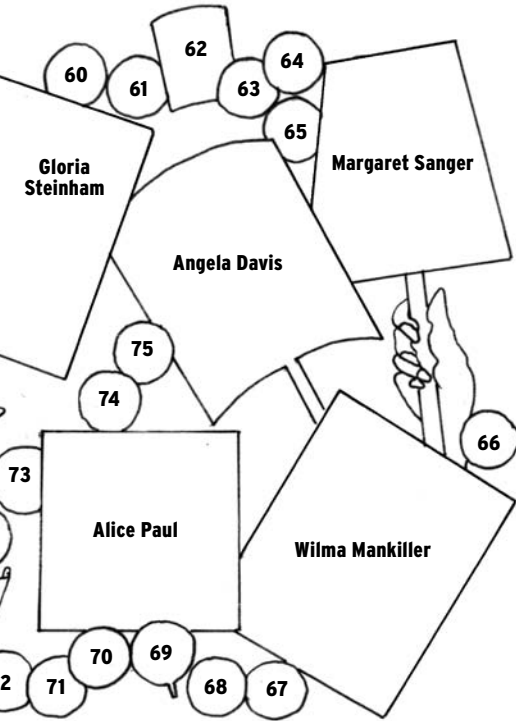


Key to portraits in **When Women**



1. Barbara Lee
2. Susan B. Anthony
3. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
4. Lucy Gonzalez Parsons
5. Lucretia Mott
6. Harriet Tubman
7. Victoria Woodhull
8. Mother Jones
9. Elizabeth Blackwell
10. Sojourner Truth
11. Sarah Weddington
12. Clarlene Mitchell
13. Jane Jacobs
14. Eleanor Roosevelt
15. Hattie Carthan
16. Miriam Colon
17. Cindy Sheehan
18. Maggie Kuhn
19. Marian Wright Edelman
20. Harriot Stanton Blatch
21. Ella Baker
22. Rae Unzicker
23. Carrie & Mary Dann
24. Eleanor Holmes Norton
25. Nina Simone
26. Billie Jean King
27. Florynce Kennedy
28. Antonia Pantoja
29. Mary McLeod Bethune
30. Mathilde Krim
31. Mamie Till-Mobley
32. Judy Baca
33. Karen Silkwood
34. Gladys Harrington
35. Lynn Paltrow
36. Betty Shabazz
37. Eva Cockcroft
38. Cheri Honkala
39. Sr. Helen Prejean
40. Jeannette Rankin
41. Barbara Jordan
42. Alice Neel
43. Jane Benedict
44. Yuri Kochiyama
45. Zitkala-Sa
46. Rachel Carson
47. Uta Hagen
48. Joan Maynard
49. Charlayne Hunter-Gault
50. Nellie Bly
51. Madalyn Murray O'Hair
52. Martina Navratilova
53. Jocelyn Elders
54. Augusta Savage
55. Lucy Lippard
56. Maria Ruzicka
57. Jane Addams
58. Bella Abzug
59. Kate O'Hare
60. May Stevens
61. Ruby Dee
62. Rosa Parks
63. Amy Goodman
64. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn
65. Nydia Velázquez
66. Liz Christy
67. Viola Riuzzo
68. Joan Baez
69. Diane Nash
70. Madame C.J. Walker
71. Cora Weiss
72. Kate Millett
73. Faith Ringold
74. Anita Hill
75. Mary Daly

Pursue **Justice**



# When Women Pursue Justice: Connecting for Change

Julia Watson

A story too seldom told is what happens **When Women Pursue Justice**. Through out much of American, and indeed human, history this story has been suppressed by patriarchal power and oppressive regimes that relegated women to home and hearth, to the convent and the prison, to the social margin and often to lives of labor and early death. But Artmakers' vivid and joyous mural tells another story in commemorating women of the last two centuries. With fierce energy and vision in the face of obstacles, these women changed not only their own lives but the world by asserting urgent convictions about equality, peace, and justice.

Women of the mid-twentieth century “discovered”—or, better said, recovered—forgotten ancestors in the history of feminist struggles. Their legacy of activism is an achievement of women not just as individuals but as co-workers in a collective struggle to leave the world better than they found it, for their children and for humanity. To many the last two centuries' struggle for women's suffrage and autonomy over their bodies and lives may seem a settled fact (at least to optimists). But others, immigrants and the poor of the developing world, have yet to share in the empowerment that dramatically changed life for most middle-class women. The work of activism is not finished. And the struggle renewed by each generation asks not only our commitment in the present to a better future, but the recognition of our place in a long chain of women who dedicated their lives to change. Focusing on the activism of ninety American women, **When Women Pursue Justice** charts a story of profound transformation in women's public and private lives over the last two centuries. Demanding our close attention to these women's achievements, the mural invites us to discover our place in that chain and support its continuation.

When looking at **When Women Pursue Justice**—whether at its Greene Avenue garden corner site in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, or in the exhibition images—where do we begin? What no doubt strikes us first is the mural's sheer size (45 feet high by 74 feet wide), the product of many women's and girls' hands, eyes, and hearts over hundreds of hours. Its joyous explosion of color, with dozens of prominent women's faces looking out at the viewer or one another, is as much a feast for the eye as a spur to memory. But how do we begin seeing the enfolded histories of American women's activism celebrated here?

Mural designer Janet Braun-Reinitz has resisted grouping these women simply by chronology, region, or type—for example, the suffrage and civil rights movements, or women who worked as legislators and artists. Instead, she has employed several kinds of connective tissue that invite discoveries about the mural. As we tease out points of contact, our eyes are drawn sequentially to several “lenses” of vision: (1) Layering—Who is prominent through size or grouping? (2) Proximity—Who is next to, above, or below, whom? Who makes eye contact across space? (3) Artistic choices—Who is linked by visual style and framing? How does the placement of colors connect disparate parts of the mural? By focusing on its many kinds of juxtapositions, we start to see the multiple histories of American women’s activism.

**When Women Pursue Justice** has a striking deep red background that, at first viewing, appears to be a series of large, receding shapes. On closer inspection we discern three shades of red, with silhouetted groups of demonstrators raising their fists and waving peace signs. In the mid-ground are crowds of activists, some on small picket signs, creating a pattern that flows through the mural—left to right, top to bottom—and organizes the myriad images. Dominating the foreground are large, variously shaped protest signs emblazoned with portraits of the mural’s movement leaders, each painted by an artist in a distinctive style that links her individuality to the leader’s. The mural’s layers of protest imagery thus echo the struggles of women across time and memory.

Our eyes are irresistibly drawn to the bold image of a woman on horseback riding in from the left, her unfurled banner reading *A Catalyst For Change*. Shirley Chisholm, to whom the mural is dedicated, was not only the long-term Congressional representative of Bedford-Stuyvesant; she was also the first African American and the first woman from a major political party to run for president. Her figure, over 30 feet tall, dominates the mural. She is clad in a suit not of armor but of the mud-cloth produced by West African women, trimmed with the regal kente designs of Ghana. Majestically astride a rearing golden palomino with rainbow-colored mane, she is profiled against an eight-pointed turquoise star. On

the right side of the mural, three large, elegantly manicured hands balance her imposing image.



Shirley Chisholm, who wanted to be and assuredly was “a catalyst for change,” is surrounded by thirteen additional women whose portraits appear on twelve outsized protest signs. Although these women did not live at the same time or work for the same causes, each was a “giant” in her way who broke through barriers to pursue greater equity for women. Strikingly, **Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks**, conventionally hailed as iconic feminist “mothers,” are not among them. Rather, they appear on smaller picket signs while lesser-known women whose activism was as radical and sometimes riskier are highlighted in Braun-Reinitz’ design.

Walking up Greene Avenue, a stroller encounters the compelling gaze of activist leader Audre Lorde at the mural’s extreme lower left. The face of this “Sister Outsider,” the daughter of an immigrant family from Grenada, is painted in myriad hues that suggest her “house of difference” as a lesbian poet and essayist. Lorde wrote powerfully of her efforts to validate women’s communities of life and love, while waging a long battle against the dehumanizing effects of both racism and, in her later years, breast cancer. Next to Lorde is Dorothy Day, who led a different but equally courageous struggle. She gazes out gravely but kindly, framed by a rising sun, a gently humorous halo befitting her nomination for sainthood. Her image is bordered by the loaves and fishes of the New Testament parable that evoke her work with the poor.

Dominating the center of the mural are four large portraits that form an inverted triangle.

The corners of the two vertical placards overlap like playing cards, their portraits in lime and gold balanced by two circular portraits on backgrounds of deeper shades of green and brown. Our eyes travel to the gilt-framed Emma Goldman, juxtaposed with Dolores Huerta. Though these two leaders never knew each other, what fascinating words might they have exchanged about the ongoing struggle for equality of impoverished people in the US? Huerta, an organizer of immigrant Chicano agricultural workers in the southwest, is encased in a sunny golden hue. In contrast, Goldman’s familiar costume of black hat and suit, white shirt with tied bow, and rimless glasses, highlighted on lime green, emphasizes the no-nonsense side of her “dancing” revolutionary fervor.

Above and to either side of Dolores Huerta, Clara Lemlich and Fannie Lou Hamer present an equally unlikely but complementary pair of portraits in conversation. Lemlich’s struggle to organize trade unions, which led to the founding of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, is remembered in the row of protestors below her and the image of the burning Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, tragically her one organizing effort that did not succeed. Fannie Lou Hamer’s uplifted head, in her yellow sunbonnet and neckerchief, is framed by lime green, linking her to the outspoken Goldman. Hamer’s open mouth recalls her impassioned speeches on behalf of seating the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the 1964 Democratic presidential convention, a transformative moment for civil rights in the South. All these organizers, “sick and

tired of being sick and tired,” as Hamer memorably declared, galvanized their constituencies with impassioned rhetoric and unstinting activism.

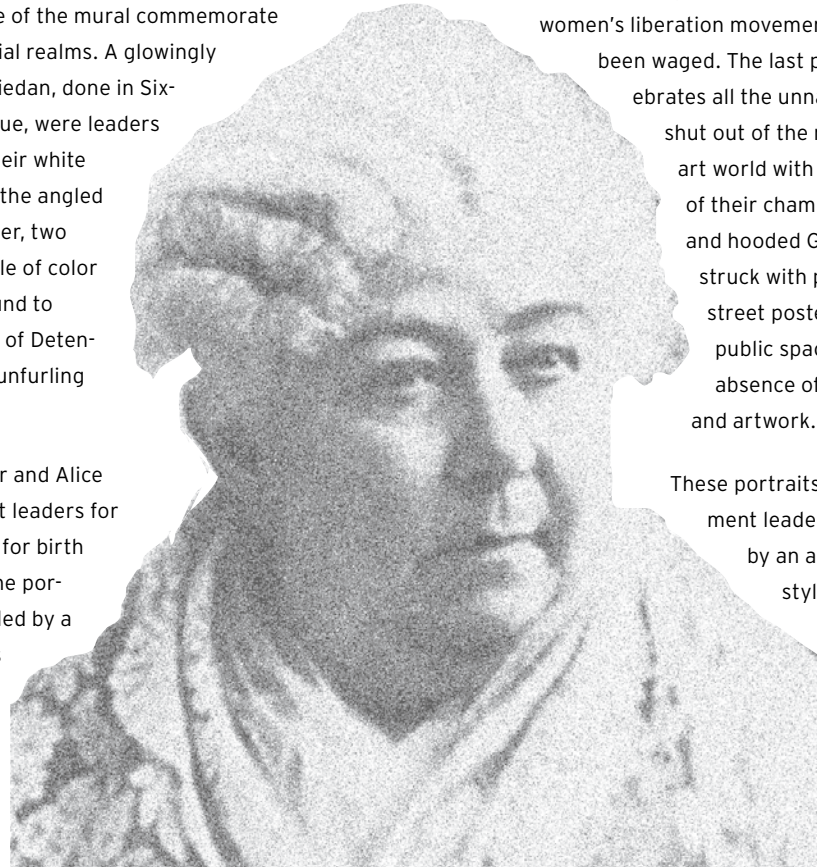
The remaining six portraits on the right side of the mural commemorate women’s pursuit of justice in a range of social realms. A glowingly gold Gloria Steinem and blue-hued Betty Friedan, done in Sixties-expressionist-style pink, orange, and blue, were leaders of the Second Wave of feminist struggle. Their white feminist call for women’s liberation adjoins the angled portraits of Angela Davis and Wilma Mankiller, two leaders who made radical calls to free people of color from centuries of oppression. The background to Davis’ Afro is the New York Women’s House of Detention, a “Free all political prisoners” banner unfurling from its window.

The neighboring images of Margaret Sanger and Alice Paul recall the campaigns of earlier feminist leaders for fundamental rights. Sanger was a crusader for birth control who started Planned Parenthood; the portrayal of her as an Edwardian lady surrounded by a border of birds, bees, and flowers, suggests the mural’s playful humor. Paul was a leader in the drive for women’s suffrage, through the 19th Amendment to the US

Constitution in 1920, and the framer of the Equal Rights Amendment, still not passed by Congress. Without their crucial leadership, Second Wave debates over priorities and directions of the women’s liberation movement could not have

been waged. The last protest sign celebrates all the unnamed women artists shut out of the male-dominated art world with a group portrait of their champions: the masked and hooded Guerrilla Girls who struck with paintbrushes and street posters in New York public spaces to protest the absence of women’s voices and artwork.

These portraits of feminist movement leaders, each rendered by an artist in her unique style, remind us that women’s pursuit of justice was never an orderly chronology;



rather it was a multi-faceted dialogue among women of widely diverse geographic locations and political positions. Similarly, is not just a gallery of famous leaders. Scattered amid these large placards are smaller portraits of seventy-six other activists, rendered in a graphic style that makes them easily identifiable. Of special note are the nine “ancestors” peering out from the top left corner of the mural who evoke the historical contexts of American feminism. Most prominent and pointedly larger than the rest are Susan B. Anthony and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, as their efforts in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries laid the groundwork for later women’s activism. This cluster includes upright Quaker Lucretia Mott and free-love advocate Victoria Woodhull. Ex-slave activists Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, leaders of the anti-slavery struggle, are celebrated, the latter next to Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to graduate from medical school. They share their lofty positions with Lucy Gonzalez Parsons, also an ex-slave, who championed the eight-hour day, and Mary Harris “Mother” Jones, “the miner’s angel,” who mobilized labor unions with her “hell-raising” speeches.

As revealing as their selection for the mural is where twentieth-century activists are placed in the “conversations” suggested across time and region. **Barbara Jordan and Ella Baker**, both painted in pink (to the left and bottom of Emma Goldman), never worked together but shared a com-

mitment to extending social justice to African Americans. That passion led Texas lawmaker Jordan to Congress and Baker to the NAACP, then to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the Martin Luther King years, and finally to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. A thirst for justice also drove Jane Benedict (to their right, painted in orange), who witnessed firsthand how Robert Moses’ urban-renewal projects were destroying affordable housing in New York. Benedict responded by forming the Metropolitan Council of Housing to lobby for tenants’ rights. And a sense of outrage stirred the young Yuri Kochiyama after she and her Japanese American family were interned in a concentration camp during World War II. Her lifelong fight for justice has extended to the rights of American dissenters as diverse as the Harlem Parents Committee and the Puerto Rican Young Lords. A different kind of activism is reflected in the work of Zitkala-Sa, the Lakota Sioux autobiographer, who repudiated her Christian education to become a national Indian organiz-





er. Spanning a century, Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Nellie Bly are side by side as women who, in different ways, revolutionized journalism by being the “first” to take on issues of working women’s lives and public participation. In the conversations we can imagine between these women, the pursuit of justice emerges as a story of struggle that goes beyond the official boundaries of movements and issues.

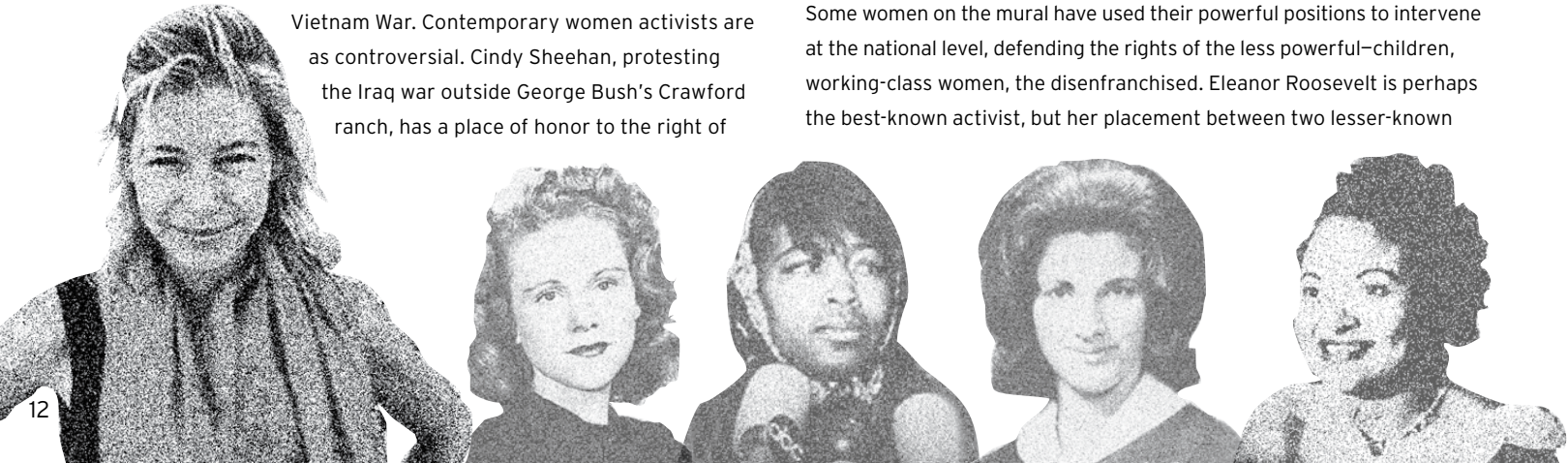
Throughout the twentieth century the struggle for justice was marked by a long tradition of women taking unpopular stances on war and peace. Consider Montana legislator Jeannette Rankin, alone in blue in her picture hat above

Emma Goldman. The first woman elected to Congress, Rankin was the sole member to vote her pacifist opposition to entering both World Wars and, in old age, vigorously protested the Vietnam War. Contemporary women activists are as controversial. Cindy Sheehan, protesting the Iraq war outside George Bush’s Crawford ranch, has a place of honor to the right of

Lorde and below Day. Barbara Lee, Shirley Chisholm’s former campaign worker and political protégé, who proudly sits above the word Change in her mentor’s banner, was the sole legislator to cast a negative vote in Congress against using “all necessary and appropriate force” on those associated with the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

**When Women Pursue Justice** recalls both how recognition was awarded and, at times, withheld. In 1931 Jane Addams was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in promoting world peace. Yet **Marla Ruzicka** (just above her), an aid worker who founded the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict, following the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, and was killed by a car bomb blast in Baghdad, has been given no award.

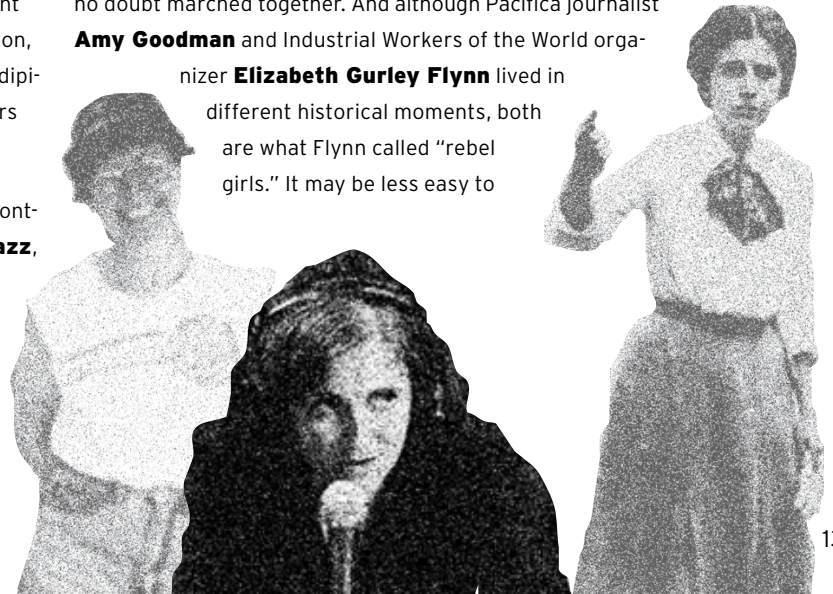
Some women on the mural have used their powerful positions to intervene at the national level, defending the rights of the less powerful—children, working-class women, the disenfranchised. Eleanor Roosevelt is perhaps the best-known activist, but her placement between two lesser-known



women suggests the intent of **When Women Pursue Justice** to highlight ground-breaking activism by less recognized or forgotten women. Above Roosevelt in green is Miriam Colón, the Puerto Rican-born actress and director whose Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre provides a venue for English- and Spanish-speaking actors and playwrights. To Roosevelt's immediate left is urban sociologist Jane Jacobs, who followed her critique of urban renewal policies in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by relocating to Canada in protest against the Vietnam War. Eleanor Holmes Norton and Marian Wright Edelman continue to argue in the public arena for the rights of the dispossessed, Holmes Norton as head of the federal Equal Opportunity Employment Commission and current Congressional representative for Washington, D.C., and Edelman as founder of the Children's Defense Fund. Serendipitously, Edelman is next to Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers and a champion of rights for older Americans.

Despite their different spheres of activity Detroit-based Selma-to-Montgomery marcher **Viola Liuzzo**, Black Muslim activist **Betty Shabazz**, the widow of Malcolm X, and, below her, anti-nuclear union worker **Karen Silkwood** are linked not only by their activism but also by the untimely deaths they met at others' hands. This violence links them to **Mamie Till-Mobley**, the mother of Emmett Till, the fourteen-year-old teenager who was tortured and lynched by white supremacists in pre-Civil Rights Mississippi.

Artists also appear throughout *When Women Pursue Justice*, celebrated for their public activism. They include: Judy Baca, the Chicana muralist of racism in California history; protest muralist **Eva Cockcroft** who founded Artmakers (the sponsor of this mural); Faith Ringgold, quiltmaking storyteller of the African American diaspora; Alice Neel whose searing portraits of women included one of her naked, aged self; and May Stevens and Augusta Savage. In their various locations these artists engage in conversation with other women whose concerns they might share—for example, Baca with Silkwood and Ringgold with Anita Hill. Public-spirited entertainer Ruby Dee and, to her right, Rosa Parks no doubt marched together. And although Pacifica journalist **Amy Goodman** and Industrial Workers of the World organizer **Elizabeth Gurley Flynn** lived in different historical moments, both are what Flynn called "rebel girls." It may be less easy to



imagine what smoky-voiced singer Nina Simone would say to tennis star Billie Jean King, above her, or to AIDS activist Dr. Mathilde Krim, nearby. But all broke ground in a world that, in the mid-twentieth century, still refused to recognize professional women as equals. And the mural would not be complete without the glorious Madame C. J. Walker, whose beauty products and gift for self-promotion transformed her into the first self-made American woman millionaire.

There are connections across distance, too. **Sarah Weddington**, the lawyer who defended a woman's right to choose abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, anchors the extreme lower left of *When Women Pursue Justice*. She looks to the right toward Anita Hill (directly above Alice Paul), another law professor whose courage in "speaking truth to power" invited an avalanche of criticism, and upwards to Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger, top right. Although Dr. Jocelyn Elders is not in dialogue with these activists for choice, her defense of masturbation brings her into that conversation as surely as Florynce Kennedy, in her cowboy hat, who memorably observed, "If men got pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament." Women's rights—to reproductive free-



dom and freedom from violence and harassment—is one of many threads running through the mural that create rich connections. In teasing out these varied relationships we discover what a long and laborious struggle women's pursuit of justice has been—and continues to be.

This collective portrait of ninety American women tracks a wide range of feminist activism. Fourteen women represent the arts.

Eleven are Civil Rights workers.

There are five environmental activists, six educators, three community organizers, fourteen advocates of social justice, twelve leaders for women's rights, four women involved in labor struggles, seven lawmakers, six activists focused on women's bodies, three peace protesters, and the three women—Emma

Goldman, Madame C.J. Walker, and Victoria Woodhull—who, according to Braun-Reinitz, “simply defy categorization.” Their spheres of activity are multiple and overlapping, as the pursuit of justice, equality, and peace continues to be.

Who can say what additions to the story of When Women Pursue Justice the next

quarter-century will bring? While we cannot yet find a president or a chief justice of the Supreme Court among their ranks, the ongoing struggle is waged across the United States in diverse arenas—not just the Congressional floor and the meeting room, but the street, the field, the pages of books and magazines, and the backrooms of clinics, as well as the bedrooms and kitchens of women’s private lives. And it may be more important to the “state of the union” that women continue to be catalysts for change. In a nation that has stubbornly resisted and even punished their efforts, women and men, young and old, the powerful and the dispossessed have benefited immeasurably from the passion for truth that activated the women on this wall.

Julia Watson is associate professor of comparative studies at The Ohio State University. With Sidonie Smith she has published six books on autobiographical narrative, most recently **Interfaces: Women, Autobiography, Image, Performance**, as well as essays on American women writers and Charlotte Salomon.



# who are the women in the mural?

The following biographies have been categorized by the fields of endeavor in which the mural's ninety women concentrated their activism. Some of the women—including the nine Ancestors—are represented in two fields. Their biographies appear in the field that comes first alphabetically, and their names are listed in subsequent fields, indicated by italics. Following each biography is suggested reading. Citations lacking author/editor information are autobiographical or primary sources.

## ANCESTORS

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY (1820-1906).** Lobbying for equal pay as a teenage school teacher, Susan B. Anthony was active in the temperance and abolitionist movements before shifting her energies to women's suffrage. She worked closely with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and was an effective writer and speaker who traveled the country on behalf of women's right to vote. President of the National Woman Suffrage Association (1869-1900), she attempted to have women included in the 14th Amendment. In 1872, she registered and voted in a Rochester (NY) city election which led to the now forgotten lawsuit testing the legality of women's suffrage. Also **WOMEN'S RIGHTS.** (Alma Lutz, *Susan B. Anthony: Rebel, Crusader, Humanitarian*, 1959. Lynn Sherr, *Failure Is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words*, 1955)

**ELIZABETH BLACKWELL (1821-1910).** At a time when there were no women physicians in the United States, Elizabeth Blackwell sought admission to medical college in Geneva, NY. She persevered over many months, finally gaining admittance and, in 1849, a medical degree. Blackwell founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children (1857), expanded in 1868 to include a Womens' College for training female doctors—the first of its kind. Also *Our Bodies.* (Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women, 1895, reissued 2005)

**MOTHER JONES (1837-1930).** Often called “the most dangerous woman in America,” Maria Harris Jones was one of the most determined organizers and effective speakers in the American labor movement. A founder of the Industrial Workers of the World and the Social Demo-

cratic Party, Jones fought alongside steel, railroad, textile and, above all, coal mining strikers. An advocate of direct action, she organized marches and sit-ins, confronted armed militias and was enjoined or jailed many times. Her career as a leading union organizer continued into her nineties. Also **LABOR**. (The Autobiography of Mother Jones, reissued 1996)

**LUCRETIA MOTT (1793-1880)**. Quaker, feminist and reformer, Lucretia Mott was well known as a lecturer for temperance, peace, the rights of labor and, aiding fugitive slaves, the abolition of slavery. In 1848, working with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she organized the first women's rights convention in the United States (Seneca Falls, NY). Also **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**. (Margaret Hope Bacon, *Valiant Friend: The Life of Lucretia Mott*, 1980. Selected Letters of Lucretia Mott, Beverly Wilson Palmer, editor, 2002)

**LUCY GONZÁLEZ PARSONS (1853-1942)**. Born in Texas of American and Mexican heritage, Lucy González Parsons was a founder of the International Workers of the World. She was an activist for working women's rights and a fiery orator on behalf of the eight-hour workday. In Chicago in 1876, Lucy and her husband Albert were among the leaders of the workers' rights demonstrations that turned into the Haymarket riots. For his role, Albert, along with six other men, was tried, convicted and hanged. Working years to exonerate her husband, which she ultimately did, Lucy continued to be one of the labor movement's leading

spokespeople. Also **LABOR**. (Lucy Parsons: Freedom, Equality & Solidarity—Writings & Speeches, 1878-1937, Gale Ahrens, editor, 2004)

**ELIZABETH CADY STANTON (1815-1902)**. Devoting her life to the struggle for women's rights and suffrage, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a brilliant orator, writer and intellectual. She fought for legal, political and industrial equality for women and for liberal divorce laws. A lead organizer of the first women's rights conventions in the United States (Seneca Falls, NY, 1848), Stanton insisted that the convention's "Declaration" of rights for women include the then-radical clause demanding suffrage—a demand that did not become law until the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, acknowledged as the leaders of the women's rights movement, together published *The Revolution* (1868-1870), a militant feminist magazine. Also **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**. (Eighty Years and More, 1898. Elizabeth Griffith, *In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, 1984. Vivian Gornick, *The Solitude of Self: Thinking about Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, 2006)

**SOJOURNER TRUTH (c.1797-1883)**. A freed slave turned abolitionist, Sojourner Truth traveled throughout the North preaching emancipation and women's rights. A Quaker activist, she counseled newly freed slaves. A riveting public speaker, Truth delivered her famous "And ain't I a woman?" speech in 1851. Also **CIVIL RIGHTS**. (Narrative of Sojourner Truth, Olive Gilbert, editor, 1997)

**HARRIET TUBMAN (c. 1820-1913).** Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman escaped to Philadelphia in 1849. She became a leading abolitionist and one of the most successful “conductors” on the Underground Railroad. At great risk, she returned to the South more than a dozen times and is credited with leading more than 300 slaves (including her parents and brother) to freedom, sometimes urging the timid ahead with a loaded gun. During the Civil War, Tubman worked as a nurse, cook, scout and spy, and she played a major role in a raid that freed more than 700 slaves. Also **CIVIL RIGHTS.** (Catherine Clinton, *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*, 2004)

**VICTORIA WOODHULL (1838-1927).** Victoria Woodhull and her younger sister Tennessee Claflin, noted for their beauty and wildly eccentric behavior, grew up in a flamboyant itinerant family that staged medicine shows. Moving to New York City in 1868, the sisters became the first women stockbrokers, backed by Cornelius Vanderbilt. They founded Woodhull and Claflin’s Weekly, a journal that favored woman’s suffrage, free love and socialism (and which published the first English translation of *The Communist Manifesto*). In 1872, Woodhull became the first woman candidate for President of the United States, with Frederick Douglass as her running mate. Also **DEFIES CATEGORIZATION.** (Johanna Johnston, *Mrs. Satan: The Incredible Saga of Victoria C. Woodhull*, 1967. Barbara Goldsmith, *Other Powers: The Age of Suffrage, Spiritualism, and the Scandalous Victoria Woodhull*, 1999)

## THE ARTS

**JUDY BACA (b. 1941).** A Chicana artist and muralist, Judy Baca is the founder and director of the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) in Venice, CA, an organization that involves young people in the creation of serious public art. Her belief in the power of art to affect social reform through imagery and community participation is best exemplified in the mural series, *The Great Wall of Los Angeles* (1972-1984), a half-mile long mural that involved more than 2,000 painters. (Mary Olmstead, *Judy Baca*, 2004. Carole Gold Calo, “Judy Baca’s Legacy,” *Public Art Review*, Issue 33, Vol. 17, No.1, Fall/Winter 2005)

**JOAN BAEZ (b.1941).** Joan Baez, a folk singer and social activist, was among the first entertainers to use music as a vehicle for social change, singing and marching for civil and student rights, women’s rights, and peace. Since the late 1960s, she has devoted time to her school for non-violence in California, continuing to perform in support of a variety of humanitarian causes. (*Daybreak*, 1968. And *A Voice to Sing With: A Memoir*, 1989)

**EVA COCKCROFT (1936- 99).** Muralist, painter, arts activist, writer and educator, Eva Cockcroft was the founder of Artmakers Inc. Cockcroft directed the 26-mural cycle *La Lucha Continua/The Struggle Continues* in 1985. She earned a reputation as a prominent visual artist and social commentator during the activist era of the late 1960s, and her large-



scale murals reflected a lifelong commitment to human rights. Cockcroft widely exhibited her studio work, and her book *Towards a People's Art: The Contemporary Mural Movement* (1977, reissued 1998) remains a seminal analysis of the movement's early years.

**MIRIAM COLÓN (b. 1936).** Founder and artistic director of the Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, Miriam Colón is a pioneer of the Latino theater, introducing new and significant voices to mainstream professional theater. She created a culturally diverse model for playwright development and enrichment, expanded awareness of the theater as a viable career for economically disadvantaged youth, and established a home for Spanish and English language theatrical activity in the heart of Broadway. (Fernande, *Miriam Colón: Actor and Theater Founder*, 1993)

**RUBY DEE (b. 1924).** A star of film, theater and television, Ruby Dee is a well-known social activist, a member of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Wanting young black women to avoid the racism she encountered as a young actor, Dee established the Ruby Dee Scholarship in Dramatic Art. (*My One Good Nerve*, 1998)

**THE GUERRILLA GIRLS (1985).** Wearing masks both to protect their identities and focus attention on issues rather than themselves, the Guerrilla Girls have spent the last 18 years exposing the sexist, hypocritical aspects of modern society. Through performance art and the

mass dissemination of information, the Guerrilla Girls have changed the landscape of cultural activism, in a way that debunks the charge that feminists do not have a sense of humor. (*Confessions of the Guerrilla Girls*, 1995. *The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art*, 1998) and created a movement of incalculable power.

**UTA HAGEN (1919-2004).** "A profoundly truthful" actress, the politically outspoken Uta Hagen was blacklisted in the 1950s. Unable to get work in film and television, she concentrated on teaching at the BH Studio, run with her husband Herbert Berghoff, and was a major influence on today's most respected actors. In 1962, she took on her most famous stage role as Martha in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Sources: *A Memoir*, 1983)

**LUCY LIPPARD (b. 1933).** In the late 1960s, Lucy Lippard merged her art-world concerns with those of the then new women's movement. She was active in organizing the Heresies Collective, PAD/D (Political Art Documentation/Distribution), Art Against Apartheid, and Artists Call Against U.S. Intervention in Central America. The author of twenty books, Lippard is one of the country's most provocative and influential feminist art writers and activists. (*The Pink Glass Swan: Selected Feminist Essays on Art*, 1995)

**AUDRE LORDE (1934-92).** Describing herself as a "Black lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," Audre Lorde was a Black homosexual female activist

and educator in a world dominated by white heterosexual males. "The voice of indignant humanity," she cried out against racial injustice and sexual prejudice. Lorde established the Women of Color Press. Her writing protested the swallowing of Black American culture by an indifferent white population and the perpetuation of sexual discrimination. (The Cancer Journals, 1980. The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde, 2000)

**ALICE NEEL (1900-84).** A painter who called herself "a collector of souls," Alice Neel was a committed feminist artist who suffered the insults of discrimination in the art world for most of her life. It was not until she was 74 years old that she had her first one-woman exhibition, a retrospective at the Whitney Museum. Today she is recognized as one of America's finest and most psychologically incisive portraitists. (Alice Neel: The Woman and Her Work, 1975. Ann Tempkin and Richard Flood, Alice Neel, 2000)

**FAITH RINGGOLD (b. 1934).** An acclaimed painter, sculptor and author, Faith Ringgold has long championed feminism and Black arts activism. Using fabric in soft sculpture and, later, in political collages and story quilts, Ringgold celebrated and reinforced women's cultural traditions in the needle arts. In the early 1970s, she cofounded the Ad Hoc Women Artists' Committee and organized Women Students and Artists for Black Art Liberation. (Talking to Faith Ringgold, with Linda Freeman and Linda Roucher, 1996. Faith Ringgold: A View from the Studio, 2005)

**AUGUSTA SAVAGE (1900-1962).** An important figure as both a sculptor and an advocate for the advancement of Black artists in the United States, Augusta Savage was the founder of the Harlem Art Center. In the Great Depression, she successfully pressured the WPA (Works Progress Administration) to employ more Black artists and to promote them to supervisory positions. Her most renowned public work is the portrait head of W.E.B. Dubois in the 135th Street branch of the New York Public Library. ("Augusta Savage: An Autobiography," Crisis, August 1929)

**NINA SIMONE (1933-2003).** Nina Simone, the ultimate civil rights diva, trained as an opera singer but became a powerful vocalist of social commentary. "To really understand the 1960s," says jazz musician Abbey Lincoln, "you have to hear Nina Simone." Her explosive songs like Mississippi Goddamn! and Young, Gifted and Black attuned young people to the historical significance of the Civil Rights movement. Escaping the blatant racism of the U.S., Simone spent the latter part of her life in France. (I Put A Spell on You: The Autobiography of Nina Simone, 2003)

**MAY STEVENS (b. 1924).** A socially committed artist, writer and teacher, May Stevens has focused on political themes in her paintings since the 1960s, most notably in her series Freedom Riders, Big Daddy and Rosa Luxemburg. A founding member of the Heresies Collective (1975), Stevens has also created posters on feminism, labor and anti-war themes. (Patricia Hills, May Stevens, 2005)

## CIVIL RIGHTS

**ELLA BAKER (1903-86).** Ella Baker, known as the “grandmother” of the movement, was a national director of NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). She co-founded, with Martin Luther King Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957 and was its first director. In 1960, she left SCLC to help students organize SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee) to give young Blacks their own voice in the Civil Rights movement. When the early Freedom Riders were confronted with violence, it was SNCC, with Baker’s guidance, that insisted the rides continue. (Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*, 2003)

**FANNIE LOU HAMER (1917-77).** A Mississippi sharecropper, Fannie Lou Hamer answered the call to register to vote in 1962. She went on to organize registration drives and, in 1963, was arrested and severely beaten, suffering permanent injuries. In 1964, she helped establish the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) to integrate the state’s all white “official” party. At the Democratic National Convention, she delivered a nationally televised speech to the credentials committee outlining the violence and discrimination against Blacks and demanding that MFDP delegates be seated in numbers proportionate to the Black population of Mississippi. Her electrifying presentation resulted in the committee offering to seat two MFDP delegates, an offer Hamer

refused calling the gesture insufficient. Hamer helped found the National Women’s Political Caucus and, on the local level, organized for low-income housing, school desegregation and day care. (To Praise Our Bridges: An Autobiography, 1967)

**GLADYS HARRINGTON (b. 1928).** A civil rights activist in Florida in the 1950s, Gladys Harrington became the president of the NYC Chapter of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) in the late 1950s. Under her leadership, CORE led efforts to desegregate housing and large places of employment through direct action – sit-ins, picketing, and product boycotts. In the summer of 1961, working with labor leaders and other progressives in the New York City, she organized the 24-hour FAST-FOR-FREEDOM at the Statue of Liberty to demonstrate solidarity with the Freedom Riders. Today, she works with unions on Long Island.

**CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT (b. 1942).** A well-known journalist, Charlayne Hunter-Gault was the first black woman to integrate University of Georgia—an effort seen on television around the world. On her first day, more than 1,000 whites threw rocks and bottles at her dorm room window. She graduated in 1963 and became an award-winning correspondent and anchor of The McNeil/Lehrer NewsHour. She pursued stories few chose to cover, investigating abuses and injustices suffered by the Black community. From 1999 until this year, Hunter-Gault lived South Africa where she served as CNN bureau chief. (In My Place, 1992)

**FLORYNCE KENNEDY (1916-2000).** Forever identified by her cowboy hat and pink sunglasses, Flo Kennedy was the first black woman to graduate from Columbia Law School. She was one of the founding members of the National Political Caucus and the National Feminist Party, and she established herself as one of the women's movement's most verbal and confrontational supporters. Also **WOMEN'S RIGHTS.** (Color Me Flo: My Hard Life and Good Times, 1976)

**VIOLA LIUZZO (1925-65).** Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit mother of five, joined thousands of people who converged on Selma, AL in 1965 to take part in the Montgomery Voting Rights March led by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shortly after the march ended, members of the Ku Klux Klan ambushed Liuzzo's car as she drove along a deserted highway, shooting her in the head and killing her. It is now recognized that the FBI played a role in her murder. Liuzzo's death is widely considered the last of several outrages that spurred the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights movement. (Mary Stanton, *From Selma to Sorrow: The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo*, 2000. Gary May, *The Informant: The FBI, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Murder of Viola Liuzzo*, 2005)

**WILMA MANKILLER (b. 1945).** Born in Mankiller Flats, OK, Wilma Mankiller was moved as a child, along with her family, to California as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program. Her concerns for Native American issues were ignited in 1969 when members of AIM

(American Indian Movement) occupied Alcatraz Island to call attention to issues adversely affecting their tribes. In 1974, Mankiller moved back to her ancestral home and, in 1985, she was elected the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation and the first female in history to lead a major Native American tribe. She encouraged economic development and introduced many social improvements including better health care and expanded educational opportunities. (Every Day Is A Good Day: Reflections of Contemporary Indigenous Women, 2004)

**DIANE NASH (b. 1938).** In 1960 at the age of 22, Diane Nash, one of the founders of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee), led the campaign to desegregate lunch counters in Nashville, TN, for which she was arrested multiple times. The following year, extreme violence against the freedom riders threatened to halt those protests. Against the advice of several more timid, male movement leaders, Nash mobilized a group of students and traveled to Alabama, putting the freedom rides back on track. (Interview, *Eyes on the Prize*, Juan Williams, editor, 1987)

**ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (b. 1937).** As a young attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, Eleanor Holmes Norton specialized in first amendment cases. She was later appointed head of the New York City Human Rights Commission and the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. Since 1991, the often outspoken Norton has been the District of Columbia's elected, but non-voting, delegate to the

U.S. House of Representatives. Also **LAWMAKERS**. (Hal Marcovitz, Eleanor Holmes Norton, 2003)

**ROSA PARKS (1913-2005)**. Rosa Parks was already an experienced Civil Rights activist when, in 1955, she refused to surrender her seat on a segregated public bus to a white man and move to the “colored” section at the rear. This act launched the 13-month Montgomery (AL) bus boycott. Fired from her job shortly after her arrest and unable to find steady employment, Parks eventually moved to Detroit where she worked for U.S. Congressman John Conyers. An iconic figure in the Civil Rights movement, Parks was honored many times. When she died, she became the only woman and the only Black to lie in state in the Alabama State Capitol. (My Story, with James Haskins, 1992)

**MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY (1921-2003)**. In 1955, Mamie Till-Mobley, a Chicago resident, was unwillingly thrust into American history after her son, the 14-year old Emmett Till, was kidnapped, tortured and lynched by white supremacists while visiting Mississippi relatives. She insisted, against great pressure, that his mutilated body be displayed in an open casket. The huge outpouring of sympathy and wide press coverage inspired many people to join the Civil Rights movement over the next decade. (author, *Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime That Changed America*, 2003)

**SOJOURNER TRUTH (c. 1797-1883)**. See Ancestors.

**HARRIET TUBMAN (c. 1820-1913)**. See Ancestors.

## COMMUNITY

**HATTIE CARTHAN (1901-84)**. The presence of two Magnolia grandiflora trees, 60 and 80 feet tall and rare in New York City, helped Hattie Carthan save three Bedford-Stuyvesant brownstones, which became the home of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center.

**LIZ CHRISTY (1945-85)**. Tired of the junk-filled vacant lot across from her house, Liz Christy, a Lower East Side artist, gathered friends and neighbors and lobbed balloons filled with water and flower seeds over the fence. Calling themselves the Green Guerillas, these visionaries created a vibrant community garden and established the modern community gardening movement that spread throughout New York City. Christy’s efforts paved the way for the preservation of these much loved, vibrant green spaces.

**JOAN MAYNARD (1928 -2006)**. Joan Maynard was a tireless advocate for historic preservation and childhood education. In 1968, she co-founded the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville to preserve and restore the remnants of a few small wood-frame farmhouses of the 19th century community of free Blacks. Maynard’s efforts in documenting and preserving African American heritage have raised awareness in

young people to the contributions and dignity of their ancestors. (Kristine Mason O'Connor, Joan Maynard, 2003)

## DEFIES CATEGORIZATION

**EMMA GOLDMAN (1869-1940).** Emma Goldman, who immigrated from Russia at age 16, was not a member of any political party, labor or woman's organization. She was, instead, perhaps the most famous anarchist of her time, promoting women's freedom as a part of her belief in total human freedom. Primarily a lecturer and writer, she advocated free love and the redistribution of wealth. She was arrested many times—in 1893, for inciting to riot, in 1916 for distributing birth-control pamphlets, and in 1917 for obstructing the draft. Goldman was deported to Russia in 1919. (Red Emma Speaks: An Emma Goldman Reader, Alix Kate Shulman, editor, 1983)

**MADAM C. J. WALKER (1867-1919).** Born Sarah Breedlove into a slave family and orphaned at age seven, Madam C. J. Walker created a cosmetics empire that made her the first female self-made millionaire in American history. Believing that social change began with the individual, she trained countless beauticians as "Walker Agents" and pioneered a face-to-face selling strategy. Her philanthropy stretched across generations and her estate was a major supporter of the Harlem

renaissance. (A'Leia Bundles, *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker*, 2001)

**VICTORIA WOODHULL (1838-1927).** See Ancestors.

## EDUCATION

**MARY McLEOD BETHUNE (1875-1955).** The 17th child of former slaves, Mary McLeod Bethune established the Industrial Institute for Negro Girls (since renamed Bethune-Cookman College), becoming one of the most influential educators and leaders of the Black community. The founder the National Council of Negro Women (1935), she served as a special advisor on minority affairs to President Franklin Roosevelt and as a consultant to the 1945 conference that organized the United Nations. (Rackham Holt, *Mary McLeod Bethune: A Biography*, 1964)

**MARY DALY (b. 1928).** The holder of three doctoral degrees, Mary Daly is the author of *The Church and the Second Sex*, a critique of anti-feminism in the Catholic Church. Shortly after the book's publication in 1968, Daly was fired from her teaching position at Boston College. Her dismissal was met with student protests, petitions, teach-ins celebrating academic freedom, and a march by 1,500 students. As a result, Daly was rehired, promoted, and given tenure. Her writing continues to be at

the forefront of feminist theory. (*Beyond God The Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation*, 1973)

**MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN (b. 1939).** Marian Wright Edelman began her career as an attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and was the first Black woman admitted to the Mississippi bar. In 1968 she founded Children's Defense Fund (CDF), a child advocacy lobby based in Washington, DC. As president of CDF, Edelman has worked to decrease teen pregnancy, increase Medicaid coverage for poor children, and secure government funding for childcare and early education programs such as Head Start. (*Families in Peril, An Agenda for Social Change*, 1987)

**ANTONIA PANTOJA (1922-2002).** Born in Puerto Rico, Antonia Pantoja fought racism and discrimination against Puerto Ricans and lobbied for workers' rights. Concerned with the large number of Puerto Rican students dropping out of school, Antonia Pantoja formed ASPIRA in 1961, an organization that empowers the Latino community through education, advocacy and leadership training. In 1972 ASPIRA sued the City of New York, winning its case to guarantee bilingual or ESL instruction in the schools. Pantoja was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. (*Memoir of a Visionary: Antonia Pantoja*, 2002)

**BETTY SHABAZZ (1936-97).** Following the assassination of Malcolm X, Shabazz furthered her own education while conveying to their six children the importance of learning Black history. Earning a doctorate in

education, she joined the faculty of Medgar Evers College and remained committed to spreading Malcolm's message. (Russell J. Rickford and Myrlie Evers-Williams, *Betty Shabazz: A Remarkable Story of Survival and Faith Before and After Malcolm X*, 2003. Jamie Foster Brown, *Betty Shabazz: A Sister-friends Tribute in Words and Pictures*, 1998)

**ZITKALA SA (1876-1938).** Born on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Zitkala-Sa was a bridge-builder between cultures. Indignant over the unjust treatment of Native Americans, she renounced her Christian upbringing and advocated her belief that political rights were fruitless unless they were rooted in the recovery of cultural identity and oral traditions. Her autobiography is the first written without the aid of an editor, interpreter, or ethnographer. (*American Indian Stories*, 1921)

## ENVIRONMENT

**RACHEL CARSON (1907-64).** Rachel Carson was a writer and marine biologist whose well-known books on sea life combined keen scientific observation with rich poetic description. *Silent Spring*, her 1962 provocative study of the dangers of certain insecticides, is generally acknowledged to be the impetus for the modern environmental movement. (*The Sea Around Us*, 1951)

**CARRIE DANN (c. 1920) and MARY DANN (1920-2005).** Early activists as temperance elders of the Western Shoshone Native American nation, the Dann sisters led a 30-year fight against the forced sale of their ancestral home by the United States government and actively resisted attempts by major mining corporations to develop their land. (Cited in Jeremy Seabrook, *Pioneers of Change: Experiments in Creating a Human Society*, 1993)

**JANE JACOBS (1916-2006).** Jane Jacobs is the author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961), perhaps the most important book about cities in the 20th century and a great influence on America's "new urbanists." She condemned urban renewal's wholesale destruction of communities and argued for high-density neighborhoods and multiple-use buildings as the foundations of vital, socially successful city living. Jacobs attacked the arrogance of city planners for making decisions without consulting those affected and stressed the importance of involving local residents in the planning process. Vigorously protesting the Vietnam War, she moved her family and three sons to Toronto, Canada. (Alice Sparberg Alexiou, *Jane Jacobs: Urban Visionary*, 2006)

**KAREN SILKWOOD (1946-74).** A union activist and member of the bargaining committee at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant where she worked, Karen Silkwood brought to national attention the plant's deplorable working conditions and the environmental atrocities com-

mitted by the company. On her way to secret meeting with a union representative and an investigative reporter, Silkwood, who was carrying incriminating documents, died under suspicious circumstances in a car crash. Her autopsy revealed plutonium contamination, grimly demonstrating the hazards of nuclear plants and the perils of corporate unaccountability. (Richard Rashke, *The Killing of Karen Silkwood: The Story Behind the Kerr-McGee Plutonium Case*, 2000)

## LABOR

**ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN (1890-1964).** At the age of fifteen, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn began her brilliant speaking career on behalf of working people, traveling and organizing labor during the first twenty years of the twentieth century. Arrested 15 times, she was never convicted of a crime. However, in the early 1950s, she was imprisoned by the federal government—a victim of anti-Communist "fervor." (*The Rebel Girl: An Autobiography*, 1955)

**DOLORES HUERTA (b. 1930).** Organizer, political strategist and human rights advocate, Dolores Huerta was the co-founder (with Cesar Chavez) of the United Farm Workers and an organizer of their successful 1970 and 1975 grape boycotts. Fighting for immigrant rights and better working conditions for migrant farm workers, she was jailed 20 times for her part in union protests. Huerta successfully lobbied for the



repeal of a California law requiring citizenship for public assistance and for extending disability and unemployment insurance to farm workers. (Frank Perez, Dolores Huerta, 1996)

**MOTHER JONES.** See Ancestors.

**CLARA LEMLICH (1886-1982).** Born in Ukraine, Clara Lemlich was a co-founder of Local 25 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and helped catalyze the “Uprising of the 20,000,” a massive strike by women workers that lasted 11 months. Although most factories agreed to union demands, the 500 women of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory went back to work without an agreement. In 1911, fire broke out in the upper floors of the 10-story building and 146 women, trapped inside, jumped to their deaths—management never having addressed their demands for unlocked doors and functioning fire escapes. After being blacklisted by the garment industry association, Lemlich became a full-time activist and founded a working-class suffrage group. She later organized mothers around housing and education issues. Even in her last days at a nursing home, she helped to organize the orderlies. (Paula Scheier, “Clara Lemlich Shaverson,” *Jewish Life*, 8, No. 95, November 1954. David Drehle, *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America*, 2003)

**CHARLENE MITCHELL (b. 1930).** A life-long labor advocate, Charlene Mitchell is the co-chair of the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, the organization that grew out of the campaign

to free Angela Davis. See Angela Davis under Social Justice. As the Communist Party candidate in 1968, she was the first Black woman to run for president of the United States and, in 1994, she was an official international observer at the first free elections in South Africa. (*The Right Moves: Succeeding in a Man’s World Without a Harvard MBA*, 1985)

**LUCY GONZALEZ PARSONS.** See Ancestors.

## LAWMAKERS

**BELLA ABZUG (1920-98).** A New York City attorney and activist, Bella Abzug represented performers and educators persecuted by the McCarthy investigations as well as Blacks denied their civil rights. In 1970, she was the first woman elected to Congress on a women’s rights/peace platform. In her three terms, Abzug helped pass legislation that strengthened the rights of the poor, the elderly, women, gays and lesbians. (*Gender Gap*, with W. Mim Kelber, 1984.)

**SHIRLEY CHISHOLM (1924-2005).** Shirley Chisholm, an expert on early childhood education, was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where she hired an all female staff. She quickly gained national attention as a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and the House seniority system, and she was an outspoken advocate for the interests of the urban poor. In 1972, Chisholm made an historic

bid for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, running under the banner “Unbought and Unbossed.” (Unbought and Unbossed, 1970. The Good Fight, 1973)

**BARBARA JORDAN (1936-96).** In 1966, Barbara Jordan became the first Black elected to the Texas State Senate and, in 1972, the first Black since Reconstruction to be elected to the Congress from the South. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee that investigated the Watergate scandal, she represented both the voice of conscience and of constitutional clarity. (Barbara Jordan: A Self Portrait, 1979)

**BARBARA LEE (b. 1946).** Barbara Lee first became interested in politics when she worked on Shirley Chisholm’s presidential primary campaign in California. She was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1998 and was the only member of that body to vote against the resolution authorizing President George W. Bush to go to war in Iraq. Lee has been a leading proponent of policies that foster international peace, security and human rights, and she is a vocal opponent of the Patriot Act. Also **PEACE.** (The War On Children: Collateral Damage or Direct Policy in the War on Terrorism, Lenora Foerstel: editor; Barbara Lee: foreword, 2004)

**ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.** See Civil Rights.

**JEANNETTE RANKIN (1880-1973).** Active in the woman suffrage movement since 1910, Jeannette Rankin was the first woman elected to

Congress (Republican/Montana) in 1917, three years before the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which gave women the right to vote. (She opened the congressional debate on what was called the Susan B.



Anthony Amendment.) Four days after taking office, Rankin, a committed pacifist, voted against America’s entry into World War I. Reelected to the House in 1940 (she lost her bid for the Senate in 1920), Rankin cast the only vote against entry into World War II. At age 88 and still a staunch anti-war activist, she led the Jeannette Rankin Brigade to Washington in 1968 to protest the Vietnam War. Also **PEACE.** (Hannah Josephson, First Lady in Congress: Jeannette Rankin, 1974)

**NYDIA VELAZQUEZ (b. 1953).** A member of U.S. Congress whose district encompasses parts of Brooklyn, Queens and the Lower East Side of Manhattan (NYC’s only tri-borough district), she has fought for equal rights of the underrepresented and economic opportunities for the working class and poor, and to secure for all access to affordable housing, quality education and health care.

## OUR BODIES

**ELIZABETH BLACKWELL.** See Ancestors.

**JOYCELYN ELDERS (b. 1933).** A physical therapist who joined the army to study medicine, Dr. Joycelyn Elders increased tenfold the number of early childhood screenings and doubled the immunization rate as Director of the Arkansas Department of Health. President Clinton appointed her United States Surgeon General, a position Dr. Elders held for a brief 18 months. Her vocal support for sex education, the distribution of condoms in schools, abortion rights, and the medical use of marijuana drew the ire and attacks of conservatives, and Clinton, under pressure, asked for her resignation. Now a professor of pediatrics, she continues to speak out on AIDS-related issues and teen pregnancy. (Joycelyn Elders with David Chanoff, *Joycelyn Elders, MD: From Sharecropper's Daughter to Surgeon General of the United States of America*, 1996)

**MATHILDE KRIM (b. 1933).** In 1981, Dr. Mathilde Krim recognized that the newly identified AIDS virus raised grave scientific questions, which many in the medical community ignored, and that it might have important socio-political consequences. In 1983, Dr. Krim founded the AIDS Medical Foundation (AMF) to foster research into the cause of AIDS and its modes of transmission. In 1985, AMF merged with a similar organization and today, the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) is the pre-eminent national nonprofit organization dedicated to raising AIDS awareness, AIDS prevention, and the development of sound AIDS-related public policies. (John Morrison, *Mathilde Krim and the Story of AIDS*, 2004)

**LYNN PALTROW (b. 1958).** Lynn Paltrow is the founder of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, an organization dedicated to securing the human and civil rights of pregnant and parenting women and to ensuring that addiction and other health and welfare problems they face during pregnancy are addressed as health issues and not crimes. In 2001, Paltrow successfully led the first federal civil rights law suit in which the U.S. Supreme Court agreed that searching and arresting pregnant women at hospitals violates the U.S. Constitution

**MARGARET SANGER (1883-1966).** As a public health nurse, Margaret Sanger advocated for family planning in order to give all women, and particularly poor women, a means independent of men of protecting themselves from pregnancy. In 1915, Sanger was indicted for sending birth control information through the mail and, the following year, she established the country's first birth control clinic in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The storefront was only open for ten days—when more than 450 women were served—before the police closed it down. Sanger was arrested and subsequently sent to prison. Sanger founded the American Birth Control League in 1921—today known as Planned Parenthood—but it was not until 1937 that most states legalized birth control. (Autobiography, 1938)

**SARAH WEDDINGTON (b. 1947).** An attorney and reproductive rights advocate, Sarah Weddington is best known for successfully arguing the

landmark Roe v. Wade abortion rights case in 1973 before the U. S. Supreme Court, where she was the youngest person to win a ruling—she was 26 years old. An educator and brilliant speaker, Weddington continues to advocate for women’s rights. (*A Question of Choice*, 1993.)

## PEACE

**JANE ADDAMS (1860-1935).** Jane Addams, recognized as a pioneer social worker, feminist and internationalist, began the American settlement house movement in 1889. With the creation of Hull House in Chicago to provide help to the poor, Addams brought the issues of child labor, infant mortality, unsafe workplaces, and illiteracy to public attention. She was the founder of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and her efforts to rid the world of war earned her expulsion from the Daughters of the American Revolution and, in 1931, the Nobel Peace Prize. Also **SOCIAL JUSTICE.** (*Twenty Years at Hull House*, 1910. *Women at the Hague: The International Congress of Women and Its Results*, introduction by Harriet Hyman Alonso, 2003)

**BARBARA LEE.** See Lawmakers

**JEANNETTE RANKIN.** See Lawmakers

**MARLA RUZICKA (1976-2005).** Seeking to eradicate injustices wherever she saw them, Marla Ruzicka paid with her life at age of 29. Outraged

that the media gave scant coverage to civilian deaths in Iraq, she created CIVIC (Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict) and began a door-to-door survey of local casualties. Ruzicka was killed, along with her driver, when their car was caught between a suicide car bomber and a US military convoy in spring 2005. (Jennifer Abrahamson, *Sweet Relief: The Marla Ruzicka Story*, 2006)

**CINDY SHEEHAN (b. 1957).** Mourning the 2004 death of her son Casey in the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Cindy Sheehan organized a 2005 protest on the road to George Bush’s Texas ranch—her goal, to meet with the President and ask for the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. Momentum against sending soldiers to fight and die in an unjust war grew as other grieving families joined her. The requested meeting never took place and Sheehan has become a national symbol of anti-war sentiment. (*Not One More Mother’s Child*, 2005)

**CORA WEISS (b. 1934).** President of The Hague Appeal for Peace, Cora Weiss co-founded, in the early 1960s, Women’s Strike for Peace, which played a major role in bringing an end to nuclear testing in the atmosphere. For her continuing leadership in the struggles for peace and human rights, Weiss has been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. (*There’s Hope: The Illustrated Record of an Evening for Peace*, December 1980, The Riverside Church, 1981)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

**JANE ADDAMS.** See Peace.

**JANE BENEDICT (1911-2005)** TO COME

**NELLIE BLY (1864-1922).** Born Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman, Nelly Bly made her mark as a journalist writing about working conditions in Pittsburgh, the city's slum life, and the dispossessed. In 1887, she went to work for the (NYC) World and had herself committed to an insane asylum to report on the horrific conditions in such places. Her articles led to an investigation of the institution and she became one of the era's most respected investigative journalists. (Ten Days in a Mad-House, 1887)

**ANGELA DAVIS (b. 1944).** Incorporating the philosophies of socialism, Marxism, decolonization, and feminism into her activism, Angela Davis came to national attention in 1970 after inmate/activist George Jackson was killed in a California prison. At age 26, Davis was placed on the FBI's Most Wanted list after four people were killed in a courthouse shootout with a gun registered in her name. Apprehended and jailed for 16 months, she was ultimately acquitted by an all-white jury. Today, Davis is an academic and activist champions the cause of individuals wrongly imprisoned. (With My Mind on Freedom: An Autobiography, 1976. Women, Race, and Class, 1983. Are Prisons Obsolete, 2003)

**DOROTHY DAY (1897-1980).** A nonviolent social radical and a founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, Dorothy Day urged Catholics to devote themselves to helping the poor and took a personal vow of poverty. She established 33 "houses of hospitality" for the urban poor in New York City and throughout the nation that fed 5,000 people daily. Day also advocated pacifism, supporting conscientious objectors during World War II and actively working for nuclear disarmament. Day has been nominated for canonization and inclusion in the calendar of saints. (From Union Square to Rome, 1938. The Long Loneliness, 1952)

**AMY GOODMAN (b. 1957).** Radio host and executive director of Democracy Now! The War and Peace Report, Amy Goodman provides her audience access to people and perspectives rarely heard in U.S. corporate-sponsored media. Her radio documentaries on East Timor and Chevron's role in Nigeria have received numerous awards, including the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Award and the Robert F. Kennedy Prize for International Reporting. (Amy Goodman and David Goodman, The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oil Politicians, 2004)

**CHERI HONKALA (b. 1958).** A former welfare recipient, Cheri Honkala worked with a group of welfare mothers to found the Kensington (PA) Welfare Rights Union (WKRU), organizing poor Philadelphia families in the struggle for living wage jobs, health care, and affordable housing. In the past decade, KWRU has secured housing for more than 500 families

by reclaiming abandoned housing, pressuring city agencies to address people's housing needs, and building homeless encampments. In her efforts to prevent the poor from being "disappeared" in the richest country in the world, Honkala has been arrested dozens of times for non-violent civil disobedience.

**YURI KOCHIYAMA (b. 1921).** Yuri Kochiyama, along with her Japanese immigrant family, was imprisoned in American internment camps during World War II. Since then, she has worked to build alliances among diverse cultural groups. For over forty years, Kochiyama has championed civil rights, protested racial inequality, supported political prisoners throughout the world, and lobbied for reparations for formerly interned Japanese-Americans. (Passing It On, 2004. Diane C. Fugino, Heartbeat of Struggle: The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama, 2005)

**MAGGIE KUHN (1905-95).** Protesting her forced retirement in 1970 at the age of 65, Maggie Kuhn founded the Consultation of Older and Younger Adults for Social Change to address the segregation, stereotyping, and stigmatizing of people on the basis of age. Renamed the Gray Panthers in 1971, the organization under Kuhn's leadership advocated for pension rights and led the fight against nursing home abuse. (Let's Get Out There and Do Something About Injustice, 1972)

**MADALYN MURRAY O'HAIR (1919-95).** Described as "the most hated woman in America" by Time Magazine, Madalyn Murray O'Hair was a

proud atheist. She was the lead litigant in the landmark case *Murray v. Curlett* that, in 1963, led to the U.S. Supreme Court decision banning organized prayer in public schools. In 1995, under mysterious circumstances, she vanished with members of her family, and \$500,000 was withdrawn from the account of the American Atheist organization. Six years later, the bodies of O'Hair, her son, and grandchild were found buried in rural Texas; they had been murdered. (What on Earth Is an Atheist!, 1972)

**KATE RICHARDS O'HARE (1877-1948).** A high ranking member of the Socialist Party, Kate O'Hare was a spellbinding speaker who believed that the "woman issue" was contained in the larger issue of socialism. Protesting U.S. entry into World War I, O'Hare was charged with sedition and served 14 months of a five-year sentence in a federal prison. Her letters disclosed the facility's abuses and cruelty, and helped end the deplorable conditions. In 1920, O'Hare was the Socialist party candidate for Vice President, running with Eugene V. Debs who was in prison at the time. ("How I Became a Socialist Woman," *Socialist Woman*, October 1908)

**SR. HELEN PREJEAN (b. 1939).** Sister Helen Prejean began her prison ministry in 1981 and soon became a leading voice against the death penalty. The founder of *Survive*, a victim's advocacy group in New Orleans, she counsels both inmates on death row and the families of murder victims. Her award winning book, *The Death of Innocents*, was the basis for the film *Dead Man Walking*. (*Dead Men Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty*, 1993)

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (1884-1962).** A social activist before marrying soon-to-be President Franklin Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the most active first ladies in American history, winning fame for her humanitarian work and becoming a role model for women in politics and public affairs. A tireless visionary, she worked hard on behalf of the country's marginalized populations. A delegate to the United Nations General Assembly from 1945-51, she was elected chair of the UN's Human Rights Commission and helped draft and spearheaded the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1961, she was appointed chair of the Commission on the Status of Women by President Kennedy. (It's Up to the Women, 1933. This I Remember, 1949. Blanche Wiesen Cook, Eleanor Roosevelt, 1993 and Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume 2, The Defining Years, 1933-1938, 1999)

**RAE UNZICKER (1948-2001).** A leading advocate for the civil rights of the mentally ill, Ray Unzicker was a founder and president of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) which opposes psychiatric abuses and involuntary treatment. Appointed to the National Council on Disability in 1995 by President Clinton, Unzicker edited and promoted the Council's historic report, "From Privileges to Rights: People Labeled With Psychiatric Disabilities Speak for Themselves." This was the first formal statement by any nation to support the rights of the mentally ill to exercise free choice in their all aspects of their lives.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH (1856-1940).** The daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriot Stanton Blatch carried on her mother's work as a leader of the women's suffrage movement. Blatch was active in England for 20 years before returning to the United States in 1902 to found the Women's Political Union. The Union, sometimes to the discomfort of more conservative suffragists, fostered close ties with working class women and employed such tactics as massive parades and active political campaigning. (Ellen Dubois, *Harriot Stanton Blatch and the Winning of Woman Suffrage*, 1997).

**ANITA HILL (b. 1956).** Anita Hill, a lawyer, was catapulted into the public spotlight in 1991 when she brought allegations of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Her testimony brought the issue to public attention, forever changing relations between men and women in the workplace. (*Speaking the Truth*, 1997)

**BETTY FRIEDAN (1921-2006).** The author of the 1963 groundbreaking *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty Friedan helped ignite the women's liberation movement. A groundbreaking analysis of the oppression of middle-class women, her book fueled the debate over women's proper place in society. A leading advocate for change in the status of women, Friedan was one of the founders of the National Organization of Women

(NOW) in 1966 and served as its first president. (Judith Hennessee, Betty Friedan: *Her Life*, 1999)

**FLORYNCE KENNEDY** Also Civil Rights

**BILLIE JEAN KING (b. 1943).** An aggressive, hard-hitting competitor, Billie Jean King won a record twenty Wimbledon titles in her career as a professional tennis player. In 1973, she defeated the former Wimbledon champion Bobby Riggs in a highly publicized "battle of the sexes," a contest that impacted Title IX legislation and helped to usher in a new era of women's athletics. A founder of the Women's Tennis Association, King was very active in the women's rights movement, particularly in the area of wage equality. (Billie Jean King and Frank Deford, *Billie Jean*, 1982)

**KATE MILLETT (b. 1934).** Kate Millet is the author of the 1970 *Sexual Politics*, a pioneering analysis of mysogyny in American literature. Unlike more mainstream feminists, Millett did not ascribe to the idea that sexism was the product of misguided public policy. Instead she called for a drastic transformation—a social revolution, true democracy and the abolition of sex roles.

**MARTINA NAVRATILOVA (b. 1956).** A record-breaking tennis player, Martina Navratilova has openly discussed her sexuality and publicly supported gay rights despite the commercial backlash she might en-



ture. She has helped raise millions of dollars to support gay and lesbian non-profit organizations and continues to be a strong presence on and off the court. (with George Vecsey, Martina, 1985)

**ALICE PAUL (1885-1977).** A Quaker and social worker, Alice Paul moved to England in 1906 where she was jailed three times for her suffragist activities. Returning to the United States in 1912, she founded the militant Women's Party, which worked for women's suffrage. Paul, who repeatedly chained herself to the White House fence, was arrested many times and forced fed while in jail. After the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified in 1920, Paul drafted the wording for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which, though finally passed by Congress in 1970, was not ratified by the required number of states. Although she became strident and conservative in her later years on many issues, Paul continued to lobby for the ERA and for gender equality language in the preamble to the United Nations Charter and in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. (Christine Lunardini. *From Equal Suffrage to Equal Rights: Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party, 1910-1928*, 1986)

**GLORIA STEINEM (b. 1934).** Gloria Steinem, whose feminist activism inspired a generation, had the uncanny knack of making radical proposals seem overwhelmingly sensible. A prolific and provocative writer, she was the founding editor of *MS Magazine* (1972) which gave the women's movement a mass publication to carry its message to a wide audience. A highly visible and prominent advocate for feminism through her writ-

ing, lectures, television appearances, and her leadership in the National Organization of Women, Steinem has also fought for Native American rights, farm workers' rights and against apartheid. (*Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, 1983. *Revolution from Within*, 1992)