



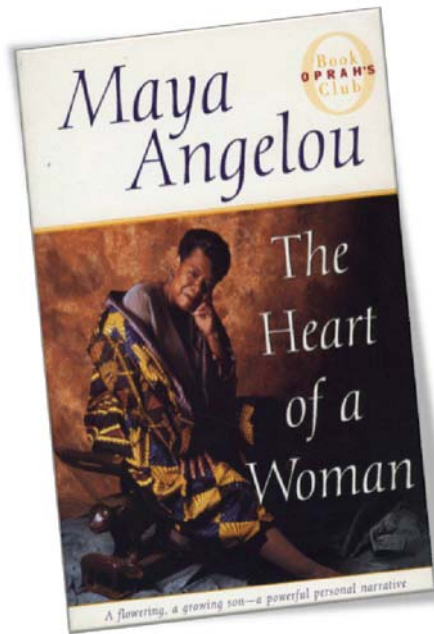
Leaving a Legacy

With the recent passing of Maya Angelou, we were prompted to think about the amazing legacy she left. Over the past several years, other women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* who were giants in their fields and who paved the way for all of us have also passed. In this column, we focus on five truly diverse women who all share the appellation: *trailblazers*.

Join us to read about Maya Angelou, Ada Louise Huxtable, Muriel Siebert, Shirley Temple Black, and Helen Thomas.

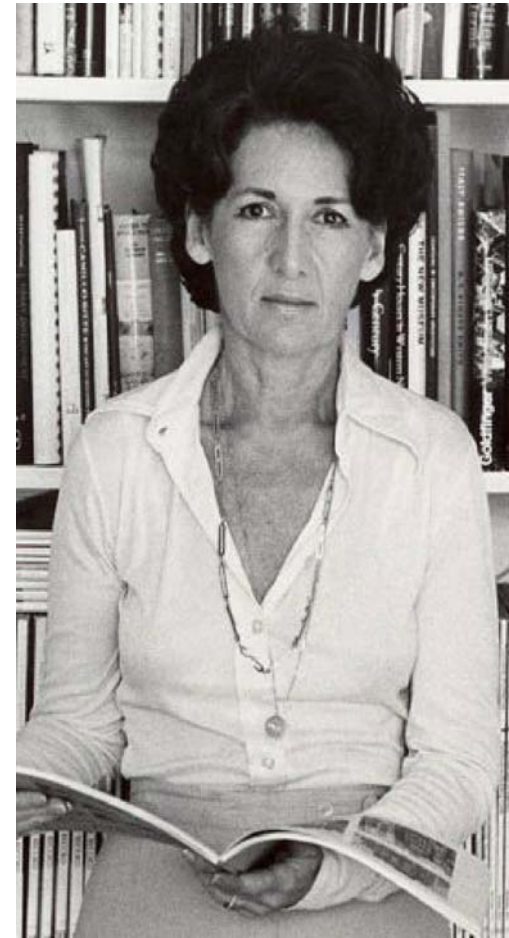
A true Renaissance woman, **Maya Angelou** is best known as a poet and an author. Overcoming prejudice, discrimination, and abuse, Angelou became a strong voice for generations of women. She came to public attention in 1970 with the publication of her autobiographical book *I Know*

Why the Caged Bird Sings, which was nominated for a National Book Award and became a Book of the Month Club selection. Additionally, she was the first African-American woman to have a feature film developed from her work (the screenplay and musical score of *Georgia, Georgia*). Her reputation was secured with her reading of her poem *On*



the Pulse of the Morning at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and an inductee into the National Women's Hall of Fame, Angelou said "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"

Ada Louise Huxtable created an entire field – modern architectural criticism. She received many awards for her work including the first Pulitzer Prize for distinguished criticism, in 1970, when she was on the staff of *The New York Times*. Later, she critiqued architecture for *The Wall Street Journal*. Huxtable preferred buildings that honored and respected the dignity of human beings as well as civic history. *The New York Times* said that she created a new profession (she was the first full-time architecture critic at any newspaper in the U.S.) and changed the way that most people viewed buildings and other human-made environments.



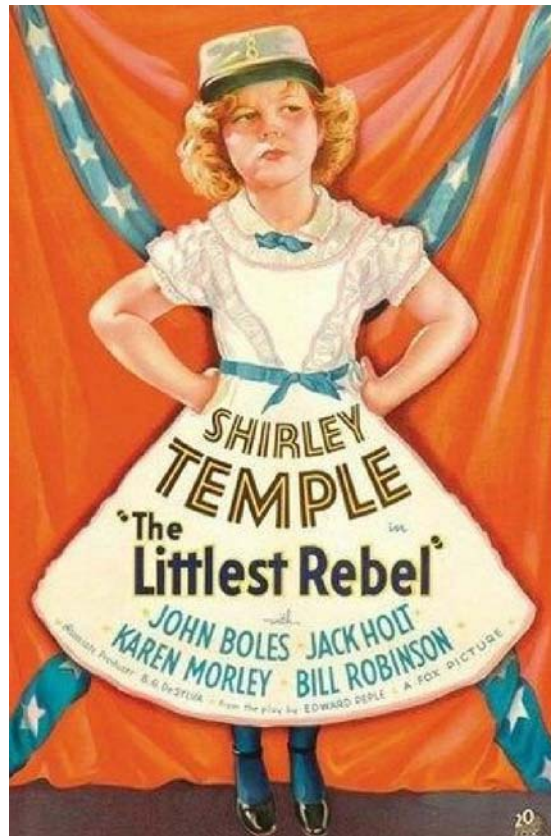
The first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, **Muriel Siebert** helped open the field of finance for women. Siebert, who was also the



first woman to head a member firm of the New York Stock Exchange, bought her seat in 1967 – and was a solo woman engaged in this work for more than a decade, before another

woman was able to follow in her footsteps. The first woman superintendent of banks in New York State (appointed in 1977), “Mickie” served during a difficult time when interest rates were skyrocketing and banks were facing immense challenges. Her generous philanthropy was directed toward advancing women’s careers in business and finance. Inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame, Siebert said “Know the more that you succeed, the more you will be challenged. Many think that the biggest battle I had to fight was to buy my seat on the New York Stock Exchange. Yes, that was a battle, but that only got me into the game.”

During the darkest days of the Great Depression, **Shirley Temple** brought joy to the hearts of millions who saw her act, sing and dance on the ‘big screen.’ She made 23 movies during that



time, starting when she was six years old; she also earned an Academy Award at that young age. She became so famous that during the period 1935 through 1939, she was described by the critics as the most popular movie star in Hollywood. She retired from the movie business at age 22, but reemerged in the public eye as an American diplomat in the 1960s. She used her married name: Shirley Temple Black. She served as a delegate to the United Nations and later as Ambassador to Ghana and then Czechoslovakia. Black also openly discussed her breast cancer; she joined other public figures who helped make it acceptable to talk about that disease in public.

The Dean of the White House press corps, trailblazer **Helen Thomas** was always a ‘force to reckon with’ during her 50 years at White House press conferences. From the time she began coverage of her first President, John F. Kennedy, to her last, Barrack Obama, Thomas asked sharp, penetrating questions. Her assignment to the White House when Kennedy was President was the first time a woman had received such an assignment. Acknowledged as the unofficial head of the press corps, she ended every press conference with “Thank you, Mr. President.” Thomas was the first woman president of the White House Correspondents’ Association and its first woman officer. She broke further barriers in 1975, when she became the first woman elected to the Gridiron Club, a group of Washington journalists, which for 90 years



had been male only. In 1972, she was the only woman journalist who went with President Richard M. Nixon on his historic visit to China. Thomas is a shining example of the American dream – her parents immigrated to the U.S. and her father, who could not read or write, encouraged his children to go to college.

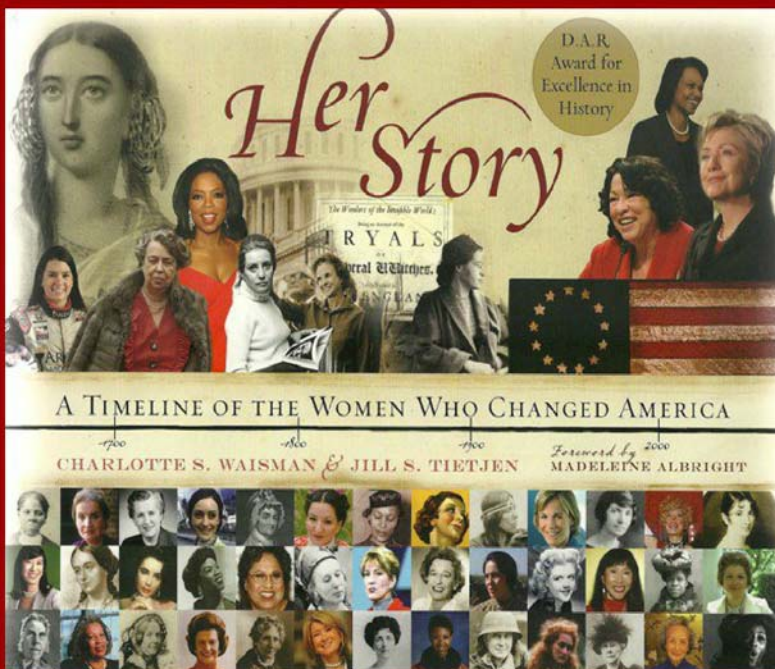
We continuously marvel at the legacy left by all of these women! We are proud to stand on their shoulders. We've chosen five women to highlight; there are more than 850 women profiled in our book. If you haven't thought of it

yet—start now--what will be your legacy?

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.

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.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

Written by Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen, with a foreword by Madeleine Albright, *Her Story* is a vivid documentation of the breadth and diversity of American woman's achievements throughout U.S. history since the 1500s. The women featured in *Her Story* range from writers, artists, actors and athletes to doctors, scientists, social and political activists, educators, and inventors, and include women of all backgrounds and philosophies.

“Her Story is like a slideshow of American women's history.”

~Bookpage

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