



WOMEN IN SUPPLY CHAIN LUNCHEON | OCTOBER 1

Sally Ride

Engineer, NASA

May 26, 1951 - Jul 23, 2012

*Education: Stanford University,
Swarthmore College, Harvard-Westlake School,
Gaspar De Portola Middle School*



Sally Kristen Ride was an American astronaut, physicist, and engineer. Born in Los Angeles, she joined NASA in 1978 and became the **first American woman in space** in 1983. Ride remains the youngest American astronaut to have traveled to space, having done so at the age of 32. After flying twice on the Orbiter Challenger, she left NASA in 1987. She worked for two years at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control, then at the University of California, San Diego as a professor of physics, primarily researching nonlinear optics and Thomson scattering. She served on the committees that investigated the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle disasters, the only person to participate in both. Not only is Ride the first American woman in space, she is also the first acknowledged gay astronaut. Ride died of pancreatic cancer on July 23, 2012.

Ride was passionate about improving science education and helping young women and girls foster an interest in science. She established Sally Ride Science, a nonprofit that encourages children from all backgrounds to take an interest in STEM.

Timeline:

1983: She became the first American woman in space as a crew member on space shuttle Challenger for STS-7.

1987: Ride left her position in Washington, D.C., to work at the Stanford University Center for International Security and Arms Control.

1989: She became a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, and director of the California Space Institute.

2012: After Sally Ride's death, General Donald Kutyna revealed that she discreetly provided him with key information about O-rings (namely, that they become stiff at low temperatures) that eventually led to identification of the cause of the explosion.



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Ethel Payne

Journalist: *The First Lady of the Black Press*
August 14, 1911 - May 28, 1991

Education: *Medill School of Journalism*



Ethel Lois Payne was an African-American journalist. Known as the “First Lady of the Black Press”, she was a columnist, lecturer, and freelance writer. She combined advocacy with journalism as she reported on the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s, and was known for asking questions others dared not ask. First published in *The Chicago Defender* in 1950, she worked for that paper through the 1970s, becoming Washington correspondent and editor. She became the first female African-American commentator employed by a national network when CBS hired her in 1972. In addition to her reporting of American domestic politics, she also covered international stories.

Timeline:

1948: She began her journalism career rather while working as a hostess at an Army Special Services club in Japan.

1950: First published in *The Chicago Defender* in 1950, she worked for that paper through the 1970s, becoming Washington correspondent and editor.

1956: During her 25 year career with the *Defender*, she covered many key events in the Civil Rights Movement, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott and desegregation at the University of Alabama, and the 1963 March on Washington.

1972: She became the first female African-American commentator employed by a national network when CBS hired her in 1972.

1978: She became an associate of the *Women’s Institute for Freedom of the Press*.

“I fought all my life to bring about change, to correct the injustices and the inequities in the system.”



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Juliette Gordon Low

Organization Founder of Girl Scouts
Oct 31, 1860 - January 17, 1927

Education: Edgehill School, Virginia
Female Institute

Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of Girl Scouts of the USA. Inspired by the work of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of Boy Scouts, Juliette Low joined the Girl Guide movement in England, forming a group of Girl Guides in Great Britain. She stayed active with the Girl Scouts until the time of her death.



Timeline:

1911: Inspired by the work of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of Boy Scouts, Low joined the Girl Guide movement in England, forming a group of Girl Guides in Great Britain in 1911.

1912: She returned to the US, and established the first US Girl Guide troop in Savannah, Georgia.

1913: By the time she returned to America in 1913, she had a plan to spread Girl Guiding nationwide by changing the name from Girl Guides to Girl Scouts, establishing a national headquarters, and recruiting patrons outside of Georgia.

1915: The United States' Girl Guides became known as the Girl Scouts, and Juliette Gordon Low was the first president. The first American Girl Scout handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country*, was published.

1927: By the time of her death in 1927 there were more than 140,000 Girl Scouts, in troops in every U.S. state, and by the early 21st century the organization had grown to include some 3.7 million members.

2012: President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the US, to Juliette Gordon Low for her "remarkable vision," and celebrates "her dedication to empowering girls everywhere."

**"The work of today
is the history of
tomorrow and
we are its makers."**



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Hedy Lamarr

The Mother of WIFI, Inventor, Actress
November 9, 1914 - January 19, 2000

Hedy Lamarr was an Austrian-American actress and inventor who pioneered the technology that would one day form the basis for today's WIFI, GPS, and Bluetooth communication

systems. As a natural beauty seen widely on the big screen in films like *Samson and Delilah* and *White Cargo*, society has long ignored her inventive genius.

As an Austrian Jew, Hedy was very concerned about what was happening to her family left behind in Vienna during World War II. She wanted to bring her mother safely to the US, but Nazi submarines had blown up refugees who attempted an Atlantic crossing. Hedy had married to a weapons manufacturer who worked with the Nazis before she escaped Austria, so she knew the kind of torpedoes the Nazis had and wanted to design one that would give the Allies the upper hand.

Hedy invented a secret communication system for the Allies — a secure radio signal that would allow Allied warships to control their torpedoes. The radio signal going from the ship to the torpedo would change frequencies so the Germans couldn't jam the signal. It inspired the secure digital communication systems we use today. While awarded a U.S. Patent No. in August of 1942, the Navy decided against the implementation of the system.

Lamarr's patent expired before she ever saw a penny from it. She continued to gain credits in films until 1958, her inventive genius was yet to be recognized by the public. It wasn't until her later years that she received awards for her invention. Lamarr also became the first woman to receive the *Invention Convention's Bulbie Gnass Spirit of Achievement Award*. Lamarr was inducted into the *National Inventors Hall of Fame* for the development of her frequency hopping technology in 2014. Such achievement has led Lamarr to be dubbed "the mother of WIFI" and other wireless communications like GPS and Bluetooth.



The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

-Poet, Kent M. Keith
Read by Hedy Lamarr
to her children



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Naomi Parker Fraley

Rosie the Riveter, American War Worker
August 26, 1921 - January 20, 2018

In 1942, 20-year-old Naomi Parker was working in a machine shop at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California, when a photographer snapped a shot of her on the job. In the photo, released through the Acme photo agency, she's bent over an industrial machine, wearing a jumpsuit and sensible heels, with her hair tied back in a polka-dot bandana for safety.



On January 20, 2018, less than two years after finally getting recognition as the woman in the photograph—thought to be the inspiration for the World War II-era poster girl “Rosie the Riveter”—Naomi Parker Fraley died at the age of 96.

Fraley's late-in-life fame came as the result of the dedicated efforts made by one scholar, James J. Kimble, to explore the history behind this American and feminist icon and to untangle the legends surrounding the famous poster. “There are so many incredible myths about it, very few of them based even remotely in fact,” Kimble says.



The poster in question was originally produced in 1943 by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation and displayed in its factories to encourage more women to join the wartime labor force. Created by the artist J. Howard Miller, it featured a woman in a red-and-white polka-dot headscarf and blue shirt, flexing her bicep beneath the phrase “**We Can Do It!**”



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Melitta Bentz

Inventor of the Coffee Filter

January 31, 1873 - June 29, 1950

"My mother, who had an excellent taste in coffee, was often irritated by the coffee grounds in her cup," Horst Bentz, one of her sons, recalled decades later in an interview in a 1949 issue of *Der Aufstieg*, a German publication. And then there was the chore of cleaning the copper pot and getting rid of the grounds that stuck to the sides.



Every morning, from her kitchen in Dresden, Germany, she fantasized about better ways to brew. She tried and failed multiple times, until one day she ripped a piece of blotting paper from her son's school notebook and stuck it into an old tin pot in which she had punched some holes. What she did next will sound familiar to many: She added ground coffee and poured hot water over it. The beverage dripped through the paper, straight into the cup.

Cleaning up was easier and more hygienic; the used paper filter went straight into the trash, with no more handling of messy grounds. She called this "perfect coffee enjoyment."



Timeline:

1908: In June, The Imperial Patent Office in Berlin granted Bentz the patent for the paper filter, and she and her husband were soon in business. Their headquarters was the family's five-room Dresden apartment.

1909: Bentz sold 1,250 units for 1.25 marks each that year.

1932: Bentz was credited with a number of work-life improvements for employees, including a five-day week, up to three weeks' vacation and a Christmas bonus.

1938: With her sons in charge, she founded Melitta Aid, a social fund for company employees that still exists today.

2017: Today the Melitta Group employs more than 4,000 people across the world. The company reported its revenue in 2017 as 1.5 billion euros, or about \$1.8 billion.



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