

◆ Classroom Spice ◆

Volume 1, Issue 2 Dr. Jeanne Mather, Editor

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Women of Courage

Women of Courage is a nonfiction book written by Margaret Truman. It discusses twelve women who impacted American History including Dolley Madison, Ida Wells-Barnett, "Mother" Mary Jones, Elizabeth Blackwell, Margaret Chase Smith, Susan B. Anthony, Prudence Crandall, Kate Barnard, Susan Livingston, Sarah Winnemucca, Marian Anderson, and Frances Oldham Kelsey. You have probably heard of a few of these, but not all of them. However, just because you have not heard of them does not mean you will not find that they are incredible women who rightfully should be recognized as part of our history. What do they have in common? A quality of mind and spirit which allowed them to face danger and/or difficulties with determination.

Margaret Truman classifies these women as demonstrating one of three kinds of courage: bravery—daring and/or defiance; heroism—nobleness and/or self-sacrifice; or fortitude—patience and/or perseverance. These women represent diverse backgrounds ranging from a first lady to a slave, from

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150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement

Since March is recognized as "National Women's History Month" and 1998 marks the 150th anniversary of the Women's rights movement this issue of *Classroom Spice* will include several articles relating to gender equity. The first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. Two of the women responsible for the Convention were Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Mrs. Stanton is well known for her Declaration of Sentiments, which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence and identified eighteen complaints women had about their treatment by men and by the system, and called for their redress.



No dream is too big for "any" student— boy or girl

Elizabeth was the daughter of a lawyer and as such it is not surprising that she became interested in the legal rights of women as she listened to her father advise married women of the law. A law which deprived them of custody rights of their children as well as their property rights. While her father was anything but a feminist (he thought his daughter was "insane" when he found out she advocated the right of women to vote!), the experiences of listening to him counsel women made her question the legal standing of women. As a wife and mother of eight, it was not easy to fight for women's rights but through the recruitment of other women such as Mrs. Mott and Miss Anthony, and her own speeches and writing she was instrumental in helping the Women's Movement become successful. This was especially true in New York as seen in the 1848 state legislation granting property rights to married women. In the days of old, girls' dreams were severely limited. Today we hope there is no limit to anyone's dreams.

Celebrating Diversity

An excellent resource for primary teachers, published by Teacher Created Materials, is *Celebrating Diversity: Extended Thematic Unit* by Susan Kane, David Cavanaugh, and Jane Gilbert (ISBN 1-55734-601-1). It is designed for the classroom teacher and can be used to cover units on diversity throughout an entire year. However, for utmost flexibility sub-themes can be covered in isolation in as little as one day, with little difficulty in changing the presentation order.

It includes hands-on activities, bulletin board ideas, theme specific bibliographies, and cross curriculum opportunities. It includes international tie-ins for art, language arts, music and movement, social studies, expression, math and science, and food and cooking. Cultures include Asian; Native American; Egyptian; European, e.g., Greek, Italian, etc; South American ; West Indian; Pacific Islander; West African; and North American cultures. Each lesson includes goals, materials,

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So Who Do You Picture When You Think of a Scientist

Did you know that the Eiffel Tower has a plaque inscribed with the names of 72 savants who helped with the physics required to enable the Tower to be built? So why wasn't Sophie Germain's name included since her work on elasticity, acoustics, and vibrating plates was instrumental in the building of the Tower?

Research has shown when children are asked to draw or describe a scientist they invariably draw a man with a lab coat, and more often than not with glasses and wild hair. While the latter may not be particularly flattering to men, the entire drawing is a slap in the face to women. Perhaps if children, both boys and girls, were exposed to women scientists they might be less inclined to stereotype "scientists." So what can you do to help?

There are a number of K-12 resources available through the National Women's History Project. (NWHP) such as biographies, reference books, cd-roms, t-shirts, posters, coloring books, paper dolls, videos, and even buttons.

One very inexpensive item, (\$2.00), is *Women in Science*, a special supplement published by the Philadelphia Daily News. It includes articles on women Nobel Prize winners

in various areas of science; great women inventors, scientists, & mathematicians throughout history; and profiles of women geologists, meteorologists, physicists, astronauts, astronomers, doctors, computer scientists, environmentalists, zoologists, chemists, electrical engineers, and marine biologists.

It also has several educational activities which are science and/or math related. It has a magic square activity, a flow chart activity, a classification activity, a pentomino activity, and a statistics activity. One activity which is particularly great is a "Women in



Science" card game. This has the blackline master to make the thirty-six cards, three cards about each of twelve women scientists. The game then is played like "Go Fish." This can easily be adapted to include more scientists and/or mathematicians including men or other designated groups. How? Either do a little background work on your own or make it part of an assignment, regular assignment or maybe extra credit points for your students.

The NWHP can be reached at (707) 838-6000, or e-mail: nwhp@aol.com. We have catalogs available in the USAO Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) for your convenience.

(Answer to Eiffel Tower question: Because she was a woman.)

Multicultural Math

Multicultural activities in the math class let you add flavor, interest, and interdisciplinary opportunities to your lessons.

You might be surprised at the number of ways that math and culture interact. One book which does a fine job in bringing a multicultural flavor into the math class is written by Sharon Vogt, and is entitled simply *Multicultural Math*. It is a resource book published by Frank Schaffer for middle and upper grades. Many of the lessons cross

curriculum areas into content such as social studies, art, and physical education. Mathematics skills addressed are in the areas of geometry, problem solving, probability, statistics, discrete mathematics, basic operations, proportions, tessellations, fractions, patterning, estimation, solving algebraic equations, numeration, measurement, map skills, and money

exchanges. Each topic includes goals, identification of math skills addressed, a main activity and accompanying student activity pages, a listing of additional activities, and an answer key for the related student pages. It is a great resource book. Check it out. Order through Frank Schaffer 1-800-609-1734 or your local teacher supply store, or see it in the MRC. Its ISBN # is 0-86734-804-6.

The Literature Connection

(Continued from *Courage* page 1)

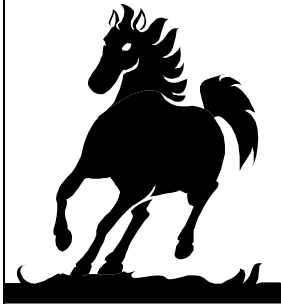
a U.S. Senator to the daughter of an Indian Chief, from native born to immigrants, from the woman involved with the nightmare at Liberty Hall to the woman known as the Good Angel of Oklahoma.

While this book is no longer in print it is available through most libraries, and interlibrary loan services. And of course it can be seen in the MRC. Be sure and check it out. It will give you a wealth of background information to utilize and perhaps a new title to recommend to secondary students.

If you find it useful you might try calling the publisher and say it would be an excellent book to reprint—believe it or not this has worked in the past! It was published by Bantam Books ISBN 0-553-10939-1. Phone number 1-800-223-6834.

Additional sources for information on women include *They Led the Way: 14 American Women; Reclaiming the Past... Rewriting the Future: A Curriculum Unit;* and *Famous American Women: A Biographical Dictionary from Colonial Times to the Present;* or the Women's History Catalog all of which are available in the USAO Multicultural Resource Center (MRC).

A regular feature of *Classroom Spice* will be a review of children's literature K-12 which can be used in a classroom or school to help promote multicultural education. Even if you do not teach in an area where the book is particularly appropriate you might find that it is a book you would like to see in your school library, and hopefully a book that you would benefit from reading.



Many Oklahoma teachers, both elementary and secondary, cover units which include cowboys. How many of these teachers include information

about the five thousand plus black cowboys? It is usually for one of a handful of reasons such as 1) they never thought about it, 2) they did not know anything about them, or 3) they did not know how to get information on them. Well, there is a book by Robert Miller, *Reflections of a Black Cowboy*, published by Silver Burdett which should provide you with some valuable information. It includes stories about Nat Love, Stagecoach Mary, Cherokee Bill, Willie Kennard, and Bill Pickett. The author is

indeed a master storyteller easily enthralling his readers.

The Three Little Javelinas by Susan



Lowel and published by Scholastic is an adaptation of the "Three Little Pigs" with a southwestern

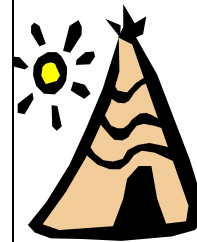
flavor. It includes Native American and Mexican culture references. In addition its illustrations and text easily provide cross curriculum aspects for integrating with both science and social studies. It is a primary level text and could easily be part of a fairy tales unit, a pig unit, or a three little pigs unit. Another interesting aspect of the story is the third pig (whom you may recall was the smart one) is a female. It is a really cute book students will love.

An historical biography which middle school and up will find interesting is *The*

Double Life of

Pocahontas by Jean

Fritz. The Disney movie about Pocahontas helped to increase the interest in the young daughter of a Native American Algonquian chief, but also helped to perpetuate many myths about her. Pocahontas was not romantically involved with John Smith but



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E T R R D

R Y P E P L E

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directions, and extensions.

Blackline masters are provided for most lessons. Whether you are interested in ideas ranging from animals to folktales, map-skills to bowling, quilts to Venn diagrams, poetry to fish prints, or metrics to greetings in other languages you are sure to find helpful tips in this book.

So what is so extraordinary about Ellen Ochoa, Antonia Novello, David Ho, or Maya Lin? Perhaps you or your students would like to learn more about how Americans from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds have helped shape our country.

Even if you do not have any students from any of these particular ethnic or cultural groups it is a great way to appreciate the contributions of Americans who may have similarities with your own students, such as socioeconomic level, hobbies, family structure, medical conditions, etc.

The new series from J. Weston Walch

covers 16 extraordinary individuals in each of the following groups: Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, in addition to its 16 Extraordinary American Women. The series includes outstanding individuals in such areas as politics, science, sports, arts, religion, and business. The *interest level* is middle school through adult, with a readability level of 3rd-5th grade. Each reading provides a profile on the individual followed by comprehension and application activities. For a Walch catalog come by the MRC or call 1-800-341-6094. 1-800-558-2846.



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Women's Rights Movement; Literature, Math, & Science Connections; Extraordinary People

*A key to
successful
multicultural
education is to
accentuate the
similarities
between us
rather than the
differences.*

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had more of a sister/brother relationship, note that she was only around eleven years old and he was twenty-seven at the time of their meeting! The book goes on to tell the fascinating story of her life including her kidnapping by colonists, her marriage to John Rolfe, her trip to England, and her death at the age of 21. Jean Fritz is well known for her historical writing, and has won many awards including the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal winner for this book. The book is published by Puffin Books, ISBN 0-14-032257-4.

Another book appropriate for middle school and up is *Journey of the Sparrows* by Fran Leeper Buss with the assistance of Daisy Cubias. It

is the tale of a fifteen year old girl and her pregnant older sister and six year old brother who illegally cross the U.S. border and attempt to get to Chicago to escape the fighting and killing of El Salvador . The cruelty they endure before and during the trip and after they reach the "land of milk and honey" brings a new perspective to the reader. It shows both the kindness and cruelty of people. Published by Yearling Books, ISBN 0-440-40785-0.

Another story dealing with

the search for freedom is set in Korea in 1945 where a ten year old girl is forced to face the Japanese occupation of her home and the upheaval it causes for her family. But the end of the Japanese occupation does not bring all that is hoped for as the Communist Russian troops then take control of the North Korea. A new perspective on twentieth century world history. The book is *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyui Choi published by Dell Yearling Books and is an ALA Children's Notable Book, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, and recipient of glowing reviews from *School Library Journal*, and *The New York Times*, to name a few.

