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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ALLIANCE



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LEADING THE CHANGE:
Women Shaping a Sustainable Future

A Warning: The Urgent Fight to Protect Women's History

Now that the month of March (Women's History Month) has passed, our work does not end - it intensifies. The National Women's History Alliance is expanding its campaign to ensure that women's history is not seasonal, but sustained.

Each year, we recover more of the women whose labor, courage, and leadership have shaped our world. Yet even as we uncover these stories, forces are working to erase them.

The warning signs are clear.

In 2025 and again on February 12, 2026, Executive Order 14238, "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History," directed federal agencies to revise educational materials - casting inclusive history as distortion. Institutions such as the Institute of Museum and Library Services are already affected.

At the same time, erasure is both physical and digital. The loss of the White House East Wing - long a center of influence for First Ladies - removes a vital symbol of women's leadership. Online, key First Lady biographies and timelines have been reduced or removed, limiting public access to women's contributions.

This is not incidental. It is a pattern.

At Muir Woods National Monument, interpretive panels highlighting women's leadership in saving the redwoods have been removed - erasing the truth that conservation was built not only by celebrated men, but by networks of women: club leaders, Indigenous women, educators, and grassroots activists.

When these stories disappear, so does the visible legacy of women's leadership. At the same time, science is under threat. The repeal of the federal "endangerment finding" on greenhouse gases weakens decades of climate research. These acts are connected: to erase women and to erase science is to erase accountability.

History has warned us before.

In 1856, **Eunice Newton Foote** first demonstrated that carbon dioxide warms the planet, the effect of what we call today, GREENHOUSE GASES - yet her work was ignored because she was a woman. So now, we have a climate crisis.

Today, Dr. **Katharine Hayhoe** continues that legacy, helping communities understand climate risks and solutions, and promoting our involvement rather than our denial and neglect - even as data and resources are reduced and denounced. With these edits, women too are made invisible with the erasure of sustainability issues, or "movement-level erasure." Women have always been central to sustaining life - organizing, conserving, educating, rebuilding. When their stories are removed, the future narrows.

Seek out the erased stories. Share them. Teach them.

Defend the spaces where history lives- libraries, schools, museums. Support women's voices.

Refuse disappearance.

Because when women's history is protected, our future is protected.

-Martha Wheelock, NWA Board President

Catalyst Group at St. John's University showcases women's role in sustainability



Pictured from left to right: Theresa Lovero, Fiona Lakeram, and Cara Dunleavy

Using their innovative talents, the Catalyst Group's work on the 2026 Women's History Magazine created more than a simply publication. Their work is a bridge, between generations, between institutions, between history and the future. They

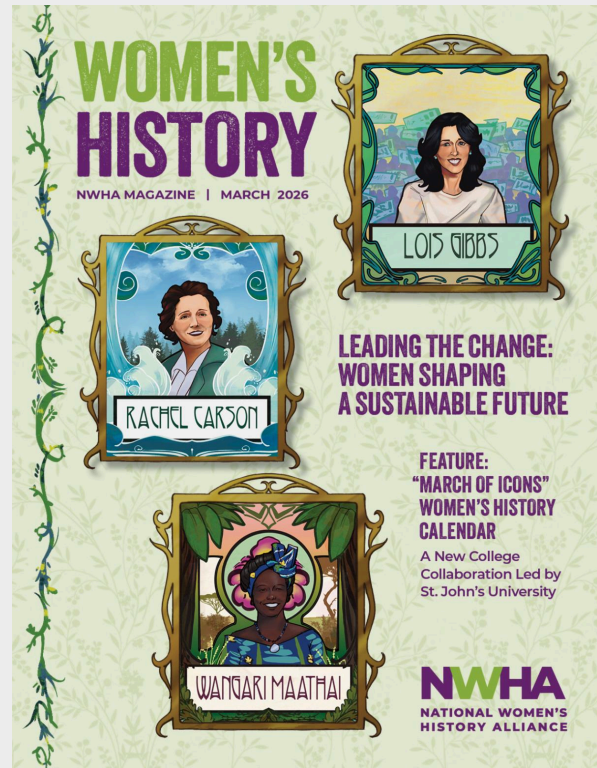
are both studying gender equity, sustainability, and leadership, as well as practicing it. They are shaping how history is told and who is centered in those narratives.

That is leadership.

And that is how change continues, one partnership, one act, one moment at a time.

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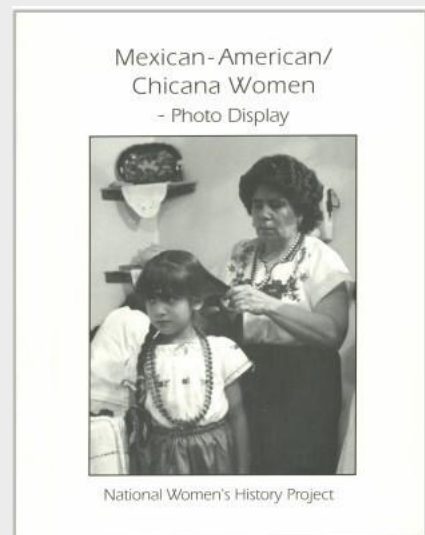
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Adelante Mujeres!

Given the distortions we are facing, the rich story of Mexican-American women's history is an example of what we need to know, to share and to teach.

Adelante Mujeres! - History of Mexican American Women is a 30-minute overview of the culture and history of Mexican-American women. Spanning five centuries, the major events, themes, and personalities weave a powerful story. The production features music and hundreds of photographs.



[Watch HERE](#)

April is Poetry Month
Poetry Matters Project



Building community connections through the power of poetry.

The Poetry Matters Project aims to foster community connections through collaboration, using poetry as a unifying force to bring people together and celebrate shared experiences. Through rhythm and vivid imagery, poetry bridges the space between hearts and minds — transforming personal stories into collective understanding.

Poet Amanda Gorman reminded us of the power of poetry during the 2021

Presidential Inauguration:

We are striving to forge a union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters, and conditions of humankind.

And so we lift our gazes,
not to what stands between us,
but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know,
to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside.

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

-Amanda Gorman, *"The Hill We Climb"* (2021 Inaugural Poem)

Honoring the Birth of a Leader: Dolores Huerta

APRIL 10, 1930



Dolores Huerta is a pioneering labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the United Farm Workers. She dedicated her life to improving working conditions for farmworkers and advocating for social justice, education, and equality.

56th ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY


The first Earth Day took place on **April 22, 1970**. Twenty million Americans came together to mark the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Today, over 1 billion people in more than 190 countries across the globe take part in Earth Month activities and initiatives.




Perhaps you are thinking, how does this affect me? What can I do about these things? And I say to you that, every day you live, you make some impact on the world and you can choose what sort of impact you make.

Dr. Jane Goodall
EARTH DAY 2025

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National Women's History Alliance is a non-partisan, non-profit registered 501(c)(3) whose mission is dedicated to advancing women's history in education, fostering empowerment, championing equality, and promoting inclusion.

1855 Cooper Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95404* | Phone: (707) 636-2888

*Southern Pomo and Coast Miwok land

We acknowledge that the land in Santa Rosa, CA, is the traditional, ancestral territory of the Southern Pomo and Coast Miwok peoples, who have stewarded it for thousands of years.

www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

National Women's History Alliance | PO Box 469 | Santa Rosa, CA 95402 US

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