



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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2014 Virginia Women in History Program Honors Eight Outstanding Women

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For Immediate Release

(Richmond, Virginia) –The principal in a Supreme Court case that helped legalize interracial marriage, a civic activist who advocated for improving the lives of women and children, a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and cancer treatment advocate, a banker who became a member of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, an artistic director and choreographer, an antislavery advocate, a principal in a freedom suit, and an artist and patron of the arts are among eight Virginia women recognized by the Library of Virginia as part of its Virginia Women in History program. The eight are also featured on a handsome poster and in the Library's 2014 Virginia Women in History panel exhibition, on display on the second floor of the Library of Virginia, March 1–31. The exhibition will then travel to libraries, schools, and cultural institutions across the state. Copies of the 2014 poster and learning activities tied to the Virginia Standards of Learning were distributed to public and private schools and cultural institutions across Virginia.

The 2014 Virginia Women in History program culminates on March 27 with an evening program recognizing the honorees. The ceremony begins at 6:00 PM at the Library of Virginia and will be hosted by May-Lily Lee, with a reception to follow.

The women honored this year are:

Rachel Findlay (ca. 1750–1820), Wythe County

The granddaughter of an illegally enslaved Indian woman, Findlay sued for her freedom and ensured the freedom of her descendants

Mary Berkeley Minor Blackford (1802–1896), Fredericksburg

Appalled by the violence of slavery and its impact on society, Blackford became a vocal antislavery supporter.

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Naomi Silverman Cohn (1888–1982), Richmond

The daughter of Polish immigrants, Cohn worked for legislation to improve labor conditions for workers in the state. Her lobbying led to the passage of a state law in 1938 limiting women's paid work in many occupations to 48 hours a week rather than the previously allowed 70 hours.

Christine Herter Kendall (1890–1981), Bath County

An accomplished artist and patron of the arts, Kendall cofounded the Garth Newel Music Center in Bath County.

Mildred Jeter Loving (1939–2008), Caroline County

As the plaintiff in the 1967 Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia*, Loving helped legalize interracial marriage in Virginia and the United States.

Elizabeth Ashburn Duke (1952–), Portsmouth

As a member of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, Duke helped implement the Federal Reserve System's response to the 2008 financial panic. Duke is this year's recipient of the VABPW Foundation Business Leadership Award.

Deborah "Debbie" Ryan (1952–), Albemarle County

The coach, who turned the University of Virginia's basketball team into a national power, now advocates for research into the causes and prevention of pancreatic cancer.

Stoner Winslett (1958–), Richmond

As artistic director and choreographer, Winslett has built the Richmond Ballet into a nationally recognized professional dance company.

Dominion is the signature sponsor of the 2014 Virginia Women in History program and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* is the media sponsor. The Virginia Business and Professional Women's Foundation Fund sponsors the Business Leadership Award and programming for Virginia Women in History. To learn more about the program, visit www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2014.

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Editor's Advisory: Images of the honorees are available upon request.