



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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2010 Virginia Women in History Program Honors Eight Outstanding Women

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For Immediate Release

A ground-breaking architect, a renowned folk artist, a patron of the arts, and a rockabilly singer known as the "female Elvis" are among eight Virginia women recognized by the Library of Virginia as part of its Virginia Women in History program. The eight being honored this year are:

- **Jean Miller Skipwith** (1748–1826), book collector, Mecklenburg County
- **Kate Mason Rowland** (1840–1916), historian, Richmond
- **Mollie Wade Holmes Adams** (1881–1973), Upper Mattaponi craftsman, King William County
- **Queena Stovall** (1888–1980), folk painter, Lynchburg
- **Ethel Madison Bailey Furman** (1893–1976), architect, Richmond
- **Edythe C. Harrison** (1934–), patron of the arts, Norfolk
- **Marian Van Landingham** (1937–), founder of the Torpedo Factory Art Center and former member of the House of Delegates, Alexandria
- **Janis Martin** (1940–2007), rockabilly singer, Sutherlin (east of Danville)

The 2010 honorees also will be celebrated at an awards ceremony hosted by May-Lily Lee of *Virginia Currents* at the Library on Thursday, March 25 at 6:00 PM. Seating is on a first come, first seated basis. A reception will follow the program. Please call 804-692-3900 by March 22 to let us know that you will be attending.

The eight also are featured on this year's handsome Virginia Women in History poster, issued in celebration of Women's History Month, and in the Library's 2010 *Virginia Women in History* panel exhibition, on display in the lobby of the Library of Virginia in March. Traveling versions of the exhibition will be available for use by public schools and libraries and other cultural institutions.

The 2010 Virginia Women in History program highlights outstanding Virginia women who saw things differently from their contemporaries, developed new approaches to old problems, strove for excellence based on the courage of their convictions, and initiated changes in Virginia and America that continue to have an impact on our lives today.

The signature sponsor for the 2010 Virginia Women in History program is Dominion. Media sponsor is the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. **Minds Wide Open: Women in the Arts** also sponsors this program.

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