



PRESS RELEASE

2008 Virginia Women in History Program Honors Eight Outstanding Women

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For Immediate Release

(Richmond, Virginia) - A ground-breaking judge, a dynamic religious leader, and an award-winning writer are among eight Virginia women recognized by the Library of Virginia as part of its Virginia Women in History program. On March 27, 2008, the Library will honor the eight outstanding women who are featured in the 2008 Virginia Women in History program at an awards ceremony at 6 PM at the Library of Virginia. The evening's program will be hosted by Lisa Lafata Powell, with a reception to follow. Seating is limited, so please call 804-692-3813 for reservations.

The women honored this year are:

- **Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkley Ludwell** (baptized 1634–ca. 1695), James City County, political leader
- **Edith Turner (Wané Roonseraw)** (ca. 1754–1838), Southampton County, Nottoway (Cheroenhaka) chief
- **Lucy Goode Brooks** (1818–1900), Richmond, civic leader
- **Providencia Velazquez Gonzalez** (1917–), Dale City, community activist
- **Isabel Wood Rogers** (1924–2007), Richmond, Presbyterian educator
- **Patricia Buckley Moss** (1933–), Waynesboro, artist and philanthropist
- **Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy** (1945–), Richmond, judge
- **Sharyn McCrumb** (1948–), Roanoke County, writer

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 *2008 Virginia Women in History* panel exhibition, on display in the lobby of the Library of Virginia from February 29 through March 31, 2008. Traveling versions of the exhibition will be available for use by public schools and libraries and other cultural institutions.

The 2008 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.

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“The women featured on the 2008 Virginia Women in History poster and traveling exhibition succeeded or excelled by facing challenging circumstances,” explained Dr. Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia. “Their remarkable stories are inspiring, and teachers will be able to plan classroom activities for Women’s History Month using the guide and materials specially developed for the program.”

As part of its outreach program the Library has distributed this year’s poster and learning activities to public and private schools, public libraries, and cultural institutions and museums across Virginia. Additional educational materials, including handouts, worksheets, pictures, paintings, and primary sources from the Library of Virginia’s collections, as well as a Spanish language translation of the poster text are available on the Library’s Web site at www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2008. The teaching activities are linked to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

The signature sponsor for the 2008 Virginia Women in History program is Dominion. Other sponsors of the program include the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Bon Secours. Media sponsors are the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and WTVR CBS 6. SunTrust is sponsor of the traveling exhibition. The program, now in its eighth year, began life as a project of the now-defunct Virginia Foundation for Women and was transferred to the Library in 2005.

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