



WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING BRIO LIVING SERVICES A SAFE, WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE AND WORK.

March Spotlight

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

What is Women's History Month

Every March, National Women's History Month is observed. It was first designated in 1987 by U.S. Congress to recognize the many accomplishments of women throughout history. Interesting fact: other countries observe similarly. The United Kingdom and Australia also celebrate women's history in March, corresponding with International Women's Day, and Canada observes the month in October.

International Women's Day is a global holiday observed on March 8. The focus is to promote gender equality and the ending of violence and abuse against women, amongst other social issues that impact women. The day dates back as far back as 1909 but was adopted more famously as a global holiday by the United Nations in 1977. Women around the world celebrate the day, including some countries that organize festivals to honor women.

Claressa Shields is an American professional boxer and mixed martial artist. Not only that, but she's a Michigan native! Shields was born and raised in Flint, Michigan. She is a three-division champion and the only women's fighter to be undisputed champion in two different divisions in the four-belt era (junior middleweight and middleweight). She is also a former super middleweight champion and a two-time Olympic gold medalist. Claressa owns a piece of history as the first American woman to win gold in boxing and become the first American boxer (male or female) ever to win gold in back-to-back Olympic Games.



Dr. Pearl Kendrick, Dr. Grace Eldering, and Loney Clinton Gordon.

Adulation: the Future of Science is a sculpture in Grand Rapids at the Michigan State University Research Center. This tribute honors the pioneering research of these three women who developed a **vaccine for pertussis**.

Inventions by Women

Stephanie Kwolek, a trained chemist with an interest in fashion, design, fabrics, and sewing. In 1965, she brought her two passions together while researching fibers under extreme conditions, which led to the creation of the bulletproof material **Kevlar**.

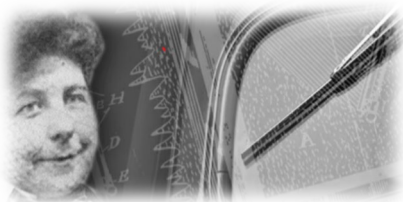
Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, known as "Amazing Grace," was a pioneering computer operator in the U.S. Navy. She developed the world's first compiler which evolved into one of the **first programming languages**.

Melitta Benz's invention was developed in the pursuit of a perfect cup of coffee. She took blotting paper from her son's notebook and used it as the first **coffee filter** which was patented in 1908.





Mary Anderson, while visiting New York City in 1902, sketched out **windshield wipers** while stuck in traffic. She watched her streetcar driver stop and get out and manually cleared the snow on the windshield. A year later her design of an automated windshield wiper earned a patent.



"Whenever women gather together, failure is impossible."

*Susan B. Anthony
Women's Rights Activist*

March Celebrations

- 2nd Granting US Citizenship to Puerto Ricans
- 7th Purim
- 8th International Women's Day
- 12th Ramadan
- 21st World Down Syndrome Day
- 21st International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 25th Holi
- 29th Good Friday
- 31st Easter
- 31st International Transgender Day of Visibility

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it."

Amanda Gorman, Poet



Resources Dedicated to Women

Center for the Education of Women

<https://www.cew.umich.edu/>

Established in 1964, the Center for the Education of Women was a pioneering university women's center. Designed to serve the needs of women students as well as women returning to school or work, CEW (then known as the Center for the Continuing Education of Women) was founded with a three-part mission of service, advocacy, and research. The Center for the Education of Women+ (now known as CEW+) continues its work today, serving University students, staff and faculty, community members, and all genders, facing education, employment, or other life issues.

Michigan Women Forward <https://miwfw.org/>

Certified community development financial institution (CDFI) whose mission is to expand economic opportunity for women and entrepreneurs of color, empower the next generation, and celebrate and honor the accomplishments of Michigan women.

Women's Resource Center <https://Grwrc.org>

Offers programs and services to educate and empower women to workplace success. The Women's Resource Center partners with caring individuals and organizations throughout West Michigan to purposefully transform the employment outcomes for all women since 1973. Its gender-focused mission is part of a greater movement to create an equitable and inclusive culture, free of racism and discrimination, where individuals have the opportunity to achieve success in the workplace and attain economic independence.

Local Women-Owned Businesses

Amy Ruis owner of **Art of the Table**, a Grand Rapids gourmet grocery store committed to sustainable and local work.

Marge Wilson owner of **Marge's Donut Den**, a favorite community donuts place for years in Grand Rapids.

Jenny Kinne owner of **Books and Mortar**, a progressive, consciously curated, and fiercely independent bookstore in Grand Rapids.

Ashley Cook owner of three locations **Potting Shed, The Potting Shed on Main, and Cut Loose Clothing**, started as a small shed on her personal property and now has expanded to three stores in downtown Chelsea with clothing, jewelry, gardening, and gifts.

Kim Yam owner of **Chelsea Bakery**, wanted "a place for people to hang out and feel like they belong; it's the community's and everyone is welcome" with the best donuts, pretzels, and apple fritters.

Mallory Vredevelde and Madison Husted owners of **Five Forks Bakery** in Jackson, are two sisters who ended up being stay at home moms during COVID and wanted something they could do for themselves.