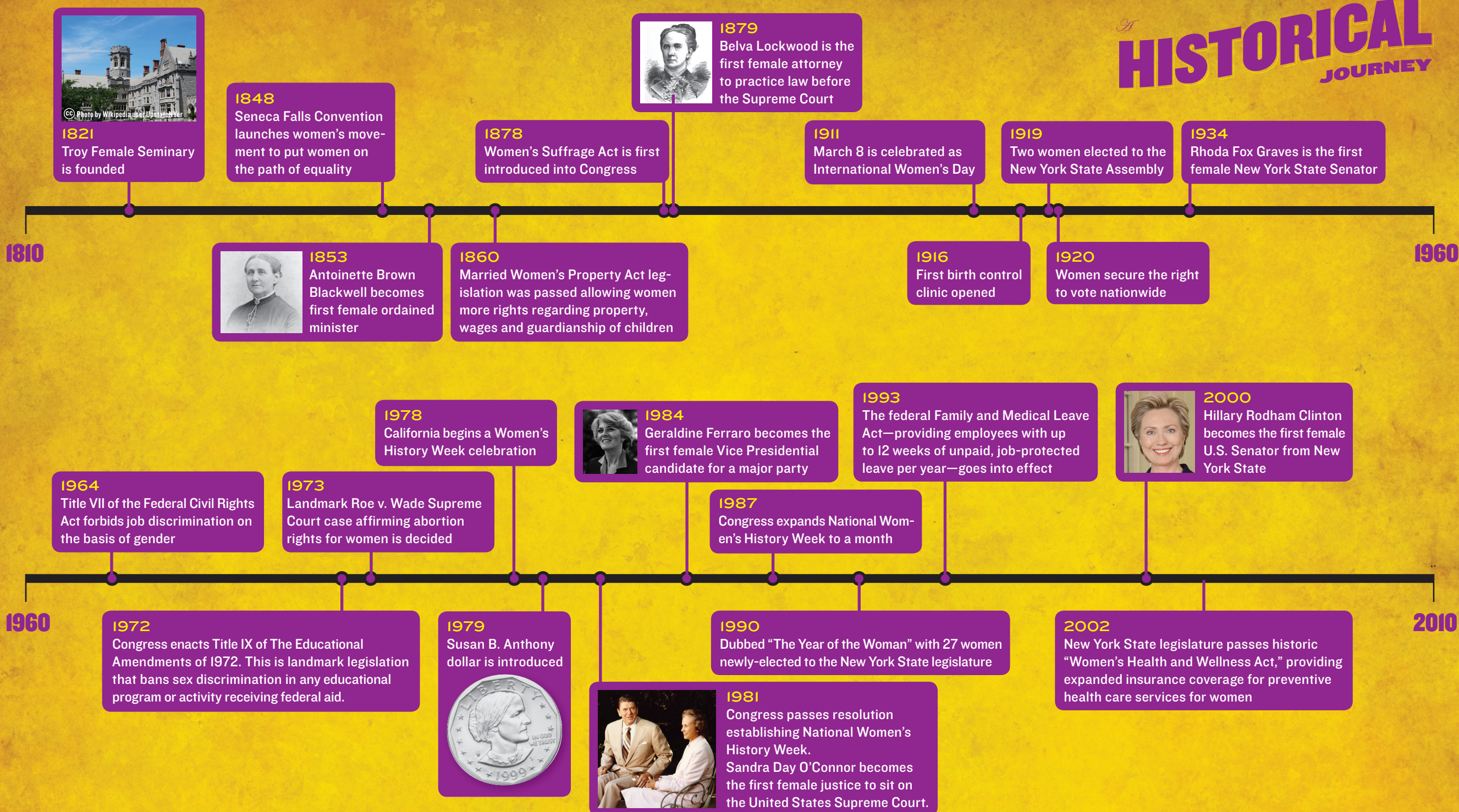


# HISTORICAL JOURNEY



Dear Friend,

From Egypt's enigmatic Queen Cleopatra, to legendary seamstress Betsy Ross, to New York's first female U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, so many notable women over the years have made, and are making, significant contributions to society. In honor of March being designated as Women's History Month, I have prepared this brochure to pay tribute to the many women who have made history. Obviously, there are countless other women of note who could be included in this tribute. Because of space limitations, I have narrowed the field to specifically include prominent women in New York's history.

As we celebrate women throughout this month, I hope you find this information of interest. Finally, as we pay homage to all of the wonderful women who have created history and shaped our country, let us not forget the remarkable women—mothers, daughters, wives, aunts, grandmothers, sisters, neighbors and friends—who have influenced us and continue to touch our lives in many ways every day.

Sincerely,

*Roxanne J. Persaud*  
Roxanne J. Persaud  
19th Senate District

## WEBSITES of INTEREST

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

[www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org)

The National Women's Hall of Fame, a national membership organization, seeks to honor women who have made great contributions to the development of our country. The Hall is home to exhibits, artifacts of historical interest, a research library and an office.

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

[www.nps.gov/wori/](http://www.nps.gov/wori/)

The Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls commemorates the first Women's Rights Convention held. This website gives you information about the park and its historical significance.

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ONLINE

[www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org)

A visual and interactive Cyber Museum created in 1998 by the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH), an organization formed to celebrate the contributions of past generations of women.

### GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

[www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org)

A grant making foundation supporting women's human rights organizations around the world working to address critical issues such as gaining economic independence, increasing girls' access to education and stopping violence against women.



NEW YORK  
STATE SENATE

# WOMEN in NEW YORK HISTORY



# WOMEN

## in NEW YORK HISTORY



### EMMA WILLARD 1787-1870

Emma Willard founded the Troy Female Seminary in 1821 where young women had the opportunity to take many courses being offered on the same level in male colleges.



### SOJOURNER TRUTH 1797-1883

Born into slavery in New York as Isabella Van Wagener, she became Sojourner Truth in 1843. In the late 1840's she connected with the abolitionist movement and became a popular speaker. A decade later, Sojourner Truth began speaking on women's rights and support of the women's suffrage movement.



### SUSAN B. ANTHONY 1820-1906

Susan B. Anthony is known as one of the chief women's rights activists in 19th century America. She formed the National American Women Suffrage Association, an organization most notably known for inspiring passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution—permitting women the right to vote. In 1979, Susan B. Anthony's image was chosen for the new dollar coin, making her the first woman to be depicted on U.S. currency.

### ELIZABETH BLACKWELL 1821-1910



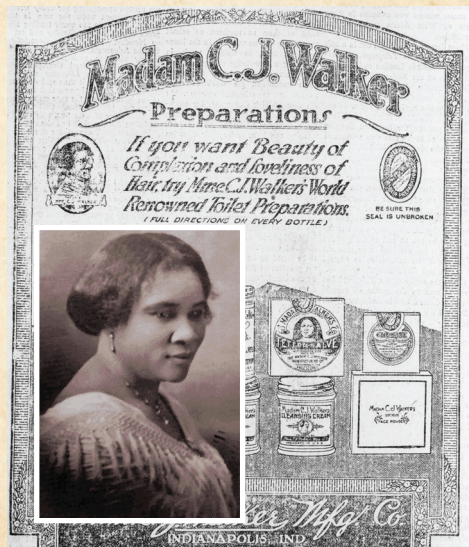
Elizabeth Blackwell became the first female doctor of medicine in the United States and set up practice in New York. Graduating first in her medical class, she was initially rejected by all

the leading schools to which she applied. Her lectures on health and her personal example of determination inspired women to seek medicine as a profession.



### BELVA LOCKWOOD 1830-1917

Born on a farm in Niagara County, Belva Lockwood graduated from Genesee College (later known as Syracuse University). She didn't even begin to pursue a career in law until she was nearly 40. In 1879, Belva Lockwood became the first woman to practice law before the United States Supreme Court. Using her knowledge of the law, she worked to secure women's suffrage, property law reforms, and equal pay for equal work.



### MADAM C.J. WALKER 1867-1919

Born Sarah Breedlove, Madam C.J. Walker was the first African-American woman millionaire in America. A philanthropist, entrepreneur and inventor, she is known for her hair straightening treatments and salon systems. She was also a generous contributor to black charities, including the NAACP's anti-lynching campaign. She settled into New York City and became integral in stimulating the Harlem Renaissance.



### LILLIAN D. WALD 1867-1940

One of the most influential and respected social reformers of the 20th century, Henry Street Settlement founder Lillian Wald was a tireless and accomplished humanitarian. At age 22 Wald came to Manhattan to attend the New York Hospital School of Nursing. In 1893, Wald founded the Henry Street Settlement and began teaching health and hygiene to immigrant women on the impoverished Lower East Side. She pioneered public health nursing by placing nurses in public schools and with corporations. Wald was also one of the founders of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing and Columbia University's School of Nursing. She was inducted into the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 1976.



### MARGARET SANGER 1883-1966

Educated and working as a nurse, Margaret Sanger worked with poor women on the Lower East Side of New York. She witnessed firsthand the effects of unplanned and unwelcome pregnancies. In addition, she watched as her mother's health suffered as she bore 11 children. Margaret Sanger believed in the importance of women's health and the availability of birth control. In 1912, she gave up nursing to dedicate herself to the distribution of birth control information.



### ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 1884-1962

Touted as the "First Lady of the Western World," Eleanor assisted Franklin D. Roosevelt with his political career, most notably while he served as President of the United States during the Great Depression. A woman with great sensitivity to the underprivileged of all creeds and races, Eleanor became as famous a national figurehead as Franklin. When Mrs. Roosevelt and FDR went to the White House in 1933, she transformed the role of First Lady from a silent, reserved position to one of being an active participant in political and governmental affairs.



### LENA HORNE 1917-2010

Born in Brooklyn, Lena Horne became a legendary singer, dancer and actress who refused to be cast in stereotypical roles. Her career began with Harlem's Cotton Club and her strong stance helped transform the popular image of black women.



### BELLA ABZUG 1920-1998

Bella Abzug championed women's rights, human rights, equality, peace and social justice. She worked as an attorney in civil rights and labor law, often without pay to represent the poor, minorities and those attacked by forces of repression. In 1971 she took her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Bella Abzug helped found the National Women's Political Caucus, and introduced legislation creating Women's Equality Day.



### SHIRLEY CHISHOLM 1924-2005

Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American woman elected to the United States Congress in 1968. During her first term in Congress, her all female staff spoke out against the Vietnam War as well as women's rights and civil rights. She continued to serve in the House of Representatives until 1982. Shirley was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.



### RITA MORENO 1931-

Rita Moreno is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for being the first performer to win an Oscar, a Tony, an Emmy and a Grammy. Born into a poor family in Puerto Rico, she and her mother left to make a new home in New York. Rita made her professional debut on Broadway at the age of 13 and went on to build a significant television and movie career, becoming a leading Hispanic actress and vocalist.



### EVE QUELER 1936-

A native of New York, Eve Queler served as a pioneer woman conductor. Despite finding her progress slow in gaining practical experience in this all-male field, Eve became founder of the Opera Orchestra of New York in 1967.



### ALICE WALKER 1944-

Best known as the author of the Pulitzer-prize winning book *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker landed her first job out of college in the Welfare Department in New York City. She went on to write various acclaimed pieces of poetry and tomes about dark themes involving rape, incest, isolation, troubled relationships, racism and sexism.

Courtesy of  
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