](#), and the [Royal Opera, London](#). She sang at the [second inauguration of Ronald Reagan](#), at Queen [Elizabeth II](#)'s 60th birthday celebration in 1986, and performed the [La Marseillaise](#) to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the [French Revolution](#) on July 14, 1989. She sang at the [1996 Summer Olympics opening ceremony](#) in [Atlanta](#) and for the [second inauguration of Bill Clinton](#) in 1997.



[American Dance Theater](#), [Peter Gelb](#), and [Renée Fleming](#).

Norman was memorialized with a gala tribute at the [Metropolitan Opera House](#), New York City, on November 24, 2019. Among the speakers and performers at the public remembrance were [Anna Deavere Smith](#), [Gloria Steinem](#), the former [Minister of Culture of France](#), [Jack Lang](#), [Eric Owens](#), The [Dance Theatre of Harlem](#), the [Alvin Ailey](#)

## CELEBRATING SHIRLEY CAESAR-WILLIAMS



**Shirley Ann Caesar-Williams** (born October 13, 1938 in [Durham, North Carolina](#)), known professionally as **Shirley Caesar**, is an American [gospel](#) singer, songwriter and recording artist whose career has spanned seven decades. A multi-award-winning artist, with 12 [Grammy Awards](#) along with [Dove Awards](#) and Stellar Awards to her credit, she is known as the "First Lady of Gospel Music" and "The Queen of Gospel Music." She began recording at the age of 12 in 1951 on the Federal recording label. Shirley Caesar has released over forty albums. She has participated in over 16 compilations and three gospel musicals, *Mama I Want to Sing*, *Sing: Mama 2* and *Born to sing: Mama 3*. She is also the creator of the #unameit challenge, which

occurred during one of her song sermonettes. She opened her eponymous store and plans on using the profits to help others during the holiday season. Caesar's credits also include a series of commercials for [MCI Communications](#) and numerous awards for her recordings. She has won 12 Grammy Awards (plus honored with The Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award), 14 Stellar Awards, 18 Doves, 1 RIAA gold certification, an Essence Award, McDonald's Golden Circle Lifetime Achievement Award, NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, SESAC Lifetime Achievement Award, Rhapsody & Rhythm Award from the National Museum of African American Music, as well as induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. According to Soundscan, she has sold 2.2 million albums since 1991. She has made several notable appearances, including the televised Live from Disney World Night of Joy, the Gospel According to [VH1](#), a [White House](#) performance for George Bush, and a speech on the Evolution of Gospel Music to the US Treasury Department. In 2017, Caesar was honored with a [Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from [The Recording Academy](#).



**Shirley Caesar and the Morgan State University Choir** perform during "The Gospel Tradition: In Performance at the White House" in the East Room of the White House, April 14, 2015



## CELEBRATING PARTON, SIMONE & SELENA



### **Dolly Parton**

Perhaps the most recognizable icon in country music, Dolly Parton is a ridiculously talented singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. She's also a big-hearted philanthropist, responsible for getting more than 100 million books into the hands of young children via her Imagination Library, which sends free books to kids from birth until kindergarten.

**Nina Simone** - Even though her original path was classical piano — she studied the instrument at the Juilliard School — Nina Simone became best known to American music fans for her iconic, smoldering vocals. Simone was also a major figure in the American civil rights movement, recording powerful anthems like “Mississippi Goddam” to protest racial discrimination.



**Selena Quintanilla-Pérez** (April 16, 1971 – March 31, 1995) was an American singer, songwriter, spokesperson, businesswoman, model, actress, and fashion designer. Referred to as the "[Queen of Tejano music](#)", her contributions to music and fashion made her one of the most celebrated [Mexican-American](#) entertainers of the late 20th century. [Billboard](#) magazine named her the top-selling Latin artist of the 1990s decade, while her posthumous collaboration with [MAC cosmetics](#) became the best-selling celebrity collection in cosmetics history. Media outlets called her the "Tejano [Madonna](#)" for her clothing choices. She also ranks [among the most influential Latin artists of all time](#) and is credited

for catapulting a music genre into the [mainstream](#) market. Texas Governor (and future US President) [George W. Bush](#) declared Selena's birthday Selena Day in Texas. Her posthumous crossover album, *Dream of You* (1995), debuted atop the [Billboard 200](#), making Selena the first Latin artist to accomplish this. In 1997, [Warner Bros.](#) released [Selena](#), a film about her life and career, which starred [Jennifer Lopez](#) as Selena and [Lupe Ontiveros](#) as Saldívar. Selena has sold around 30 million records worldwide, making her one of the best-selling [female artists in Latin music](#).



## CELEBRATING ALTHEA NEALE GIBSON



**Althea Neale Gibson** (August 25, 1927 – September 28, 2003) was an American [tennis](#) player and [professional golfer](#), and one of the first [Black](#) athletes to cross the color line of international tennis. In 1956, she became the first African American to win a [Grand Slam](#) title (the [French Championships](#)). The following year she won both [Wimbledon](#) and the [US Nationals](#) (precursor of the US Open), then won both again in 1958 and was voted [Female Athlete of the Year](#) by the Associated Press in both years. In all, she won 11 Grand Slam tournaments: five singles titles, five doubles titles, and one mixed doubles title. Gibson was inducted into the [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#) and

the [International Women's Sports Hall of Fame](#). "She is one of the greatest players who ever lived", said [Bob Ryland](#), a tennis contemporary and former coach of [Venus](#) and [Serena Williams](#). "[Martina Navratilova](#) couldn't touch her. I think she'd beat the Williams sisters." In the early 1960s she also became the first Black player to compete on the Women's Professional Golf Tour.

At a time when racism and prejudice were widespread in sports and in society, Gibson was often compared to [Jackie Robinson](#). "Her road to success was a challenging one", said [Billie Jean King](#), "but I never saw her back down." "To anyone, she was an inspiration, because of what she was able to do at a time when it was enormously difficult to play tennis at all if you were Black", said former [New York City Mayor David Dinkins](#). "I am honored to have followed in such great footsteps", wrote Venus Williams.

"Her accomplishments set the stage for my success, and through players like myself and Serena and many others to come, her legacy will live on."

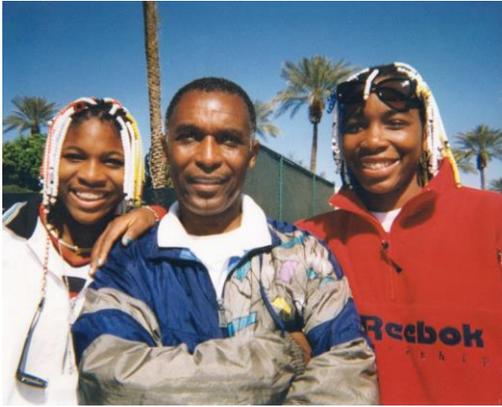


[Queen Elizabeth II](#) presents Gibson with the [Venus Rosewater Dish](#) at the 1957 Wimbledon women's singles championships (July 6, 1957)



## CELEBRATING VENUS AND SERENA & BILLIE JEAN KING

### Story of Venus and Serena Williams still an inspiration to generation of kids



The courts where Venus and Serena Williams learned to play were in East Compton Park, a blighted area in a blighted city. Dr. James Pyles, 72, knows it well; a longtime teacher and widely respected tennis coach in south central Los Angeles and nearby areas, he met Richard Williams (father) there one day, at the urging of Pyles' sister, Judy Jones, then the director of the park. Jones told Pyles that a man would show up with two little girls and a shopping cart full of tennis balls every day.

Two girls learn the game on the cracked courts of Compton, Calif. Their games and dreams are nurtured by their father, Richard, who talks about them winning major titles when they are in diapers, calling Venus a "ghetto Cinderella," telling anyone who would listen that Serena would be even better. The girls don't play juniors, or any tournaments to speak of, chasing no rankings points, completely off the tennis grid. They grow into women who reach the summit of their sport, winning 107 singles titles — 24 of them Grand Slams — and earning \$87 million in prize money, never mind endorsement income.



#### **Billie Jean King**

The sport of tennis wouldn't be what it is today without Billie Jean King, both a truly iconic player and pioneer for women in the sport. In 1973, King bested Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes match and then went on to rack up 39 Grand Slam titles and led the fight for pay equality in tennis.