

# MAKING HER *Story*

*celebrating women's  
contributions and  
achievements of  
the past and today*

historical  
performance  
and awards  
show



march 20 2021 • 6 pm

womensjourneyfoundation.org  
877-657-8464

## Thank you Leslee Turnbull

FOR THE DONATION OF YOUR ORIGINAL ARTWORK OF

# Lady Justice

SPECIFICALLY USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF **MAKING HERSTORY 2021**



**Leslee Turnbull** is a professional designer, art director and scenic artist. She is currently the Senior Production Designer and Senior Animatronic Figure Art Director for Walt Disney Imagineering. Her projects include designing and creating paintings and murals for the new Hong Kong Disneyland castle, Pirates of the Caribbean attraction, Disneyland Dream Suite, DCA's Trattoria, Club 33 expansion, and 21 Royal Experience. She has been with Walt Disney Imagineering for 20 years.

Prior to being an Imagineer, Leslee was the principal artist painting the backdrops, sculptures and costumes for the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, California for 14 years.

This piece was created specifically for the Women's Journey Foundation Making HERstory production. This is an original art piece and it is available for auction starting at \$5,000. Leslee's art work is admired by many Disney enthusiasts and her art has sold for 10K to 140K. Proceeds will fund the Fair History Act and our Free Girls Self-Esteem program. We thank Leslee for her generous contribution.

### Win the Hand-Signed Original!

A highly-prized art piece available for auction at  
[www.womensjourneyfoundation.org](http://www.womensjourneyfoundation.org)

Proceeds fund the **Women's Journey Foundation**  
**FREE "I CAN" program for girls.**

# About the Women's Journey Foundation

**The Women's Journey Foundation** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen confidence and self-reliance in women and girls.

Since 2002 we have provided opportunities for women/girls to enrich their lives through multi-generational events and peer connection.

Our programs and events are designed to Educate, Empower and Engage to create a path to authenticity and personal growth for women of every age

We encourage women to share those

experiences for the betterment and growth of all.

The Women's Journey Foundation acknowledges the accomplishments of women leaders, authors, humanitarians, women in business, mothers/grandmothers; women who have risen above the challenges to reach their personal goals and dreams.

The Women's Journey Foundation has educated men, women, girls and boys for over a decade on the role women play in history.

The Women's Journey Foundation is a collaborative community partner of the

National Women's History Museum at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.

Our role is to create a transformational shift in the way women and girls view themselves.

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## EDUCATE

Discover Anything is Possible

## EMPOWER

Know Who You Are

## ENGAGE

Choose a vibrant, purposeful life

## BOARD MEMBERS



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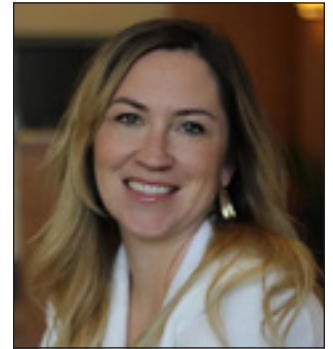
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**MAKING HERstory FLASH CARDS**

A great gift and learning tool

**AVAILABLE FOR \$20**

**WJF** WOMEN'S JOURNEY FOUNDATION

*Sample Flash Card:*  
 Mary McLeod Bethune  
 Mary McLeod Bethune was a trail-blazing educator, author, and activist. She founded the first African American college for women, the Spelman College in 1881. She was the first African American woman to be elected to the National Council on Labor Education in 1935. She was also the first African American woman to be elected to the National Council on Labor Education in 1935. She was also the first African American woman to be elected to the National Council on Labor Education in 1935.

## Making HERstory Quiz

Please draw a corresponding line from the historical fact to the woman responsible.

- The 1st African American woman elected to congress and served for seven terms.
- Wrote the book *The Feminine Mystique*, exploring the idea of women finding personal fulfillment.
- Escaped from slavery, she became the first black woman to win a case against a white man in order to recover her son.
- A prominent botanist and ecologist, she was an environmentalist before the term was popularized, and a pioneering woman in her field.
- Popularized the term 'birth control'. She opened the first birth control clinic and established Planned Parenthood.
- Became the first American woman to travel in space.
- Suffragette who Co-founded the National Woman's Suffrage Association and the Equal Right Association.
- First woman appointed to the Supreme Court. She served for 15 years.
- A labor leader who co-founded The National Farmworkers Association (later became The United Farmworkers).
- American suffragist and women's rights advocate. Helped form the National Woman's Party and spent more time in prison than any other suffragist.
- A Lawyer & congresswoman, who said 'A Woman's place is in the house – the House of Representatives.'

**WomensJourneyFoundation.org**

**Bella Abzug**



**Shirley Chisholm**



**Betty Friedan**



**Dolores Huerta**



**Susan B. Anthony**



**Sandra Day O'Conner**



**Sojourner Truth**



**E. Lucy Braun**



**Lucy Burns**



**Margaret Sanger**



**Sally Ride**



## Making HERstory Quiz

Please draw a corresponding line from the historical fact to the woman responsible.

- The first woman to assume the role of soldier in the American Revolution and receive a pension for it.
- First woman to win an Oscar for Best Director.
- Was the first woman in America to win the Pulitzer Prize.
- Was the first woman to run for United States President.
- Was the first woman to enlist in the United States Navy.
- The first woman to qualify and compete in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500.
- Became the first full-time female coach in the NBA.
- First female lawyer in the United States in 1869.
- A nurse in the 1800's who founded The American Red Cross.
- The first woman to become Secretary of State.
- A journalist who was the media spokeswoman for the Women's Liberation Movement.

**Madeline Albright**



**Edith Wharton**



**Gloria Steinem**



**Becky Hammon**



**Janet Guthrie**



**Arabella Mansfield**



**Victoria Woodhull**



**Loretta Perfectus**



**Clara Barton**



**Margaret Corbin**



**Kathryn Bigleow**





## Key to Making Herstory Quiz

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The first African American woman elected to Congress and served for seven terms

### **Shirley Chisholm**

Wrote the book "The Feminine Mystique" which was widely credited with sparking the beginning of second-wave feminism in the United States.

### **Betty Friedan**

Escaped from slavery, she became the first black woman to win a case against a white man in order to recover her son.

### **Sojourner Truth**

A prominent botanist and ecologist, she was an environmentalist before the term was popularized and a pioneering woman in her field.

### **E. Lucy Braun**

Popularized the term "birth control." She opened the first birth control clinic and established Planned Parenthood.

### **Margaret Sanger**

Became the first American woman to travel in space.

### **Dr. Sally Ride**

Suffragette who Co-founded The National Farmworkers Association (later became the United Farmworkers).

### **Dolores Huerta**

American suffragist and women's rights advocate. Helped form the National Women's Party and spent more time in prison than any other suffragist.

### **Lucy Burns**

A lawyer & congresswoman, who said "A Woman's place is in the House of Representatives." Proposed and passed the 1974 legislation giving women the right to credit in their own names.

### **Bella Abzug**

The first woman to assume a role of soldier in the American Revolution and receive a pension for it.

### **Margaret Corbin**

First woman to win an Oscar for Best Director.

### **Kathryn Bigelow**

First Woman in America to win the Pulitzer Prize.

### **Edith Wharton**

Was the first woman to run for President of the United States.

### **Victoria Woodhull**

First woman to enlist in the United States Navy.

### **Loretta Perfectus**

The first woman to qualify and compete in the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500.

### **Janet Guthrie**

Became the first full-time female coach in the NBA.

### **Becky Hammon**

First female lawyer in the United States in 1869.

### **Arabella Mansfield**

A nurse in the 1800's who founded the American Red Cross.

### **Clara Barton**

First woman Secretary of State

### **Madeline Albright**

A journalist who was the media spokeswoman for the Women's Liberation Movement.

### **Gloria Steinem**



## Legacy Award Honorees 2017-2020

The Women's Journey Foundation is proud to honor the following women since the beginning of HERstory. ***Congratulations to all!***

### 2020

Caroline Taylor  
Theresa Walker  
Kimberlina Whettam  
Alison Argrim  
Dolores Huerta

***Lifetime  
Achievement Award***

### 2019

Ada Briceño  
Ana Gonzalez  
Rida Hamida  
Lynne Riddle  
Suly Sanchez  
Joanna Weiss  
Abigail Garland

### 2018

Rachel Bruhnke  
Felicity Figueroa  
Lucia De Garcia  
Michelle Goodwin  
Amy Streavel

### 2017

Katie Adams Farrell  
Tamara Austin  
Annee Della Donna  
Cathy Familathe  
Eileen Padberg  
Sasha Scott

## 2017 Women's Conference Legacy Awards

Janice Hahn - *LA County Supervisor*

Kim Porter - *Police Detective*

Kathy Schaffer - *Fire Chief*

Brenda Threatt - *Executive Director of US Vets Long Beach, Captain serving as Chaplain*



**Girls Gather**  
VIRTUAL CIRCLES

We gather on the 3rd Thursday  
of each month.

Please register at:  
[womensjourneyfoundation.org/virtual-girls-circles](http://womensjourneyfoundation.org/virtual-girls-circles)

**WJF** WOMEN'S JOURNEY FOUNDATION

## Angélica Reyes - 2021 Honoree | Legacy Award

### **Why Angelica Inspires Us**

During her time as a four year teacher at Santee Education Complex, Ms. Reyes has sponsored the MEChA and Ethnic Studies Clubs and is a strong advocate for the Dreamer Movement as she, herself is a Dreamer. Ms. Reyes is taking the lead on teaching Ethnic Studies and leading professional development that incorporates Socio-emotional Learning practices and Cultural Responsive pedagogy across the curriculum. In addition to her work at Santee and advocacy in the community, Ms. Reyes has participated in the UCLA Writing Project and is a recent fellow for the 2021 Michael LaPrade Holocaust Education Institute.

### **Angélica's Story: What woman in United States History has inspired you the most and why?**

Paula Crisostomo, who led the first high school walk-outs in the 60's, put her education at risk for future generations. So many women like her who have risked their lives and their security, and didn't directly benefit for their effort, but I was able to benefit from the work.

Another is Carmelita Torres, migrating each day from Northern Mexico to the U.S. often times sprayed prior to entry with toxic pesticides. She led protests to prohibit and end this de-humanizing practice. She focused on human rights and dignity for Mexicans. I work in a lower income community and the community benefited from healthcare services such as Alta-Med, which was started by Gloria Arellanes, a Brown Berets who saw the need for medical services in the community. Then there's Ruth Bedford, who was part of the Black Panther Party and noticed the need for children in low income areas to be fed. They started the Free Food Program, which my students still benefit from today. If we want to give these students equitable access to school education, they need to be fed. Then we have Silvia Rivera and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez who are fearlessly fighting for the rights of minorities from all segments of the community. Their fearless unwavering determination has pushed me forward to keep going.

### **What tips would you have for someone to get involved in their communities?**

I want people to know that they are so powerful. When I was young I noticed the



issues in my community but questioned myself, as to what an undocumented brown-girl could do to change things? And then I learned history. We have flourished. We have gone unwatered but we have always blossomed. If our ancestors have done so much, then it is our duty to push forward. I want my students to know that if anything, they have the power because it has been done before. It's not until you stand up that change actually happens.

### **How does it make you feel knowing your are making a difference?**

I feel very honored and powerful to be recognized and am encouraged to continue engaging in this work. This confirms that it's working. That we are being noticed by our efforts. There is so much more that our community needs. So with recognition is often fuels others to also join. I'm excited to continue doing the work my students

and our community needs. I would tell my undocumented students that even though we have DACA (Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals) signed by President Obama, this happened because of the community organizing to find a solution to this issue. We as educators and minorities are still pushing forward. If you can survive your migration story, you can survive the educational system to make sure you have a comfortable life for yourself and your family and doing something that makes you happy.

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#### **Contact Information:**

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Pronouns She/Her

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## Dr. Susan Love - 2021 Honoree | Legacy Award

### **Why Dr. Love Inspires Us**

She has dedicated her professional life to ending breast cancer. As Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, she oversees an innovative research program centered on breast cancer cause and prevention. Dr. Love is also a clinical professor of surgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine. As one of the founders of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, Dr. Love is well known as a trusted guide to women worldwide through the Foundation's ImPatient Science™ education program and her books, including Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book, now in its sixth edition. The Foundation's recent groundbreaking initiatives include the Love Research Army, developed to partner women and scientists to accelerate translational research, and the now closed Health of Women (HOW) Study™, an online cohort study aimed at identifying the cause of breast cancer. Among the Foundation's collaborative research projects are the development of an NIH-funded self-reading ultrasound technology for triage of palpable breast lumps, an analysis of the anatomy of the breast ductal system, and an investigation into the microbiome of the breast ducts.

### **Dr. Love's Story: What women in United States History has inspired you the most and why?**

Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) she was the first woman to graduate from medical school in the United States. She was born in England but raised in the U.S. She was motivated to go to medical school after a dying friend told her that her ordeal would have been so much better if she had a female physician. When she wanted to go to medical school the only college that accepted her was Geneva College, which was initially a joke as no woman had ever entered or been accepted to medical school. She faced segregation because she was socially distanced from the men. Despite this treatment, she graduated number one in her class. Dr. Blackwell never took no for an answer always finding a way to make things better in the medical field. She suggested to her male colleagues that perhaps if they washed their hands, less disease would be spread to patients. She established her own school, the New York Infirmary for Women



and Children to educate more women. She was not afraid of anybody. This is why she has always been my inspiration to figure things out and be a visionary.

### **What tips would you have for someone to get involved in their communities?**

Don't wait to be asked. If you see a problem or see a group that is doing good work jump in and just do it. We spend too much time thinking why it cannot be done but it can always be done. The solution may not be as you envisioned the first time but then you just try it another way. My dad always said that our role in life was to make the world a better place. That has been my motivation throughout my life. We may not be responsible for all the problems but we have a responsibility to try and make them better.

### **How does it make you feel knowing you are making a difference?**

I am humbled and feel as if I'm never doing enough. I went to medical school when there were still quotas to accept women. I went to Harvard and no one offered me a job. The only patients that came to me were women with breast issues. So that's how I got started as a surgeon. I realized how badly women were being treated. No one was giving them the options. This is what really motivated me, so I wrote the first edition of The Breast Book. I had to translate into Spanish myself as no publisher would do so.

#### **Contact Information**

**Dr. Susan Love**

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## Rima Nashashibi - 2021 Honoree | Legacy Award

### **Why Rima Inspires Us**

Rima is the founder and president of Global Hope 365, a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, locally and worldwide, by advocating for their safety through raising awareness, education, and empowerment. Her focus is to end harmful practices towards women and girls such as Child Marriage, Human Trafficking, and other forms of Gender-Based Violence.

### **Rima's Story: What women in United States History has inspired you the most and why?**

There are three women who have inspired me. Margaret Mead, who was an American Cultural Anthropologist who was featured frequently in the media during the 1960s and 70s. Mead was a communicator of anthropology in modern America and Western culture and was often controversial as an academic. Another is Shirley Chisholm who was born to immigrant parents, and was an American politician, educator and author. In 1968 she became the first African American woman elected to U.S. Congress. In 1972, she became the first black candidate and woman to seek the nomination for president of the United States from a major party. Unfortunately, the country was not ready for her during that time period. The third person is Mother Teresa, who needs no introduction. These women are pioneers in their own field and I would love to be like them.

### **What tips would you have for someone to get involved in their communities?**

I would encourage others to be very active in their communities by not taking no for an answer. I never did. I never will. I used this philosophy when I ran a division for AIG Risk Management Corporate Accounts. I followed that philosophy then and I follow it now. Do not take no for an answer because there is no way for you to change the world or to change your community, be it climate change, ending child marriage, or ending human trafficking, if you do. Whatever you need to achieve, do



not take no for an answer. Just keep your eye on the target and keep going. They either get on the train or get out!

### **How does it make you feel knowing you are making a difference?**

It makes me feel humbled and emotional. It's humbling when one of the survivors commented, after we won our third resolution of support against child marriages at a city council, that you're my Angel, because she didn't want what happened to her to happen to other girls. Yet all this time I thought that child marriage was not legal in the U.S. until I read an article printed in 2016, written by Nickolas Kristof in the New York Times titled, "11 Year old Mom Pushed to Marry Her Rapist in Florida." By 18 years of age, she finds a friendly Attorney who got her a divorce. By that time she had 7 children. When you hear a 50 year old, talk about her experi-

ence when she was forced to get married at 16 and she starts crying, you get emotional. When our own state department issues a report in 2016 stating that child marriage is a fundamental violation of human rights in other countries, well what about our country, our kids! Before we can go police the world we need to take care of our own children. With 248,000 minors, mostly young girls marrying adult males from 2000 to 2015 according the Census Bureau in the United States, we have to say enough is enough. We need to end this and that's what we are trying to do here at Global Hope 365.

#### **Contact Information**

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# Cielo Echegoyen | Rising Star

## Why Cielo Inspires Us

Born on February 5, 2003, to immigrant parents, Cielo is passionate about issues facing immigrant communities. Following her father's arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in June of 2019, Cielo has maintained contact with two detainees at Adelanto ICE Processing Center who have since been released. While detained, her father told her that this will not last forever and that she must remain strong. Teachers helped her family pay their rent during this hard time. She has overcome such hardships during her young life and is an inspiration to us all.

Cielo's professional interest is in cancer; which is a diagnosis her loved ones have been affected by. Her goal is to practice Oncology in the state of California and to relieve health disparities in Latin and Central America. She aspires to open a clinic in rural areas of her parents' respective countries of Mexico and El Salvador. Cielo will be majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University this upcoming fall.

## Cielo's Story: What woman in United States History has inspired you the most and why?

Barbara McClintock (1902-1992). She was a scientist and cytogeneticist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1983. She enjoyed boxing and despite her mother's disapproval, decided to pursue her PhD in Science. She taught at Missouri University but was not liked because she wore pants. Despite the environment she remained focused studying maize cytogenetics thought her career. She was able to map genes using corn. During the 1940s and 1950s, Ms. McClintock discovered transposition and used it to demonstrate that genes are responsible for turning physical characteristics on and off. McClintock's research became understood 30 years later as other scientists confirmed the mechanisms of genetic change and protein expression that she had already demonstrated in the 1940s and 1950s. She tolerated so much but one of my favorite quotes from her is "when you are right, you don't care if nobody believes in you."



## What tips would you have for someone to get involved in their communities?

If you study change-makers in history there are no definitive rules. However, there are important commonalities;

- Listen. Be willing to Educate Yourself
- Forgive yourself for the mistakes you are bound to make
- Invite others into the conversation so that this conversation of change takes on a life of its own
- Take Care of yourself as taking on such responsibility is exhausting, but THE CAUSE NEEDS YOU.

## How does it make you feel knowing you are making a difference?

I didn't expect my dad would be detained, or that I could help others also detained and assist them to get through the process. However, I feel privileged to have helped these individuals providing translation services or finding them legal resources. I recognized that through this experience I could also serve a need in my eventual medical career by becoming a bilingual Oncology doctor in California.

### Contact Information:

Instagram - @CieloEchegoyen

## Mayor Robert Garcia | Second Gentleman Award

### ***Why Robert Inspires Us***

Not only is Dr. Robert Garcia an amazing man who supports women and minorities, he embodies courage and perseverance. He is an educator and the 28th Mayor of the City of Long Beach. He was re-elected to a second term by almost 80% of the vote in 2018. Mayor Garcia immigrated to the United States at age 5 and was raised in Southern California. The Mayor, a college and university educator, holds an M.A. from the University of Southern California and an Ed.D. in Higher Education from Cal State Long Beach, where he earned his B.A. in Communication. Mayor Garcia is focused on making the City of Long Beach a leader in education, economic development, and climate protection. As Mayor, he has championed progressive education policy, launched an aggressive climate plan, supported workers by increasing the minimum wage and fought to expand and protect rights for women, immigrants and the LGBTQ community. Mayor Garcia currently serves as a Board Member on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) representing much of South East Los Angeles County. He is married to Matthew Mendez Garcia, a professor of political science at California State University, Long Beach.

### **Robert's Story: What woman in United States History has inspired you the most and why?**

Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice for the Supreme Court of the United States, because she is a strong Latina, justice centered and grew up understanding the struggle of working people. Also, Hilary Clinton because she was a political role model who always supported women's rights. She had to go through a lot just for all of us to get into politics. Then I would say my mom, maybe not as a national historic figure but for me represents a lot of what immigrant women have gone through in the United States.

### **What tips would you have for someone to get involved in their communities?**

I think you should never be afraid of being the first or that you are not part of the establishment. Don't wait for an invitation. I think often times our community special-



ly communities of color and women, we often wait to be invited and I really believe you have to bring your own chair to the table. You have to be ready to make things a little uncomfortable and push so you can make your own space at the table.

### **How does it make you feel knowing you are making a difference?**

I'm just happy to be able to serve. I think that my experience as an educator always taught me to do the most public

good with the time you have. I take all my experience and training from the classroom into public service such as be a good listener, be fair, treat people with respect and know that everyone in your classroom or in your community has something to contribute.

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## Lily Ledbetter - 2021 Honoree | Lifetime Achievement Award

### **Why Lilly Inspires Us**

Lilly challenged a major corporation because it was the right thing to do. In 1979, Lilly was hired by Goodyear Tire and Rubber plant in Gadsden, Alabama. She worked there from 1979 until her retirement in 1998. For most of those years she worked as a line manager, a position largely occupied by men. Initially, her salary was line with that of men in the same position. However, over her tenure her pay slipped in comparison to her male colleagues with equally and even less seniority. By 1997, Lilly was the only woman working as an area manager, but nearing her retirement she learned of this pay discrepancy. Although she successfully sued Goodyear, the judgement was reversed on appeal by the Eleventh Circuit. The suit however reached the Supreme Court, which ruled against her because she did not file the suit within 180 days from the beginning of her employment. In dissent, Justice Ginsburg stated the obvious facts that Lilly experienced pay discrimination. Although she lost, Congress responded later with the passing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, that started the 180-day clock every time a discriminatory paycheck was issued.

### **What Woman in United States History has inspired you the most and why?**

Eleanor Roosevelt, because she was way ahead of her time. She worked with the African Americans when it wasn't cool as they say. After traveling to Washington I learned of all the things she did to help women and minorities. She also helped and supported the Suffragists. She was really an inspiration to me. I love to read her books and her history. One of my favorite sayings from Eleanor is, "A woman is like a tea bag, you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water."

### **What tips would you have for someone to get involved in their communities?**

Get involved in your community. We must stay involved in our local government, our state and definitely our nation because we never know what they are about to pass into law and how it will affect our lives. Women have so few rights, we cannot afford to give up any. In fact we are still fighting for paycheck fairness. I continue to lobby for this important issue because had that been a law it would have protected me in my



day but it wasn't. We need more changes to the Equal Pay Law and Title VII to help American families. That's why I encourage young people today to stay involved. Read what they're passing, making sure it does not affect your family in a negative way. Each of us have a vote and we can make a difference. One person can start the fight but everybody else can join in and win the battle.

### **How does it make you feel knowing you are making a difference?**

When President Obama signed the Ledbetter Bill, I said to him, do you realize the awesome responsibility this has placed on my shoulders because it was up to me to fight for equal pay? Women do not realize what they are entitled to at the time under the previous Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964. I did not receive a dime from the

Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. However, there are so many women today that are outliving their spouses on average by ten years and they cannot stay independent simply because they did not get their rightful pay and get to have the retirement that they should have. Pay check fairness will protect women to receive equal pay. Women do not want lawsuits. It took me nine years from the time I filed the charge until I got the fine verdict. Then it took us another 18 months to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Bill but that was glorious time as it was a bipartisan bill that took a lot of work. Just as Ruth Bader Ginsburg challenged Congress with her dissent, stating that this was in Congress' court. It's up to you to change this great injustice for future generations.

**Contact Information**  
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## **Mimi Turnbull Black** *Playwright / Director*

**M**imi Turnbull Black (Playwright/Co-Director) is a writer from Laguna Beach, CA. Mimi wrote and directed last year's Making HERStory 2020 performance for the Women's Journey Foundation and she is honored to showcase another inspiring group of trailblazers. Mimi is currently a writer at Blind Squirrel Games and is finishing a new full-length play called BY THE BOOK. Mimi's poetry has been published in the Orange Coast Review and awards include the Garrison Fellowship for Literature and Languages. She is a member of the Dramatist's Guild and earned a B.A. in Creative Writing and Literature from Antioch University. She would like to thank her glorious cast, who are just as inspiring as the roles they play; her co-director Alex Ferris for coming on board to tackle this strange new form in strange times; Patty Turrell for her steadfast support and trust; her partner Jim for being her own Marty Ginsburg and master set builder; and her family for being her cheerleaders, script editors, artists, musicians, and all-around collaborators.



## **Mark Turnbull** *Musician, Songwriter*

**E**very once in a great while an artist comes on the scene for whom there is no category -- no quick one liner that successfully describes his gifts for all to understand. Mark Turnbull is such an artist. If you call him a songwriter, you might miss the fact that he is also a lyricist and composer of musical theatre. If you call him a virtuoso guitarist, you might forget to listen to the beauty and power of his words. If you call him an actor, you might not notice the honesty of his storytelling. If you call him a poet, you might overlook his marriage of poetry with melody.

Composition "Firebird's Cradle: A Maria Tallchief Suite" by Joshara "JaeRa" Edwards, "This Little Light of Mine" arranged and performed by Mark Turnbull, Sets and props built by Jim Nienhouse



## **Kelly Fitzgerald** *Musician/Composer Original Song*

**P**laying over 200 nights a year, Singer/Songwriter Kelly Fitzgerald has toured all over the world as a solo and ensemble performer. She and her band have shared stages with artists such as John Hiatt, Shelby Lynn, Nancy Griffith, Cheap Trick, Eddie Money, The Gin Blossoms, Ben Taylor, Vonda Shepard, The BoDeans and others.

Though she calls L.A. home, Kelly has traveled many times to Nashville to write and perform, and was chosen as one of the top 25 finalists in Nashville's "Music City Songwriting Competition" for her song "I'm Done." In 2018, one of Kelly's original holiday songs "Bingle Bells" (co-written with Corey Lee Barker) was featured in two Hallmark Christmas movies.

Kelly has released several CDs, including a full length Christmas CD comprised of six original songs and six classic covers. In the summer of 2017, Kelly released her fifth solo album "Find the Silver Lining." Kelly and her band have been nominated twice by the LA Music Awards and won Album of the Year in 2000.



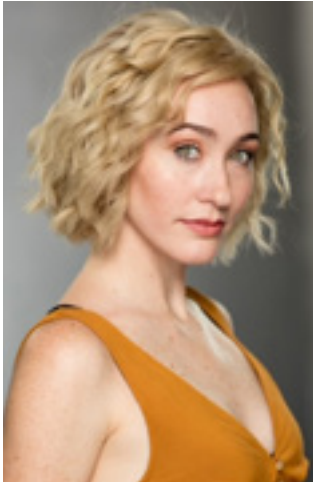
## **Diane Rose Kelly** *Performer*

**D**iane Rose Kelly is the change we need to hear in the music industry. Diane resonates with truth and authentic co-creative expression. And she also loves song and story from people's experiences. Diane says "When we reflect honestly, we come to the heartfelt virtue of empathy. We are all co-creators and no two spins on the record of truth are the same. Respect, reflect. Make a difference with your own heart and soul song." Those are expressions I can get behind.

Diane Rose Kelly has shared the stage with many well-known artists: Gavin Degraw, Train, Pat Benatar, Melissa Etheridge, The Doobie Brothers, The Black Crowes, Kansas, Styx, Little River Band, Pat Travers Band, Edie Money, among many others. She has Performed at High Profile venues: House of Blues, Sunset Strip, Hollywood, HOB Orlando, The Hard Rock Live, Orlando, and The Whiskey and The Mint, Hollywood, CA. The Bitter End, NYC, The Lion's Den, NYC. Diane Rose has had a residency at The Guitar Merchant, Canoga Park, CA for three years. Unity of Sedona.

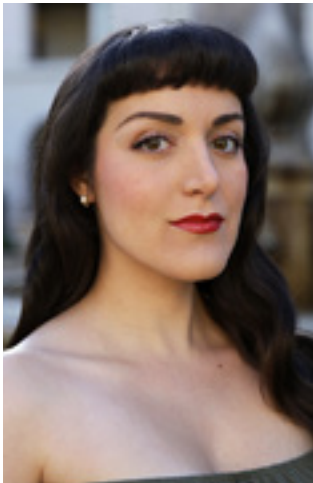


**Carolyn Deskin** (Ruth Bader Ginsburg)



**CAROLYN IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTIST** living in Los Angeles and originally from Texas. She has had the pleasure of studying with Ivana Chubbuck, The BGB Studio, UCB and Groundlings. Favorite film credits include *WATER'S EDGE* (CryptTV) and *THIS LAND* (Michael Aloyan). Favorite theatre credits include the award-winning, West Coast Premiere of *NORMAL* by Anthony Neilson, *MEDEA*; a soliloquy by Constance Strickland and Shakespeare's *MACBETH*. She loves to dance and trains at The Edge and Studio A Dance. She enjoys writing and directing short dark-comedy pieces, which you can see on her website: [carolyndeskin.com](http://carolyndeskin.com)

**Marie MacKnight:** (Nellie Bly)



**MARIE IS A SINGER/ACTRESS** originally from Phoenix, Arizona. With a lifelong love for music and the arts, she spent her childhood studying classical vocal performance and later received a BFA in Musical Theatre from The University of Arizona. Now living in Los Angeles with her fiancé, Sean Meshew, she sings professionally as a vintage jazz vocalist with The Satin Dollz, and acts in various local theatre and film projects. You can hear her work most recently as a studio singer for Disneyland's latest 'Magic Happens!' Parade and in The Satin Dollz debut album, 'PinUp Revolution'. Favorite past roles include: Margot Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, and Seada in *Necessary Targets*. She would like to dedicate this performance as Nellie Bly to all young girls and women struggling with image, inner strength, self worth, and doubt. There is a sisterhood here to support you, and you are "dynamic, ambitious, and capable" just as you are!

**Jackie Melbon** (Grace Hopper)



**JACKIE IS HONORED TO BE PORTRAYING** Grace Hopper in this year's extraordinary story about the female movers and shakers in history. Getting to know this incredibly intelligent, scientific innovator has been thrilling and it is Jackie's pleasure to bring Grace Hopper to you! Jackie earned her BFA in Drama from USC and also has a Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Jackie was most recently seen at the Attic Theater in *RUMORS*, *DEATHTRAP*, *ALL MY SONS*, *ZARA SPOOK AND OTHER LURES*, *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU*, *ARSENIC AND OLD LACE*, and she portrayed Mother Bickerdyke in 2020's *MAKING HERSTORY* performance. Jackie's other productions include *NEXT FALL* at Stages Theater, *THE BOX CAR CHILDREN*, *THE GREAT SQUIRREL UPRISING* and the world premier of *THE ORPHAN TRAIN* at Laguna Playhouse. Jackie would like to thank Mimi Turnbull Black for her incredible vision and inspiring accounts of these remarkable women in *HERstory*.

**Monica Pal** (Kalpana Chawla)



**MONICA, A CREATIVE PERSON WHO LOVES HELPING** her community by volunteering with the National Honor Society, Montessori Preschools, OC India Association and California Scholarship Federation. Monica has many hobbies including dancing, reading and writing. She expresses herself by dancing her heart. The stage is her second home, always beckoning and always nurturing her talent. She is currently being trained in many dance forms, including Kathak, Bharh-natyam and Bollywood dance from India. She has received many awards from numerous dance competitions and was awarded the Women in Science grant from the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. Helping children reach their potential, she supports them by encouraging them to follow their dreams and become the best version of themselves. Recently, she wrote a book on COVID-19 and received the Innovation Award from United States House of Representatives for her contribution to the community.

**Christin Pertel** (Mae West)

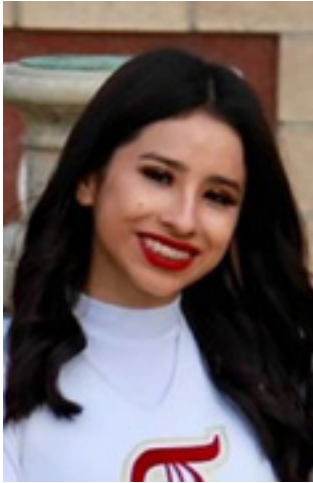


**CHRISTIN IS BEST KNOWN** to Southern California audiences as the original hostess of the long-running popular Buena Park vaudeville review, Teatro Martini. Under her pseudonym Trixy Rene, Christin is also a internationally recognized burlesque headliner and producer, winning four titles including Best of Comedy at Burly Picks 2018 and Best Fire Routine at ABurlyQ 2017. Having had the pleasure of portraying Mae West before, Christin is excited to revisit this bombshell of an icon to remind women around the world to “know your worth and don’t settle”.

**Kym Foley** (Althea Gibson)



**THIS AWARD WINNING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NATIVE** has a varied background including films, theatrical productions and numerous television appearances including “Just Roll With It”, “Bizaardvark” and “That’s So Raven” on the Disney Channel, “Live with Kelly and Ryan After the Oscars Show” on ABC, with recording artist, MAX, Motown: The Early Years as the lead singer of The Six Teens with Doo Wop’s Best on PBS and with Motown Royalty Brenda Holloway as Backing Vocalist. Her original song, “Stand Up” was featured on “Extreme Clutter” on the Oprah Winfrey Network, (OWN). She has had the honor of singing the National Anthem at Dodger Stadium. She performed for an amazing 4-1/2 years at B.B. King’s Blues Club in Hollywood, CA at their Sunday Gospel Brunch and currently performs with Unity Inspirational Ensemble on numerous projects. For more information and to connect with Kym, please visit her at [www.kymfoley.com](http://www.kymfoley.com), [www.facebook.com/kymfoley](https://www.facebook.com/kymfoley).

**Xiadani Vazquez (Maria Tallchief)**


**HELLO, MY NAME IS XIADANI AND I AM** a cheerleader for Downey High School. Apart from being a cheerleader and a dancer in many categories, I also enjoy acting. Acting is a very big part of what makes me, me. Acting makes me completely block out life and I really enjoy myself in that moment, whether it's rehearsing lines or on the stage being someone else. It helps me relax and not think about everything else I have to do, kind of along the lines of school work, book club, tests, and many other responsibilities I tend to have. I was very honored to hear that I had gotten the part of Maria Tallchief, if I have to be honest I'd have to say that when I read the lines of Maria Tallchief it feels like I am her, I truly feel as if I connect with her because I can see similarities of her life to mine. To sum up this little backstory of me I am truly honored to be playing the character and I hope you enjoy my performance.

**Sadie Black (Dancing Maria Tallchief)**


**SADIE BLACK IS A FREELANCE ARTIST** from and based in Los Angeles. She dances currently with Barak Ballet, Clairobscur Dance, Luminario Ballet, Southern California Dance Theater, Raiford Rogers Modern Ballet & Contempo Ballet. Sadie is also co-producer and choreographer of projects for ballet company, Freaks With Lines. She trained with Riverside Ballet Arts, Houston Ballet Academy, and the School of American Ballet. Before her freelance career, Sadie has been a company dancer with Texas Ballet Theater, Columbia City Ballet and Los Angeles Ballet. Sadie is a choreographer and ballet teacher for students of all ages and a yoga, barre and fitness teacher. Sadie has also coached and choreographed for students competing at Youth America Grand Prix and other several dance competitions. Her ballets "Ra" and "Swing Time" were both invited to perform at the YAGP Finals in NYC. instagram @sadie\_black. Headshot photo credit: @westcoastballetproject REEL:<https://vimeo.com/148837544>

**Veronic Vazquez (Dolores Huerta)**


**VERONICA VAZQUEZ IS A DUAL IMMERSION SCIENCE TEACHER** who aspires to bring about systemic change in education for minorities, women, and first-generation college students like herself. For her undergraduate education, she attended CSUC and CSUF for her MS degree. She has always dreamed of acting and decided that an important role of this nature was a perfect fit to make her acting debut.

**Sean Meshew** (Martin Ginsburg)



**SEAN MESH EW HAS BEEN ACTING FOR OVER FIFTEEN YEARS** in both theatre and film and holds a BFA in acting from The University of Arizona. As a fan of history he has had the pleasure of portraying several historical figures such as Octavius in Julius Caesar, Otto Frank in the Diary of Anne Frank, and he is honored to now add the fervent supporter of equality and loving husband that is Martin Ginsburg. Soon to be a husband himself, he strives to live by Martin’s example. He would like to thank his supportive family and friends, this wonderful cast and crew who never cease to amaze, the writer and director Mimi Turnbull for her incredible work and passion and finally his wonderful future wife Marie, without whom he would not be half the man he is proud to be today.

**Katie May Porter** (Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee)



**KATIE IS AN ACTOR, FILMMAKER, ENGINEER,** and a native New Yorker. She has a degree from MIT in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Theater Arts – and has long since been balancing both her left-brain engineering and right-brain creative worlds. She collaborates with Developed Over Coffee (DoC) Productions (<http://www.developedovercoffee.com>) on several projects. Katie is member of the Open Fist Theatre Company in Los Angeles. Instagram and Twitter: @ActressEngineer

**EP McKnight** (Fannie Lou Hamer)



**EP MCKNIGHT IS A GRADUATE OF FORDHAM UNIVERSITY** Lincoln Center, New York City where she received her Masters Degree in Educational Psychology. Ms. McKnight wears many titles: Elementary Teacher, Motivational Speaker, Fitness Instructor, Playwright, Author, Actress, Talk Show Host, Producer, Director and Child of God! Also, she is an innovator and founder of Nikao Imani Productions, a non-profit company that champions Breast Cancer Survivors and distribute monthly “The Angel Traveling Gift Basket” with donations from Ralphs, Target, Sprouts, 99Cents Store and individual supporters.

As a playwright, Ms. McKnight most recently wrote and produced “And Still I Rise-The Rainbow Ladies Who Chose Life When Death Knocked” Mydaddy Place”, “The Trial of Scottsboro Alabama”, “MenApause”, Catch The Sprit, and many others. As a poet and author, she has penned “Joy365” and “Words ‘N’ Action” and is an Amazon #1 Best Selling Author.

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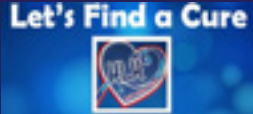
**What is HLH?**

**Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis is a life-threatening immune system disorder that affects people of all ages and ethnicities. By creating awareness we seek to increase survival rates and allow our families to thrive.**

We congratulate the honorees, performers and all the women in our community making a difference daily in society.



Felicitamos a todas las mujeres homenajeadas, actrices, y a quienes hacen una diferencia en nuestra sociedad todos los días.



For more information about HLH and how you can help us raise awareness please contact us at [hlhletsfindacure21@yahoo.com](mailto:hlhletsfindacure21@yahoo.com).

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