

Women in History for 2017

The women who will be offered this year in the AAUW Women's History Program in March 2017 are listed below with the suggested grades. Optional activities as well as costume suggestions are listed in the descriptions.

Except for Deborah Samson and the middle school women, the performances are usually 20 minutes with a 10 minute break. The middle school social studies women are usually scheduled for a class period. Deborah Samson should be scheduled for at least a half hour (with a 15 minute break between performances). For all women generally the group size should not exceed 2 classes, and it is preferable that grades 4 and 5 be single classes. These are intended to be interactive performances with lots of student participation. As in the past AAUW will provide scripts, background material, props, and costume suggestions. For many of the women we have costumes to lend on a first come, first serve basis. They will be shared among performers. For more information about the scripts please contact Kathy Van Slyke at 482-3744 or at [nkvenslyke@verizon.n](mailto:nkvanslyke@verizon.n)

The Arts

Artists

Annie Lee (1935-2014) (K-3) and possibly higher--school can really choose the range of grades for this one--most teacher requests were for lower grades. (K-3)



Would you like to perform a popular African American artist who paintings are about everyday life, many relating to her life experiences? You will be telling the students how you took a chance at age 40 by doing what you had always dreamed of rather than just working at an ordinary job and how successful it has been. You will be emphasizing to the students that it is important to choose something that you like for an occupation because you will be working a long time. Some of the pictures will show how different life was in the 30's and 40's than it is today. You will also be showing a picture comparing your work with Norman Rockwell.

A suitable costume for Annie Lee would be a colored free-flowing dress of some sort.

Grandma Moses (1860-1961) (K-3)



Would you like to portray a folk artist, Grandma Moses, who has painted over 1500 pictures without any formal art instruction? She began her art career in her 70's. Many of her paintings were of her memories of her childhood when life was much simpler than today. She will have a number of her paintings to show, some of them donated by the Bennington Museum, and she will discuss her painting techniques.

A suitable costume for Grandma Moses would be any type of "old lady dress"—black and navy blue being among her favorite colors. Some of the people that had the most fun with this role last time enjoyed dressing up as an old lady. (Wigs and canes do wonders) Another option is a long skirt and blouse – representing her as a younger woman.

Patricia Polacco (1944-present) (K-3) this is a pilot script and will only be done in 2 or 3 schools this year



Would you like to portray a famous author and illustrator of over 100 children's books who did not learn to read due to dyslexia until she was 14. A teacher helped her overcome the problem and she went to college and obtained several degrees. You will tell the students about some of her books, how she writes them and how she illustrates them.

Costume would be professional dress.

Photojournalist

Margaret Bourke-White ((1906-1971) (Grades 4 -8)



Would you like to portray the first successful woman photojournalist who risked her life to photograph from such dangerous places as atop skyscrapers, inside steel mills and on the front lines of World War II? Whose now iconic images include people suffering in the Dust Bowl and Ghandi at his spinning wheel? You'll tell about her persistence, bravery and artistry competing in a man's field. An optional activity will be showing her complex heavy camera equipment versus the cell phone cameras many grade school students use today.

She dressed simply--khaki shirt and trousers, or slacks, (but no denim "dungarees") and tailored shirts or turtle necks. Sensible shoes.

Social Studies

The Statue of Liberty and Immigration

Emma Lazarus (1849-18887) K- 3



Would you like to present the author of a poem that is now at the base of the Statue of Liberty? She wrote it to auction it to help pay for the base of the statue. She is also well known for the aid that she gave to the Jewish immigrants. Activities will involve the characteristics of the Statue of Liberty.

A suitable costume would be a long dark skirt and white blouse (Victorian look). AAUW will have some costumes to lend.

Supreme Court Justices

Sonia Sotomayor (1954-present) (3 or 4-8)



Would you like to portray Sonia Sotomayor the first Hispanic judge appointed to the Supreme Court? You will be telling students about her childhood in New York and her education. You will talk about some of the discrimination she encountered being a Hispanic. You will talk briefly about her career and how she rose to being selected as a Supreme Court Associate Justice. Like “Sandra Day O’Connor” you will be introducing the students to the Supreme Court and how it interprets laws as they relate to the Constitution/Bill of Rights and how it decides “Landmark Cases.” These concepts will be explained using an example relating to school and then applied to the Supreme Court.

A suitable costume for Sonia Sotomayor is a judicial robe. AAUW will have several reasonable facsimiles to lend to presenters.

Sandra Day O’Connor (1930-present)--grades 3 or 4--8) (1930-present)



Would you like to portray Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court? You will tell the students about her childhood on the ranch, her education, how she combined being a wife and mother with her busy career, and the various government positions that she held. You will tell about the discrimination she encountered when she first tried to get a job as an attorney. In addition to telling her life story she will be introducing the students to the United States Supreme Court and how it interprets laws as they relate to the Constitution/Bill of Rights and how it decides “Landmark Cases.” These concepts will be explained using an example relating to school and then applied to the United States Supreme Court.

A suitable costume for Sandra Day O’Connor is a judicial robe. AAUW will have several to lend presenters.

Revolutionary War Soldier

Deborah Samson (Grades 5 OR 4-5) (1760-1827)



Would you like to tell students how you disguised yourself as a man and enlisted as a soldier in the Revolutionary War? As Deborah Samson you will tell the students a little about what you did in the military and how it was discovered that you were a woman. After the war, Deborah went on a speaking tour--unheard of for a woman in those days. There will be several interactive parts for students and an optional marching activity for students.

AAUW will provide a long skirt and a Revolutionary War Soldiers uniform. (Script involves a costume switch). This script takes a minimum of ½ hour to perform.

Science and Athletics

The Ocean

Lynne Cox (1957-present) (k-2)



Would you like to portray a long distance open water swimmer who has swum in all the oceans of the world? As well as having some amazing record breaking swims, she is an author of six books. In this presentation she will tell you that she achieved her success through persistence, hard work, and ability. The presentation will emphasize a training session where she unexpectedly swam with a baby gray whale and then attempted to unite him/her with mother. Activities will involve characteristics of a gray whale, an animal that many will have an opportunity to observe certain times of the year.

A suitable costume for Lynne would be a warm up suit or anything else that you might wear to the beach such as a modest wrap that you would wear over a swimming suit. Lynne Cox never wore a wet suit so this would not be an appropriate costume. She just wore a bathing suit even when she was swimming around Antarctica.

Sylvia Earle (1935-present) (3 -8)

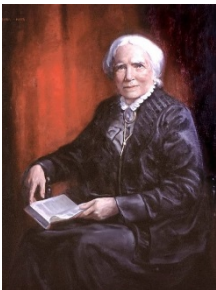


Would you like to portray a National Geographic Explorer in Residence who has lived under the ocean for two weeks in the Tektite, who had a record dive in a “Jim Suit” which looks like something from outer space, who had an encounter with a humpback whale, and who has developed vehicles to explore the ocean? Now while continuing her ocean activities she is an avid spokesman for ocean conservation and marine protected activities. An activity will be about problems in the ocean today.

_____A suitable costume would be anything that she would wear in a submersible, possibly a wet suit (although she actually wears a dry suit), or an outfit suitable for giving a lecture. In pictures she is frequently seen wearing blue.

First American Woman Doctor

Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) K-2

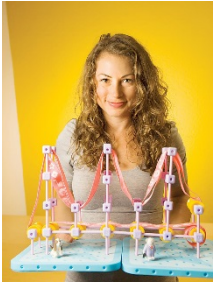


Would you like to portray the first American woman doctor? As Elizabeth Blackwell you will tell the students the difficulties you had getting accepted to a medical school and later difficulties getting a job because you were a woman. You will tell them how you were able to set up your own practice and later start a hospital. There will be an activity on germs and the importance of washing hands.

A suitable costume would be a long skirt and high-necked blouse (a simple brooch at the throat would be a nice touch).

Engineer

Debbie Sterling (1983-present) Grades 3 -5



Would you like to portray a young mechanical engineer that is devoting her life to developing a line of toys to encourage girls to become more interested in science and engineering? You will tell them how when you went to college you found that you did not have the spatial relations skills that you should have and how you feel that that is true for a lot of girls because of the “pink toy isle.”—girls not exposed to building sets that were of interest to them and other toys that develop those skills. Activities will involve building a catapult and some spatial relations questions.

A suitable costume would be any type of professional dress that she might wear to give a lecture.

Women for Middle School Social Studies

Queen Hatshepsut -- (Pharaoh 18th dynasty) -- (Grade 6 only)



Would you like to portray the life of the only woman Egyptian pharaoh? As Queen Hatshepsut you will discuss how you became pharaoh and your accomplishments. You will also be talking about dress and make-up of the day, and rights of women at that time in Egypt. There are optional sections on life in Egypt and archaeology and most presenters will do one of these or parts of both. Included also are two optional activities -- translating hieroglyphics and putting together an artifact such as might have been discovered by an archaeologist.

There are optional speaking roles for two students and optional nonspeaking roles for thirteen students.

There are costumes available for both the queen and the two students with speaking roles.

Queen Elizabeth -- (1533-1603) -- (Grade 7 only)



Would you like to portray Queen Elizabeth I of England and tell them about this glorious part of English history? You will tell them how you became queen, how England became a world power during your reign, how the arts flourished, and some of the problems you faced. You will also be able to share some other details about life in England at the time.

After successful performances last year, we are encouraging presenters to use the version of the script where you can use a number of students in non-speaking roles. However, the version used in the past will be available if a performer does not want to use this approach. The two versions have the same content.

AAUW will have a costume to lend you for this role if you wish to borrow it.

Clara Barton – (1812-1921) – (8th grade only)



Would you like to tell about your experiences in the Civil War distributing supplies to the battlefields and nursing the sick and wounded? In the course of telling your story you will have activities involving soldier recruitment, typical camp life, and caring for soldiers, as well as Civil War trivia. You will also be able to tell how you worked to improve the rights of all people and how you founded the American Red Cross. This full period presentation will particularly appeal to people who like to use props as you will have extensive props to show.

There is an option, should a performer desire, to split this role between two people. One would portray Clara Barton and the second person would portray her sister and do the activity section. This has been tried and was successful. However, the two people do need to practice together beforehand.

A special training will be set up for this role due to the extensive props provided. It will be arranged at a time to match presenters' availability. It is required for all performers new to the role if they wish to use our props. Those that have attended the training the last few years have agreed that it is essential.

Clara wore a simple solid dark colored ankle length skirt and solid-colored long sleeved blouse. AAUW will have a costume to lend if a presenter wishes to borrow it.