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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ALLIANCE



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LEADING THE CHANGE:
Women Shaping a Sustainable Future

Happy New Year, dear friends of the National Women's History Alliance,

As we step into 2026, we do so with gratitude for the women who came before us, confidence in the women shaping our present, and hope for the girls who will inherit the future. May this new year be fulfilling for each of us—and powerful in what we accomplish together.

A new year calls us to renew our purpose. What is the work before us in 2026? What are the shared intentions of the National Women's History Alliance? They remain clear and resolute: to honor women's history, to safeguard women's contributions, to ensure that women's voices are never erased, ignored, or diminished, and to work toward equality, diversity and inclusion.

To "hold the line" is not simply to resist—it is to stand with courage and vision. It means speaking up when a woman's voice is needed, insisting on inclusion where it is absent, protecting women's work from being overlooked or misused, and championing the full potential of women and girls across every sphere—political, scientific, educational, business, and creative.

In 2026 we will promote our Women's History Month theme: "**Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future.**" This theme expands our understanding of sustainability beyond just environmental concerns. It encompasses financial sustainability, community resilience, leadership succession, and intergenerational equity. Whether developing green technologies, advancing economic justice, strengthening education systems, or building civic power – women are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation. This theme affirms that shaping a sustainable future means

fostering systems that support both people and the planet. Sustainability has been the work and province of women from time immemorial.

We warmly welcome you—again—to the vibrant community of the National Women’s History Alliance. Together, we turn awareness into action: ensuring that women and girls are fully represented in classrooms and curricula, that libraries proudly display books by and about women, that girls are encouraged to explore every opportunity open to them, and that Women’s History Month is celebrated as a living, forward-moving legacy.

Finally, our amazing Interim Executive Director, Jill Kracov Zinckgraf, is moving on to work with another non-profit organization. In the two years she worked with the NWA, Jill helped to organize us into a more productive and progressive organization, with her expertise in structure, branding and programming. She brought us to a clear focus of our mission and legacy; she created paths to stability and gave us guidance and tools for **our sustainability**. Thank you, Jill, for your steadfast support, generosity of time and talent, your patience and your magnanimity. You have been a vital part of our work and **have helped ensure** our legacy (see her letter below).

Forward together,

Martha Wheelock,

President of the Board of the National Women’s History Alliance

NWA Women's History Clearance Sale

50% Discount on All Items

Given today’s challenging times, the NWA wants to help encourage festive celebrations of women’s history throughout the year. All items --posters, banners, kits, speeches, power points, streaming videos, curriculum resources, puzzles, tote bags, bracelets, tea towels, magnets, buttons, balloons, sashes, parasols, notecards as well as best selling biographies and novels from our library and publisher donations. Many items have limited quantities.

[View the Sale](#)

NWA Youth Advisory Board



Mission Statement:

The NWA Youth Advisory Board inspires and empowers high school students to engage with women’s history through education, advocacy, and community

building, creating pathways for young people to learn about the role of women throughout history and build connections with peers and mentors that share similar goals.

The NWA Youth Advisory Board is working on creating a database of women's history and women's & gender studies programs in high schools. If you know of any of these programs, please email this information to serene@teachwapush.org so we can add this program to our list.

Learn more about the NWA Youth Advisory Board at: nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/nwha-yab/

Women's History Month News

LILLY is a powerful dramatic film starring Patricia Clarkson, John Benjamin Hickey and Thomas Sadoski, directed by Rachel Feldman, based on the true story of working-class hero, Lilly Ledbetter, an Alabama tire factory supervisor whose goal is to lift her family into the middle class. Her fight for equal pay takes her to Ruth Ginsberg and the Supreme court, and finally to an award ceremony with Barack Obama. *LILLY* follows the transformation of an ordinary citizen into the face of an issue, illuminating the impact of a single, courageous person. A movie for this moment, *LILLY* inspires audiences with hope. Lilly Ledbetter was a 2017 National Women's History Alliance Honoree. Streaming now on Netflix.

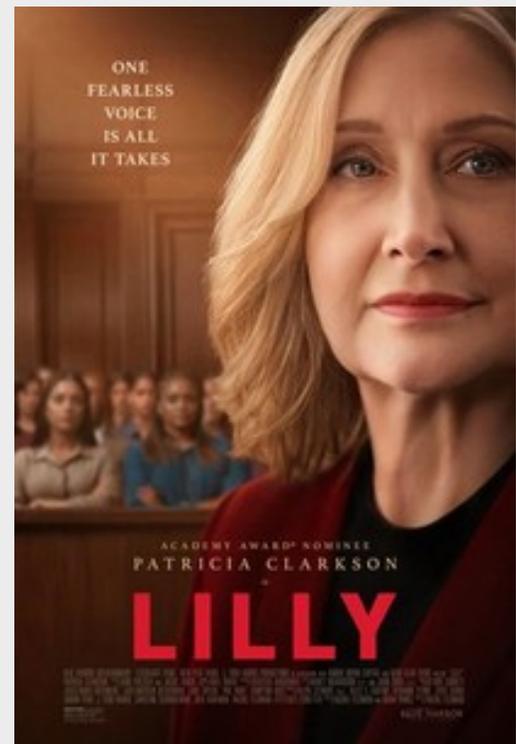


photo (above): Advertisement for the film LILLY

Coming soon for Women's History Month!

Kick--off webinar to get ready for Women's History Month-- presentations and ideas for programs for groups and individuals. Coming the last week in January.
Announcement soon!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

FOR YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

GIVE *membership* GIFT

*Suggested Donation: \$50.
Your Support, at Any Level, Makes a Difference.*

Membership starts at any amount.

Whether you're joining for yourself or giving the gift of membership to someone else, your support helps amplify women's voices and ensure their stories are told and remembered.

MEMBERSHIP

NWHA

Our History Is Our Strength

When you support the National Women's History Alliance - as a donor, member, partner, or sponsor - you're investing in a more just and inclusive future. Join our movement to elevate women's voices, celebrate their contributions, and carry their legacies forward.

WOMEN IN HISTORY: January Birthdays

Dian Fossey

Primatologist and Conservationist
1932-1985



Dian Fossey (January 16, 1932 – December 26, 1985) was a passionate primatologist and conservationist who lived with

Hazel Johnson

Mother of the Environmental Justice
Movement
1935- 2011



Hazel Johnson (January 25, 1935- January 12, 2011) has been honored widely as the Mother of the Environmental Justice Movement,

mountain gorillas in Central Africa for 18 years. Her studies of the gorillas are intimate as she was able to habituate the gorillas by imitating their actions. She proved that they could be “friends, gentle giants, and highly social.” She was ardently against the human encroachment and native poachers, as the decline of her beloved gorillas drove her to be their protector. Her activism helped galvanize global conservation efforts and laid the groundwork for protections that still save gorillas today. Her brutal murder ended her important work with “Gorillas in the Mist” (Fossey’s autobiography and the 1988 Film).

witnessed her Chicago Community as victims of toxic conditions and high rates of cancer. In 1979, Johnson founded People for Community Recovery, turning grassroots organizing into a powerful movement that linked environmental protection with civil rights and public health. She insisted that clean air, safe water, and healthy homes were not privileges, but basic human rights. Her leadership helped shape national environmental justice policy and influenced federal action, including recognition of environmental racism by the U.S. government. Her legacy demands that a healthy environment is a basic human right.



Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to share my heartfelt thanks and announce that I will be concluding my time as Interim Executive Director of the National Women’s History Alliance.

Over the past two years, I’ve had the extraordinary honor of walking alongside you in this critical work - uplifting women's history, advocating for equity, and building new pathways to visibility and change. Together, we’ve reinvigorated the mission through meaningful programming like our Consciousness Raising Circles and monthly thematic Then & Now webinars, both of which brought fresh voices and intergenerational, diverse dialogue to the forefront.

This year alone, we expanded our national partnership & membership network, launched the Women’s History Magazine with a renewed vision, introduced new presenters to local communities, and strengthened the infrastructure that will sustain NWHHA for years to come. We made space for stories that too often go untold - because we know that remembering is an act of resistance, and sharing history is a call to action.

I am profoundly grateful for your support, your time, and your belief in the importance of women's history. Your engagement made all of this possible. As I pass the torch to the Board of Directors, I remain deeply hopeful and inspired by what lies ahead. Though I will be watching from the sidelines, I will be cheering you on with pride and gratitude. The future of women's history is in strong, capable hands - and its continued advancement relies on all of us staying engaged, curious, and committed.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Dr. Jill Kracov Zinckgraf
Interim Executive Director (2023–2025)
National Women's History Alliance

Forward into light, for the New Year. We leave you with the wisdom of another great January woman



Lucretia Mott, (Jan 3, 1793 – Nov 11, 1880)
Quaker abolitionist and feminist, believed in innate equality, urging women to cultivate their powers for life's work and to challenge unjust laws. who said, "I long for the day my sisters will rise, and occupy the sphere to which they are called by their high nature and destiny.

(Also the birthday of our co-founder, Molly Murphy MacGregor!)



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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.

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*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



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