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## It's International Women's Day: Meet 30 Remarkable Women Under 30



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[americacomesalive.com](http://americacomesalive.com)

Today is International Women's Day. March is Women's History Month, so to celebrate both events, we spoke with Kate Kelly, historian, author, and founder of

[History Comes Alive](#), an amazing website where American history is tailored for the Internet generation.

Since most of history class in high school and college is spent focusing on all the huge war-related things that men do, we thought it might be nice to ask Kate about some of the women under 30 who have made huge impacts in American history -- women that you might not have learned about in class.

**MyDaily:** Hi Kate! Thank you so much for speaking with me! I really loved your site, America Comes Alive. The stories are all easy to find and really interesting.

**Kate Kelly:** Oh, it's been an enormous and wonderful labor of love. The future is in the Internet, and I wanted to invest in something I believed in. Some of the stories are serious, some are quirky, but they're all history. For Women's History Month we're creating a box on the front page specifically for women in history. I think it's also important to remind people of American history, because we may complain about where we live, but we're not in Egypt.

**Good point. Why did you think it was important to create a list of 30 Remarkable Women Under Age 30 in American History?**

I went to Smith College, so I was lucky enough to learn every subject with the idea that women matter, and I wanted to bring that to a larger audience. My daughters accept our place in history -- that we can vote, get a job, do it all, but they don't realize that these things were hard won. No one is born knowing that their grandmothers weren't able to vote -- we have to teach them that. For this list we focused on four main areas where women made great achievements -- sports, military, social change, and explorers.

**Why don't we already know about these women?**

I think to some extent we haven't had history told through the view point of women. History in school is presidents and dates and treaties, and that's all important stuff, but there is more. It's only once we get into the cultural history of America that we start seeing women. The documentation isn't always very good. I've also picked a couple of women that people have heard of, but they may not know some of the amazing things that they've done.

**Ok, let's hear a few!**

Everyone's heard of Annie Oakley, right? But few people stop and think about how groundbreaking her skills were. In a time where women were supposed to stay home and "know their place", Annie was a masterful sharpshooter who was able to take her abilities and actually make a living out of it. She started hunting at a very young age after her father died when she was six, and at 21 she accepted a sharpshooting challenge and beat Francis E. Butler. They ended up getting married and traveling together.

Julia Child was of course, an amazing chef, but you may not know that she desperately wanted to enter the military during WWII, but she was too tall at 6'2". Instead she joined the Office of Strategic Services (a pre-CIA organization). During WWII, the Navy was attempting to plant explosives under German U-boats, but sharks were locating the bombs and bumping them out of position. The explosives were being detonated early and missing their marks or serving as a warning to the Germans who fled the area before their boats were destroyed. Julia and her co-workers cooked up a shark repellent that was painted on the explosives, which permitted the Navy to move forward with their plans.

Sheyann Webb is a woman not a lot of people have heard of, even though she is sometimes referred to as Martin Luther King Jr.'s "smallest freedom fighter." At the age of 9 she attended a talk by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and she was hooked. She started skipping school to go to demonstrations, and was a part of a demonstration that turned violent on March 7, 1965 (also called Bloody Sunday). Sheyann stood her ground and the 9 year old was protected by her fellow demonstrators.

And that's just three of them!

**Are there any women today who you think deserve to be on a future list of remarkable American women in history?**

I recently went to a talk about women electricians, and I think that they are impressive. They are tough women! One of the problems they have is not the inability to do the work, but that ergonomically, the equipment is suited to men's strength -- men carry strength in their upper body, women tend to carry strength in their thighs. Plus, women's hands are smaller, so often the equipment is too large for them. But still they keep working in this field. These difficulties don't even include the social expectations of a woman electrician, or the treatment by male electricians.

**Anything else you wanted to add?**

Well, basically, there are a lot of rights and services that we think have been around forever, but in reality, it's not been so long since those rights were earned. History helps us to remember that.

*We have another recommendation: Rachel Sterne is just 27, and the Chief Digital Officer of New York City. Now that's gotta go down in history. Read about how she got her job, [here](#).*

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