



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia's 2018 Virginia Women in History Program Honors Eight Outstanding Women

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(Richmond, Virginia) – A civil rights activist, a peace advocate, and two authors concerned with social and humanitarian issues 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 2018 Virginia Women in History exhibition, on display on the second floor of the Library of Virginia during the month of **March, Women's History Month**. The exhibition will then travel to libraries, schools, and cultural institutions across the state. The Library distributes copies of the 2018 poster and learning activities tied to the Virginia Standards of Learning to public and private schools and cultural institutions across Virginia.

The 2018 Virginia Women in History program culminates on Thursday, March 22 with an inspiring program recognizing the honorees. The evening begins with a reception at 5:30 PM, followed at 6:15 PM by a program emceed by veteran broadcast producer **May-Lily Lee** and featuring remarks by **Meg Medina**, the award-winning author of works for children and teens, on "**The Shape of Books and Girls: On Girls, Writing, and Voice.**" In addition, winners of the Virginia Women in History Student Essay Contest will read their entries. Held at the Library of Virginia (800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219), the reception and program are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 804.692.3999. To learn more about the program and read full biographies of the honorees, visit www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2018.

The women honored this year are:

Temperance Flowerdew Yeardley (d. 1628), Jamestown
COLONIST

A prosperous woman during the earliest years of the Virginia colony, Temperance Flowerdew Yeardley took steps to maintain control of her financial affairs after her husband's death.

Isabella Gibbons (d. 1890), Charlottesville
EDUCATOR

Isabella Gibbons learned to read while enslaved and later educated hundreds of African Americans as a teacher in the freedmen's schools and public schools of Charlottesville.

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Marii Kyogoku Hasegawa (1918–2012), Richmond

PEACE ADVOCATE

As a result of her experiences in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, Marii Kyogoku Hasegawa devoted her life to promoting human rights, disarmament, and world peace.

Mary Aydelotte Rice Marshall (1921–1992), Arlington

LEGISLATOR

Mary A. Marshall advocated public education and equal rights as a member of the General Assembly for more than 20 years.

Gaye Todd Adegbalola (b. 1944), Fredericksburg

MUSICIAN & CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Award-winning educator and blues musician Gaye Todd Adegbalola celebrates diversity and strives to empower others through her music. *Recipient of the Virginia Business and Professional Women's Foundation Business Leadership Award.*

Kay Coles James (b. 1949), Richmond

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Throughout her career in public service, Kay Coles James has been an advocate for families, faith, and communities while working in local, state, and federal government.

Rita Dove (b. 1952), Charlottesville

POET

A former poet laureate of the United States and of Virginia, Pulitzer Prize–winning author Rita Dove cultivates public awareness of American poetry and its increasing diversity.

Barbara Kingsolver (b. 1955), Washington County

WRITER

Acclaimed novelist and writer Barbara Kingsolver addresses issues of social justice, the environment, and human rights through her fiction and nonfiction.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* is the media sponsor for the 2018 Virginia Women in History program. The Virginia Business and Professional Women's Foundation Fund sponsors the Business Leadership Award and programming for Virginia Women in History.

RELATED WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT

A Life in the Blues: A Musical Conversation with Gaye Adegbalola

Friday, March 23, 2018 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Place: Library of Virginia Lecture Hall & Lobby | Cost: Free

Join us for a musical evening with 2018 Virginia Women in History honoree Gaye Adegbalola, recipient of the Virginia Business and Professional Women's Foundation Business Leadership Award. Adegbalola is best known for her long career singing, writing, and performing the blues—one of the great American musical traditions. Her original compositions connect the tradition to contemporary social issues including civil rights, women's issues, and LGBTQ equality. Adegbalola will give a brief performance followed by a conversation with Dr. Gregg D. Kimball (the Library's director of Public Services and Outreach) that touches on her life, activism, and music. This program is partially funded by the Library's Virginia Professional and Business Women's Fund. A reception will follow the talk.

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February 15, 2018