March is Women's History Month

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"We do not have to become heroes overnight.

Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it is not as dreadful as it appeared, discovering we have the strength to stare it down."

- Eleanor Roosevelt









Courtesy of Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon

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Not all superheroes wear capes!

It's important to study women's history because of their contributions to every field, including medicine, law and government. But it's also important to know it took a long time and a lot of hard work for women to enact change and progress. Women had to fight just to own property, earn (and keep) their wages, vote and even go to school.



Helen Elizabeth Munson Williams

Helen was a Utica, NY native who was well regarded for her philanthropic efforts in the Central New York region, as well as for her abundant 19th century fine art collections. As a savvy inventor, she was responsible for increasing her inheritance ten-fold. Using her acquired money, she purchased pieces of fine art and decorations, which would become the center of the family's art compilation. Helen was civic-minded and provided money to help fund projects, like the renovation of the Grace Episcopal Church.



Welthy Honsinger Fisher

Welthy Blakesley Honsinger was born in Rome, New York, and graduated from Syracuse University. As an intellectual, activist and feminist, Welthy became the American founder of World Education and World Literacy Canada. She studied the educational systems of Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, India and the Middle East, and lectured throughout the U.S. on women of the world and Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. She won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding, became the first recipient of the Nehru Literacy Award and became the only American to receive a commemorative postage stamp on behalf of the government of India.



Harriet Tubman (c.1820–1913)

Tubman escaped slavery in 1849 and became a conductor of the Underground Railroad. She risked her life to rescue slaves to freedom. She purchased land in Auburn in 1859 where she lived the rest of her life.



Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962)

A lifelong New Yorker and first lady of the U.S. from 1933 to 1945, Roosevelt was a speaker and human rights advocate. She fought for disadvantaged Americans and drafted the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Gertrude B. Elion (1918–1999)

Elion, of Manhattan, developed treatments for malaria, meningitis and leukemia. She earned a Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1988, one of only 10 women at the time who had earned a Nobel Prize in the sciences.



Shirley Chisholm (1924–2005)

Born in Brooklyn to immigrant parents, Chisholm was a member of the state Assembly and became the first African-American woman elected to Congress. In 1972, she was the first African-American and first female major-party candidate for the presidency.



Judith Heumann (1947–)

Heumann is a renowned disability rights advocate. She was confined to a wheelchair after suffering from polio as a child. She fought back against discrimination, becoming the first person in a wheelchair to teach in a New York City public school and helped develop the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so that all kids with disabilities get the education they deserve.



Sonia Sotomayor (1954–)

A Bronx native, Sotomayor graduated from Princeton University and Yale Law School before working as a lawyer and judge in New York City. In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Sotomayor for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. She is the court's first Hispanic and third female justice.

Jumble!

The words below are all scrambled up. After reading about women in New York, can you figure them out? (Answers on back page)

1. FRASFUGE

ANSECE LASFL

3. TICENDAOU

4 AFRITY

5. SMABSYEL

6. LAUETQIY

7. TVCAITSI

MUSEPED DILICO

Word Search

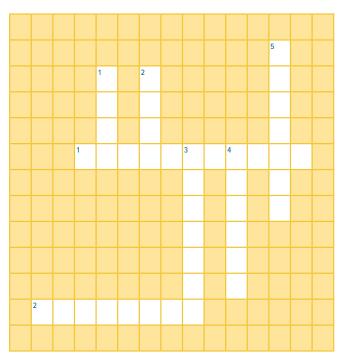
Find the following words hidden in the puzzle below:

Anthony • Chisholm • Stanton • Roosevelt Tubman • Vote • Advocate • Judge • Women

G Ε J L Ρ 0 S В Υ С S F Z Q U S L

Crossword

(Answers on back page)



Across

- 1 Site of the first women's rights convention
- Word that means the quality or state of being the same in value

Down

- 1 Right secured for women by the 19th Amendment
- 2 Where Sonia Sotomayor attended law school
- 3 Last name of one of the most prominent women's rights activists in U.S. history
- 4 Where Harriet Tubman lived
- 5 First name of the first African-American woman elected to Congress

Create a drawing or in a few sentences define a woman who inspires you! This can be someone in your life right now, a storybook character, or a woman in history. Feel free to get creative! Who did you draw? Why is she great? Crossword answers ACROSS: 1. Seneca Falls 2. Equality Crossword answers DOWN: 1. Vote 2. Yale 3. Anthony 4. Auburn 5. Shirley Jumble solutions: 1. Suffrage 2. Seneca Falls 3. Education 4. Ratify 5. Assembly 6. Equality 7. Activist 8. Supreme Court

Please send completed work to my office by Monday, March 29.