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E-Newsletter | September 2011

Women Adventurers: Living Life To The Fullest

The women we profile in this month's enewsletter were challenged by the rigors of polar exploration and the ardors of climbing! Annie Smith Peck, Arlene Blum, Ann Bancroft and Barbara Hillary climbed mountains and sought out travel adventures that many of us "armchair tourists" have only dreamed of.

In 1911, at age 61, mountain climber Annie Smith Peck planted a "Votes for Women" pennant atop Peru's Mount Coropua. Peck took up the pursuit of mountain climbing (an unimaginable pursuit for women of her time) in her mid forties. She became the third woman ever to scale the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps, and the first to make the climb in trousers rather than a cumbersome skirt. She became the first person to climb the north peak of Peru's 22,205-foot Mount Huascarán in 1908, when she was fifty-eight. So, for those of you who have already had your fifty-eighth birthday-tell us YOUR climbing plans!

Another mountain climber was Arlene Blum. In 1970, she was part of the first women's climbing team to reach the summit of Alaska's Mt. McKinley. When their team leader became ill, Blum (at age 25) assumed command of the six-person team. Later, she was the first woman to attempt to ascend Mount Everest. Today, her web site lists her as a biophysical chemist, author and mountaineer! Women can do everything!



Annie Peck



Barbara Hillary

Like mountain climbing, reaching the Poles holds a tremendous allure for the person inclined to adventure. In 1986, Ann Bancroft dogsleds over 1,000 miles as the only female member of the Steger Expedition. She was the first woman to ski and dogsled across the ice to the North Pole. She founded the Ann Bancroft Foundation on the basis of her conviction that vision and dedication will inspire us all to reach beyond our wildest dreams and goals.

Like Bancroft, Barbara Hillary is a polar explorer. In 2007, she became the first African-American woman to reach the North Pole on skis at age 75, as a lung cancer survivor. When she reached the South Pole in 2011, she became the first African-American woman to have reached both poles. Hillary reminds us to live life to its fullest; if she can reach the North and South Poles, anyone can do anything!

You can read more about her and a number of other women in our newly revised paperback-coming out in March, 2012! March-Women's History Month-will be a great time for us. Our paperback will be launched by HarperCollins and you will also be able to read Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America on your e-reader (Kindle, Nook, etc.) or on your iPad.

These amazing women adventurers remind us all that anything is possible and that with passion, determination, and persistence - we can each live our dreams!

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America www.herstoryatimeline.com

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