



## Strengthening LA County Library with your support

**March, 2021**

Dear Library Champion,

March is Women's History Month - a time to celebrate women's achievements, past and present.

It's also a time to march toward equity for women - something that you, with your Library, have a hand in.

That's why this month's *My Library Story* is *your* Library Story: making history, a glimpse at a few ways your Library is assisting job seekers and parents, and helping develop intercultural literacy and understanding - vital resources in a time when women are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

It's the story about how the Library, with your support, is shaping women's history and celebrating and developing the leaders of today and tomorrow.

For this month's *Virtual Field Trip*, Library Foundation volunteer Paul Loesch offers you tips for mining three digital resources - Freegal, Kanopy, and Hoopla - for music, movies, e-books, and audio books about great women across continents and centuries.

And rounding out this month's enews, some fun *Fabulous Facts* about the month of March.

I hope you'll celebrate and find some time this month, and all year long, to learn about and enjoy the stories of some remarkable women - including those in your life.

Have a story or fun fact you'd like to share? Something you'd like to see in this newsletter? [Let me know.](#)

Thank you for supporting your Library!

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll  
Executive Director

P.S. [Your donation today](#) will help support programs that will positively shape women's history. Thank you!

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## Your Library Story: **making history**



Elizabeth Peratrovich



Patsy Takemoto Mink

Images: WikiCommons

[Meet four incredible women!](#) The librarians from the Library's American Indian Resource Center, Asian Pacific Resource Center, Black Resource Center, and Chicano Resource Center introduce: Elizabeth Peratrovich (Tlingit descent - above left), recognized for her work to pass the first anti-discrimination law in the United States (1945); Patsy Takemoto Mink (above right), a congressperson from Hawaii who dedicated her life to eliminating racial and gender discrimination; Bridget "Biddy" Mason (below left), formerly enslaved, who became a leading businessperson and landholder in Los Angeles, as well as a philanthropist, and a founder of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME); and Gloria Anzaldúa (below right), Chicana, lesbian, feminist writer, and poet, recognized for promoting a multicultural feminist perspective and who

From politics to culture, to health, education, and the economy, women have and are shaping history. There's a lot to celebrate - in Women's History Month and throughout the year.

Check out the Library's virtual [Women's History Month celebration](#): storytelling workshops and an author talk, activities, and book lists for all ages.

The celebration of women's history, past and present - of achievement, struggle, and even, defeat - isn't static, confined to a single month.

It's also a call to action, a recognition that there's more to do to achieve equity in all spheres of society, and that with your Library, you have a role to play.

Learning about and championing women, and supporting your Library as a donor and advocate, make a difference.

The pandemic has disproportionately affected women, especially women of color - in our community, and around the world. Women have lost jobs, dropped out of the workforce to care for children, and closed businesses - at a higher rate than men.

Your Library is stepping in with a range of programs and services: from virtual Story Time, to Parent Aide for caretakers, to an array of literacy programs and activities for children, teens, and adults, to education and health related resources.

There's also [Work Ready](#), a six week virtual course - with a free loan of a laptop and internet hotspot - that helps job seekers find work, develop skills for the 21st century economy, explore high growth jobs or work from home options, and create strategies for making a career change.



Bridget "Biddy" Mason

images: WikiCommons



Gloria Anzaldua

Studies consistently show that companies with a diverse workforce, with women in positions of power, are better able to weather recoveries from calamities like the pandemic.

The Library's four resource centers continue their role as community educator, resource for community members and scholars, and a catalyst for conversations and exploration about intercultural understanding.

They're vital components to developing cultural literacy and understanding, and an environment that recognizes and celebrates women.

Your Library, with your support, is providing resources for women to thrive in the workforce and beyond - as leaders, as parents and caretakers, and as students navigating a path for educational and economic success.

You, with your Library, are shaping history.

Thank you.

## What's your Library Story?

[Email us!](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

## Virtual Field Trip: digital treasures for exploring women's history



Library Foundation volunteer Paul Loesch writes:

This month's theme, *Women's History*, invites a challenge - create your own journey of exploration.

Learn about women, from various places and times, who were catalysts or creators of events that altered the path of history.

Each individual who advances history is "standing on the shoulders of those who came before." If not for the achievements of those who preceded any individual, her or his accomplishment may not have been possible.

As you commence your exploration, take time to look at how women, yesterday and today, are paving the way for those to come.

Get started by performing a general web search related to the history and accomplishments of women across time and cultures.

For your search, begin with entries that might include:

- 100 most famous women world leaders of all time

- Best fiction written by women
- Greatest 50 works of art created by women

In all likelihood, your list of search results will include many names you've never heard.

Next, go to the [Library's home page](#), and enter one of those names in the search bar. Chances are, you will find many selections - including books and digital materials (books, movies, and music).

You'll also want to explore a few of the resources in the "digital library" (see the screen shot above).

For example, if you love music, you might enjoy **Freegal**. It's a steaming music app, with more than 15 million songs and 40,000 music videos.

Your Library card gives you free access, at any time, to many items you would pay for on another music subscription service.

What's more, you can download a limited number of music selections each month, in addition to unlimited "on-demand" streaming.

Here is one example of the power of the Freegal platform:

After conducting a general web search of the "100 Greatest Female Composers of Classical Music," I entered the names into the Freegal search.

Most, though not all, produced several examples of the composer's works, including: Lara Downes, Clara Schuman, and Gabriela Lena Frank.

If you don't want to create your own playlist, Freegal offers you several, including [Female Classical Composers](#).

If you prefer film, you'll want to search **Kanopy**. There, you will find [a curated list of 51 videos related to "women's history."](#) These are drawn from a variety of genres, including: documentaries, short films, independent movies, and Hollywood feature films.

Here are a few to give you an idea of what you'll find: *History and Memory for Akiko and Takashige*; *Wild Women Don't Have the Blues*; *Golden Gate Girls*; and *6 Generations*.

Moreover, if you're intrigued by the music you discovered in Freegal, you can also search Kanopy by type of musical content.

Finally, there's **Hoopla**, another resource in the digital library.

A search for "[Women's History](#)" brings up e-books such as *Women Warriors Hidden in History* and *Malala Yousafzai*; audio books, including *The Lady from the Black Lagoon* and *Hidden Figures*; and a multitude of movies, such as *Learning to Skateboard in a War Zone (if you're a girl)*, *Utopia Girls*, and *She is the Ocean*.

Eager to learn what other digital gems your Library offers? Stay tuned - we'll be sharing a digital care package next month!

In the meantime, [send us an email](#) about your favorite digital resource.

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## Fabulous Facts: all about March

March - the only month spelled with three consecutive consonants - has plenty of significant days, in addition to International Women's Day (March 8), Daylight Savings Time (March 14), and Cesar Chavez Day (March 31).

It's also got some intriguing expressions associated with it. You may be surprised by their back stories:

- Beware the *Ides of March*? Shakespeare's words live on today, along with Julius Cesar's assassination on the Ides of March in the year 44 BC.

But the Ides of March, the 15th day of the month, were originally associated with the first full moon, and with the Roman calendar, the start of a new year - a time to celebrate and rejoice.

- St. Patrick's Day (March 17) invariably summons up Gaelic tales and the expression, *Luck of the Irish*. While today it's mostly said with an envious shake of the head, its origins aren't so rosy.

Fleeing the Great Famine, and arriving in the U.S. during the gold and silver rushes in the mid-1800s, Irish immigrants worked as miners. Many Irish born and Irish American miners became successful. Instead of acknowledging their hard work and determination, others dismissively credited it to "luck."

- And of course, there's *In like a lion, out like a lamb*, a pretty straightforward expression of this month's weather extremes. But, wait, not so fast!

This was originally a celestial expression, referring to the constellation Leo (the lion) rising overhead in the east as the month begins, and ending with the constellation Aries (the ram, or lamb), setting in the west.

Thank you to those of you who sent in fun and fabulous facts! We're always on the lookout for more - [email us some for April](#).

Thank you!

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[Your donation will help create a vibrant future.](#)

Thank you for supporting literacy, helping job seekers, promoting cultural understanding, and more!

**DONATE**



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