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NWHA

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ALLIANCE

THE WORK OF JUSTICE



Dear NWA Community,

Every September, as summer winds down and classrooms come alive again, we take time to honor the people - and especially the women - whose labor shapes our communities. It's no coincidence that both Labor Day and the back-to-school season fall in this month. For centuries, women have stood at the frontlines of both movements: demanding fair wages and safe workplaces while also creating inclusive, empowering spaces for education and growth.

This month, we celebrate those dual legacies.

The women who organized garment strikes, walked picket lines, and negotiated union contracts are the same women who fought for equal access to classrooms, reformed school curricula, and helped pass Title IX. Labor and education are not separate struggles. They're part of a broader story of equity, opportunity, and justice - and women have always been central to that story.

In our Then & Now webinar series this month, we'll uplift those stories and introduce new ones. We'll also elaborate on the 2026 Women's History Month theme - one we believe will galvanize educators, activists, students, and allies nationwide.

As always, thank you for being part of this movement. We invite you to participate, advocate, and help lead us forward.

We are **Moving Forward Together!**

In Solidarity,
Jill Kracov Zinckgraf, Interim Executive Director

Our History Is Our Strength

Pictured above (left to right): Rose Schneiderman, President of the National Women's Trade Union League, 1935. Photo by Harris & Ewing. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. Mary McLeod Bethune with students, Daytona Beach, 1905. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Upcoming Webinar - Join the Conversation

Women in LABOR & EDUCATION



THEN & NOW
MONTHLY
EMPOWERMENT
SERIES

LIVE WEBINAR
SEPTEMBER 22ND 2025
7:00PM ET | 6:00PM CT | 4:00PM PT

NWHA
NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HISTORY ALLIANCE

Monday, September 22nd, join the National Women's History Alliance as we celebrate the women who have shaped both our workplaces and classrooms. From union leaders who organized strikes to teachers who sparked movements, women have long been at the center of labor and education justice.

Together, we'll explore:

- The powerful history of women's labor organizing and union leadership

- The role of educators in building equitable and inclusive learning spaces
- The legacy and future of Title IX and its impact on gender equity in education

This program is part of our Then & Now series and uplifts stories of resilience, advocacy, and progress. Whether you're an educator, student, activist, or ally, come be inspired - and see how women continue to lead the way forward.

Register

2026 WOMEN'S HISTORY THEME ANNOUNCED



This theme expands our understanding of sustainability beyond the environment to include economic justice, community resilience, education, and intergenerational equity. It honors the women who are reimagining and rebuilding systems to support people and the planet - driving bold solutions through advocacy, innovation, and leadership.

Download our 1-page information sheet [HERE](#) or for more information visit our website [HERE](#).

LAST CHANCE AUCTION!

DON'T MISS THIS.

Our biggest and most diverse auction yet!

Whether you're a collector, teacher, librarian, or just love beautiful and historic treasures, this is the auction for you.

With over 200 items, you'll find:

- Vintage and autographed books
- Striking jewelry and accessories
- Historic memorabilia
- Unique women's history artifacts



OVER 200 ITEMS | SUPPORT WOMEN'S HISTORY

Don't miss this final opportunity to bid on one-of-a-kind items while supporting the National Women's History Alliance!

The auction link will go live the morning of September 15th.
Watch your inbox!

Women's Equality Day 2026

RECAP

Thank you to everyone who joined us on August 26 to commemorate Women's Equality Day. Your presence helped honor the women who came before us, celebrate the progress we've made, and reaffirm our commitment to the work still ahead.

Together, we reflected on our shared history and heard from inspiring contemporary voices who reminded us: the fight for equality is not over - and we're stronger when we move forward together.

Featured Videos

We shared three powerful short films connecting past and present struggles for equality:

- Alice Paul – Suffrage & the ERA
- Fannie Lou Hamer – Civil Rights & Voting Rights
- Hazel Johnson – Environmental Justice

Each was paired with live reflections from leaders continuing their legacy today.

VOTING RIGHTS & the 19th Amendment



Watch the Recordings

If you missed the event or want to revisit it:

Watch the full program:

- 7:00 PM ET
- 7:00 PM PT

Resources from Our Presenters

Martha Wheelock – Wild West Women

Explore more short films on women's history:

- **Votes for Women**
- **California Women Win the Vote**
- **Inez Milholland: Forward into Light**

View films [HERE](#).

Kate Richards – “The Shoulders We Stand On”

A youth-friendly guide to 19 suffragists, written for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. [Purchase the Book](#)

Emily Torem – NYC Environment & Health Data Portal

Explore 200+ datasets and reports to advance environmental justice:

[Visit the Portal](#)

We're excited to launch our new, inclusive MEMBERSHIP model!

NWHA
NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HISTORY ALLIANCE

**JOIN OUR
MOVEMENT**

At NWHA, membership means belonging.

It means being part of a national community that values women's history and is committed to honoring and advancing it.

But membership is also what sustains our work.

[Become A Member](#)

Guiding Principles:

- Inclusivity: We eliminate financial barriers to belonging.
- Sustainability: Your support powers our toolkits, circles, webinars, and more.
- Respect for Contribution: Even a modest gift affirms our shared values.

Membership is open to all with a suggested donation of \$50.

Give what you can - \$5, \$50, or \$500. Everyone is welcome. Your contribution funds programs like the Empowerment Series, Consciousness-Raising Circles, and national advocacy.

Members who donate \$50 or more receive enhanced benefits, including:

- Access to Monthly Empowerment Series webinars (not open to the public)
- Free access to Consciousness-Raising Circles (open to the public with a small fee)

[Join Us!](#)

WOMEN IN HISTORY: *September Highlights*

Mary McLeod Bethune
Educator, Political Strategist &
Champion for Racial Equity
1875 - 1955

Rose Schneiderman
Labor Feminist & Voice of Triangle
Fire Reform Movement
1882 - 1972



Photo: Portrait of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, president and founder of Bethune-Cookman College, ca. 1943. Library of Congress.

Mary McLeod Bethune was one of the most influential Black educators, political visionaries, and civil rights leaders of the 20th century. Born in 1875 to formerly enslaved parents in South Carolina, she founded the Daytona Literary and Industrial School for Training Negro Girls in 1904, which later became Bethune-Cookman University in Florida.

Bethune believed deeply in the transformative power of education as a tool for liberation and community advancement. She served as an advisor to multiple U.S. presidents, founded the National Council of Negro Women, and was a fierce advocate for racial and gender equity.

Bethune's words - ***“Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough.”*** - continue to inspire generations of educators and changemakers.



Photo: Portrait of Rose Schneiderman, President of the National Women's Trade Union League, ca. 1935. Library of Congress.

Rose Schneiderman was a pioneering labor organizer and feminist who fought for safer working conditions, fair wages, and women's rights in the early 20th century.

A key figure in the aftermath of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, Schneiderman's impassioned speeches helped galvanize labor reform and worker protections.

As president of the National Women's Trade Union League, she bridged the labor and suffrage movements, demanding justice for working-class women. Her legacy remains a powerful reminder that labor justice is women's justice.

Septima Poinsette Clark
Educator & Civil Rights Strategist
1898 - 1987

Luisa Moreno
Labor Organizer & Civil Rights
Advocate
1907 - 1992



Photo: Portrait of Septima Poinsette Clark - educator and activist known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," circa mid-20th century. Library of Congress.

Septima Clark believed literacy was the key to liberation. Known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," she developed citizenship schools that taught reading, writing, and civic knowledge to African Americans in the Jim Crow South - skills that enabled thousands to pass literacy tests required for voting.

Working closely with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, she trained countless community leaders, including many who would later play pivotal roles in the Civil Rights Movement. Despite facing discrimination within both the white educational establishment and male-led civil rights groups.

Clark remained undeterred. Her work laid the foundation for grassroots activism and underscored the transformative power of education.



Photo: Luisa Moreno, pioneering labor organizer and civil rights activist, circa mid-20th century. Library of Congress.

Born in Guatemala, Luisa Moreno became one of the most influential Latina labor organizers in the U.S. She led unionizing efforts across garment, agricultural, and food processing industries and co-founded the Spanish-Speaking People's Congress to unify Latinx communities. In 1935, she became the first Latina to hold a national post in the CIO and organized thousands of workers.

She spoke out forcefully against segregation, police brutality, and anti-immigrant policies. Despite her powerful contributions, Moreno was targeted during the Red Scare and eventually deported in 1950 for her political beliefs.

Though forced into exile, her legacy remains a powerful testament to the role of immigrant women in shaping American labor and civil rights history.

NWHA Launches Youth Advisory Committee

Are you passionate about women's history, equality, and making change?

We're looking for high school and college students to help shape the future of NWHA.

As a member of the Youth Advisory Committee, you'll bring fresh ideas, help design campaigns, and ensure

young voices are at the center of our work.

- Make your voice heard.
- Learn leadership skills.
- Help move women's history forward.

[Apply Here](#)



Together, we're building the next generation of women's history leaders. Feel free to share this opportunity with a young person who is ready to make an impact.



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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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