



Inspire

Just Be...Creative!

March is Women's History Month

March is *Women's History Month* – commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. There have been lots of creative women in American history. They say, “Necessity is the mother of invention” meaning that the primary driving force for most inventions is need. Here are just a few creative inventions by women:

In 1886 Josephine Cochrane earned her patent for a mechanical dishwasher—one that would hold dishes securely in a rack while the pressure of a water sprayer cleaned them.

Leticia Greet invented the medical syringe in 1899. Thanks to her, we can all get the COVID-19 vaccine via an injection.

Can you imagine driving a car in bad weather without windshield wipers? Mary Anderson invented a device that used a lever inside the vehicle to control a rubber blade on the windshield in 1903.

Isn't it nice that you can walk into your home and turn on the heat when you're cold? You can thank Alice H Parker who patented her design of a natural gas-fueled “new and improved heating furnace” in December 1919 and helped give birth to the thermostat and the familiar forced air furnaces in most homes today.

Marie Van Brittan Brown created an early version of the modern home security system that consisted of a motorized camera to record her home entry way and project images onto a TV monitor. It also included a 2-way microphone to communicate with visitors without opening the door, as well as a panic button to notify police of any potential emergency in progress. She received her patent approval for closed circuit TV security systems in December 1969.

Dr. Shirley Jackson was the first Black woman to earn a doctorate in nuclear physics at MIT in 1973. Her experiments paved the way for numerous developments in the telecommunication space including the touch-tone telephone, the portable fax, caller ID, call waiting and fiber-optic cable.

Patricia Bath, in 1981, invented the Laserphaco Probe, a medical device that quickly and painlessly uses a laser to dissolve cataracts in the eye, then irrigates and cleans the eye to make inserting a replacement lens quick and easy.

In the words of Albert Einstein, “Creativity is contagious. Pass it on.”

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

Bellingham, WA began a Card Campaign to reach out to corps members during this time apart.

Bozeman, MT ladies are offering service and stepping outside their comfort zones by making telephone calls to people who have visited on a Sunday or requested a phone call.

California South DHQ started a ministry to younger women on TikTok. Check out [@caswomen](#)

Chula Vista, CA started a new online group, Fey y Café (Faith & Coffee).

Flagstaff, AZ had a “Mug'gle Meet.” Ladies brought their favorite mug and shared why they loved that particular mug, along with lots of conversations, coffee and laughter.

Great Falls, MT is creating a WM Newsletter which includes a devotion, Bible reading plan, guided prayer exercises, testimonies and more. This can be sent out to ladies regardless of their technology capabilities.

Merced, CA did a “Quaren-Tea Party” for their annual meeting. Tea cups and cookies were home delivered to the ladies who signed up.

Northwest DHQ offered the women officers in the Division to participate in the *If:Lead Conference* which was all done virtually. All those participating carried on a group text throughout the conference to share insights and takeaways in real time.

Redondo Beach, CA is currently studying *Experiencing Spiritual Intimacy: Women of Faith Study Guide*.

Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women's Ministries

Colonel Donna Igleheart—Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women's Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

31 Days of Creativity in March

Spend the month of March reading about our creative God.

1. Genesis 1:1-19
2. Genesis 1:20-2:3
3. Genesis 2:4-25
4. Job 9:1-12
5. Job 26:7-14
6. Job 38:1-33
7. Psalm 8:1-9
8. Psalm 19:1-6
9. Psalm 33:1-22
10. Psalm 90:1-2
11. Psalm 104:1-23
12. Psalm 104:24-35
13. Psalm 124:1-8
14. Psalm 134:1-3
15. Psalm 139:13-18
16. Psalm 148:1-14
17. Proverbs 3:13-20
18. Isaiah 40:12-31
19. Isaiah 42:5-9
20. Isaiah 45:1-10
21. Isaiah 45:11-25
22. Isaiah 51:12-16
23. Isaiah 65:17-25
24. Jeremiah 10:1-16
25. Jeremiah 32:16-27
26. Acts 17:22-28
27. Romans 11:33-36
28. Colossians 1:15-20
29. Colossians 3:5-11
30. Revelation 4:1-11
31. Revelation 22:1-5

You are Creative!

For many of us, we hear the word creative and instantly think “that isn’t me.” For most of us, we think of creative persons as those who paint beautiful masterpieces, or compose symphonies, or write lyrics to songs. Or perhaps those who are creative are able to string together words into sentences, paragraphs, chapters and entire books.

Why are we so fearful of the word “creative?” In Genesis 1:27 it tells us, **So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.** God is creative. The very first thing we learn about God at the very beginning of the Bible is He created. This verse tells us that we are made in His image. Because God is creative, we too, made in His image, are creative. Soak that in for a moment. You are creative!

Christian author Glynnis Whitwer writes this, “We all have creativity designed into us. Yet many believe they have been shorted in the idea department, while others got an unfair share. Not true! Perhaps you’ve put borders around what you think creativity looks like.”

Often when we hear the word creative we think of artistic—someone who can draw, paint, sculpt. But we can be creative in so many different ways. To be creative is defined as “marked by the ability or power to create: given to creating.” It can also mean, “imaginative.” Anyone who can cook and create a dish without a recipe is creative. Growing a garden is creative. Arranging flowers is creative. Telling your kids a bedtime story that you made up—that is creative. Writing songs, poems, devotionals or sermons is creative. Meal planning and clipping coupons is creative. Decorating your home is creative. The list is endless.

God is the Creator, the Artist, and He created us in His image, so we too can be creative, artistic, and imaginative. Just as God created a variety of animals, plants and trees, He created a variety of humans—no two are alike (even identical twins are different). We can use who God created us to be and be creative in our own ways. For me, I will never paint a masterpiece (I can barely draw a stick figure), or compose a piece of music, and I will probably never be able to cook without following a recipe to the letter, but I can be creative in other ways—for me, personally, it is through the written word.

Actress Mary Lou Cook once said, “Creativity is experimenting, growing and taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes and having fun.” Creativity is not a passive process, but it is like a muscle. It must be stretched, challenged and occasionally pushed past its comfort zone.

How are you going to “Just Be Creative” today?



“**CREATIVE** people are **CURIOUS**, **f(lexible)**, **PERSISTENT**, and **independent** with a **TREMENDOUS SPIRIT** of **adventure** & a **love of play.**”
HENRI MATISSE



Get those **CREATIVE** juices flowing