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## Featured Bookshelf: 2019 Women's History Month

Megan M. Haught

Univeristy of Central Florida, [megan.haught@ucf.edu](mailto:megan.haught@ucf.edu)

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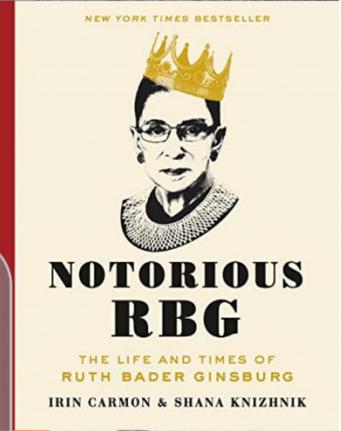
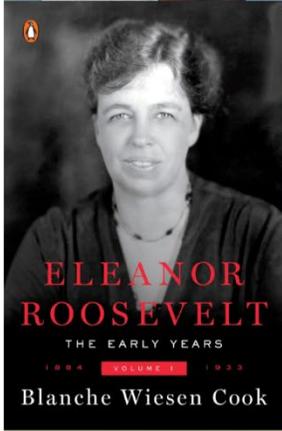
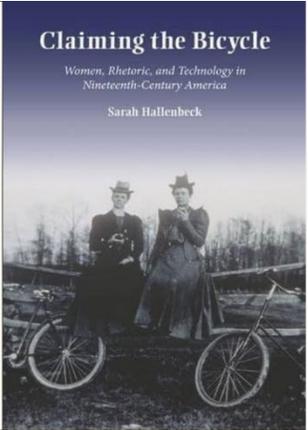
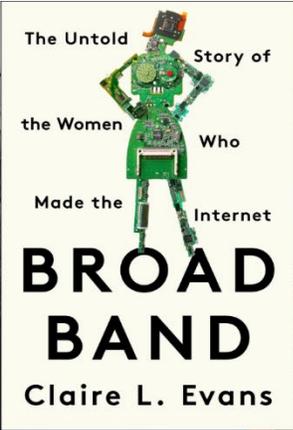
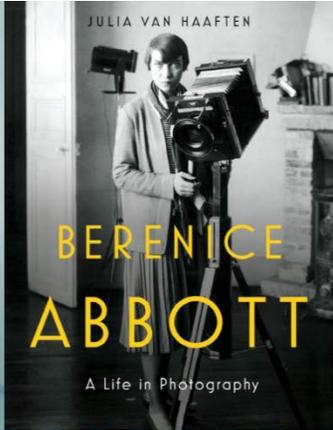
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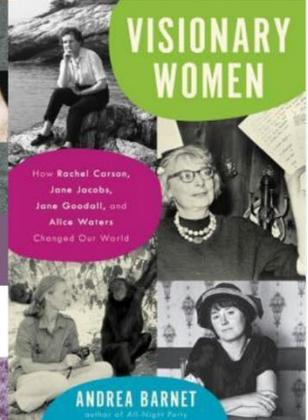
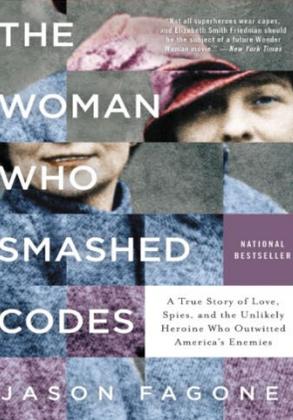
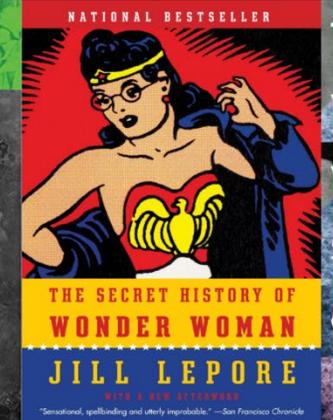
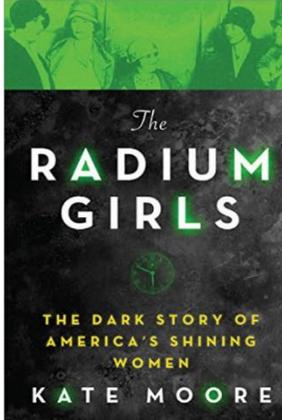
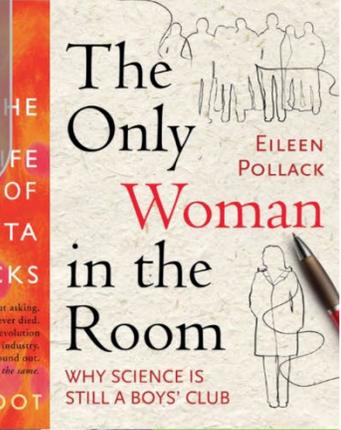
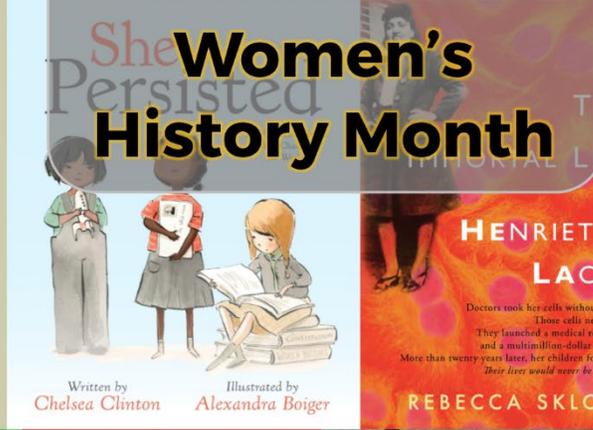
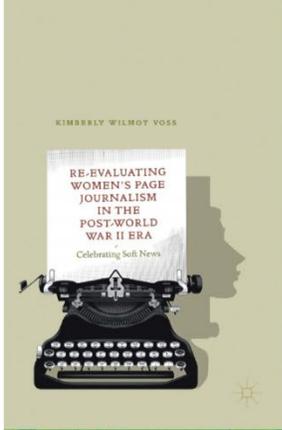
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# UCF Libraries Bookshelf



Women's History Month began as a week-long celebration by in Sonoma, California in 1978 which was centered around International Women's Day on March 8. A year later during a women's history conference at Sarah Lawrence College, participants learned how successful the week was and decided to initiate similar in their own areas. President Carter issued the first proclamation for a national Women's History Week in 1980. In 1987, Congress (after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project) passed Pub. L. 100-9 designating March as Women's History Month. U.S. Presidents have issued proclamations on Women's History Month since 1988.

The University of Central Florida community joins together to celebrate Women's History Month across the multiple campuses with a wide variety of activities including workshops, film screenings, and WomanFest2019. Visit the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion's #visionarywomen](#) page to learn more about the scheduled events, and stop by the library to view the display wall, *Portraits of Empowerment: Womanhood & Activism*, which includes bras decorated at our Honor, Remember & Support workshop. UCF Libraries is featuring a faculty author talk by Dr. Kimberly Voss called [Women's Page History in Florida in the 1950s and 1960s](#) on Friday, March 8 at 10:30 am in John C. Hitt Library 223.

Here at the UCF Libraries, we have created a list of suggested, and favorite, books about women in both history and fiction. Please keep reading below to see the full book list with descriptions and catalog links. And don't forget to stop by the John C. Hitt Library to browse the featured bookshelf on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (main) floor near the bank of two elevators for additional Women's History Month books and DVDs.

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### **[Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama**

When she was a little girl, Michelle Robinson's world was the South Side of Chicago, where she and her brother, Craig, shared a bedroom in their family's upstairs apartment and played catch in the park, and where her parents, Fraser and Marian Robinson, raised her to be outspoken and unafraid. But life soon took her much further afield, from the halls of Princeton, where she learned for the first time what it felt like to be the only black woman in a room, to the glassy office tower where she worked as a high-powered corporate lawyer--and where, one summer morning, a law student named Barack Obama appeared in her office and upended all her carefully made plans. Here, for the first time, Michelle Obama describes the early years of her marriage as she struggles to balance her work and family with her husband's fast-moving political career. She takes us inside their private debate over whether he should make a run for the presidency and her subsequent role as a popular but oft-criticized figure during his campaign. Narrating with grace, good humor, and uncommon candor, she provides a vivid, behind-the-scenes account of her family's history-making launch into the global limelight as well as their life inside the White House over eight momentous years--as she comes to know her country and her country comes to know her.

*Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services*

### **[Berenice Abbott: a life in photography](#) by Julia Van Haften**

The comprehensive biography of the iconic twentieth-century American photographer Berenice Abbott, a trailblazing documentary modernist, author, and inventor. Berenice Abbott is to American photography as Georgia O'Keeffe is to painting or Willa Cather to letters. She was a photographer of astounding innovation and artistry, a pioneer in both her personal and

professional life. Abbott's sixty-year career established her not only as a master of American photography, but also as a teacher, writer, archivist, and inventor. Famously reticent in public, Abbott's fascinating life has long remained a mystery—until now.

*Suggested by Christina Wray, Teaching & Engagement*

**[Broad Band: the untold story of the women who made the Internet](#) by Claire L. Evans**

Join the ranks of the pioneers who defied social convention to become database poets, information-wranglers, hypertext dreamers, and glass ceiling-shattering dot com-era entrepreneurs. This inspiring call to action shines a light on the bright minds whom history forgot, and shows us how they will continue to shape our world in ways we can no longer ignore.

*Suggested by Dawn Tripp, Research & Information Services*

**[Eleanor Roosevelt](#) by Blanche Wiesen Cook**

Eleanor Roosevelt was born into the privileges and prejudices of American aristocracy and into a family ravaged by alcoholism. She overcame debilitating roots: in her public life, fighting against racism and injustice and advancing the rights of women; and in her private life, forming lasting intimate friendships with some of the great men and women of her times. This volume covers ER's family and birth, her childhood, education, and marriage, and ends with FDR's election to the Presidency--the years of ER's youth and coming of age. Celebrated by feminists, historians, politicians, and reviewers everywhere, Cook's trilogy is an unprecedented portrait of a brave, fierce, passionate political leader of our century.

*Suggested by Larry Cooperman, Research & Information Services*

**[Miss Ella of Commander's Palace: "I Don't Want a Restaurant Where a Jazz Band Can't Come Marching Through"](#) by Ella Brennan & Ti Adelaide Martin**

Meet Ella Brennan: mother, mentor, blunt-talking fireball, and matriarch of a New Orleans restaurant empire, famous for bringing national attention to Creole cuisine. In this candid autobiography, she shares her life. From childhood in the Great Depression to opening esteemed eateries, it's quite a story to tell. When she and her family launched Commander's Palace, it became the city's most popular restaurant, where famous chefs such as Paul Prudhomme, Emeril Lagasse, and James Beard Award winner Troy McPhail got their start. Miss Ella of Commander's Palace describes the drama, the disasters, and the abundance of love, sweat, and grit it takes to become the matriarch of New Orleans' finest restaurant empire.

*Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services*

**[My American Dream: a life of love, family, and food](#) by Lidia Matticchio Bastianich**

For decades, beloved chef Lidia Bastianich has introduced Americans to Italian food through her cookbooks, TV shows, and restaurants. Now, in *My American Dream*, she tells her own story for the very first time. Born in Pula, on the Istrian peninsula, Lidia grew up surrounded by love and security, learning the art of Italian cooking from her beloved grandmother. But when Istria was annexed by a communist regime, Lidia's family fled to Trieste, where they spent two years in a refugee camp waiting for visas to enter the United States. When she finally arrived in New York, Lidia soon began working in restaurants, the first step on a path that led to her becoming one of the most revered chefs and businesswomen in the country. Heartwarming, deeply personal, and powerfully inspiring, *My American Dream* is the story of Lidia's close-knit family and her dedication and endless passion for food.

*Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services*

**Notorious RBG by Irin Carmon**

Notorious RBG, inspired by the Tumblr that amused the Justice herself and brought to you by its founder and an award-winning feminist journalist, is more than just a love letter. It draws on intimate access to Ginsburg's family members, close friends, colleagues, and clerks, as well as an interview with the Justice herself. An original hybrid of reported narrative, annotated dissents, rare archival photos and documents, and illustrations, the book tells a never-before-told story of an unusual and transformative woman who transcends generational divides. As the country struggles with the unfinished business of gender equality and civil rights, Ginsburg stands as a testament to how far we can come with a little chutzpah.

*Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging*

**Re-evaluating Women's Page Journalism in the Post-World War II Era: celebrating soft news by Kimberly Wilnot Voss**

*Re-Evaluating Women's Page Journalism in the Post-World War II Era* tells the stories of significant women's page journalists who contributed to the women's liberation movement and the journalism community. Previous versions of journalism history had reduced the role these women played at their newspapers and in their communities—if they were mentioned at all. For decades, the only place for women in newspapers was the women's pages. While often dismissed as fluff by management, these sections in fact documented social changes in communities. These women were smart, feisty and ahead of their times. They left a great legacy for today's women journalists. This book brings these individual women together and allows for a broader understanding of women's page journalism in the 1950s and 1960s. It details the significant roles they played in the post-World War II years, laying the foundation for a changing role for women.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**She Persisted: 13 American women who changed the world by Chelsea Clinton**

Chelsea Clinton introduces tiny feminists, mini activists and little kids who are ready to take on the world to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, inevitably and without fail, persisted. *She Persisted* is for everyone who has ever wanted to speak up but has been told to quiet down, for everyone who has ever tried to reach for the stars but was told to sit down, and for everyone who has ever been made to feel unworthy or unimportant or small.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

*Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement*

**[The Only Woman in the Room: why science is still a boy's club](#) by Eileen Pollack**

A bracingly honest exploration of why there are still so few women in the hard sciences, mathematics, engineering, and computer science. Based on six years interviewing her former teachers and classmates, as well as dozens of other women who had dropped out before completing their degrees in science or found their careers less rewarding than they had hoped, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a bracingly honest, no-holds-barred examination of the social, interpersonal, and institutional barriers confronting women—and minorities—in the STEM fields. This frankly personal and informed book reflects on women's experiences in a way that simple data can't, documenting not only the more blatant bias of another era but all the subtle disincentives women in the sciences still face. *The Only Woman in the Room* shows us the struggles women in the sciences have been hesitant to admit, and provides hope for changing attitudes and behaviors in ways that could bring far more women into fields in which even today they remain seriously underrepresented.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services*

**[The Radium Girls: the dark story of America's shining women](#) by Kate Moore**

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. And as the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**[The Secret History of Wonder Woman](#) by Jill Lepore**

The Secret History of Wonder Woman is a tour de force of intellectual and cultural history. Wonder Woman, Lepore argues, is the missing link in the history of the struggle for women's rights—a chain of events that begins with the women's suffrage campaigns of the early 1900s and ends with the troubled place of feminism a century later. This edition includes a new afterword with fresh revelations based on never before seen letters and photographs from the Marston family's papers.

*Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement*

**[The Woman Who Smashed Codes: a true story of love, spies, and the unlikely heroine who outwitted America's enemies](#) by Jason Fagone**

In *The Woman Who Smashed Codes*, Jason Fagone chronicles the life of this extraordinary woman, who played an integral role in our nation's history for forty years. After World War I, Smith used her talents to catch gangsters and smugglers during Prohibition, then accepted a covert mission to discover and expose Nazi spy rings that were spreading like wildfire across South America, advancing ever closer to the United States. As World War II raged, Elizebeth fought a highly classified battle of wits against Hitler's Reich, cracking multiple versions of the Enigma machine used by German spies.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services*

**Visionary Women: how Rachel Carson, Jane Jacobs, Jane Goodall, and Alice Waters changed our world by Andrea Barnet**

This is the story of four visionaries who profoundly shaped the world we live in today. Together, these women—linked not by friendship or field, but by their choice to break with convention—showed what one person speaking truth to power can do. Jane Jacobs fought for livable cities and strong communities; Rachel Carson warned us about poisoning the environment; Jane Goodall demonstrated the indelible kinship between humans and animals; and Alice Waters urged us to reconsider what and how we eat. With a keen eye for historical detail, Andrea Barnet traces the arc of each woman’s career and explores how their work collectively changed the course of history. All told, their efforts ignited a transformative progressive movement while offering people a new way to think about the world and a more positive way of living in it.

*Suggested by Christina Wray, Teaching & Engagement*

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Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-womens-history-month-2019/>