

**CALIFORNIA**  
**WOMAN**



**SPRING EDITION**  
**2026**



**CFBPW – President Sher Singh**

### *Igniting Potential. Strengthening Skills. Expanding Reach.*

#### **A Prospective for Consistency, Engagement, and Follow-Through: The Foundation of Our Success**

As President of CFBPW, I have had the privilege of witnessing the dedication, passion, and leadership that exists across our Federation, Districts, and Clubs. What truly drives our success, however, is not just great ideas or strong intentions—it is **consistency, engagement, and follow-through.**

Before I go any further, let me say there are some diehard, seasoned BPW sisters in California, working tirelessly to maintain and expand our membership. In 2025 the three districts of California, CA North, Valley Sunset, and Sierra Mar have demonstrated the consistency, engagement, and follow-through. They have had on schedule their Fall, Winter, and Annual conferences engaging their clubs. At the state level we have had our Public Policy conference that was a great success. We have a Bill Screening committee, and they stay in tuned, research, and select bills that we support. Whether it is in person, hybrid, or virtual – they get the job done! As you read this article – this magazine – its editor who prepares the magazine, the website and much more! All invaluable sisters working for the good of CFBPW.

For our Annual CFBPW conference May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – we expect some fantastic speakers. We are gearing it to Women in Agriculture, but not limited to, focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At our conference we will have an Opportunity Drawing for an Afghan. Please look for our flyer for this. You are all invited to buy some tickets for this drawing.

Now let me get to the three elements that are the foundation upon which strong organizations are built.

**Consistency Builds Trust and Momentum** - Consistency is what transforms vision into reality. It is showing up—again and again—with purpose and commitment. Whether it is holding regular meetings, communicating with members, or advancing initiatives, consistency creates stability and trust.

When our Federation, Districts, and Clubs operate with consistency, members know what to expect. They feel confident in their leadership and inspired to stay involved. Over time, this steady effort builds momentum that carries us forward, even through challenges.



Engagement Creates Connection and Belonging - Engagement is the heartbeat of our organization. It is how we connect with one another, how we share ideas, and how we create a sense of belonging.

True engagement goes beyond attendance—it means participation, collaboration, and inclusion. It means inviting voices to the table, encouraging new ideas, and ensuring every member feels valued.

When members are engaged, they are not just part of the organization—they are invested in its success. And when people feel connected, they stay, they contribute, and they lead.

Follow-Through Turns Ideas into Impact - Follow-through is where leadership becomes action. It is the commitment to complete what we start, to honor our goals, and to be accountable to one another.

In every level of our organization, follow-through ensures that plans are not left unfinished and that ideas become meaningful outcomes. It builds credibility, strengthens teamwork, and reinforces our shared purpose.

We are stronger together. When consistency, engagement, and follow-through come together, they create a powerful cycle of success. Our Federation becomes stronger, our Districts more connected, and our Clubs more vibrant and effective.

This is how we can grow. This is how we can lead. And this is how we can continue to make a difference in the lives of women and in our communities.

As we move forward, I encourage each of us to reflect:

- How can we be more consistent in our efforts?
- How can we deepen engagement among our members?

How can we strengthen our follow-through to achieve greater impact?

Together, we can continue to **ignite potential, strengthen skills, and expand our reach**—ensuring a thriving future for Business and Professional Women and for all the women we serve.

Sher Singh

President of CFBPW





## CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

### CALL TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**CFBPW Annual Conference | May 15–17, 2026**

Dear BPW Members and Friends,

It is my great honor and pleasure, as President of CFBPW, to warmly invite you to join us for our CFBPW Annual Conference, taking place May 15–17, 2026.

This year's conference is more than a gathering—it is a time to connect, learn, lead, and be inspired. Together, we will celebrate our achievements, share ideas, and strengthen the bonds that make our organization so impactful.

Guided by our theme, Igniting Potential • Strengthening Skills • Expanding Reach, we will come together to:

Engage in meaningful conversations - Learn from dynamic speakers - Collaborate across clubs and district - Celebrate the power and potential of women

Whether you are a long-time member or a friend of BPW, your presence matters. Each of you brings a unique voice, perspective, and energy that helps shape the future of our organization.

I encourage you to attend, participate, and invite others to experience the power of our network. Let us come together with purpose and leave inspired to continue the important work we do in our communities.

Join us as we ignite potential, strengthen our skills, and expand our reach—together.

I look forward to welcoming you in May.

With appreciation and in partnership,

Sher

President. CFBPW

**Sher Singh - CFBPW President [president.cfbpw@gmail.com](mailto:president.cfbpw@gmail.com)**

**IGNITING POTENTIAL. STRENGTHENING SKILLS. EXPANDING REACH.**

**Arts & Culture Chair BPWI [artsculturebpw@gmail.com](mailto:artsculturebpw@gmail.com)**

**JDEI Chair NFBPWC - [dei@nfbpwc.org](mailto:dei@nfbpwc.org)**

**Downtown Sacramento BPW [alexis.sher.singh@gmail.com](mailto:alexis.sher.singh@gmail.com)**

[Agenda](#)

[Call](#)

[Registration Form](#)



**CFBPW**

*Igniting Potential. Strengthening Skills. Expanding Reach*

**Pre, Board, and Post Conference Board Meetings**

**Friday May 15 – Sunday May 17, 2026**

**Friday -May 15, 2026**

9:00am Executive committee meeting  
11:30am Registration  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Lunch Speaker – Dr Pascal Lee “Outstanding Women in Outer Space.”  
2:30pm **Pre - Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Call to Order**  
Minutes from Winter Board Meeting  
Actions/Recommendations from EC  
Reports are in the conference packet – any additional  
District Presidents Reports  
New Business  
Focus Issues  
5:00 Adjourn Pre Conference BOD Meeting

**Saturday – May 16, 2026**

8:30am Annual Conference –  
Memorial Service  
9:00am Call to order  
NFBPWC President Barbara Bozeman  
Actions/Recommendations from BOD  
NEW BUSINESS -  
Budget 2026-27 approval  
Bylaws –  
Public Policy Platform  
Resolution re: renaming L3  
Nominations  
Election  
Auction (Items to be determined)  
12:00 noon Lunch  
1:00pm Reconvene  
Opportunity Drawing – Afghan made by Madame President,  
**2:00 pm – Sustainable Development Goals Program**  
Speakers: A&C BPWI Chularat Israngkool Na Ayutthaya: Neelima Basnet – 1<sup>st</sup> VP UN Video message: Ayanna McGee (Dir. Of Systems Implementation) Sac Steps Forward: Sue Ebeler – Assoc Dean Undergrad Academic Programs – UC Davis – Martin Ross – HEC, Joanne Regulska – Vice Provost Dean Global Affairs – UC Davis:  
5:00 pm **Adjourn Annual Meeting**  
6:00 pm Dinner – Speaker Jessie Huang (Student) Phoenix, AZ  
7:30 PM Installation

**Sunday – May 17, 2026**

8:00 am – 9:00 am – Executive Committee Meeting  
9:15 am **Post Conference Board of Directors Meeting**  
Call to Order  
Ratify Committee Chair/Appointments  
Confirm dates for BODs/Annual Conference  
NFBPWC biennial attendance  
12:00 **Adjourn Post Conference BOD**

# ***CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN***

**CALL:** To CFBPW 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
and Board of Directors Meetings

**TO:** CFBPW Board of Directors  
Past State Presidents  
District Presidents  
Members

**WHEN:** Friday, Saturday, and Sunday May 15-17, 2026

**LOCATION:** Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo  
1782 Tribute Road – Sacramento, CA 95815

**DEADLINES:** Hotel reservations must be made by **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**  
Conference Registration must be **received** by Friday, May 8, 2026

**RATES:** Single/Double @ \$169 Plus Occupancy Tax (\$196.02)  
Rate does not include breakfast.

## **ABOUT THE HOTEL**

Comfort, convenience, and style the Courtyard Sacramento Cal Expo. The contemporary hotel places you just minutes from major area attractions – Arden Fair Mall, Old Town Sacramento and the California State Capital. Well-appointed hotel rooms and suites include amenities like free Wi-Fi access, deluxe bedding, and flat-screen TVs - as well as mini-fridges and room service. Start the day with a healthy breakfast at The Bistro restaurant or end the day with drinks and a casual meal. There is an on-site fitness center and pool and whirlpool. Complimentary Wireless Internet is available in-room, in the Lobby and public areas.

## **ROOM RESERVATIONS**

Make your reservation by calling 916.929.7900 and identify with CFBPW 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. No Shows will be billed. CFBPW has not contracted for rooms or rates. Book early.

## **NEAREST AIRPORT & TRANSPORT**

Sacramento International Airport – The hotel does not provide shuttle service.  
Taxi or Uber/Lyft are your best options.

## **PARKING**

Overnight parking is discounted to \$10/night

## **DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

**From Airport or Northern CA:** Take I-5 south to Sacramento. Take 80 east to Capital City Freeway. Exit Exposition Blvd. Turn left and go back over the freeway. Turn left onto Tribute at the stop sign. **From the South:** Take I-80, 5 or Hwy 99 North to Sacramento. Take Capital City Freeway and follow directions above.

BPW/CA wishes to demonstrate an environmental ethic in its meetings and encourages all attendees to participate at their level of comfort. CFBPW is working closely with the Hilton Sacramento Arden West to coordinate Green practices. When possible, communication will be done electronically with minimal paper use.

**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION of BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN**  
**106<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**May 15-17, 2026 – Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo - Sacramento**  
**CFBPW REGISTRATION FORM**

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION** – Please, one form for each person attending

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *will be attending via Zoom and understand the registration fees below apply.*

**2025-2026 STATE BOARD ROLE AT THIS MEETING (Circle Only One):**

_____ State Office	_____ Standing Chair	_____ District Representative
_____ Past State President	_____ Special Chair	_____ Member
_____ District President/Alternate		_____ <b>Guest</b>

*\* Note: Guests do not pay the registration fee...only meals and any late meal charge incurred.*

**REGISTRATION: (FOR ALL, IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM)**

<b>Zoom Registration –</b>	<b>\$ 45</b> _____
<b><i>In-Person Registration</i></b>	<b>\$ 45</b> _____
<b><u>Received</u> Between– May 2 and May 11, 2026</b>	<b>\$ 50</b> _____
<b><u>Received</u> (email, fax or telephone) after May 12 and onsite</b>	<b>\$ 60</b> _____

**MEALS – (Please select)**

<b>Friday Lunch – <i>Women in Space</i> w/NASA’s Pascal Lee</b>	<b>\$50</b> _____
<b>Saturday Lunch</b>	<b>\$50</b> _____
<b>Saturday Installation Banquet –</b>	<b>\$55</b> _____
<b><u>Plus \$5 late fees for each meal received after May 11</u></b>	<b>\$</b> _____

**Option: Afghan Opportunity Tickets [ \$5 each, 6 for \$25, 8 for \$30, 10 for \$40 12 for \$50 ]** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*You can use this Option to purchase tickets even if you’re not able to attend Conference.*

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED – PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CFBPW** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**POST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGISTRATION -**

POST CONFERENCE BOARD REGISTRATION IS INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION.  
 HOWEVER, PLEASE INDICATE HOW YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING

**2026-2027 STATE BOARD ROLE AT THIS MEETING (Circle Only One):**

_____ State Office	_____ Standing Chair	_____ District Representative
_____ Past State President	_____ Special Chair	_____ Member
_____ District President/Alternate		_____ <b>Guest</b>

**MAIL CHECK, MADE PAYABLE TO CFBPW, AND THIS FORM TO:**  
**Katherine Winans – CFBPW Registration**  
**1171 Chaparral Court, Minden NV 89423**

**PHONE/FAX NUMBER:**  
**775 267 0539**  
**Email form to: [jkw@gbis.com](mailto:jkw@gbis.com)**

**YOU MAY PAY USING ZELLE.- SET THIS UP THROUGH YOUR BANK ONLINE. NO FEES CHARGED.**

**SEND THROUGH ZELLE USING THIS EMAIL: [bpwvsd@gmail.com](mailto:bpwvsd@gmail.com)**

**With Zelle payments you still need to mail or email the registration form as above.**

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

\_\_\_ If you have a disability and require accommodation to fully participate in this activity, please check here.  
 You will be contacted to discuss your specific needs.

\_\_\_ If you have dietary restrictions, please let us know: \_\_\_\_\_



Igniting Potential. Strengthening Skills. Expanding Reach.

# OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

Don't miss your chance to win this stunning handmade afghan, crafted with Red Heart 100% Orlon acrylic yarn. Measuring 38" x 45", its warm burnt orange, orange, and yellow hues make it perfect for cozy nights or stylish décor.

\*\*Your name is entered into drawing for **each ticket purchased** so enhance your chances of winning!

**ONLY \$5 PER TICKET  
— OR GET 6 FOR \$25!**

DRAWING  
WILL BE AT THE  
ANNUAL  
CFBPW  
CONFERENCE  
2026

Handcrafted by: Sher Singh

MAIL CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO **CFBPW**:  
Katherine Winans, CFBPW Opportunity Drawing  
1171 Chaparral Court, Minden, NV 89423

**ZELLE** USING THIS EMAIL: indicate name for  
entry - [bpwvsd@gmail.com](mailto:bpwvsd@gmail.com)

 [www.bpwcal.org](http://www.bpwcal.org)

CFBPW is the leading voice for working women. We promote and support equity for working women in all stages of their lives.







# BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN CALIFORNIA NORTH DISTRICT

## CALL to 2026 District Annual Conference

**TO:** BPW California North Members  
CFBPW Executive Committee  
CFBPW District Presidents

**WHEN:** Saturday – April 18, 2026

**LOCATION:** Your place - **Virtual Only**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION RSVP Deadline is Monday, April 13, 2026.**

### Tentative Agenda

9:15a Zoom Check-in  
9:30a Call to Order  
Introductions/Roll Call  
Reports: Executive Committee, Club Presidents and Chairs  
Business & Elections  
10:15a Recess  
10:30a Programming – Each Club has been asked to present  
11:40a Officer Installation & Planning for 2026-2027  
12:00 Noon Adjournment

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Please provide all requested information below and email this form to:**

**Katherine Winans @ [jkw@gbis.com](mailto:jkw@gbis.com) or -  
call 775.267.0539**

**or mail to 1171 Chaparral Court, Minden, NV 89423**

**Please RSVP to the 2026 Annual Conference to Katherine by Tuesday, April 13, 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In what role will you be attending the meeting? **(Please select only one)**

- District Officer     District Chair     Club President/Alternate     BPW Member  
 Guest     This is my first District Conference (First Timer)

**Annual Conference Registration: NO COST**  
**But please RSVP and provide the above requested information.**



## VALLEY SUNSET DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP EVENT

Valley Sunset District membership chair, Anne Marie Johnson, and member, Rosemary Enzer, shared BPW information at the West Hollywood Women’s Health Symposium. Along with other community organizations, they had a table displaying information, photos and CFBPW and CEF brochures. To encourage attendees to stop by and learn more about our organization, we held a drawing for an Amazon gift card. VSD president and CFBPW membership chair, Cherril-Lou Jacobson, is following up by contacting all those attendees who signed up for the drawing.



After a brief recess the legislation screening committee is back in action. Our first group of bills are on the website. So far there are 13 bills we are supporting and two we are watching. The bills cover a variety of issues including domestic violence, sexual harassment, women's health, housing, bereavement leave, mental health, day care homes. This year there are several Medi-Cal bills resulting from changes to the federal Medicaid program.

Some of our bills are already being supported by other organizations. We will try to join their letters of support whenever possible.

The Work and Family coalition is supporting SB1149 (Durazo) regarding Bereavement leave. If the bill passes workers can take time off to grieve for a chosen family member without fear of losing their jobs. We are also supporting the bill as it will be helpful for working women. The coalition had a quarterly meeting in late February to discuss bills and strategies for the year. President Sher Singh and I attended. In addition, I plan to attend virtual advocacy day on May 6th.

Two bills that were previously supported by us are now two year bills - AB11(Lee) The social housing act and AB65 (Aguilar-Curry) Pregnancy leave for educators. AB65 is also supported by Work and Family Coalition. The Coalition will be advocating for its passage. We continue to support both bills and hope they will pass.

Another bill we are supporting is SB626 (Smallwood Cuevas). The bill supports setting requirements and standards of care for maternal mental health screening and treatment in part to address post partum depression. We are also supporting SB903 (Padilla) The bill would ensure that mental health services are safe, ethical and conducted by trained professionals and not artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms.

During the year we will be discussing bills in the Legislation Corner article. The screening committee members will also discuss them during CFBPW meetings. We encourage members to review the bills on the CFBPW website periodically as status of bills will be updated. We will also be introducing new bills during the year. Lastly we encourage everyone to refer bills to the screening committee if you think it meets our policy platform or focus issues.

**Elaine Aftergut**, VICE PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR  
LEAD PERSON SCREENING COMMITTEE



## **IMMIGRATION IS NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE; IT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.**

Valley Sunset District asks for your support of the resolution: Denouncing Current Immigration Policies and the Treatment of Immigrant Women. You have seen the videos and read the headlines—women forcibly taken from their homes; knocked to the ground and pepper-sprayed; separated from their children; placed in detention camps. It is time for BPW members to speak up and take action to promote the dignity and rights of all women. This resolution calls for our members to write to Congress to protest violence against women and to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform.

Although our Public Policy Statement does not specifically mention immigration, certainly this resolution qualifies for consideration under the sections on violence against women. We know that federal agents have targeted not only undocumented persons, but women with legal status and even American citizens have been injured and, in the case of Renee Good, killed by ICE and CBE agents. Separated from their families, women are being held in detention centers without adequate food, personal necessities and medical care.

Although letters to Congress are a small and somewhat symbolic gesture, this member urges you to speak up again the unjust and inhumane treatment of immigrant women. Please vote YES on this resolution adopted by Valley Sunset District.

**Rosemary Enzer**  
**Past State President**

Business and Professional Women is still working on this inequity.



Equal Pay Day was first observed in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity, a coalition of women's and civil rights organizations, labor unions professional associations advocating for wage equity.

***Business and Professional Women was there and we still are.***

***Please join us in continuing our mission to promote and support equity for working women in all phases of their lives and to promote personal empowerment and professional development.***



# THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

Presents

Lunch Speaker:

## Dr Pascal Lee

*Planetary Scientist, SETI Institute & Mars Institute  
Director, NASA Haughton-Mars Project*



Topic:

# OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN OUTER SPACE



Friday, May 15, 2026  
12:45 pm Pacific Time

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/92246208008?pwd=Yp7Qp6ESBNoWzDnfPbtaV89yoqON12.1>

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN  
106TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SHER SINGH

DEAR FRIENDS,

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR MY SECOND INSTALLATION DINNER  
(RENEWAL OF A ONE YEAR TERM)

**ON SATURDAY MAY 16, 2026 AT 6:00 PM**

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT CAL EXPO – 1782 TRIBUTE ROAD–SACRAMENTO CA 95815

**FOR A 'SDG' NIGHT**

“SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE: LEADERS ADVANCING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

**CFBPW REGISTRATION**

Please contact Mrs. Katherine Winans  
at [jkw@gbis.com](mailto:jkw@gbis.com) –Tel. 775 267 0539  
by April 30, 2026.

Cost \$55.– for Dinner Reception



**OPTIONS:**

Check, payable to **CFBPW**,  
Indicate for CFBPW Installation  
To Katherine Winans  
1171 Chaparral Court, Minden NV 89423  
ZELLE—No Fees charged use  
[bpwvsd@gmail.com](mailto:bpwvsd@gmail.com)



## California Federation Business & Professional Women Learn about the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Speakers will present an overview of the SDGs and how their organizations have been working to achieve success as outlined in the Goals.

Become a supporter of the SDGs, help make the world a better place for all.



Monday April 13, 2026.

4:00pm - 5:30pm Pacific Time

Register: <https://nfbpwc.org/event-6429371>

## Education for Change



Elizabeth A,  
Castillo, PhD

**Elizabeth Castillo** is an assistant professor of sustainable management at California State University San Bernardino. She studies and teaches prosocial leadership and sustainable value creation to create more inclusive and equitable prosperity.

Her research on environmental justice has been funded by the National Science Foundation. She received the Aspen Institute's "Ideas Worth Teaching" award in 2020 for curriculum innovation that transforms business education.

She earned her PhD in Leadership Studies from the University of San Diego in 2016 following two decades of nonprofit management experience at the San Diego Natural History Museum and Balboa Park Cultural Partnership.



Jasjit Singh  
SCUSD  
President

**Jasjit Singh** is the Director of Legal Services at the Jakara Movement, where he supports community-centered legal advocacy and leadership development.

A former public school teacher and civil rights attorney, he has spent much of his career working at the intersection of law, education, and community advocacy. After nearly eight years at 'Changelawyers', he transitioned into his current role continuing to advance equity and opportunity for underserved communities.

Jasjit values public service and considers it a privilege to help break barriers and serve in spaces that were not always designed to include voices like his.

He currently serves on the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education representing Trustee Area 2, where he is the only Asian American trustee and the only visibly practicing Sikh elected official in Sacramento County.



Owen Naqica  
Councilmember

**Owen Naqica** is a councilmember for the Sacramento City Unified School District's Student Advisory Council, where he advocates for student needs in the district. Naqica is a Junior at West Campus High School in Sacramento.

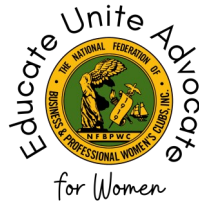
During his presentation, Owen will talk about the importance of a school board for students, the important connections that trustees make with students, and how that impacts decision-making for the well-being of students in our districts. He will be able to convey his own personal experience as well.



Susan Oser

... To conclude this inspiring gathering, our very own JDEI Committee Member, **Susan Oser**, will share one of her latest poems reflecting on the ever-growing influence of women in shaping the future of our world.





## THE NFBPWC GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

### PRESENTS: **HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT**

**TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2026 - 3:00 PM PT - 6:00 PM EDT  
WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2026 AT 6:00 AM SINGAPORE TIME**

**IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



ELLE AMANI

**ELLE AMANI – SURVIVOR, ADVOCATE, AND SPEAKER WHO COURAGEOUSLY FOUGHT HER OWN MOTHER IN COURT AFTER EXPERIENCING SEVERE ABUSE.**

**IN OUR VERY FIRST EDUCATIONAL SESSION, ELLE AMANI WILL SHARE POWERFUL INSIGHTS DRAWN FROM HER OWN COURAGEOUS JOURNEY. SHE WILL GUIDE US IN RECOGNIZING THE OFTEN-HIDDEN SIGNS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN OUR FAMILIES, WORKPLACES, AND COMMUNITIES, AND EQUIP US WITH PRACTICAL, COMPASSIONATE TOOLS TO RESPOND SAFELY AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS EFFECTIVELY.**

**THIS SESSION IS OPEN TO ALL NFBPWC MEMBERS AND ALLIES WHO WANT TO MOVE FROM AWARENESS TO MEANINGFUL ACTION.**

**SUJATA TIWARI, CHAIR OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMITTEE IS INVITING YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETING.**

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8414294844?pwd=akthL01IWXFkRIQ3dXNUNnd2ejZidz09&omn=87362171538>

**Meeting ID:** 841 429 4844

**Passcode:** 486701 One tap mobile

+1 669 900 6833,,8414294844#,,,,\*486701# US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000,,8414294844#,,,,\*486701# US

**Join instructions:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/87362171538/invitations?signature=a3aliDKViXuDhpOOoAu6S9\\_NgTj87C0WEMENA34W6Eo](https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/87362171538/invitations?signature=a3aliDKViXuDhpOOoAu6S9_NgTj87C0WEMENA34W6Eo)



**COMING SOON!**

Join our Virtual Exhibition



Echoes of the Earth



# Echoes of the Earth VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

*International Group Exhibition* with artists all over  
the world

Promoted by **The International Federation of  
Business and Professional Women  
(BPW International)**

the most influential network of business and  
professional women with affiliates in over 110  
countries in five continents.

Curated by **BPW International Arts and Culture  
Standing Committee 2024-2027**

*Inspire, Innovate, Empower, Transform: Together We  
Shape a Sustainable Future*

Echoes of the Earth is a large collective exhibition  
featuring artists from all over the world, of all ages,  
both professional and amateur.

To bring together all these personalities, both near  
and far, we have conceived an exhibition set up in a  
virtual space, which can be visited at any time from  
anywhere in the world simply by accessing it via the  
BPW websites.

#### INFORMATIONS:

BPW Official Website: <https://www.bpw-international.org/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/bpw\\_international/](https://www.instagram.com/bpw_international/)

BPW Arts and Culture Official Website: [artslink.online](https://www.artslink.online)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/artsculture.bpwinternational/>

#### CONTACTS:

Committee Chair 2024-2027 Sher Singh, USA:  
[artsculturebpw@gmail.com](mailto:artsculturebpw@gmail.com)

Valentina Palmi, Italy: [valepalmi94@yahoo.it](mailto:valepalmi94@yahoo.it)

Chularat (Toyting) Israngkool Na Ayutthaya,  
Thailand: [toyting1@yahoo.com](mailto:toyting1@yahoo.com)





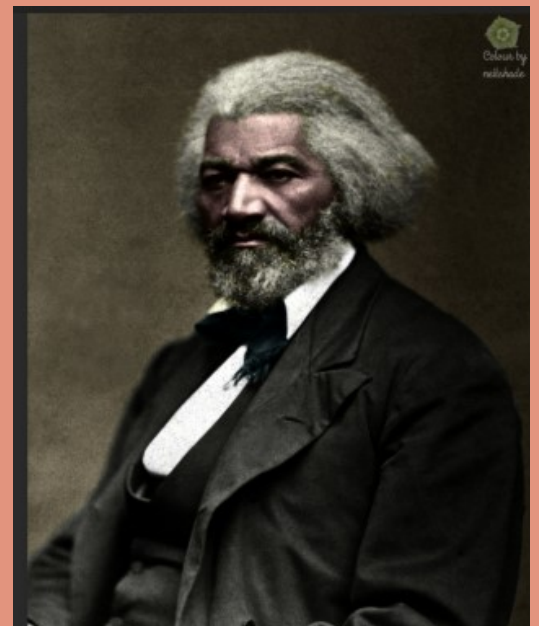
## Anna Murray-Douglass:

### The Freedom Architect Behind Frederick Douglass

Anna Murray-Douglass was never meant to be a footnote. Most people recognize her as the wife of Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist, writer, and social reformer. But Anna made her own powerful contributions to the abolitionist movement. As a principal member of the Underground Railroad, she was a force of nature in her own right. Anna Murray-Douglass is the unsung hero of the Frederick Douglass story. She receives little mention in Douglass' autobiographies, and of the hundreds of books written about him, very few focus on her.

Yet she was the woman who encouraged him to escape the bondage that would have silenced him forever. She was the woman who took decisive action. The woman who selflessly propelled others to greater heights — often at great sacrifice to herself. Born free in 1813 in Denton, Maryland, to recently emancipated parents, Anna Murray understood both the fragility and the power of freedom. At seventeen, she left her childhood home and found work as a laundress and housekeeper. Through discipline and determination, she supported herself and accumulated substantial savings. When she met Frederick Bailey in 1838, he was still enslaved and had already attempted to escape unsuccessfully. Meeting Anna — a free, self-sufficient Black woman — filled him with renewed hope. Freedom was no longer just an idea. It was standing in front of him. With Anna's encouragement, Frederick resolved to try again. Anna secured a sailor's uniform from her work as a laundress to use as his disguise. She gave him the clothing. She gave him part of her hard-earned savings to purchase a ticket to New York City. She risked everything so he could walk free. This time, his escape succeeded. Shortly after, Anna followed him to New York with enough resources for them to build a life together. They married later that year and moved to Massachusetts, adopting the name Douglass — a name that would echo through American history.

But Anna's work did not end once they were free. While raising their children and managing their household — often alone while Frederick traveled and lectured — she actively supported the abolitionist cause. She participated in the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society. She opened her home as a station on the Underground Railroad, providing food, clothing, and refuge to freedom seekers traveling north toward Canada. Their home was not just a residence. It was sanctuary. It was strategy. It was resistance. History often celebrates the voice from the podium. But it rarely honors the woman who financed the escape, sustained the home, sheltered the hunted, and quietly fortified the movement from within. Anna Murray-Douglass was not merely "the wife of." She was a freedom architect. A financier of liberation. A builder of legacy.





**177 years ago, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in the modern era to earn a medical degree.**

### **Elizabeth Blackwell**

- **First woman to earn a medical degree in the US (1849)**
- **Pioneer for women in medicine**
- **Founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children**
- **- Advocate for women's rights and education**

### **Early Life**

Elizabeth Blackwell was born on February 3, 1821, in Bristol, England, to Samuel and Hannah Blackwell. The Blackwell family was progressive for their time, emphasizing education for both boys and girls. In 1832, the family emigrated to the United States, settling in New York due to financial difficulties after a fire destroyed their sugar refinery in England. Samuel Blackwell became involved in abolitionist activities, which influenced Elizabeth's views on social justice and women's rights.

### **Education and Medical Career**

Despite facing significant barriers, including rejection from multiple medical schools, Blackwell was admitted to Geneva Medical College in New York in 1847, largely as a result of a vote by the male students who thought it would be a joke. She graduated in 1849, becoming the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. Her thesis on typhoid fever was the first medical article published by a female student in the U.S..

After her graduation, Blackwell faced discrimination in her medical practice. She continued her education in Europe, studying at La Maternité in Paris and St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. In 1868, she founded the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, which was the first medical school for women.

### **Contributions and Legacy**

Blackwell was a strong advocate for women's rights and education in medicine. She played a crucial role in opening doors for women in the medical profession and was the first woman to be listed on the British Medical Register in 1859. Throughout her life, she published numerous articles and books advocating for women's health and education.

Elizabeth Blackwell passed away on May 31, 1910, in Hastings, Sussex, England. Her legacy continues to inspire women in medicine, and she is remembered as a trailblazer who fought for equality and access to medical education for women.

## Career and Achievement

Elizabeth Blackwell's career was marked by her pioneering efforts in the medical field and her advocacy for women's rights. Here are some of her key achievements:

**First Woman to Earn a Medical Degree in the U.S.:** In 1849, Blackwell became the first woman to graduate from medical school in the United States, breaking the male-dominated medical education system at the time.

**Establishment of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children:** In 1857, she co-founded this institution to provide medical care for women and children, offering a safe environment for female patients and serving as a teaching hospital for female medical students.

**Advocacy for Women's Admission to Medical Schools:** Blackwell was a strong advocate for women's admission to medical schools, believing that women's unique perspectives and skills could significantly contribute to the medical field.

**Opening of the Woman's Medical College in New York:** In 1868, she opened this college, which was the first medical school in the United States for women, furthering the education and training of female physicians.

**Appointment as Professor of Gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Women:** In 1875, she was appointed professor of gynecology at this institution, contributing to the education and training of female gynecologists.

Elizabeth Blackwell's legacy continues to inspire and shape the landscape of gender equality and healthcare advancements. Her contributions remain celebrated with the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal, awarded annually to a woman who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of women in medicine.

## Videos

<https://youtu.be/78TaaLH8z3k>

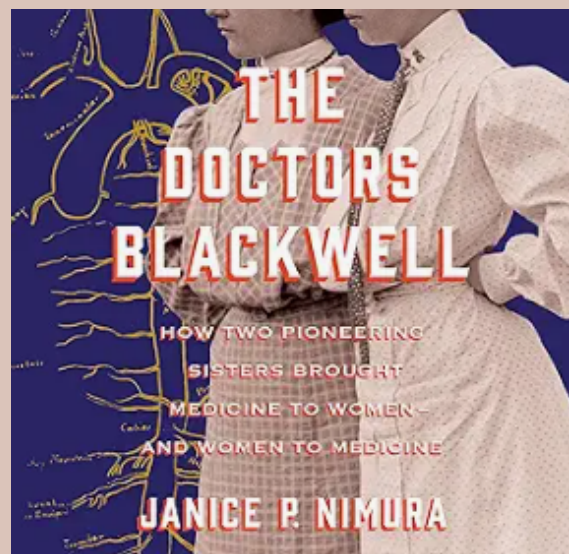
<https://youtu.be/9YLTF3H5-Fc>

## Movies

**The Blackwell Story (1957)** A television film broadcast as part of the *Playhouse 90* series, featuring Joanne Dru, focusing on her pioneering career.

**Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? (2014)** An animated short film detailing her journey in the 1830s and 40s to become the first female doctor in America, based on the children's book by Tanya Lee Stone.

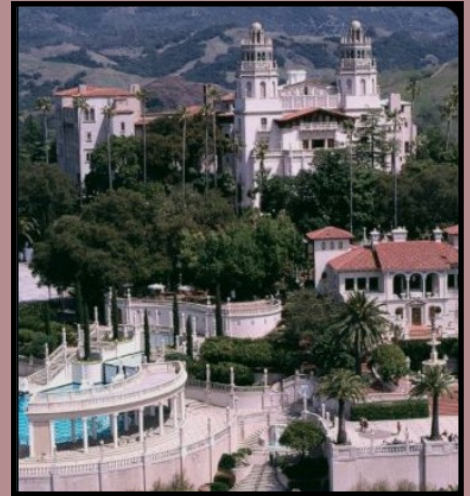
## Book





**Julia Morgan**, Class of 1894, was born January 20, 1872. The first woman licensed architect in California, the only woman in her Cal civil engineering class & the first woman admitted to the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, she is most famous as the architect of Hearst Castle.

Julia Morgan designed over 700 buildings, beginning with work



assisting John Galen Howard on the design of the Hearst Mining Building at Cal, and including the Berkeley City Club, the San Francisco Merchant Exchange Building and St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley.



When I toured Hearst Castle, the tour guide said that after Hearst's death, the family offered the property to the University of California to use perhaps as an art school. UC declined due to its remote location and expensive upkeep.



## **IRANIAN INFLUENTIAL WOMAN: FARROKHROO PARSA (1922—1980)**

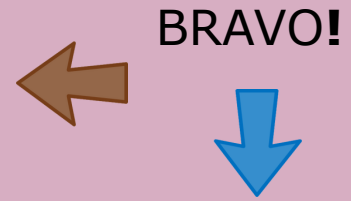
In the spring of 1980, Farrokhroo Parsa — Iran's Minister of Education before the Islamic Revolution was executed.

She had devoted her life to fighting for women's rights and did not betray her principles even after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. In the verdict issued by the new authorities, she was found guilty of "spreading corruption on earth and denying Allah." "I would rather face death with open arms than live in disgrace, forcibly covered with a veil. I will not kneel before those who expect me to repent for half a century of my struggle for equality between men and women. I am not prepared to wear the chador and take a step backward in history," Parsa wrote in her farewell letter to her children.

# NOTABLE FIRST WOMEN!



**Lusia Harris:** The First and Only Black Woman Drafted by the NBA In 1977, Lusia Harris made history in a way that is still unmatched. She became the first — and to this day, the only — woman ever drafted by an NBA team. The New Orleans Jazz selected her in the seventh round, not as a publicity stunt, but because of her undeniable talent.



**Betty Willis in 1998**, standing in front of the iconic sign she designed in **1959**. Before Las Vegas became synonymous with mega resorts and ever changing spectacle, a single roadside sign came to define the city's identity. In 1959, graphic designer Betty Willis was commissioned to create a welcoming marker for drivers entering Las Vegas along what is now Las Vegas Boulevard. Working at Western Neon, she designed the sign quickly and without expectation that it would become historic. She made the worst financial decision in the history of Nevada. She never copyrighted the design. She called it "a gift to the city." If she had demanded a \$0.01 royalty on every keychain, t-shirt, and shot glass sold in the last 60 years, she could have bought the Bellagio. Instead, she settled for a handshake.



Today we fondly remember **Secretariat's** owner **Penny Chenery**, born in New Rochelle, NY on January 27, 1922. Join us in remembering this uniquely gracious, elegant, and indomitable sportswoman who will long be known as the "First Lady of Racing."

**Let us not be confused here: The HORSE made the woman famous ... not the way round!**

**Q: Would she have become who she was riding a nag?**

**A: Definitely 'NO'**



**Secretariat** (March 30, 1970 – October 4, 1989), also known as **Big Red**, was a champion American [thoroughbred racehorse](#) who was the ninth winner of the [American Triple Crown](#), setting and still holding the fastest time record in all three of its constituent races. He became the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years and his record-breaking victory in the [Belmont Stakes](#), which he won by 31 [lengths](#), is often considered the greatest race ever run by a thoroughbred racehorse.



**Sarah Mullally** confirmed as archbishop of Canterbury, becoming the first woman to lead the Church of England.

**Historic Step** in the Church of England Sarah Mullally's confirmation as Archbishop of Canterbury is more than a milestone for female leadership; it signals a major shift in a 1,400-year-old institution.

# NOTABLE FIRST WOMEN! (CONT.)



The first female gardeners employed at London's Kew Gardens:  
**Eleanor Morland, Gertude Cope and Alice Hutchings.**  
Photographed in 1896.

She was called ugly. Her mother nicknamed her granny. **Eleanor Roosevelt** unwanted. Her father drank. By ten, both parents were gone, and relatives crushed her confidence. Marrying Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor refused silence. As first Lady, she held press conferences for women, forcing papers to hire reporters, giving voice and power. During the depression, she fought for civil rights and the poor. In 1948, Eleanor shaped the Universal Declaration, becoming history's First Lady of change.



**Also Known As:**  
**Alice Blache, Alice Guy, Alice Guy-Blaché**

**LIVED:**  
**July 1, 1873 - March 24, 1968**

**WORKED AS:**

**assistant director**

**co-director**

**co-producer**

**co-screenwriter**

**director film**

**company owner**

**lecturer**

**producer**

**screenwriter**

**secretary**

**writer**

**WORKED IN:**  
**France United States**



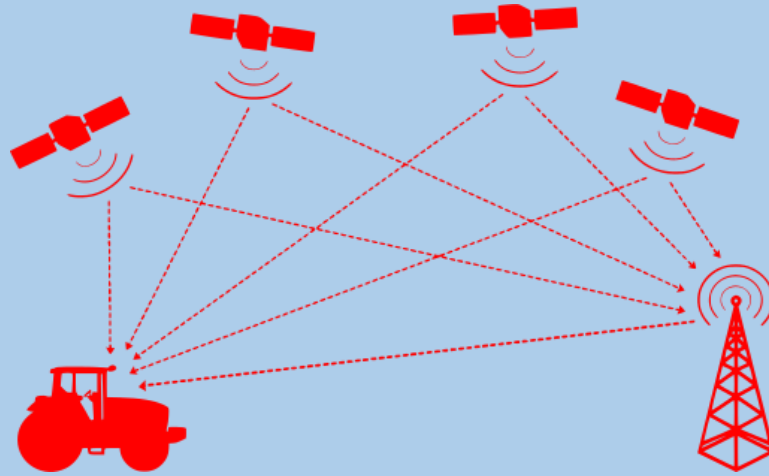
From 1896 to 1906 Alice Guy was probably the only woman film director in the world. She had begun as a secretary for Léon Gaumont and made her first film in 1896. After that first film, she directed and produced or supervised almost six hundred silent films ranging in length from one minute to thirty minutes, the majority of which were of the single-reel length. [Read her full fascinating story!](#)



At 70, **Robyn Yerian** took \$150,000 from her retirement savings and built something remarkable: an all-women tiny home community where older women pay \$450 a month, share meals together, and never have to face aging alone. She calls it The Bird's Nest. And 500 women are waiting for the next opening

[Alice Guy Blaché – Women Film Pioneers Project](#)

[Alice Guy-Blache | Films, Documentary, Book, & Facts | Britannica](#)



**GPS pioneer and mathematician Gladys West has died. She was 95.** Her calculations helped produce extremely accurate modeling of the Earth's shape, laying the foundation for modern global positioning system technology.



West was born in rural Virginia during segregation. In 1956, she was hired as a computer programmer at a Navy base in Virginia, where she was one of only four Black employees. Her work went largely unrecognized for years, though she was later acknowledged as one of the hidden figures of the era.



Despite being considered **the mother of GPS**, West said she still preferred using a paper map when driving.





