

Uptown News Beat

Saint Patrick's Day

It seems everyone is Irish when St. Patrick's Day comes around. Each year on March 17, the Chicago River flows a brilliant shade of emerald, Guinness fills pints around the world, fireworks explode and children are pinched for not wearing green. In the midst of all the revelry and traditions, one may wonder how St. Patrick's Day got its start.

Saint Patrick's Day, or the **Feast of Saint Patrick** is a cultural and religious celebration occurring annually on 17 March, the death date of the most commonly-recognized patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461).

Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early seventeenth century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church and Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, as well as celebrating the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilithe, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Christians also attend church services, and the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day, which has encouraged and propagated the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption.

Saint Patrick

Much of what is known about St Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the *Declaration*, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God". The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take

him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

On St. Patrick's Day it is customary to wear shamrocks and/or green clothing or accessories (the "wearing of the green"). St Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to



explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish. This story first appears in writing in 1726, though it may be older. In pagan Ireland, three was a sig-

nificant number and the Irish had many triple deities, a fact that aided St Patrick in his evangelisation efforts. The wearing of the 'St Patrick's Day Cross', especially in the World War I era, by the Irish, was also a popular custom. These St Patrick's Day Crosses have a Celtic Christian cross made of silk or ribbon of different colors, and a bunch or rosette of green silk in the center

Saint Patrick's Day, while not a legal holiday in the United States, is nonetheless widely recognized and observed throughout the country as a celebration of Irish and Irish American culture. Celebrations include prominent displays of the color green, eating and drinking, religious observances, and numerous parades. The holiday has been celebrated on the North American continent since the late eighteenth century. (compiled from: answer/Wikipedia/ehow)

Whether you are celebrating in Midland or Austin or Houston or wherever your fave spot is—have fun and stay safe! WEAR GREEN!!

Uptown Midland BPW

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Uptown Officers—
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Inside this issue:

<i>Diana Ross</i>	2
<i>50th Anniversary</i>	2
<i>I Have a Work Space</i>	2
<i>Test Your Women's History IQ</i>	3
<i>Happy Birthday</i>	4
<i>Women Who Dare</i>	4-5
<i>Calendar Membership Renewal</i>	6
<i>February Speaker</i>	6

Member Happenings.....

Diana RossDeborah Williams



We had a FABULOUS time last night (2/25/15) seeing the amazing Diana Ross. She looked 40 years old, absolutely gorgeous and, despite rumors of being a Grand Diva, she was so sweet, gracious and charismatic that we adored her. Costume changes were awesome! Her music was the soundtrack of my growing up years and she sang nearly everything we wanted to hear. Midland's audience went crazy, and she was so fun and responsive, kept having the house lights turned up so she could interact with everyone. Just picture everyone on their feet, palms facing out, singing "STOP! In the name of Love...." We are so lucky to have the Wagner Noel venue. Here's one of the shots I got of her:

Happy 50th Anniversary!!!

Delores and Robert Schuler have been married 50 years on February 27, 2015. They have 2 sons Rodney (Linda) and Nathan (Kelly) and 3 grandchildren—Devon, Amanda and Makayla.

If you want to send Congrats here is their address:

Bob and Delores Schuler
2521 Bobwhite Drive
Odessa TX 79763



I now have a Work Space.....Joy Maraio

Announcing!! I now have a work space for my business JOYFUL PARTY PLANNING at the Wall Street Lofts, 100 North Main Street in Midland.

In this wonderful newly built downtown building I hope to work with clients who are interested in assistance with event planning.

I welcome the opportunity to also host lunch and learn sessions as well as evening meetings at my space for companies or groups that need a private and attractive area to meet. Food and refreshments will be served upon request.

For further information please call my office 432.685.7041
Thank you,
JOY MARAIO

Test Your Women's History IQ.....NWHP.ORG

1. Who founded her own record company?
2. Who documented unsung roles of women working within the National Parks system?
3. Who wrote a *Century of Struggle*?
4. Who wrote a best-selling book about Sally Ride?
5. Who was the first African American to have a regular column in a major newspaper?
6. Who collected tribal records & documents that in 1994 proved to be critical to the success of the Mohegan Tribe's campaign to gain federal recognition?
7. Who is the oral historian who documented the life stories of Chinese American women?
8. Who was recently awarded the Humanities Medal by President Obama?
9. Who is an educator and pioneer in Latina History?

Delilah L. Beasley

(1867—1934)

Delilah L. Beasley was a newspaper columnist and historian. She was the first African American woman to be regularly published in a major metropolitan newspaper and the first author to present the history of African Americans in early California.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon

(1899—2005)

Gladys Tantaquidgeon was a Mohegan Medicine Woman, an anthropologist, and a Tribal Elder. Throughout her life Tantaquidgeon collected tribal records and documents that in 1994 proved to be critical to the success of the Mohegan Tribe's decades-long campaign to gain federal recognition.

Eleanor Flexner

(1908—1995)

Eleanor Flexner was an historian and Independent Scholar. Her groundbreaking 1959 book *Century of Struggle: The Women's Right Movement in the United States* marked her as a pioneer in the field of women's studies.

Polly Welts Kaufman

(1929—Present)

Polly Welts Kaufman, a writer, teacher and activist, has designed women's history trails including "The Boston Women's Heritage Trail." She has also documented the unsung roles of women working within the National Parks System.

Lynn Sherr

(1943—Present)

Lynn Sherr, an American broadcast journalist and author. *In Susan B. Anthony Slept Here* (1976), Sherr recognized the importance of reclaiming and visiting women's historic landmarks. Her best-selling book, *Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space* (2014), is the only adult biography of that path breaking woman.

Judy Yung

(1946—Present)

Judy Yung is an oral historian, author, and Professor. She is best known for her ground breaking work in documenting the immigration history of Angel Island and the life stories of Chinese American women.

Darlene Clark Hine

(1947—Present)

Darlene Clark Hine is an historian and educator who was recently awarded the Humanities Medal by President Obama. Hine has dozens of works to her credit, most notably an encyclopedia of African American History.

Holly Near

(1949—Present)

Holly Near is a singer, song writer, and social activist who has inspired generations with music that chronicles progressive activism of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Near is recognized for her contributions as a music publisher of Redwood Records which produced albums for more than two decades.

Vicki L. Ruiz

(1955—Present)

Vicki L. Ruiz is an educator and pioneer in Latina History. She earned a Ph.D in History at Stanford in June 1982. Two months later she showed up for her first teaching position with a baby on her hip and another on the way. Over the course of three decades, Ruiz has been a major force in shaping the field of Chicana history.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

Happy Happy Birthday!!



3/10 Annette Dozier



Women Who Dare.....Shirley Harris (from Knowledge Cards from Library of Congress)



Charlotte Perkins Gilman
American, 1860—1935

With a formidable intellect and the energy of one making up for lost time, Charlotte Perkins Gilman was the most influential feminist thinker of her day and a magnet for the cause of women's rights for her generation.

Raised in poverty and irregularly educated, Gilman rose to prominence gradually as a freelance writer and lecturer beginning in her mid-thirties. Her early adulthood was plagued by depression and mental breakdown due to what she later realized was a radical incompatibility with the domestic routines of marriage. Among her most significant achievements were the landmark *Women and Economics* (1898), an innovatively reasoned and prescient call for the economic independence of women, and the incisive feminist monthly *Forerunner*, which she produced between 1909 and 1916.



Edith Spurlock Sampson
American, 1901—1979

Edith Spurlock Sampson was an achiever, a trailblazer, and ultimately an enduring example of the person who, resolutely and often without fanfare, changes a system from within. As a child in Philadelphia she determined to get an education and work to relieve in some way the plight of the urban poor around her, a desire that led first to social work and then to

the study of law. As a pioneering African American female law student and then lawyer, she racked up many fists in her career and came to be widely known and respected as a practicing attorney in Chicago. A natural in the courtroom, she claimed to "speak from the heart and let the law take care of itself." In 1962 Sampson became the first black female judge in America, and she later served as an alternative delegate to the United Nations, traveling widely abroad as a goodwill ambassador.

Sampson also gave unsparingly of herself to ensure that as many youths as possible could follow in the path she had forged. In fact, it was her appearance at a high school career day in Texas that inspired a young Barbara Jordan (in a process Jordan would later liken to a religious conversion) to pursue a career in law.



National Women's History Project





Amy Marcy Cheney Beach

American, 1867—1944

One of the prominent musical figures of her age, Amy Beach was the first American woman to succeed as a composer of large-scale art music. Ignoring the current of the times (“Are Women Composers People?” one 1913 music journal frankly wondered) she forged a brilliant and still-inspiring dual career as a composer and pianist.

Raised primarily in Boston, Beach began composing and playing piano at age four. At

thirteen she made her professional debut as a pianist, and two years later she was performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. After her marriage to a prominent surgeon, Beach devoted herself increasingly to composition, working in a variety of large and small forms. The premiere of her Mass in E-flat by the Boston Symphony in 1892 was the first of many critical successes that drew wide attention.

The works of Amy Beach have attracted fresh interest in recent years. A digital recording of Beach’s Symphony in E Minor (*Gaelic*) was released by the Library of Congress in 1989.



Alice Paul

American, 1885-1977

Alice Paul always held that much of the world’s trouble was rooted in the thwarting of the power of women. She devoted her life to seeing that women gained more of a say in all matters that affected them—that is to say, in all matters of life.

Paul came to a social activism first as a settlement worker in New York. In 1906, while doing settlement work in England, she became involved with the suffrage movement there and eventually was jailed three times. Subsequently Paul became a mover in the American suffrage movement. Dissatisfied with what she considered the timidity of mainstream suffrage groups, in 1913 she founded her own organization, which would evolve into the National Women’s Party, in which she was a dominant figure for some three decades. Though perhaps best known today for drafting the first equal rights amendment, Paul’s accomplishments as a feminist and internationalist were myriad. It was her doing, for example, that an affirmation of the equality of women and men was included in the preamble to the charter of the United Nations.

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Eleanor Roosevelt

American, 1884—1962

Humanitarian, diplomat, teacher and precedent shattering first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt was a well-known public figure by the time her husband, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was elected governor of New York in 1928. She would go on to become one of the most important American women of the century. Born to a life of genteel privilege, Eleanor Roosevelt turned a restless intelligence and boundless energy first to expanding her own sphere of

action as a political wife, then to expanding social and economic opportunities for all. As a public figure she was (and still remains) controversial; her strong stand on civil rights and other social issues made her many enemies—even as millions voted her their “most admired” American woman year after year. After her husband’s death, Roosevelt also moved in the international arena, playing a key role in the drafting and adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.



Rosa Parks

American, 1913—2005

Rosa Parks’s place in history lies in a single courageous action, her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus on December 1, 1955. Her subsequent arrest, pictured here, resulted in a mass boycott of city buses and brought the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King JR., to national prominence. Yet the popular view of Parks’s catalytic action as that of a simple, tired seamstress is not altogether accurate. Though indeed a woman

of quiet dignity, Parks was also a longtime mover in the Montgomery NAACP and a well trained, disciplined activist, attuned in every respect to what she was setting into motion.

Parks and her husband, Raymond, moved to Detroit in the wake of the bus boycott, and for many years she worked in the office of Michigan congressman John Conyers. Still lending her energies to the struggle for equal rights, Parks remains a powerful figure of hope and inspiration to millions.

Answers to Women’s History IQ Test:

1. Holly Near
4. Lynn Sherr
7. Judy Yung

2. Polly Welts Kaufman
5. Delilah Beasley
8. Darlene Clark Hine

3. Eleanor Flexner
6. Gladys Tantaquidgeon
9. Vicki L. Ruiz

Membership Renewals

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!!!!

February Renewals:

Tiffany Blakely
Tracie J Cherry
Joy Maraio
Stacy Nelson

March Renewals:

Annette Dozier
Donette Marble

Please check your "in-box" for your renewal invoice.

Thanks!!

Stacy Nelson, Membership Chair

February Speaker



February 11th Program Meeting Speaker John Brenner, owner, West Texas IT Consulting with Stephanie Murphree, Uptown President and Evie Gandy, Uptown Vice President

John gave us some pointers about

Calendar

3/11/15 Kay Therwanger, Detective with MPD Program Meeting—11:30—1 pm - Double Tree by Hilton—trying their buffet

3/24/15 Business Meeting - 11:45 - 1 pm. Joyful Party Planning at the Wall Street Lofts—100 N Main St - Brown Bag

4/8/15 Equal Pay Day

4/8/15 Program Meeting

4/22/15 Business Meeting

4/30/15 Bunco—Scholarship Fundraiser—details coming soon

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**Women
Helping
Women**