Welcome to the Social Justice Community Space

For information about the Diversity Caucus or use of the Social Justice Community Space, please contact the President’s Office at x4203 or Brenda Safford at bsafford@qcc.mass.edu
Upcoming Diversity Caucus Meetings for 2021-2022

4th Tuesday of each month on Zoom
2:00 to 3:00pm
ALL ARE WELCOME

Contact Brenda Safford directly at bsafford@qcc.mass.edu for the Zoom meeting link.

March 22, 2022
April 26, 2022
VISIT QCC’S VIRTUAL MULTICULTURAL CENTER

www.qcc.edu/diversity
Celebrating Women

Women’s History Month 2022

http://clipart-library.com/clipart/8iEb4dpyT.htm
Tarana Burke

Tarana Burke is an American civil rights activist. She is known for being the first to use the phrase "Me Too", in 2006, to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual abuse and assault in society. The phrase has since developed into a broader movement. Time named Burke, among a group of other prominent female activists dubbed "the silence breakers", as the Time Person of the Year for 2017. She is currently Senior Director at Girls for Gender Equity.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarana_Burke
Renee Richards

The LGBT community has revered her as a pioneer since she underwent gender reassignment surgery, in 1975, but the 80-year-old told the magazine she wears the label with reluctance.

Richards, who was born male, changed her name from Richard Raskind after her transformation and defiantly went on to take the court as a woman in the US Open. To do so, she had to win a legal battle against the United States Tennis Association, which sought to deny her the right to play under her chosen gender.

Speculation over Richards’ newfound identity triggered a heated public debate during the battle over whether she would compete as a woman.

Richards never intended her transition to go public -- and went to great lengths to keep it private -- but in 1976, when news of the operation leaked, she stood firm and said “anatomically, functionally, socially, emotionally and legally, I am female.”

www.nydailynews.com/.../national/tennis-star-renee-richards-reflects-trans-life-article-
“My ambition is to have this wonderful gift produce practical results for the future of commercial flying and for the women who may want to fly tomorrow’s planes.”

~Amelia Earhart
American tennis great Billie Jean King broke down barriers by pushing for equal prize money for women and becoming one of the first well-known openly gay athletes.

Born on November 22, 1943, in Long Beach, California, Billie Jean King became the top-ranked women's tennis player by 1967. In 1973, she formed the Women's Tennis Association and famously defeated Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes." The first prominent female athlete to admit her homosexuality, King continued her work as an influential social activist after retiring from tennis.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billie_Jean_King

https://www.biography.com/people/billie-jean-king-9364876
Helen Gurley Brown served as Cosmopolitan's editor-in-chief for more than 30 years.

American writer Helen Gurley Brown was born on February 18, 1922 in Arkansas. She came on as editor-in-chief at Hearst Corporation's Cosmopolitan magazine in the mid-1960s, a position that she held for more than 30 years. Among creating new features, Brown spurred the magazine's now-famous reputation for producing sexually overt content. Throughout her career, Brown authored several books, including 1962's Sex and the Single Girl, 1965's Sex and the Office, 1982's Having It All and her most recent work, 2000's I'm Wild Again: Snippets From My Life and a Few Brazen Thoughts. Brown died on August 13, 2012, at the age of 90, in New York City.
Isabel Allende is a Chilean journalist and author born on August 2, 1942, in Lima, Peru. Her best-known works include the novels *The House of the Spirits* and *City of the Beasts*. She has written over 20 books that have been translated into more than 35 languages and sold more than 67 million copies.

In her own words:

It is very strange to write one’s biography because it is just a list of dates, events, and achievements. In reality, the most important things about my life happened in the secret chambers of my heart and have no place in a biography. My most significant achievements are not my books, but the love I share with a few people—especially my family—and the ways in which I have tried to help others.

When I was young, I often felt desperate: so much pain in the world and so little I could do to alleviate it! But now I look back at my life and feel satisfied because few days went by without me at least trying to make a difference.

Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón (July 6, 1907 – July 13, 1954)

A Mexican artist who painted many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by the nature and artifacts of Mexico. Inspired by the country's popular culture, she employed a naïve folk art style to explore questions of identity, postcolonialism, gender, class, and race in Mexican society. Her paintings often had strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy. In addition to belonging to the post-revolutionary Mexicayotl movement, which sought to define a Mexican identity, Kahlo has been described as a surrealist or magical realist.

Kahlo's work has been celebrated internationally as emblematic of Mexican national and indigenous traditions, and by feminists for what is seen as its uncompromising depiction of the female experience and form.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frida_Kahlo

Frida Kahlo around 1950. The Mexican artist, who died in 1954, is the subject of renewed interest in books and exhibitions. Credit Hulton Archive/Getty Images
I want to state upfront, unequivocally and without doubt: I do not believe that any racial, ethnic or gender group has an advantage in sound judging. I do believe that every person has an equal opportunity to be a good and wise judge, regardless of their background or life experiences.

~ Sonia Sotomayor

Nominated by President Barack Obama on May 26, 2009, Sonia Sotomayor became the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U.S. history.

Sonia Sotomayor was born on June 25, 1954, in the Bronx borough of New York City. Her desire to be a judge was first inspired by the TV show Perry Mason. She graduated from Yale Law School and passed the bar in 1980. She became a U.S. District Court Judge in 1992 and was elevated to the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998. In 2009, she became the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U.S. history.
Rosie the Riveter was the star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers for defense industries during World War II, and she became perhaps the most iconic image of working women. American women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers during the war, as widespread male enlistment left gaping holes in the industrial labor force. Between 1940 and 1945, the female percentage of the U.S. workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.

http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/rosie-the-riveter
Annette Rafferty

Annette Rafferty, born in 1930, began her work with Abby's House in 1973, before it even existed. After teaching for 21 years at various Catholic schools, she was asked by the Worcester Urban Ministry Commission to serve on a committee assessing whether there was need for a new homeless shelter in Worcester. Heading the task force, Rafferty took to the streets.

https://www.communityadvocate.com

http://westboroughtv.org/abbys-house-capital-campaign-kickoff/
Josephine Baker was a dancer and singer who became wildly popular in France during the 1920s. She also devoted much of her life to fighting racism.

Born Freda Josephine McDonald on June 3, 1906, in St. Louis, Missouri, Josephine Baker spent her youth in poverty before learning to dance and finding success on Broadway. In the 1920s she moved to France and soon became one of Europe’s most popular and highest-paid performers. She worked for the French Resistance during World War II, and during the 1950s and ’60s devoted herself to fighting segregation and racism in the United States. After beginning her comeback to the stage in 1973, Josephine Baker died of a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, 1975, and was buried with military honors.

https://www.biography.com/people/josephine-baker-9195959

https://www.cmgww.com/stars/baker/
Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an early leader of the woman's rights movement, writing the Declaration of Sentiments as a call to arms for female equality.

Born on November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, New York, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an abolitionist and leading figure of the early woman's movement. An eloquent writer, her Declaration of Sentiments was a revolutionary call for women's rights across a variety of spectrums. Stanton was the president of the National Woman Suffrage Association for 20 years and worked closely with Susan B. Anthony.
Lucy Stone

A pioneer in the movement for women's rights, she lectured against slavery and advocated equality for women. Famous for becoming the first woman in Massachusetts to earn a college degree.

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lucy-Stone

http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1551.html
Early On May 30, 1973, the J.P. Stevens textile mill in Roanoke Rapids, NC, fired 32-year-old Crystal Lee Sutton. Before Sutton left the plant, she climbed atop a table on the shop floor and raised above her head a piece of cardboard with the word “UNION” scrawled on it, turning slowly in a circle so that all of her co-workers could read the sign.

If this story sounds familiar, that’s because it was the basis for the most memorable moment of the Academy Award winning 1979 movie, Norma Rae. Based loosely on Henry Leifermann’s 1975 biography of Sutton, Crystal Lee, A Woman of Inheritance, the movie was a fictionalized account of the textile workers union’s campaign to unionize the J.P. Stevens textile mills.

http://www.apwu.org/labor-history-articles/real-norma-rae
Norma McCorvey also known as Jane Roe, (born September 22, 1947, Simmesport, Louisiana, U.S.—died February 18, 2017, Katy, Texas), American activist who was the original plaintiff (anonymized as Jane Roe) in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling Roe v. Wade (1973), which made abortion legal throughout the United States.

Mary Jackson began her engineering career in an era in which female engineers of any background were a rarity; in the 1950s, she very well may have been the only black female aeronautical engineer in the field. For nearly two decades she enjoyed a productive engineering career, authoring or co-authoring a dozen or so research reports, most focused on the behavior of the boundary layer of air around airplanes. As the years progressed, the promotions slowed, and she became frustrated at her inability to break into management-level grades. In 1979, seeing that the glass ceiling was the rule rather than the exception for the center’s female professionals, she made a final, dramatic career change, leaving engineering and taking a demotion to fill the open position of Langley’s Federal Women’s Program Manager. There, she worked hard to impact the hiring and promotion of the next generation of all of NASA’s female mathematicians, engineers and scientists.

https://www.nasa.gov/content/mary-jackson-biography

Mary Jackson earned her Bachelor of Science Degrees in Mathematics and Physical Science. Following graduation, Mary taught in Maryland prior to joining NASA. Mary retired from the NASA Langley Research Center in 1985 as an Aeronautical Engineer after 34 years.

Credits: NASA
Janet Reno was born in Miami, Florida in 1938. After attending Cornell University for her undergraduate degree and Harvard Law School in 1960, she worked as an attorney in Florida for several years. Her work in Florida as an attorney and as county prosecutor from 1978 to 1993 established Reno's stern and liberal reputation. In 1993, she was appointed U.S. Attorney General by President Bill Clinton, becoming the first woman to serve as U.S. Attorney General. She soon became one of the most respected members of the Clinton administration, serving until 2001. Reno died in 2016 at the age of 78.

https://www.biography.com/people/janet-reno-9455589
The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says, "It's a girl."

~Shirley Chisholm

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1924, Shirley Chisholm is best known for becoming the first black congresswoman (1968), representing New York State in the U.S. House of Representatives for seven terms. She went on to run for the 1972 Democratic nomination for the presidency—becoming the first major-party African-American candidate to do so. Throughout her political career, Chisholm fought for education opportunities and social justice. Chisholm left Congress in 1983 to teach. She died in Florida in 2005.

https://www.biography.com/people/shirley-chisholm-9247015

Photo by Fred De Van/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images
By choosing a woman to run for your nation's second highest office, you send a powerful signal to all Americans. There are no doors we cannot unlock. We will place no limits on achievement.

~Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine A. Ferraro was a member of Congress and the first woman to run for the U.S. vice presidency on a major party platform.

Born on August 26, 1935, in Newburgh, New York, Geraldine A. Ferraro worked as an assistant district attorney before being elected as a Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978. Ferraro was the first woman to chair her party's 1984 platform committee and the first female vice presidential nominee, running with Walter Mondale. She later worked for the U.N. and with Hillary Clinton. She died on March 26, 2011, in Boston, Massachusetts.
Bella Abzug, feminist and civil rights advocate, embodied many Americans’ discontent with the political establishment in the tumultuous Vietnam War era. She gained notoriety as one of the most colorful and controversial House Members during the 1970s. Once quoted as saying “women have been trained to talk softly and carry a lipstick,” the feisty New York Congresswoman spent much of her life refuting the notion that women should remain on the political sidelines.

Despite only serving in Congress for three terms, Abzug’s political flair and unwavering determination helped inspire an entire generation of women and created a new model for future Congresswomen. “She was such a trailblazer,” a former aide noted after Abzug’s death in 1998, “It wasn’t that she was the first woman in Congress. It was that she was the first woman to get in Congress and lead the way toward creating a feminist presence.

http://history.house.gov/People/Detail/8276

I prefer the word 'homemaker' because 'housewife' always implies that there may be a wife someplace else.

~Bella Abzug
Barbara Jordan emerged as an eloquent and powerful interpreter of the Watergate impeachment investigation at a time when many Americans despaired about the Constitution and the country. As one of the first African Americans elected from the Deep South since 1898 and the first black Congresswoman ever from that region, Jordan lent added weight to her message by her very presence on the House Judiciary Committee.

“We only want, we only ask, that when we stand up and talk about one nation under God, liberty, justice for everybody, we only want to be able to look at the flag, put our right hand over our hearts, repeat those words, and know that they are true.”

~Barbara Jordan

http://history.house.gov/People/Detail/16031

https://www.biography.com/people/barbara-jordan-9357991
Ada Lovelace

A gifted mathematician, Ada Lovelace is considered to have written instructions for the first computer program in the mid-1800s.

The daughter of famed poet Lord Byron, Augusta Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace—better known as "Ada Lovelace"—was born in London on December 10, 1815. Ada showed her gift for mathematics at an early age. She translated an article on an invention by Charles Babbage, and added her own comments. Because she introduced many computer concepts, Ada is considered the first computer programmer. Ada died on November 27, 1852.

https://www.biography.com/people/ada-lovelace-20825323
Clara Barton was born on December 25, 1821, in Oxford, Massachusetts. She became a teacher, worked in the U.S. Patent Office and was an independent nurse during the Civil War. While visiting Europe, she worked with a relief organization known as the International Red Cross, and lobbied for an American branch when she returned home. The American Red Cross was founded in 1881, and Barton served as its first president.
A woman is handicapped by her sex, and handicaps society, either by slavishly copying the pattern of man's advance in the professions, or by refusing to compete with man at all.”

~Betty Friedan

Betty Friedan was born on February 4, 1921, in Peoria, Illinois. In 1963, she published The Feminine Mystique, which explores the idea of women finding fulfillment beyond traditional roles. Friedan co-founded the National Organization for Women in 1966, and served as its first president. She published The Second Stage in 1982 and The Fountain of Age in 1993. She died on February 4, 2006, in Washington, D.C.

https://www.biography.com/people/betty-friedan-9302633
Computer programmer Grace Hopper helped develop a compiler that was a precursor to the widely used COBOL language and became a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Born in New York City in 1906, Grace Hopper joined the U.S. Navy during World War II and was assigned to program the Mark I computer. She continued to work in computing after the war, leading the team that created the first computer language compiler, which led to the popular COBOL language. She resumed active naval service at the age of 60, becoming a rear admiral before retiring in 1986. Hopper died in Virginia in 1992.
Louise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich is the author of fifteen novels as well as volumes of poetry, children’s books, short stories, and a memoir of early motherhood. Her novel The Round House won the National Book Award for Fiction. The Plague of Doves won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and her debut novel, Love Medicine, was the winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Erdrich has received the Library of Congress Prize in American Fiction, the prestigious PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. She lives in Minnesota with her daughters and is the owner of Birchbark Books, a small independent bookstore.
Malala Yousafzai

As a young girl, Malala Yousafzai defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012, but survived and went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani education advocate who, at the age of 17, became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize after surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban. Born on July 12, 1997, Yousafzai became an advocate for girls' education when she herself was still a child, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. In 2013, she gave a speech to the United Nations and published her first book, I Am Malala. In 2014, she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

http://www.rejectedprincesses.com

https://www.biography.com/people/malala-yousafzai-21362253
Dorothy Height was a civil rights and women's rights activist focused primarily on improving the circumstances of and opportunities for African-American women.

Born in Virginia in 1912, Dorothy Height was a leader in addressing the rights of both women and African Americans as the president of the National Council of Negro Women. In the 1990s, she drew young people into her cause in the war against drugs, illiteracy and unemployment. The numerous honors bestowed upon her include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1994) and the Congressional Gold Medal (2004). She died on April 20, 2010, in Washington, D.C.
Adichie’s 2013 lecture *We Should All Be Feminists* discusses the damaging paradigms of femininity and masculinity.

Adichie argues that Feminism should not be an ‘elite little cult’ but a ‘party full of different feminisms.’ It feels a particularly important message to take to heart – we are imperfect, we are attempting to unlearn what we have unconsciously learned and simultaneously discovering new ways of seeing. As she notes so beautifully, ‘Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanise. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.’

~Chimanmanda Adichie

Novelist and feminist campaigner Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in 1977 to a middle-class Igbo family in Enugu, Nigeria.

Pressured by social and familial expectations, Adichie ‘did what I was supposed to do’ and began to study medicine at the University of Nigeria. After a year and a half, she decided to pursue her ambitions as a writer, dropped out of medical school and took up a communication scholarship in the US. From day one, she became alert to racial generalizations, having to address the ‘story of catastrophe’ perspective her American room-mate had of the entire African continent.

https://thenewsday.info
In 1971 Steinem joined other prominent feminists, such as Bella Abzug and Betty Friedan, in forming the National Women’s Political Caucus, which worked on behalf of women’s issues. She also took the lead in launching the pioneering, feminist Ms magazine. It began as an insert in New York magazine in December 1971; its first independent issue appeared in January 1972. Under her direction, the magazine tackled important topics, including domestic violence. Ms. became the first national publication to feature the subject on its cover in 1976.

https://www.biography.com/people/gloria-steinem-9493491
Award-winning writer/director/producer Shonda Rhimes created the hit TV shows 'Grey's Anatomy,' 'Private Practice, 'Scandal,' and 'How to Get Away With Murder.' She's also penned several film screenplays.

Shonda Rhimes, born January 13, 1970, in University Park, Illinois, is the first African-American woman to create and executive produce a Top 10 network series—the medical drama Grey's Anatomy. She is also the creator of its spin-off, Private Practice, the political thriller Scandal and the legal whodunit How to Get Away With Murder. Before these series, Rhimes penned such film screenplays as Crossroads and HBO's Introducing Dorothy Dandridge.

https://www.biography.com/people/shonda-rhimes-21292767
Yuri Kochiyama

Immortalized in a 1965 photo as the woman supporting Malcolm X's head as he lay dying after being shot at a Harlem ballroom, Yuri Kochiyama was an ally and leader in her own right. The Japanese activist met X in 1963 after getting involved in the civil rights movement in Harlem, using her home as a hub for activists. "Our house felt like it was the movement 24/7," her eldest daughter, Audee Kochiyama-Holman, told NPR.

https://mashable.com/2015/02/05/civil-rights-women/#g3NYk5BWtPq6
Lori Piestewa

A member of the Hopi tribe, Piestewa was the first Native American woman in history to die in combat while serving with the U.S. military and the first woman in the U.S. armed forces killed in the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Arizona's Piestewa Peak is named in her honor.

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/114419646759453494/
Sheryl Kara Sandberg born August 28, 1969 is an American technology executive, activist, and author. She is the chief operating officer (COO) of Facebook and founder of Leanin.org (also known as the Lean In Foundation). In June 2012, she was elected to the board of directors by the existing board members, becoming the first woman to serve on Facebook's board. Before she joined Facebook as its COO, Sandberg was vice president of global online sales and operations at Google, and was involved in launching Google's philanthropic arm Google.org. Before Google, Sandberg served as chief of staff for United States Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers.

In 2012, she was named in the Time 100, an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world according to Time magazine. As of June 2015, Sandberg is reported to be worth over US $1 billion, due to her stock holdings in Facebook and other companies.

https://www.biography.com/people/sheryl-sandberg
Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi (born 28 October 1955) is an Indian American business executive and the current Chairwoman and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo, the second largest food and beverage business in the world by net revenue.

She has consistently ranked among the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. In 2014, she was ranked at #13 on the list of Forbes World's 100 most powerful women, and was ranked the 2nd most powerful woman on the Fortune list in 2015.

In February 2018, the International Cricket Council announced that Nooyi would join the ICC Board as its first independent female director in June.

http://www.new-corner.com/the-pepsi-challenge-indra-nooyi-ceo-pepsico/
If the future is paperless, don't tell Ursula Burns. Since 2010 she has served as Xerox CEO, managing to return a company once only known for paper copies to a viable and profitable business.

Burns is the first African-American woman to lead an S&P 500 company. In 2015 she helped generate $18 billion in revenue, with adjusted earnings per share of 98 cents, all down slightly from a year earlier. After six years as Xerox CEO, she will be stepping down after the company splits into two public companies: a $7 billion business process outsourcing company in a tax-free structure, and an $11 billion document technology company for which Burns was named CEO.
Hilary Clinton

When Hillary Clinton was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2001, she became the first American first lady to ever win a public office seat. She later became the 67th U.S. secretary of state in 2009, serving until 2013. In 2016, she became the first woman in U.S. history to become the presidential nominee of a major political party.

https://www.biography.com/people/hillary-clinton-9251306
Victoria Woodhull was a spiritualist, activist, politician and author who was the first woman to run for the presidency of the United States.

Victoria Woodhull was born on September 23, 1838, in Homer, Ohio. In 1870, Woodhull created Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly, a radical publication, in which she expressed her ideas on a variety of activist topics. The journal also published the first English translation of Karl Marx's The Communist Manifesto. She ran for the U.S. presidency on the Equal Rights Party ticket in 1872. Woodhull later moved to England and wrote more activist works. She died in England in 1927.
Eleanor Roosevelt

The wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt changed the role of the first lady through her active participation in American politics.

Born in New York City on October 11, 1884, Eleanor Roosevelt—the niece of Theodore Roosevelt—was one of the most outspoken women in the White House. She married Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1905. During her husband's presidency, Eleanor gave press conferences and wrote a newspaper column. After his death, she served at the United Nations, focusing on human rights and women's issues.

https://www.biography.com/people/eleanor-roosevelt-9463366
Sally Ride

It was the Cold War. NASA wouldn't accept women applicants to the astronaut corps until 1978. The first American woman to fly into space aboard the space shuttle was Sally Ride in 1983, and the glass stratosphere was finally shattered.

www.thespacereview.com/article/415/1
Anna Mae Hays, a legendary Army nurse and the first woman in the U.S. armed forces to wear the insignia of a brigadier general, has died at the age of 97, the Allentown Morning Call reported on Jan. 7.

Hays made history when, then a colonel in charge of the Army Nurse Corps, she was promoted to one-star rank by Army Chief of Staff Gen. William Westmoreland on June 11, 1970. She used her role to advocate for women in the military, establishing herself as one of the major civil rights heroes of modern U.S. military history.

https://taskandpurpose.com/anna-mae-hays-female-general/
The eldest of thirteen children, poet Julia Constanza Burgos Garcia was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, and grew up in the barrio of Santa Cruz. She earned a teaching certificate at the University of Puerto Rico, and worked as a teacher at the Barrio Cedro Arriba in Naranjito before moving to New York, where she worked as a journalist, and then Cuba, where she pursued further studies at the University of Havana. Returning to New York after two years in Cuba, de Burgos served as the art and culture editor for the progressive newspaper Pueblos Hispanos. Predating the Nuyorican poetry movement, de Burgos’ poems engage themes of feminism and social justice. In a 2011 profile of de Brugos for Ms. Magazine’s blog, Vanessa Perez Rosario states, “De Burgos was an ambitious and brilliant woman who worked diligently on two fronts—to establish herself as a writer of international acclaim and to eradicate injustice. Her feminist politics and her Afro-Caribbean ideas allow us to read her as a precursor to contemporary U.S. Latina/o writers.”

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/julia-de-burgos
In 1981, Rigoberta Menchú had to go into hiding in Guatemala, and then flee to Mexico. That marked the beginning of a new phase in her life: as the organizer abroad of resistance to oppression in Guatemala and the struggle for Indian peasant peoples' rights. In 1982, she took part in the founding of the joint opposition body, The United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition (RUOG). In 1983, she told her life story to Elisabeth Burgos Debray. The resulting book, called in English, I, Rigoberta Menchú, is a gripping human document which attracted considerable international attention.

In 1986, Rigoberta Menchú became a member of the National Coordinating Committee of the CUC, and the following year she performed as the narrator in a powerful film called When the Mountains Tremble, about the struggles and sufferings of the Maya people. On at least three occasions, Rigoberta Menchú has returned to Guatemala to plead the cause of the Indian peasants, but death threats have forced her to return into exile.
The late Hawaii congresswoman is perhaps best known for co-authoring the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Amendment, which requires equal financing for women’s sports and education programs that receive funds from the federal government.

In the documentary film, "Ahead of the Majority," Mink explained her commitment to equality.

“What you endure is who you are. And if you just accept and do nothing, then life goes on," said Mink. "But if you see it as a way for change, life doesn’t have to be so unfair. It can be better. Maybe not for me, I can’t change the past, but I can certainly help somebody else in the future so they don’t have to go through what I did.”

Afong Moy was just 19 when she arrived in New York City from China in 1834, and historians believe she was the first Chinese woman (and one of the first Chinese people) to immigrate to the United States, according to the National Women's History Museum.

After a financial agreement between her father and the American businessmen Nathaniel and Frederick Carne, Moy boarded the Carnes' ship and headed to New York Harbor. Less than a month after her arrival in the United States, Moy would become the center of an elaborate exhibit showcasing both her and “treasures” from China that included vases, ceramics, art, and intricately carved tables and chairs. Visitors were charged 50 cents for the privilege of watching Moy as she sat in her elegantly furnished room, where she would answer questions through an interpreter, eat her meals with chopsticks, and occasionally walk so that viewers could get a glimpse of her bound feet.

Maya Lin rose to fame in 1981. Just 21-years-old and still an architectural student at Yale University, Lin won a contest to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Her design beat out more than 1,400 entries. The Memorial's 594-foot granite wall features the names of the more than 58,000 U.S. soldiers who died during the Vietnam War. Each year, four million people visit the wall to pay their respects to these war heroes. Less than a decade later, Lin designed another famous structure—the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. The monument outlines the major events of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, Lin's designs can be found in several American cities and continue to inspire the entire nation.

Nanye-hi

Beloved Woman of the Southeastern Cherokee, Nanyehi (Nancy) Ward was a respected warrior and leader who acted as a go-between with white settlers.

Ward was born into the prestigious Wolf clan in the sacred Chota region the Cherokee Nation (the modern day Eastern Tennessee hills). Her mother was Tame Doe; her father was Fivekiller (part Delaware or Lenni Lenapé). She married and had two children, son Five Killer and daughter Catherine.

In 1755, Ward fought alongside her husband Kingfisher against land rivals the Creeks in the Battle of Taliwa. When he was killed, she rallied, leading a charge that brought victory. The Cherokee honored her by naming her Ghighbua, or "Beloved Woman." The Cherokee believed that the Great Spirit could speak through the Beloved Woman, making her opinion influential in tribal government. As Beloved Woman, Ward headed the Women’s Council, sat on the Council of Chiefs, and had power over prisoners and maintaining peace.

https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/nanyehi-nancy-ward
Maria Tallchief was considered America's first major prima ballerina and was the first person of Native American descent to hold the rank. She remained closely tied to her Osage history until her death, speaking out against stereotypes and misconceptions about Native Americans on many occasions. The Osage Nation honored her with the title "Princess Wa-Xthe-Thomba" ("Woman of Two Standards") and in 1996, she received a Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime achievements.

Photo: Dance Magazine Cover February 1954.

https://www.biography.com/people/maria-tallchief-9501522
Wilma Mankiller was the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991 from President Bill Clinton. Following her passing in 2010, President Obama stated that as the "Cherokee Nation's first female chief, [Wilma Mankiller] transformed the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, and served as an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America.

A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, she was recognized for her vision and commitment to a brighter future for all Americans.

https://www.makers.com/blog/native-american-heroines-past-and-present-photo-gallery

Photo; Wilma Mankiller in her home in Tahlequah in 1996. Kelly Kerr/Tulsa World.com
Leymah Gbowee received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her work in leading a women’s peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. Gbowee shared the prize with fellow Liberian Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Yemen-native Tawakkol Karman. Gbowee and Sirleaf became the second and third African women to win the prize, preceded by the late Wangari Maathai of Kenya.

Leymah is the founder and president of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa based in Liberia. Her foundation provides educational and leadership opportunities to girls, women and youth in West Africa.

https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/laureate/leymah-gbowee/
Dolores Huerta

Dolores found her calling as an organizer while serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO). During this time she founded the Agricultural Workers Association, set up voter registration drives and pressed local governments for barrio improvements. It was in 1955 through CSO founder Fred Ross, Sr. that she would meet a likeminded colleague, CSO Executive Director César E. Chávez. The two soon discovered that they shared a common vision of organizing farm workers, an idea that was not in line with the CSO’s mission.

As a result, in the spring of 1962 César and Dolores resigned from the CSO, and launched the National Farm Workers Association. Dolores’ organizing skills were essential to the growth of this budding organization. The challenges she faced as a woman did not go unnoted and in one of her letters to Cesar she joked... “Being a now (ahem) experienced lobbyist, I am able to speak on a man-to-man basis with other lobbyists.”

http://doloreshuerta.org/dolores-huerta/