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ZOOM

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AMERICAN WOMEN

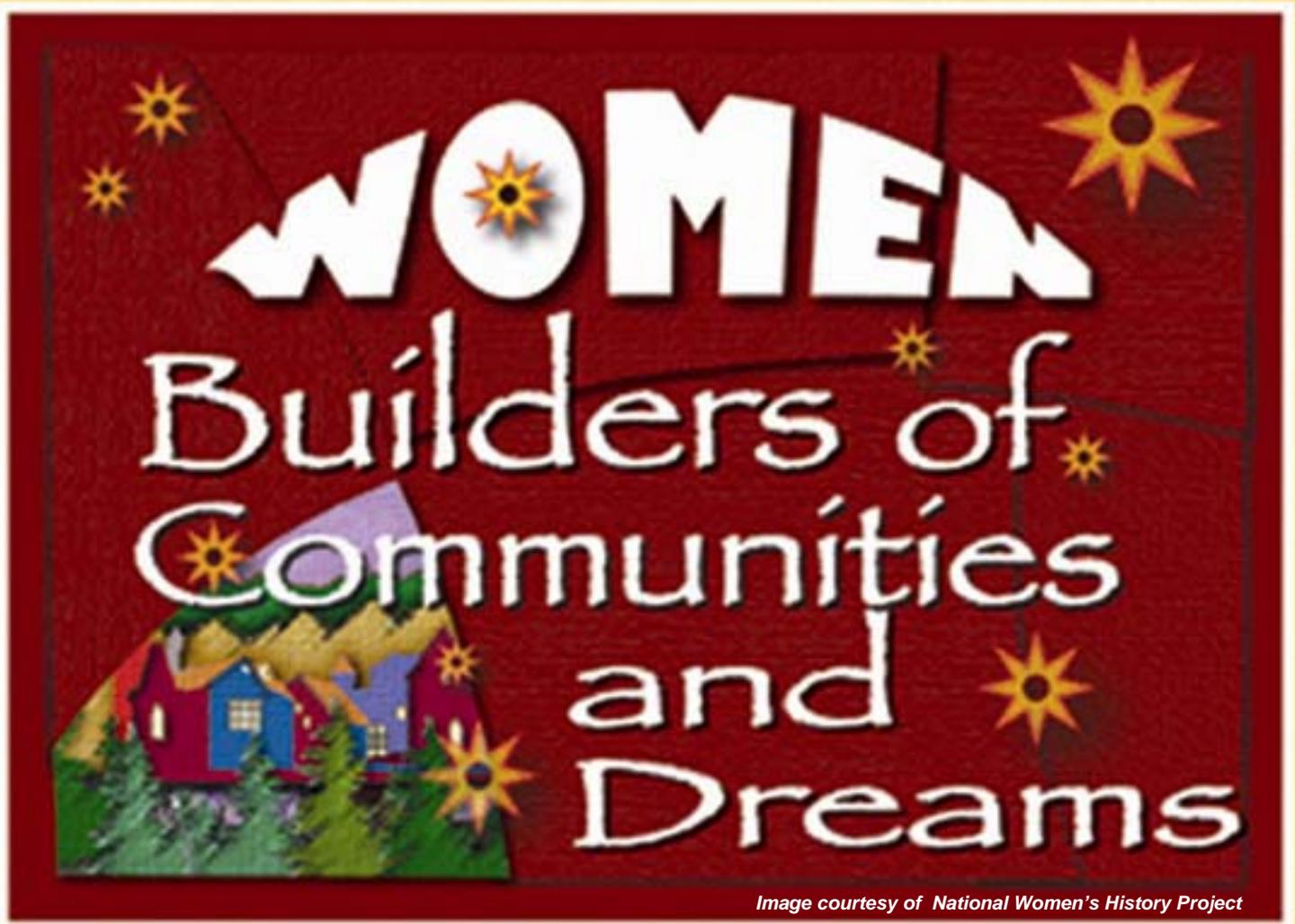


Image courtesy of National Women's History Project

March: National Women's History Month

"For generations, women across our great land have helped make our country stronger and better. They have improved our communities and played a vital role in achieving justice and equal rights for all our citizens. During Women's History Month, we celebrate the many contributions women make to our society."

from the 2006 National Women's History Month Presidential Proclamation

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Each year, celebrations and programs focus on a specific theme. The theme for 2006 is "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams."

To learn more about the National Women's History Month, please visit the following web sites:

U.S. Department of State:

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/national_womens_history_month.html

National Women's History Project: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

■ Women of Influence



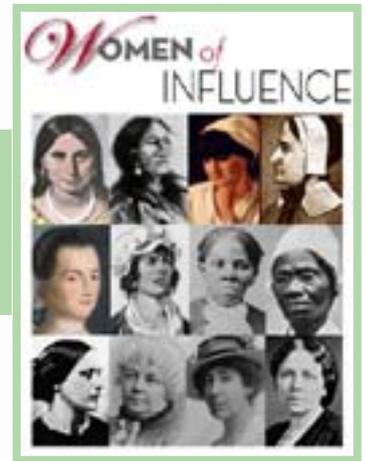
Secretary Rice jokes with a Sesame Street character after announcing a new U.S. funded "Indonesian Sesame Street" program at an Islamic school Tuesday, March 14, 2006 in Jakarta. © AP/WWP

On January 26, 2005, **Condoleezza Rice** became the 66th Secretary of State of the United States. Prior to that she had served, among other prominent positions, as the National Security Advisor for President Bush.

Secretary Rice was the first African-American to hold the position of Provost at Stanford University, the first woman to hold the position of National Security Advisor, and the first African-American woman to hold the position of Secretary State.

The first female Secretary of State was **Madeleine K. Albright** (1997-2001).

The text below is from the U.S. Department of State publication **Women of Influence**. To learn more about exceptional women, visit <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/>



The survival of the American colonies and later the newly born United States was never guaranteed — far from it. Settlers in the early 17th century — even in flourishing outposts — could count on harsh living conditions, scarcity of food, disease, and toil. The "lost colony" of Roanoke, Virginia, is ample proof of the difficulties they faced. Two centuries later, in the 1800s, Americans would trek westward across the Mississippi River from the relative comfort of established cities, seeking new territories and access to the Pacific coast. The survival of the colonies and the ability to explore western territories were critical to the establishment and growth of the United States. Two young Native-American women — Pocahontas and Sacagawea — played a vital role in these efforts.

Both women would act as beacons, literally and figuratively, to the settlers they encountered. While still a child, Pocahontas would serve as a bridge between the first European arrivals and local Indian tribes, saving the life of one explorer and acting as a go-between during times of tense relations between the two groups. Sacagawea would take part in the first U.S. expedition to map the lands west of the Mississippi. She lent her skills in tribal languages and knowledge of western territories to guide the first American explorers safely to the Pacific and back.

Read more about Pocahontas and Sacagawea at <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/guiding.htm>



Amy Mossett of New Town, N.D., a historical interpreter who portrays Sacagawea, holds a golden Sacagawea dollar coin. © AP/WWP

■ Excellence in Literature, Science and Sports

Women's sports have changed dramatically on so many levels in recent decades. To be sure, there have been bumps in the road; one was the recent demise of the professional Women's United Soccer Association, the result of low revenue and sagging ticket sales. Yet despite such setbacks, the growth of women's sports – from youth programs to secondary school and university levels and on to professional leagues and competitions – can only be described as phenomenal.

(From the article *Women in Sports* by Claire Smith in the U.S. Department of State publication *Sports in America* available on the Internet at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/1203/ijse/ijse1203.htm>)

Cat (Reddick) Whitehill first joined the Women's National Team in 2000. She scored two goals in the 2003 World Cup, helped lead the American team to gold in the 2004 Olympics, played every minute of the 2005 Algarve Cup, and is currently a member of the 2006 Women's National Team.



Cat Whitehill (number 4) of the United States during the women's soccer Algarve Cup final on March 15, 2006. © AP/WWP

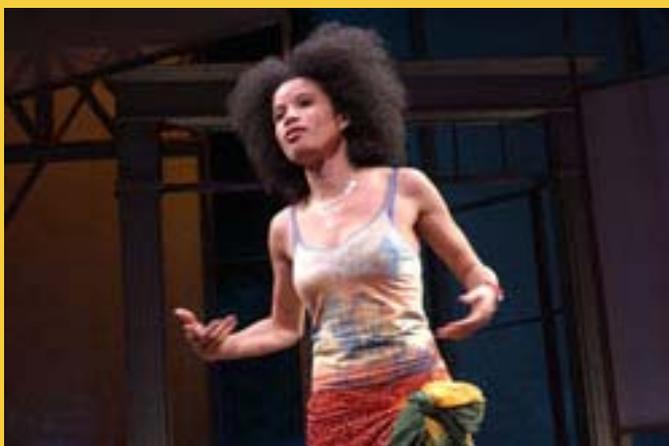


Eileen M. Collins, First Woman Shuttle Commander (1999)

At the official announcement of Commander Collins as the First Woman Space Shuttle Commander she said, "When I was a child, I dreamed about space - I admired pilots, astronauts, and I've admired explorers of all kinds. It was only a dream that I would someday be one of them. It is my hope that all children, boys and girls, will see this mission and be inspired to reach for their dreams, because dreams do come true!" More about her at <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/space/frontiers/collins.html>

The first American woman in space was Sally Ride, aboard that space shuttle Challenger in 1983. Learn more at <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/space/frontiers/ride.html>
(NASA photo)

Poetry Slams



Staceyann Chin, acclaimed slam poet and star of Broadway's Def Poetry Jam. © AP/WWP

The two words -- poetry and slam -- do not fit together easily. But Marc Kelly Smith, the founder of poetry slams, says, "It is the marriage of the art of performance with the art of poetry," with the added excitement of a competition.

Slam venues across the United States share some general characteristics: poets sign up to read their works in a local coffee shop or bar or church basement in front of rowdy audiences that have been encouraged to cheer, applaud, whistle and boo. Particularly vocal audiences have been known to jeer poets off the stage.

Backing up these spontaneous judgments is a panel of judges, who are picked at random from the audience a few minutes before a slam begins. These judges apportion points to each poet, assessing both style and substance, and, at the end of the evening, a winner is declared.

From the article *Poetry Slams Rock Literary World* by Steve Holgate, available at <http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2006/Mar/14-903695.html>.

Activity Page

Win a Prize!

To win a prize answer this question:

Who is depicted on a golden dollar coin?

Send your answer to zoom@usembassy.hu

Please give your name and address.

Deadline:
April 28, 2006

Good Luck!

■ Prepositions—Again?!?

Yes, here they come again—prepositions. Try to insert back in the text the omitted prepositions, which are given in the right column in alphabetical order. (Be careful: one preposition may fit in more than one slot!)

“I was a shy girl, quiet, never aspiring to be a writer, never thinking to assert my Native identity, an identity always clear ____ my sister and I when we were ____ Oklahoma ____ our Chickasaw grandparents. We come ____ horse and wagon grandparents, and it was not so very long ago. The smell ____ the pecan trees, the black walnut ____ flesh I can still smell. Then, in the '50s and '60s, my uncle in Denver took me ____ powwows, then held in small school gymnasiums. But ____ the most part we didn't think ____ our Indian life as something significant. History didn't interest us. We lived ____ other worlds and places. And yet, ____ me, I held traditional values. I didn't know then that I would become a traditionally-minded Native woman. I grew ____ it the way a person grows into their shape, the way a tree grows, ____ intention, without plan, into a tree.

I didn't know, either, that I would become a writer, and the fact that I come ____ another America has, from the beginning, been the root ____ my writing.”

for
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without

Excerpt from the essay *For Life's Sake* by Linda Hogan, who is a Chickasaw writer. The Chickasaw Nation now lives in Oklahoma. You can learn more about them at: <http://www.chickasaw.net/>

This essay was published in *Writers on America*, a collection of writings by 15 contemporary American writers. It is available on the web site of the U.S. Department of State. Check it out at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/writers/>

Find correct answers at: http://www.usembassy.hu/quiz_key.html

■ Glossary — With page numbers where the words appear

- to aspire** (4) - to have an ambitious plan
- to assert** (4) - to state categorically; to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true
- at random** (3) - lacking any definite plan or order or purpose; governed by or depending on chance
- beacon** (2) - a fire (usually on a hill or tower) that can be seen from a distance
- to boo** (3) - to show displeasure, as after a performance or speech
- to jeer** (3) - to laugh at with contempt and derision
- outpost** (2) - a settlement on the frontier of civilization
- to pass a resolution** (1) - to bring into effect by legislation
- powwow** (4) - a council of or with Native Americans; also: a Native American cultural gathering and dance celebration
- prominent** (2) - having a quality that thrusts itself into attention
- provost** (2) - a high-ranking university administrator
- revenue** (3) - the entire amount of income before any deductions are made
- rowdy** (3) - disturbing the public peace; loud and rough
- to seek** (2) - to try to get or reach
- slam** (3) - the mixture of performance and poetry; the noise made by the forceful impact of two objects

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