

HOBBLIES

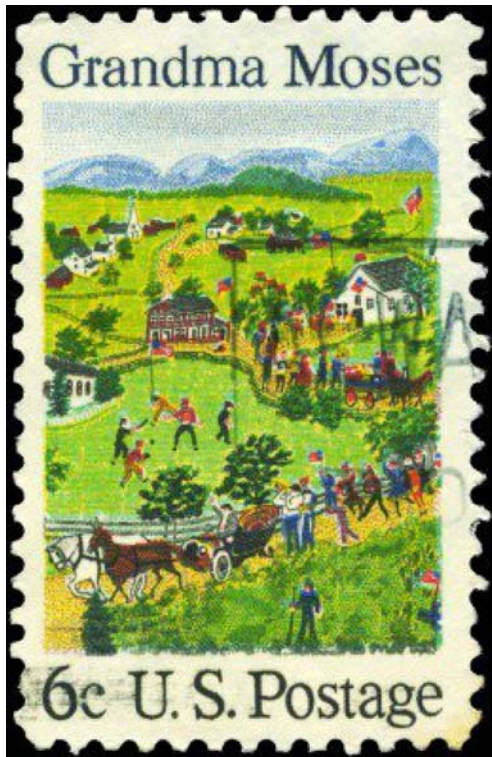
What are your favorite outside of work activities? Do you like to play sports, write, or paint? We hope that you get much pleasure from your hobbies. In this month's column, we profile women who pursued what others might consider hobbies – and made a career out of them. Grandma Moses became an artist whose paintings were licensed by Hallmark to be the covers of Christmas cards; they are also featured on a United States postage stamp. Susan Polgar has changed the face of chess by breaking gender and age barriers and revolutionizing the game. Kelly Kulick continues to make sports history by winning professional bowling events.

Anna Mary Robertson Moses (Grandma Moses) did not begin painting until she was in her seventies and arthritis prevented her from doing needlework. Her artwork had sat unsold in a drugstore in Hoosick Falls, New York until purchased by a civil engineer and art collector in 1938. He assured Moses and her family that he was going to make her famous. The next year, her paintings were displayed at a gallery showing at the Museum of Modern Art, open only to members. A rising national interest in folk art combined with her personality and painting style, led to a quarter-century career and international fame.



Grandma Moses, who was born in 1860, gave birth to ten children, five of whom survived infancy. She and her husband worked as tenant farmers in Virginia before returning to upstate New York. After her husband died in 1927, she looked after her daughter and learned to do needlework. In 1940, she made her public debut at the Galerie St. Etienne, founded by Otto Kallir, a Viennese émigré. The exhibition was titled “What a Farmwife Painted.” This showing was only a modest success. However, a Thanksgiving festival organized by the New York City department store Gimbels, where the woman now popularized as Grandma Moses spoke about her preserved fruits and jellies, led

to her becoming a 'darling' of the press.



After resisting efforts of Kallir to expand her offerings, Grandma Moses finally agreed to an exclusive representation in 1944. Over the next twenty years, her work was exhibited in thirty states and ten European countries. In 1946, her first monograph was produced and her images appeared on the first Moses Christmas cards. Both were so successful that the book was reprinted in 1947 and Hallmark took over the greeting card license. In 1949, she received the Women's National Press Club Trophy Award for achievement in art from President Truman. In 1950, a film of her life was produced and in 1952, her autobiography was published. In 1953, she was featured on the cover of Time magazine and her hundredth birthday was the cover story of Life magazine in 1960. Truly what was once 'only' her hobby led to her renown.

Hobbies range dramatically—let's move from painting to chess. **Susan Polgar** became the first woman to break the gender barrier in chess. In 1986, she made history by being the first ever female player to qualify to compete in the Men's World Chess Championship. She is the winner of four women's world championships and five Olympic gold medals. She was ranked number one in the world when she was only fifteen years old. Susan and her sisters, Judit and Sophia, were all chess prodigies. In their home country of Hungary, still under Soviet domination at that time, they broke through age and gender barriers and revolutionized the game. In 2004, Polgar led the United States Women's National Team in the 2004 Chess Olympiad. The team won the silver medal, the first ever U.S. medal in women's Olympiad history. Polgar won individual gold and silver medals at that event for the highest performance ratings and the most points scored. Today, Polgar is the director of the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a chess grandmaster and has also written several books.





Chess and bowling are clearly radically different games. We are proud to highlight women who have excelled in each. In 2010, **Kelly Kulick** made sports history by becoming the first woman to win a national title on the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour. She won the signature event – The Tournament of Champions. In 2006, Kulick became the first female player to qualify full time for the Professional Bowlers Association. Her first victory was the 2003 U.S. Women’s Open Championship. A six-time member of Team U.S.A., she was named Rookie of the Year by the Professional Women’s Bowling Association in 2001. In 2000, she was the U.S. national amateur champion and was inducted into the New Jersey Sports Writers Hall of Fame. Kulick bowled at Morehead State University (MSU), where in 1997 and 1998, she was the Collegiate Bowler of the Year. Also a four-time Collegiate All-American, she was instrumental in MSU’s Intercollegiate Bowling Championship in 1998. When she is not teaching bowling or on the lanes, she works at her father’s auto body shop in New Jersey.

As you follow your passions and your hobbies, remember these amazing women whose contributions and accomplishments enhance our lives today. They further reinforce that women can do everything and do it excellently!

On a personal note, long time readers of our column will recall that these stories come from our beautiful book: Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America. Over 850 women are profiled and the range of their varied accomplishments is enormous. We are pleased to share that on January 2, 2013, our book will be available in paperback and in an e-book version. Look for it in your local bookstores or at an on-line book retailer. Should you purchase the paperback and want it autographed, contact either of us at our e-mail address and we will send you a signed-by-the-author bookplate. On January 5, 2013, we will receive the DAR History Award Medal for Excellence in History as co-authors of the book.



Charlotte S. Waisman, PhD, co-author of Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America (HarperCollins), is a national champion and advocate for women as a professor and keynote speaker. As an executive coach, Waisman coauthored 50 Activities for Developing Leaders and The Leadership Training Activity Book. She is a principal with a consulting company specializing in leadership and workforce excellence initiatives.

Jill S. Tietjen, PE, co-author of Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America (HarperCollins), is an author, speaker and electrical engineer. Her other books include the Setting the Record Straight series. Tietjen is a top historian on scientific and technical women. She is President/CEO of Technically Speaking, a consulting company that specializes in improving career opportunities for women in technology.

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