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## **International Women's Day and Women's History Month**

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### **ISSUE-IN-FOCUS: MARCH 8, 2012**



March 8 marks the 101st observance of International Women's Day. The creation of International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labor movements at the turn of the 20th century in North America and across Europe. In its early years, the day was used to honor the women's rights movement, including advocating for the right to vote, hold public office, and end discrimination in the workplace. Today the day is observed as a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by women who have contributed to making a difference in their communities and countries.

### **STATEMENTS FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT**

[Presidential Proclamation on Women's History Month 2012](#) - (March 1, 2012) - "As Americans, ours is a legacy of bold independence and passionate belief in fairness and justice for all. For generations, this intrepid spirit has driven women pioneers to challenge injustices and shatter ceilings in pursuit of full and enduring equality. During Women's History Month, we commemorate their struggles, celebrate centuries of progress, and reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the rights, security, and dignity of women in America and around the world."

[Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) - (March 8, 2012) - "The United States is committed to making women and their advancement a cornerstone of our foreign policy not just because it's the right thing to do. Investing in women and girls is good for societies, and it is also good for the future prosperity of countries. Women drive our economies. They build peace and prosperity and political stability for everyone—men and women, boys and girls. So let us recommit ourselves to a future of equality."

[Remarks by Melanne Vermeer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues](#) - (March 6, 2012)  
"The United States will continue to make the empowerment of women a cornerstone of our foreign policy. It's not just the right thing to do. A growing body of research affirms that investing in women is one of the smartest and most strategic things a country can do."

## **HONORING WOMEN IN AN AGE OF PARTICIPATION**

2012 International Women of Courage Award Winners - (March 8, 2012) The prestigious Award annually recognizes women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and empowerment, often at great personal risk. The names of this year's honorees follow and full biographies and photos are available [here](#).



[Remarks by the First Lady at International Women of Courage Awards](#) - (March 8, 2012) - "I want to recognize most of all the ten Women of Courage that we're honoring here today. These women come from all different corners of the globe. They have taken very different journeys to this moment. But they are all here today because somewhere along the line, they decided they could no longer accept the world as it is. And they committed themselves to fighting for the world as they know it should be."

[Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the International Women of Courage Awards Ceremony](#) - (March 8, 2012) "Today, we will hear remarkable stories from our honorees. They come from diverse and distant places, but in one important way they all walk the same path. They, too, are working tirelessly for justice. They are working for accountability. They are working for freedom, and they are working tirelessly to improve the lives of women and girls."

[Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls: A Cornerstone of U.S. Foreign Policy](#) - (March 8, 2012)  
Advancing the status of women and girls is essential to achieving global peace and prosperity. The Obama Administration and Secretary of State Clinton have ensured that promoting the rights of women is fully-integrated into the formulation and conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

## **ONLINE READING**



[Enterprising Women, Thriving Societies](#) (March 2012; 21 pages; 6.5MB) - This issue of eJournal USA encourages women to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions. It cites the experiences of businesswomen around the world and features successful women entrepreneurs who can serve as role models. It also identifies barriers and best practices for overcoming them.

[Making Their Mark: Black Women Leaders](#) (February 2012; 28 pages; 1.2MB)- This issue of eJournal USA profiles African-American women of the 20th and 21st centuries who have made significant contributions to many spheres of American life. It also offers insights into how earlier generations of African-American women serve as touchstones for the present generation.





[Educating Women and Girls](#) (June 2011; 32 pages;1.5MB) - Equal access to education by males and females has been defined as a universal human right by the United Nations. Realizing this right by expanding educational opportunities for women and girls requires the commitment of many sectors of a society. This issue of eJournal USA explores how international organizations, state governments, the private sector and individuals — in many different countries — are tackling this global challenge and

improving people's lives.

## PHOTO GALLERY



[Female Political Pioneers](#) - The women's rights movement in the United States begins in July in Seneca Falls, New York, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott call for a convention "to discuss the social, civil and religious condition and rights of woman." In effect, Seneca Falls would become the genesis for the women's rights movement in the United States.

[Great Women of the Twentieth Century](#) - A virtual exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery celebrates American women who made important contributions to arts, science, sports,

entertainment, business and politics in the 20th century.

[A New Generation of Black Women Leaders](#) - While earlier generations of African-American women had few career options, the U.S. civil rights movement and the push for women's equality have created opportunities for black women in virtually any field. Today, African-American women excel in business, medicine, science, literature, the law, academia and numerous other callings.



## WEBCHAT/WEBCAST

### [Fortune Women: Online and Mobile Fundraising Tips](#)

Monday, March 12, 2012

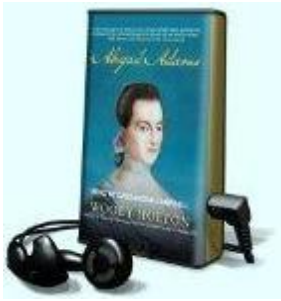
20:30 Thailand time (09:30 EDT/13:30 UTC)

Get tips for online and mobile fundraising for your small business by joining a webinar with Liam Dall, Director of Development at Vital Voices Global Partnership, and Jenifer Snyder, Executive Director of mGive. This program is part of the Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership, which connects emerging women leaders around the world with members of Fortune's Most Powerful Women Leaders. Click [here](#) to participate.

## NOW AVAILABLE AT THE IRC!

These resources on women issues are readily available at the IRC for your research and pleasure – **free of charge!** All you need to do is become our member, and that's free, too! Simply call 02-205-4174 or write [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov) for more details on our membership policy. See you!

## Audiobooks – Listen to a book while you drive, play, or just relax!



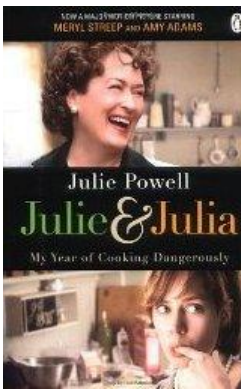
### **Abigail Adams** by Woody Holton

The wife of the second president of the United States was one of the most illustrious woman of America's founding era. Holton offers a sweeping reinterpretation of Abigail Adams' life story and of women's roles in the creation of the republic.

### **Classic Women's Short Stories** by Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf, and Kate Chopin

Five stories from the most influential women writers of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century.

## DVDs – Treat yourself with an evening matinee!



### **Julie & Julia**

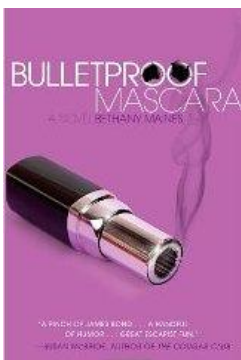
Julie Powell, nearing thirty and trapped in a dead-end secretarial job, resolves to reclaim her life by cooking in the span of a single year, every one of the 524 recipes in Julia Child's legendary Mastering the Art of French Cooking.

"Irresistible....A kind of Bridget Jones meets The French Chef" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*).

### **Precious**

When Precious Jones, an illiterate sixteen-year-old pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and radical teacher, she embarks on a journey of education and enlightenment as she learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it truly her own for the first time.

## Fictions – Indulge in these reading pleasure.



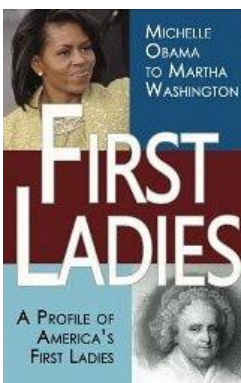
### **Bulletproof Mascara** by Bethany Maines

A debut novel about a young woman who gets a job at a cosmetics company, only to find out that it doubles as a top-secret all-women espionage agency.

### **Fantastic Women: 18 Tales of the Surreal and the Sublime from Tin House**

Eighteen stories of surrealism and macabre black comedy by some of the most exciting contemporary women writers in the United States. A wildly creative work that captures the potent truth about human nature far more clearly than much of ones being written today.

## Books – A few good reads is rewarding, indeed!



### **Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America\***

Sara M. Evans (305.4 EVA 1989)

### **Encyclopedia of Women and American Politics\***

Lynne E. Ford (973.03 FOR 2008)



**First Ladies: A Profile of America's First Ladies; Michelle Obama to Martha Washington\***  
(973.09 FIR 2009)

**Michelle Obama: Speeches on Life, Love, and American Values**  
(921 OBA-M 2009)

**The Women's Atlas of the United States\***  
Anne Gibson and Timothy Fast (912 GIB 1986)

*\*Reference titles. In-house use only.*

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