

# A CALENDAR OF WOMEN

Produced by Mary's Pence

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# January

## 1 World Day of Prayer for Peace

On this World Day of Prayer for Peace, pray that the Spirit of Peace accompany us and lead us to justice for all people.

## Solemnity of Mary

The Church chose to honor Mary as the Mother of God more than 1500 years ago as part of the Octave of the Nativity which begins on Christmas and includes the feast of the Holy Family. While saluting the mother of Jesus, we do not forget that she is also our mother, the mother of all who belong to the Body of Christ. As we begin a new year, we honor Mary by keeping our hearts open to God.

## 2 Sadie Alexander

(January 2, 1898 - November 1, 1989)

One of the first African American women to earn a PhD, Sadie was the first woman to hold an office in the National Bar Association. She came from a family with many notable members--her uncle was a well-known painter, her grandfather a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and her father was the first African American to graduate from University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In 1921, Sadie received a PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1927 she became the first African American woman to practice law in Pennsylvania and to be admitted to the state bar. She and her husband immediately began fighting discrimination in Pennsylvania's restaurants, hotels, and theaters. In 1947 she was appointed to the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

## 3 Juliana Dogbadzi

Juliana Dogbadzi is a native Ghanaian who, at the age of seven, was sent to work as a slave in a nearby shrine under a custom known as Trokosi. This custom requires young girls to do penance for the crimes of their relatives by becoming "slaves of the gods." Juliana's grandfather had been accused of stealing a small amount of money. To repay his crime, Juliana was sent to work as a slave at the local shrine. While there she was often starved. She was raped and bore two children. Juliana escaped when she was twenty-three. She decided to return to the shrines to educate other slaves and empower them to take their children and escape. Because of Juliana's efforts, Trokosi is now banned in Ghana. Juliana is working to have the practice banned in other countries.

## 4 Elizabeth Ann Seton

(August 28, 1774 - January 4, 1821)

Born Elizabeth Ann Bayley to a wealthy Episcopalian family, she was raised in New York's high society. She married wealthy businessman William Magee Seton in 1794 but was widowed 10 years later and left to raise their five children alone. She converted to Catholicism which alienated her from her family. To support her children and assure they had a good education, she opened a school in Boston that was run along the lines of a religious society. At the invitation of the archbishop, she opened a Catholic girl's school in Baltimore, Maryland in 1809. In order to run the school, she and four companions founded the first group of women

religious in the United States, the Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was the beginning of the Catholic parochial school system in the United States. In 1893, she was elected superior of the Sisters of Charity, the first American religious society. She was canonized in 1975 and became the first American-born person to be elevated to sainthood.

## **5 Our Lady of Carmel of the Maipu, Chile**

Since the image of Our Lady of Carmel was first commissioned in 1785, the Virgin has been associated with the struggles for independence of the Chilean nation. On January 5, 1817, General Jose de San Martin placed his baton in the right hand of the statue and solemnly named Our Lady the Patroness of the Army of the Andes. In 1818, as the Spanish forces advanced on Chile, the people and their leaders crowded into the cathedral to pray at Our Lady's feet, promising to raise a church in her honor at the very site where Chile's independence was gained. Chile was liberated and before the end of the year the first stone was laid. The sanctuary was completed in 1892. In 1923, at the request of the Chilean bishops, the Holy See proclaimed the Virgin of Carmel principal patroness of all Chileans. There are two Carmel images that Chileans venerate—one at the National Shrine of the Maipu, and one at the Basilica of the Savior in Santiago de Chile. The liturgical feast is celebrated on the last Sunday of September.

## **6 Charlotte Ray**

(January 13, 1850 - January 4, 1911)

Charlotte Ray was the first African American woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman to be admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia. Because of racist attitudes toward her Native American and European ancestry, Charlotte was unable to have an active law practice and began to teach in public schools. She also devoted her time to organizations working to advance the status of African-Americans and women. She was a strong advocate of women's suffrage and inspired many women to become lawyers.

## **7 Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes**

(January 7, 1844 - April 16, 1879)

Bernadette Soubirous, a French peasant girl, is believed to have been granted 18 visions of the Blessed Virgin. On February 11, 1858, Bernadette is said to have seen the figure of a young girl at the grotto of Massabielle, in Lourdes. In one of the later appearances, the vision told Bernadette to dig for water with her hands. The spring she uncovered still flows at a rate of 27,000 gallons a day. People travel from all over the world to bathe in the spring and pray for healing. Four years after her first vision, the Church acknowledged that the figure in the apparitions was "The Most Holy Virgin." In 1866, Bernadette entered a convent, where she lived simply until she died at age 35. She was canonized in 1933.

## **8 Fanny Bullock Workman**

(January 8, 1859 - January 22, 1925)

Fanny Bullock Workman traveled the world with her husband as a pioneer, geographer, adventurer and cartographer. Their mapmaking and detailed scientific observations in the Himalayas remain important as resources today. Fanny worked as a proponent of women's rights and suffrage. On one of many climbing expeditions in the Himalayas, she carried a banner proclaiming "Votes for Women". She also acted as an

advocate of higher education for women. Fanny was a skilled mountaineer, as well. At age 53 she was still climbing to heights of 20,000 feet. She died in 1925 at the age of 66.

## **9 Rigoberta Menchu**

(January 9, 1959 - )

Rigoberta Menchu was born in a small Guatemalan village to a poor Quiche Indian family who lived on a plantation as laborers. At that time, indigenous people had no rights as citizens, which made them vulnerable to the forced takeovers of plantations. Rigoberta's family became active in protesting these conditions and one by one they were killed for their part in the protests. After her mother was killed, Rigoberta was persecuted and exiled to Mexico. She became an active leader in the defense of the rights of indigenous people. During this time she wrote her autobiography which led to international attention for the conflict between the Indians and the military government of Guatemala. In 1992, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and she used the cash prize of \$1.2 million to start a foundation in her father's name as a way to continue the fight for human rights. Because of her efforts, the United Nations declared 1993 as the International Year for the Indigenous Populations.

## **10 Gabriela Mistral**

(April 7, 1889- January 10, 1957)

Gabriela was born Lucila Godoy Alcayaga in Vicuna, Chile to a dilettante poet. In 1945, she became the first Latin America writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. She started to write poetry about nature and the poor while she was a teacher. Afraid that her work officers would not like her poems, she created a pen name. She chose her name from her two favorite poets, Gabriele D'Annunzio and Frederic Mistral. *Gabriela* also represents the angel Gabriel, the bearer of good news, and *mistral* is the Spanish word for "wind."

Gabriela played an important role in the educational systems of both Chile and Mexico, and was also the Chilean consul in Naples, Madrid, and Lisbon. She taught Spanish literature at Columbia University, Middlebury College, Vassar College, and the University of Puerto Rico. She later joined the lay order of the Franciscans. Her tomb is inscribed with her words, "What the soul is to the body, so is the artist to his people."

## **11 Baptism of the Lord**

Remember all women brought out of Africa into slavery and baptized against their will.

## **12 Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU**

(1958 - )

Sr. Dianna is an Ursuline nun from the United States who traveled as a missionary to Guatemala to work with women and children in the rural regions. On November 2, 1989, she was kidnapped from a garden in Antigua, Guatemala. Over the next 24 hours she was tortured and raped until she managed to escape. She believed that one of her captors was an American and returned to the United States to uncover the truth. She has spoken about her ordeal and written a book, *The Blindfold's Eyes*, as a way to raise concern about the plight of those abducted and the victims of torture. She is the founder of Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). Her witness compelled the US government to release papers and documents that could help Sr. Dianna, and others who have suffered similar fates in Guatemala, prosecute abusers of human rights.

## **13 Anne Reynolds**

(January 13, 1934 – March 9, 2004)

Anne raised eight children with her husband Ed, and became active in helping parents, especially Catholic parents, know that their love for their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children should be unconditional. She helped frame conferences to educate youth professionals and the public, and the Catholic Parents Network retreats to assist parents. She wrote letters to publications and to pastors, assisted PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and was always available to speak with individuals. She cherished the clients she helped with Volunteer Counseling Service.

This quietly strong woman was featured in the National Catholic Reporter when she and Ed were forced to resign as Eucharist Ministers because of a letter to the local press supporting Sr. Jeannine Gramick and Fr. Robert Nugent's ministry to gays and lesbians. Despite this blow, she continued to be a woman of hope for change in the Church.

Anne was a first rate wordsmith, gentle storyteller, and well informed educator. Her word was absolutely trustworthy; if Anne said she'd take care of it, it was as good as done. Anne listened compassionately and spoke from the heart: she spoke softly, and people listened attentively.

*Our thanks to donor Eileen Browning for submitting this tribute*

## **14 Theresa Maxis Duchemin**

(died January 14, 1892)

Born Almaide Maxis Duchemin, Theresa grew up in Baltimore where she was a boarder in a school run by Elizabeth Lange. In 1828, they founded the first order of Black Sisters in the world, the Oblates of Providence. Around this time, she met Fr. Louis Florent Gillet, a Redemptorist who was seeking to establish a congregation in Monroe, Michigan to teach French immigrants. She left the Oblates in 1845 and went to Monroe to establish the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1855 Fr. Gillet left Monroe and Theresa lost the supportive presence of the Redemptorists. Finding few opportunities to expand the congregation in Michigan, she established a mission in St. Joseph, Pennsylvania. She was blocked by the bishop from opening another mission in Reading, PA, a decision she protested. This led to the congregation being split into two separate foundations. Theresa exiled herself to live among the Grey Nuns of Ottawa for most of her life. She was able to return to the Pennsylvania motherhouse for the last few years of her life, where she died in 1892.

## **15 Coretta Scott King**

(April 27, 1927 - )

Born in Alabama during the Depression, Coretta Scott was forced to pick cotton to help her family financially, but resolved early in her life to receive an education and seek equality. In 1945 she attended Antioch College in Ohio on a scholarship and studied education and music. She chose to concentrate on musical training and after graduation continued her studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. There she met the young minister, Martin Luther King, Jr., whom she married. They moved to Montgomery, Alabama where she raised four children before being thrust into the limelight when her husband was assassinated. Her speech on Solidarity Day in 1968 is often viewed as an example of her emergence from the shadow of her husband's memory. In it, she implored American women to "unite and form a solid block of woman power." She remains

a spokesperson on behalf of black causes and non-violence. She devotes much of her time to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta.

## **16 Kathy Kelly**

In 1996 Kathy Kelly helped to initiate Voices in the Wilderness, a campaign to end the economic sanctions in Iraq. The organization arranged for American delegates to live alongside Iraqi civilians and deliver medical supplies to ordinary Iraqis, especially children. It has also organized numerous delegations to visit Iraq. Kathy has traveled extensively in Iraq and been part of several Peace Teams during the war.

An educator in Chicago, Kathy has been part of non-violent direct action for many years and has been arrested several times and served jail time for her beliefs. She is the author of *Other Lands Have Dreams: From Baghdad to Peking Prison* and *Iraq: A Journey of Hope and Peace*.

## **17 Asma Jahangir**

(1952 - )

From the time Asma Jahangir earned a law degree in 1978, she has been crusading in her native Pakistan for better recognition of civil liberties. She has represented thousands of hopeless cases, from those wrongly imprisoned to women fleeing abusive husbands. She works with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, an independent body of lawyers and activists. She helped to form the first law firm for women in Pakistan and the Women's Active Forum, which protests the mistreatment of women and minorities.

## **18 Mourning Dove**

(c. 1888- August 8, 1936)

Mourning Dove is the pseudonym chosen by Christine Quintasket who was born to the Colville Confederate Tribes. She became an ethnographer, orator, pamphleteer, teacher, and novelist, believing that her description and analysis of Native American ways would ensure better treatment for her people. She is credited with authoring one of the earliest novels to be published by a Native American woman, *Cogewea, the Halfblood*, in 1927. Her recollections form one of the few contemporary sources about the impact of assimilation pressures on Native peoples.

She earned her living as a migrant worker, picking fruits and vegetables by day and writing in her camp tent at night. She was a public speaker on the welfare of Native American people in her region and one of the first women elected to her tribal council. She died after a life of hard work and illness at age 48.

## **19 Martha Cotera**

(January 17, 1938 - )

A feminist, librarian, and civil rights worker, Martha Cotera has had an enormous impact on the advancement of Mexican American females. Following the first national Mexican American feminist conference in 1970, Martha and her co-worker Evey Chapa founded the Chicana Research and Learning Center in Austin, Texas. Many middle-class feminist organizations have since emerged, including the Mexican American Business and Professional Women's Association (1975) and the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas (1990).

In addition to co-founding such an influential organization, Martha also distinguished herself as a feminist author with the publication of her book, *Profile of the Mexican American Women*. After becoming affiliated with the Raza Unida party, Martha served as a keynote speaker in its statewide conference in Austin, and actively supported public forums for its political candidates. She has provided testimony on women's issues and affirmative action, and has persuaded city officials to increase representation of Mexican Americans on local boards and commissions.

## **20 Pray for Victims of Domestic Violence.**

### **21 Sophia Louisa Jex-Blake**

(January 21, 1840 - January 7, 1912)

Born in England, Sophia wanted to be a doctor at a time when women were not allowed to study medicine there. At 25, she attended medical school in the US, but left to study in Edinburgh with the hope of practicing medicine in her native country. While in Edinburgh, she and other hopeful female doctors were prevented from attending lectures by objecting men and refused further admittance to the school. She began a lawsuit which dragged on for years.

Sophia and the other women students were initially given permission to continue their educations, but in the higher courts it was declared that the matriculation of women was an illegal act in Britain. In response she set up the London School of Medicine for Women in 1874 and went on to receive her medical degree from the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Sophia continued to fight to become certified as a doctor in the United Kingdom and for the right of women to study medicine by drafting rough bills and frequently contacting members of Parliament. Finally, in 1876, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons allowed women to attend classes and earn degrees, and all medical schools were forced to open their doors to women.

### **22 Our Lady of Altigracia**

La Altigracia, or the Virgin of the Highest Grace, is the official patroness of the Dominican Republic. Dominicans pray to her for miraculous cures and for intercessions in their troubles at one of the Las Noches de Vela (Nights of Prayer). During that time, prayers are recited and musicians perform hymns. The largest event occurs in Higüey, where thousands of pilgrims come to the basilica of the Virgin.

### **23 Mary Ward**

(January 23, 1585 – January 23, 1645)

Born in Yorkshire, England, Mary Ward entered the convent of the Poor Clares, but felt she was called to active rather than contemplative life. In 1609 she founded a Catholic society for women, modeled on the Society of Jesus, called the Institute of Mary. The idea of uncloistered nuns was innovative at the time and was met with much resistance. After suppression under Pope Urban VIII, her institute was fully restored in 1877 and became the model for modern Catholic Women's Institute.

## **24 Maria Tallchief**

(January 24, 1925 - )

Maria was born in Fairfax, Oklahoma to a Scottish-Irish mother and an Osage father. At the year of four, she began to take dancing and piano lessons and she excelled in both. After graduating from high school she went to New York to become a ballerina. Maria was hired by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo where she worked with George Balanchine, the famous Russian choreographer. After performing in a version of Stravinsky's "Firebird," she became the prima ballerina for the American Ballet Theatre. She surprised the world by retiring from dance five years later. She was the artistic director for the Chicago Lyric Opera Ballet and founded the Chicago City Ballet.

## **25 Sandra Ware**

(April 27, 1954 - January 25, 1997)

Sandra Ware founded Let's Start in St. Louis to offer assistance to women after their release from prison (Let's Start received a grant from Mary's Pence). A native of St. Louis, she grew up in Pruitt-Igo, the notorious public housing high rise. Sandra spent 17 years in and out the Missouri prison system. Poorly educated but intelligent, street-smart and insightful, she turned her life around with the help of Jackie Tobin, SSND, the other women of Let's Start, her husband Keith, and their two small children, Najwa and Amir.

Against the odds, Sandra made a difference. Her life and hard-won wisdom profoundly affected the others involved in Let's Start. Role model, friend, inspiration, confidant, searcher for truth, challenger, sister—Sandra was all of these to the women who meet every Tuesday night at St. Vincent's Parish Center to support one another in their journey toward stability. Sandra knew she had been given a second chance at life after all her hard years of drugs and incarcerations. She used that gift to change her life and the life of others by working for alternative sentences for non-violent offenders. But cancer gave Sandra no third chance. Her 43 years were much too short for her husband, her children, and the women of Let's Start.

*Submitted by Sr. Regina Siegfried, a volunteer at Let's Start*

## **26 Angela Davis**

(January 26, 1944 - )

Angela Davis is an African-American political activist born in Birmingham, Alabama. She studied at home and abroad before becoming a doctoral candidate at the University of California, but because of her membership in the Communist party and her advocacy of racial black causes, she was eventually denied reappointment in 1970. During the 1960s and 1970s, she spoke out for the cause of black prisoners. She grew close to a man named George Jackson, a revolutionary. After four people, including Jackson's brother, were killed at a trial with a gun registered in Angela's name, she was put on the FBI's ten most wanted criminals list on the false charges of conspiracy, murder, and kidnapping. She went into hiding and was apprehended two months later. However, she was released on bail and eventually acquitted in 1972. This experience moved her to form the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. In 1991, Angela became a professor in the field of the history of consciousness, and was appointed a presidential chair in 1995 at the University of California. She has written five books, including an autobiography. Today, she is known around the world for her ongoing contributions to the movements for racial equality, women's rights, and world peace.

## **27 Angela Merici**

(died 1540)

Angela Merici was born in Italy in the latter part of the fifteenth century. She dedicated herself to religious works as a young woman, but it was not until her forties that she sought to lead young girls in a Christian life amidst a decadent society. In her early sixties, she founded the Ursulines, a group of women who remained in their own homes but worked for the needy and met monthly for spiritual support. Her hope was to transform society through the renewal of family life and Christian education.

## **28 Honor all Women Theologians.**

## **29 Margaret Cho**

(December 5, 1968 - )

Born in San Francisco, Margaret Cho began her career as a standup comedian when she was sixteen. As she traveled the United States and the college circuits she gathered support and recognition, which led to her developing her own TV show, “All American Girl”, in 1994. Her show was the first time that an Asian-American family took center stage. Since then, she has been honored by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, PFLAG, the National Organization of Women, American Women in Radio and Television, and for “making a significant impact by promoting equality for all, regardless of race, orientation or gender” by GLAAD.

## **30 Ludmila Javorova**

(January 31 1932- )

Ludmilla grew up in Brno, a city southeast of Prague. Making her first religious retreat at the age of 15, she said she felt a flame burning deep within. Her family was deeply religious and Javorova continued her devotions, but her mother refused her request to enter a convent. By 1948, Czechoslovakia was under communist control. The Roman Catholic Church, as well as other denominations, underwent relentless brutal persecution. Religious life established itself underground and Javorova continued to flourish in her spirituality.

The underground church, known as Koinotes (a Greek word meaning “tightly-knit group of believers”) operated at great risk. Javorova joined with an ordained Catholic priest, Felix Davidek, to prepare a small group for ordination as underground priests. Davidek conducted evening seminars for future priests and many others, including some women. Every seminar began with Mass followed by an analysis of the political situation of the worldwide church. Ordained as a deacon, Javorova organized many aspects of the seminars, their setup and implementation, facilitating the sessions, and taking on issues of security. In 1967 Davidek was consecrated, in secret, as a bishop. On December 28, 1970, Bishop Davidek consecrated Ludmila Javorova as a Roman Catholic priest. Following the ordination, Ludmila celebrated her first Mass simply and quietly.

Living her life as a priest in secret, Javorova experienced intense pain and loneliness. Javorova, who never received permission to function as a priest in public, suffered the rejection of other priests. Sometimes she concelebrated with other members of Koinotes who knew about her priesthood and supported her. When the communist regime fell in 1989, it ended the need for underground church. The decades of war, fear, and secrecy that formed Javorova and fostered her vocation to the priesthood came to a close. Since then, Javorova has

respected the right of the Vatican to refuse her faculties, but has never abandoned the reality of her ordained ministry.

### **31 The Kuna People of Panama**

The Kuna Indians of Panama are known as an independent and well-organized tribe that has maintained control over their territory while the majority of the indigenous people of Latin America have had to fight for their independence from oppressive governments and immigrants. Lead by a matriarchal society, the Kuna women have brought their people together through music, dance and the verbal arts. The strength of these women has helped maintain their culture and self-determination.

The Kuna women share the gift of their beautiful hand-embroidered molas. The sale of these items constitutes a major source of income as many women will leave the island to travel to Panama City where tourists are eager to buy their crafts. One of the challenges that the women face today is how to strike a balance between preserving their culture and living in a world that uses consumerism as the means that allows them to provide for their people and maintain their culture.

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# February

## 1 Tullia d'Aragona

(1510 - 1556)

Tullia d'Aragona was raised to be an Italian courtesan, trained in music and literature. After traveling throughout Italy and gaining a reputation as a woman of wit and great intelligence, she wrote *Dialogue on the Infinity of Love*, the first book on the subject of the morality of love written by a woman, and the only book for several centuries. She wrote that love is linked to the better treatment of women and upheld the freedom of thought, speech, and the ideal of equality for women and men.

## 2 Civil Rights Sit-Ins Begin, 1960

Remember the women who would not be moved.

## 3 Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, OSP

(c. 1784 – February 3, 1882)

A native of what is now Haiti, Elizabeth was part of a mass exodus from the Santo Domingo uprising in 1791. In 1828 she established the first Catholic school for black children in Baltimore, where it was legal to educate Blacks but no public schooling was available. On July 2, 1828, she and three other Black women, including Theresa Maxis Duchemin, met in a row house in Baltimore to pronounce simple vows. When the ceremony was over, a new order of nuns was born in the Catholic Church: the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious order of women of African descent.

In 1840, the order was faced with the hardships of racism and poverty. When the Archbishop of Baltimore ordered the sisters to disband, Elizabeth refused. Her determination allowed her to continue even when faced with the most extreme adversity.

Although the other original members abandoned the order, Mother Elizabeth continued to educate Black children and meet the needs of her community until her death. The order survives to this day under the motto, "Providence Will Provide."

## 4 Betty Naomi Friedan

(February 4, 1921 - )

American social reformer and feminist, Betty Friedan was educated at Smith College and the University of California. In 1963 she published *The Feminine Mystique*, attacking the popular idea that women are meant only to be child-bearers and homemakers. In 1966, she helped found the National Organization for Women (NOW) and was its president until 1970. She also helped found the National Women's Political Caucus. Later, she published two

additional works, *The Second Stage* and *The Fountain of Age*, advocating the involvement of men with their wives and positive roles for older citizens.

## **5 Agatha**

(died c. 251)

Born in Catania, Sicily, legend has it that Agatha was a beautiful and wealthy Christian who caught the eyes of Magistrate Quinctianus, who was well known for his persecution of Christians. She refused him and was beaten and tortured. The horrific torture, including the amputation of her breasts, failed to break her spirit and she refused to denounce her faith. As Agatha was then tortured by fire, a violent earthquake occurred killing several of her torturers. Sicilians still pray to St. Agatha when Mt. Etna threatens to erupt.

## **6 Lydia Allen**

(1954 - 1992)

In the 1980s, when an influx of AIDS cases in the United States had the population terrified, Lydia Allen was pregnant with her first child. Following a blood transfusion during the pregnancy, Lydia discovered that she had acquired AIDS, and decided to devote her life to helping others with the disease. As AIDS ravished her family and caused the death of her second son, Lydia was ostracized by her church and was made the target of ignorance towards the disease. To help protect other families dealing with similar tribulations, Lydia opened a day-care center for children affected by AIDS, Bryan's House, named after her son. Years after her death, she was cited as a source of inspiration for a group of women also opening a day care center of their own. They named their center Lydia's House in her honor, and continue her mission of caring for parents and children with AIDS and offering comfort to those in need.

## **7 Marian Anderson**

(February 7, 1897 – April 8, 1993)

Marian Anderson was into born a poor black family in Philadelphia. She loved to sing from an early age and clearly had a gift. After many years of singing in Europe, Marian finally achieved her goal of becoming a famous opera singer. She was the first black woman to sing in concert in Washington, DC and received rave reviews. After that Marian went on to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, become a delegate for the United Nations, and become the first black woman to appear in the Metropolitan Opera House. Marian achieved many great things in her career, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1978 and induction into the Women's Hall of Fame in 1973. She will be remembered by many as a strong confident black woman who fought discrimination, racism and prejudice to achieve her dream and the dream of many others.

*Submitted by Lauryn Flotte, age 12*

## **8 Josephine Bakhita**

(c. 1869 – February 8, 1947)

Born into a wealthy Sudanese family, she was kidnapped at age nine and given the name Bakhita, meaning “fortunate,” by her kidnappers who sold and resold her into slavery in the markets. She was bought by an Italian consul, Callisto Legnani, who freed her and treated her with love and respect. She followed the consul to Italy when the political situation forced him to leave. She was given to the family of Augusto Michieli who entrusted her to the care of the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of Catechumens in Venice. She was baptized Josephine on January 9, 1890. In 1896 she became a Daughter of Charity where she was called Mother Moretta, “Our Black Mother.” After her death in 1947, the fame of her holiness spread and many claimed to receive graces through her intercession. She was beatified on May 17, 1992 and Canonized on October 1, 2000.

## **9 Alice Walker**

(February 9, 1944 - )

Alice Walker was born in Georgia. When she was eight years old, she lost sight in one eye in a BB gun accident. In high school, Alice was valedictorian of her class and that achievement, coupled with a “rehabilitation scholarship” enabled her to attend Spelman College. She later studied at Sarah Lawrence and traveled to Africa as an exchange student. In addition to being a prolific author, Alice Walker has been an involved activist for many causes including civil rights, women’s issues, anti-apartheid and anti-nukes. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for her novel *The Color Purple*, which was later made into a film.

## **10 Scholastica**

(c. 480 –c 543)

Nearly all that we know of the life of Saint Scholastica is contained in six paragraphs from the *Dialogues of Pope Saint Gregory the Great*, written about fifty years after her death. Tradition identifies Saint Scholastica as the founder of the Benedictine religious order for women. She and her twin brother Saint Benedict were children of a Roman nobleman. Benedict founded the Abbey of Monte Cassino and wrote a rule of life for monks still followed today. Scholastica decided she would be the first woman to live under the rule and established a convent nearby. She and Benedict would allow themselves one day a year to meet and talk about God.

## **11 Our Lady of Lourdes**

Our Lady was said to have appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. The vision, which appeared 18 times, told Bernadette “I am the Immaculate Conception.” The site of the visions remains a place of pilgrimage today. Our Lady of Lourdes represents for many hope for reconciliation and God’s redemption in the world. Many people experience Lourdes as a place of retreat, respite, healing and spiritual renewal.

## **12 Margaret Traxler, SSND**

Founding Mary's Pence board member Sr. Margaret Ellen Traxler, SSND, educator and long-time human rights and social justice advocate, died February 12, 2002, at her order's provincial house in Mankato, Minnesota. It was Mardi Gras, a day of celebrating life. Margaret's time on earth was truly a celebration of life. Margaret was a tree of life spreading branches of justice, rooted in the wellspring of family, faith and sisterhood and planting seeds of restoration, renewal, and healing throughout the world.

She established numerous nationally acclaimed educational programs: Cabrini Schools, Chicago; Project Bridge, Cleveland, Ohio; and Choice, which placed teachers with doctorates in African American colleges to enable the college's faculty time for further study. The United Negro Colleges granted her an honorary doctor of laws for this service. She promoted human rights by speaking worldwide, testifying to congress on the Equal Rights Amendment and by serving as an advisor to the World Council of Churches, United Farm Workers of California, and Native Americans at Wounded Knee, Pine Ridge, SD. Margaret founded the Inter-Religious Conference on Soviet Jewry, receiving Israel's Medal of Honor from the late Golda Meir. She also founded the National Coalition of American Nuns, the first feminist organization in the Catholic Church, the Institute of Women Today, which serves women in prison, and served as educational and executive director for the National Catholic Council for Interracial Justice.

In the early 1980s, Margaret founded Maria Shelter and Casa Notre Dame in Chicago to provide safe housing, educational instruction and job skill training for women recently released from prison. Sister Margaret Ellen dedicated her life to serving God through her human rights ministry. "There was no one to speak for them," she said. "I'm grateful to God for my call."

*By Karen Flotte, Executive Director of Mary's Pence*

## **13 Mokarrameh Ghanbari**

(1928 - )

Mokarrameh, the mother of nine grown children, began painting at the age of 64. She had worked previously as a seamstress, hairdresser, farmer, healer and midwife. She began her career in painting by working on paper, but moved on to the front gate of her home. She was criticized as a woman using images from the Bible and the Qu'ran, but her paintings have brought visitors and documentary crews to her isolated village in Ghaem Shahr, Iran. She has subsequently entered and won contests and held exhibits of her work. She was chosen as woman of the year in 2001 by the Iranian Women's Studies Foundation.

## **14 Rana Husseini**

A Jordanian journalist, Rana helped to expose the familial practice of "mercy killing" daughters, sisters or mothers to preserve the honor of a family. Victims of rape and sexual assault were often murdered under the pretense of mercy killings, as were women accused of behaving or even looking at a man in an unclean manner. After writing several reports on

mercy killings and calling for the public to speak out against them, Rana was accused of being anti-Islam, anti-Jordan, and anti-family. Queen Noor joined her in her campaign for the end of violence against women, forcing the government to take action to prevent and end these atrocities.

## **15 Susan B. Anthony**

(February 15, 1820 – March 13, 1906)

Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Massachusetts into a Quaker family with long activist traditions. Early in life she developed a sense of justice and moral zeal. After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in the Temperance Movement, but because she was a woman, she was not allowed to speak at rallies. This experience, and her acquaintance with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, led her to join the women's rights movement in 1852. Soon after, she dedicated her life to woman suffrage. Ignoring opposition and abuse, Anthony traveled, lectured and canvassed across the nation. She also campaigned for the abolition of slavery, women's rights to their own property and earnings, and women's labor organizations. In 1900, Anthony persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women. She remained active until her death.

## **16 Mildred Fish Harnack**

(September 6, 1902 - February 16, 1943)

Mildred was the only American woman executed for treason during World War II by Hitler's order. She was a Milwaukee native who, along with her German husband, joined the German Resistance in order to assist with the escape of Jews and political dissidents. For years they provided economic and military intelligence to both Washington and Moscow. In 1942, a Russian spy revealed information about the Harnacks' involvement in the Resistance which led to them being arrested, tortured, and tried along with other members. Mildred was guillotined in Berlin on February 16, 1943. Her death, courage, idealism and self-sacrifice went largely unnoticed in the United States and were distorted in the communist East. It has only been since the end of the Cold War that the long-sealed archives have been opened and the complete story is being told.

## **17 Mary Breckinridge**

(February 17, 1881- May 15, 1965)

Mary was schooled at prestigious private schools in Switzerland and Connecticut, and lived throughout the southern United States and Europe. She was widowed at age 26 and during her second marriage, both her children died before they were five. She turned her sorrow to action, committing herself to "raise the status of children everywhere" as a memorial to her own lost children. She became a registered nurse in New York, and then a certified midwife in London since the US did not have a midwife school at the time. She moved to Kentucky and in 1925 formed the Committee for Mothers and Babies. The group evolved into the Frontier Nursing Service in 1928 which performed midwifery work in the rural parts of the state which had no physicians. Before she started the FNS, childbirth was primitive and

remote. For Breckinridge and her “horseback angels” no home was too remote. Their philosophy was that if the father could come for a nurse, the nurse would get to the mother.

## **18 Toni Morrison**

(February 18, 1931 - )

Toni Morrison is an American author whose work is noted for “its sparse poetic language, emotional intensity, and sensitive observation of life.” She wrote her first novel in 1970, and continued to write books based on her black heritage. She has been awarded many literary honors, including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. She also received the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming the first African American to do so.

## **19 Judith F. Baca**

(1946- )

After having been raised in Los Angeles, the Hispanic American Judith founded the Social and Public Art Recourse Center in Venice, California. She has served as director of several Los Angeles-based mural programs, resulting in hundreds of murals in the city. The expansive and socially conscious murals are said to both exemplify and enrich urban life. Her most prominent piece, “The Great Wall of Los Angeles,” is a half-mile-long homage to the ethnic history of the state, describing the contributions of California’s inhabitants from prehistoric times to the 1950s. Judith’s most recent mural addresses numerous contemporary issues of international importance, and is titled “The World Wall: A Vision of the Future Without Fear.” The mural incorporates the work of artists from around the globe, including collaboration by artists from Palestine and Israel.

Judith has received recognition from the California Community Foundation, The United States Senate, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers. She was the recipient of the 2001 Education Award from the National Hispanic Heritage Awards, and is a founding faculty member of the new California State University, Monterey Bay.

## **20 Mary Coffin Starbuck**

(February 20, 1644 - September 13, 1717)

Reverend Mary was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts two years after her parents arrived from England. She lived on Nantucket Island where her father led the colonization of the island. It was here she met and married her husband, Nathaniel. At the age of 56, Mary converted from Puritanism to Quakerism. Mary and her eldest son helped make Quakerism the leading religion on the island. She became a minister, as did her children and grandchildren. Known by the islanders as a judge among them and a most extraordinary woman, Mary participated in the practical duties and responsibilities of public gatherings and town meetings where she was listened to with respect. Her home became known as the “Parliament House” where both Quaker worship and political affairs were held.

## **21 Our Lady of Copacabana, Bolivia**

The peninsula of Copacabana is located in Bolivia near the islands of the Sun and Moon, sacred sites of the Incas. It is here that the devotion to the “Most Blessed Virgin de la Candelaria, Our Lady of Copacabana” originated.

## **22 Isabelle Beecher Hooker**

(February 22, 1822- January 25, 1907)

Isabelle Beecher, half sister to Harriet Beecher Stowe, Catherine Beecher and Henry Ward Beecher, grew up in Boston, Cincinnati and Hartford, Connecticut. After attending Catherine Beecher’s Hartford Female Seminary she married John Hooker, a distinguished lawyer. He read aloud to her from law books and she was horrified to learn about the lack of legal rights for women. She became involved in the woman’s rights movement and soon joined others in founding the New England Woman Suffrage Association where she played an important part in planning and sponsoring woman’s rights conventions in Connecticut. She also supported a married women’s property bill, drafted by her husband and introduced into the legislature.

Although Victoria Woodhull submitted a suffrage petition to Congress which rivaled her own, Isabelle was impressed with Woodhull and became her supporter, even when Woodhull published accusations of adultery against her brother, Henry. Isabelle supported Olympia Brown’s efforts at national suffrage and served on the board of lady managers at the Columbian Exhibition of 1893 and as president of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association until 1905.

## **23 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper**

(September 24, 1825 – February 22, 1911)

Frances Walker was born in Maryland, and orphaned at the age of three. Raised by her aunt and uncle, she went to school at the Academy for Negro Youth. At the age of 25, she went to teach at the Union Seminary in Ohio, becoming the first woman to do so, and two years later, left for Pennsylvania to take another teaching position. There she lived in an Underground Railway station and became distressed at the suffering of her people. She took action immediately and joined the State Anti-Slavery Society of Maine, and publicly spoke out against race, class, and sexual discrimination all across Canada and the Northern United States. In her speeches she included poetry and prose she had written herself, a childhood love. After the Civil War ended and her husband passed away, Frances continued to travel around to speak out publicly against discrimination and formed alliances with many feminists. In 1897, she became the Vice-President of the National Association of Colored Women.

## **24 Ruchira Gupta**

Ruchira Gupta was a well known journalist and social worker on assignment in Nepal in 1994 when she noticed that there were very few young women and girls. She began to investigate and eventually followed a trail to the brothels of Mumbai in India. Many of the women, and girls as young as seven, had been sold into sexual slavery, or tricked by offers of

jobs or marriage. After months of research, she began to film the documentary, *The Selling of Innocents*. After filming, she decided to remain and set up Apne Aap (Self-Help), which is dedicated to helping exploited women and children gain their independence non-violently: putting them through school, giving them a place to stay, encouraging education of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV and AIDS, and working to end the sex-trade industry.

## **25 Mary Jane Seacole**

(c. 1805- May 14, 1881)

Mary Jane Grant was born in Jamaica, the daughter of a Scottish military officer and a Jamaican. She married Edward Seacole in 1836 but he died soon after. When the Crimean War broke out, Mary traveled to London to offer her skills as a nurse to the British War Office but they refused. She was so intent on helping tend to the wounded that she appealed to the wife of the Secretary of War who was recruiting nurses for the war effort. She too denied Mary an interview because she was black.

Mary was so concerned about the soldiers that she independently established the British Hotel at her own expense in order to provide a comfortable setting for the sick and convalescing officers. Often she went to the battlefield and attended to the wounded there. After the war, she declared bankruptcy but her story was carried by the British press and money was raised to help pay off her debt. She was awarded the Crimean medal, the French Legion of Honour, and a Turkish medal. Much of what we know of her life came from her autobiography, *The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*, which was published in 1856.

## **26 Alicia Dickerson Montemayor**

(August 6, 1902 – 1989)

A feminist, activist, wife, mother and business woman, Alicia joined the LULAC (League of United American Citizens) when it was still a very male-oriented society. LULAC was founded in 1929 as a way of ending racial discrimination, advocating pride in Mexican culture, raising money and awareness to social concerns, English proficiency and encouraging the influence of Mexican Americans within politics.

In 1936, Alicia chartered a council in Laredo, composed of mainly working class women. She encouraged the women to vote, become active in their communities, attend citizenship classes, and aspire to work away from the home. She became the first woman elected to a national office that had not been designated for a woman and was the first woman to serve as an associate editor of the *LULAC News*. Alicia promoted the involvement of youth and women within LULAC and helped to advance their standing within the organization.

## **27 Rosa Perea**

(April 3, 1952 – February 27, 1992)

Rosaleen Perea worked for the rights of people with disabilities until her death at age 39. She could not see, hear or speak, but this did not limit her ability to teach, to study, to develop programs for deaf-blind children and to fight for the rights of people with disabilities. Rosa was born deaf and developed diabetes at age 11 which caused blindness at age 29 and kidney failure two years later. During this time, despite her illnesses and disabilities, Rosaleen completed her education, worked for the Education Commission in Washington and as a VISTA volunteer in San Antonio where she acted as a peer counselor for blind-deaf children.

In 1983 an airline refused to allow her to fly independently because of her disabilities. With the help of Advocacy, Inc, an organization which works for the rights of disabled Texans, Rosa filed a federal complaint in 1984 against an airline policy which prevented her from flying without a traveling companion. In 1987, the US Department of Transportation ruled that the airlines' refusal to fly unescorted people who are both blind and deaf was discriminatory and violated federal law. The ruling made it possible to have deaf-blind persons considered on an individual basis for flying. In time, Rosa became a Company Club member through her frequent flights from her home in Lubbock, Texas to Austin and San Antonio to represent deaf-blind persons on various committees. Rosa was asked through her translator and sister Palmira Perea-Hay to describe her feelings. "I have been very lucky in my life," she signed. "I have a supportive family, close friends and my faith in God. I have always kept going. Certainly I have felt frustrated at times; that's normal. The key is to be assertive and to fight and to keep going and going and going."

## **28 Mabel Keaton Staupers**

(February 27, 1890 – November 29, 1989)

Born Mabel Doyle in Barbados, West Indies, she immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was thirteen. Mabel was dedicated to improving the status of African American nurses after graduating with honors in 1917 from Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, DC. It was at that time that Staupers was confronted with the prejudice and discrimination affecting the lives of African Americans, including segregated training schools and nursing organizations. In 1934, she accepted a position as the first paid executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. It was during her twelve-year tenure that membership was increased, a citizen advisory committee was established, and the racial barriers that kept African-Americans nurses from serving in the Armed Forces Nurse Corps were broken down. She also organized the first private facility in Harlem, New York, where African-American doctors could practice.

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# March

## 1 Margaret Randall

(1936 - )

Margaret Randall, a prolific writer for feminist, social and political causes, has written over 80 books. In 1984, after living in Latin America for 23 years, she was not allowed to return home to the United States because her writings conflicted with McCarthy-era law. She fought for her First Amendment rights for five years, finally winning her case and was allowed to return. She continues to work as a poet, photographer, oral historian, and social activist.

## 2 Mary Elizabeth Bowser

Born a slave, Mary Elizabeth Bowser was freed after her master's death in 1851, and devoted her life to assisting the Union cause. Her name is most well known in connection to Elizabeth Van Lew, her co-conspirer and the daughter of her late master. An active abolitionist, Elizabeth arranged for Mary Elizabeth's education. After receiving tutoring in Philadelphia Mary Elizabeth returned to work as a household servant.

At the start of the civil war, Mary Elizabeth went to work in the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. By eavesdropping on Davis's dinner conversations, she gathered military information in order to aid the Grant administration. Each night she repeated verbatim the military plans discussed by the President and his colleagues to Elizabeth Van Lew, who also acted as a spy for Ulysses S. Grant. Unfortunately, little is known of the details of Mary Elizabeth Bower's life after the Civil War, as her diaries were inadvertently discarded in the 1950s.

## 3 Katherine Drexel

(1858-1955)

Born in 1858 to a wealthy banking family, she was heiress to a large family fortune, and social position, but her greatest aspiration was to live her life contemplative in prayer and penance. Instead, she pursued an active life and around 1888 founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. In her years as Mother Superior, Katherine Drexel founded numerous orphanages and hospitals for the poor, countless Catholic missions, schools for Native Americans, and schools for African Americans including Xavier University in New Orleans, the first black Catholic college.

Katherine was a one-woman charitable organization. Although she embraced personal poverty, during her lifetime, she gave away about \$20 million for staffing or building schools for African and Native Americans. She donated more than \$1 million for the support of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and pledged \$100,000 yearly for the support of Indian schools. She is regarded as a saint by the Sisters of her order. At the time of her death in 1955, at the age of 97, she left 62 schools and 600 Sisters to carry on the work she began.

The apostolic process for her sainthood was initiated in 1980. Katherine Drexel was beatified in 1988.

## **4 Nawal El Saadawi**

(1931 - )

Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian doctor, feminist, sociologist and author. Her work has been banned in several Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt, and she has been imprisoned for her writings and teachings. Her writings focus on Arab women's legal status, psyche, and sexuality. In 1981, she began Egypt's first legal feminist organization, Arab Women's Solidarity Association. The government dissolved this alliance and gave away their funds. Nevertheless, Dr. El Saadawi has gone on to form other organizations and continued to write for the feminist cause.

## **5 Zahra Rahnavard**

Zahra is chancellor of Az-Zahra University, Iran's only all-female institution of higher education, the first woman to hold that position at any Iranian university since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. She is the author of 15 books, a presidential advisor, the wife of a former Prime Minister, and an activist. Zahra advocates freedom for women to make decisions for themselves, stating that it is the only way an Islamic, or any nation, can survive.

Zahra began writing prior to the Islamic Revolution and many of her books were censored and banned because they rebuked the Qur'anic philosophy of history and politico-sociological looks at the Qur'an. Several times Zahra was forced to retreat to the underground in fear she would be arrested.

## **6 Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova**

(March 6, 1937- )

Valentina Tereshkova was born in Maslennikova in western Russia. She went to work in a textile mill when she was 18, became interested in parachuting as a hobby and made more than 125 jumps before volunteering for space-flight training. She was an airplane pilot before becoming the first woman to travel in space in the spacecraft Bostok 6. She made 45 revolutions around the earth from June 16 to June 19, 1963. She then parachuted from the spacecraft after reentering the earth's atmosphere. She was named a Hero of the Soviet Union.

## **7 Perpetua and Felicity**

(2nd Century)

Perpetua, born in 181, was a prosperous married noblewoman and mother of a son. She and Felicity (Felicitas), a pregnant slave girl, were put under house arrest in Carthage, North Africa while they were awaiting baptism for violating a prohibition against conversion to

Christianity. They were tried, imprisoned, and sentenced to death by the Emperor Septimus Severus. Perpetua experienced remarkable visions in which she vanquished Satan. Her fearsome faith gave her strength to reject her father's plea to renounce her conversion to save her life.

In 203, their companions, including Revocatus, Felicity's husband, were executed in the arena when mauled by wild beasts. Perpetua and Felicity were also attacked and severely wounded by a crazed cow. Severus then had them executed by sword. The heroic deaths of these martyrs, documented by contemporaries, are of significance to historians because of their authenticity. Perpetua and Felicity are revered as Confessors of the Faith. Felicity is considered a patroness for barren women. The emblem for Perpetua in art is the cow. Both are mentioned in the first Eucharistic Prayer of the Roman Rite.

## **8 International Women's Day**

This holiday originated in the United States but is celebrated throughout the world. In the summer of 1909, many women garment workers in New York began to strike in protest of unfair working conditions. By November, other workers walked off their jobs in protest and in time 30,000 people joined and the strike spread to Philadelphia. The companies gave in to some requests such as lowering the work week to 52 from 59 hours. A few years later an international women's conference established this day to honor the garment worker's victory. Today the day has special meaning for women in developing nations. In some countries, working women are honored with gifts and flowers.

## **9 Catherine of Bologna**

(September 8, 1413-March 9, 1463)

Born Caterina de Vigri to a noble Bolognese family, Catherine was educated at the Court of Margaret d'Este of Ferrara. After her father's death, she became a third order Franciscan in Ferrara. In 1456, Catherine founded the Convent of Poor Clares and remained abbess until her death. During her life she experienced visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus. Her supernatural gifts and sanctity brought her considerable fame. Her spiritual writings, which were extremely popular in Italy until the end of the 18th century, included verses in honor of Jesus and Mary. Her chief work, *Le Arme Necessarie Alla Bataglia Spirituale*, was written in 1438. It was translated by A.J. McDougall as *The Spiritual Armour* in 1926. Her illuminated breviary and paintings hang in Italian museums. She was canonized in 1712 and is the patroness of artists. Her body remains incorrupt.

## **10 Harriet Tubman**

(c.1820- March 10, 1913)

An African American abolitionist, Araminta Ross, was born in Bucktown, Maryland and was known by her mother's name, Harriet. She married a freed slave, John Tubman, in 1844. In 1849, without her husband, she escaped to Philadelphia by the Underground Railroad. These routes taken by slaves were known as lines; stopping places were stations; the northern

philanthropists, abolitionists; freed blacks and former slaves who aided were conductors; slaves were charges, packages, or freight.

In defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Harriet Tubman made 19 trips during the 1850s to the South to rescue hundreds of slaves. In 1857, she led her parents to freedom and settled them in Auburn, New York. Although she was never caught, rewards for her capture amounted to \$40,000. In late 1850, she met John Brown and became active in the Women's Rights Movement. During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman was a scout, spy and nurse for the Union Army in South Carolina. She returned to Auburn after the war and helped to raise money for black schools. In 1908, the Harriet Tubman Home for elderly and needy blacks was established. A U.S. postage stamp was issued in her honor in 1978.

## **11 Hallie Quinn Brown**

(March 10, 1850- September 16, 1949)

She is known as an educator, a reformer and social activist, and a lecturer. She was the child of two well educated parents who were former slaves; both had been active in the Underground Railroad, a family heritage that would later affect Hallie's life. Beginning as a public school teacher and working to improve literacy levels, she became the dean of women of the Tuskegee of Institute in Alabama, where she worked with Booker T. Washington. Hallie helped the promote Colored Woman's League which became the National Association of Colored Women and set up a scholarship fund so other African American women could pursue education. She fought for the full citizenship for women, civil rights and protested segregation.

## **12 Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson**

(December 22, 1912 - )

Claudia Taylor Johnson was born near Karnack, Texas, in a country mansion. Her mother died when she was 5, and she was raised by her aunt, nurse, and strict father. Not long after she graduated from the University of Texas with degrees in history and journalism, Lady Bird met Lyndon Johnson whom she married. She stood by his side in all his efforts to establish himself as a politician, and even put \$10,000 of the inheritance from her mother's death towards Lyndon's campaign so he could afford to run for congressman in his home district, and he won. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lyndon volunteered for service in the Navy and Lady Bird was left with little income. She ran her husband's Congressional office and ingeniously invested the rest of her inheritance in a bankrupt radio station which she turned around to become highly profitable. Once Lyndon returned to Washington, Lady Bird gave birth to two daughters in 1944 and 1947. She stayed by his side day and night when he suffered a heart attack, and spoke during his campaign for Vice-President with John F. Kennedy. After Kennedy's assassination, when Lyndon passed the Civil Rights Act as president, Lady Bird changed the minds of many furious Southerners who disagreed with him.

After her husband's death in 1973, Lady Bird devoted her time to her family, but still remained active in causes that she supported: the National Wildflower Research Center, the

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and the National Geographic Society. She wrote *White House Diary* which showed her contributions to her husband's administration. She is also known for beautifying the highways of the United States through a campaign to plant flowers along roadsides.

### **13 Wise Women of Mary's Pence**

On this day we remember all the women who helped to birth and nurture Mary's Pence, especially our Board members and former staff members, whom we call our "Wise Women".

### **14 Fannie Lou Hamer**

(October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977)

Fannie Lou Hamer, known as the woman who was "sick and tired of being sick and tired" was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi, the granddaughter of slaves. She was the youngest of 19 children born to sharecroppers. When she was 44, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) came to her town to hold a voter registration meeting, and it was there she first learned that African-Americans had a constitutional right to vote. When a call went out for volunteers to go to the courthouse to vote, Fannie Lou's hand was the first to go up. She and others were jailed and beaten by police, and she lost her job on the plantation where she was a sharecropper. She also began to receive death threats. Undeterred, Fannie Lou became a SNCC Field Secretary and traveled around the country speaking and registering voters.

She co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). In 1964, the MFDP challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention and she spoke during a televised proceeding about illegal tests, taxes and intimidation that kept blacks from voting. As a result, two delegates of the MFDP were allowed to speak at the convention and the other members were seated as honorable guests. She was an inspirational figure to many involved in the struggle for civil rights.

### **15 Myrlie Evers-Williams**

(1933 - )

Civil rights leader Myrlie Evers-Williams worked with her husband in the NAACP, fighting against segregation and discrimination in the state of Mississippi. The couple's lives were constantly in danger, as they organized such protests as the boycott of stores owned by bigoted whites. Though her husband, the civil-rights pioneer Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963, Myrlie continued to work for racial equality. In 1988 Myrlie became the first woman of African-American descent to serve on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works. Having worked relentlessly for thirty years to see that her husband's murderer was not allowed to walk free, she succeeded in 1994 when Byron De La Beckwith was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Medgar Evers. In 1995, she became the first woman to have been elected to chair the NAACP.

## **16 Anna Marie Dengel**

(March 16, 1892 – April 1980)

Anna Marie Dengel was born in Steeg, Austria. In her late teens, she heard that women and children were dying needlessly in other parts of the world where local custom would not allow men to administer medical treatment to them. She became a doctor and eventually founded the Medical Mission Sisters in the 1920s. Canon Law prohibited sister-doctors until the mid 1930s because the Vatican determined studying medicine, especially obstetrics, was a threat to sisters' vows of "chastity." In the same way, Sister-nurses were officially prohibited from working in maternity wards. In response, the Medical Mission Sisters were designated a "pious union," rather than a congregation, because the women in it were fully-trained doctors and nurses. Anna Marie lobbied for years, and was finally successful in achieving the change. Her work paved the way for others such as Mother Teresa who trained with her in India. At her death in 1980, the Medical Mission Sisters were ministering on five continents.

*Excerpts from Peggy Thompson*

## **17 Brigid**

(c. 450- c. 525)

Brigid was born near Kildare in Ireland, to a Christian slave. After gaining freedom, she founded the first convent in Ireland and dedicated her life to caring for the poor. Her life influenced the growth of the church in Ireland and she was buried near St. Patrick and St. Columba in honor of her holiness. Many are familiar with St. Brigid's crosses, which are made of straw. She is also known as St. Bride.

## **18 Mechtild of Magdeburg**

(c.1207 – 1282)

Born in Saxony to noble parents, Mechtild was well educated. At age 20, she joined the Beguines, an order of pious women not under vow, who could retain property, remain independent, and participate in communal life devoted to prayer and works of mercy. Mechtild's mystical experiences are recorded in "The Overflowing Light of the Godhead." Mechtild made enemies when she rebuked the laxity in the church. In 1270 she fled from those enemies to a Cistercian convent in Helfta. A prayer-meditation from St. Mechtild's writings: "His divinity is never foreign to me. For always and without fetters I feel it in every one of my limbs..."

## **19 Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez**

(March 19, 1771 – March 2, 1829)

Born Josefa Ortiz Giron into the Creole elite in Mexico, Josefa became committed to helping Mexico gain independence from Spain. She even influenced her husband, Miguel, to become a supporter of the separatist cause. Fearing a war for independence, the authorities ordered

Miguel to lock up his wife because of her outspokenness. However, Josefa's resourcefulness made it possible for her to get word to other rebel leaders instructing them to flee, which enabled the later uprising against Spain. She was arrested and confined to the Santa Clara convent where she remained until the end of the war in 1821. After her death, she was buried in Santa Catalina but later her remains were shipped to her home city, Queretaro. She was then honored by the state congress as *benemerita* (meritorious). A statue of her can be found in Mexico City.

## **20 Antonia Pantoja**

(c. 1920- )

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Antonia's early childhood was marked by hunger, want and disease. After receiving a Normal School Diploma, she taught in Puerto Rico before moving to New York City in 1944, where she worked in a factory and involved herself in union organizing and workers' rights. While a graduate student at Columbia in 1953, she founded the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs (PRACA), a social service organization which also championed leadership development and women's issues. In 1958, she established the Puerto Rican Forum and in 1961 founded ASPIRA, a national organization dedicated to education and leadership formation of youth.

In 1970, Antonia founded the Puerto Rican Research and Resource Center and established Universidad Boricua, the first and only Puerto Rican controlled bilingual university. In 1985, she returned to Puerto Rico to launch PRODUCIR, which serves the poor in rural areas by creating its own cottage industries to generate employment, and a credit union to provide economic stability. In 1997, she was the first Hispanic woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

## **21 Belle Sherwin**

(March 20, 1869 - July 9, 1955)

Born to Frances Mary Smith and Henry Alden Sherwin, founder of the Sherwin-Williams Company, Belle Sherwin worked for women's suffrage. After studying at Oxford, Belle taught at a private school for girls in Boston. In 1900, Belle left her job as a teacher and became the first President of the Consumers League of Ohio, and an active participant in various social welfare organizations, including the Visiting Nurses Association, the Federation for Charity and Philanthropy, and the Council for Social Agencies. After World War I Belle became the director of the Cleveland Welfare Federation and the President of the National League of Women Voters. This position helped to solidify her reputation as a dedicated suffragist leader. Belle Sherwin also became a board member of the National Urban League.

## **22 Mary Mills**

(1912 - )

Captain Mary Mills, a certified nurse and midwife, spent more than 26 years with the United States Public Health Service. Twenty of those years were spent abroad, establishing clinics, nursing schools, sanitation programs, and small pox and malaria eradication programs in Liberia, Chad, Lebanon, Cambodia, and South Vietnam. She was the first woman ever to receive the Rockefeller Award, the highest privately supported honor for a career of a civil servant. She was known as “Aunt Mary” to countless people whom she helped through out her career as a nurse/midwife. The Smithsonian Institution, which featured her portrait as part of the Harmon Foundation’s collection of notable African-Americans, hailed her as “one of the finest ambassadors for America’s nurses.”

## **23 Florence Ellinwood Allen**

(March 23, 1884 - September 12, 1966)

After a career in music that was cut short by injury, Florence studied politics and law. She worked as a lawyer for Legal Aid and woman suffrage in Ohio. In 1920, she became the first woman elected as a judge of the court of common pleas and in 1922, the first woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her to the US Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, and Florence became the first woman to be appointed to any federal bench of general jurisdiction. Florence went on to serve as the chief judge of that court before retiring in 1959. She is also known for her human rights work through the International Bar Association.

## **24 Dorothy Stratton**

(March 24, 1899 - )

Dorothy was an educator, naval officer, public official, and worked as the executive director of the Girl Scouts of America. She was the Dean of Women and a professor of psychology at Purdue University. Dorothy served on the admissions board of the Women's Auxiliary Board and enlisted in Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES), which worked with the Navy. She helped to develop the Coast Guard Women's Reserve Corps and became its director. After leaving the military with the rank of captain, Dorothy chose to serve as the executive director of the Girl Scouts of America from 1950 to 1960. Until her retirement from the work force she served as a member of the President's Commission on the Handicapped and a consultant to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

## **25 Margaret Chase Smith**

Margaret Chase Smith was elected to the U.S. Senate from the state of Maine for four terms. She was the first woman to serve in both the House and the Senate and at the 1964 Republican Convention was the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for President by a major party. She is well known for her action as a freshman Senator in 1950 when she spoke out against the tactics of Senator Joseph McCarthy in his anti-Communist crusade. She read her “Declaration of Conscience” which included: “As a U.S. Senator, I am not proud of the way in which the Senate has been made a publicity platform for irresponsible sensationalism.” She was defeated in her run for a fifth term in 1972.

Previously, she had alienated liberals by supporting the Vietnam War and the conservatives by voting against Nixon Supreme Court nominees.

## **26 Young Shin**

Young Shin is an immigrant from Korea who helped to form Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA) after graduating from law school. AIWA helps women who work as hotel maids, seamstresses, waitresses, electronic assemblers, janitors, and nursing home attendants by defending their rights and wages and by teaching them English to further their independence. She has been recognized as a pioneer and a leader in her work.

## **27 Julia Alvarez**

(March 27, 1950 - )

Julia Alvarez is a well-known author from the Dominican Republic who has lived in US for many years. She is the author of several books detailing the struggle of immigration to the US and trying to adjust to life here. She and her husband started an organic coffee farm in the Dominican Republic on what was thought to be “used up” land. They teach the workers sustainable methods of farming, and started a school to teach both children and adults to read and write.

## **28 Emma Sepulveda**

Emma Sepulveda grew up in Argentina and Chile, ultimately fleeing to the United States after Augusto Pinochet took over. She has dedicated the past 25 years to working with Arpilleristas, the Chilean women's movement. One of the first Latinas to run for Nevada Senate, she founded the nonprofit organization, Latinos for Political Education.

## **29 Pearl Bailey**

(March 29, 1918 - August 17, 1990)

Pearl Bailey began her career as a singer and an actress performing in night clubs, on Broadway, in movies and television shows. At 67, she graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in theology, as well as an honorary doctorate. She became well known for her humanitarian work around the world and advocating liberty for all. In 1975 Pearl became the United States Goodwill ambassador to the United Nations and in 1988 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

## **30 Billie Jean King**

(November 22, 1943 - )

Billie Jean, an avid softball player as a child, was pressured by her father to begin playing tennis once she turned eleven, as he thought her favorite sport to be unladylike. She took an instant liking to tennis, and began competing in tournaments. She rose to celebrity status and

became an icon for women's athletics, her fame culminating in 1973 when she challenged male tennis player, Bobby Riggs, to a match. Riggs, having made numerous remarks about the inferiority of female to male athletes, was viewed as being sexist and chauvinistic. The match between the two became known as "The Battle of the Sexes." When Billie Jean beat Riggs in the most-viewed tennis match in history, she was quoted as saying, "This is the culmination of a lifetime in the sport. Tennis has always been reserved for the rich, the whites, the males—and I've always pledged to change all that." After her victory over Riggs, she helped found The Women's Tennis Association, which was instrumental in the U.S. Open granting equal prizes for men and women. She was also a founder of the Women's Sports Foundation and *Women Sports Magazine*. After her defeat of Riggs, *Sports Illustrated Magazine* did not name a Sportsman of the Year but instead awarded Billie Jean with the title of Sportswoman of the Year.

### **31 Marjorie Agosin**

(1955 - )

Marjorie Agosin is recognized as a premier Latin American voice for human rights and her writing. Although she is descended from Austrian and Russian Jews who suffered in the Holocaust, she was born in Chile and lived there until she was 16 years old. She then moved to the United States to escape the repercussions of a military coup. She has won numerous awards for her human rights work including the United Nations Leadership Award for Human Rights and awards for her work as a Latina writer.

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# April

## 1 Winson Hudson

(November 17, 1916 – April 24, 2004)

Civil Rights pioneer Winson Hudson dedicated her life to African American suffrage and to school integration. Along with members of her community, Winson helped to challenge the enforcement of the “separate but equal” provision of *Brown vs. Board of Education*, in addition to establishing the Leake County division of the NAACP in 1961. When local banks began penalizing African Americans who were involved in activities relating to civil rights, she testified before the U.S Civil Rights Commission after inviting the Farmers Housing Administration to survey the situation. Winson’s determined action illustrated her unwavering advocacy for equality and justice. She was a member of the NAACP and served as co-chairman of the Leake County Democratic Party for over two decades.

## 2 Lucia Barro

(d 1992)

Spirited struggler for justice.

## 3 Barbara Caine

(April 2, 1948 - )

Barbara has written extensively upon feminism and its impact upon social change. She analyzes the concept of "female tradition" and women's place in history. Barbara is also known for her studies on the connection and conflict between calling for legal and social rights and one's sexual and personal freedom. She works as a Professor at the School of Historical Studies in Monash University in Australia. Barbara travels and speaks on many of the issues that face women today, from sexual violence to studies of gender in Islam.

## 4 Maya Angelou

(April 4, 1928 - )

Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis as Marguerite Johnson. She spent most of her childhood between Stamps, Arkansas, where she lived with her grandmother and St. Louis, Missouri where her mother lived. She attended public schools in California and Arkansas; studied dance with Martha Graham and drama with Frank Silvera. Her grandmother instilled pride and confidence in her, but her self image was shattered when, at age 8, her mother’s boyfriend raped her. Maya was so devastated by this attack that she didn’t speak for five years. By the time she was 16 she regained her self-esteem and was busy caring for her newborn son, Gary, when she decided to begin speaking again. Her experiences during her first 16 years are chronicled in the first volume of her autobiography, “*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*”. This work also highlights the social and political tensions of the 1930’s.

The next four volumes of Angelou's autobiography continue to trace her spiritual, psychological, and political odyssey. She became a prominent figure in American literature and had extraordinary experiences as she involved herself in the Civil Rights and the Feminist movements both in the United State and Africa where she spent four years in Ghana. This latter time is covered in her fifth volume in which she becomes aware not only of her African roots but also of the fact that she is distinctly American. Most critics praise her prose more than her poetry and her autobiographical works have a special place in African-American tradition. She recited her poem "On the Pulse of the Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration. This poem calls for recognition of the human failing pervading American history and a renewed national commitment to unity and social improvement, issues near to her heart.

## **5 Pandita Ramabai**

(1858 - 1922)

Pandita Ramabai was born in Western India and raised in a very orthodox Hindu family steeped in Sanskrit. After a stay in England she converted to Christianity and subsequently became deeply involved in a feminist campaign in the United States to raise funds for residential schools for widows in India. She was fluent in seven languages and translated the Bible into Marathi, her mother tongue. Sanskrit scholars at Calcutta University were so impressed with her knowledge and ability, that they conferred on her the title of "Saraswati."

In 1882, Pandita established the Arya Mahila Samaj for the cause of furthering women's education in Pune and other parts of Western India. These homes were for fostering the cause of women's emancipation and education. In 1889, she founded Sharada Sadan, a school which grew into the umbrella organization known as Pandita Ramabai Mukta Mission. The book, *Pandita Ramabai through Her Own Words*, is a collection of her own writings and follows her life as an influential writer, campaigner, and public lecturer. Her works continue to act today as a tribute to Jesus Christ, whom she faithfully followed until she died in 1922.

## **6 Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**

(April 5, 1947 - )

On January 20, 2001, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as the second woman president of the Philippines. She is faced with many problems including corruption and a high level of poverty. Gloria worked in several government positions before gaining the presidency. She began her public career working the Department of Trade and Industry. She was elected Senator in 1992 and 1995. It was during that time that she wrote 55 laws on economic and social reform. Some of them included providing assistance to women run micro and cottage businesses, declaring sexual harassment unlawful, increasing penalties for wife-beating, institutionalizing a National Strategy for Poverty, and mandatory employment of women.

## **7 Sr. Marie Augusta Neal**

(1921 - February 25, 2004)

Sr. Marie influenced and radicalized many throughout her life, from her work as a teacher at Harvard Divinity School and Emmanuel College to her studies of change among U.S. Catholic women religious, from her many books on social and economic equality to her work to increase global justice. She inspired generations of social activists including Sr. Helen Prejean, the anti-death penalty activist and author who wrote the book *Dead Man Walking*, Mary E. Hunt, the feminist theologian and cofounder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, and Kip Tiernan who founded the Poor People's United Fund and Rosie's Place, a woman's shelter in Boston.

After the Second Vatican Council, Sr. Marie helped to shape the direction in which liberation theology and the work of women religious headed. She advocated giving back to the poor and becoming socially and politically aware, translating Jesus' message of helping others to being active in one's community.

## **8 Diana Fletcher**

(1838 - ?)

Daughter of Seminole parents, Fletcher learned traditional Kiowa crafts from her elders, including sewing, tanning buffalo hides, making teepees, and basket-weaving. Among a fast-fading culture, Fletcher preserved with pride the customs she had been taught. Because of American society's prejudice and hostility towards diversity, there was a dominating force attempting to compel Black Indians to reject their heritage. In the midst of such ignorance, Fletcher maintained the knowledge about her heritage that enabled her to pass on valuable information about her experiences to younger generations. By maintaining the stories and traditions of her people, Fletcher helped them to gain a place in American history.

## **9 Edna Ferber**

(August 15, 1887 – 1968)

Edna Ferber was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After graduating from high school in Appleton in 1904, she became the first female journalist for the Appleton, Wisconsin Daily Crescent. She later worked for the Milwaukee Journal and the Chicago Tribune. During World War II she served as a civilian correspondent for the United States Army Air Corps. Edna wrote and discarded her first novel in 1911. Her mother retrieved it and sent it to a publisher. Between then and 1968, the year of her death, Ferber wrote 12 more novels, 11 short stories, and 8 plays. Many of the latter were in collaboration with George S. Kaufman. *Showboat*, *Cimarron*, and *Giant* are some of the plays which were made into motion pictures. All of Edna Ferber's stories depict American life in some way or another. At the time of her death from cancer in 1968, she was working on a novel about Native Americans. Ferber's greatest achievement was winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1924 for her novel *So Big*. She was also awarded a Literary Degree from both Columbia University and Adelphi College.

## **10 Dr. Mary Walker**

(November 26, 1832 – February 21, 1919)

Mary Walker grew up in rural New York and graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. When she married her husband, Albert Miller, she chose to keep her last name, a shocking decision during a time when women were considered little more than property. Dr. Mary Walker was a humanitarian devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the Civil War, often at the risk of her own life. She successfully fought against the sex discrimination of her time. Her personal achievements, as much as her vocal support, significantly contributed to the struggle for women's rights, and she was the only woman ever to be awarded the Medal of Honor because of her efforts as a surgeon and spy during the Civil War.

## **11 Rosalyn Yalow**

(July 19, 1921 - )

Rosalyn Yalow was born in New York City in 1921. She attended Hunter College in New York. She graduated at the age of 20, and began graduate school, the only woman among 400 students. Rosalyn received her PhD in nuclear physics in 1945 from the University of Illinois. She is responsible for one of the biggest scientific discoveries of the past century: radioimmunoassay, which has improved many aspects of the medical field, including blood analysis and the treatment of diabetes. She had a 22-year partnership with Dr. Solomon A. Berson, who died April 11th, 1972. In 1977, she received the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine, the first woman to accomplish this. Despite the fact that she is a minority in her field, she remains one of the nation's most valued physicists.

## **12 Clara Barton**

(December 25, 1821 – April 12, 1912)

Clarissa Harlow Barton was born in North Oxford, Massachusetts and educated at home. Eventually she began to tutor the poor children in town. Becoming dissatisfied with her life and her prospects for the future she enrolled in the Clinton Liberal Institute in New York to further her own education. After graduation she resumed her teaching duties in the first public school in New Jersey but resigned from the profession completely in 1854. She suffered from chronic depression and suicidal thoughts. Looking for a change, she moved to Washington, DC to work in the Patent Office. After Fort Sumter was fired upon and hundreds of troops came to the city, she began to bring food to the soldiers and wagons of supplies into the battlefield, working tirelessly under battle. She cooked, fed and bandaged the wounded as the bullets flew around her. When the Civil War came to an end she devoted herself to work with prisoners of war and identifying the dead.

During the late 1860's she went to Switzerland to recover from nervous prostration, and was introduced to the Red Cross. In May 1877, she received permission to promote the Red Cross in the United States. She soon became President of the organization's American branch. After controversy about the organization's lack of accountability, Barton resigned

her post as President on May 4, 1904 and retired to her Glen Echo, Maryland home until her death.

### **13 Julian of Norwich**

(c. 1342- c. 1416)

Julian of Norwich was an anchoress, or a female religious hermit, who lived in St. Julian's church in Norwich, England. It is thought that the church is the source of her name. When she was 30 years old she became gravely ill and while convalescing had the experience of six ecstatic visions. She recorded these twenty years later in her *Revelations*, the source of much of our knowledge of her. Julian was granted knowledge of God's Love which is courteous, homey and intensely personal, a concept she tried to convey in the Image of a Mother and Child. Julian's writings are for those who "deliberately choose God in this life for love." She was particularly concerned with the "little and simple" and the name of her first edition of Revelations was "Comfortable Words for Christ's Lovers." One of her favorite sayings was: "All will be well, all will be well."

### **14 Annie Sullivan**

(April 14, 1866 – October 20, 1936)

Johanna "Anne" Sullivan was born in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts to Irish immigrants. After the death of her mother, Anne, who suffered from trachoma, was sent to live in the state poorhouse for the next four years. In 1880, Anne entered the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind in Boston. After several eye operations, Anne quickly progressed in school and graduated as valedictorian of her class.

Anne was then asked to travel to Tuscumbia, Alabama, to become the teacher of a deaf-blind child, Helen Keller. Anne then acted as Helen's educator for the next thirteen years, beginning with spelling words into Helen's hand and working through the years to prepare Helen for higher education. In 1900, Anne accompanied Helen to Radcliffe college, where Helen was the first deaf-blind individual to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1924, both women began to work for the American Foundation for the Blind as advocates, counselors, and fundraisers. After her death, Anne's ashes were placed in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, the first female to be offered this distinction.

### **15 Corrie Ten Boom**

(c. 1892 -April 15, 1983)

Corrie Ten Boom was born in the Netherlands to a family devoted to the Dutch Reformed Church. Her parents operated a small jewelry store in a narrow house in the heart of the Jewish section of Amsterdam and made many friends among the Jewish population. When Holland surrendered to the Nazis, Corrie was living in Haarlem, Holland with her father and her older sister Betsie. As the Jewish people were being driven out of their homes, Corrie became involved with the Dutch Underground to rescue Jews. Her home became the center of the Underground Ring that reached throughout Holland. Dozens of people, reports and

appeals went in and out of the watch shop daily. Corrie dealt with hundreds of stolen ration cards each month to feed the Jews who were hiding all over Holland.

On February 28, 1944 the family was informed on and arrested by the Gestapo. Corrie's father died of illness within 10 days but she and Betsie were sent to the concentration camp, Ravensbruck. Each evening in Barracks 28 they had inspirational prayer meetings attended by people of all faiths. Betsie, never strong, grew steadily weaker and died on December 16, 1944. Due to a clerical error, Corrie was released one week before all the women her age were killed in Ravensbruck. She began traveling and telling the story of her family and what she and Betsie had learned in the concentration camp. After the war was over she was able to open a home for former inmates of the camps to come and heal from their experiences. Corrie continued to travel worldwide, telling her story until her death in Orange, California.

## **16 Jo Ann Gibson Robinson**

(April 17, 1912 - )

Jo Ann received her PhD from Columbia and began working as a college professor. She was the President of the Woman's Political Council in Montgomery, Alabama, a group of African-American activists. They initiated bus boycotts and began protests for greater civil rights. She helped to organize the first meetings advocating for African Americans to take a greater role in resistance and improving their lives and their communities. Jo Ann chose to stay out of the limelight to protect her job as a teacher but continued to offer quiet leadership, becoming an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement.

## **17 Joan Sawyer**

(April 17, 1932- December 14, 1983)

Joan Sawyer was born in Antrim, Ireland and entered the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban in Belfast. She became a US citizen and earned a degree in social work from Mundelein College in Chicago. In 1977 she transferred to Lima, Peru and worked as a chaplain to the prisoners of Lurigancho Prison. She became known for her fearless kindness to the prisoners and their families. During a prison riot, she and several other sisters were taken hostage. After negotiations, the prisoners and their hostages left the prison where they were met with a barrage of bullets from the military. Sr. Joan and the prisoners were killed—the other hostages escaped.

## **18 Mother Cornelia Connelly**

Cornelia Connelly's extraordinary journey to God began in 1809. Born into a wealthy family in Philadelphia, she married Pierce Connelly, an Episcopal priest, and shortly followed him into the Catholic Church. They had five children, one died in infancy, another in a horrible accident. When her husband decided that he was called to the priesthood and his request was approved by the Pope (provided that she take a vow of chastity), they went to Rome where Pierce studied for the priesthood. Upon his ordination, several priests and bishops suggested that Cornelia's true vocation might be found in England where the church was expanding and emerging from suppression. With her children in tow, she went to England. It had been

suggested that she start an Order and open a school for girls. She founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She was successful in her work. Pierce left the priesthood, turned against the Catholic Church and decided he wanted Cornelia back as his wife. She refused. He kidnapped their children, left England and Cornelia never saw her children again. She died in 1879.

## **19 Betty Greene**

(died April 19, 1997)

Betty was a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots during World War II, a time when many felt a woman's place was not in the military. Because of a staffing shortage, women were admitted to the Air Force. After proving her capability as a pilot, Betty founded the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship in 1945. She was then asked by the Wycliffe Bible Translators to help them in Mexico with their jungle camp program. This was the start of her 15 years of faithful service that saw her taking assignments to Peru, East Africa, Sudan and many other countries. After retiring from flying, she located to Fullerton, California to represent the mission, recruit new pilots and work as prayer secretary.

## **20 Rachel Carson**

(May 27, 1907 – April 14, 1964)

Rachel Carson was born on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Pennsylvania College for Women, earned a Masters in Marine Biology at Johns Hopkins, taught Zoology at the University of Maryland, and eventually took a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While there, she wrote three books about the sea which gave her the financial independence to quit her government job and write her famous book, *Silent Spring*.

The book exposed the dark side of science. It showed that DDT and other chemicals used to enhance agricultural productivity were poisoning lakes, rivers, oceans, and people. On Earth Day, we remember her part in turning the tide of public opinion so that the destruction of nature was no longer considered progress. When *Silent Spring* was published in 1962, the pesticide industry tried to have it suppressed and challenged its findings. Carson's work has been credited with helping in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, fostering a national consciousness about the environment and introducing the term ecosystem into our lexicon. Carson died of cancer two years later, a cancer that may have been caused by exposure to environmental carcinogens such as those she studied.

## **21 Nina Simone**

(February 21, 1933- April 21, 2003)

Nina Simone was born into a poor family in Tryon, North Carolina. At the age of four, she was recognized as a piano prodigy. She attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, a feat rarely heard of for African American women. She began recording music in the late 1950s, from jazz to protest songs, blues, show tunes, African tribal chants and original songs. Nina was deeply involved in the Civil Rights movement. She associated with radicals Malcolm X and the black playwright Lorraine Hansberry. Many of her songs were used as

civil rights anthems and therefore were rarely played on the radio. Known as "the High Priestess of Soul," her mission was to bring social and political causes to the attention of her fans.

## **22 Loretta C. Argrett**

(1937 - )

Loretta Collins Argrett has the distinction of becoming the first African American staff member of the US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation. In 1993 she became the highest-ranking African American woman in the history of the Department of Justice when she was confirmed as Assistant US Attorney General. Loretta managed an organization that had more than five hundred employees and a budget in excess of \$65 million. Before she left the Department of Justice in 2000, she received several awards and commendations, including the prestigious Edmund J. Randolph Award. When she left her position, she returned to Harvard Law School as a professor.

## **23 Maria Teresa Tula**

(April 23, 1951 - )

Maria Teresa Tula is the leader of the *Co Madres* (Mothers of the Disappeared), an organization in El Salvador formed in 1977 by mostly poor and illiterate women. The *Co Madres* work for the release of fathers, brothers and sons held in El Salvador's prisons, and fight for human rights. The Co Madres hold press conferences announcing when someone is taken into prison, publishing their charges. Maria's husband was assassinated by the police and she was forced to flee while pregnant with her fifth child. She has since fled to the US after being kidnapped and tortured, and imprisoned while pregnant with her seventh child. She remains committed to developing human rights in El Salvador.

## **24 Willa Cather**

(December 7, 1873 – 1947)

Willa Sibert Cather was born in Back Creek Valley, Virginia. Around the age 13 she adopted the outward appearance and manner of a male, an outward manifestation of her blanket rejection of the strictures placed upon females in the 19th century. Cather entered the University of Nebraska in 1891 where she excelled in language and literature. In college she was published often in the university's publications. By the time she graduated, she was a full time reporter and critic for the Nebraska State Journal. After graduating in 1895, Willa moved to Pittsburgh to assume editorship of a women's magazine and began publishing her work *April Twilight* in 1903. She continued writing while teaching and moved to New York City in 1906 to become managing editor of McClure's magazine. She wrote from the time of her retirement from McClure's in 1912 to her death in 1947.

## **25 Maria Varela**

Noted photographer Maria Varela has been recognized as one of the first and few Mexican Americans to devote herself to supporting a movement for African Americans. In 1962, Varela joined the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) where she was assigned to teach literacy in Selma, Alabama. Varela became deeply interested in the rich African American culture of the area, and lacking photographs depicting black people taking leadership to change their communities, Varela began photographing such subjects for the inspiration of her students. Dissatisfied with existing literary materials, Varela began to create photo books that proved useful in training community leaders as well as in teaching literacy. Having documented the civil rights struggle for three decades, Varela's poignant work has been included in museums such as the Smithsonian as well as in books and galleries.

## **26 Amy Biehl**

(April 26, 1967 – August 25, 1993)

A Stanford graduate, Amy died while completing a 10-month course of study as a Fullbright exchange scholar in South Africa, working on voter education and a study on the status of women in the emerging democracy. Amy was scheduled to return home to begin her doctoral studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey when, on August 25, 1993, she was beaten and stabbed to death.

“Change in this country is only going to come about through black women: when they support one another and stand together and say, ‘We’ve had enough.’” explained Rolene Miller, a social worker in the “Mosaic” program centered in Guguletu Township only about a mile away from where Amy was murdered. Four militants were convicted of Amy’s murder only after three women poignantly defied threats and came forward to testify when nobody else dared to do so. Amy’s spirit clearly lives on in the townships of South Africa.

## **27 Mary Wollstonecraft**

(April 27, 1759- September 10, 1797)

Mary Wollstonecraft was born in London and with her sister and some close friends she began a private school when she was in her early twenties. Becoming friends with the Rational Dissenters who were located nearby, she was influenced by many of their thoughts and ideas. She is known for her feminist works such as “Thoughts on the Education of Girls” and especially “A Vindication on the Rights of Woman,” which was against slavery, games laws, and advocated the better treatment of the poor and female suffrage. “A Vindication on the Rights of Woman” is considered one of the first feminist works and is still widely read today.

## **28 Martha George**

(April 28, 1892 - January 7, 1987)

Martha was a Suquamish leader of modern times. She taught her students and family the traditional skills of living off the land. She carried her traditions through a long line of 83 descendants. Martha was known for her involvement as the tribal chairperson. In 1960 she contributed to tribal research by founding the Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington with her own money. Some of her words of wisdom to others were, "You want to leave things as they are and just take what you need. Don't be wasteful. That's what the elders taught."

## **29 Catherine of Siena**

(March 25, 1347- April 29, 1380)

Catherine was born in Siena, Italy, the last of twenty-five children. At six she had a vision of Christ; at seven she took a vow of virginity; at twelve she cut off her hair to avoid a marriage planned by her parents; and at fifteen she became the first unmarried woman to enter the Third Order of St. Dominic. As a Tertiary, she tended the sick, served those who were poor and labored for the conversion of sinners. Many people came to her because she was filled with great practical wisdom and spiritual insight. In 1370, she set herself to heal the wounded of her native land, which was ravaged by civil war and many factions. Above all she implored Pope Gregory X to leave Avignon and return to Rome, which he did on January 17, 1377. For this she was named the patron of Rome. When the great schism broke out, Catherine returned to Rome in November, 1378 where she supported the cause of the true Pope.

## **30 Sima Urale**

(1967 - )

Sima was born in Samoa and immigrated with her family to New Zealand in 1974, when she was seven. Sima is known for using her camera to film witty movies that advocate feminism and racial equality. She began her career in film as an actress but grew tired of movies that conflicted with her views. She also objected to the lack of stories about her culture and nationality, as a Samoan and a native of the Pacific Islands. She is considered a pioneer in telling Pacific stories through film and exploring social issues through that medium.

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# May

## **1 Anna Maria Jarvis**

(May 1, 1864 –?)

Anna Marie Jarvis was born in Webster, West Virginia. Her mother was instrumental in developing Mother's Friendship Day, a movement of healing borne of the Civil War. Since West Virginians fought on both sides in the conflict, there was tension when the surviving soldiers return home. Mrs. Jarvis was hoping to promote peace and friendship between people of differing political beliefs when she organized the first event in 1865. It was successful and became an annual event for several years. After her mother's death in 1905, Anna led a campaign to establish a national mother's day beginning with a tribute to her own mother on May 12, the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of her death. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. In 1914, President Wilson established Mother's Day as a national holiday on the second Sunday of May.

## **2 Nannie Helen Burroughs**

(May 2, 1879 – May 20, 1961)

Nannie Helen Burroughs was born in Orange, Virginia and was brought at age five to Washington, D.C. by her widowed mother so she could get a better education. At the M Street High School she excelled under the guidance of dedicated teachers like Mary Church Terrell (see Sept. 24), and graduated with honors. At the time, African American women were basically limited to two employment options: domestic service or teaching. She was denied a position as a domestic science teacher by the board of education. Her goal was to offer black women professional training that might help them earn a higher salary and afford better living conditions. She dreamed of one day opening her own school to "give all sorts of girls a fair chance".

She was instrumental in founding the Women's Convention, auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention. After many years, she was able to convince the National Baptist Convention and Women's Convention to endorse the establishment of the National Training School for Women and Girls. In 1964, the school she founded was renamed the Nannie Burroughs School. In 1975, in recognition of her courage and wisdom in espousing education for black women against the consensus of society, Mayor Walter E. Washington proclaimed May 10th Nannie Helen Burroughs Day in the District of Columbia.

## **3 Our Lady of Czestochowa (the Black Madonna)**

The Queen and Protector of Poland is the name given to Our Lady for the part she has played in the history of Poland. A painting of our Lady of Czestochowa was discovered by St. Helen in Jerusalem. After taking the painting back to Constantinople, her son Constantine the Great built a chapel for it where it remained for five centuries. During this time, many miracles were attributed to this painting. Once when the city was under attack, the chapel caught fire. The only thing that was not destroyed was the painting of Mary and Jesus.

However, the heat and soot from the fire darkened the olive features of Mary and Jesus, hence the name Black Madonna. The painting was given to a Ruthenian nobleman who brought it to Kiev and placed it in the Royal Palace of Belz where it remained 579 years. After an invasion where the painting was pierced, Prince Opolski decided to move it to one of his castles. As the painting was being moved the horses that were pulling the cart stopped very close to Czestochowa and would not go on. The decision to place the painting in a nearby chapel was made after Mary appeared to the prince and told him this was to be its new home.

## **4 Septima Poinsette Clark**

(May 3, 1898 - Dec. 15, 1987)

Septima Poinsette Clark was born in 1898 and became a vibrant member of the Civil Rights Movement. She first became aware of community activism while trying to encourage adult literacy in Johns Island, off the coast of South Carolina, and gained further knowledge while crusading to be allowed to teach in public schools, which African Americans were not allowed to do at the time. She joined the NAACP, and the South Carolina Council on Human Relations. She developed the concept of a citizenship school designed to teach members of the African American community about their government and how to vote. She continued to work for the community and for civil rights until her death. She was credited by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as an influence on both his thoughts and his philosophy.

## **5 Barbara Ford**

(died May 5, 2001)

Barbara Ford was born in Mount Kisco, New York and grew up in the Bronx. She entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul after high school and took the name Sr. John Regina. She received a history degree from the College of Mount St. Vincent and taught in New York and the Bahamas. She received a nursing degree from St. Clare's Hospital School of Nursing in Manhattan. She first went to Guatemala in 1978. She joined a medical team and began working with the poor to aid recovery from several earthquakes. She stayed there for six years before returning to New York where she worked as a nursing instructor for three years.

In 1989, she returned to Guatemala to offer mental health programs to the Mayans who were deeply scarred by many years of civil war. When she came to them she was distressed by their hopelessness, fear, insomnia, depression, and alcoholism. She mourned with them the loss of so many wise figures among the dead and "disappeared." Together with Sr. Virginia Searing, she gave them time to confront their pain, words to express their loss and grief, rituals to move them beyond the injustices to a place of forgiveness and reconciliation. She went with them as they excavated mass graves, looking for closure. She interviewed them to give them voices: thousands of their stories gathered in the report *Nunca Ma (Never Again)*. She taught them to continue the healing on their own, using their own cultural wisdom and practices.

Sister Bobbie, as she was known, was murdered in an apparent carjacking. However, many believe it was a political execution. The bishop of Quiche himself tearfully accompanied her body back to her mother and Sisters in New York, promising, "Sister Barbara will remain alive in the thankful memory of the people of Quiche, and her example will continue animating... We make a commitment to keep burning brightly the light which she lit." Mary's Pence provided a grant in 2001 to hire three indigenous women to work with Sr. Virginia in continuing the work she and Sr. Bobbie began.

## **6 Mary McLeod Bethune**

(1875-1955)

Mary was a child of former slaves born in Mayesville, South Carolina. Between cotton-picking seasons, she gained an education and won a scholarship to a seminary. She graduated from Moody Bible Institute and later taught in mission schools. In 1904, she founded Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Girls at Daytona Beach, Florida. In 1923, the institute merged with Cookman Institute for men to form Bethune-Cookman College. Mary served as the president of the college until 1942. In 1935, she founded the National Council of Negro Women.

President Roosevelt appointed Mary Bethune to head the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, which she directed from 1936 to 1943. During World War II she served as special assistant to the secretary of war for the selection of officer candidates for the Women's Army Corps. She was also a special advisor to the president on minority affairs and a vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

## **7 Marie Louise Trichet**

(May 7, 1684 – April 28, 1759)

Born in Poitiers, France, Marie-Louise was still young when she met Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, a young priest with a widespread reputation among youth as a preacher and confessor, who had been assigned as a chaplain to the local hospital. Marie-Louise offered her services to the hospital, and against her parents' judgment, went to live in the hospital as a "poor person" at the age of 19. For ten years she wore the habit given to her by Montfort, and fulfilled her duty as a nurse among the poor, the sick, and plague victims. Montfort left Poitiers, and Marie-Louise was left alone. She was joined by her first companion, Catherine Brunet, in 1714 and the first community of the Daughters of Wisdom in La Rochelle was founded the next year. For 43 years, Marie-Louise served as Superior of the order, which was dedicated to serving the poor. On May 16, 1993, Marie-Louise de Jesus was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

## **8 Our Lady of Lujan, Argentina**

The Virgin of Lujan is a small statue made in Brazil and sent to Argentina in 1630. Tradition has it that the ox-drawn wagon delivering the statue drove by the Lujan River, near the home

of Don Rosendo Oramas. The oxen refused to cross the river. The oxen were exchanged, the wagon unloaded, but the oxen still refused to cross the river. Then it was noticed that there were two boxes still in the wagon. Each box contained a different image of the Virgin, one the Immaculate and the other Virgin and Child. When they removed the image of the Immaculate Mary, the oxen began to move immediately. The witnesses understood that Our Lady wished to stay in Lujan. The image was taken to the home of Don Rosendo who built a primitive chapel for it where the image was venerated for 40 years. A larger shrine was completed in 1685 and the final sanctuary was built in the 19th century. The image was crowned canonically in 1887 and in 1930 Pope Pius XII gave the sanctuary the title of Basilica.

## **9 Maggie Kuhn**

(August 31, 1905 – 1995)

Margaret Eliza Kuhn was born in Buffalo, New York. She attended Western Reserve University in Cleveland at a time when women were given only two career options, nursing and teaching, and it was expected that any career could be interrupted early for marriage. In 1926, she graduated from Western Reserve with honors. In 1930, she became head of the Professional Department of Business Girls at the Young Women's Christian Association in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, believing the Y had the ability to empower the individual and to change society. In 1941, the beginning of WWII, she became the program coordinator and editor for the YWCA's USO division. She believed that women found a new freedom and earning power when they were hired to build aircrafts. From 1948 until her retirement, Margaret worked with many social agencies that took progressive stands on the social problems of society.

When she reached retirement age, she was distressed because she did not want to stop working. In 1970, at the age of 65, she met with a group of five of her friends to address the problems of retirees. This was the beginning of the Consultation of Older and Younger Adults for Social Change, which later changed its name to the Gray Panthers in 1972. The Gray Panthers quickly gained public notoriety and grew as a national organization. Their mission was consciousness-raising. Instead of sexism, they were discovering "ageism"- the segregation, stereotyping and stigmatizing of people on the basis of age. Over the years, the Gray Panthers have been involved in grassroots activities that deal with public and governmental policies that deal with the elderly.

## **10 Kiran Bedi**

(June 9, 1949 - )

Kiran Bedi is recognized as a revolutionary in Asia, from her work against drugs to becoming the first woman to graduate from the Indian Police Academy to her work as Special Secretary to the Lt. Governor of Delhi. She is known for her courage and her unwillingness to back down from her beliefs, despite coming frequently into conflict with the establishment and her superiors. Kiran was awarded the Asian Nobel Prize in 1994 for her work championing human rights and the ability, regardless of position in life, for anyone to work for positive changes.

She is perhaps most well known for her work in Tihar Prison in Delhi, Asia Pacific's largest security prison. Tihar Prison was known for its corruption, flourishing drug trade and its basic denial of human rights to the 8,500 prisoners. Kiran chose to take her hands-on approach to the prison, improving sanitation and nutrition, visiting and talking to prisoners, and setting up a system for them to give voice to their complaints; she instituted literacy programs and encouraged prayer and meditation. Kiran has become a role model for Asian women, showing them that it is possible to hold onto one's morals, work hard and rise into places of power and prestige despite gender stereotyping and difficult circumstances.

## **11 Mercedes Lopez**

(1933 - )

Born into a family of Mexican tenant farmers, Mercedes was brought up working in the fields, and working with her mother who was a midwife and healer. In 1963, Mercedes immigrated to America with her children searching for a better way of life. She worked with her husband in the vineyards and orchards of California, and cared for her and other's children. She currently works to keep the Mexican culture alive among immigrants, creating beautiful piñatas, sewing traditional costumes, showing the children she cares for and local schools the art of paper cutting, teaching songs, and making recipes that she learned as a child. She teaches the children in hopes that the Mexican culture will continue through them. Mercedes is also known in her community for her work as a folk artist.

## **12 Florence Nightingale**

(May 12, 1820 - August 13, 1910)

Florence was born in Italy but raised in England and later studied in Egypt and Germany, before becoming a nurse in England. When the Crimean War broke out, she was asked by the British secretary of war to direct nursing operations at the war front. She set out for Crimea with 38 nurses who were able to drastically reduce the mortality rate among the sick and wounded. After the war, Florence was able to establish a nursing school with funds raised in tribute to her war service. This marked the beginning of professional education in nursing, which raised nursing from a menial task to a medical profession. She is credited with writing the first nursing textbook which was translated into many languages. She was honored by many foreign governments and, in 1907, became the first woman to receive the British Order of Merit.

## **13 Mary Williams**

(February 18, 1874- October 22, 1962)

After graduating from Wellesley College in 1897, Mary began working as a research economist for the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston. She continued to work for a variety of public services: as Superintendent of the Women's Parole Department; as secretary of the Commission on Minimum Wage Legislation for Massachusetts; and as zone chief of the American Red Cross's Bureau of Refugees in France. In 1928, Eleanor Roosevelt pleaded for her help in organizing women within the Democratic

Party. After that, she became close, both politically and socially, with the Roosevelt family. In 1933, she was appointed director of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee and then the director of the General Advisory Committee of the Women's Division. Mary continued to head women's rights campaigns within the party and fought for equal rights in politics and society, regardless of gender.

## **14 Marjory Stoneman Douglas**

(April 7, 1890- May 14, 1998)

After graduating from Wesley College, Marjory worked for the *Miami Herald*. She joined the Navy to fight in World War I, the first woman to do so. Marjory then began writing columns fighting for women's rights, social justice and conservation of the environment. She worked hard to support causes not recognized by the public and published *The Everglades: River of Grass* in 1947. Her book told countless readers of the beauty of the Everglades and she became well known for fighting to preserve the fragile ecosystem. In 1970, Marjory founded Friends of the Everglades in order to allow those who fought for conservation to be heard. Marjory died at the age of 108, still writing and advocating for the causes she believed in; her ashes were scattered in the Everglades. On October 7, 2000 she was posthumously inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame as an example to generations of conservationists.

## **15 Digna Ochoa**

(May 15, 1964 - October 19, 2001)

Digna Ochoa was a leading Mexican human rights lawyer who took upon herself some of Mexico's most controversial cases, such as working in the defense of Rodolfo Monteil and Teodoro Caberra, anti-logging activists. After receiving numerous death threats and being kidnapped several times for her continued work, Digna was found dead in her office on October 19, 2001. Since then the people of Mexico and other citizens around the world have called for Mexico to end impunity and to stop the abuse of those working for civil rights.

## **16 Ada Deer**

(1935 - )

Ada Deer of the Menominee tribe is best known for leading the fight for federal recognition of her people. The government passed an act terminating her tribe in 1953 which plunged the tribe into poverty. In 1970, Deer and others created Determination of Rights and Unity for Menominee Shareholder (DRUMS). After three years of hard lobbying, their land was restored. In 1993, Deer became the first woman Assistant Secretary of the Interior in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

## **17 Catherine Sawbridge Macaulay Graham**

(1731- 1791)

She is also known as Catharine Macaulay, the first well recognized female English historian. She used primary source documents to supplement her texts. Catherine was a strong voice in politics and advocated for female suffrage. She called for equal education for both sexes. Catherine wanted women to be educated so they could succeed in a “man’s world,” just as she had. She argued against perceptions held by many that women were “mentally deficient” by stating if women had the equal education of men, there would be no such claim.

## **18 Ida B. Wells Barnett**

(1864-1931)

Ida B. Wells studied at Rust College and became a teacher in Memphis, Tennessee. During that time she became editor and co-owner of a local black paper called “The Free Speech and Headlight.” She wrote editorials attacking the evils of lynching which put her life in danger. She took her cause to England for a time, but eventually returned to Chicago where she founded the first civic organization for African-American women. Prior to her marriage in 1895 she published “A Red Record”, which chronicled lynching in America. Ida B. Wells-Barnett devoted her time to raising her four children until the start of the 20th century when lynching and race riots gripped the nation. She helped to found the “Committee of 40” which evolved into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the oldest civil rights organization in the country. She worked tirelessly for civil rights until her death in 1931.

## **19 Lorraine Hansberry**

(May 19, 1930 - Jan. 12, 1965)

Playwright of *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry is quoted as saying that “all art is ultimately social.” Known for her socially conscious works, many of which illustrate the plight of the oppressed, Hansberry is one of the most eminent female playwrights of the twentieth century. *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) became the first drama written by a black woman to be produced on Broadway, and was presented with the New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award as the best play of the year. Hansberry’s inspiration for much of her work stemmed from her youth. Hansberry’s father won an anti-segregation case before the Illinois Supreme Court. When she was eight years old, Hansberry’s family moved into a white neighborhood, where they were assaulted by a racist mob in front of their new home. As a protest to segregation laws in the area, Hansberry’s parents sent her to public school. Hansberry’s childhood experiences of discrimination made her aware at a young age of the gravity of such ignorance, and greatly influenced her later work.

Once she decided to become a writer, Hansberry left college to live in New York, where she met such authors as Langston Hughes, a line from one of whose poems Hansberry used as the title of *A Raisin in the Sun*. After her widely successful debut, Hansberry wrote her next

play depicting the trials of a young Jewish man. *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* opened on Broadway in 1964, one year before Hansberry's death from cancer. Hansberry's career was thus cut short, however several of her unfinished manuscripts have been published, as well as collections of her writings.

## **20 Rose Hawthorne**

(May 20, 1851 – July 9, 1926)

Also known as Mother Alphonsa, Rose Hawthorne is most known for having founded the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima, later renamed the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer. The daughter of author Nathaniel Hawthorne, Rose also had literary leanings, publishing a book of poetry, *Along the Shore*. During this period of her life, Hawthorne befriended poet Emma Lazarus, who was afflicted with cancer. Hawthorne was deeply affected by her friend's illness, and after separating from an alcoholic husband, Hawthorne trained as a nurse to cancer victims, opening a refuge for cancer patients in New York. At the age of forty-nine, Hawthorne made her vows as a Dominican nun and soon after founded the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima. One year later in 1901, Hawthorne opened the Rosary Hill Home in New York, remaining there until her death in 1926. Today, Hawthorne's order has seven homes, and provides free hospice care to those in need.

## **21 Mitsuye Endo**

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1942, 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent were sent to internment camps. Mitsuye Endo, an American citizen, had been granted leave clearance by the War Relocation Authority, but the Western Defense Command would not allow her to re-enter the restricted zone. She took her case to the Supreme Court in 1944 which ruled that a loyal American citizen could not be held in a relocation camp against their will. She was granted an unconditional release by the War Relocation Authority.

## **22 Judy Chicago**

(1939 - )

Judy Chicago began the Feminist Art Program at the California Institute of the Arts but is also known as the creator of *The Dinner Party*, a mixed-media piece of art with settings for 39 notable women ranging from ancient goddesses to Georgia O'Keefe. Amid controversy for the piece, which used essentialism images, she raised questions in mainstream society about gender roles. She has also concentrated her art on issues ranging from childbirth to masculinity to the Holocaust.

## **23 Concha Ortiz Y Pino de Kleven**

(May 23, 1912 - )

Since the 17th century, Concha's family had been active in politics. In 1937, Concha became the sixth generation of her family to serve in the New Mexico Legislature. After being re-elected twice, Concha became the first woman in the United States to be elected to serve as Majority Whip in a State Legislature. Included in her efforts during her political career were presenting legislation to equalize funding in state schools, a bill to teach Spanish in New Mexico's public schools, and the School of Inter-American Affairs at the University of New Mexico. After serving as Chairwoman of the Institutions for Higher Learning, Concha earned her degree from the University of New Mexico. Since then, Concha has continued to play an active role in civic affairs, serving in numerous national and state boards.

## **24 Virgin of the Papanthla (Mexico)**

According to legend, four hundred years ago in Mexico, the Totonaca Indians were visited by Franciscan priests who came to Papanthla to teach about Christianity. The priests suggested to the people that they create an image of the Virgin Mary out of a straight young tree. They found a tree and then saw an image of the virgin next to it which the woodcarvers carved in the tree. She had a dark face, like the Indians, and wore a wide blue skirt, the color of the morning sky. On her head was a crown of jungle flowers and about her shoulders a white lacy shawl, similar in appearance to the shawl that Totonaca women often wear.

The woodcarvers put her in the church of Tecolutla and called her The Blue Virgin of Tecolutla. By some miracle, the statue was mysteriously moved to the church of Papanthla. It was taken back to the original church, but during the night, Mary is said to have stepped down from her pedestal and walked back to Papanthla. This happened several times and despite guards from both cities watching her, none saw how she was moved. The two groups agreed not to war and the people of Papanthla paid for the statue

## **25 Pooran Farrokhzad**

Writer and poet Pooran Farrokhzad is the author of the *Encyclopedia of Women's Culture Makers in Iran and in the World*. Her work looks at how women have been silenced by Iran's laws and male-dominated culture, but have managed to be heard nonetheless. "Iranian women are like the soldiers who build the road. They are building the road of the future..." Pooran is considered "keeper of the flame" for her sister Forough, considered the first Iranian poet to write from a woman's perspective, who died in a car accident at the age of 32.

## **26 Jahan Sadat**

(1933 - )

Wife of former leader of Egypt Anwar Sadat, Jahan Sadat used her status as spouse of the country's leader to further the causes she felt worthwhile. In addition to reforming the restrictive divorce laws victimizing women, Sadat was also instrumental in the founding of village cooperatives for peasant women. After attending a University as a mother, Sadat encouraged other married women to do so as well. Jahan Sadat was the first wife of a Muslim leader to travel outside her country, devote herself to her people, and to have her picture in

the newspaper. Sadat is a recipient of the Living Legacy Award, and was also awarded the Human Service Award from the University of Kansas. Even after the assassination of her husband, Sadat has continued preaching peace and equality within her country.

## **27 Rebecca Rouse**

(October 30, 1799 - December 23, 1887)

Known as “the founder of women's work in Cleveland,” Rebecca Rouse was devoted to serving families and children through various organizations. An active humanitarian, Rouse began her work as a member of the Ladies Tract Society where she visited each home in her community to assist those in need. Soon after, Rouse joined the First Baptist Society, then founded and became the first president of the family-based organization called the Martha Washington & Dorcas Society. She served as director of Beech Brook, an organization dedicated to saving women from becoming involved in prostitution. Rouse's numerous accomplishments include being one of the founding members of the Cleveland Ladies Temperance Union as well as President of the Soldiers' Aid Society. While serving in the latter, Rouse was responsible for distributing medicinal and living provisions to Civil War soldiers. The efforts of this remarkable woman were honored in a bronze panel as a component of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Cleveland's Public Square.

## **28 Julia Ward Howe**

(May 27, 1819 - October 17, 1910)

Born in New York City, Julia is known as an American author and reformer. She was the writer of *the Battle Hymn of the Republic*, which became a song of the Civil War. She also published poetry, plays, and travel books, as well as other articles. Both she and her husband were active in abolitionism and other reform movements. After the war, she founded both the New England Woman's Club and the Association for the Advancement of Women. The American branch of the Woman's International Peace Association fell under her leadership. Julia was the first woman to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

## **29 Clara Hale**

(April 1, 1905 – December 18, 1992)

Clara Hale, an African-American activist for civic and children's rights and the founder of Hale House, was born on April 1, 1905. When her husband died, she began working as a domestic in order to support her three children. When she became unhappy with the day care that they were receiving, she decided to stay home with them. She then began taking care of the children of other working mothers. In 1940, she became an official foster parent and in the next 25 years, she cared for over 40 children. At age 65 she retired, but as the problems associated with drug abuse exploded in Harlem, Mrs. Hale began taking in the babies of heroin-addicted women. She began the first program in the United States designed to deal with infants born to addicted mothers. In 1975 Hale House became a licensed voluntary childcare agency, the only black voluntary agency in the country at that time. What began as a simple humanitarian operation had evolved into a full-fledged hospital and childcare facility for children who were victims of drug abuse.

## **30 Joan of Arc**

(c 1412 – 1431)

When Joan of Arc was born into a family of French farmers, the English and French had been at war for over 100 years. Joan worked the farm and never learned to read or write. When she was 12, she began to hear the voices of saints who told her she would be the one to save France. At age 17 she convinced a captain to take her to Charles, the son of the dead king who was afraid to take up the crown. She convinced Charles to fight for the cause and she was able to rally the French troops to free the city of Orleans. Under her leadership, the French defeated the English in four more battles. Within 6 months, the English withdrew and Charles was crowned king with Joan's encouragement. About a year later, Joan was captured by the English and imprisoned for witchcraft. They burned her at the stake in the marketplace of Rouen. She was not yet 20 years old when she met her untimely death.

## **31 Elizabeth Blackwell**

(February 3, 1821 – May 31, 1910)

Born near Bristol, England, Elizabeth Blackwell moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1838. Her father died soon after the move and to support the family Elizabeth, her mother and sisters opened a private school. She later taught in Kentucky but decided to pursue a career in medicine to leave teaching and avoid marriage. She studied privately with men before applying to medical schools in the northeast. She was rejected at each until 1848 when Geneva College in New York accepted her as a student. Despite obstacles, she graduated in 1839, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States.

After graduation she continued her studies in England and France and studied midwifery. An eye infection left her blind in one eye and ended her plans to become a surgeon. She returned to New York in 1851 but could not find any institution that would hire her. She wrote papers and lectured on the importance of good hygiene and won support among the Society of Friends who began referring patients to her. She was unable to rent space for a clinic, and so bought a home in rundown part of New York City. Four years later it became the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. In 1858 she again returned to England and was the first woman to be placed on the Medical Registry of the United Kingdom. After her return to New York in 1859, her plans to open a women's medical college were delayed until 1868. A year later she returned to England where she remained for the rest of her life. There she helped establish the National Health Society and served as a professor of gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Women. She died in 1910, having never recovered from a fall she experienced three years prior.

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# June

## 1 Helen Keller

(1880-1968)

Helen was the daughter of a newspaper editor and his wife. In 1882, Helen suffered a devastating fever which left her blind and deaf, but by the age of six she had learned to communicate with her family by simple gestures. However, she was frustrated and half-wild. Anne Sullivan became her teacher, friend, and lifelong companion in 1887. Through sign language, Anne broke into the silent dark world and within six months Helen knew 625 words.

In 1888 they entered the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston. In 1904 Helen graduated from Radcliffe College with honors. While there, she published *The Story of My Life*. Helen was a suffragette and socialist, and fought for equal rights for women. She established the American Foundation for the Blind in 1932 and became the Vice President of the Royal National Institute of the Blind in the United Kingdom. A world-wide traveler Helen met with heads of state, religious leaders and common people.

## 2 Kady

(also called Kady, daughter of Ann)

Kady was a lesbian peace activist who was arrested several times for protests for peace and nuclear disarmament. She dropped her father's surname and called herself "Kady, daughter of Ann." She kept journals and used her artwork to document the political and spiritual journey of a self-supporting, uncelebrated, but still exceptional, feminist living through the 1970s and 1980s. June 5<sup>th</sup> is Kadyfest in Greenfield, MA.

## 3 Josephine Baker

(June 3, 1906 – April 12, 1975)

Josephine Baker was born the oldest of four in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1923 she appeared in Broadway chorus lines, and soon became renowned for her jazz singing, dancing, and exotic costumes, overcoming the color barrier of that time. Naturalized as a French citizen, she worked for the French Resistance during World War II by smuggling secret messages on her music sheets, and was highly decorated for her part. Josephine was a civil rights activist and refused to perform for segregated audiences. She also adopted twelve children from around the world whom she called her "Rainbow Tribe."

## **4 Marian Wright Edelman**

(June 6, 1939- )

Marian Wright Edelman is the founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund. Her father was a Baptist minister who taught his family that "Christianity requires service in the world." He influenced young Marian as he helped to bind the community together by setting up places for African American children to play when playgrounds became segregated.

She became active in the civil rights movement and worked to register African Americans to vote in Mississippi. She was the first African American woman appointed to the Mississippi State Bar and worked to reestablish the Head Start funds and funding for other programs that provided health care, educational services, and food to poor families and children.

## **5 Margaret Anna Cusack**

(May 16, 1829 – June 5, 1899)

Margaret Anna Cusack was born in Dublin, Ireland to Anglo-Irish aristocrats and raised in the Anglican Church. Her father was a doctor who served the poor, an example Cusack followed throughout her life. She was educated by tutors from an early age, and when her parents separated, she continued her education at a boarding school in England where her mother relocated.

At the time, Cusack was attracted to the Oxford Movement within the Anglican Church, which promoted rituals and beliefs close to those of Catholicism. She read the works of social and political philosophers like John Locke and Thomas Carlyle, which helped shape her own convictions. She became engaged, but while she was in Ireland to share the happy news with her father, her fiancé died of fever. Overcome by depression, she became absorbed in the reading of religious books. On the advice of Reverend Edward B. Pusey, an Anglican who promoted the Oxford Movement, she entered a religious order in London. However, change in the administration of this Anglican convent, coupled with religious doubts, led Cusack to renew her interest in Catholicism. She left the convent and was subsequently received into the Catholic Church on July 2, 1858. Following her conversion, she decided to join a Catholic order, and after a short trial in an English convent, she joined the Poor Clares in Ireland. Encouraged to continue her literary efforts, Cusack, now known as Sister Mary Frances Clare, became a well-known and prolific author. Moved by the terrible poverty in Ireland, she organized a famine relief fund in 1879 and addressed the issue of land reform as a structural cure for the famine in articles and letters to the press. Irish emigrants spread her fame, but a letter posted anonymously from London threatened her with assassination if she continued her writing and assistance to the poor.

She then transferred her efforts to establish an industrial training school to prepare women for emigration and a religious congregation whose rule would be directed to this purpose. Cusack's works were founded on a conviction that there could be no peace without justice. This justice was denied to the poor, especially women. In 1833, she received permission from the Vatican to found the Sisters of Peace. Within a few months she moved to the United States to establish residences for immigrants. The church authorities of New York refused to allow her to begin work within the diocese, and so she established a working women's

residence and employment agency in Jersey city. Her aim was to establish a chain of residences for immigrant girls where they might find help in getting jobs and protection from exploitation and unhealthy living conditions. She also proposed setting up a training school for the blind and began traveling the eastern seaboard to solicit funds.

She continued to write and she was asked for a commentary of the land theory of Henry George, a mayoral candidate in New York City in 1886. In it she critiqued Reverend Edward McGlynn, a staunch supporter of George. This led to a decisive encounter between Cusack and church authorities. She came to see herself as an obstacle to the growth of the congregation she had founded, and so she left it. Despite personal failure, she retained confidence in her vision and in the women who joined her: "I believe, however, that it [my mission here] will be an immense success, for I leave it in the hands of Sisters who are capable of making it such. And I hope the interest which will be revived when the injustice with which I have been treated is known will help to establish the Sisters firmly in their great work."

Cusack had guided her congregation to incorporation in New Jersey, where they continue to serve. Her education theories, ethical demands on public policy and concern for women's rights made her a woman ahead of her time. In 1891, she returned to England and was welcomed back into the Anglican Church.

*Submitted by Sr. Jan Richardson*

## **6 Ann Manganaro**

Talk about healing always reminds me of my late friend, Sr. Ann Manganaro, SL, MD. Sr. Ann was a physician, teacher, and the founder of several small health care organizations in Central America. She died in St. Louis at age 47. Bereft of her great skill and her lovely appearance, she was reduced in her last days to receiving care from others.

"I finally understand the wounds," Sr. Ann told a friend at that time.

"Your wounds?" the friend asked, for Sr. Ann had undergone a mastectomy when she was first found to have cancer.

"No," she replied.

"The wounds of El Salvador?" the friend persisted. Sr. Ann had often performed emergency surgery in that country during its civil war.

"No," she answered. "I mean the wounds of humanity, the wounds of us all."

Ann Manganaro was a woman of the Gospels. As we know from the resurrection narratives, St. Thomas was scandalized by the terrible reality of Jesus' wounds—they blocked his faith and his hope. It was for that reason that, when the risen Lord came to him, Jesus said only, "Enter the wounds." Like St. Thomas, we are all called to acknowledge not only the wounds of the Lord but also the wounds of our own humanity. We must not repress the memory of what we truly are. We must love our wounds. If we love them, they will never disgrace or degrade us. They will be our glory.

As a teaching resident physician, Sr. Ann had spent a good deal of her time in the neonatal intensive care unit with Tamika, a tiny girl who had been born prematurely and without a family. When Tamika died six weeks after she was born, only Sr. Ann, the funeral director, and I attended the wake. I was desolated and angry. "This poor baby," I complained. "She

had no family, no real funeral; she never had a day unplugged from tubes and shunts, never a day of breathing on her own; her life was meaningless."

But Ann disagreed. "You are forgetting that Tamika had the power to evoke my love."

*(Wounded Humanity and Catholic Health Care  
Some Contemporary Thinkers Have Forgotten What "Healing" Really Means  
By Rev. John Kavanaugh, SJ )*

## **7 Elizabeth Gurley Flynn**

(August 7, 1890 – September 5, 1964)

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was the daughter of working-class socialists. While still in grammar school, she was active in local socialist clubs, and in 1906, she joined the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). She left high school in 1907 to devote herself full time to organizing the IWW. She took part in the "free speech" campaigns and was arrested several times. In the east, she helped organize the Lawrence, Massachusetts textile strike of 1912 and the Patterson, New Jersey strike of 1913. She raised relief and legal defense funds for the Mesabi iron miners' strike in Minnesota in 1916. In 1918, she helped establish the Workers' Liberty Defense Union. In 1920, she was a founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, and in 1927-1930 she was chairman of International Labor Defense. During the post-World War I years, she was mainly engaged in legal defense of labor and political agitators and aliens who were threatened with deportation for their political views. Despite her poor health, she joined the Communist party and became a tireless writer and organizer, gaining a reputation as a rousing platform speaker. She continued to voice her beliefs until her death in 1964.

## **8 Mother Magdalen Taylor**

(January 20, 1832- June 9, 1900)

Frances Margaret Taylor, founder of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, first became involved in humanitarian work in 1854, when she joined Florence Nightingale's Lady Volunteer Nurses in the Crimean War. Taylor's experiences of the agony of war, as well as her contact with the Sisters of Mercy, led her to convert to Catholicism while still at the Front. After the war, Taylor dedicated her life to helping the poor in England. After failing to find a community of Sisters who shared her vision, Taylor decided to found her own organization, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. Mother Magdalen directed her energies to the poor in London, whom she believed to be most inadequately cared for. She wished to help transform the squalid conditions of the poor to a higher standard of living, so the oppressed could gain a sense of value and potential. Through her writings, Mother Magdalen encouraged others to help the needy. Since her death, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God have established numerous international ministries in the United States, Italy, Kenya, Venezuela, Britain, and Ireland.

## **9 Anne O'Hara Graff**

Anne O'Hara Graff was a professor of theology at Seattle University in Washington. She edited a book, *In the Embrace of God: Feminist Approaches to Theological Anthropology* in 1995, the year before she died.

## **10 Equal Pay Act Enacted, 1963**

## **11 Jeanette Rankin**

(June 11, 1880 – May 18, 1973)

Jeanette Rankin was born near Missoula, Montana. Educated in the public schools, she graduated from the University of Montana in 1902 and studied at the School of Philanthropy in New York City. She undertook social work in Seattle, Washington, in 1909 and in subsequent years worked for women's suffrage in Washington, California, and Montana. She traveled to New Zealand in 1915 and gained first-hand knowledge of social conditions by working as a seamstress. In 1916, Rankin became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was unsuccessful as a candidate for the Republican Senate nomination in 1918. Rankin became engaged in social work for the next three decades and was re-elected to the House in 1940. She did not seek re-election in 1942. In her last 30 years she was a rancher, a lecturer, and a lobbyist for peace and women's rights. Rankin supported the cause of peace throughout her life. She voted against America's entry into World Wars I and II, and she was the only member of Congress to oppose the declaration of war on Japan.

## **12 Anne Frank**

(June 12, 1929-February 1945)

Anne was born a Jew in Frankfurt, Germany, during the Nazis Party's beginning push for power. Her family resettled in Amsterdam in 1933, where Anne lived like any other Dutch girl, even after life began to change when German troops took control of and occupied Holland. When her older sister, Margot, was ordered to report for deportation in 1942, the Frank family went into hiding in a secret annex with another Jewish family. They stayed there for two years, keeping quiet by day and stirring only at night. In 1944, a Dutch informer led the Gestapo to the annex and all eight Jews in hiding were sent to Westerbork and then eventually to Auschwitz in Poland. Anne's diary of her time in hiding was published as *The Diary of a Young Girl*. It is noted for its recording of the era with intelligence and wit. Anne is said to have been a source of inspiration to those around her until her death in Auschwitz before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, an influence that continues today.

## **13 Gloria Rolando**

(April 4, 1953 - )

A native of Cuba, Rolando was a precocious student, and received her pre-university diploma at the age of eighteen, majoring in Science and Literature, with a minor in Music. After attending the University of Havana, Rolando began working at the Cuban Institute of Art and

Film Industry, where she has remained for two decades. In the span of her twenty-year career, Rolando has written and directed numerous films and documentaries. Rolando's work largely focuses on the cultural aspects of the Caribbean, as well as the African cultures present in Cuba. Rolando has developed 'Imagines del Caribe', an independent film group where she has recently completed her latest film, which is concerned with the 1912 massacre of the Independents of Color.

## **14 Alicia Partnoy**

(1955- )

Between 1976 and 1979, thousands of civilians, many of them young people, in Argentina were kidnapped, tortured, and killed by the Argentinean military. On January 12, 1977, Alicia Partnoy was captured, but she managed to survive. After being released she fled to America and wrote *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival*, a memoir. Her writings opened the eyes of many to the horrors that occurred. Alicia continues to work today as a human rights activist, a poet, and a translator.

## **15 Evelyn Underhill**

(December 6, 1875 – June 15, 1941)

Born in Wolverhampton, England, Evelyn Underhill was educated at King's College for Women in London. She began writing at 16 and published her first book of humorous verse in 1902. Around the time of her marriage to Hubert Moore in 1907, she converted to the Christian faith. Several years later she met Baron Friederich von Hugel who was her spiritual advisor until his death in 1925. She embarked on a life of religious writing and became an outstanding spiritual writer, lecturer, retreat leader and spiritual advisor. Although Evelyn worked in the naval intelligence department for the Admiralty in Africa from 1914 to 1918, by 1939 she had become a Christian Pacifist and joined the Anglican fellowship. She is remembered as an incarnationalist who was interested in every aspect of life and a great lover of souls.

## **16 Marita Bonner**

(June 16, 1898- December 6, 1971)

Marita began writing short stories, plays, and essays as a young woman to give light to social situations and issues ranging from sexism and racism to poverty and the vulnerability of black women. She is the author of the famous essay *To Be Young, A Woman, and Colored*, which examined what it was like to be a 'race woman' in the 1920s and the obstacles that were put in her path simply because she was both a woman and an African American. She asked her fellow African American women to gain knowledge and use that knowledge to teach others.

## **17 Margaret Bondfield**

(June 16th 1873 - 1953)

Margaret was born in Somerset in 1873, and left home at 14 to become a shop apprentice in Brighton. There she met many woman radicals, especially women's rights advocates. These women had a large impact on her life. Margaret was elected to the Shop Assistants' Union District Council in 1894. She first published her idea that the ideal marriage was one in which both partners work and share equal responsibility. In 1908, she resigned from the Shop Assistants' Union and joined the Women's Labor League and the Women's Co-operative Guild. She worked to make maternity benefit the property of the mother, supported only full suffrage for women, and was the first woman ever to have a place in the British Cabinet. For the rest of her life, she continued her interest in and support of social causes, especially women's rights.

## **18 Lena Horne**

(June 30, 1917- )

Lena Horne was one of the first premier African American entertainers through singing and acting. She began performing as a dancer and singer at the age of 16 and quickly gained popularity. By the age of 21, she had her first Hollywood role. In a time when most African American actors and actresses were given roles as maids and chauffeurs, Lena Horne was performing in roles that were essential to the plot, eventually becoming the highest-paid African American actor of the 1940s. Marked as a communist sympathizer, she was blacklisted because of her friendship with other blacklisted actors and screen writers and her work as a civil rights activist. During the 1960s she worked with the National Council for Negro Women and began performing again.

## **19 Patria Jimenez**

In 1997, Patria Jimenez was the first open homosexual voted into the Mexican legislature, and the first in Latin America. In a country where the majority of the government is male oriented and homosexuality is widely condemned, her election into office is thought of by many as a first step for the representation of Mexico's gay minority. She has begun to tackle issues that have been previously ignored, from AIDS activism and safe sex to the rights of homosexuals and lesbians.

## **20 Elizabeth Garrett Anderson**

(1836 – 1917)

Born in England to a family with 10 children, Elizabeth was refused admission to medical school because she was a woman. She studied privately, doing dissections in her own bedroom. In 1865, she was granted a license to practice medicine and in 1870 earned her MD from Paris University. Elizabeth was the first and only woman member of the British Medical Association from 1873 to 1892. As a British physician she pioneered admission of

women into the medical profession. She was also linked to women's suffrage and in 1908 became the first female mayor in England.

## **21 Shamita Das Dasgupta**

An active participant in the 1960's civil rights and women's liberation movements, Shamita Das Dasgupta was born in India and came to the United States to study and to learn how to help those on the fringe of society. Ultimately, she earned a degree in psychiatry. She organized Manavi, which is dedicated to empowering South Asian women and encouraging self-reliance. She especially dedicated time to the issue of domestic violence and offered supportive services.

## **22 Wilma Rudolph**

(June 23, 1940 – November 12, 1994)

The twentieth of twenty-two children, Rudolph was tutored at home as a young child because of a physical handicap that left her legs and feet weak and deformed. Due to her handicap, Rudolph's athletic prospects were poor. In junior high, Rudolph joined her school's basketball team, sitting out every game for three years. When Rudolph was finally allowed to play, her skills were recognized by Tennessee State University's track coach and she was granted a full scholarship to the University. In 1960, Wilma became the first American woman to win three gold medals in the Olympics. She was the first woman to win the James E. Sullivan Award for Good Sportsmanship, European Sportswriters' Sportsman of the Year, and the Christopher Columbus Award for Most Outstanding International Sports Personality. In addition to the gender barriers defied by Rudolph, her victories also overcame racial obstacles. Her victory parade was the first racially integrated event ever held in her hometown, and the banquet in her honor was the first time in the town's history that blacks and whites had gathered together for the same event.

## **23 Zora Neale Hurston**

(January 7, 1891 to 1960)

Born in Alabama, Zora's family moved to all-black Eatonville, Florida when she was a small child. As a teenager, Zora left home to work with a traveling theatre company, but she eventually finished high school in Baltimore. She attended Howard University, supporting herself as a manicurist, before being published in a New York magazine and moving to New York City. While there, she became part of the New Negro movement, also known as the Harlem Renaissance, and met many other notable African American writers. As an assistant to Fanny Hurst, she began taking classes at Barnard College where she studied anthropology under the renowned scholar Franz Boas. In her later years, Zora traveled through the South interviewing storytellers and Hoodoo doctors, all of whom would feed her writings. Her most powerful novel is considered *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the story of a woman who defines the parameters of her life and loves in opposition to the small-town mores of Eatonville. Zora died in 1960 in a welfare home in Florida and was buried in an unmarked grave, but was rediscovered a few years later as the most prolific African American writer of the time. In 1973 a grave marker was placed in the field where she lay which reads: "A Genius of the South, Novelist, Folklorist, Anthropologist."

## **24 Carolee Schneemann**

(1939 - )

Prolific multimedia artist Carolee Schneemann is most well known for her controversial artwork that is said to break down boundaries of sexuality and gender. Schneeman's far-from-conventional work has gained her international acclaim, and her paintings, photographs, and performance art pieces are displayed in countless galleries and museums. A recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, from the College Art Association, Schneemann has taught at several prominent institutions including New York University and Bard College.

## **25 Women in Black**

Women in Black is an organization of women who stand in vigil around the world, protesting war and violence without saying a word. They stand in silence to reflect upon themselves and the plight of women around the world, including those who have suffered rape, those who were tortured and killed in concentration camps, women and the family of all those who disappear and are killed, and those whose homes have been destroyed. Women in Black was created in 1988 in Israel by women protesting the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Since then Women in Black has made its mark in such countries as England, Spain, Italy, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Germany and in FR Yugoslavia. Since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, Women in Black has been protesting in the United States.

## **26 Pearl Buck**

(June 26, 1892 – March 6, 1973)

Born Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker, Buck was the daughter of Southern Presbyterian missionaries stationed in China. Brought to China when she was three months old, she remained there for the most of her life. Her work was greatly influenced by the surrounding culture. From childhood, Buck spoke both English and Chinese, feeling a great connection with the traditions of each country. After graduating from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Virginia, she returned to China, where she met her husband John Lossing Buck.

Pearl's second novel, *The Good Earth*, was the best selling book of 1931 and 1932. It won a Pulitzer Prize in literature, and was adapted into a major motion picture in 1937. The following year, Pearl became the first American woman to win a Nobel Prize in literature, going on to publish over seventy novels before her death. After moving permanently to the United States, Buck became a civil rights activist as well as an advocate for women's rights. After adopting five children, she established the Welcome House: the first international, interracial adoption agency. She also founded the Pearl S. Buck Foundation which provides sponsorship funding for thousands of children in Asian countries.

## **27 Jovita Idar**

(1885 - 1946)

The “Heroine of LaRaza” was born in 1885 in Laredo, Texas. At 18, she earned a teaching certificate and began to instruct Mexican children, but was frustrated with the conditions in which she had to teach. She became a journalist and activist, writing weekly articles for *La Cronica*. Idar called for equal education and an end to the extreme discrimination against Mexican children in public schools.

Jovita wrote graphic descriptions of the lynchings of a Mexican child by the Texas Rangers and the burning at the stake of 20-year-old Antonio Rodriguez. In 1911 her newspaper called for the formation of “La Gran Liga Mexicanista de Beneficencia y Protection” so the community would work together. She sponsored the “Primer Congreso Mexicanista” to protect Mexican-Americans against racist and brutal acts. From this movement came the feminist organization “Liga Femenil Mexicanista.” Jovita and other women formed their own schools and allowed Mexican children to attend for free. After crossing the border to serve as a nurse in the Cruz Blanca, she wrote an article criticizing Woodrow Wilson’s deployment of troops to the border. Shortly after, her printing presses were destroyed by the Texas Rangers, but she stood her ground. After marrying, she moved to San Antonio where she organized “El Club Democata” within the Democratic Party, and established a bilingual kindergarten. She continued to work as a writer and educator until her death.

## **28 Marjorie Tuite, OP**

(died June 28, 1986)

Sister Marjorie Tuite was a social activist and an advocate of women’s rights in the Catholic Church. In 1942 she became a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus. She served as director of the National Ecumenical Action for Church Women United. In her later years, she traveled extensively in Central America and in 1984 served as a delegate to the First Congress on Human Rights. Her opposition to U.S. policy in Central America and her advocacy on women’s rights brought her into conflict with church hierarchy. This confrontation included the threat of expulsion for signing, with 23 other American nuns, a newspaper advertisement calling for dialogue within the church on the abortion issue.

## **29 Miriam**

Miriam was the older sister of Moses and Aaron. She watched over Moses in the bulrushes and brought her mother to act as a nurse when he was rescued. Known as the “Prophetess” she was highly revered among her contemporaries and was sought out for her direction and advice.

## **30 Fay Bennett Watts**

Fay Bennett Watts , who led national efforts to help farm laborers and the rural poor, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in the early 1900s. During the Kennedy, Johnson administrations, she served on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Areas Development for the Department of Agriculture. In the 1950s, she helped form the National

Council for Agricultural Life and Labor, an alliance of dozens of national organizations that sought to spotlight the difficulties facing migrant farm workers in an effort to generate laws to protect them. She held posts at the National Sharecroppers Fund from 1952 through 1974, directing attention to rural poverty. She died in 2002.

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# July

## 1 Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe

(1811-1896)

Harriet's father was Lyman Beecher, considered by some to be one of the most powerful preachers of his generation. (Her half sister was Isabelle Beecher Hooker; see Feb. 22) In 1836 she married Calvin Ellis Stowe and soon after became concerned with the plight of fugitive slaves. In 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe published the novel for which she is most famous, *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly*. Before appearing in book form, it was published serially to great success. As a book it sold more than 300,000 copies during the first year alone. It was also staged frequently for many years. The book was so influential in the abolitionist cause that Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said when he met Harriet, "So you are the little woman who started the big war." She wrote other books about slavery and New England. She was also interested in related causes such as temperance and woman suffrage.

## 2 Jeanne Chezard de Matel

(November 6, 1596-1670)

Jeanne Chezard de Matel was a French gentlewoman of the high bourgeoisie who helped found the order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in France on July 2, 1625. Although her first community existed in Lyons from 1627, it was not until 1639 that she was able to establish her first canonically founded monastery, at Avignon. At the time of her death she had established four monasteries. With the coming of the French Revolution, however, many of the religious had to abandon their communities. But in 1816, after the Restoration, the first of the new monasteries was founded in Azerables, France. A group of nuns from France founded the first American monastery in Brownsville, Texas. In 1896 the sisters crossed the border and established the first Mexican community in Villahermosa, Tobasco.

## 3 Angela Eunjin Oh

(1955 - )

Currently serving as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission, trial attorney Angela Eunjin Oh has been recognized by several organizations as an outstanding spokeswoman for racial issues. As a lecturer and writer on subjects regarding racial diversity in American culture, she has established herself as a strong voice in advocating racial harmony. After spending eleven years as a partner at a Los Angeles law firm, Angela was appointed by President Clinton to the President's Initiative on Race. Today, she remains active in such organizations as the Advisory Councils for Washington Mutual Bank and the Korean Youth and Community Center.

## 4 Marie Curie

(November 7, 1867 – July 4, 1934)

Maria Sklodowska was born in Warsaw, Poland where she showed intellectual promise in a country that offered few opportunities. She went to Paris in 1891 where she devoted herself to physics and chemistry with several well-known physicists including Pierre Curie. They married in 1895 and continued their scientific work while raising two daughters. With her husband and Henry Becquerel in 1903, she was recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics. When her husband died, in 1906, Marie was determined to continue their work alone. She did so with great success and was the first woman appointed to the Sorbonne. She was also eventually awarded her second Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911, honoring her work in radioactive substances and their medical applications. This laid the foundation for much future work, some of which she herself accomplished along with her second husband, Frederic Joliot whom she married in 1926. She died of leukemia caused by exposure to radiation.

## 5 Anna Arnold Hedgeman

(July 5, 1889- January 17, 1990)

Anna was a politician, feminist and civil rights activist. She was the first black woman to graduate from Hamline University, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was awarded an honorary degree from her Alma Mater in 1948. Anna was founder of the National Organization of Women, and the first African-American woman to serve in the mayoral cabinet in New York City (1954-1958). She recruited over 40,000 people for the 1963 March on Washington, DC.

## 6 Maria Goretti *Pray for victims of sexual abuse*

(October 16, 1890 – July 5, 1902)

The daughter of humble sharecroppers, Maria and her family moved to the little town of Ferriere, Italy in 1899 in search of work. Desperately seeking to support his family, Luigi Goretti arranged with Signor Serenelli, who had a son named Alessandro, to have their families share a home. Luigi Goretti died of malaria and Maria helped with the family chores. Alessandro Serenelli propositioned Maria on several occasions and harassed her. On July 5, 1902, she once again rebuffed his sexual advance, and Alessandro stabbed Maria 14 times.

Doctors tried to save Maria's life, but after 20 hours of suffering during which she forgave and prayed for Alessandro, Maria died the next day. Almost fifty years later on June 24, 1950, Pope Pius XII stood on the steps of St. Peter's in Rome and pronounced Maria Goretti a Saint and Martyr of the Universal Church. He proposed her as the Patroness of Modern Youth and set July 6th as her feast Day. Her mother and her murderer attended the canonization ceremony together.

## 7 Luisa Moreno

(1907 – 1990)

Luisa Moreno was born in Guatemala to an upper middle class family, which enabled her to study at the College of the Holy Name in Oakland, California. In the 1930s she began organizing Hispanic garment factory workers in Spanish Harlem in New York City and cigar workers in Florida. Later she traveled throughout the Southwest serving as an editor of a CIO newspaper and organizing agricultural workers. By the end of the 1930s she concentrated her work on Mexican-American civil rights, founding the Congress of Spanish-Speaking People in 1938. The first conference was to take place that year in Albuquerque, but the House Un-American Activities Committee accused the group of being Communist sympathizers. The meeting was postponed and later held in Los Angeles. At one time, the congress had membership of about 70,000, and constituted the first Mexican-American civil rights organization. Eventually the organization fizzled out and Moreno was forced to flee to Mexico because of her suspected Communist activity. She later went to Cuba where she took part in the early days of the Revolution, before returning to Mexico. She died in 1990 in poverty in Guadalajara.

## **8 Priscilla (Prisca)**

Priscilla is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles along with her husband Aquila. It is interesting to note that four of the six times they are referred to, Priscilla is mentioned before her husband. She was not simply the wife of a disciple, but rather a disciple herself. The exact date of her birth and death are unknown. It is clear that she lived in Rome in the first century before being forced to leave when the Emperor Claudius (41-54 C.E.) ordered all Jews out of the city. She and Aquila went to Corinth where they met Paul who came and stayed with them while he instructed them in the faith. Paul was so impressed with them that he asked them to go with him when he left Corinth. When they arrived in Ephesus, Paul left them there, no doubt believing that they were well enough grounded in the faith that they could carry on his work. Priscilla seems to have been noted not only for her instructional methods but also for her care of the needs of those she helped convert

## **9 Alice Paul**

(January 11, 1885 – July 9, 1977)

Alice Paul was born in Morristown, New Jersey and educated at Swarthmore College and Pennsylvania University. While in London for doctoral studies, she joined the suffragist movement. Her activities led to her being jailed three times. Alice returned home in 1910 and became involved in the movement in the United States. She helped found the Congressional Union for Women Suffrage and organized huge demonstrations and daily picketing of the White House. During one of these, she was arrested and imprisoned for seven months. After going on a hunger strike, she was released. She founded the Women's Party and lobbied for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which she authored.

## **10 1st Meeting of National Women's Political Caucus**

On July 10, 1971, the first meeting of the National Women's Political Caucus was held. There were more than 320 women from 26 states in attendance, although there were just 362 women in state legislatures and 15 women in Congress. The National Women's Political Caucus was formed to increase the number and the influence of women involved in all

aspects of politics, from judges to registered voters. The NWPC helps women to win prominent roles in the government on state and national levels; today there are 1,656 women serving on the state level and 72 women in Congress.

## **11 Dona Maria del Carmen Calvillo**

(1765 – 1856)

Before the American Southwest came under the control of the United States, Hispanic women inhabited farms and ranches in the area, exercising many rights not known again to women for several decades. In Texas alone, over sixty land grants were given directly to women, without passing through the finance books of husbands or fathers. Owner of a large ranch in Wilson County, Doña Maria del Carmen Calvillo possessed the same talents as many men on the frontier including roping and shooting expertly. Calvillo came into possession of the land after her father's death and under her management, El Rancho de las Cabras flourished. Calvillo built an extensive irrigation system, granary and sugar mill on the ranch. With many native people as neighbors, Dona Maria helped to maintain a peace between the tribes by sharing cattle and grain with those in need.

## **12 Mary Elisa Mahoney**

(1845- 1926)

Mary Elisa was America's first black professional nurse. While Mahoney was not only outstanding in her professional career, she made numerous contributions to local and national professional organizations. Her training at the New England Hospital for Women and Children consisted of a rigorous 16 month program. She was one of only three people who completed it. One of her accomplishments was the presentation of the welcome address at the first conference of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN). Later in 1936, the NACGN established the Mary Mahoney Award in recognition of her outstanding example to nurses of all races. Even today, the Mary Mahoney Award is presented in recognition of her significant contributions in interracial relationships.

## **13 Phoolan Devi**

(August 10, 1963 – July 25, 2001)

Phoolan Devi was regarded by many as the embodiment of Durga, a Hindu goddess who is the personification of cosmic energy. Born into the lowest caste, Phoolan Devi became famous as a Bandit Queen, and then as an avenger of women and their honor. After serving 11 years in prison under charges of banditry, she was released. In 1996 she ran for a seat in Parliament and won. She was assassinated at the age of 37 while serving her second term.

## **14 Kateri Tekakwitha**

(1656 – April 17, 1680)

Kateri Tekakwitha was born the daughter of a Christian Algonquin woman captured by the Iroquois and married to a non-Christian Mohawk chief. During a smallpox epidemic, both her parents died and she was left with a scarred face and poor eyesight. The Jesuit missionary Jacques de Lamberville converted and baptized her in 1676. Because of her faith, as well as her physical disfigurement, she was abused and shunned by relatives. She escaped by fleeing through 200 miles of wilderness to the Christian Native American village of Sault-Sainte-Marie. She devoted herself to prayer and austerities and in 1679, took a vow of chastity. She died the following year; soon her grave became a site of pilgrimage where miracles were attributed to her intercession. She is the first Native American to be proposed for canonization and was beatified on June 22, 1980 by Pope John Paul II. She is also known as Lily of the Mohawks and has been named as patron of ecologists, environmentalists, exiled persons, and those ridiculed for piety.

## **15 Violette Neatley Anderson**

(July 16, 1882 - 1937)

After graduating from Chicago Law School, Violette set up a private practice and became the first African-American woman to practice law in the United States Eastern Court Division and the first female city prosecutor in Chicago. After five years of working in Chicago, on January 29, 1926, she became first African American woman lawyer admitted to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court.

## **16 Our Lady of Carmen, Chile**

Our Lady of Carmen, or Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, is the title under which Mary is honored as the patroness of Chile. Worship of her has been closely tied to the struggle of the Chilean people for independence. She was originally patroness of the Chilean armed forces as they fought against the oppressive Spanish. In 1923, at the request of the Chilean bishops, the Holy See proclaimed the Virgin of Carmel patroness of Chile.

## **17 Dorothea Dix**

(April 4, 1802 – July 17, 1887)

Despite ill health, Dorothea Dix opened a school in Boston in 1821 and taught there until 1835. In 1841 she was asked to teach a Sunday school class in the East Cambridge Jail where she was horrified to see that mentally ill persons were jailed alongside criminals. Her investigation of the treatment of the mentally ill shocked her so much, she wrote an account for the Massachusetts State Legislature. Her report resulted in the establishment of state hospitals and treatment for the insane. Dorothea then turned her attention to the treatment of the mentally ill in neighboring states. Within the next few decades, fifteen other states built special mental hospitals. Until the end of her life, she worked for improvements in the rest of the nation, as well as Canada and Europe. Her work for the mentally ill was a first and crucial step in acknowledging the fact that mental illness exists and is neither demonic possession nor evil behavior. When she died, she was widely acclaimed as a social reformer.

## **18 Morenci-Clifton Picket Line**

In 1983 the miners of neighboring Arizona towns, Morenci and Clifton, went on strike. Employed by the Phelps-Dodge Corporation, they demanded better wages and equal standing comparable to other miners. They struck for 18 months, many losing their homes and old friends. Many of those holding the line were women: some the wives of other strikers, but many miners themselves, several who had been working in the copper mines since World War II, when the mine was run predominantly by women. While the demands of the workers were never met, the courage of the strikers stands as an inspiration for laborers everywhere.

## **19 Mary Ann Bickerdyke**

(July 18, 1817 – November 8, 1901)

During the early days of the Civil War, Mary Ann volunteered to care for and distribute supplies to the wounded men. She was appalled by the unsanitary conditions of field hospitals and set about cleaning, organizing, and improving them. She insisted on better help for the wounded, at times having incompetent physicians and officers dismissed. When patients were not brought in, Mary Ann ventured into battlefields to search for the wounded. Her work attracted the attention of both Grant and Sherman who appreciated and supported her work. After the war, she spent the rest of her life working for the homeless, the friendless, and veterans all over the country.

## **20 Hortense Sparks Ward**

(July 21, 1872- December 5, 1944)

Hortense was the first woman admitted to the Texas state bar and became well known as she wrote pamphlets and well written newspaper articles advocating women's rights and suffrage. Hortense also worked for social reform, helping to push forth the Married Woman's Property Act, a 54 hour work week for women, and the creation of a Women's Division in the Department of Labor.

## **21 Amelia Earhart**

(July 24, 1897 – July 2, 1938)

Amelia Earhart was born in Kansas into an insecure family life that forced her to become strong and independent. After graduating from Chicago's Hyde Park High School in 1916, she started looking to do things that were unusual for women to do at that time. When she took her first plane ride at 23, she knew she wanted to be a pilot and spent every cent she earned and every bit of free time learning to fly. When she married George Palmer Putnam in 1931, she made him promise not to interfere with her career as a pilot.

Amelia became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, as a passenger in 1928 and solo in 1932. She flew from Honolulu to California in 1935. Two years later she attempted an around-the-world flight with Frederick Noonan as navigator. Their plane disappeared somewhere in the Pacific, presumably low on fuel and lost. Amelia was a great celebrity in her day, establishing a personable and vivacious female counterpart to the popular Charles

Lindbergh. Besides her own flying, she helped established an airline, engaged in business ventures, and through her extensive writing, interested others—especially women—in flying.

## **22 Mary of Magdala**

Mary of Magdala, also called Mary Magdalene, is often confused with the unnamed sinful woman in Luke's gospel who wept for her sins and allowed her tears to fall on Jesus' feet. What is known of Mary from the Gospels is that she traveled with Jesus in Galilee and, along with other women, supported his mission. She was with Jesus to the end, standing at the foot of the cross with Jesus' mother and a few other women. Mary of Magdala is the only woman mentioned in all four Gospels as seeing Jesus shortly after his Resurrection. She is the one to whom Jesus spoke, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She was sent to tell the apostles that Jesus was alive, and for that reason she has been called the "apostle to the apostles."

## **23 Eulalia Arrila de Perez**

(1773 – 1878)

Eulalia managed an early mission in the northern frontier of Mexico called Mission San Gabriel. She directed the amount of supplies coming in and out of the mission and ran the main kitchen. She instructed the women working there in making such goods as wine and olive oil, carding wool, spinning, weaving, and sewing, and threshing wheat. Eulalia was respected for her ability as a healer and midwife, in addition to helping the mission to run efficiently, while raising a family of her own. As she grew older, she was given a home and two small ranchos in appreciation for her hard work in helping San Gabriel run smoothly and productively.

## **24 Bella Savitzky Abzug**

(July 24, 1920 – 1998)

A native of New York, Bella Savitzky was active in and passionate about social justice from an early age. She graduated from Hunter College, where she was the center of a circle of women who remained lifelong political activists for women, peace, and justice. She won a scholarship to Columbia University Law School, where she edited *The Law Review*. It was there she met her husband Martin Abzug. They married on June 4, 1944 and had two daughters. After law school, she began working for a firm that represented union locals. She found she was overlooked when she went into offices and decided to wear hats, which became her trademark. As a civil rights and labor attorney, she fought for justice and peace, equal rights, human dignity, environmental integrity and sustainable development. She was one of the few independent attorneys willing to take Communist cases during the McCarthy-era and defended Willie McGee, a black Mississippian who was falsely accused of raping a white woman.

In 1961 Bella and her Hunter circle created Women Strike for Peace to lobby for a nuclear test ban treaty, and against the war in Indochina. She was elected to Congress from New York City at the age of 50 and was reelected for three terms, making her career as an advocate for women, the poor, and the oppressed. Her first vote was for the Equal Rights

Amendment. She played a major role in many national and international women's conferences. Bella chaired the Women's Environment and Development Organization, which helped transform the United Nation's agenda regarding women and their concerns for human rights, economic justice, population, development, and the environment.

## **25 Mev Puleo**

Mev Puleo traveled to Haiti, Brazil, El Salvador and elsewhere in the Third World, documenting in her photographs the life, struggles, and humanity of the poor. She aimed "to revere the human spirit and bridge the distance between persons." She carried her message through photo exhibits, her writing, her lectures and a video completed just before she died. Her book, *The Struggle is One*, on the Church in Brazil is based on her interviews with grassroots activists, prophetic bishops and liberation theologians who identified with the suffering poor and their struggle for justice and liberation. In January 1996, Mev Puleo died of a malignant brain tumor. She "had wanted to give the poor a face, a voice. She always wanted to be identified with them." In her short life, she was able to accomplish what she had set out to do.

## **26 Anna, Mother of Mary, Grandmother of Jesus**

Anna is not mentioned in the Scriptures, but her story is told in the Protoevangelium of James. Anna was married to Joachim and both grieved because they had no children. Anna prayed for a child as had Sarah, Hannah and devout women before her. Angels appeared to Anna and foretold the birth of a daughter. Anna sang with joy at the birth of Mary and vowed to present her in the temple to the Lord, which she did when Mary was two years old. The story of childless parents praying for a child and promising to give the child to the Lord is common, but this child was a girl, and the only case of a daughter being so celebrated.

## **27 Linda Richards**

(July 27, 1841- 1930)

Linda Richards was born into a poor family in Vermont and from her earliest years found great joy in caring for the sick and the weak. She visited hospitals and saw how those who worked with the sick were frequently ignorant and careless. Her heroine was Florence Nightingale and she wanted training to become like her. A woman doctor, Susan Dimock, opened the first school for nurses in her small hospital in Boston and Linda was the first graduate in 1873. Linda later became the night superintendent at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, where she worked to improve the conditions and services of the attendants. She wanted cleanliness, order, and professional accounting of patient records and medications, but she was especially concerned with taking care of the social, spiritual and psychological needs of the patients, as well as their physical needs. Linda met Florence Nightingale in England and studied her nursing methods before spending five years working in Japan training the first Japanese nurses. When she returned to the United States, she spent many years developing the concept of home nursing for patients.

## **28 Mary Luke Tobin, SL**

Sr. Mary Luke Tobin, a Sister of Loretto, has spent 70 years in religious life. She has served as the President of the Loretto Community. A friend of Thomas Merton, she has long been active in Peace and Justice Ministries and is a founding member of Mary's Pence. In 1962-1965, she was an observer at the Second Vatican Council in Rome, the only American Catholic woman to be invited to serve in that capacity.

## **29 Martha of Bethany**

With her sister Mary and brother Lazarus, Martha was one of the trinity of good friends of Jesus. The three had a house in Bethany where Jesus often rested from the hard work of his ministry. From the stories in the Gospels we learn that Martha was busy preparing supper in the kitchen while her sister Mary was more contemplative, sitting at the feet of Jesus. Martha was confident enough to protest to Jesus that Mary had done nothing but sit and listen, while she had done all the work. When Lazarus died, Jesus chose not to come when summoned but arrived after Lazarus had been in the grave three days. In this case both sisters complained to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lazarus would not have died."

Mary is seen as the personification of Contemplation--prayer and devotion--whereas Martha is seen as Action-- performing good works and helping others. The technical assistance publications at Mary's Pence are called "Martha's Rag" in recognition of the practical aspects of ministry.

## **30 Antonia Hernandez**

(1948 - )

As President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Antonia acts as a spokeswoman for thirty-five million Latin Americans in the United States. Born on a communal ranch in Mexico, her family immigrated to Los Angeles when she was very young, where they felt Antonia and her five siblings would receive better educational opportunities. After graduating from high school, Antonia attended UCLA, where she received an undergraduate degree in history, her teaching certificate, and her law degree. In 1979, she was the first Latin-American woman to serve on a staff counsel to the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and in 1980 she advocated bilingual voting assistance. In 1981 Antonia began her work with MALDEF, to which she continues to contribute today. Under her leadership, MALDEF ensured political representation for Latin Americans and furthered educational opportunities for children of undocumented immigrants. Today she speaks for National Public Radio's Latino U.S.A. program, and acts as a voice for Latin Americans. She has received numerous honors and awards.

## **31 Azar Nafisi**

(1955 - )

In 1980, when she lost her job teaching English at Tehran University in Iran because she refused to wear a veil to cover her face, Azar Nafisi started a book club for her former women students. They would meet at her house, remove their veils and read works of Western authors, using the books as a means to discuss the political, social and economic boundaries of their country. She is the author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, a memoir based upon these experiences. She now lives in Washington, DC and works to present a true voice of an educated woman who lived in Iran under their totalitarian regime. She tours with the Dialogue Project, using books to discuss the development of democracy and recognition of human rights in the Muslim world.

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# August

## 1 Linda Chavez-Thompson

(August 1, 1944 - )

Linda was born the daughter of sharecroppers in Lubbock, Texas. She and her seven siblings worked daily in the cotton fields for thirty cents an hour. At the age of twenty, she married and went to work cleaning houses. Five years later, in 1967, she joined the Laborers' International Union, and served as a secretary, translator, and union representative for Hispanic American members. In 1971, she began work for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and was responsible for advancing legislative, political action and education programs, as well as conducting every level of grievance procedures for membership representation within the AFSCME organization. In 1995, Linda was elected executive vice-president of the AFL-CIO.

## 2 Our Lady of Angels, Costa Rica

In the city of Cartago, as in many other colonial towns, whites segregated themselves from Indians and mestizos. Any who were not purely white were barred from entering the city, and a stone cross marked the boundary. On August 2, 1635 (the feast of the Holy Angels) Juana Pereira, a poor mestiza woman, discovered a small image of the Virgin carved on a dark stone in the footpath. She picked it up and took it home, but it disappeared and returned to the same rock where it was found. This happened five times, with the statue disappearing from cupboards and chests, even the parish tabernacle. The people took this as a sign that our Lady wanted a center of worship on that spot, where she could comfort the poor and humble. "La Negrita" as she is affectionately called by the people of Costa Rica, was solemnly crowned in 1926 and in 1935 Pope Pius XI declared the beautiful shrine of the Queen of Angels a Basilica.

## 3 Flannery O'Connor

(March 25, 1925 – August 3, 1964)

Flannery O'Connor was born and attended school in Georgia, but moved north to become a writer after attending the University of Iowa. Several of her short stories and a novel were soon published. At the age of 26 she was diagnosed with lupus, a slowly progressing degenerative disease. She returned home where she was cared for by her mother until she died at the age of 39. During her illness she wrote daily and produced some of her best known short stories (several which later became films) and a novel, *Wise Blood*. Her correspondence reveals a devout Catholic intellect. She saw Catholicism rooted in action, not intellect: "You will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's sufferings and not your own."

## **4 Augusta Savage**

(February 29, 1892- 1961)

Augusta knew at an early age that she wanted to be a sculptor, but her father, a Methodist minister, forbade her to make “graven images.” Refusing to give up her calling, she moved to New York, believing that more artistic opportunities would be available up north. Once there, she opened a studio to provide education in the arts to adults and, in 1937, became the first director of the Harlem Community Arts Center, a WPA funded project.

Her work consisted mostly of busts of everyday people, and she was one of the first sculptors to depict distinctive African-American physical features. Because she could not afford to have her clay work cast in bronze, few of her works have survived. She fought against racist hiring practices in the WPA and for the elimination of other barriers which prevented blacks from realizing their potential as artists. After 1945 and until her death in 1961, she sculpted less and concentrated on teaching art to children and adults in New York.

## **5 Susie King Taylor**

(1848 - 1912)

Born a slave in Georgia in 1848, Susie King Taylor gained her freedom in April 1862. At the age of 14, her Uncle brought her, along with his own family, onto a gunboat passing near Georgia’s Fort Pulaski, which had recently been captured by Union forces. She and other family members were enlisted in a newly-formed regiment of black soldiers and she was initially appointed laundress of the 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Colored Troops. Due to her nursing skills and her ability to read and write, her responsibilities with the regiment began to multiply. Before the end of her first year of freedom, she married Sgt. Edward King, also a member of the 33<sup>rd</sup> and they were both called to duty on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1866. After the war, she helped to organize a branch of the Women’s Relief Corps.

## **6 Lydia Villa-Komaroff**

(August 7, 1947 - )

Lydia Villa-Komaroff is one of the most prominent scientists to ever study genes. She has been working within the scientific community for more than 20 years. She began her career in chemistry and after being told that women did not belong in that field, switched to studying molecular biology, only the third Mexican-American woman in the United States to receive a doctorate in the sciences. In 1978, she gained international recognition as being a pioneer in the field of cloning when she and her team used bacteria to create insulin. She also helped to found the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

## **7 Mary McKillop**

(1842 – 1909)

Mary McKillop was born in Melbourne, Australia to Scottish parents. Mary worked as a shop girl, governess, and teacher to support her family, but yearned for penitential form of religious life. In 1866, with the encouragement and guidance of Father Tenison-Woods, she founded the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph to educate poor children. However, Tenison-Woods came into conflict with the clergy over educational matters and as a result, Mary was excommunicated by Bishop Shiel of Adelaide for alleged insubordination. The excommunication was lifted six months later.

Mary was elected Superior-General and worked tirelessly for the education of the children of the poor, especially in the Australian Outback. She founded numerous schools, convents and charitable institutions throughout Australia. But Mary soon came into conflict with the Roman Catholic Church by insisting on an egalitarian rather than hierarchical organization. Bishop Reynolds told her to leave his diocese and Mary moved the Headquarters of the Josephites to Sydney. Mary suffered a stroke and though she maintained her mental faculties, she was an invalid until her death. Mother Mary became the first Australian to be formally proposed to Rome as a candidate for canonization, and she was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

## **8 Maureen Gallagher, OP**

Maureen is an Adrian Dominican who founded Mary's Pence in 1987. She got the idea at a prayer meeting in the Chicago home of Patricia Crowley, during a discussion of the extraordinary contributions of Catholic women doing the work of the church among the forgotten poor of the Americas. Two women who were present shared frustration about not getting a grant they requested from the diocese to fund their active and successful prison ministry, while a priest had received a substantial amount to start a new program. Judge Sheila Murphy stated, "What we need is a Mary's Pence," a play on Peter's Pence, the Pope's annual church collection.

Maureen Gallagher describes a mystical experience she had while cleaning her house the following weekend. As she vacuumed, she prayed out her frustration, imagining all the bishops and cardinals who refused to help women in ministry meeting God. Each one was asked by God, "Why did you do nothing to help women minister?" and then banished. Then Maureen found herself before God, who asked, "What did you do to help women minister?" Maureen said, "I'm a woman, I couldn't do anything." God asked again, "What did you do?" Maureen knew then that Mary's Pence needed to be formed and she would be the one to do it.

With a grant from the Congregation of St. Agnes, she gathered a founding board and started a fund to give women access to money for seeding or growing ministry projects, especially with the economically disadvantaged. Named for Mary of Nazareth, Mary of Bethany, and Mary of Magdala, Mary's Pence seeks to embody the example of ministry practiced by the women at the foot of the cross, who dared to remain when the other disciples had fled.

## **9 Edith Stein**

(October 12, 1891 – August 9, 1942)

Edith Stein's recent canonization as a martyr of the Catholic Church has been controversial, raising the question of whether she was killed at Auschwitz because she was a Jew or because she was Christian. Edith was born in Germany in 1891 into a large Orthodox Jewish family. She studied under and then became the assistant of Edmund Husserl, the primary representative of the phenomenological school of philosophy which emphasizes the material world as the bearer of the sacred. An espoused atheist, she later converted to Catholicism at the age of 30 after reading the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila. Her conversion did not save her from dismissal from her university teaching post ten years later under Nazi rules.

Twelve years after her baptism, at the age of 42, she joined the Carmelites and took the name Teresa Benedicta a Cruce (Blessed by the Cross). To protect her from the Nazis, her community moved her from Germany to Holland. When the Dutch bishops denounced Nazi treatment of Jews, Dutch Jewish-Christians, including Edith and one of her sisters, were rounded up and transported to the death camps. Edith died in Auschwitz a mere seven days after her arrest. She went calmly and willingly to her death, at one with the family of Jews.

## **10 Cunegund**

St. Cunegund was the daughter of Sigefride, the first Count of Luxemburg, and Hadeswige. She married the Duke of Bavaria, Henry, when he was crowned emperor. They never had any children, but the belief that they had an intentionally celibate marriage is no longer considered true.

Henry founded a monastery and cathedral in Bamberg. Cunegund established, on her own, a convent at Kaufungen as an act of thanks for recovery from a serious illness. St. Henry died in 1024. On the first anniversary of his death, Cunegund invited a number of prelates to attend the dedication of the church at Kaufungen. After the singing of the Gospel, the empress offered at the altar a relic of the True Cross. Then she took off her imperial cloak and donned the habit of a nun. The bishop replaced her crown with a veil. As a nun, Cunegund changed her mode of life completely. She would not allow herself or others to recall that she had formerly been a queen. She chose for her tasks the lowliest duties of the convent and cast her lot with the poor. Her daily schedule was one of reading, prayer, and visitation of the sick. When she died, she was laid to rest next to Henry in the cathedral church that both had built. She was solemnly canonized by Innocent III in 1200.

## **11 Claire of Assisi**

(July 16, 1194 – August 11, 1253)

Daughter of a countess, her father died young. After hearing Saint Francis of Assisi preach in the streets, she confided to him her desire to live for God and the two became close friends. On Palm Sunday 1212, the bishop presented her with a palm, which she took as a sign to run away with her cousin Pacifica from her mother's palace during the night. She eventually took the veil of religious profession from Francis at the Church of Our Lady of the Angels in Assisi. Claire founded the Order of Poor Clares at San Damiano, and led it for 40 years.

Everywhere the Franciscans established themselves throughout Europe, there also went the Poor Clares, depending solely on alms, forced to have complete faith in God to provide. Clare's mother and sisters later joined the order, and there are still thousands of members living in over 76 countries around the world.

Clare loved music and well-composed sermons. She was humble, merciful, charming, optimistic, and chivalrous. She would get up late at night to tuck in her sisters who'd kicked off their covers. She meditated daily on the Passion. When she learned of the Franciscan martyrs in Morocco in 1212 she tried to go there and give her own life for God, but was restrained. When her convent was about to be attacked, she displayed the Sacrament in a monstrance at the convent gates, and prayed before it; the attackers left. Toward the end of her life when she was too ill to attend Mass, an image of the service would display on the wall of her cell. She was canonized on September 26, 1255 by Pope Alexander IV.

## **12 Isabel Allende**

(August 2, 1942 - )

Born in Peru and raised in Chile, Bolivia, Europe, and the Middle East, Isabel Allende's childhood was flavored with the cultures of numerous places. The daughter of a diplomat, she became accustomed to constant traveling, and attended numerous American schools overseas. After completing her secondary education in Chile, Isabel worked with the United Nations' FAO in Santiago, and later in Belgium. She worked as a journalist in Chile until a military coup led her to flee to Venezuela, when she discovered her grandfather was close to death. Upon hearing the news, she began writing a long letter reassuring him that he would always live on through her memories. This work eventually grew into her internationally acclaimed novel *The House of the Spirits*, which was produced as a motion picture in 1993.

Since the success of her first novel, Isabel has moved to San Rafael in California, where she obtained United States citizenship in 2003. She has authored several other works of fiction, as well as memoirs. Her 1999 bestseller *Daughter of Fortune* was chosen to be read in Oprah's Book Club, and her novel *Portrait in Sepia* was also met with great praise.

## **13 Maude Dominica Petre**

Maude Dominica Petre, born in 1863, grew up in a Catholic household in England. She joined a religious community, but eventually left in order to pursue theological studies in Rome—to serve the church in the intellectual realm. She was one of the first Catholic women theologians in modern times. In 1900, she met George Tyrrell, a Jesuit Theologian and Modernist (Modernists sought a way to reconcile the church with the positive features of modernity), and thus began a deep and lasting spiritual and intellectual relationship. She supported his cause and his struggles. Pope Pius X wrote the encyclical *Pascendi* and excommunicated Tyrrell and all Modernists. After Tyrrell's death, Maude oversaw the editing and publishing of his autobiography and a series of other books. She refused to sign the anti-Modernist oath (as required of priests and religious by the Pope). As a laywoman, she could refuse. She remained a Catholic and a Modernist, thus exemplifying a spirituality of loyal dissent.

## **14 Irene Fitzgibbon, SC**

(May 12, 1823 – August 14, 1896)

Catherine Fitzgibbon was born in London, England, but her family immigrated to Brooklyn when Catherine was nine. In 1850, she joined the community of the Sisters of Charity at Mount St. Vincent, New York. During her novitiate she taught at St. Peter's parish school. At that time no public provision was made to take care of abandoned infants who were sent to the municipal charity institutions to be looked after by paupers. Many were left at the doors of the sisters' schools and houses. Sister Irene suggested the establishment of a foundling asylum, such as existed in Europe. In 1869, Irene was assigned to carry out her idea. After visiting several cities, she organized a woman's society which helped her to find a house large enough. In 1869, "The Foundling Asylum" was incorporated. In 1891 the name was changed to "The New York Foundling Hospital". Since then, over 50,000 children have been placed in good homes throughout the country.

## **15 Catherine de Hueck Doherty**

(August 15, 1896 – December 14, 1985)

Born in Russia, Catherine married Baron de Hueck at 15. During World War I, while her husband fought at the front, the young Baroness served as a nurse. Soon after the war, she fled Russia with her husband and infant son as the Russian proletarian revolution targeted aristocrats. Settling in Canada, the Baroness rebuilt the family finances by lecturing on her escape from Russia. She and her husband later separated and at the age of 34, she left her comfortable life and founded Friendship House, an interracial residence for the poor in Toronto. Seven years later, she opened a second Friendship House in Harlem, New York. Others were created elsewhere in the United States. She firmly believed that alleviating poverty and racial injustice was the surest way for the Church to combat communism. Her life of voluntary poverty inspired many to follow in her footsteps. At 47 she married a reporter who had volunteered at Friendship House in Harlem. Together they established a center for prayer and spirituality in rural Canada which they called the Madonna House.

## **16 Marilyn Waring**

(1952 - )

A New Zealand feminist and activist, Marilyn was the youngest member of the New Zealand Parliament in 1975 at 23. She worked there until 1984, standing her ground on controversial issues, despite a falling out with the prime minister. Marilyn made a political name for herself when she withdrew her support from her party and became the decisive vote on the decision to keep New Zealand nuclear-weapon free. Her action led to a temporary halt of the government and a snap election. A snap election, in a Parliamentary government, is an election called when the Prime Minister dissolves the legislature midway through a government's mandate. Since leaving Parliament, she has remained active in feminism and "female human rights," especially working with refugees. Marilyn works to support eco-feminism and has written for the feminist cause, including a book called *If Women Counted*.

## **17 Raissa Maritan**

Raissa, the daughter of Orthodox Jews, was born in Russia. Her parents moved to France to seek better educational opportunities for their very gifted daughters. While a student at the Sorbonne, she met Jacques Maritan and married him in 1904. They shared a passion for poetry, art, and social justice. In the course of their studying, they came in contact with, and were much influenced by, Henri Bergson, a novelist, and Leon Bloy, a devout Catholic. They were baptized and afterward conceived their lives in religious terms. Raissa published several volumes of poetry. After her death, her memoirs were published, revealing her deep spirituality and intense prayer life. She was an intimate collaborator in her husband's philosophical works. She considered herself a contemplative "on the roads of the world."

## **18 Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Cuba**

Sometime around 1600, two native Indians, Rodrigo and Juan de Hoyos, along with a ten-year-old slave boy, Juan Moreno, went looking for salt in El Cobre. They were forced to camp halfway along their route to keep a storm from destroying their canoe. The following morning, as they continued on along the Bay of Nipe, a white bundle floated to them. It contained a statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ child in her right arm and a gold cross in her left. It was fastened to a board which read "I am the Virgin of Charity." The bundle was perfectly dry despite the recent storm. Today, our Lady of Charity is a symbol of Cuban nationality. Our Lady of Charity was declared the patroness of Cuba by Benedict XV in 1916 and solemnly crowned in the Eucharistic Congress held in Cuba in 1936. Pope Paul VI raised her sanctuary to the category of Basilica in 1977.

## **19 Anne Morrow Lindbergh**

Anne Morrow Lindbergh was a noted writer and aviation pioneer. She graduated from Smith College in 1928 and married Charles Lindbergh the following year. In the early years of their marriage, she flew with her husband, serving as co-pilot, navigator and radio operator as they charted potential routes for commercial airlines. Many of the trips became the inspiration for such books as *North to the Orient* and *Listen! The Wind*. For her part in exploratory flying over five continents, she received many honors and awards. For her writing, she received four honorary degrees and numerous awards. She is best known for her inspirational *A Gift from the Sea*.

## **20 Simone Weil**

(March 3, 1909 – August 24, 1942)

Simone was born in Paris where she obtained a university degree in philosophy. She was drawn to political activity on behalf of workers, demonstrating with the unemployed and marching with miners. She took a leave from her teaching post and went to work operating a power press, then a stamping press and finally a milling machine. She came away from her experience with a belief that workers were badly abused.

Simone and her family fled to New York in 1942 because of their perilous positions as Jews. From the moment she arrived, she was intent on returning to France to be a part of the

Resistance movement. Four months after arriving in the US, she sailed for England to work with the Free French movement. After only five months, she was hospitalized with tuberculosis. Perhaps in solidarity with the ordinary French citizen under Nazi occupation, she failed to eat the food needed for her recovery. She died at the age of 42. She left behind letters and notebooks which were published posthumously. Her political and religious writings show her as an intellectual who refused to be detached from the working people. Her vocation was, she said, “to move among men of every class and complexion, mixing with them and sharing their life and outlook....”

## **21 Saba Kidane**

Saba is an Eritrean singer, journalist, activist, and poet who delves deeply into a subject well known to many of her fellow countrymen: war. Like countless other Eritrean citizens, Saba was a child soldier in the war for Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia. Since the end of the war, Saba has worked as a director for youth radio and hopes to open a youth newspaper. As a poet, Saba is well known and praised for her verses. She considered one of Africa's finest young poets.

## **22 Queenship of the Virgin Mary**

### **23 Rose of Lima**

(1586 – August 24, 1617)

Born in 1586 in Lima, Peru, Rose decided at a young age to devote her life to God and not to marry. This dashed the hopes of her parents who hoped to secure the financial well being of their large family by marrying Rose to one of her many wealthy suitors. Despite family pressure, she held fast but supplemented the family income through her sewing. She is reported to have engaged in a number of severe penitential practices even as a child, such as wearing heavy chains under her clothing that cut into her flesh. At her insistence, her parents eventually built her a separate tiny dwelling in their backyard where she lived alone and prayed. She is reputed to have had extraordinary mystical gifts.

To this day, local people approach her dwelling with written petitions and prayers. She was the first canonized saint of the Americas and is the patron saint of South America and the Philippines.

### **24 Clara Maass**

(June 28, 1876- August 24, 1901)

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, Clara graduated from nursing school at 19. Three years later she volunteered to serve as a contract nurse with the U.S. Army Medical Department during the Spanish-American War. Over the next two years, she served in Georgia, Florida and Cuba. There she witnessed firsthand the ravages of yellow fever, an acutely infectious disease caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes.

When her tour of duty was up, she volunteered again, serving first in the Philippines and then in Cuba. While in Cuba, Clara became involved in a controversy over the cause of yellow fever. She volunteered to be part of a yellow fever immunization experiment to determine whether the tropical fever was caused by city filth or a mosquito bite. The theory was that volunteers bitten by a mosquito under controlled conditions would develop a mild case of yellow fever and would thereafter be immune. She survived the first experiment and several months later volunteered again. Unexpectedly, after being bitten, Clara developed a serious case of yellow fever and died ten days later at the age of 25.

## **25 Sumi Sevilla Haur**

(August 25, 1939 - )

Beginning as an actress, Sumi Sevilla Haur became involved in labor movements, addressing the lack of opportunities and roles for Asians and Pacific Islanders in US films. She co-founded the Screen Actor's Guild's Ethnic Employment Opportunities Committee in 1971 which worked to put an affirmative action clause within contracts. She became the first Asian American to head an international union in 1995.

## **26 Women's Equality Day**

## **27 Monica**

(323-387)

What we know about Monica comes from her son, St. Augustine of Hippo who wrote about her in his Confessions. She was born in North Africa into a mixed marriage. Though a Christian, her husband was a pagan until shortly before his death. In addition to Augustine, who was born when Monica was 31, she had at least two other children, but she followed Augustine wherever he went. Monica and her husband considered education to be important and scraped money together for Augustine. To Monica's displeasure, Augustine entered into a 15-year liaison and had a son. Perhaps even more upsetting, he refused to become a Christian.

When Augustine left Africa with his mistress and son to teach in Milan, Monica followed. She banished the mistress and tried to arrange a socially advantageous marriage for her son. He found another mistress instead. Finally, Augustine became a Christian and at the same time renounced marriage and career. Monica died the same year that Augustine was baptized.

## **28 Maria Elena Zavala**

(May 24, 1924 - July 6, 2004)

As a female, minority scientist, Dr. Zavala overcame many stereotypes in her pursuance of knowledge in the field of biology. A professor at California State University, Zavala held an undergraduate degree from Pomona College and earned her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley. Zavala's countless accomplishments included serving as director of the MARC/MBRS and Bridges to the Doctorate Program – Minority Access to Research Careers, a program designed to offer mentorship, financial support and research experience to minority students. Zavala was the first female president of SACNAS, the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. Under her direction, SACNAS received the 2002 National Science Board Public Service Award for institutions increasing public understanding of science and engineering. Dr. Zavala served on numerous national panels, and in 2003 received Local Hero for Education Award from KCET Public Television and Union Bank of California.

## **29 Alice Garg**

Alice was born into a wealthy family in India. She has made a mission out of trying to eradicate the caste system and gender discrimination. She is a prominent figure in her community as a crusader against the abortion of female fetuses and the practice of *sati*, in which women burn themselves alive on their husband's funeral pyres. With the organization she founded in 1972, Bal Rashmi, she helps women who are victims of or are affected by rape, sexual and physical exploitation, violence, discrimination, and divorce. She also educates the children in the orphanage she created. Alice has continued to work despite hate crusades against her, the arrest of many of her fellow workers and their physical torture, and being forced to go underground for a time because of false charges of embezzlement, rape and murder.

## **30 Jeanne Jugan**

(1792 – August 30, 1879)

Jeanne went to work for the Viscountess de la Choue, where she was sensitized to economic injustice. She began a very peaceful but insistent ministry to the poor, the unwelcome, and the elderly through giving them simple comforts. The “throwaways” of society were her way to see Christ personified again and again. One of her constant maxims was: “Little Sisters, take care of the aged, for in them you are caring for Christ Himself.”

She worked full time to support herself and others through charity and began to attract other young women. A house was opened where they taught catechism and assisted the poor. Her first adoption of the “invalid” was the blind and aged widow, Anne Chauvin. In 1842, the women added more rules to their way of life and officially chose the name “Servants of the Poor.” Jeanne wrote a simple rule for them and herself. Putting aside personal pride, the Little Sisters daily went out door to door asking for food, clothing, and money. Jeanne Jugan was beatified October 3, 1982.

## **31 Maria Montessori**

(August 31, 1870 – May 6, 1952)

Maria was the first woman in Italy to qualify as a physician. She took special interest in working with children and those considered “uneducable.” She developed new ways for teachers and children to be taught, emphasizing self-determination and self-realization through independent activities. Maria was born into a prominent family in Italy; her father was a successful official in the government and her mother was a well-educated, well-off woman dedicated to Italy's liberation and unification. Maria began studying engineering and almost immediately started to sketch out her ideal of a perfect school. Giving up engineering, she moved on to medicine, and in 1896 received her diploma.

Maria developed her own theory of education and began treating “challenged” children with her own form of schooling. She advocated the idea that teachers should see themselves as social engineers, and should adapt their lessons to each child and their individual needs. Maria pioneered many aspects of what is considered to be modern teaching and went on to develop schools throughout Africa and Europe, then to India and Sri Lanka.

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# September

## 1 Ela Bhatt

(September 7, 1933 - )

Ela Bhatt, a lawyer and a social worker in India, founded the Self-Employed Women's Association in 1972. It is now the largest labor union organization in India and works to represent even the most menial of jobs, such as rolling cigarettes or selling fruit. SEWA has established itself as a negotiation power and fought to gain women's security through health, maternity and death benefits. In 1974, SEWA established a bank in which women can deposit their savings or take out loans, helping to keep them independent from money lenders and officials, many of whom abuse their positions and the populace's faith in them. Ela was nominated to the Parliament and served there from 1986 to 1989. She makes a conscious effort to lead her life as an example, living simply and aware of others.

## 2 Nancy Mairs

(1943 - )

Poet and essayist Nancy Mairs studied at Dartmouth's School of Criticism and Theory, and has taught at the University of Arizona, UCLA, and the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference. Nancy has published numerous works of fiction, in addition to two books of poetry and six collections of essays. Nancy's expansive education includes earning a M.F.A in creative writing and a PhD in English Literature from the University of Arizona.

Living with disabling multiple sclerosis, much of Nancy's work focuses on her physical handicaps. Nancy's frank confrontation of the disease provides an honesty that is vital to her work. In her book *Waist-High in the World: A Life among the Nondisabled*, Nancy confronts not only the disease, but also such controversial issues as assisted suicide and abortion. Having lived thirty years before developing multiple sclerosis, she is able to comment through experience of the different perspectives of both worlds.

## 3 Bessie and Sadie Delany

(1891 - 1995) and (1890 - 1999)

Born of a schoolteacher and America's first elected Black Episcopal bishop, the Delany sisters were able to enjoy educational privileges denied to many African-American students. When their father became the vice principal of St. Augustine's College, their mother helped to run the school as well enabling the sisters and their eight siblings all received college educations in an era where most African Americans were considered lucky to receive high school diplomas.

Having faced racial adversity from a young age, the sisters were not passive about their dislike of the restrictive Jim Crow laws. Bessie Delany, the more rebellious of the sisters, often defied segregation laws, in one case drinking out of a public ladle. After finishing

college the sisters moved to New York City, where Sadie became a science teacher in public schools and Bessie opened an office for dentistry in Harlem. In 1957 Bessie and Sadie defied another racial norm by moving to a white, suburban neighborhood in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

#### **4 Gertrud Heinzelmann**

(1914 – September 4, 1999)

Born in Switzerland, Gertrud studied law and politics at Zurich University, although she would have studied theology had it been possible for women at the time. She was active in securing the vote for Swiss women and wrote and published a petition to the Preparatory Commission of Vatican II, a worldwide first. It provided support for women seeking equal access to the diaconate and priesthood, although it exposed her to much abuse. She continued to write and publish on needed reforms. In her last article she asked, “How many generations of women must become old or die before real progress will take place concerning women in the Roman Catholic Church?”

#### **5 Mother Theresa of Calcutta**

(August 26, 1910 - September 5, 1997)

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born to Albanian parents in Skopje in 1910. At the age of 18, she entered the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Loretto in Ireland. She trained in Dublin and in Darjiling, India before taking her religious vows in 1937. She took the name Teresa from Saint Teresa of Lisieux, the patron saint of foreign missionaries. While serving as principal of a Roman Catholic high school in Kolkata, Mother Teresa was moved by the presence of the sick and dying on the city's streets. In 1948 she was granted permission to leave her post at the convent and begin a ministry among the sick.

In 1950 Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. In addition to the three basic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, a fourth vow is taken pledging service to the poor, whom Mother Teresa described as the embodiment of Christ. In 1952 they opened the Nirmal Hriday, or “Pure Heart”, Home for Dying Destitutes in Kolkata, India, eventually extending their work to many other parts of the world. In recognition of her efforts, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was forced to scale back her activities in 1990 because of declining health. In 1997, Sister Nirmala was chosen to succeed her as leader of the Missionaries of Charity and Mother Teresa died later that year. *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words*, a collection of her anecdotes and quotations, was published in 1996.

#### **6 Jane Addams**

(September 6, 1860 - May 21, 1935)

Jane Addams won worldwide recognition in the first third of the twentieth century as a pioneer social worker, feminist, and internationalist. Jane Addams was born in Cedarville, Illinois and educated at Rockford Female Seminary, one of the first generation of women to attend college. At the age of twenty-seven, during a second tour to Europe with her friend Ellen G. Starr, she visited a settlement house in London's East End. This visit encouraged her to found a similar house in an underprivileged area of Chicago. In 1889 she and Miss Starr

established Hull House. By its second year of existence, Hull House was host to two thousand people every week. There were kindergarten classes in the morning and club meetings for older children in the afternoon; for adults there were evening clubs and courses in what became virtually a night school.

Jane played a prominent part in the formation of the National Progressive Party in 1912 and the Woman's Peace Party, of which she became chairperson in 1915. She was elected in 1915 President of the International Congress of Women at The Hague, Netherlands and President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which was established by The Hague Congress. In 1910 she received the first honorary degree ever awarded to a woman by Yale University. She became the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, sharing the award with the American educator Nicholas Murray Butler.

## **7 Give Us Bread & Roses: the 1912 Textile Workers Strike**

Lawrence, Massachusetts was the site of the 1912 Textile Workers Strike. Also known as the Bread and Roses Strike, it was one of the major labor actions of American history which began when textile mill owners increased the speed of factory looms and lowered wages for thousands of women and child workers. The state's National Guard and private and city police were sent in against 23,000 strikers for two months, resulting in numerous deaths and mass arrests. When police and militia assaulted a group of women and children, public outcry helped force mill owners to capitulate. The striking workers won wage increases for themselves and thousands of workers in New England mills.

## **8 Birth of Mary**

This feast is connected with the St. Ann Basilica constructed in the fifth century on the site of the pool at Bethesda, the supposed home of Ann and Joachim. The feast was introduced by Pope Sergius I around 701. This feast opens the liturgical year in the East and was celebrated with an octave by Pope Innocent IV and with a vigil under Pope Gregory XI.

## **9 Louise Thompson Patterson**

(September 9, 1901- September 7, 1999)

Louise was born in Chicago but after enduring a severe case of measles, she and her mother headed for a warmer climate and settled in Berkley, California. She became one of the first African-American women to attend and graduate from the University of Berkley. After graduation, Louise realized that racial and gender discrimination made it difficult for an African-American woman to get a well-paying job, regardless of higher education. She eventually became a teacher at the Hampton Institute in Virginia, joining the political protests there. Louise's political activities began to focus upon the Harlem Renaissance. She became involved with political work in Europe, including joining in on an anti-Semitism conference in Paris prior to the start of World War II. As she aged, Louise remained active in political and social causes.

## **10 Lillian Wald**

(March 10, 1867 - September 1, 1940)

In 1889 Lillian met a young nurse who impressed her so much she decided to study nursing at New York City Hospital. She graduated and, at the age of 22, entered Women's Medical College studying to become a doctor. At the same time, she volunteered to provide nursing services to the immigrants and the poor living on New York's Lower East Side. Visiting pregnant women, the elderly, and the disabled in their homes, Lillian came to the conclusion that there was a crisis in need of immediate redress. She dropped out of medical school and moved into a house on Henry Street in order to live among those who so desperately needed help. In 1893, she organized the Henry Street Settlement, otherwise known as the Visiting Nurse Society (VNS) of New York. The VNS program became the model for similar entities across America and the world.

Lillian helped organize other public health nursing programs in universities and for organizations including the American Red Cross. She was the first president of the National Organization of Public Health Nurses, a professional group she helped to create. Recognizing that the urban poor had great needs beyond health care, Lillian expanded Henry Street services to include social services especially those benefiting children. She led the charge to abolish child labor, and helped secure the creation of the federal Children's Bureau in 1912. She lobbied successfully to change divorce laws so the abandoned spouse in a marriage could receive compensation in the form of alimony. She helped form the Women's Trade Union League to protect women and eradicate "sweatshop" conditions.

Another of her major achievements was persuading Columbia University to appoint her as a professor of nursing, the first such position at a United States college or university. Until that time, nursing had been taught in hospitals and consisted largely of supervised work experience. Thanks to Lillian, most nursing education now takes place in universities, augmented by practical experience in a teaching hospital. By the time she reached her fifties, Lillian began to receive some of the recognition that she deserved. In 1922, she was named in *The New York Times* as one of the twelve greatest living American women. Ten years later, in 1932, she was chosen by historian J. Addams as one of the top twelve American women leaders in the past century. In 1936, she received the Lincoln Medallion and was proclaimed the Outstanding Citizen of New York.

## **11 Remember Worldwide Victims of Terrorism**

## **12 Our Lady of Coromoto**

When the Spaniards arrived at the region of Guanare, around 1591, a group of Indians of the Coromoto tribe decided to abandon their land and flee towards the Tucupido River, since they did not want to have anything to do with the white men or religion they brought with them. Fifty years later, still maintaining their independence, the Indians lived in a small village not far from the Spaniards' town. Both groups lived in peace, but remained isolated until the chief of the Coromotos and his wife experienced an extraordinary vision in the ravine of the Tucupido River. Upon the waters, a beautiful lady looked at them with a loving expression on her face. The small child she carried also smiled amiably. The mysterious lady

summoned the Indian chief and told him: “Leave the forest with your people and go to the white men in order to receive the water on the head so as to be able to enter heaven.”

Impressed by what he had seen and heard, the chief decided to obey the beautiful lady and led his tribe to be schooled in the Christian religion. Used to the freedom of the forests, the chief had a hard time with his new way of life and returned to the village with his family. The lady appeared again, this time at the Indian's humble hut. Although the Virgin presented herself surrounded by a luminous aura whose rays filled the hut with fire, she did not succeed in moving the chief, who tried to throw her out. When he stretched out his hand angrily to catch her, she disappeared before his eyes. A small holy card, where the image of the Lady was printed, was left in the Coromoto Indian's closed fist. The Venezuelans celebrate their patroness each year on three different occasions: on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **13 Liu Sola**

(1955 - )

Liu was born into a high ranking family in Beijing who were members of the revolutionary army before being sentenced to 20 years of “re-education” as farmers. She is known by China's “lost generation,” those born during or after China's Cultural Revolution, as a best-selling musician, writer and one of their premier voices. Liu is recognized by the international community as one of the most important artists of our time for her work promoting a more tolerant art community in Asia, especially China.

### **14 Catherine of Genoa**

(c. 1447 - September 14, 1510)

Catherine was the youngest child of a noble Ligurian family. She tried to enter the convent when she was 13, but was turned away due to her young age. She was married at 16 to Giuliano Adorno, her social equal. For many years, she lived in quiet submission to her husband. The couple led the life expected of people of their class for about ten years, until a mystical experience reawakened Catherine's earlier faith. She eventually inspired her husband to reform his life and become a Franciscan tertiary. In 1479 the couple moved into the Pammatone hospital, of which Catherine became the director in 1490. She nearly died of the plague in 1493 and resigned from her post three years later. Two years after Giuliano's death, Catherine met Don Cattaneo Marabotto, her spiritual director. During the last nine years of her life, she had several mystical visions. The two works for which she is known, *Spiritual Dialogues* and the *Treatise on Purgatory*, were originally published in 1551 as her *Life and Doctrine*. These are based on records of her teachings, and some doubt her authorship for this reason. Benedict XIV canonized her in 1737.

*Adapted from Karen Rae Keck*

### **15 Our Lady of Sorrows**

Mary knew oppression as a woman living in a country occupied by the Romans, as an unwed mother, refugee, mother of a prisoner and political activist. She knew poverty and widowhood. Her sufferings have been shared by many people throughout the ages, especially countries torn apart by war.

## **16 Mary Beth Edelson**

(1935 - )

Mary Beth Edelson is an artist dedicated to exploring the idea behind feminine identity through the use of posters, graphics, photography and sculpture. She has dedicated over 30 years to this work, gaining influence in the world of art and feminist activism. She began the Goddess Movement in the 1970s and has created works of art aimed at increasing the awareness of women artists in history.

## **17 Hildegard of Bingen**

(c 1098 – September 17, 1179)

In 1098 Hildegard was born to a noble family in Bermersheim near Alzey. At the age of eight she was sent to live in a convent, of which she became abbess at age 38. In one of her numerous visions she received an order to found a convent in the place where St. Rupert had lived. Together with eighteen nuns she moved to the new abbey at the Rupertsberg near Bingen in 1150. Because of the growing number of sisters Hildegard had to set up another convent. She found a vacant monastery in Eibingen on the other side of the Rhine, bought it in 1165, and restored it.

Hildegard was one of the most important personalities of the Middle Ages. Besides religious subjects which she treated in her book *Scivias* she described nature and naturopathy in several important books. She wrote numerous spiritual songs, as well as the moral play *Ordo virtutum* and undertook several journeys in order to preach, to reform monasteries, and to persuade priests and laymen to a Christian life.

## **18 Pray for World Peace**

## **19 La Donna Harris**

(1931 - )

La Donna was born on a Comanche allotment in Oklahoma to a Comanche mother and Irish-American father. Her parents separated shortly after her birth and she was raised with a traditional Comanche upbringing by her mother's parents. She married Fred Harris in 1949. He served in the Oklahoma State Senate in the early 1960s, and as a senator's wife, La Donna worked to improve the lives of Native Americans in her state. In 1965 she organized a meeting of 60 tribal representatives to discuss solutions to poverty and discrimination. In 1970 she founded and, later became president of, Americans for Indian Opportunity, an intertribal force in the economic development of Indian communities. In 1980 she ran for Vice President with the Citizen's Party.

## **20 Elizabeth Kenny**

(September 20, 1886 – November 30, 1952)

Born in New South Wales, she graduated from college in 1902 and was a nurse in the bush country districts of Queensland, Australia from 1911-1914. During these years, she developed a treatment for polio that consisted of stimulating affected muscles using hot, moist packs and passive exercise followed by active exercise. She established a clinic in Townsville, Queensland in 1933, and, despite opposition, saw her method finally accepted in 1939. She lectured in the United States and gained the support of the American Medical Association. In 1942 she established the Kenny Institute in Minneapolis to teach her method.

## **21 Mary Astell**

(November 12, 1666 - 1731)

Mary Astell was the first self-avowed feminist writer in English and one of the first female philosophers. Although she was not born into wealth or even a family that allowed her to expand her mind, she read constantly and managed to find company with a group of educated and wealthy women who were also interested in changing the status of women. She suggested the development of a commune for women to live, study, learn and teach each other. She wrote *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies* and *Some Reflections upon Marriage*, which asked for women to look for careers outside motherhood and the nunnery.

## **22 Helen Zia**

(1952 - )

Helen Zia is an award winning second-generation Chinese American journalist who has been an activist for women's rights and social justice for many years. She has testified before the U.S Commission on Civil Rights and was a delegate of the 1995 United Nations World Congress on Women in Beijing. She advocates diversity in the media, works for the end of anti-Asian violence, and for increased recognition of gay and lesbian rights. She has organized help for battered Asian American women and an end to ethno-rape, which is rape motivated by racism.

## **23 Phua Xiong**

Phua Xiong came to America with her family when she was five years old, seeking refuge from the Communist soldiers of Laos, where she was born. She is now one of America's three women Hmong physicians and treats Southeast Asian and other minority groups, taking care to make no distinction between her patients' social and racial backgrounds. She went against traditional Hmong practice and didn't marry until she was in her twenties, and decided to become a doctor.

## **24 Mary Church Terrell**

(September 23, 1863 – July 24, 1954)

Mary Eliza Church was born in Memphis, Tennessee to former slaves who became the first black Memphis millionaires. Mary married Robert Terrell in 1891, a young lawyer, and they raised three children. Mary was a tireless activist for women's rights and a prolific writer. She was galvanized into action after the lynching of her childhood friend Thomas Moss, and dedicated her life to social justice. She was involved for many years in the women's suffrage movement and was a founder of the Colored Women's League, and later, the NAACP. Her biography, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, was a compilation of her journals and writing about social injustice.

## **25 Ruth Cheney Streeter**

(October 2, 1895- September 30, 1990)

On July 30, 1942, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed. Ruth Cheney Streeter was the first Director. She served on the Women's Reserve from February 13, 1943 until she resigned on December 7, 1945. The purpose of the Women's Reserve was to take many of the positions that men held, in order to free them for combat duty. Ruth worked to put women Marines on the same ground as their male counterparts, and help them gain respect for the jobs they did. She became the highest ranking woman officer in the United States Marines in World War II and the first woman to hold the rank of major in the Marine Corps.

After the war, Ruth returned to her native Morristown, New Jersey and remained active in her community including becoming a member of the New Jersey Constitutional Convention and serving as the first woman president of the Morris County Welfare Board.

## **26 Mary Brave Bird (aka Mary Crow Dog)**

(b. 1956)

Mary Brave Bird was born on the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota. She grew up fatherless in a one room cabin without running water or electricity. She rebelled against reservation life, speaking out against the aimless drinking, missionary schools that made use of physical punishment, narrow structures for women, violence, and hopelessness experienced there. She joined the new movement of tribal pride among the Native American communities in the sixties and seventies and married Leonard Crow Dog, the movement's chief medicine man. It was during this time that she wrote *Lakota Woman*, documenting the life and struggles of Native Americans and a deeply moving account of a woman's struggle to survive in a hostile world.

## **27 Yuri Kochiyama**

(May 19, 1921 - )

While growing up Yuri Kochiyama, like many other Japanese-Americans, was imprisoned within an internment camp during World War Two. While there she recognized the parallels between African American and Japanese American segregation. Upon being released from the camp she moved to Harlem with her family and began working with grassroots organizations to create safer streets and to foster grassroots education. She joined the Organization for Afro-American Unity and has continued to work for dignity and equality for all people and races.

## **28 Dolores Huerta**

(April 10, 1930- )

Dolores was born in New Mexico. As a classroom teacher, Dolores Huerta became frustrated at the poverty and poor treatment of the farm workers' families in her town. After seven years of organizing voter registration drives, arguing for Spanish-speaking police officers and hospital workers, and doing other community work, she was recruited to join the newly formed United Farm Workers union in its efforts to improve working conditions for farm workers. For over 30 years, she has served the organization as Vice President, the union's chief lobbyist in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., a labor contract negotiator, and key political decision maker.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez and Dolores formed the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). On September 16, 1965, over 5,000 grape workers walked off their jobs in what is now known as the famous Delano Grape Strike, which lasted five years. Dolores spoke out early and often against toxic pesticides that threatened farm workers, consumers, and the environment. These early UFWOC agreements required growers to stop using DDT and Parathyon. A similar boycott she led in the mid 1970s resulted in the enactment of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law of its kind in the United States, which granted farm workers the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions. In 1975 Dolores' lobbying resulted in the Immigration Act of 1985.

Dolores Huerta still works long hours for the union she co-founded and nurtured. In 1984 the California State Senate bestowed upon her the Outstanding Labor Leader Award. In 1993 Dolores was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. That same year she received the American Civil Liberties Union Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, and the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom. She is also the recipient of the Consumers' Union Trumpeter's Award. In 1998 she was one of three *Ms. Magazine's* "Women of the Year", and *the Ladies Home Journal's*, "100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century". Aside from serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farm Workers, she is the Vice-President for the Coalition for Labor Union Women, the Vice-President of the California AFL-CIO, and is a board member for the Fund for the Feminist Majority, which advocates for political and equal rights for women.

## **29 Ellie Robinette**

(January 15, 1918 – June 29, 1999)

*This was written by Jerry Robinett, Ellie's husband and a longtime, faithful donor to Mary's Pence.*

"Maybe Ellie's contribution to making the world a more beautiful, peaceful, and righteous world was her hospitality. Our home was always open to everyone --no exceptions-- people of color, gays and lesbians, children, animals, and me, who sometimes didn't know what to think. There's no question she transformed me. As a consequence, every one of our five kids has a deep love for people of color, and you know that is no small thing. Also down at the Catholic Worker Soup Kitchen where we worked, Ellie was deeply loved by everyone- in the soup line and among the workers- Amen."

## **30 Thèrèse of Lisieux**

(January 2, 1873 –September 3, 1897)

Thérèse Martin was born in a simple house in the rue de Saint Blaise in Alençon, France. Her mother's death in 1877 caused the family to move to Lisieux, where their aunt was living. The Martin sisters were all to enter the Carmelite convent at Lisieux, Thérèse at the age of fifteen. As Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus, she is known for her 'Little Way' - the faithful following of the Carmelite rule in the spirit of a continuous search for the gift of charity. She died in 1897 at the age of 24, and would probably have remained unknown were it not for *The Story of a Soul*. The phenomenal success of her work established it as a kind of "Fifth Gospel." She described her life as "a little way of spiritual childhood." She lived each day with unshakable confidence in God's love. What matters in life is "not great deeds, but great love."

"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death," she said. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." She has been acclaimed the "greatest saint of modern times." Everywhere in the world people continue to claim her intercession by the appearance of roses. She was canonized in 1925.

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# October

## 1 Catherine Booth

(January 17, 1829 –October 4, 1890)

Catherine Mumford was raised in Nottingham, England in a strict, religious home. She was schooled at home due to health problems and spent much of her time reading the Bible. She was asked to critique a young preacher traveling through her town, named William Booth. They married and endured a three year separation when he took a preaching post some distance from London. Catherine's poor health and their growing family kept her from accompanying him on his preaching circuit. She raised eight children including a daughter with severe disabilities.

Catherine began working to change the status of women in the church through speaking engagements and writing. The money she earned was used for her husband's ministry to the poor. William left his ministry as a traveling preacher to start The Christian Mission, which provided outreach to the poor of London's East End, who in turn became evangelists themselves. Catherine envisioned the ministry as an army set on salvation of the world, renaming it The Salvation Army in 1878.

## 2 Kathe Kollwitz

Kathe Kollwitz was born in East Prussia in 1867, but lived most of her life in Berlin. She married Karl Kollwitz, a doctor who practiced medicine in a working class section of Berlin. Kathe was one of the great artists of the twentieth century. An avowed socialist and pacifist, her artistic vision came from a deep conviction of the preciousness of human life. Her drawings and lithographs show her commitment to the depiction of the private struggles and suffering of the poor. Her grief resulting from the loss of her youngest son in World War I and her grandson in World War II served to reinforce her passionate commitment to peace and against all causes of war. Her work reflects these commitments and also her sensitivity to the experience of women.

## 3 Dr. Kek Galabru

(October 4, 1942 - )

In 1968, Dr. Kek Galabru began working in underprivileged countries such as Brazil, Angola and Cambodia after receiving her medical degree in France. Dr. Galabru has supported and stood for human rights in Cambodia for many years. After initiating the peace talks ending the Cambodian Civil War, she started the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), which worked with the UN to insure a better government, and taught the people of Cambodia about the secret ballot, helping them to understand that they could truly control their government.

She and the LICADHO have worked to stop child prostitution and child labor. They work to improve the conditions in the prisons in Cambodia, and administer medical care for any and

all in need. They provide food and legal representation for those serving sentences or wrongly accused. LICADHO continues to monitor and watch for abuses of human rights.

#### **4 Gabriela Silang**

(March 19, 1731-September 30, 1763)

During the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, a number of armed protests for freedom, or *alzamientos*, took place, led by the native people of the islands who were upset by the tribute collections, forced labor, and other abuses by Spanish officials. The Great Rebellion was led by Diego Silang who was assassinated on May 28, 1763. His wife, Maria Josefa Gabriela Silang, carried on the fight for four months until she also lost her life for the cause on September 30, 1763. She was the first Filipino woman to lead any revolt against the Spanish and is considered a role model for women in the Philippines to this day.

#### **5 Reverend Barbara C. Harris**

Since her ordination as priest in 1980, Bishop Harris has served as an advocate for several organizations both within and separate from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. She was ordained as a priest, serving as priest-in-charge of St. Augustine of Hippo Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and later served as chaplain to the Philadelphia County prisons. In 1984 Rev. Harris was named executive director of the Episcopal Church Publishing Company.

In September of 1988, Rev. Harris was elected assisting bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, and then consecrated a bishop. She was the first woman consecrated a bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion. As Bishop, Harris was a member of numerous community organizations, including the Union of Black Episcopalians, and the Episcopal Urban Caucus, where she served as president. Harris represented the Episcopal Church while serving as a board member of the Prisoner Visitation and Support Committee, as well as of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns. Harris retired as bishop in 2002, but in 2003 she began serving as assistant bishop to Bishop John B. Chane in the Diocese of Washington.

#### **6 Marie Rose Durocher**

(October 6, 1811 – October 6, 1849)

Eulalie Durocher grew up in a small town outside Quebec, the tenth of eleven children. Her brother, a priest in a neighboring town, asked her to become the housekeeper of his rectory after their mother died when Eulalie was 18. While serving there, she saw that the parish children were in need of catechesis and she began to teach them. With the encouragement of the local bishop, she founded a religious order, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, in order to continue this work. At that time she took the name Marie Rose. Although she died six years later, her religious order spread to many parts of the world, educating women and poor and neglected children.

## **7 Our Lady of the Rosary, Guatemala**

The image of Our Lady of the Rosary, made of pure silver, dates back to 1592. Her devotees claim that the coloring of her face changes whenever there is a conflict or some national misfortune is imminent. In 1821, the leaders of the independence movement proclaimed her Patroness of the new nation, and took an oath before her image that they would not rest until they freed Guatemala. The Virgin of the Rosary was solemnly declared "Queen of Guatemala" in 1833 and was crowned canonically on January 26, 1934 in a ceremony in front of the cathedral. The ceremony had to be held in the open because there was no church large enough to hold the multitude that had gathered. The church and convent of St. Dominic, current shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary, was begun in 1788 and completed in 1808. October, the month dedicated to the rosary, is the most popular and important religious happening for the Guatemalan people.

## **8 Penny Lernoux**

(1940-1989)

Penny Lernoux was for many years the Latin American correspondent of the National Catholic Reporter, while writing for many other periodicals. She gained a wide audience with her book *Cry of the People* (1980), a study of U.S. government support of murderous regimes in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and other Latin American countries. Her 1984 book, *In Banks We Trust*, acutely explored the political origins of the 1980s debt crisis in international banking. Penny was in the middle of writing *Hearts on Fire: The Story of the Maryknoll Sisters* when she died of cancer. The book was completed by her editor Arthur Jones and Robert Ellsberg from her outlines and notes. Penny was honored posthumously with the Lippard Award for Distinguished Service to Religious Journalism in 1990.

## **9 Mary Joseph Rogers**

(October 27, 1882 – October 9, 1955)

Mary Josephine Rogers attended Smith College, where she specialized in zoology. While at Smith, she organized a Mission Study Club for the Catholic students. From 1908, when she returned to Boston from Smith, until 1912, she devoted all her spare time to assisting Father James Walsh in the work of mission education. In 1911, Father Walsh and Father Thomas Frederick Price were commissioned to begin a seminary to train American young men for the foreign missions, later known as Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

Mary Josephine was chosen to direct a small group of women under Father Walsh's guidance, known as The Foreign Mission Sisters of St. Dominic, generally called Maryknoll Sisters. At the first General Chapter in 1925, she was elected Mother General. Mother Mary Joseph served until her retirement in 1946. The Sisters were working in East Asia and Latin America, as well as with ethnic and racial groups in the United States. Reverence and esteem for Mother Mary Joseph extended far beyond the community she founded as is evidenced by the honorary degrees bestowed on her.

## **10 Maya Lin**

(Oct. 10, 1959 - )

Maya Lin designed the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial when she was only 21 years old and a senior at Yale University. She ignored controversy and negative feedback regarding her Chinese-American heritage and the aesthetics of her design, to create one of America's best-known attractions. Since then, she has developed other monuments, including the Civil Rights Monument in Alabama, many with the theme of creating a place for individuals within a landscape. A well-known environmentalist, she incorporates recycled, living or natural materials within her work. She is regarded as both a sculptor and architect.

## **11 Aparna Basnyat**

Aparna was born in Nepal but as a child, traveled throughout the world and the United States with her family. While attending Tufts University, she spent her summers in Nepal interviewing women and girls who had escaped sexual slavery and working at a Kathmandu shelter. After returning to America she presented her research frequently and helped to bring international focus to the issue of forced prostitution and how a newly developing nation can protect its vulnerable citizens.

## **12 Our Lady Aparecida, Brazil**

In October of 1717, the Count of Assumar was passing through Guarantingueta, a small city in the Paraiba river valley. The people of Guarantingueta decided to hold a great feast to honor the Count. They fished for the feast but caught nothing. Three men prayed to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, "Mother of God and our Mother, we need to find fish!" A short time later, they netted the body of a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and then the head. They wrapped it in some cloths and continued to fish. The net became filled with fish. This was the first miracle of Our Lady of Aparecida.

It is not known how the small statue came to rest at the bottom of the river, but its artist is known: Frei Agostino de Jesus, a "carioca" monk from Sao Paulo. In 1930 Pope Pius XII proclaimed Our Lady Aparecida principal patroness of Brazil. Her feast, on October 12, is a national holiday. Pope John Paul II visited the Virgin Aparecida in her sanctuary and gave it the title of Basilica.

## **13 Vilma Martinez**

(October 17, 1943 - )

Hispanic civil rights activist Vilma Martinez battled racial prejudice her entire life, being told her ethnicity made her incapable of her aspirations. However, Martinez's determination and perseverance to overcome stereotypes while helping others has resulted in a success many thought her incapable of as a female minority. When she was only 29, Vilma transformed a small civil rights organization into a nationally recognized political force. Under her leadership, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund gained the authority to

end educational segregation for Latin American students and advocate the expansion of the Voting Rights Act to include protection for Mexican Americans. She has formed numerous youth programs and began a nationwide program urging Latin Americans to participate in the census. She served as President of the University of California Board of Regents, and continues today to litigate in state and federal courts in issues of employment and commercial discrimination.

## **14 Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz**

(November 12, 1651 - 1695)

Raised by her maternal grandfather who taught her to read and write, Sor Juana was sent to live in Mexico City when he died. In 1664 she was presented at court and became a lady-in-waiting, but desired to live alone and continue her studies. At 19 she went to live with the Discalced Carmelites. However, a year and a half later, she took her vows at the convent of San Jeronimo, an order known for its leniency.

Her convent cell became an intellectual center, a site for salons among the city's elite. Sor Juana wrote music and poetry and avoided theological topics until she was drawn to defend women's biblical and theological rights to an education. She wrote about the benefits to society when women are educated until she was silenced by the archbishop and no longer allowed to write public essays.

## **15 Teresa of Avila**

(1515-1582)

Also known as St. Teresa of Jesus, Teresa was a mystic with a gift of deep prayer. She was born in Spain during the time of the Reformation. As a young woman she was more interested in romance novels and fashion than in religion. She chose at age 21 to enter the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation which at the time resembled a social club for women. After 20 years of visitors, gossip, games, and feasting, Teresa realized that she longed for a life of prayer, silence and fasting. She asked for and received permission to found a community of discalced sisters, wearing simple sandals and sharing chores. She was said to pray so intensely, she would float in the air.

When the Carmelite Father General visited her convent, he was so impressed, he asked Theresa to establish discalced houses for men. This is how she met John of the Cross, a man who shared her passion for prayer and simplicity. Teresa wrote a great deal and her books about the spiritual life are considered classics. For her scholarship she is considered a doctor of the church, the first woman to be given the title. Mary's Pence traditionally announced the annual grantees on her feast day.

## **16 Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins**

(c. 1844- October 16, 1891)

Sarah was known as a Native American educator, lecturer, tribal leader, and writer. Her writings described the Northern Paiute way of life and the impact of white settlers. She was involved in both the Paiute War of 1860 and the Bannock War of 1878. She attempted the role of peacemaker after she lost several family members during the war. After leading a group of Paiutes, including her father, to safety during the Bannock War, she was awarded tribal honors for bravery. In 1879 and the early 1880s, Sarah toured San Francisco and the East Coast, giving lectures protesting the official government policy toward Native Americans. She was promised that the land would be returned to her tribe, but the promises were never fulfilled. She returned to Nevada to found a Paiute school, but her attempts were cut short by financial difficulty and ill health.

## **17 Eleanor Roosevelt**

(October 11, 1884 – November 7, 1962)

Eleanor Roosevelt was the daughter of Anna and Elliott Roosevelt, the younger brother of President Theodore Roosevelt. She was born in New York City and lost both parents at a young age. Her grandmother sent her to boarding school in England where she was transformed from a shy girl into a lady of social grace. After her return to America, she was introduced to her distant cousin, Franklin Roosevelt, and they married in 1903.

Eleanor became First Lady in 1933 and was the first First Lady to hold press conferences of her own, give radio broadcasts, lecture, and write a syndicated column, "My Way." After her husband died in 1945, she served as the American spokesperson of the newly-formed United Nations and helped to write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. President Kennedy appointed her as a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Peace Corps and chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Eleanor received many awards for her humanitarian efforts.

## **18 Violeta Barrios de Chamorro**

(October 18, 1929 - )

Violeta was born in Rivas, Nicaragua into a comfortable middle class family. She was educated for a few years in the United States, but returned home when her father died suddenly and she never finished her education. In 1950 she married Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, editor at his family's newspaper, *La Prensa*, which was critical of the Somoza dictatorship. Pedro was assassinated on January 10, 1978 in Managua. His death was attributed to Somoza and sparked 18 months of civil war.

In 1990, the Sandinista government, which overthrew the Somoza family, agreed to hold elections. At that time, Chamorro was chosen as the presidential candidate of the National

Opposition Union. Her campaign pledge was to end the military draft and seek national reconciliation. From 1990-1997, Chamorro served as the president of Nicaragua. Although she faced opposition from both the Sandinistas and the United States- backed contras, she raised significant aid grants from 17 countries, including the United States, to help salvage the waning economy.

## **19 Mae Jemison**

(October 17, 1956 - )

While Mae C. Jemison has accomplished many things during her impressive lifetime, she is best known for being the first female African American astronaut and the first female African American in space. Long before her training as an astronaut, Mae studied at Stanford University, where she earned a BS in Chemical Engineering. After leaving Stanford, Mae attended Cornell University where she studied medicine, and received a Doctor of Medicine degree. Mae traveled to Cuba, Kenya, and Thailand, where she acted as a doctor to those in need.

Mae joined the Peace Corps, where she was stationed in Sierra Leone and Liberia as a medical officer. Jemison acted as supervisor to the pharmacy, laboratory, and medical staff, as well as writing self-care manuals and providing medical care. She was also active in researching vaccines for the Center for Disease Control.

In 1987, following her return from the Peace Corps, Jemison applied to NASA for acceptance into their astronaut training program, and was one of fifteen chosen out of two thousand applicants. After successfully completing her training, Jemison participated in a mission that conducted experiments in life sciences. Today, Jemison continues to fight for African Americans and their roles in researching modern technology.

## **20 Ellen Malcolm**

Ellen Malcolm was the press secretary for the National Women's Political Caucus and then later joined the Carter White House staff. She was active in public service in Washington, DC for thirty years. She has been named one of the most influential women in America and one of America's most important women. In 1985, Ellen Malcolm founded EMILY'S List, a grassroots organization that gives financial support to Democratic women candidates, helping them to create strong campaigns. EMILY'S List has become the means behind many minority women being elected into state and national offices.

## **21 Ursula**

There are many legends of St. Ursula. Most portray her as a young British princess who, with 11,000 companions, sailed up the Rhine River to make a pilgrimage to Rome. They left their ships near Cologne and when they returned from Rome, they were martyred by the Huns, who had captured the city. The story was popular in the Middle Ages and St. Ursula was seen as a leader of all women and a rousing teacher. When Angela Merici founded the first order

of religious women dedicated to teaching children, she named the new community the Ursulines in dedication to St. Ursula.

## **22 Margaret Lucas Cavendish**

(1623 -1674)

The Duchess of Newcastle and the first aristocratic woman to defend women publicly through writing, Margaret Lucas Cavendish became well known throughout her time for her ideas and accomplishments. At least twenty-two works are credited to her: science-fiction, a biography, orations, plays, and poems. Her writings were focused on feminist thought and analysis, arguing against poor education and women's exclusion from public institutions, and disputing society's view of women as being inferior.

## **23 Mary Joel Kolmer, Shirley Kolmer, Kathleen McGuire, Agnes Mueller, Barbara Ann Muttra**

*The following account is from the testimony before the House International Relations Committee on March 14, 2001 by Stephanie Mertens, Coordinator, Peace and Justice Office of the order of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ to which all five belonged.*

Sister Shirley Kolmer, 61, was a leader, a person of vision. She loved and taught math in grade school, high school, and university in the U.S. and Liberia. She was a jovial spirit. Part of her ministry in the U.S included being friend and companion to young women preparing to enter religious life. Sister Shirley also served as provincial of the order. She challenged all Adorers to be women of prayer and to work for justice.

Sister Joel, 58, was an educator, a person with a great smile, a sparkle in her eye, and hearty laughter. She was artistic. She was creative. She taught religion and did parish ministry. She was in charge of candidates from Liberia for the order.

Sister Barbara Ann Muttra, 69, was a nurse with a great love for the infants. She was compassionate, energetic, and very active, collecting medicine and food for the poor and helping Liberian mothers learn child care. She also founded clinics.

Sister Agnes Mueller, 62, loved to read and discover ideas. She was a nurse and religious educator. She was especially concerned with helping women. She ran literacy programs with the people.

Sister Kathleen McGuire, 54, had a great sense of hospitality. She helped the child soldiers of Liberia cope with the trauma of war. During her work for justice in the U.S. she organized Sanctuary Ministry to help refugees fleeing to the U.S. for safety from violence in Guatemala.

The five women lived in a convent in Gardnersville. For some months it had been clear that the deteriorating situation posed grave danger to the sisters. Fully conscious of the danger, they resolved to stay in order to serve the people who had nowhere to go. On October 20, a

security guard at the convent said he was worried about his family. Two of the sisters, Barbara Ann and Joel, agreed to drive him home. On the way they picked up two ECOMOG soldiers. The sisters did not return from the trip and the other sisters feared the worst. Later it was learned that the two sisters had been killed.

On October 21, the sisters and the young women with them, packed some belongings into a car with a plan to move into Monrovia, but were afraid to leave because of the intense shooting all day. On October 23, at about 5:00 p.m., NPFL soldiers arrived. Five of them entered the Convent grounds under the command of C.O. Mosquito. He ordered everybody out of the Convent. Mosquito said he was going to kill all the white people. Sister Shirley begged him not to kill the Sisters. Sister Kathleen went towards the gate in order to open it. As she did so, Mosquito shot her in the forearm. She fell and he then shot her fatally in the neck.

Sister Shirley was ordered to bring the car keys and any money she had. She entered the convent and came back with the keys and the Liberian Dollars which she offered to Mosquito. He took the keys and demanded American dollars. She told him she had none. All were then ordered outside the fence where Sisters Shirley and Agnes were told to step to one side from the others. At that point another soldier, Black Devil, fatally shot Agnes and Shirley. They died instantly.

Here in the states the first alert that the sisters were in imminent danger came on October 28, 1992. Their deaths were confirmed by Church and State Department Officials on October 31, 1992. On All Saints Day November 1, 1992, the Adorers Convent Mass in Ruma, Illinois was for all of our martyred Sisters. On November 5, 1992 a Mass honoring the five sisters, was held at the diocesan Cathedral with over 2000 people present. It was not long after their deaths that it became clear that they were truly "Martyrs of Charity", a term first used by John Paul II on November 1, 1992 at his noon address.

## **24 Irene Sendler**

When Irene Sendler was seven years old, her father, a Catholic doctor, died of typhus after treating Jews during a 1917 typhus outbreak. "I was taught that if a man is drowning, it is irrelevant what is his religion," she recalls. In 1940, Irene watched as the Nazis forced 350,000 Jews inside the Warsaw Ghetto, a 16 square block area that was walled off and guarded. Month by month, the pressure and terror intensified. Irene joined Zagata, an underground network set up to aid the Jews in Occupied Poland. She was asked to head up their operation to smuggle Jewish children out of the Ghetto. Using a forged permit, she was able to act as a nurse in the Ghetto and over a 16 month period, she and her colleagues were able to sneak out 2,500 babies and children. On October 20, 1943, she was arrested by the Gestapo and was eventually sentenced to death. On the day of execution, she was rescued. Zagata paid a guard to let her escape and he later posted her name as executed. She lived in hiding until the end of the war in 1945. Her story came to light as a result of a "history project" taken up by three high school girls from Kansas.

## **25 Carrie Chapman Catt**

(January 9, 1859 – March 9, 1947)

American suffragist and peace advocate, Carrie Chapman Catt began working for the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890 and became its president in 1900. She led the campaign for women's suffrage until 1920, when the amendment to the Constitution was ratified. After 1924, Carrie devoted her time working for pacifism and disarmament.

## **26 Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

(November 12, 1815- October 26, 1902)

Elizabeth was born in Johnstown, New York to an affluent family. She learned early that her parents preferred boys, so she strove for the same achievements as her brothers. She convinced her father to allow her to attend the Troy Female Seminary in New York, one of the few female academies with an education equal to males. She returned from the academy to work in her father's law office. She was so disturbed about legal discrimination against women, she began to work to change the laws. Later, she became involved in the abolitionist movement and married Henry Stanton, a progressive reformer. In 1833, Elizabeth traveled with her husband to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where she met Lucretia Mott. When the two were refused recognition as legitimate delegates because they were women, they vowed to hold a women's rights convention back home. Eight years later, in Seneca Falls, New York, five women gathered and drafted a women's bill of rights calling for social equality including suffrage.

In 1851 Elizabeth met Susan B. Anthony, a gifted organizer. Together they did much for women's rights. After the abolition of slavery, the suffragist movement lost much of the abolitionist support. Elizabeth and Susan formed the National Woman Suffrage Association, with Elizabeth as president, and began publishing *The Revolution*, a women's rights newspaper. In 1881, the two women published the *History of Woman Suffrage* and formed the National American Suffrage Association to solidify the movement. After Elizabeth published *The Women's Bible*, a study of sexism in the Old Testament, many of her colleagues condemned her. She died long before the vote was given to women in 1920, but many of her progressive ideas were still being realized in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, namely, husbands and wives equally caring for their children, co-education, and condemnation of organized religion's hostility toward women.

## **27 Maxine Hong Kingston**

(October 27, 1940 - )

Maxine Hong Kingston was born to Chinese immigrants and has become a literary voice speaking out against racism in the U.S., Chinese American sexism, and the conflicting cultural voice thrust upon her as a child. She was one of the first Asian American authors to

achieve prominence in the literary world. Her works are taught and used in schools and colleges around the United States and world.

## **28 Abigail Adams**

(November 22, 1744 – October 28, 1801)

Abigail Smith was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts to a family held in high esteem. Although she was not formally educated, she was an avid reader, an interest which endeared her to John Adams, a young lawyer she married in 1764. Together they had five children whom she raised alone as her husband traveled extensively as delegate to the Continental Congress, envoy abroad, and elected official under the Constitution. Her extensive writings to her husband detail the lives of the women left behind to struggle during the Revolution. In 1784, Abigail joined her husband in Paris and later served with dignity and tact when he was the first United States Minister to Great Britain. John served as the first Vice President and then President. While her husband was drafting the laws of the new republic, she exhorted him, “Don’t forget the ladies.”

## **29 Catherine Hoffman**

Catherine is the director of the Cambridge, Massachusetts Peace Commission and founder of the Youth Peace and Justice Corps.

## **30 Shala Sherkat**

Shala is the founder and publisher of *Zanan*, a magazine read by both women and men in Iran that explores topics including domestic abuse, reform politics, and advocating that women's dress codes should be encouraged, but not mandatory. Shala started *Zanan* in the early 1990s. Although many other controversial publications have been banned or shut down, *Zanan* hangs on despite its coverage of delicate issues, possibly because it encourages women to vote and the staff adheres to the strict dress codes. She encourages readers to work for a positive change in their society and to be active in their culture and government.

## **31 Juliette Gordon Low**

(October 31, 1860 – January 18, 1927)

Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon, founder of the Girl Scouts in the US, was born to a wealthy family in Savannah and known as “Daisy.” She attended finishing school in New York and traveled in Europe shortly after her graduation. There she met her husband, William Makay Low, a wealthy Englishman. She was partially deaf in one ear, and at her wedding, a piece of congratulatory rice landed in the other ear and resulted in a total loss of hearing on that side. She moved to England with her husband, but returned home to help out during the Civil War. After the war she returned to England and during that time Daisy met General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts. She worked with his sister in forming the Girl Guides for the six thousand girls in England who registered when the Boy Scouts began.

Daisy returned to the United States to start the Girl Scouts. She personally worked to establish a firm foundation for the organization, fundraising for the program needs and spending time at camps. Girl Scouts encouraged all girls to reach their full potential and welcomed disabled girls at a time when they were barred from many activities. She died in Savannah after a long battle with cancer. She was buried in her Girl Scout uniform with a folded telegram in her pocket which she had received while she was ill. It read, "You are not only the first Girl Scout, you are the best Girl Scout of them all."

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# November

## 1 All Saints Day

## 2 All Souls Day

## 3 Olympe de Gouges

(May 7, 1748- November 3, 1793)

Despite lacking a formal education, she was a well known playwright and journalist in France who gained recognition as a feminist and a political writer. Olympe wrote *The Rights of Women*, which advocated women's right to vote, hold office, be publically employed, speak in public on political topics, own and control property, and get an education. She famously said, "A woman has the right to mount the scaffold. She must possess equally the right to mount the speaker's platform." Although she supported the French Revolution, Olympe was guillotined because of her feminism, attempts to organize women, and her opposition to the death of the king and his family.

## 4 Janemarie Luecke, OSB

(April 24, 1924 - )

Janemarie Luecke is one of the founders of Mary's Pence. She was born on a farm in Okeene, Oklahoma and entered the Benedictine Order in 1943. She received a BA from Benedictine Heights College in Tulsa in 1948, an MA from Marquette University in 1956, and in 1964 earned a PhD at Notre Dame University.

Having taught English, journalism, music and Latin in various parochial high schools, she moved on in 1956 to become a professor of English and journalism at Benedictine Heights College, also serving there as public relations director and academic dean until 1961. Later, she taught at Oklahoma State University where she acted as the coordinator of the graduate program. In 1974 she was the visiting professor of English at Chapman College and a reader of Chaucer at the Huntington Library. A member and chair of many national and international groups on literature or religious studies, she has served on the state board of directors for the American Civil Liberties Union (1966-77) and acted as Oklahoma State Chair for women's rights in 1972-73. Luecke is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Outstanding Woman Award from Oklahoma State University Association of Women Students in 1971, and being named one of "eighty women in the 80s" by Oklahoma Governor George Nigh in 1981. A poet and writer, Luecke is the author of several books.

## **5 Anne Knight**

(1781 – November 4, 1862)

Born in Chelmsford, England in 1781, abolitionist and suffragette Anne Knight was raised in a family with a social conscience. Her pacifist parents belonged to the Society of Friends and were active in the anti-slavery and temperance movements in the country. Anne became very active in the Quaker abolitionist efforts, holding meetings and distributing literature pertaining to the cause. She founded a local branch of the Women's Anti-Slavery Society in her town, and went on in travel to London and France giving lectures. Her efforts were later recognized when a village for freed Jamaican slaves was named Knightsville in her honor.

When she became outraged at the treatment of women at the World Antislavery Convention held in London in 1840, Anne became an advocate of universal suffrage. She is believed to have published the first leaflet addressing women's suffrage and founded the first association for women's suffrage.

## **6 Mary Ellen Butcher**

(May 26, 1935 - )

Mary Ellen Butcher received her BA from Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois, in 1958 and her PhD from Catholic University in 1969. Butcher was a trustee of Rosary College from 1977-1985 and served in that capacity at Providence College, Rhode Island, in 1990. She was on the Board of Directors of the Washington Area Community Investment Fund in 1988, a board member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in New York City in 1989, and is a member of the American Economic Association.

Butcher has held various positions including Assistant Professor of Finance at Providence College from 1985-88, general finance officer for the Sinsinawa, Wisconsin Dominicans from 1977-85 and was an administrator at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota from 1971-74. She has contributed articles to many professional journals.

## **7 Hannah Senesh**

(July 17, 1921 – November 7, 1944)

Hannah was born in Budapest, Hungary, when anti-Semitism was rapidly growing and life was becoming harder for Jewish families like hers. Her father died when she was young, and her mother tried to shield her daughter from discrimination and downplayed their religious roots. Hannah was proud of her heritage, and at age 17, decided to become a Zionist. Her goal to reach Palestine was bigger than anything else in her life. At 18, Hannah left for the seaport of Haifa, Israel.

There Hannah passed through the Agricultural School with the highest marks she could earn and joined a kibbutz, but she still felt empty and guilty that her people were suffering while she lived in safety. When she learned of a rescue mission entailing going behind the Nazi

lines to rescue shot-down Allied pilots and other Jews, Hannah immediately volunteered. She passed the training with flying colors and even convinced her instructor to join. After over a year of waiting for permission to leave, Hannah's team of six parachuted into Yugoslavia, near the border, only to find out that Hungary was totally occupied by the Nazis and it would be certain death to cross. After two months wait, Hannah could not be held back any longer. She persuaded two of her teammates and three Hungarian refugees to cross the border, dodging German units along the way. They were captured and brought to S.S. Headquarters in Budapest to be tortured and interrogated. She became well admired in the jail by guards and prisoners alike. She was executed by firing squad on November 7, 1944.

Hannah is recognized today as a great woman and part of the only mission that went into Nazi-occupied territory to save Jews. She left behind a diary and poems, which Israeli schoolchildren recite every day. She once wrote: "There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind."

*Submitted by Hannah Bish, a Mary's Pence student worker who wrote about Hannah Senesh for her bat mitzvah*

## **8 Dr. Alexa Canady**

(November 7, 1950 - )

Now retired from being the chief of neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, Dr. Alexa Canady was the first female African American neurosurgeon. In addition to contributing time and research in medical areas from pediatric neurosurgery to spinal cord tumors, she has assisted in development of neurosurgery equipment. She works to change the perception of African American patients and practitioners and the presumptions associated with both.

## **9 Shirley Graham Du Bois**

(November 11, 1896- March 27, 1977)

Shirley Graham was born on a farm in Evanston, Illinois, that had been a stop on the Underground Railroad and later farmed by her grandfather, a former slave. She wrote biographies of famous African Americans and worked as the Head of the Fine Arts Department at Tennessee State College, while becoming well known as a playwright and dramatist. The second wife of W.E.B. du Bois, Shirley joined him in advocating civil rights and social reform. After his death in 1963, Shirley moved from Ghana (where she and her husband had been living) to Cairo, where she lived for many years after being denied entrance back into America because of her and her late husband's work.

## 10 Frances Anne (Fanny) Kemble

(November 27, 1800 - January 15, 1893)

Though Fanny was enamored with literature from a young age, she became an actress on the British stage to save her family from financial ruin. Though she did not hold a passion for acting, her talent as an actress was undeniable as she enraptured audiences with the force of her personality. Unlike many of the modest and quiet women of her time, Fanny was unashamed of her numerous talents, and displayed her gifts as a writer, musician and actress. She was described by many as being a passionate and independent woman, qualities that captured audiences.

She married Pierce Butler, who believed that Fanny would allow herself to be ruled by him in marriage. A strong abolitionist, there were many arguments once Fanny discovered that he had inherited from his grandfather both wealth and the largest number of slaves in the nation. The couple soon moved to a plantation, where Fanny recorded the details of her life in letters later published as her *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation*. The work is considered to be the most detailed depiction of plantation slavery recorded by a white abolitionist.

## 11 Catherine McAuley

(1778 – 1841)

Catherine McAuley was born in Dublin in 1778. Despite Catholics being held in contempt at the time, her father, James, achieved some wealth and position which he used to help the poor. Both parents died while Catherine was young, leaving their children to be raised by distant relatives who had no use for Catholicism. However, Catherine managed to keep her faith and never forgot the example set by her father.

A childless couple who befriended Catherine left her a sizable fortune when she was forty. In the 1820s she used the money to erect a building in Dublin in which to educate children and teach marketable skills to young women from the countryside. Her concept was to create a group of women social workers who would contribute money to help finance the project and support themselves in their work.

Because it was frowned upon for women to live on their own, the Dublin archbishop suggested Catherine establish a religious community. Rome gave permission for an uncloistered order so the women could work among the poor. On December 12, 1831, Catherine and two companions took perpetual vows, becoming the first Sisters of Mercy. Many women were quick to join the new group which was the first order to leave its convent to visit the sick and the poor. In ten years, Catherine established twelve other convents in Ireland and two in England, the first to be built there since the Reformation.

## **12 Lynda Van Devanter**

(1947 – November 15, 2002)

After serving as a U.S Army nurse in Pleiku, Lynda Van Devanter founded the Vietnam Veterans of America, and initiated and served as administrative head of the VVA's Women's Project. At this time she also began organizing national seminars for veterans, and serving as a counselor. Four years after founding the VVA, she wrote her acclaimed memoir *Home Before Morning*, presenting stories of the women who served in Vietnam. In 1987, the VVA honored Lynda with its Excellence in the Arts Award, and in 2002 she received the VVA Commendation Medal.

## **13 Nora Kizer Bell**

Nora Kizer Bell was one of the leading proponents of single-sex education as an important option for young women. Nora taught at the University of South Carolina, was Dean of College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Texas, and served as President of Wesleyan College in Macon, GA before becoming President of Hollins University, an all female undergraduate school. At Hollins, she embarked on a campaign to raise the national profile of the small private school.

## **14 Arundhati Roy**

(November 24, 1959 - )

Arunhati Roy is the author of *The God of Small Things*, a novel which won the Booker Prize. She has spoken for human rights around the world and become an award-winning political journalist, speaking out against nuclear weapons and the war in Iraq. She campaigns for equal rights and social justice throughout the world.

## **15 Margaret Yelich**

(November 26, 1932 – January 12, 2007)

Margaret A. Weber Yelich served the church quietly and humbly behind the scenes as the head of housekeeping at St. Matthew Church for over 30 years. Marge gently provided whatever was needed, be it laundry, housekeeping, cooking, or answering the door, but always with a warm, gracious smile. Hers was most often the first face a visitor to the rectory would encounter. They knew they were welcomed!

Marge was married to Steve Yelich, and they were the parents of Darlene Yelich, Vickie (Michael) Viti, Kathie (Scott) Suby, Laurie Siete (Steve Costello) and Lisa (Carmen) Criscione, as well as grandparents of ten. During her last five years, Marge, in addition to her

work at the parish, was caregiver to her loving Steve, who was no longer able to care for himself. Theirs was a lifelong partnership, both at home and at work. Steve was also a handyman and custodian at the parish for many years. Together they helped build their community on the prairie from a vacant acre of land to a parish of over 3,500 families.

-Joan Reisen

## **15 Georgia O'Keeffe**

(November 15, 1887 - March 6, 1986)

Renowned for her exquisite, innovative paintings, Georgia O'Keeffe was one of the greatest artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her artistic talent was fostered by her mother who saw that she received art lessons at an early age. Although she studied at several schools, among them the Art Institute of Chicago, she never remained long enough to earn a degree because of sickness and financial problems.

Her art was never taken seriously until she was given a showing in 1917 at a New York gallery owned by photographer Alfred Stieglitz. That show and others that followed created a sensation in the art world because of Georgia's unique vision and the fact that she was a woman. Her paintings were controversial as many viewers saw them as exceedingly sensual, but she denied ever having such intent in mind.

Stieglitz became her agent, her lover and eventually her husband, although theirs was never a conventional marriage. Needing solitude, Georgia spent half the year alone in Taos, New Mexico, a source of inspiration for her art. In 1943 the Art Institute of Chicago presented a retrospective of O'Keeffe's work, insuring her place in the modern art scene. Strong and independent, she followed her own path throughout her long life, dying in Santa Fe, New Mexico at 99 years of age.

## **16 Cecilia and Julia Ramos**

(February 27, 1973 – November 16, 1989) and (March 5, 1947 – November 16, 1989)

On November 16, 1989, six Jesuits were murdered by the Salvadoran military on the campus of the University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador, El Salvador. Their housekeeper, Julia Ramos, and her daughter, Celia Marisela Ramos, were murdered there as well. The Jesuits were labeled subversives for speaking out against the oppressive socioeconomic structure of Salvadoran society. Their assassinations were ordered for their unwavering defense of the poor.

Cecelia and Julia were two of over 70,000 victims who died in El Salvador's civil war, which raged in the 1980s and early 1990s. The vast majority of these victims were civilians killed by El Salvador's armed forces and paramilitary death squads. The death of the Jesuits

brought international outrage and condemnation upon the Salvadoran Government and pressured its officials to negotiate an end to the country's civil war.

## **17 Wilma Mankiller**

(1945- )

Wilma Mankiller was first chief elected under the Cherokee constitution and the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation: the second largest Native-American tribe. Prior to her election, chiefs were appointed by the U. S. government. Wilma became active in Native American causes during the 1960s in San Francisco. During the takeover of Alcatraz by the Indians of All Tribes she decided she needed to work for her people. "When Alcatraz occurred, I became aware of what needed to be done to let the rest of the world know that Indians had rights, too." she stated in her autobiography.

## **18 Rose Phillipine Duschene**

(1769-1852)

Rose was born in Grenoble, France where her parents were prosperous merchants. As a young woman she joined an order of sisters. All convents and monasteries were closed shortly after because of the French Revolution. Rose went home and took care of neglected children and the sick and dying. When the war was over, Rose and a group of sisters from her former convent joined a new religious order, the Society of the Sacred Heart. At the age of 49 Rose was sent to the United States with five other sisters to assist the archbishop of St. Louis with religious instruction.

In St. Charles, Missouri, Rose founded a convent in a log cabin and started a free school for girls. Despite many setbacks she also started schools in Mississippi and Louisiana. In her work with settlers, she fought prejudice against African Americans. When she was 71 she went with those who opened a mission for Potawatomi Indians at Sugar Creek, Kansas. She prayed so much, Native Americans called her "the woman who prays always." She is one of the newest saints on the calendar. She was canonized in 1988.

## **19 Mother of Divine Providence, Puerto Rico**

The name and worship of Our Lady of the Divine Providence originated in Italy in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was a very popular devotion which later passed to Spain, where a shrine was built in Tarragona, Catalonia. When Gil Esteve Tomas, a Catalan, was named bishop of Puerto Rico, he brought with him this devotion. The original image was a beautiful oil painting in which the Virgin is shown with the Divine Child sleeping peacefully in her arms. The image that Don Gil Esteve ordered was carved in Barcelona. Pope Paul VI, by a decree signed on November 19, 1969, declared Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence principal patroness of the island of Puerto Rico.

In this document it was also decreed that the Virgin's solemnity be transferred from January 2 to November 19, the day that the island was discovered, to join together the two great loves of the Puerto Ricans. The oldest carving, which dates from 1853, was the one chosen to be solemnly crowned during the meeting of the Latin American Bishops Council that took place in San Juan de Puerto Rico on November 5, 1976. On the eve of this event, the image was vilely burnt in the Parish of Little St. Therese in Santurce and crowned. The burnt statue was sent to Spain to be restored and is presently awaiting the construction of the projected Grand National Sanctuary, where it will be placed.

## **20 Gregoria Ortega and Gloria Gallardo**

Gregoria Ortega, OLVM, and Gloria Gallardo, SHG, are the founders of Las Hermanas, a national organization for Hispanic Catholic women both lay and religious. In 1970, the two women began to solicit names of Mexican-American women from dioceses around the country. Fifty women arrived in Houston in April 1971 and agreed to form Las Hermanas and set forth the guidelines that would determine its national agenda for the next 20 years. The guidelines included establishing a clearinghouse for information, to increase communication about the needs of the community, working for social change, training members in leadership and exerting pressure on hierarchy to achieve goals. The first national meeting was held in Santa Fe in November 1971. Las Hermanas gave support to the United Farm Workers in national boycotts and demonstrations. In 1988 the national board of directors chose San Antonio as the permanent site.

## **21 Presentation of Mary**

### **Our Lady of Quinche, Ecuador**

In 1594 the people of the El Cisne region desired their own religious relic and asked a sculptor to create a statue of Mary. When those who had ordered the statue couldn't pay for it, he traded it to Oyacachi Indians and was moved to the village of Quinche in 1604. Our Lady of Quinche is known as the "people's Madonna" and was declared a national sanctuary in 1985. She is referred to as "the Little One".

## **22 Cecilia**

Cecilia was a young Roman woman who lived during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Very devout, she offered herself and her virginity to God. When she was given in marriage to a young man

named Valerian, she told him an angel guarded over her, allowing no one to touch her. She promised he would be able to see the angel if he believed in the one God and was baptized. Valerian was baptized and later, upon returning to Cecilia, saw the angel holding two crowns of lilies and roses which he placed upon the heads of the young couple.

Cecilia began preaching and converting people which brought her to the attention of the Roman authorities who had her arrested. They condemned her to be suffocated in the baths. The fires were built up but Cecilia was unaffected by the heat. An executioner was then sent to cut off her head but after striking three blows she was still alive. She lived for three days preaching and praying with her converts before dying.

In 821 Pope Paschal I dreamed where the bodies of Cecilia and Valerian were located in the catacombs. He had the remains moved to the church of St. Cecilia in Rome where he founded a monastery in their honor. Cecilia is known as the patroness of music because legend has it that she sang to God in her heart.

## **23 Mary Edwards Walker**

(November 26, 1832 – February 21, 1919)

Although Mary Walker had a medical degree, she worked as a teacher, journalist, nurse, government employee, inventor, and writer. She was the first woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for her ‘meritorious services’ during the Civil War, although it was revoked in 1917, and later reinstated by President Jimmy Carter.

Mary enrolled in the Syracuse Medical College, receiving her degree in 1855. Prejudice against women physicians made it difficult for her to maintain a practice. She applied for a surgeon's commission in the Union Army, working as a volunteer nurse until her request was granted in 1864, the first woman to be given such a commission.

Mary became involved in women's rights issues very early. She was a strong proponent of dress reform for women, first adopting the “bloomer” style, later wearing only men's clothing, which often got her arrested. After the war she became actively involved in the suffrage movement lecturing around the country and testifying before Congress. Believing the Constitution already gave her the right to vote she did not support a separate amendment for women's suffrage which put her at odds with some of the movement's leaders.

## **24 Our Lady of Peace, El Salvador**

Tradition has it that some time in 1682 some merchants found an abandoned box on the shore of Salvador's “Mar del Sur.” They were unable to open the box and decided to take it to the City of San Miguel where they would find out how to open it. They tied the box on a

donkey's back and undertook the long and dangerous journey to the city where they arrived on November 21, meaning to inform the local authorities of their find. But when they went by the parish church, the donkey lay down on the ground. They were then able to open the box and were surprised to find that it contained a lovely image of Our Lady holding the Child.

The origin of this image is still a mystery as it never was known for whom the box was intended, or how it came to reach the beaches of El Salvador. It is said that a hard and bloody struggle was going on between the inhabitants of the region, but when they heard of the marvelous discovery in the abandoned box, they put down their weapons and immediately ceased fighting. It is also related that during the 1833 fratricidal struggles, the victorious side had the blessed image placed in the atrium of the parish church instead of taking reprisals. At the feet of Our Lady, a solemn vow was made to keep no grudges and to erase all hatred from the hearts so that peace would bring about brotherhood and reconciliation. This is why the image was given the title of Our Lady of Peace.

The statute is a dressed wood carving with the national shield of El Salvador embroidered on the front of the image's white robe. The image holds a gold palm leaf in memory of the eruption of the "Chaparrastique" volcano, which threatened to destroy the city with burning lava. The frightened dwellers of San Miguel brought out the statute of Our Lady of Peace to the principal door of the cathedral, and at that precise moment the force of the lava changed direction, moving away from the city. In the exact place where the lava changed direction there's a town called "Milagro de la Paz" (Miracle of Peace).

On the day this happened, September 21, 1787, everyone saw in the sky, formed by the clouds, a white palm leaf that seemed to sprout from the crater of the volcano. Considering that this was a sign of the Virgin's protection, her faithful decided to place in her hand a gold palm like the one they had seen in the sky. Benedict XV authorized the crowning of the image on November 21, 1921. The new shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Peace was completed in 1953.

## **25 Las Mariposas**

The Mirabals were four sisters who grew up in Salcedo in the 1940s Dominican Republic during the era of the dictator Rafael Trujillo. Three- Minerva, Patria, and Maria Teresa – were killed by Trujillo's followers for their involvement in efforts to overthrow the fascist government. The surviving sister, Bélgica (more commonly known as Dedé), lives in Salcedo, tending the museum in Ojo de Agua that commemorates her sisters. The Mirabal sisters, now national heroines of the Dominican Republic, have been immortalized in poem, fiction, art, and even an international day dedicated to them. Their nickname, the Butterflies, comes from their code name during the resistance movement.

## **26 Sojourner Truth**

(c. 1797 – November 26, 1883)

Sojourner Truth was, among many things, an abolitionist, an orator, a suffragette and a religious leader. Born Isabella Baumfree in 1797 in Ulster County, New York, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843 after a religious experience.

Sojourner's early years were spent in slavery on several area estates where she was treated poorly. When one of her children was illegally sold to a southern plantation owner, she became the first black to sue and win a lawsuit against a white man. She won two other important legal milestones. In 1828, she sued and won a slander case against a white couple and after the Civil War, brought a suit against a streetcar conductor who refused to let her ride, winning the right for blacks to use the Washington, D. C. streetcars.

After 1829, while working in New York City as a domestic to support herself, she became involved in religious activities. In 1843 she traveled throughout New England preaching, ending the year by joining the Northampton Association, a group interested in promoting equality, where she met Frederick Douglass and other social reformers. These associations were a springboard for her involvement in civil rights and women's issues. Her most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" was given in 1851 in Akron, Ohio, at a women's rights convention in response to a clergyman who was heckling the speakers.

To support herself she dictated her life story to a friend, publishing it in 1850 as *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*. Harriet Beecher Stowe promoted the book by writing about it in the *Atlantic Monthly*. During the 1850-60s, Sojourner was involved in helping free blacks and slaves and, after the war, petitioned to have lands set aside in the West for their use. Throughout the 1870s she lectured on civil and women's rights issues. She died in 1883 at her home in Battle Creek, Michigan.

## **27 Shirley Chisholm**

(November 30, 1924 - )

Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American woman elected into Congress in 1968. She spoke for civil rights, women's rights, rights for the poor, increases in federal funding for education and was a vocal opponent of the draft and the Vietnam War. She co-founded the National Organization of Women (NOW). In 1972 she made a bid for the Democratic Presidential Nomination.

## **28 Emma Goldman**

(June 27, 1869 – May 14, 1940)

Emma Goldman was born in a Jewish ghetto in Russia, where her family ran a small inn. She was sent to the US to live with her sister, earning meager wages as a seamstress. Goldman was an early advocate of free speech, women's equality and independence, birth control and union organization. Her criticism of mandatory conscription of young men into the military during World War I led to a two-year imprisonment, followed by her deportation in 1919. Until her death in 1940, she continued to participate in social and political movements, from

the Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War. Emma stands as a major figure in the history of American radicalism and feminism.

## **29 Dorothy Day**

(November 8, 1897 – November 29, 1980)

Dorothy Day's life was a journey from atheism to Catholicism and a life among the poor and disenfranchised, which often put her at odds with the Church she loved. Born in Brooklyn, she lived most of her childhood in Chicago where she attended the University of Illinois and was introduced to socialist ideas. Returning to New York she wrote for various socialist newspapers and worked as a nurse. Although not raised in a religious family, she was probably first touched by faith when she began reading the Bible out of boredom after being jailed for taking part in a suffragette demonstration at the White House in 1917.

She started the controversial *Catholic Worker* newspaper in 1933 which promoted the Catholic socialist ideals Day held. With Peter Maurin, a former Christian Brother, she co-founded Catholic Worker communities throughout the country which helped the poor. A firm pacifist, Dorothy challenged the Church on the issue of war, going to Rome in 1965 for the Second Vatican Council's discussion of war and peace. Through her efforts and those of other demonstrators, the Church acknowledged the right of conscientious objection to war. She also helped Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers in their strikes which led to another prison sentence.

In 1972 Notre Dame University awarded Dorothy its Laetare Medal for "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable." Three years after her death she was cited in a pastoral letter of the American bishops as having had "a profound effect upon the life of the Church in the United States."

## **30 Etty Hillesum**

(January 15, 1914 – November 30, 1943)

A young Dutch, Jewish woman who died in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943, Etty Hillesum was unknown to the world until the publications of her diaries. *An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941-1943* reveal a person of uncommon sensitivity, insight and spirituality who, despite the brutality and horrors surrounding her, maintained a sense of the goodness of God and of life.

Born in Middelburg, Netherlands, she obtaining a law degree and did graduate work at the University of Amsterdam. In her writings she juxtaposed the reality of life under the Nazis with the beauty of nature or such things as a cup of chocolate or a Rilke poem. Hearing about the massacres in Poland, Etty says, 'I am with the hungry, with the ill-treated and the dying every day, but I am also with the jasmine and the piece of sky beyond my window; there is room for everything in a single life. For belief in God and for a miserable end.'

Of her own accord Etty joined a group of Jews going to a camp near Auschwitz. Before leaving, she entrusted her notebooks to friends who kept them until they found a publisher. Etty, her parents and her brother, a musical prodigy, were all killed in Auschwitz.

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# December

## 1 Rosa Parks

(February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005)

Born Rosa McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama, Rosa spent her childhood with her mother and brother on her maternal grandparent's farm. Her grandmother, Rose, told her stories of what life had been like during the Civil War. They lived in a community where the Ku Klux Klan was very active. Both Rosa and her brother had to drop out of school to get jobs and help with the family expenses.

In 1932, Rosa married Raymond Parks who was active in the struggle for the rights of African-Americans. With his support, she returned to Alabama State Teacher's College and received her high school diploma in 1933 at the age of 20. Rosa silently protested segregation by avoiding segregated facilities. She climbed the stairs instead of riding in a "colored" elevator. She went thirsty rather than drink from a "colored" drinking fountain. Although Raymond was a member of the NAACP, initially he thought it would be too dangerous for Rosa to join. In 1940 when Rosa saw a picture of a school friend who had joined, she decided to go to a meeting. As the lone female at the meeting, she suddenly found herself elected to the office of secretary, too timid to say no. She remained secretary for 12 years. The demanding work gave her an opportunity to use her education and to channel her energy toward a cause to which she was truly dedicated.

On March 2, 1955 Rosa participated in a workshop at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee. The school's educational philosophy rested on the belief that as a group, economically and politically oppressed individuals—whether they were poor whites of Appalachia or southern blacks—possessed all the knowledge they needed to solve their own problems. This 10-day workshop was one of the most important experiences of Rosa's life; it empowered her to take social action. On December 2, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white person. She was arrested and fined \$14 which she never paid. Although another woman had been arrested prior to Rosa, she was not a sympathetic figure. The NAACP had been looking for someone to stand up who had an impeccable background. Martin Luther King, Jr., a new pastor in Montgomery, rallied the community to support a bus boycott for one year in Montgomery. Rosa, Dr. King and others were arrested, threatened and King's home was bombed. However, on November 13, 1956, the U.S Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was against the law. Ever since that time, Rosa has continued to be a social activist marching and speaking publicly. Many have named her the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

## 2 Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel

Jean Donovan was born in 1953. She and her brother lived in a sheltered, close-knit Catholic family. After college graduation, Jean got an executive position with the largest accounting firm in the nation. She dearly loved to shock fiends and acquaintances as she weaved in and out of traffic on her way to and from her downtown office on her Harley Davidson motorcycle. Gregarious and fun-loving, it seemed as if Jean had achieved the good life at a very early age.

While in college, Jean had spend a year in Ireland where she met Fr. Michael Crowley, the parish priest in a large working-class district. During their long talks, he opened her eyes to a whole new world of poverty, need and loneliness. Eventually she realized that she needed to change her life. In 1977, Jean told her parents that she was going to quit her job and spend two years as a lay missionary in El

Salvador. Much as her parents and her brother tried to dissuade her, she felt that God was calling her. She was trained at the Maryknoll Center in New York and went to Guatemala for language training. On August 10, 1979, she moved to El Salvador, a place teeming with civil unrest.

Sister Dorothy Kazel became her guide and friend when Jean first arrived. They were alike in many ways: both cared deeply about people; had unlimited energy, an apparently fearless, spontaneous openness to new challenges and an absolute commitment to stand and fight for their convictions.

In the midst of all the turmoil and anxiety in El Salvador, a remarkable new presence appeared in Jean's life: Archbishop Oscar Romero. He validated everything she had thought or felt about the Catholic Church and gave renewed strength and purpose to her efforts to help the poor of El Salvador. Maryknoll sister, Ita Ford, decided to leave Chile where she had worked for many years and go to El Salvador. Sister Carla Piette came with Ita. Their presence brought a fresh infusion of energy and spirit into the small, beleaguered community of American missionaries. After Romero's death, Ita was a new role model for Jean. One stormy night while Ita and Carla were driving a refugee to safety, a flash flood hit their truck. Carla pushed Ita out of the window to safety, but Carla drowned. Maryknoll then sent Sister Maura Clarke to be Ita's new companion. Maura had spent most of her life working in Nicaragua. She was older than the rest at 49.

There was much killing going on at this point- women and children were fleeing from their homes, and the missionaries were exhausted trying to move them and supply them with food. In 1980, all four of the women had made trips out of the country, visiting family and friends, but chose to return to help the poor and to give them hope in a desperate situation. They knew they might be killed. On December 2, 1980, the four women were reported missing. Their van was located, then their grave was discovered. The women had been raped and shot execution-style in the back of the head. Their American families fought for justice for many years afterward. Five men who were members of the Salvadoran National Guard were eventually accused. However, there was a cover up while the US government continued to support the military which was responsible, not only for these killings but for the murders of thousands of Salvadoran peasants who threatened the comfortable lifestyle of the ruling class.

### **3 Patsy Mink**

(December 6, 1927 – September 28, 2002)

As the first woman of Asian descent to serve in the U.S. Congress, Patsy devoted her life to furthering educational equity, serving twelve terms in the House of Representatives. In 1972 she was one of the two women instrumental in passing Title IX, which required all schools that received federal funding to develop sports teams for women that were equal to those for men. On the thirtieth anniversary of Title IX, Patsy was named a NOW Woman of Vision for her contributions to athletic equality in schools. During the last decade of her political career, she concentrated on equal opportunities for underprivileged families, focusing on poor women in particular. Patsy devoted her time to advocating policies that addressed the difficulties of rising from poverty. The year before her death, she was successful in assuring support from the House of Representatives to provide additional education to impoverished families to increase self-sufficiency.

## **4 Edith Cavell**

(1865- October 12, 1915)

Edith was born in Britain to a strict Victorian family, where she learned early the virtues of sacrifice and prayer. Edith learned to help other people so that later in life she could refuse help to no one. She never married and had few friends but dedicated her life to nursing. First she worked as a governess for a family in Brussels and then she went into nurses training. In 1907 she opened a nurse training school in Belgium, the Berkendael Institute, and by 1911 she was training nursing for three hospitals, 24 schools and 13 kindergartens in Belgium. She was a brisk, businesslike, rather straight-laced woman whose sense of duty bordered on the fanatical. She demanded the highest standards from her pupils.

In August, 1914, Edith was spending a short holiday with her mother in Norwich, England when she heard news of the German invasion of Belgium. "I am needed more than ever," she said and immediately left for the continent. Her mother never saw her again. When the Germans occupied Brussels, all 60 British nurses were ordered home but somehow Edith remained behind. German nurses arrived to replace the British nurses and together with the remaining Belgian girls, were sent out to hospitals in the city as required. On a wet, dismal night in November, two British soldiers in disguise were guided through the streets of Brussels by a patriotic Belgian civilian, Herman Capiiau. He took them to Edith Cavell who treated their wounds and hid them in the hospital. With the help of her staff, Cavell hid and cared for more than 200 British, French and Belgian soldiers during the next 12 months. Before long it became widely known that Edith was harboring British and French troops under her roof. Despite an order from the German authorities that anyone sheltering Allied troops would be shot, Edith's work continued. In August 1915 Germans raided a home of a member of the escape organization and found several incriminating letters with Edith's name in them. Although she was warned, she said, "I expect to be arrested. Escape for me is futile and unthinkable." She was arrested and accused of conducting soldiers to the enemy and was tried by a military court in Brussels. She was sentenced to her death along with four Belgians. Two firing squads carried out the execution on October 12, 1915. Within days, Edith Cavell became a world-wide martyr and the Germans were universally described as "murdering monsters." As a result of her execution, Allied morale was strengthened and recruitment doubled for eight weeks after her death was announced. A statue of her stands in London, commemorating her humanity and loyalty to Britain.

## **5 Alabama Bus Boycott**

## **6 Dr. Cynthia Maung**

(December 6, 1959 - )

Dr. Cynthia Maung has gained a reputation as more than a doctor, working on the border of Burma and Thailand. She gives medical care to any who ask for it and works with thousands of refugees, organizing teams of medics to venture into the jungles of Burma to give medical care to those isolated from hospitals and doctors who rely on midwives. She has refused to look for safe asylum in another country, preferring to dedicate herself to her work on the border, saving countless lives.

## **7 Mother Mary Aloysia Hardey**

(December 8, 1809 – June 17, 1886)

Unlike many young women at the time, Mary was certain from a young age that she wanted to devote her life to one cause. Having attended a school conducted by the Society of the Sacred Heart, Mary entered the novitiate there and took her vows when she was 24. When she was sent to the order's convent in Louisiana, Mother Aloysia directed a girl's school for five years before establishing her order's first convent in the East. In 1842 she became superior of the New York convent, whose school became the College of the Sacred Heart, and later Manhattanville College.

In 1844 Mother Aloysia was named Mother Provincial for the entire eastern North America region, including schools in Quebec. Over the course of her 27 years in office, Mary established sixteen houses for the Society of the Sacred Heart ranging from Nova Scotia to Cuba. During the Civil War she also directed houses in the West that were cut off from their ordinary superior, and in 1871 Mother Aloysia was named Assistant General of the Society of the Sacred Heart with the responsibility for the houses in the British Empire as well as those in North America.

## **8 Immaculate Conception**

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception holds that Mary was free from original sin from the moment of her conception. In 1476, Pope Sixtus IV approved a feast day. The doctrine was widely questioned, but in 1661, Pope Alexander VII forbade any attacks on the doctrine. Interest in the doctrine waned until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when St. Catherine Laboure claimed to have a vision of the Immaculate Conception standing on a globe, light emanating from her hands spread out toward the earth. A voice commanded Catherine to have a medal struck depicting the vision. Pope Gregory did not accede to these demands.

The situation changed with the succession of Pope Pius IX. He initiated proceedings leading to a definition. With 56 of the 603 bishops dissenting, a papal bull in 1854 declared that “the most Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin, (that this) is revealed by God, and therefore firmly and constantly to be believed by all the faithful.” The dogma was positively received by most Catholics, but it created a storm of protest from Protestants and Orthodox alike.

## **9 Senal Sarihan**

Senal Sarihan was imprisoned and tortured for three years, from 1971 to 1974, for writing pro-union articles under Turkey's then military regime. She then studied for her law degree and became a Turkish civil rights lawyer, making a career out of defending those with cases whom others won't represent, from fighting for intellectuals and human rights advocates to her many cases involving sexual assault, death in detention and assault in police custody.

She is the founder of the Contemporary Lawyers Association and the Contemporary Women's Association, demanding attention from Turkey's law makers and government for the rights of women, children and those who cannot speak for themselves.

## **10 Emily Dickinson**

(December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1886)

This famous American poet was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, into a strict puritanical family who were prominent in the town. Her grandfather founded Amherst College and her father was trustee of the college as well as a state senator and US congressman. She was reclusive, and much about her is unknown. She never married, and after turning 30, seldom saw anyone other than her immediate family. She is known to have scorned many of the conventions of the times, choosing her “own society” of friends, dressing all in white, and writing in an unconventional style on topics unusual for women. During the Civil War, Emily was most prolific as a poet. In all she wrote about 1,800 poems although only a handful were published in her lifetime.

## **International Human Rights Day**

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and ‘to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.’”

## **11 Ruby Dee**

(October 27, 1924 - )

Ruby Dee was the first black woman to play lead roles at the American Shakespeare Festival. She was a close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and has been an activist for many years, from suing for black voting rights, to becoming a master of ceremonies of the 1963 March on Washington, to her arrest for protesting the murder of a Guinean immigrant. She has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actor's Guild, and the National Medal of Arts in 1995 and was voted into the NAACP image award Hall of Fame.

## **12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

In 1531, a “Lady from Heaven” appeared to a poor Aztec Indian, Juan Diego, at Tepayac, a hill northwest of Mexico City with a message of love, compassion and a promise of universal help and protection. She instructed him to have the bishop build a temple on the site. The bishop did not believe Juan until after the third apparition when the Lady presented Juan with roses blooming out of season and instructed him to take them to the bishop. Juan wrapped the roses in his tilma made of rough cactus cloth and when he unveiled them for the bishop, the roses scattered on the floor and the image of Mary was on the tilma.

Just ten years before, in 1521, the capital city of the Aztec Empire had fallen under Spanish forces. For centuries, the Aztecs had professed a polytheistic religion that practiced human sacrifices. In less than 20 years, 9 million of the native inhabitants were converted to Christianity. In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Americas. An estimated ten million visitors travel yearly to her Basilica in Mexico City.

## **13 Marie Marguerite d'Youville**

Marie Marguerite d'Youville was born in Varennes, near Montréal in 1701. She studied for two years with the Ursulines until, at age 12, she had to leave in order to help her widowed mother at home. At 21, she married M. d'Youville who treated her with indifference. They had six children, four of whom died when very young. When they reached adulthood, her two remaining sons became priests. After eight years of marriage, she was widowed and left in great debt. She started a small business in order to meet her obligations, and despite her own impoverishment, she showed great love and compassion for the poor. When her children were grown, she joined with three other women and established a new religious institute, the Grey Nuns (Sisters of Charity). They rescued a Quebec hospital in danger of failing. This General Hospital in Montreal became known as the Hotel Dieu (House of God) under the care of the Grey Nuns and set a standard for medical care and Christian compassion. Marie Marguerite d'Youville founded the first Foundling Hospital in North America. She died in 1771 and was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1990, the first Canadian to be named a saint.

## **14 Ella Baker**

(December 13, 1903 – December 13, 1986)

Ella Baker developed a sense of social justice early in life. Her grandmother was a slave and told Ella stories of her life, including how she had been whipped for refusing to marry a man chosen by her owner. Ella studied at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC, and as a student challenged unfair policies. She graduated as valedictorian in 1927 and moved to New York City. There she joined social activist organizations including the Young Negroes Cooperative League and several women's groups.

In 1940 Ella became involved with the N.A.A.C.P and worked first as a field secretary, then as Director of Branches. She resigned from the staff in 1946 but stayed active especially in the fight to desegregate New York City's public schools. In 1957, Ella moved to Atlanta to organize Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She also ran a voter registration campaign, the Crusade for Citizenship. She left SCLC after the Greensboro sit-ins and went to Shaw University to help the student leaders of the sit-ins held there in April 1960. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was established and she continued to take part, encouraging the young.

## **15 Golda Meir**

(May 3, 1898 – December 8, 1978)

Although Golda spent most of her childhood in the United States, it was when she moved to Palestine at 26 that she became active in the issues important to her. In 1921 Golda immigrated to Palestine with her husband, later moving to Tel Aviv where she became an official at the Histadrut Trade Union. During the course of only two years Golda worked as an emissary in the United States, served as a secretary of the Hechalutz women's organization and became secretary of the Histadrut's Action Committee.

In 1946 her political career took off when she replaced Moshe Sharett as administrative head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department, the primary Jewish liaison with the British. When Golda was elected to the Executive of the Jewish Agency she was considered the state's prominent spokesperson, and was instrumental in fundraising in the United States to assist in paying for the cost of the Israeli War of Independence. Two years later she was appointed as Israel's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, then served as Minister of Labor and National Insurance, and then Foreign Minister. While holding the latter position, Golda was instrumental in securing extensive mutual relations with Latin American countries as well as creating relations with emerging independent countries in Africa. After serving as Foreign

Minister, she was appointed at Prime Minister, the third female in international history to hold the position.

## **16 Amy Carmichael**

(December 16, 1867 – January 18, 1951)

Amy Carmichael was born in North Ireland to a large family. When she was 18, her father died, resulting in much financial difficulty and a family move to Belfast. There, she realized that she wanted to become a missionary. After disappointing attempts at a missionary life in Japan and Ceylon, she went to Dohnavur, India, where she would spend her next 55 years. She saved many children from the “secret” Hindu practice of temple prostitution. She founded an organization called the Dohnavur Fellowship, which was actively involved in the rescue, care, feeding, and education of hundreds of children. Soon, she became known as “Amma,” meaning mother in the Tamil language. Amy adopted Indian dress and never married, though she was not under any vows. Although a serious fall left her crippled, Amy continued to help children and write books for the last 20 years of her life. She passed away in Dohnavur in 1951, at the age of eighty-three.

## **Las Posadas**

Las Posadas is a Mexican celebration from December 16<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup>, commemorating Mary and Joseph’s long, hard journey to find shelter before the birth of Christ. Every night a party is held in a neighborhood home; the neighborhood parades down the street singing songs, following a child dressed as a star, to represent the star the Magi followed. Upon reaching the house, the procession splits in two—one half begs for shelter and the other half invites them into the house, and the party begins.

## **17 Ritamary Bradley**

(January 30, 1916 – March 20, 2000)

At 17 she entered the Sisters of Humility of Mary of Ottumwa. After graduating college, she taught English at Marycrest College, all the while working during 14 summers for her MA. and PhD. She explained her choice to specialize in Chaucer as “determined by the fact that women were barred from studying theology and it was only through back doors like medieval literature or general courses like Christian Wisdom that one could obtain a background in theology and philosophy.”

Ritamary was chosen as the editor of the *Sister Formation Conference Bulletin*, which became hugely successful. Unfortunately, when the organization was shut down, Ritamary was left jobless. It didn’t get the better of her. Next, she helped to produce what would later be called *Mystics Quarterly*. Ritamary continued to do work concerning women religious, including founding Sisterlist with Sr. Margaret Thompson, and is remembered for her faith and infectious enthusiasm.

## **18 Margaret Mead**

(1901-1978)

Internationally renowned anthropologist, Margaret Mead was a pioneer for women in the world of scientific reasoning and study. She is celebrated for introducing generations to a unique perspective on the cultures of people who would have otherwise been overlooked by members of the field of anthropology. Margaret researched in New Guinea, Samoa, and Bali before authoring over twenty books

based upon her experiences. She served as president of several major scientific organizations, including the American Anthropological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Margaret frequently testified on social issues before the United States Congress and other government agencies, and was posthumously honored with a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

## **19 Joyce Banda**

Joyce Banda is an influential advocate for improving the quality of life of women by devoting her energy to teach them how to become economically self-reliant. After having extremely frustrating experiences as a secretary, she became inspired to found the N.A.B.W: the National Association of Business Women. She worked to give women in need access to credit, training, information, markets, and appropriate technology. NABW has mobilized 15,000 women, given out \$2 million in loans, and trained 12,000 women to run their own businesses across the country. She has also done much of the same work in Malawi, Africa, her native country. She empowers women to move up the economic ladder-- primarily in the lime, soap, and timber industries-- in order to benefit themselves and their communities.

In 1997, she received, along with the President of Mozambique, the Africa Prize for Leadership. She founded the Joyce Banda Foundation for Better Girls' Education, attempting to change the astonishing illiteracy rate of 70% in Malawi. Banda has received the Special Honor Award, the 100 Heroines Award, and was named 1998 Woman of the Year. Currently, she is the Chairperson of the Malawi Housing Corporation, and serves on the boards of the Malawi Entrepreneurs Development Institute (MEDI) and the Malawi Polytechnic Board of Governors.

## **20 Sacajawea**

(c. 1787 to 1812 or 1884)

Born Grass Maiden, she was a Shoshone who was captured by the Hidatsa tribe as a teenager and renamed Sacajawea (Bird Woman). She was married off to a French-Canadian fur trader and learned English and French. Soon after her marriage, she happened to meet Lewis and Clark as they embarked on their expedition to the Pacific Ocean. The two men engaged her husband to help them navigate the unfamiliar territory. They needed Sacajawea as well because she could speak the Shoshone language and could help them get horses from the Shoshone to cross the Rocky Mountains. Sacajawea traveled the 4,000-mile round trip with her husband and newborn infant, enduring much danger and hardship. In the spring of 1806, they returned east after a successful expedition and went back to live in their log cabin in a Mandan Village. Clark offered to take her child back to St. Louis and raise him there. She initially refused, but when he was about 6, she did send him to live with Clark who provided him with an excellent education. Contrary to popular belief, Sacajawea was neither a guide nor an interpreter. Most of the West was new to her too. Of the many memorials to Sacajawea, the most famous is a statue in Washington Park in Portland, Oregon.

## **21 Emma Tenayuca**

(December 21, 1916 – July 23, 1999)

Emma Tenayuca was born in San Antonio, Texas and after graduation from high school, took a job as an elevator operator. She joined the labor movement after becoming aware of the struggles of working people. In 1937, Emma had become the general secretary for ten chapters of the Workers Alliance in San Antonio. In protest of very unhealthy working conditions, and after their wages were cut in half, 12,000 pecan shellers decided to strike. Emma was asked to be their representative. The strike was marked by police and violence. Emma later moved to San Francisco, and taught there for many years.

## **22 Frances Xavier Cabrini**

(c 1850 -December 22, 1917)

Francesca Maria Cabrini, born prematurely in 1850 in Lombardy, Italy, overcame a sickly childhood to become the foundress of a religious order which established orphanages and hospitals in the United States and Latin America. A woman of great courage she battled epidemics, nearly lost her life several times, and pitched in with construction crews to finish a hospital. In 1946, she became the first American citizen to be canonized a saint.

With seven orphans from the institution where she worked, Frances started the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Italy in 1880, founding several convents before taking on a new venture. Although wanting to mission in China, Bishop Giovanni Scalabrini persuaded her to minister to Italian immigrants in New York City. There she founded orphanages, then schools and hospitals for the poor. An orphanage in West Park, N.Y., later became the motherhouse for her order. Mother Cabrini took her work from coast to coast and to other countries. In 1891 she went to Nicaragua to open a school, later that year going to New Orleans to aid beleaguered Italian immigrants in that city. In 1892 her mission to the sick enlarged as she took over Columbus Hospital in New York.

Mother Cabrini worked tirelessly for the immigrant poor begging and borrowing to support her causes. In 1909 she became a naturalized citizen of the United States. After several bouts with malaria Mother Cabrini died in Chicago in 1917. At her death she had established sixty-seven religious houses and an order numbering 2,000 members.

## **23 Sr. Mary Antoinette**

(December 23, 1912 – November 19, 1964)

Born Ann Lucy Donniacuo, at the age of 27 she made her profession as a member of the Daughters of Wisdom. Due to her parent's wishes, she resisted asking for a mission assignment for years. Eventually, though, she had to follow her heart and was sent to a mission to Zomba, Malawi in Africa in 1952.

Sr. Mary Antoinette returned to the US in 1958 after spending six years on her first mission. In 1961, she was sent on her next mission back to Africa in Isangi, Congo, on the Congo River. In Isangi, she worked in a school, an orphanage and a hospital. During the time she spent there, Congo went through a period of transition and violence. Even though she knew it was dangerous, Mary stayed, the only American left in the Congo. In October 1964, Isangi was captured by the Congolese rebels. Mary was beaten and thrown in the Congo River, dying a martyr at the age of 52.

## 24 Madam C.J. Walker

(December 23, 1867- May 25, 1919)

Madam C.J. Walker was born Sarah Breedlove in Delta, Louisiana. Her parents were ex-slaves, and she was their first child born into freedom. However, both of her parents died before she was eight, making her childhood extremely difficult. She married Moses McWilliams at age fourteen so she would have a home, and had a daughter at age eighteen. When Moses died soon after, Sarah had to support her family by working as a washerwoman.

In 1905, Sarah had the idea to start her own cosmetics business. She developed her own products and hair care system for African-American women, including shampoo, massage ointment, and an easy method of hair straightening, which had been much more difficult until then. When her business began to succeed, she decided to move from St. Louis to Denver, Colorado where she married her second husband, C.J. Walker. Although they divorced six years later, she kept the name that became famous. She demonstrated, sold products door to door, and then hired women to do this for her so she could concentrate on instruction and manufacture in her company.

After she built a plant in Indianapolis her business boomed. She became the first female African-American millionaire and a generous donor to black charities, active in black philanthropic work, provider of thousands of jobs, advocate of social and humanitarian efforts, and more. She encouraged black women to respect themselves when others didn't, and worked hard for her cause until her death.

## 25 Mary Births Jesus

Mary is a blessed embarrassment  
To a harassed world

For she is great in more ways than one  
And we wonder how she managed

To contain the salvific secret  
Seeing all that she had seen and heard.

How absurd, say all the knowing,  
Unknown as we are to such magnificence.

What guidance, what star, what manger  
Can cradle our indifference?

An offense against our apathy  
This pathetic refugee mother.

But what other birth will ever be able  
To make us strong and stable with shalom –

Home again in the world God made.  
Home with Mary's – and Joseph's—aid.

Wonder Woman  
Mary the wonder woman

In whose womb  
The galaxies are knit  
And God emerges  
As a peasant child  
Whose word and wounds  
Doom all the powers of darkness.

*Poems by Thomas John Carlisle  
From Beginning With Mary, 1986*

## **26 Our Lady of Chiquinquirá**

Our Lady of Chiquinquirá is best known for a phenomenon that occurred in the 16th century. The Spanish artist Alonso de Narvaez painted an image that depicted the Blessed Virgin standing on a crescent moon, holding the infant Jesus. The beautiful painting was placed in an archaic chapel, where leaks in the roof in addition to the humidity destroyed the artwork. In 1585, a pious woman by the name of Maria Ramos attempted to restore the painting, and spent hours praying in front of it each day. On December 26<sup>th</sup> of the following year, the ruined painting had miraculously been restored. The worn paint had become brighter, and the many tears and holes in it had self-sealed. For the following three hundred years the painting hung unprotected, never again fading or tearing. In 1919, the image was canonically crowned, and the sanctuary in which it hung, that of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, declared a Basilica.

## **27 Margaret Coloney**

Co-founder, with Fr. Charles Hudson, of Center for Hope Hospice.

## **28 Pray for Families Living in Poverty**

On this feast day we remember all the innocent victims of the world, and their mothers who mourn them in every age. The story of the Innocents comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew in which the magi visit Herod, the king of Judea in search of the newborn king. Herod then orders the death of all male infants in Bethlehem as the holy family flees to safety after Joseph is warned in a dream. The prophet Jeremiah is quoted to describe the sorrow of the mothers of Bethlehem. “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation. It is Rachel weeping for her children, she will not be consoled, because they are no more.”

## **29 Thea Bowman**

(Dec 29, 1937 - 1990)

Born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, Bertha Bowman was the granddaughter of a slave, but both her parents had college degrees. Her father was a physician and her mother was a teacher. She converted to Catholicism in her early teen after her parents sent her to Holy Child Jesus High School, a recently-opened school in Canton, Ohio founded by the Wisconsin-based Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She joined the Franciscan community at age 15, professed her first vows in 1958 and her final vows in 1963. She took the name Thea and became the only black woman in the order. Thea received a doctorate in English literature and linguistics from the Catholic University of America in 1972.

“She was one of the most remarkable women of our time,” said Auxiliary Bishop Joseph a. Francis of Newark, NJ, a longtime friend. Although she struggled with debilitating bone cancer, Thea continued to

give lectures and workshops. She drew capacity crowds wherever she went. Dressed in gracefully flowing African clothes and wearing a turban, she often had a Gospel pianist join her in her workshops. She filled the room with song and humor and the vibrancy of her personality. She was a prophet in her time constantly challenging the white church to wake up and be inclusive.

Thea Bowman died of bone cancer, but she left behind for the church a vivid moment bursting with promise for the future. She gave a stunningly powerful talk before the US bishops in South Orange, NJ just eight months before she died. She began with a simple question, “What does it mean to be black and Catholic” her answer was a piercing rendition of the song, “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child.” She told the room full of bishops, if they were really serious about what they had said in their documents, than they would accept her as a “fully functioning” member of the church, with all of her African heritage in tow. She spoke of how the church had hurt her and how it had healed her. On and on she went, even though she was three ways marginalized: she was black, she was a woman, and she was dying of bone cancer.

This nun, prohibited by church law from preaching in church, preached up an earthy, elegant storm. This motherless child poured out on this auditorium of prelates, a mother’s deepest and best instincts. This daughter of the slave tradition freed them, at least momentarily, from the shackles of propriety, of churchy pecking orders and of fussy respectability. In response, the bishops, archbishops and cardinal all stood, joined hands and swayed as they sang the civil rights anthem together, “We Shall Overcome.” Many openly wept. Sister Thea Bowman, exhausted, aching yet exhilarated, then sat back down in her wheelchair and began making her way out of the auditorium. Suddenly, the bishops began to follow her and all lined up to meet her. No one cared what was next on the meeting agenda. No one questioned that a woman, a black woman at that, would hold such sway or speak with such powerful truths to the leaders of the Catholic Church. Afterward, shivering and exhausted beneath several layers of blankets, she told reporters that “pain is a constant” but she quickly added, quoting from an old spiritual, “I keep so busy serving my master, I ain’t got time to die.”

*By Diane Bader (who was fortunate to attend one of Sr. Thea’s workshops in San Francisco.)*

## **30 Christine Hakim**

(December 25, 1957 - )

Christine Hakim is one of Indonesia's best known and beloved actresses, working in both film and TV and choosing to portray (among other roles) the mother of street children and an Acehnese rebel. However, she is also known for her humanitarian work, creating a foundation to supply milk for undernourished children and subsidize the education of others. Her foundation also helps to rebuild schools and provides grants to teachers.

## **31 Hortense Powdermaker**

(December 24, 1900 - June 16, 1970)

While attending Goucher College in Maryland, Hortense became interested in the labor movement. She got her start in field work as a labor organizer. While attending the London School of Economics and Social Studies, Hortense she took up social anthropology, the study of human cultures and society, especially religion, politics, social structure, art and language. She did research in a village in Papa New Guinea before moving to Mississippi where she studied the split between blacks and whites within a community there. Her research became the basis of her book, *Freedom*, considered to be one of the first

modern anthropological studies on culture and community. She moved onto studying Hollywood with the thesis that the type and the content of movies produced there is the result of the environment in which they are conceived. She performed her last anthropological study in Northern Rhodesia, studying the influence of cultural change along with individual change.