

USANEWS IN BRIEF



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ISSUE 4



Women's History Month Honors Environmentalists



The theme of National Women's History Month, "Women Taking the Lead to Save the Planet", recognizes the role of women in the "green" movement. Chef Alice Waters (above) is honored for highlighting the connection between food and the environment.

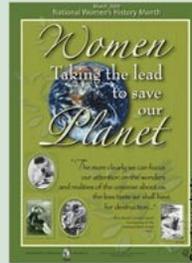
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, females account for 50.7 percent of the U.S. population (there are 154.7 million females

and 150.6 million males). Women own 28 percent of all nonfarm businesses in the United States. For every dollar earned by men, women earn only 77.5 cents. (See the bureau's annual [fact sheet on Women's History Month](#) on the Census Bureau Web site.)

For more information, see the [National Women's History Project](#) Web site. Also see the United Nations Web site for information on [International Women's Day](#) and [The](#)

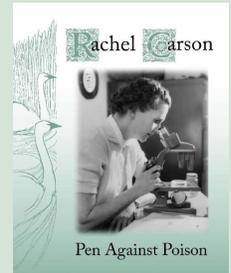
[United Nations and the Status of Women.](#)

[Read more...](#)



Logo for the Women's History Month 2009 theme, *Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet*

RACHEL CARSON WAS A QUIET WOMAN WHO STIRRED EXTRAORDINARY CONTROVERSY THAT PERSISTS DECADES AFTER HER DEATH. HER 1962 BOOK *SILENT SPRING* BROUGHT WORLDWIDE ATTENTION TO THE HARM TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT WROUGHT BY MISHANDLING OF A POWERFUL PESTICIDE, FOMENTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT. IN THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF CARSON'S BIRTH, THIS PUBLICATION EXAMINES HOW OCCASIONALLY IN HISTORY A BOOK WITH A POWERFUL IDEA CAN BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL BUT DRAMATIC CHANGE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.



March 8, 2009 — Women International Day

[United States Recognizes Women of Courage](#)

Eight exceptional women from around the world honored by State Department



First lady Hillary Clinton addresses the 1995 U.N. Women's Conference

in Beijing. In 2009, Secretary Clinton honors "Women of Courage."

[The Secretary of State's 2009 International Women of Courage Awards](#)

[Photo Gallery: U.S. Women Political Pioneers](#)

The 2008 presidential election was the first time Americans saw a woman, Hillary Clinton, as a viable presidential candidate. The efforts of many women to fight for equal rights paved the way for Clinton and other women in U.S. politics.

Learn More:

[Seneca Falls Convention Began Women's Rights Movement](#)

[Women's Rights in the United States](#)

[Women Chosen for Several Top Administration Posts](#)

Women hold several top posts in the Obama administration. The nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services is a woman (Kathleen Sebelius, shown here), as well as the current secretaries of state, labor and homeland security, and the Ambassador to the United Nations.

Learn More:

[Secretary-designate of Health and Human Services](#)

[Secretary of Labor](#)

[Secretary of Homeland Security](#)

[U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations](#)



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Statement by the President on International Women's Day



**WOMEN
IN GOVERNMENT**

WOMEN TODAY ARE LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 8, 2009

**STATEMENT BY THE
PRESIDENT ON INTER-
NATIONAL WOMEN'S
DAY**

In observance of International Women's Day, and during Women's History Month in the United States, the United States stands with people around the globe to reaffirm our commitment to the equality, freedom, achievements, and advancement of women.

From the global challenge of

climate change, to a world that is not yet free from poverty and conflict, our challenges are many.

Women are vital to the solutions to these problems, and we will not sow the seeds for a brighter future or reap the benefits of the change we need without the full and active participation of women around the world.

The United States is filled with great hope that our daughters, and the daughters of all nations,

will continue to serve as leaders in the pursuit of our collective well-being and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Today, Michelle and I remember, celebrate, and honor the sacrifices, talents and leadership of women around the world.

"From the first moment a woman dared to speak that hope -- dared to believe that the American Dream was meant for her too -- ordinary women have taken on extraordinary odds to give their daughters the chance for something else; for a life more equal, more free, and filled with more opportunity than they ever had. In so many ways we have succeeded, but in so many areas we have much work left to do."

-- Barack Obama, *Speech in Washington, DC*
November 10, 2005

The Agenda — Women

President Obama has a long record of standing up for women. In Illinois, he passed the Equal Pay Act to give 330,000 more women protection from pay discrimination and passed another law that ensured victims of domestic violence could seek treatment without losing their jobs. In the U.S. Senate, he introduced and sponsored legislation to reduce unintended teen pregnancy, strengthen families by supporting fathers who are doing the right thing and cracking down on those who are not, guarantee workers paid sick leave, and ensure that women are not receiving less pay than men for comparable work. And throughout his career, in the Illinois Senate, the U.S. Senate, and the White House, Obama has stood up for a woman's right to choose.

CO.NX Online Events — U.S. Department of State

March 26, 12:00 and 13:00 GMT

Open Forum and Community-Led Abandonment of FGM with Molly Melching, Executive Director and Founder of Tostan

(Text Webchat)

<http://statedept.connectsolutions.com/health>

March 27, 14:00 GMT

NATO at 60: Looking Ahead with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Marcie Ries

(Text Webchat)

<http://statedept.connectsolutions.com/multilateralism>



CO.NX Transcripts



Did you Know?



Title IX, a 1972 law banning sex discrimination in schools, led to more athletics programs for women.

[Read more...](#)

In March, America celebrates its Irish heritage. The first recorded celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the American Colonies was in Boston in 1737. Today, cities and towns across the United States hold parades on March 17.



Muslim Americans are an exceptionally diverse group. Mosques and Muslim cultural institutions exist throughout urban and rural America. America does not track population by religion, so estimates of the Muslim population vary widely from 2 million to 7 million.



U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON URGES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WORK TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, MARKING THE UNITED NATIONS' OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. ABOVE, A "STOP VIOLENCE" RALLY IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH.

eJournal USA / Other America.Gov Publications



NONVIOLENT PATHS TO SOCIAL CHANGE

The past 30 years have seen a surge of nonviolent, "people power" movements around the world advancing human rights and toppling repressive rulers.

This edition of *eJournal USA*

demonstrates that nonviolent actions can be more powerful than armed insurrections in bringing about social change. [Inside this publication](#)

MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

The United States is enriched culturally by immigrants from many nations. This edition of *eJournal USA* focuses on distinguished American writers from various ethnic backgrounds who add immeasurably to mutual understanding and appreciation through tales of their native lands and their experiences as Americans.

[Inside this publication](#)



Black Women's Army Unit Receives Overdue Honors

Black Women's Army Unit Receives Overdue Honors

In 1945, 855 black members of the Women's Army Corps were sent to Europe to sort through a huge backlog of undelivered mail destined for U.S. troops. The women received no special recognition for their work. In 2009, that recognition finally came.



First lady Michelle Obama looks at a display at the

Arlington National Cemetery's Women in Military Service for America Memorial

Mary Ragland, 81, receives a lapel pin from Colonel David Griffith, director of the U.S.



Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

This collection chronicles how 21 notable American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature, and even in war.



English Teaching Corner

Language-Immersion Program Focuses on Teaching Through Play

Parental desire to teach babies foreign languages fuels an education niche



During a shape-identification exercise, Arabic-language teacher May Aoun, at left, points out that a chart is made up of rectangles.

U.S. Students Increasingly Choosing To Learn Foreign Languages

Americans need to do more work on foreign languages, education experts agree.

They compare the United States unfavorably to China, which has a policy of teaching English to students during elementary grades, or to Australia, where one-fourth of students study an Asian language.



First-graders play a Spanish vocabulary computer

game during class in St. Petersburg, Florida. (© AP Images)



Students attend a Chinese language class.

The demand for Chinese classes is growing in the United States. (© AP Images)

The Word of the Day

ocular *-(adj.)*. Of or relating to the eye. Like the eye in form or function. Of or relating to the sense of sight.

The Quote of the Month

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."- Dorothy Parker

Education Statistics /Fast Facts

Are American students performing better in reading now than in the past?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) conducts long-term trend assessments, which provide information on changes in the basic achievement of America's youth since the early 1970s. They are administered nationally and report student performance at ages 9, 13, and 17 in reading and mathematics. Measuring trends of student achievement or change over time requires the precise

replication of past procedures. Therefore, the long-term trend instrument does not evolve based on changes in curricula or in educational practices.

[Read more...](#)

What are the literacy levels of adults, and how does the United States compare to other countries?

Adults age 16 or older were assessed in three types of literacy

(prose, document, and quantitative) in 1992 and 2003. *Literacy* is defined as "using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential." The average prose and document literacy scores of U.S. adults were not measurably different in 2003 from 1992, but the average quantitative literacy score increased 8 points between these years. [Read more...](#)

Feature Article and More Resources for Students and Teachers...

Former Exchange Students, Now Adults, Report Successes

Young professionals start businesses, aid communities, influence campaigns

Each year, some 30,000 people, many students, travel to the United States to participate in exchange programs hosted by the U.S. State Department.

On their departure, they typically report that they enjoyed learning about America, making new friends and sharing their own cultures with their hosts.

[Read more...](#)



Mari Barseghyan of Armenia talks to the

group as Elena Ivanova of Russia listens. (Kenneth White/State Dept.)

Library Corner

If you are interested in receiving full-text of the following articles, just send an email to:

reflisbon@state.gov

Futurism and Libraries

Walt Crawford. Online. Medford: Mar/Apr 2009. Vol. 33, Iss. 2; p. 58 (3 pages)

When someone talks about the future of the library or of libraries as a whole, there's reason for immediate skepticism. There's no such thing as "the library." Public libraries, academic libraries, school libraries, and special libraries have some things in common, but they differ in key respects. Public libraries aren't laggard academic libraries; they're very different institutions. Academic libraries aren't just another

public libraries. Big libraries operate differently than small libraries. Public libraries operate differently in Hawaii than in California and differently in the US than in Great Britain. Academic libraries will continue to benefit from and support cataloging and professional indexing and abstracting. Good librarians work to build desired futures that serve their communities rather than respond to projected futures.

Twitter FOR Libraries (and Librarians)

Sarah Milstein. Online. Medford: Mar/Apr 2009. Vol. 33, Iss. 2; p. 34 (2 pages)
Twitter (www.twitter.com) is a fast-growing, free messaging service for people, and it's one that libraries (and librarians) can make good use of. Twitter

lets people send and receive short messages (called Tweets) via the web or via SMS using a mobile phone. Libraries of all kinds are already using Twitter to good effect. Public libraries such as Ada Library in Boise, ID, and the Cleveland Public Library use Twitter to point out highlights on their Web sites. Twitter gives special libraries a new opportunity to share information not just with their internal clients but also with people outside the institution who are interested in their topics. Since people often look to see who a Twittering person or institution is following, libraries can add resources to the list of accounts they follow. Given the many potential uses of Twitter for libraries, it's a great medium to embrace.

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY REPORTS

"THE STATE OF FUNDING FOR LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY IN TODAY'S ECONOMY" BY LARRA CLARK AND DENISE DAVIS

"IMPLEMENTING SECOND LIFE: IDEAS, CHALLENGES, AND INNOVATIONS" BY JOE SANCHEZ, SCHOOL OF INFORMATION, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TX

American Library Association News



Hope you plan on joining us for the ALA 2009 Annual Conference!

2009 Annual Conference Preliminary Program

[Register for ALA 2009 Annual Conference](#)

.News Articles:

- [Obama's speech highlights how libraries serve everyday Americans, students](#)
- [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act may come to rescue of struggling school libraries](#)

Images of Lincoln

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Daniel Chester French's sculpture inside the Lincoln Memorial



Lincoln's likeness on Mount Rushmore



As promised, following are:

[Lincoln Quiz Answers](#)

Enjoy it!



The [Lincoln Memorial](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#)



Lincoln's portrait on the [American five dollar bill](#)

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

- from Lincoln's Cooper Institute Address, February 27, 1860.

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
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*Embassy Speakers
Program*

Traveling to the United States is the best way to get to know the country. But you can also get the flavor of America right here in Lisbon. The U.S. Embassy Speakers Program offers the opportunity to hear first-hand from American diplomats on many different topics.

We can share the U.S. perspective on a wide range of governmental, political, social and cultural issues, such as the presidential elections, education, volunteerism, history, arts & culture, philanthropy, business, economy, diversity, and affirmative action. We also can discuss the U.S. government position on foreign policy issues. These are only a few of the possibilities—please let us know what you'd like to hear about from us! Our goal is to address the topics you find interesting and important.

Most of our discussions will be conducted in English, although we also have staff who speak Portuguese.

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U.S. Embassy
Office of Public Affairs
Avenida das Forças Armadas
1649-044 LISBOA
Fax: 21-727-6791
Email: OPALisbon@state.gov

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information key!

The Resource Center is part of the Office of Public Affairs and assists the Embassy staff as well as Portuguese government institutions, the private sector, NGO's, the media, researchers, scholars, and others with a serious research interest in the United States.

Hours of Operation

- The AERC provides telephone service every day between 8:30 and 17:00 except during: Lunch Hour (12:30 - 13:30), weekends, *Portuguese/American Holidays*
- AERC also responds to queries by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.
- Access to our facility is by appointment only. Please call us in advance to schedule your visit.

Latest Reports - If you are interested in receiving full text of the following reports, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

THE SITUATION OF FEMALE MEMBERSHIP OF GOVERNMENTS BY 2009. Worldwide Guide to Women in Leadership. 2009. The report shows country by country analysis of women in political leadership roles. Worldwide:

WHO ANSWERS TO WOMEN? GENDER & ACCOUNTABILITY. Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009, United Nations. 2009.

WOMEN ARE THE EMERGING POWER OF THE 21ST CENTURY. Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. Swanee Hunt. March 9, 2009.

STRONGER WOMEN STRONGER NATIONS: 2009 AFGHANISTAN REPORT. Women for Women International. 2009.

PAKISTAN/INDIA: WOMEN BEAT UNORTHODOX PATHS TO

PEACE. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. January 2009.

MILESTONES IN U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY. International Information Program, U.S. Department of State. February 25, 2009.

PLACES WHERE WOMEN MADE HISTORY. National Park Service. 2009.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. Smithsonian Institution. March 6, 2009.

TEN PHENOMENAL WOMEN NAMED AS INDUCTEES. National Women's Hall of Fame. Christine M. Moulton. March 2, 2009.

U.S. CELEBRATES WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD EVERY MARCH. International Information Program, U.S. Department of State.

Louise Fenner. February 24, 2009.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2009. [Proclamation, President of the United States of America]. March 3, 2009.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: MARCH 2009. Facts for Features, U.S. Bureau of Census. January 2009.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: WOMEN TAKING THE LEAD TO SAVE OUR PLANET. Library of Congress. March 2009.

EMBRACING THE FUTURE: EMBEDDING DIGITAL REPOSITORIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. RAND Corporation. February 20, 2009.
