

HER STORY

A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

By Charlotte S. Waisman & Jill S. Tietjen

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“Too many Americans think men fought their way to this country on dangerous sailing ships while women arrived on cruise ships. **HER STORY** sets the record straight. Men and women came on the same ships and, shoulder-to-shoulder, built this great country together. **HER STORY** is a must-read. We have had 400 years of sexagrated history—it’s time for the holistic view!”

-- Pat Schroeder, President and CEO, Association of America Publishers; former Congresswoman, Colorado’s First District, 1972–1997

“...a remarkable visual history lesson...Charlotte and Jill are actively helping women develop and become the leaders of tomorrow.”

-- Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, in the book’s Foreword.

A woman has been elected Speaker of the House, there are a rising number of female CEOs at Fortune 500 companies, and Hillary Clinton is the latest woman to run for President. And according to **HER STORY: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America** by Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen (HarperCollins), none of these accomplishments would be possible were it not for the efforts of many, often unheralded, pioneering women.

“We enjoy the rights and freedoms that we do today because of these earlier women and their courageous actions,” write the authors in the book’s introduction. “Today’s women can do it all *because* of what all of the women who came before them did to pave the way.”

HER STORY is an illustrated timeline featuring the lives of over 850 women, using color photos and brief summaries to highlight their achievements. It begins with Virginia Dare, who was born on Roanoke Island in 1587, covers the struggles and milestones of women such as

Helen Keller and suffragist Susan B. Anthony, and continues to the present, with modern role models like Oprah Winfrey and Madeleine Albright (who provides the Foreword).

Along the way there are the names one would expect to hear: Betsy Ross, Amelia Earhart, Condoleezza Rice. But there are also other names, such as:

- Madam C.J. Walker, the daughter of former slaves, who was cited by the Guinness Book of Records as the first female self-made millionaire
- Florence Seibert, the woman who developed the tuberculin test in 1941 – a test that is still the standard of the World Health Organization today
- Stephanie Kwolek, the chemist who invented Kevlar®
- Lena Bryant, aka Lane Bryant, whose name was misspelled on a business account application, and who produced the first commercial maternity garment in 1904, allowing pregnant women to appear in public for the first time
- Dale Messick, the female cartoonist who created the comic strip *Brenda Starr, Reporter*
- Candy Lightner, who organized Mothers Against Drunk Driving, after her daughter was killed by a drunk driver

“Some of our choices were dependent upon the category of the contribution, its significance, its role as first of its kind, the time when the accomplishment occurred, or its overall contribution to American life,” explain Waisman and Tietjen. “Sometimes we chose a woman because her influence and values touched a great number of people; sometimes we picked her because of the reverberations of her accomplishment.”

Prior to writing this book, Waisman and Tietjen worked tirelessly to promote the equality and achievements of women. Waisman is one of the founders of the Leadership Institute, now

the premier program of the Women's Vision Foundation. Tietjen, in her capacity as CEO of Technically Speaking, works to ensure that more women enter the professional fields of science, technology, and engineering.

“We expect our book to be the start of many discussions and conversations related to women's achievements throughout history,” write the authors. They hope these conversations will not just be among women, but women to men, men to women, and women and men to their children. “*Her Story* captures the broad spectrum of human endeavor,” they write, “and is a book that will allow women and men to become informed about and proud of the history that enables us to have the quality of life we enjoy today.”

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About the Authors:

Charlotte S. Waisman, Ph.D., is a nationally known champion for women. Over the last twenty-five years, she has advocated for women as a professor, political activist, keynote speaker, and expert witness. As a corporate leader and trainer, Waisman co-authored several books, including *50 Activities for Developing Leaders* and *The Leadership Training Activity Book*. She is currently a vice president with a world-wide consulting company specializing in large scale leadership, gender, and culture changes. Waisman is also Director of Human Resources for the Women's Vision Foundation, through which she speaks extensively across the country and conducts leadership workshops.

Jill S. Tietjen, P.E., is an author, speaker, and electrical engineer. Her published books include the *Setting the Record Straight* series, which explores the history of women in accounting, engineering, and professional achievement. Tietjen is one of the top historians in the country on scientific and technical women. She is the CEO of Technically Speaking, a national consulting company specializing in improving opportunities for women and girls to have more career options in technology. Tietjen is also a frequent keynote speaker at engineering, science, and women's conferences.