



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia's 2019 Virginia Women in History Program Honors Eight Outstanding Women *This year's honorees come from the Virginia Women's Monument's "Wall of Honor."*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Richmond, Virginia) – A Pamunkey Indian chief, a labor organizer, and a pioneering endocrinologist are among eight Virginia women recognized by the Library of Virginia in partnership with the Virginia Women's Monument Commission as part of the 2019 Virginia Women in History project. In observation of March as National Women's History Month, the project honors eight women who have made important contributions to Virginia, the nation, and the world.

The General Assembly established a Women's Monument Commission in 2010 to recommend an appropriate monument to commemorate the contributions of Virginia's women. The commission chose a design and named 12 women to honor with bronze statutes. In addition, the monument includes a glass Wall of Honor engraved with more than 200 names "In Honor and Appreciation of the Women of Virginia for Their Contributions and Achievements." The 2019 Virginia Women in History honorees were selected from this group. For more information about the monument, which will be dedicated this October, visit womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov.

The eight honorees are also featured on a handsome poster and in the Library's 2019 Virginia Women in History exhibition, which will be on display on the second floor of the Library of Virginia during the month of March. The exhibition will then travel to libraries, schools, and cultural institutions across the state. The Library distributes copies of the 2019 poster and learning activities tied to the Virginia Standards of Learning to public and private schools and cultural institutions across the state.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* is the media sponsor for the 2019 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.

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/2019. The women honored this year are:

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Ann (fl. 1706–1712), King William County | PAMUNKEY CHIEF

As chief of the Pamunkey Indians, Ann fought to preserve the rights of her people when they were threatened by English colonists.

Ona Judge (ca. 1773–1848), Fairfax County | SELF-EMANCIPATOR

Determined that her freedom was worth any hardship, Ona Judge escaped slavery and defied George Washington's attempts to retrieve her.

India Hamilton (ca. 1879–1950), King William County | EDUCATOR

As a teacher and supervisor, India Hamilton continuously pushed for the expansion, implementation, and improvement of educational opportunities for African American students.

Lucy Randolph Mason (1882–1959), Richmond | LABOR ORGANIZER & SOCIAL REFORMER

Throughout her career, Lucy Randolph Mason championed social reforms and legislation to help Southern workers.

Kate Peters Sturgill (1907–1975), Wise County | MUSICIAN & FOLK SONG COLLECTOR

Ballad singer and songwriter Kate Peters Sturgill preserved the music of her Appalachian region through her recordings and collection of folk songs.

Georgeanna Seegar Jones (1912–2005), Norfolk | ENDOCRINOLOGIST

A pioneer in the field of reproductive endocrinology, Georgeanna Seegar Jones helped lead pathbreaking research into fertility treatments for women.

Claudia L. Dodson (1941–2007), Charlottesville | WOMEN'S SPORTS ADVOCATE

As a programs supervisor for the Virginia High School League, Claudia L. Dodson was dedicated to developing opportunities for girls' athletics across the state.

Sharifa Alkhateeb (1946–2004), Fairfax County | COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

As an activist, leader, scholar, writer, and educator, Sharifa Alkhateeb worked tirelessly to strengthen communities and bridge Islamic and American cultures.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT | Wednesday, March 20, 2019 | Noon–1:00 PM

BOOK TALK WITH MEGAN TAYLOR SHOCKLEY

Creating a Progressive Commonwealth

Women Activists, Feminism, and the Politics of Social Change in Virginia, 1970s–2000s

Library of Virginia Conference Rooms | Free

In honor of National Women's History Month, author Megan Taylor Shockley will speak about her new book, *Creating a Progressive Commonwealth: Women Activists, Feminism, and the Politics of Social Change in Virginia, 1970s–2000s*. This innovative study illustrates how feminists in the state challenged the traditional patriarchal system and engaged directly with the legislature through grassroots educational efforts on three major initiatives: passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, protection of abortion rights, and pursuit of legal and social rights for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Shockley challenges the monolithic view of the region as a conservative bastion and argues that feminist advocates have provided crucial social progressive force. A research professor of history at Clemson University, Shockley is also the coauthor of *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries*, published by the Library of Virginia. A book signing will follow the talk. For more information, contact emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3726.

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