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## **Smithsonian Celebrates Women's History Month**

Throughout the month of March, the Smithsonian celebrates Women's History Month with a series of films, lectures and performances at various museums around the Institution. All programs are free, unless otherwise indicated.

### **Feature Event**

On Saturday, March 4, at 3 p.m. critically acclaimed director Deepa Mehta will be at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden's Ring Auditorium for "A Conversation with Deepa" and a screening of her film "Water." Mehta will discuss her journey as a filmmaker, while focusing on her film trilogy "Fire," "Earth" and "Water." A screening of "Water," which explores child marriage and the injustice against women in pre-Independent India, will follow the discussion.

### **Performances**

The one-woman play, "When My Spirit Raised Its Hands: The Story of Elizabeth Peratrovich and Alaska Civil Rights," will be performed in the National Museum of the American Indian's Rasmuson Theater on March 16 and 17, at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; and on March 18, at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. The play, written and performed by Diane E. Benson, tells the story of a civil rights leader in the Alaska Territory in the 1940s. The 10:30 a.m. performances are for school groups only and require reservations, which can be made by calling 1-888-618-0572.

On Friday, March 17, Grammy Award-winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer of the Swing Sisters will perform at the Smithsonian Jazz Café. Their repertoire ranges from classic Django Reinhardt tunes to contemporary swing. The performance will begin at 6 p.m. For more information, visit [www.mnh.si.edu/jazz](http://www.mnh.si.edu/jazz).

### **Films**

The National Postal Museum will screen "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants," a recent film based on the popular novel by Ann Brashares, on Saturday, March 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. The film follows four sixteen-year-old girls as they spend their first summer apart. They stay in touch by mailing each other a special pair of jeans. The program is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling (202) 633-5533.

Filmmaker Annie Frazier Henry will screen her documentary “Singing Our Stories” at the National Museum of the American Indian’s Rasmuson Theater on Sunday, March 15 at noon. The film explores the lives of Native women across North America through performances by Rita Coolidge, the Monk-Sanders Family Singers, the Zuni Olla Maidens and the ‘Namgis Traditional Singers.

The National Museum of African Art will screen “Witches in Exile” on Sunday, March 19, at 12:30 and 3 p.m. This American documentary follows accused witches through their daily struggle to survive in the Kukuo Witches Camp in northern Ghana. A discussion with director Allison Berg will follow the screening in the Lecture Hall.

### **For Children**

On Saturdays, March 4 and 18, the National Museum of the American Indian will present “Family Day: Tlingit Women’s Weaving Traditions,” a workshop teaching the basket-weaving techniques of women of the North Pacific Coast. Participants can create their own baskets and mats. The workshops will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

From Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17, the National Postal Museum’s pre-K program, “Listen, Look and Do” will feature pilot Amelia Earhart. Children can examine the museum’s collection of airplanes and take part in hands-on activities. The program, which starts at 10:30 a.m., is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling (202) 633-5533.

The Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital will celebrate women in science and aviation at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center on Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Family Day will include hands-on activities and appearances by astronauts. Science projects by local Girl Scouts also will be on view. For directions to the Udvar-Hazy Center, call (202) 633-1000 or visit [www.nasm.si.edu/visit/directions.cfm](http://www.nasm.si.edu/visit/directions.cfm).

### **Lectures**

The National Air and Space Museum will hold a series of gallery talks during which museum curators will discuss the contributions of women to flight. The lectures will be held every Wednesday in March at noon. Meet at the museum seal near the National Mall entrance.

- March 1—David Devorkin presents “Stardrek: Women’s Work in Astronomy”
- March 8—Cathy Lewis presents “Valentina Tereshkova: First Woman in Space”
- March 15—Dom Pisano presents “Katherine Stinson,” a talk on one of the first female pilots

- March 29—Peter Jakab presents “Harriet Quimby: Pioneer Woman Aviator”

On Thursday, March 2, at 8 p.m. aviation legend Wally Funk will recount her career as the first female Federal Aviation Administration inspector and first woman to train as an astronaut. The lecture will take place in the National Air and Space Museum’s IMAX Theater. The event is free, but tickets are required and can be requested online at [www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/ticketsform.cfm](http://www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/ticketsform.cfm). For more information call (202) 633-2398 or email [lectures@nasm.si.edu](mailto:lectures@nasm.si.edu)

### **Demonstrations**

The National Museum of the American Indian will present “The Art of Tlingit Women’s Weaving” on Friday, March 3 to Sunday, March 5, at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Renowned weavers Marie Laws, Shelley Laws and Teri Rofkar will discuss their art and create traditional Chilkat and Raven’s tail robes, and other Tlingit dance regalia.

### **Tours**

Throughout March, the Renwick Gallery’s interactive walk-in tour will feature “A Girl’s Guide to Fashion Evolution” by Ginny Ruffner. The tour features this 1987 work, which exemplifies Ruffner’s irrepressible humor. Her work usually weaves together riddles and stories to make viewers laugh and draw attention to what is possible through art. Tours are at noon on weekdays and 1 p.m. on weekends.

All programs are subject to change. For additional information, visit [www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage\\_month](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month) or [www.smithsonian.org](http://www.smithsonian.org). To request a complete schedule of events, call (202) 633-1000 or (202) 357-1729 (TTY).

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