



Women's History Month Recommended Reads

On Display at the Downtown Branch Second Floor

She Caused a Riot : 100 Unknown Women Who Built Cities, Sparked Revolutions, & Massively Crushed It
by Hannah Jewell

305.409 JEW

Contains profiles of women from across every century, race and continent, united in the fact that they were all a bit 'nasty'. From 3rd-century Japanese Empress Jingu to 20th-century British social reformer Octavia Hill, these are the women who were bold and powerful, but maybe put people (men's) backs up by being so.

Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India by Amana Fontanella-Khan

305.42 FON

Illuminates the thrilling possibilities of female grassroots activism in India through the story of Sampat Pal and her Pink Gang.

Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women That a Movement Forgot by Mikki Kendall

305.42 KEN

In this collection of essays, Kendall takes aim at the legitimacy of the modern feminist movement. She argues that it has chronically failed to address the needs of all but a few women. Prominent white feminists broadly suffer from their own myopia with regard to how things like race, class, sexual orientation, and ability intersect with gender. How can we stand in solidarity as a movement, Kendall asks, when there is the distinct likelihood that some women are oppressing others?

Black Girls Rock!: Owing Our Magic, Rocking Our Truth edited by Beverly Bond

305.48 BLA

From the award-winning entrepreneur, culture leader, and creator of the BLACK GIRLS ROCK! movement comes an inspiring and beautifully designed book that pays tribute to the achievements and contributions of black women around the world.

Hell Hath No Fury: True Profiles of Women at War from Antiquity to Iraq by Rosalind Miles and Robin Cross

355.0082 MIL

In witty and compelling biographical essays categorized and alphabetized for easy reference, Miles and Cross introduce us to war leaders (Cleopatra, Elizabeth I, Margaret Thatcher); combatants (Molly Pitcher, Lily Litvak, Tammy Duckworth); spies (Belle Boyd, Virginia Hall, Noor Inayat Khan); reporters and propagandists (Martha Gellhorn, Tokyo Rose, Anna Politkovskaya); and more. These are women who have taken action and who challenge our perceived notions of womanhood. Some will be familiar to readers, but most will not, though their deeds during wartime were every bit as important as their male contemporaries' more heralded contributions.



I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb.

B YOUSAFZAI

Describes the life of the young Pakistani student who advocated for women's rights and education in the Taliban-controlled Swat Valley, survived an assassination attempt, and became the youngest nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote by Ellen Carol Dubois

324.623 DUB

Explores the full scope of the movement to win the vote for women through portraits of its leaders and activists, including Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joselyn Gage, Sojourner Truth, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote by Susan Ware

324.6 WAR

For too long the history of how American women won the right to vote has been told as the visionary adventures of a few iconic leaders, all white and native-born, who spearheaded a national movement. In this essential reconsideration, Susan Ware uncovers a much broader and more diverse history waiting to be told. *Why They Marched* is the inspiring story of the dedicated women- and occasionally men-- who carried the banner in communities across the nation, out of the spotlight, protesting, petitioning and demonstrating for the right to become full citizens.

Our Time is Now by Stacey Abrams

324.6 ABR

"Voter suppression has plagued America since its inception, and so has the issue of identity—who is really American and what that means. When tied together, as they are in our modern politics, citizens are harmed in overt, subtle, and even personal ways. Stacey Abrams experienced the effects firsthand, running one of the most unconventional races in modern politics as the Democratic nominee for the governorship in Georgia and the first black woman major party nominee in American history. Abrams did not become governor, but she will not concede. And the reason she won't is because democracy failed voters. However, fixing suppression isn't enough unless we understand how it works and how identity plays a pivotal role. Suppression and identity altered the 2016 presidential election—and will do the same in 2020. But progress can win, and here Abrams lays out how. In *Our Time Is Now*, Abrams draws on extensive national research from her voter rights organization, Fair Fight Action, and her 2020 Census effort, Fair Count, as well as moving and personal anecdotes from her own life. Abrams weaves together the experiences of those who have fought for the vote and the right to be seen throughout our nation's history, linking them with how law and policy deny real political power. So much hangs in the balance for the 2020 election, and the stakes could not be higher. *Our Time Is Now* will galvanize those seeking change. It will be a critical book by the expert on fair voting and access that will show us where



we fall short, who America is now, and most importantly, empower us to become the democracy we're meant to be

Powerful Black Women by Jessie Carney Smith

920.72 POW

The lives and accomplishments of 70 influential African-American women are celebrated in this new book from the publishers of *Epic Lives: 100 Black Women Who Made a Difference* and *Black Firsts*. These compelling stories offer not only a fascinating glimpse into history and current events, but also serve as a source of inspiration for the reader.

Bad Feminist: Essays by Roxane Gay

814 GAY

A collection of essays spanning politics, criticism, and feminism from one of the most-watched young cultural observers of her generation, Roxane Gay. "Pink is my favorite color. I used to say my favorite color was black to be cool, but it is pink, all shades of pink. If I have an accessory, it is probably pink. I read *Vogue*, and I'm not doing it ironically, though it might seem that way. I once live-tweeted the September issue." In these funny and insightful essays, Roxane Gay takes us through the journey of her evolution as a woman (Sweet Valley High) of color (The Help) while also taking readers on a ride through culture of the last few years (Girls, Django in Chains) and commenting on the state of feminism today (abortion, Chris Brown). The portrait that emerges is not only one of an incredibly insightful woman continually growing to understand herself and our society, but also one of our culture. *Bad Feminist* is a sharp, funny, and spot-on look at the ways in which the culture we consume becomes who we are, and an inspiring call-to-arms of all the ways we still need to do better.

Octavia Butler's Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation by Damian Duffy

741.5973 DUF

Home is a new house with a loving husband in 1970s California that is suddenly transformed into the frightening world of the antebellum South. Dana, a young black writer, can't explain how she is transported across time and space to a plantation in Maryland. But she does quickly understand why: to deal with the troubles of Rufus, a conflicted white slaveholder - and her progenitor. Her survival, her very existence, depends on it. This searing graphic-novel adaptation of Octavia E. Butler's science fiction classic is a powerfully moving, unflinching look at the violent, disturbing effects of slavery on the people it chained together, both black and white - and made kindred in the deepest sense of the word.

The Princess Saves Herself in This One by Amanda Lovelace

811 LOV

The princess, the damsel, and the queen piece together the life of the author in three stages, while serving as a note to the reader and all of humankind. Explores life and all of its love, loss, grief, healing, empowerment, and inspirations.



Herstory: Women Who Changed the World edited by Ruth Ashby and Deborah Gore

920.72 HER

Women have long been portrayed as sitting on the sidelines of history. Now 150 biographical sketches shed new light on such familiar figures as the Bronte sisters and Clara Barton, while revealing the rarely studied yet remarkable achievements of women warriors. Historical essays place these women in the context of their times, while sidebars highlight women's wit, wisdom, and inventions on all frontiers, from science to fashion.

Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl by Carrie Brownstein

B BROWNSTEIN

A narrative of rock guitarist and actor Brownstein's escape from a turbulent family life into a world where music was the means toward self-invention, community, and rescue. Along the way, Brownstein chronicles the excitement and contradictions within the era's flourishing and fiercely independent music subculture, including experiences that sowed the seeds for the observational satire of the popular television series *Portlandia* years later.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

616.0277 SKL

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer, yet her cells--taken without her knowledge--became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer and viruses; helped lead to in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks is buried in an unmarked grave. Her family did not learn of her "immortality" until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. The story of the Lacks family is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.

Girl In a Band by Kim Gordon

B GORDON

Founding member of Sonic Youth, fashion icon and role model for a generation of women, now tells her story--a memoir of life as an artist, of music, marriage, motherhood, independence and as one of the first women of rock and roll.

The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote by Elaine Weiss

324.6 WEI

An uplifting account of the 1920 ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted voting rights to women traces the culmination of seven decades of legal battles and cites the pivotal contributions of famous suffragists and political leaders.



The Woman Who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone

B FRIEDMAN

The incredible true story of the greatest codebreaking duo that ever lived, an American woman and her husband who invented the modern science of cryptology together and used it to confront the evils of their time, solving puzzles that unmasked Nazi spies and helped win World War II.

Monstress by Marjorie Liu

741.5973 LIU

Set in an alternate world of art deco beauty and steampunk horror, *Monstress* tells the epic story of Maika Halfwolf, a teenage survivor of a cataclysmic war between humans and their hated enemies, the Arcanics. In the face of oppression and terrible danger, Maika is both hunter and hunted, searching for answers about her mysterious past as those who seek to use her remain just one step behind... and all the while, the monster within begins to awaken.

Ms. Marvel by G. Willow Wilson

741.5973 WIL

Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City until she is suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the all-new Ms. Marvel? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! As Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts?