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 JULIA WITHERSPOON

Julia Witherspoon – Racine, Wisconsin -- A passion for reading inspired a Racine police officer to change careers nearly 20 years ago, and by changing careers, she’s transformed the lives of countless kids.

Julia Witherspoon, 69, started handing out books to kids from her squad car in 1997. That small gesture exploded into a program that’s gone around the world. It’s called Cops ‘N Kids Reading Center, which she is the Founder.

The oldest of 12 brothers and sisters,” she said. “I did not have books to read at home.” “My parents, with lights, gas, rent, all of that, they had no money for books,” Witherspoon said. “My parents probably died thinking books were a million dollars apiece. We can't afford it.” Those childhood experiences inspired her to create the Cops ‘N Kids Reading Center.

Witherspoon grew up and became a police officer, and she always had an eye on the kids on her beat. “Police everywhere should have a bond with kids because kids look up to us,” she said. Her life changed one day on a call, when she discovered thousands of children’s books in a dark warehouse. “I got a call of a burglar alarm, not in my area, I was not supposed to be there,” she remembered. “And he hit those lights and all I saw was children's books. All types of children's books.” She gave those books away for free to kids in Racine that Christmas, and it snowballed from there. She found a man willing to donate a building on Villa Street, but it had been boarded up for 28 years. With a lot of help from local union contractors, and a lot of TLC, the building was eventually transformed into a cozy space for kids.

Witherspoon doesn't have any plans to slow down. “I want them to be armed with the knowledge that they can be successful, they can make it,” she said. One of Witherspoon’s many success stories is three-year-old Ayvah. Her dad, William Norwood, said just a few months ago, Ayvah couldn’t talk. “She wasn’t speaking. I believe it was like she didn’t have any confidence,” Norwood said. But now Ayvah is belting out the answers to all kinds of questions, along with the rest of the kids. “She was saying the pledge and her vowels just off of how many times she goes through it, every time she comes here,” Norwood said, smiling at his daughter. Witherspoon believes that love is part of the learning process. There are now 115 Cops ‘N Kids Reading Centers in the United States and around the world. Part of her inspiration comes from the fact that Witherspoon sees herself in these kids.
Compassion Cards was founded in February of 2014 by Norfolk local, Jordie DiFernando. Her vision for this project was simply to share love and encouragement with the people around her. What began with Jordie writing cards and taking them out on her own, quickly became a larger project than she could have imagined! With a wonderful board of directors, and a vision of change, Jordie set out on the long trek of Compassion Cards becoming a legally recognized nonprofit organization. In June of 2016, Compassion Cards was officially deemed a corporation, and received 501 (c) (3) nonprofit recognition in October of the same year. The Compassion Cards team now gathers regularly to write cards together and distribute them throughout our communities! In addition to delivering cards in our own area, we’ve delivered cards all around the United States as well as in Africa and Central America. We accept requests to mail cards to people, and we also leave cards in library books, on coffee shop tables, and in shelves at the store in hopes that someone who really needs encouragement will get it. We send cards to reassure the humanity that people still care about each other and that everyone has a purpose.

Eyewear stylist Margie Toney is making glasses a style staple by keeping her finger on the pulse of the ever-evolving spectacles industry. Toney views eyewear as an extension of personality and unique expression. She customizes her optical consultations to elevate each client’s style into a one-of-a-kind signature look. For that reason, she is in high demand by business professionals, actors, musicians and style mavens, such as Fashion Bomb Daily, CEO Claire Sulmers, Harriet actress Cynthia Erivo and supermodel Lois Samuels, among others.

Toney’s high-end eyewear boutique, Style Eyes Optical, is located in the burgeoning Brooklyn Business District. Rolling out spoke with Toney about her styling career. As far as I can recall, I was always into fashion, clothing and accessories. My defining moment was at the age of 14. I remember going into the malls and seeing these gorgeous pieces of clothing and imagining pulling outfits together. Diane Von Furstenberg was a big influence on me. She created the iconic wrap dress, which transcended to all age groups, demographics, body sizes and ethnicities. I quickly realized that I wanted to do something that would have an impact on people in a similar manner. While in college, I got a sales position at an optical store in the financial district. I started to observe the eyewear that people were wearing, I paid close attention to the fit, their style and personality along with the general aesthetic. I am passionate about helping others. I love making people feel and look good. As an optical stylist, I can ensure that you not only achieve optimal vision but [also] that by carrying an eclectic assortment of independent eyewear, it sets you apart. I am a boutique company, and we emphasize quality rather than quantity. The experience is personal. I envision a collaboration featuring my own capsule collection of eyewear to address some of the needs that are still lacking, such as the longer temple length and wider bridge to accommodate African Americans and Hispanics.
South Florida woman starts movement helping thousands get back on their feet

ROYAL PALM BEACH, Fla. — Financial struggles brought on by the pandemic have made it a very challenging year for many families. Some are finding themselves reaching for help for the first time ever. During these tough times, Margi Bre is working tirelessly to make sure no family or child in Palm Beach or Broward County goes without what they need. “I do it because I’ve been there. I’ve struggled in my life. I was a single parent and I’ve been evicted and I have a little bit of a past and I felt that if I could overcome it I could be an example to other people,” said Bre. With some extra time and extra space in her garage, Bre started collecting clothing donations in 2019. Her efforts grew as people’s needs have so she created a non-profit out of it called The Legacy Closet. With a physical store in Broward County where people can drop things off and also pop in to shop the donations for free, Bre relies on volunteers to travel Palm Beach County collecting items and then opening up their homes as shopping locations. Bins and bins of items lined a driveway in Royal Palm Beach where individuals and families could come to get food, clothing, toys and most importantly, encouragement. “My hope is that it brings them hope. We all have a story. There’s always a back story to somebody’s life and it doesn’t matter. We’re a non-judgmental group and we like the victories. We like to hear the victories. We like to see lives changed on a regular basis just because we gave a little bit of ourselves,” said Bre.
CELEBRATING SACAGAWEA

Sacagawea also Sakakawea or Sacajawea; May c. 1788 – December 20, 1812 or April 9, 1884) was a Lemhi Shoshone woman who, at age 16, met and helped the Lewis and Clark Expedition in achieving their chartered mission objectives by exploring the Louisiana Territory. Sacagawea traveled with the expedition thousands of miles from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean, helping to establish cultural contacts with Native American populations and contributing to the expedition's knowledge of natural history in different regions.

Sacagawea was an important member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The National American Woman Suffrage Association of the early 20th century adopted her as a symbol of women's worth and independence, erecting several statues and plaques in her memory, and doing much to recount her accomplishments.

Sacagawea (right) with Lewis and Clark at the Three Forks, mural at Montana House of Representatives

Lewis and Clark reach the Shoshone camp led by Sacagawea.

Six years after the journey, Sacagawea died after giving birth to her daughter Lisette. William Clark adopted both of her children, but there are no records of Lisette. To this day, there are no reliable pictures or drawings of Sacagawea. Recently, the United States government engraved her image on the new one dollar coin. Sacagawea is buried in Lander, Wyoming.
Harriet Tubman escaped slavery to become a leading abolitionist. She led hundreds of enslaved people to freedom along the route of the Underground Railroad.

Who Was Harriet Tubman?
Born into slavery in Maryland, Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in the North in 1849 to become the most famous "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. Tubman risked her life to lead hundreds of family members and other slaves from the plantation system to freedom on this elaborate secret network of safe houses. A leading abolitionist before the American Civil War, Tubman also helped the Union Army during the war, working as a spy among other roles.

In April 1858, Tubman was introduced to the abolitionist John Brown, who advocated the use of violence to disrupt and destroy the institution of slavery. Tubman shared Brown’s goals and at least tolerated his methods. Tubman claimed to have had a prophetic vision of Brown before they met. When Brown began recruiting supporters for an attack on slaveholders at Harper’s Ferry, he turned to “General Tubman” for help. After Brown’s subsequent execution, Tubman praised him as a martyr.

Tubman remained active during the Civil War. Working for the Union Army as a cook and nurse, Tubman quickly became an armed scout and spy. The first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, she guided the Combahee River Raid, which liberated more than 700 slaves in South Carolina.

After the Civil War ended, Tubman dedicated her life to helping impoverished former slaves and the elderly. In honor of her life and by popular demand, in 2016, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that Tubman will replace Andrew Jackson on the center of a new $20 bill.
The story of Joan of Arc, also known as "The Maid of Orléans", is a tale of courage, prophecy, and upheaval. Joan of Arc (French: Jeanne d'Arc) was born in 1412 and is celebrated for her role during the Hundred Years' War, and was canonized as a saint. She was born to Jacques d'Arc and Isabelle Romée, a peasant family, at Domrémy in the Vosges of northeast France. Joan said that she received visions of the archangel Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine of Alexandria instructing her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination late in the Hundred Years' War. The as-yet-unanointed King Charles VII sent Joan to the Siege of Orléans as part of a relief army. She gained prominence after the siege was lifted only nine days later. Several additional swift victories led to Charles VII's consecration at Reims. This long-awaited event boosted French morale and paved the way for the final French victory at Castillon in 1453.

On 23 May 1430, she was captured at Compiègne by the Burgundian faction, a group of French nobles allied with the English. She was later handed over to the English and put on trial by the pro-English bishop Pierre Cauchon on a variety of charges. After Cauchon declared her guilty, she was burned at the stake on 30 May 1431, dying at about nineteen years of age.

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, along with Saint Denis, Saint Martin of Tours, Saint Louis, Saint Michael, Saint Rémi, Saint Petronilla, Saint Radegund and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.
Influential Women at Johns Hopkins

We would like to highlight these women for their ongoing contributions to Johns Hopkins and for their support of its mission. You can also visit the Johns Hopkins Women in Leadership website to meet women in the school of medicine who are influential in medicine and science.

Deborah Baker, D.N.P., A.C.N.P., N.E.A.-B.C.
Senior Vice President for Nursing, Johns Hopkins Health System
Vice President for Nursing and Patients Care Services, The Johns Hopkins Hospital

As the health system’s first senior vice president for nursing, Deborah Baker partners with the chief nursing officers and leaders at Johns Hopkins hospitals and outpatient care settings to ensure integration of services and alignment with the health system’s strategic goals and objectives. She is accountable for enhancing a clinical practice environment that is patient centered, with unsurpassed clinical quality and patient safety, while also making significant contributions to education and research, ensuring nursing practice at the highest scope of licensure. Dr. Baker first came to Johns Hopkins as a student, earning her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. She joined the staff of The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1991 as a clinical nurse in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Baker has served in a variety of nursing leadership roles at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, including her most recent position as the director of nursing for surgery, Wilmer Ophthalmology, and the comprehensive acute care rehabilitation unit (2008–2019). She is doctor of nursing practice faculty at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and associate dean for health systems partnership and innovation.

Judy Huang, M.D.
Vice Chair, Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Professor of Neurosurgery

In 2020, Judy Huang was named to the board of directors of the American Board of Neurological Surgery, dedicated to ensuring the highest standards of neurological education and training in the U.S. — the first female member from Johns Hopkins elected to serve in this noteworthy capacity. She serves as program director of the neurosurgery residency and director of the Cerebrovascular Surgery Fellowship Program. In addition, she is the director of neurosurgery, chair of the medical board, and chief of cerebrovascular neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, a comprehensive stroke center. Dr. Huang’s clinical and research interests are focused primarily on arteriovenous malformations, cerebral aneurysms, and ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke. She is dedicated to outcomes research and understanding the natural history of potentially devastating hemorrhage from brain arteriovenous malformations. She has won numerous awards for excellence in teaching and clinical care, including the Richard Ottenbaker Teaching Award and induction into the Miller-Coulson Academy of Clinical Excellence in 2011, and she is active in national neurological organizations, particularly the Society of Neurological Surgeons, Neurosurgical Society of America, American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Renee Blanding, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice President of Medical Affairs, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine

Renee Blanding has served as medical director of the operating room and staff anesthesiologist at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, where she’s worked for almost 30 years, and became vice president of medical affairs in July 2011. In addition to working closely with the executive team, medical and hospital staff, her job scope covers credentialing and risk management issues as well. Dr. Blanding has been recognized as an eloquent speaker on historical matters and is often requested to share her knowledge on such topics, especially during Black History Month, and serves as an executive co-champion for the Johns Hopkins Diaspora employee resource group. She is passionate about community engagement and volunteerism. Her love for reading was instilled in her at a young age, and that passion and appreciation for reading led Dr. Blanding to tackle the challenge of improving literacy among Baltimore’s underserved children. In 2013, she created the city’s Readership to Leadership literacy program, where she works closely with East Baltimore elementary schools to establish reading and spelling bees for children in grades two to six. Dr. Blanding buys books for the students to read during school breaks, and leads book discussions at events such as award ceremonies and pizza parties. “It’s a magical time,” says Blanding, who was honored by the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association with a 2020 award for community service.
Naomi Parker Fraley (August 26, 1921 – January 20, 2018) was an American war worker who is now considered the most likely model for the iconic "We Can Do It!" poster. During World War II, she worked on aircraft assembly at the Naval Air Station Alameda. She was photographed operating a machine tool and this widely used photograph was thought to be an inspiration for the poster. Geraldine Hoff Doyle was initially credited as the subject but research by a professor at Seton Hall University set the record straight. In 1942, Parker's photo was taken at a Pratt & Whitney vertical shaper and it appeared in local press including the Pittsburgh Press on July 5, 1942. The following year J. Howard Miller's "We Can Do It!" poster was one of a series that appeared in factories at Westinghouse in a worker morale campaign. Miller could have seen the picture of Parker, and it is presumed that the newspaper photo was the source of his image. The "We Can Do It!" poster appeared in a few factories in 1943.

In 2011, Parker Fraley was at a reunion held at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park and there she spotted the 1942 photo of her operating a machine. She was surprised to find that the caption said that it was Geraldine Hoff Doyle and she wrote to the park to correct their mistake. They thanked her for telling them the correct name for the photo. Doyle had in innocence thought that the photo was of her and by extension she had decided that the poster was too. This mis-identification then became well-established as sources repeated it – an example of the Woozle effect.

After the war, she worked as a waitress in Palm Springs and married three times. When she died, aged 96 in 2018, she was survived by her son and six step-children.
CELEBRATING GRACE BOGGS

Grace Lee Boggs (June 27, 1915 – October 5, 2015) was an American author, social activist, philosopher, and feminist. She is known for her years of political collaboration with C. L. R. James and Raya Dunayevskaya in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s she and James Boggs, her husband of some forty years, took their own political direction.

By 1998, she had written four books, including an autobiography. In 2011, still active at the age of 95, she wrote a fifth book, The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century, with Scott Kurashige and published by the University of California Press. She is regarded as a key figure in the Asian American Movement.

She founded Detroit Summer, a multicultural intergenerational youth program, in 1992 and was the recipient of numerous awards. Additionally, Boggs’ home in Detroit also serves as headquarters for the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership. The Boggs Center was founded in the early 1990s by friends of Grace Lee and James Boggs and continues to be a hub for community-based projects, grassroots organizing, and social activism both locally and nationally.
Her autobiography, *Living for Change*, was published in 1998. As late as 2005, she continued to write a column for the *Michigan Citizen* newspaper, and her book *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century* was published in 2011. Her life is the subject of the documentary film *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs* (2013), produced and directed by the American filmmaker Grace Lee. In 2014, The Social Justice Hub at The New School's newly opened University Center was named the Baldwin Rivera Boggs Center after activists James Baldwin, Sylvia Rivera, and Grace Lee Boggs. She participated in the Conference on Activism, Ethnic Studies, Diaspora and Beyond held at Northwestern University in 2005, which was later reprinted in *CR: New Centennial Review*. Her speech "On Revolution: A Conversation Between Grace Lee Boggs and Angela Davis" held on March 2, 2012, at the Pauley Ballroom, University of California, was excerpted in the journal *Race, Poverty & the Environment*.

After turning 100 in June 2015, Boggs died on October 5, 2015.
The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament is an annual college basketball tournament for women. Held each March, the Women's Championship was inaugurated in the 1981–82 season. The NCAA tournament was preceded by the AIAW Women's Basketball Tournament, which was held annually from 1972 to 1982. Basketball was one of 12 women's sports added to the NCAA championship program for the 1981–82 school year, as the NCAA engaged in battle with the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) for sole governance of women's collegiate sports. The AIAW continued to conduct its established championship program in the same 12 (and other) sports; however, after a year of dual women's championships, the NCAA prevailed, while the AIAW disbanded.

Attendance and interest in the Women's Division I Championship have grown over the years, especially from 2003 to 2016, when the final championship game was moved to the Tuesday following the Monday men's championship game. The women's championship game is the penultimate overall game of the college basketball season since 2017. From 1982 to 1990, 1996 to 2002, and since 2017 the Women's Final Four is usually played on the Friday before the Men's Final Four or the hours before the men played on the final Saturday of the tournament. The final was usually played the Sunday afternoon following the Men's Final Four; since 2017, Sunday evening. The tournament bracket is made up of champions from each Division I conference, which receive automatic bids. The remaining slots are at-large bids, with teams chosen by an NCAA selection committee. The selection process and tournament seedings are based on several factors, including team rankings, win-loss records, and NET data.

Unlike the men's tournament, there are only 32 at-large bids (since 2014), and no play-in game. The women's tournament, like the men's, is staged in a single elimination format and is part of the media and public frenzy known colloquially as March Madness or The Big Dance.
All 63 games have been broadcast on television from 2003 to 2019 on ESPN and ESPN2; come 2021, ESPN. Similar to the pre-2011 men's tournament coverage on CBS, local teams are shown on each channel when available, with "whip-around" coverage designed to showcase the most competitive contests in the rest of the country.

Both 2020 men's and women's tournaments were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Come 2021, the whole tourney will be played in San Antonio, Texas.

**NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament**

The **NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament**, also known and branded as **NCAA March Madness**, is a single-elimination tournament played each spring in the United States, currently featuring 68 college basketball teams from the Division I level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), to determine the national championship. The tournament was created in 1939 by the National Association of Basketball Coaches, and was the idea of Ohio State coach Harold Olsen. Played mostly during March, it has become one of the most famous annual sporting events in the United States. It has become extremely common in popular culture to predict the outcomes of each game, even among non-sports fans; it is estimated that tens of millions of Americans participate in a bracket pool contest every year. Mainstream media outlets such as ESPN, CBS Sports and Fox Sports host tournaments online where contestants can enter for free. Also, there are many sites that cater to corporate marketing and public relations to get in on the excitement such as BigTourney.com. Employers have also noticed a change in the behavior of employees during this time: they have seen an increase in the number of sick days used, extended lunch breaks and even the rescheduling of conference calls to allow for more tournament watching. There are also many handicappers and pundits which offer advice for winning their own bracket. The tournament teams include champions from 32 Division I conferences (which receive automatic bids), and 36 teams which are awarded at-large berths. These "at-large" teams are chosen by an NCAA selection committee, then announced in a nationally televised event on the Sunday preceding the "First Four" play-in games, currently held in Dayton, Ohio, and dubbed Selection Sunday. The 68 teams are divided into four regions and organized into a single-elimination "bracket", which pre-determines, when a team wins a game, which team it will face next. Each team is "seeded", or ranked, within its region from 1 to 16. After the First Four, the tournament occurs during the course of three weekends, at pre-selected neutral sites across the United States. Teams, seeded by rank, proceed
through a single-game elimination bracket beginning with a "first four" consisting of 8 low-seeded teams playing in 4 games for a position in the first round the Tuesday and Wednesday before the first round begins, a first round consisting of 64 teams playing in 32 games over the course of a week, the "Sweet Sixteen" and "Elite Eight" rounds the next week and weekend, respectively, and – for the last weekend of the tournament – the "Final Four" round. The Final Four is usually played during the first weekend of April. These four teams, one from each region (East, South, Midwest, and West), compete in a preselected location for the national championship.

The tournament has been at least partially televised on network television since 1969. Currently, the games are broadcast by CBS, TBS, TNT, and truTV under the trade-name NCAA March Madness. These networks paid the NCAA to broadcast the games in 2011. The contract was for 14 years and they paid $10,800 million. However, in 2018 that contract was extended for another seven years making it valid through the year 2032. The average payment over the years comes out to be $891 million annually. Since 2011, all games are available for viewing nationwide and internationally. As television coverage has grown, so too has the tournament’s popularity. Currently, millions of Americans fill out a bracket, attempting to correctly predict the outcome of 63 games of the tournament (not including the First Four games).

With 11 national titles, UCLA has the record for the most NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Championships; John Wooden coached UCLA to 10 of its 11 titles. The University of Kentucky (UK) is second, with eight national titles. The University of North Carolina is third, with six national titles, and Duke University and Indiana University are tied for fourth with five national titles. The University of Connecticut (UConn) is sixth with four national titles. The University of Kansas (KU) & Villanova University are tied for seventh with three national titles. The University of Cincinnati, the University of Florida, University of Louisville, Michigan State University, North Carolina State, Oklahoma State, and the University of San Francisco all have two national titles. The tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, 65 in 2001, and 68 in 2011.

Both 2020 men’s and women’s tournaments were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Come 2021, the tournament will be played at various venues in Indiana, the first time that a tournament has been hosted in its entirety by one state.
Maia Chaka will be the first Black woman to work as an NFL referee when she takes the field in her new role this fall. The NFL made the announcement Friday morning on the TODAY show ahead of a live interview with Chaka. She is one of two women working as NFL referees and joins Sarah Thomas at the game's highest ranks seven years after made history together at the FBS level.

Chaka is a health and physical education teacher at Renaissance Academy in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and works with at-risk youth. She was named a teacher of the year a few years ago and wants her story to be an inspiration.

"I just want them to know that if you have a passion for something and if you have a drive for something, don't let it hold you back just because you think something may give you some kind of limitation," she said. "Continue to work hard and always, always, always just follow your dreams."

Marcia Fudge confirmed as HUD secretary, becoming the first Black woman to lead the agency in more than 40 years.

The Ohio congresswoman has pledged to steer the Department of Housing and Urban Development to end discriminatory housing practices and boost Black homeownership as part of President Biden’s efforts to address systemic racism.

The Senate voted Wednesday to confirm Ohio Democratic Rep. Marcia Fudge as secretary of Housing and Urban Development, adding another African American woman to the ranks of President Joe Biden’s Cabinet. She was confirmed 66-34.
The Modern Electric Fridge

Before modern refrigerators, iceboxes were a common kitchen fixture. An icebox is simply a non-mechanical cabinet with a compartment for ice that keeps food relatively cool. Then Florence Parpart invented the electric refrigerator in 1914, enabling people to store food safely for longer. Hello, leftovers!

The Stir Fry Pan

Joyce Chen was a popular chef and restaurant owner in America who noticed that woks didn't fit properly on American stovetops. She saw room for improvement and developed a wok with a flat bottom to accommodate stir fry cooking on an American stove. This became the modern stir fry pan! Maybe it's time to dust yours of for a fresh stir fry dinner?

The Toaster

Where would breakfast be without toast? We have Sarah Guppy to thank for this innovation, as she invented the predecessor of today’s toaster—a small electrical plate that kept bread warm. If you’ve forgotten how versatile toast is, try some new toppings.

The Ice Cream Maker

Nancy Johnson invented the first hand-cranked ice cream freezer in 1843. Before her invention, the process of making ice cream was so laborious, it was expensive and not available to most people. Thanks to her, ice cream became the popular treat it is today. Honor her tasty invention with any of these must-make ice cream desserts.

The Dishwasher

We love anything that makes baking easier, and the dishwasher certainly helps with cleanup! This heavenly kitchen upgrade was invented by Josephine Cochrane in 1887. You can make cleanup even easier with your dishwasher and these one-pot recipes!

The Paper Coffee Filter

Looking for an easy way to remove the bitter taste in coffee after boiling loose coffee grounds, Amalie Auguste Melitta Bentz invented the first paper coffee filter in 1908. Try making these coffee shop-inspired treats with your next homebrew.
Diana, Princess of Wales (born Diana Frances Spencer; 1 July 1961 – 31 August 1997), was a member of the British royal family. She was the first wife of Charles, Prince of Wales—the heir apparent to the British throne—and was the mother of Prince William and Prince Harry. Diana’s activism and glamour made her an international icon and earned her enduring popularity as well as unprecedented public scrutiny, exacerbated by her tumultuous private life.

Diana was born into the British nobility and grew up close to the royal family on their Sandringham estate. The youngest daughter of John Spencer, 8th Earl Spencer, and Frances Shand Kydd, she was strongly affected by their divorce in 1967. She did not distinguish herself academically, but was talented in music, dance, and sports. In 1978, she moved to London, where she lived with flatmates and took on various low-paying jobs. Diana came to prominence in 1981 upon her engagement to Prince Charles, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, after a brief courtship. Their wedding took place at St Paul’s Cathedral in 1981 and made her Princess of Wales, a role in which she was enthusiastically received by the public. The couple had two sons, the princes William and Harry, who were then second and third in the line of succession to the British throne. Diana’s marriage to Charles, however, suffered due to their incompatibility and extramarital affairs. They separated in 1992, soon
after the breakdown of their relationship became public knowledge. The details of their marital difficulties became increasingly publicized, and the marriage ended in divorce in 1996.

As Princess of Wales, Diana undertook royal duties on behalf of the Queen and represented her at functions across the Commonwealth realms. She was celebrated in the media for her unconventional approach to charity work. Her patronages initially centered on children and youth but she later became known for her involvement with AIDS patients and campaign for the removal of landmines. She also raised awareness and advocated ways to help people affected with cancer and mental illness. As princess, Diana was initially noted for her shyness, but her charisma and friendliness endeared her to the public and helped her reputation survive the acrimonious collapse of her marriage. Considered to be very photogenic, she was a leader of fashion in the 1980s and 1990s. Media attention and public mourning were extensive after her death in a car crash in a Paris tunnel in 1997 and subsequent televised funeral. Her legacy has had a deep impact on the royal family and British society.

The Princess began her work with AIDS patients in the 1980s. She was not averse to making physical contact with AIDS patients, and was the first British royal figure to do so. In 1987, she held hands with an AIDS patient in one of her early efforts to de-stigmatize the condition. Diana noted: "HIV does not make people dangerous to know. You can shake their hands and give them a hug. Heaven knows they need it. What's more, you can share their homes, their workplaces, and their playgrounds and toys." To Diana's disappointment, the Queen did not support this type of charity work, suggesting she get involved in "something more pleasant". In 1989, she opened Landmark Aids Centre in South London. In October 1990, Diana opened Grandma's House, a home for young AIDS patients in Washington, D.C. She was also a patron of the National AIDS Trust. In 1991, she hugged one patient during a visit to the AIDS ward of the Middlesex Hospital, which she had opened in 1987 as the first hospital unit dedicated to this cause in the UK. As the patron of Turning Point, a health and social care organization, Diana visited its project in London for people with HIV/AIDS in 1992. She later established and led fundraising campaigns for AIDS research.

In March 1997, Diana visited South Africa, where she met with President Nelson Mandela. On 2 November 2002, Mandela announced that the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund would be teaming up with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund to help people with AIDS. They had planned the combination of the two charities a few months before her death. Mandela later praised Diana for her efforts surrounding the issue of HIV/AIDS: "When she stroked the limbs of someone with leprosy or sat on the bed of a man with HIV/AIDS and held his hand, she
transformed public attitudes and improved the life chances of such people". Diana had used her celebrity status to "fight stigma attached to people living with HIV/AIDS", Mandela said. In 2009, a panel including Sir Ian McKellen and Alan Hollinghurst chose Diana's portrait to be shown in the Gay Icons exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London. In October 2017, the Attitude magazine honoured Diana with its Legacy Award for her HIV/AIDS work. Prince Harry accepted the award on behalf of his mother.

Here, the princess is seen getting a hug at a London school for children with disabilities, while William bonds with patients at a New Zealand hospital in 2010.

In 2013, Prince Harry retraced Diana's footsteps by visiting Angola in Southern Africa. Back in 1997, Lady Di famously visited the country and made international headlines by visiting the victims of land lines and walking courageously over a minefield.
ABC’s Linsey Davis Teaches Kids to Celebrate Diversity With the Illustrated Book ‘One Big Heart’

Linsey Davis is an ABC News correspondent who has reported for many of the network’s programs including *World News, 20/20, Good Morning America*, and *Nightline*. The TV journalist and best-selling author offers a gentle introduction to the timely topic.

Posted on Jul 1, 2020

ABC News correspondent Linsey Davis is highlighting the importance of children celebrating diversity with her second children’s book, co-written with her mother, Beverly Davis, *One Big Heart: A Celebration of Being More Alike Than Different*.

The Emmy Award-winning reporter, whose six-year-old son, Ayden, was the inspiration behind the best-selling book, which was published in August 2019, spoke to *Guideposts.org* about using the multicultural book as a teaching tool in these difficult times.

![One Big Heart](image)

Courtesy Zondervan, Illustration by Lucy Fleming
“I came up with the idea a few years ago because I was worried about the messages that my son was being bombarded with in the news,” she says, noting that he began asking questions about race following the highly publicized arrest of two Black men at a Philadelphia Starbucks in 2018. “It’s difficult to articulate this complex topic for a young child’s mind, but it’s possible, starting with these kinds of books.”

While writing the story, Davis says it was important for her to acknowledge the various ways in which we’re different—from our skin to our hair to our distinctive personalities. “Instead of having a fear of being different, kids should have the opposite mindset and not try to fit in,” she says. “Kids at a very young age—and parents—can use this book to say, ‘Hey we’re different and that’s a good thing.”

Still, Davis urges both children and adults to remember that, regardless of our unique differences, we all have a lot in common and should focus on the many attributes that unite us.

“People always say that kids don’t see color and I absolutely disagree with that,” she says. “Kids do see color, they just don’t assign a value to it. Adults do.”

As a Christian mother, Davis found it important to incorporate the presence of God in One Big Heart, just as she did in her first children’s book The World is Awake: A Celebration of Everyday Blessings, to highlight that, “We are God’s creations given this one unique gift: one big heart.” She also describes the Bible verse “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Mark 12:31 KJV), as “the most essential point we can get across to our kids in this time and in our current climate.”

The DNC has made a commitment to increasing the diversity of debate moderators in the 2020 cycle, and has mandated that at least one person of color and one woman serve as a moderator in every debate.
Kathrin U. Jansen is Head of Vaccine Research and Development at Pfizer. She previously led the development of the HPV vaccine (Gardasil) and newer versions of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar), and is working with BioNTech to create a COVID-19 vaccine using mRNA (Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine) that was approved for Emergency Use Authorization in the United States on December 11, 2020.

She joined VaxGen in 2004, where she was appointed chief scientific officer. In 2006 Jansen left VaxGen to join Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in 2006, where she was responsible for vaccine discovery. Here she developed the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar-13). In 2010 Jansen was appointed adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Jansen is concerned about the rise of vaccine hesitancy. During a conference at Pfizer in 2019, she said “I don't know what motivates an individual to ignore scientific facts. As scientists, it is our obligation to rectify misinformation and to provide the facts on what we know and what we don't know.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic Jansen oversaw the development of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. She looked at four potential candidates, before joining with BioNTech to improve the likelihood of identifying the vaccine with the highest potential. To test efficacy, Jansen and Pfizer are working under guidance from the Food and Drug Administration and conducting a 30,000 patient study. In July 2020 Jansen announced positive results in their clinical trials, resulting in an increase in the share price of Pfizer.
Marcella Nunez-Smith is an American physician. She is an associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Yale School of Medicine, where she is also Associate Dean for Health Equity Research and founding director of the Equity Research and Innovation Center, Director of the Center for Research Engagement, Director of the Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Health Equity Leadership at Yale University, and she was also selected by Joe Biden to lead his administration’s task force on health equity. She co-chaired the Biden-Harris transition’s COVID-19 Advisory Board from November 2020 to January 2021.

In August 2020, Nunez-Smith was named Associate Dean for Health Equity Research at Yale. Nunez-Smith served as chair of the community sub-committee of the ReOpen Connecticut Advisory Group giving expert advice to the state of Connecticut. She has also been working with community partners in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to overcome obstacles in testing, self-isolation, and quarantine. A paper submitted in May 2020 of which Nunez-Smith was senior co-author considered state-level reporting of race and ethnicity of Covid cases and outcomes in the United States, for data up to April 2020, and found reporting from many states of this dimension to have been weak or lacking -- an important omission, the paper argued, as from the data available it estimated that members of Black populations had encountered a 3.6 times greater risk of death, and members of Latin populations a 1.9 times greater risk of death, compared to White populations.

In November 2020, Nunez-Smith was named as one of three co-chairs of U.S. president-elect Joe Biden’s COVID-19 Advisory Board. In January 2021, Biden appointed Nunez-Smith as the leader of his administration’s task force on health equity. Nunez-Smith’s studies health and healthcare equity for structurally marginalized communities. In particular, she has studied adverse health and healthcare outcomes for those living in the Caribbean U.S. territories, including studies that show U.S. territory residents have a 17% greater risk of dying after a heart attack compared to those living on the U.S. mainland. She has established the Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network to study early risk and protective factors for cancer, heart disease, and diabetes in the eastern Caribbean. Nunez-Smith developed a tool to assess patient reported experiences of discrimination in healthcare. Nunez-Smith has also investigated the experiences, promotion, and retention of diverse students and faculty at U.S. medical schools. Her research is funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities as well as other organizations.