

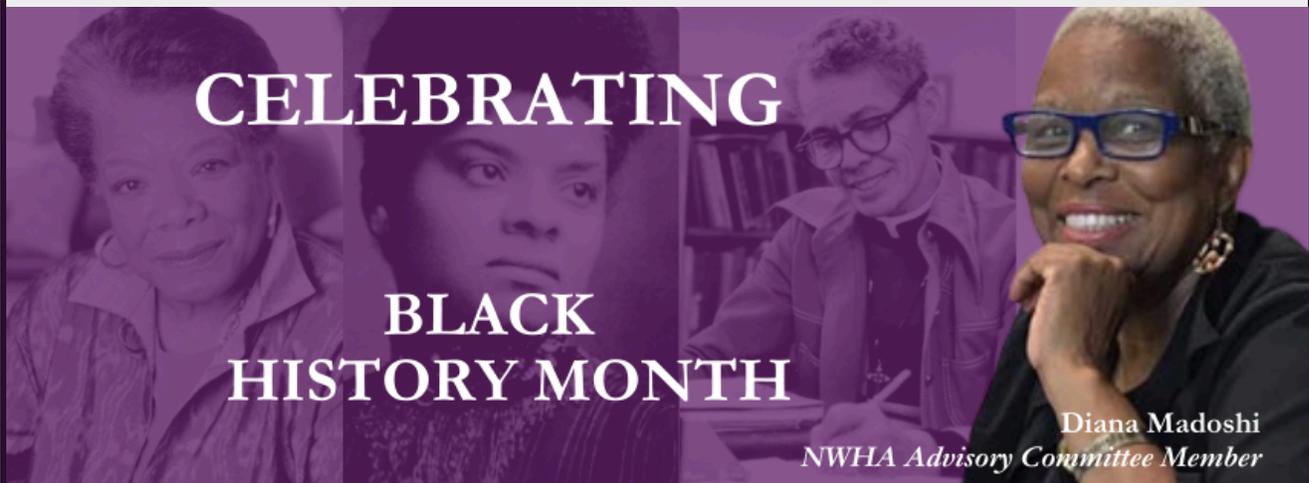
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# NWHA

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ALLIANCE



Happy February and Happy Black History Month!

As you know, February is Black History Month, which I personally look forward to each year. Thank you Carter Woodson! 100 years ago, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, American historian, author, journalist and founder of the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**, launched a movement that ultimately created the first Black History Month.

I love history and give an unabashed shout-out to those who came before me. It is fascinating to read or hear about the accomplishments and challenges of my people, African Americans, who were once forbidden to learn how to read or write but nevertheless persisted despite threats and harsh punishment.

This month, I want to particularly recognize black women historians like Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Eleanor Smith, and Eleanor Porter, who founded the Black Women Historian Association. They all opened venues for many others to learn the contributions and historical impacts of black American women.

Black history is American history, as is women's history, Latina history and so on. Learning our collective histories has always been a challenge due to lack of documentation, records or other critical source material. Many times, it became deeply hidden history because of deliberate omission and/or suppression!

And today we face challenges including banning books like the story of Ruby Bridges, the courageous black girl who integrated an all-white school in Louisiana.

Throughout time, there have been many attempts to nullify black history, whitewash and dilute black history by banning books that cover civil rights and racism, and punish or fire teachers and principals who added Black history to school curriculum.

This is the backdrop as we prepare activities to celebrate Black History Month this year. However, recent attempts to whitewash or end the teaching Black history - and other ethnic histories - in our schools and institutions will not succeed! The good news is that many people of all ages are continuing to seek out historical information to better understand our shared history.

We have great organizations like the National Women's History Alliance and others who are committed to educating and sharing our historical roots. I have learned a lot through my involvement with the National Women's History Alliance for more than a dozen years.

Personally, as a black woman, I am proud to learn of the accomplishments of my ancestors, who were mostly brought to the American continent to be slaves. "Making a way out of no way," our elders would say.

The fact is, Black History is American History! It is an integral part of the American story, as is that of Native American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islanders and American European descendants. Our personal and collective stories are really treasures for us to cherish and enjoy.

One idea this year is to make up black history trivia games. It's a great way to make history fun, accessible and memorable. My sister-friend Judy and I are competing for success against our granddaughters. I suspect I may lose because a little bribery to learn may be involved.

But however you do it, I hope you have fun celebrating Black History Month this year.

Thank you.  
Diana Madoshi, NWA Advisory Committee Member

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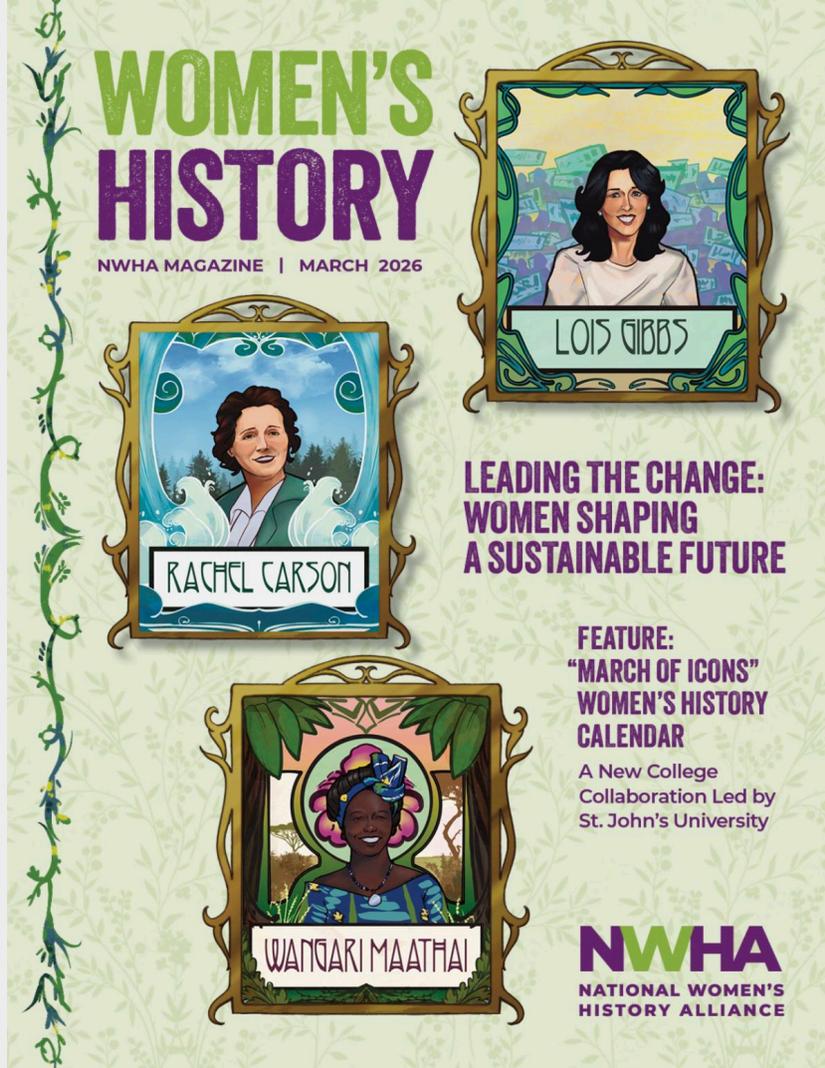
## SNEAK PEAK!

The official launch for the 2026 Women's History Magazine will be hosted by St. Johns in New York on February 25, 2026.

A special thanks to St. John's students who helped create this special edition with a fold out calendar poster.

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## Women's History Month Merchandise

**NWA Women's History Promotion Sale: 50% Discount on All Items**

Given the challenging times when women's history is being erased, the NWA wants to encourage celebrations of women's history throughout the year. Display and use our many items widely and prominently to show that Women's History cannot be deleted: 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.

Check out our fabulous items for your celebrations!

**NWHA**  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S  
HISTORY ALLIANCE

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MERCH

50% OFF ALL ITEMS IN  
NWHA ONLINE STORE.

*(while supplies last)*

# 50% OFF

Visit our Store

From banners to PowerPoint to 2026 Women's History Magazines, find everything you need to showcase your celebration in style.

Included in the women's history kit:

- (24) March is Women's History Month balloons
- (25) Celebrate Women bookmarks
- (10) 2026 Women's History Magazine
- March is Women's History Month banner
- Women's History Tool Kit (free download)
- "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" PowerPoint (download)

## WOMEN IN HISTORY: FEBRUARY

### Betty Soskin

National Park Service Ranger  
Sept. 22, 1921 – Dec. 21, 2025



**Betty Soskin's** life and work were chronicled in her memoir, **Sign My Name to Freedom**, which inspired both a stage play and a documentary. **Betty's** life story is a testament to the resilience and strength of those who face systemic challenges yet refuse to be defined by them. Soskin devoted her life to telling stories that might otherwise have gone untold, highlighting the contributions of marginalized communities and ensuring that forgotten voices were brought to the forefront of American history.

### Claudette Colvin

Civil Rights Activist  
Sept. 5, 1939 – Jan. 13, 2026



**Claudette Colvin** was born, to parents that knew they could not financially care for her. She was given in adoption to the Great Aunt and Uncle of her biological mother. Claudette was raised in a very poor black community in Montgomery, Alabama. Yet, eight months before Rosa Park refused to give up her seat to a white woman, 15-year old **Claudette Colvin** also refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. She was sitting in the Black section and she had paid for her ticket and so she refused to move.

**Soskin's** advocacy took on new dimensions later in life when she became a prominent voice at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA. Over the next 15 years, she shared her personal experiences and those of African-American workers during the war, shedding light on the racial segregation and racist challenges of the era. Her storytelling drew large audiences, captivated by her firsthand accounts and her insistence on an inclusive historical narrative.

After her arrest she was asked how, underprivileged and only 15 years old, she could be that bold. Claudette replied, "*I learned during Black History Month about the courage of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. It felt like Sojourner Truth was on one side pushing me down, and Harriet Tubman was on the other side of me pushing me down. I couldn't get up.*"

**Colvin's bravery was crucial for the successful *Browder v. Gayle* Supreme Court case that ended bus segregation.**

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### Gladys Brown West

Mathematician

Oct. 27, 1930 – Jan. 17, 2026

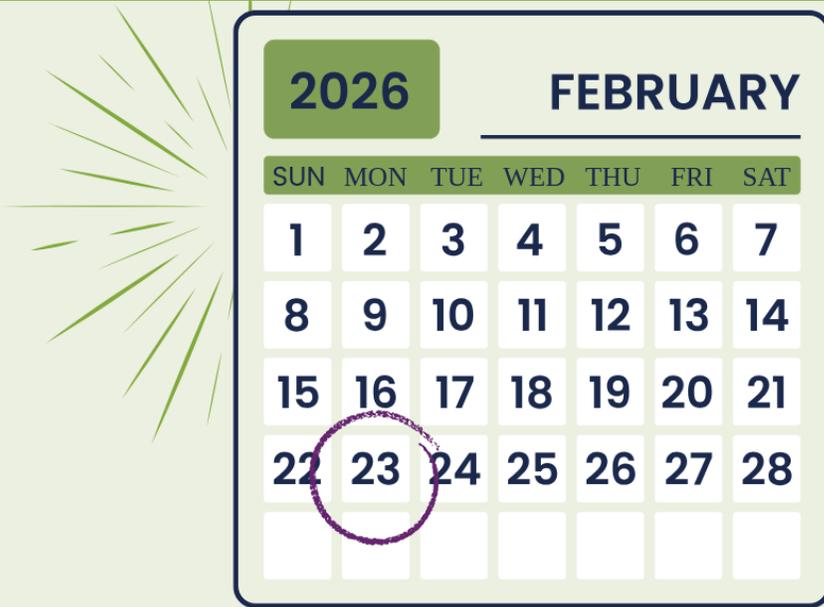


**Gladys Brown West** was born to Black farmers in rural Virginia, in 1930. **Dr. West** lived through remarkable societal and technological transformations — from segregation to the civil rights movement, from calculators to supercomputers, and from paper maps to Google Maps. **Dr. Gladys West's** pioneering career contributed key elements to what has become the **GPS satellite system**.

She navigated segregation to become an esteemed mathematician — and today, her work helps billions of people navigate the world. For decades, she worked in near obscurity, acknowledged now as a "hidden figure" of GPS. She was almost 90 before she received any recognition for her work.

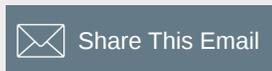
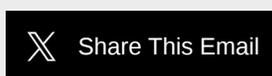
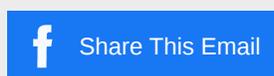
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# SAVE THE DATE



## CELEBRATING BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WEBINAR

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON. LOOK FOR OUR EMAIL.



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](http://www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org)



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