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Featured Bookshelf: 2020 Women's History Month

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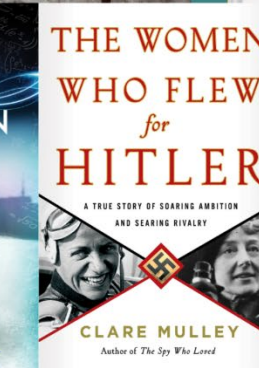
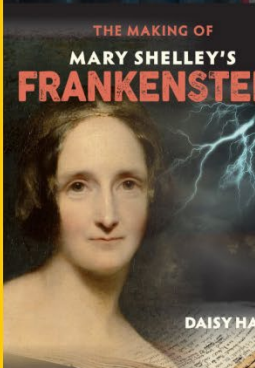
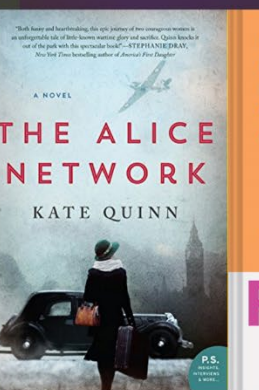
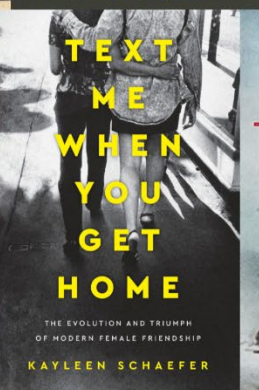
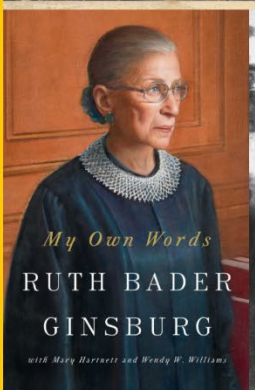
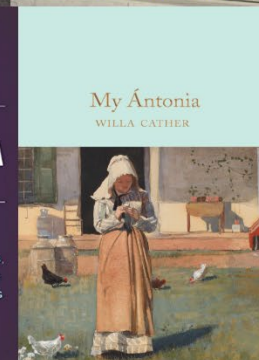
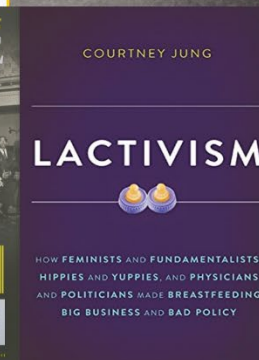
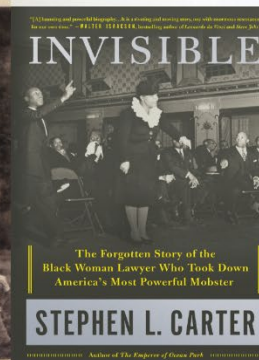
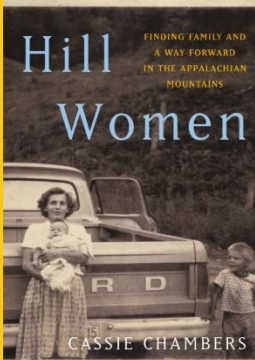
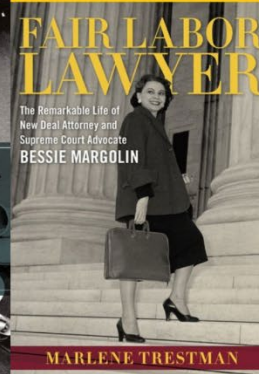
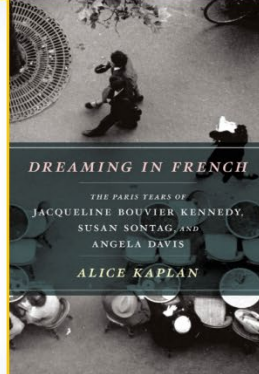
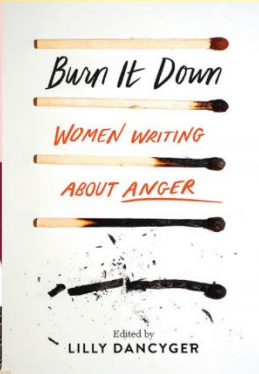
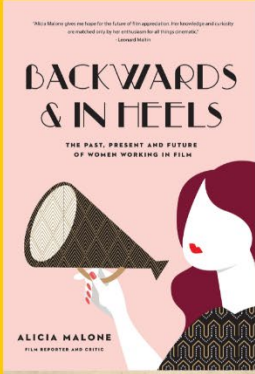
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Women's History Featured Bookshelf



Women's History Month began as a week-long celebration 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 multiple campuses with a wide variety of activities including the [Women in STEM @ UCF panel discussion](#), a [special screening of the student-produced film, Filthy Dreamers](#), and [WomanFest 2020](#). You can also view the Women First at UCF Project on the display wall at the John C. Hitt Library. The project was a collaboration between UCF Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, Dr. M.C. Santana from the Women's and Gender Studies Program, and Dr. Robert Cassanello from the Department of History. [Full details about the project, exhibit reception information and the UCF Celebrates the Arts Panel can be found on the Libraries blog.](#)

Here at the UCF Libraries, we have created a list of books about women, both history and fiction, suggested by staff. 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 2nd (main) floor near the bank of two elevators for additional Women's History Month books and DVDs.

Note: WomanFest2020 and Women in STEM @ UCF panel were cancelled on March 16, 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

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[Backwards and in Heels: the past, present and future of women working in film](#) by Alicia Malone

Women have been instrumental in the success of American cinema since its very beginning. One of the first people to ever pick up a motion picture camera was a woman. As was the first screenwriter to win two Academy Awards, the inventor of the boom microphone and the first person to be credited with the title Film Editor. Throughout the entire history of Hollywood women have been revolutionizing, innovating, and shaping how we make movies. Yet their stories are rarely shared. Film reporter Alicia Malone tells the history of women in film in a different way, with stories about incredible ladies who made their mark throughout each era of Hollywood. From the first women directors, to the iconic movie stars, and present-day activists. Each of

these stories are inspiring in the accomplishments of women, and they also highlight the specific obstacles women have had to face.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[Burn it Down: women writing about anger](#) edited by Lilly Dancyger

A rich, nuanced exploration of women's anger from a diverse group of writers. Women are furious, and we're not keeping it to ourselves any longer. We're expected to be composed and compliant, but in a world that would strip us of our rights, disparage our contributions, and deny us a seat at the table of authority, we're no longer willing to quietly seethe behind tight smiles. We're ready to burn it all down.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Dreaming in French: the Paris years of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis](#) by Alice Kaplan

A year in Paris . . . since World War II, countless American students have been lured by that vision—and been transformed by their sojourn in the City of Light. Dreaming in French tells three stories of that experience, and how it changed the lives of three extraordinary American women.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[Fair Labor Lawyer: the remarkable life of New Deal attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin](#) by Marlene Trestman

Through a life that spanned every decade of the twentieth century, Supreme Court advocate Bessie Margolin shaped modern American labor policy while creating a place for female lawyers in the nation's highest courts. Despite her beginnings in an orphanage and her rare position as a southern, Jewish woman pursuing a legal profession, Margolin became an important and influential Supreme Court advocate.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[Hill Women: finding family and a way forward in the Appalachian Mountains](#) by Cassie Chambers

Appalachian women face issues that are all too common: domestic violence, the opioid crisis, a world that seems more divided by the day. But they are also community leaders, keeping their towns together in the face of a system that continually fails them. With nuance and heart, Chambers uses these women's stories paired with her own journey to break down the myth of the hillbilly and illuminate a region whose poor communities, especially women, can lead it into the future.

Suggested by Anna Dvorecky, Cataloging

[Invisible: the forgotten story of the black woman lawyer who took down America's most powerful mobster](#) by Stephen L. Carter

Eunice Hunton Carter, Stephen Carter's grandmother, was raised in a world of stultifying expectations about race and gender, yet by the 1940s, her professional and political successes had made her one of the most famous black women in America. But her triumphs were shadowed by prejudice and tragedy. Greatly complicating her rise was her difficult relationship with her younger brother, Alphaeus, an avowed Communist who—together with his friend Dashiell Hammett—would go to prison during the McCarthy era. Yet she remained unbowed.

Suggested by Katy Miller, Student Learning & Engagement

[Lactivism: how feminists and fundamentalists, hippies and yuppies, and physicians and politicians made breastfeeding big business and bad policy](#) by Courtney Jung

Political scientist Courtney Jung offers the most deeply researched and far-reaching critique of breastfeeding advocacy to date. Drawing on her own experience as a devoted mother who breastfed her two children and her expertise as a social scientist, Jung investigates the benefits of breastfeeding and asks why so many people across the political spectrum are passionately invested in promoting it, even as its health benefits have been persuasively challenged. What emerges is an eye-opening story about class and race in America, the big business of breastfeeding, and the fraught politics of contemporary motherhood.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[My Antonia](#) by Willa Cather

Set in rural Nebraska, Willa Cather's book is both the story of an enduring friendship and a brilliant portrayal of the lives of rural pioneers in the late-nineteenth century.

Suggested by Larry Cooperman, Research & Information Services

[My Own Words](#) by Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams

In this collection, Justice Ginsburg discusses gender equality, the workings of the Supreme Court, being Jewish, law and lawyers in opera, and the value of looking beyond US shores when interpreting the US Constitution. This book's sampling is selected by Justice Ginsburg and her authorized biographers Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams, who introduce each chapter and provide biographical context and quotes gleaned from hundreds of interviews they have conducted.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[Text Me When You Get Home: the evolution and triumph of modern female friendship](#) by Kayleen Schaefer

Journalist Kayleen Schaefer interviews more than one hundred women about their

BFFs, soulmates, girl gangs, and queens while tracing this cultural shift through the lens of pop culture. Our love for each other is reflected in Abbi and Ilana, Issa and Molly, #squadgoals, the acclaim of *Girls Trip* and *Big Little Lies*, and Galentine's Day.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[The Alice Network](#) by Kate Quinn

In an enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

Suggested by Kelly Young, Administration

[The Future is Feminist: radical, funny, and inspiring writing by women](#) edited by Mallory Farrugia

A star-studded roster of iconic women write powerfully about what it means to be a feminist yesterday, today, and tomorrow. These poets, essayists, activists, actors, and professors address topics ranging from workplace harassment to resting bitch face. The results are by turns refreshing, provocative, moving, and hilarious. A diverse chorus of intersectional voices and a forward-looking stance set this book apart. It's the smart, covetable anthology that women of all ages will turn to for support and inspiration in the ongoing fight for gender equality.

Suggested by Jada Reyes, Research & Information Services

[The Making of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein](#) by Daisy Hay

Frankenstein was inspired by the extraordinary people surrounding the eighteen-year-old author and by the places and historical dramas that formed the backdrop of her youth. Featuring manuscripts, portraits, illustrations, and artifacts, this work explores the novel's time and place, the people who inspired its characters, the relics of its long afterlife, and the notebooks in which it was created. Hay strips *Frankenstein* back to its constituent parts to reveal an uneven novel written by a young woman deeply engaged in the process of working out what she thought about the pressing issues of her time: from science, politics, religion, and slavery to maternity, the imagination, creativity, and community.

Suggested by Jada Reyes, Research & Information Services

[The Other Einstein](#) by Marie Benedict

In the tradition of *The Paris Wife* and *Mrs. Poe*, this book offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own

profound and very personal insight.
Suggested by Kelly Young, Administration

[The Women Who Flew for Hitler: a true story of soaring ambition and searing rivalry](#) by Clare Mulley

Hanna Reitsch and Melitta von Stauffenberg were talented, courageous, and strikingly attractive women who fought convention to make their names in the male-dominated field of flight in 1930s Germany. With the war, both became pioneering test pilots and were awarded the Iron Cross for service to the Third Reich. But they could not have been more different and neither woman had a good word to say for the other.

Suggested by Kelly Young, Administration

[Womanish: a grown black woman speaks on love and life](#) by Kim McLarin

Searing in its emotional honesty, this essay collection explores what it means to be a black woman in today's turbulent times. Writing with candor, wit and vulnerability on topics including dating after divorce, depression, parenting older children, the Obama's, and the often fraught relations between white and black women, McLarin unveils herself at the crossroads of being black, female and middle-aged, and, ultimately, American. Powerful and timely, it draws upon a lifetime of experiences to paint a portrait of a black woman trying to come to terms with the world around her, and of a society trying to come to terms with black women.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Student Learning & Engagement/Research & Information Services

Tumblr post: <https://ucflibrary.tumblr.com/post/611413468748365824/womens-history-month-began-as-a>

Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-womens-history-2020-month/>