

April 2026 Edition

# HRC NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by the CWA 7250 Human Rights Committee

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Get to know your HRC



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I am anxious for the earth to open up and become my oyster. I enjoy gardening and cannot wait to plant vegetables and flowers this year. The process of tilling the soil, planting the seed, watering your babies and

## Hello Spring!

By: Angela Bates

watching them grow is so fulfilling. For me, it is like becoming one with the earth, with the dirt cascading between your fingers and the fresh air coming into your lungs, especially after being cooped up in the house from the cold all winter and even spring sometimes. It is very invigorating and a form of therapy for your mental and physical health and well-being. So let's get to planting this upcoming spring and see what April Showers and May Flowers bring.

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in May in the United States since 1949. This month is observed with media, local events, and film screenings. In the United Kingdom, Mental Health Awareness Week is a similar observation, taking place for one week during May.

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> – International Workers Day – May Day!**  
AT&T Makes Billions Off of Us – But Without Our Brains & Muscle Not a Single Phone Would Ring  
Join CWA Local 7250 Rally for AT&T Wireless Workers – Good Jobs; Living Wages; RESPECT!  
**Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 – From 2:00pm-3:30pm**  
**AT&T 2132 Ford Parkway, St Paul 55116**



Then Join Us at Lake & Chicago in South Minneapolis at 4:30pm to March for Immigrant Rights and Workers Power

# We Are All Immigrants

By: Hector Capote

We are all immigrants, I truly believe that. Some of us, myself included, are first generation immigrants, while others are several generations removed from their family's immigration journey. Throughout the history of our nation, many groups have arrived in large numbers for various reasons. American immigration history can be viewed in four epochs: the colonial period, the mid-19th century, the early 20th century, and post-1965. Over half of all European immigrants who came to Colonial America during the 17th and 18th centuries arrived as indentured servants. Between 1880 and 1920, over 4 million Italians immigrated to the United States, primarily to escape poverty, overpopulation, and a lack of opportunity in Southern Italy and Sicily. Italians were often victims of prejudice, economic exploitation, and sometimes even violence, particularly in the South. In the 1890's, more than 20 Italians were lynched.

Irish immigration to America was a massive, waves-based movement driven by poverty, religious conflict, and the 1845-1852 Great Famine, totaling over 6 million people since 1820. Anti-Irish sentiment was

rampant in the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Rising Anti-Catholic

and Nativist sentiments among Protestant Americans led to increasing discrimination against Irish Americans in the 1850's.

Fast forward to 1980, and you have the Mariel Boatlift. Around 125,000 Cubans came to the USA from April 15 to October 31, 1980. My mom and brothers came in August of 1980. There were rumors that Fidel Castro was clearing out the prisons and mental institutions and sending the occupants to the US. Every boat that came to pick up family had to take several people who were not on their list. In my own case, we took 3 males, one of whom was acting weird and making constant faces. My uncle sat them close to him to keep an eye on them. Even within my own community, we faced challenges and suspicion because we were the generation that grew up under communism, and we were lower class and mixed race versus the white Cuban upper class that left in the 1960's. But for the most part, we



Cubans help each other. Then you had the Al Pacino film Scarface that told a fictitious story using the Mariel Boatlift that seemingly painted the whole community in a bad light. A lot of the people in our community were insulted because it was felt that it made us look like criminals. I loved the movie and acting, but I can understand why we felt insulted. But the fact is that they found that many Mariel immigrants with criminal records were incarcerated for minor crimes that would not be even be considered crimes in the US, such as selling goods in the black market. Estimates assert that the Cuban refugees included 2,700 hardened criminals. In the end, the Capotes became an immigration success story like so many. My brother is a 25-year-plus Miami metro policeman, my little brother has a 15-year-plus union job at the hospital and my last brother has his own successful company, Capote Pools. We are proof that the American dream is still alive.

**"No matter what they ever do to us, we must always act for the Love of our People and the earth. We must not react out of the hatred against those who have no sense."**

**John Trudell**

# Women's History Is Human Rights History, And We're Not Done Fighting For It!

By: Lori Wolf

The end of March marked the closure of Women's History Month, but women's history isn't something we can pack away on April 1st. It's ongoing, unfinished, and still very much a human rights issue.

When we talk about human rights, it's easy to picture distant movements or major historical moments. But women's history shows us those fights happen in everyday spaces, on factory floors, in classrooms, at kitchen tables, and even in call centers.

The truth is that women's rights have never just been handed over. They were demanded, organized for, and fought for step by step. And, more often than not, it's been working-class women leading those fights, because for them, it's always been about survival, feeding families, avoiding exploitation, and simply being treated as human.

Women's history is about something simple but powerful: the right to be seen, heard, and valued. Rights like voting, fair pay, safety, and having a voice were never guaranteed, and in many ways, those fights are still happening.

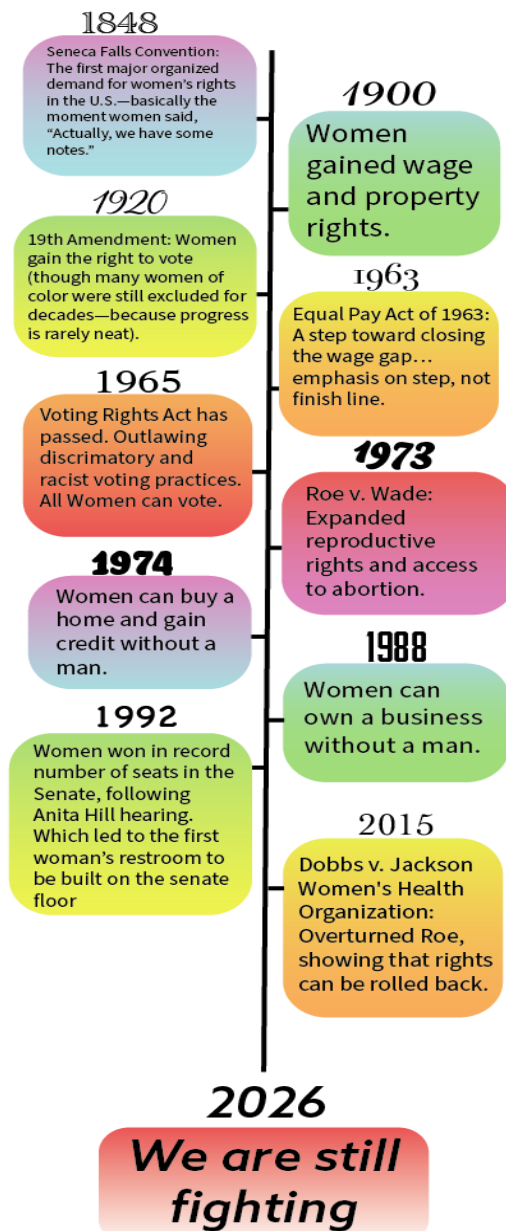
Our union helps protect us from wage gaps that many women in working-class jobs still face. But one ongoing struggle is the expectation that women will "just handle it." That becomes especially clear when we look at reproductive rights. Access isn't equal. Those with resources have options, but working-class women are often left facing impossible choices like taking unpaid leave, traveling long distances, finding childcare, or going without care altogether. That's not just an inconvenience; it's a human rights issue.

There's also something frustrating about how often women's contributions are labeled "helping" rather than "leading." History tends to downplay the very people who keep things running. But if women collectively took a day off, the impact would be impossible to ignore.

So where does that leave us?

With responsibility. Women's history isn't just something to celebrate, it's something to continue. Progress didn't happen by accident, and it won't continue by accident. We owe it to those who came before us to keep pushing forward, for ourselves and for the generations ahead.

***Raise your voice, stand your ground, take action! Equality isn't a favor, it's a right!***



# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WORD SEARCH

By: Ian Thielke

## Can you find all eight names?

**Katharine Hepburn** was a beloved actress whose career lasted more than 60 years. Hepburn lived to the age of 96 and still holds the record for the most Oscar-winning performances in film. She collected golden statues for *Morning Glory*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *On Golden Pond*.

**Amelia Earhart** was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in an airplane as a passenger in 1928 and then as a pilot in 1932. Before she became interested in learning to fly, Amelia worked as a WWI military nurse and then as a social worker. She was perhaps most famous for her unexplained disappearance at age 40 after attempting to fly around the

world. On July 2, 1937 the U.S Coast Guard lost radio contact with Amelia's plane after she departed New Guinea and she has never been seen or heard from ever again.

**Beyonce Knowles Carter** is a world-famous singer and actress who lists Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Madonna, and Whitney Houston among her greatest professional influences. She is currently the winner of 35 Grammy Awards, more than any other recording artist in history. In 2026, Forbes magazine estimated Beyonce's net worth to be \$1 billion.

**Katherine Goble Johnson** was a brilliant mathematician and a woman of color employed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) beginning in 1953 before desegregation. Her calculations, computations,

and scientific trajectory predictions were pivotal in the United States' many outer space missions including Apollo 11, Apollo 13, and the Space Shuttle. In 2015 Katherine was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the age of 96.

**Sandra Day O'Connor** was the first woman to serve as a United States Supreme Court judge for almost 25 years. Years earlier, she had searched for work in California as an attorney in 1952 right after graduating from law school, but because she was a woman, no one would hire her. Sandra then offered to work as a deputy county attorney for no pay to get the opportunity to show everyone what she could do.

(list continues, page 5)

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**Valentina Tershkova** was the first ever woman in space at the age of 26. The year was 1963 when Valentina was trained for her mission as part of Russia's 'Vostok programme'. She had enjoyed sky diving as a hobby before becoming a cosmonaut and she served as a general in the Russian Air Force for 35 years until her retirement in 1997.

**Florence Griffith Joyner** was the fastest woman in the world as a gold (1988) and silver (1984) medal-winning Olympic athlete competing in American track and field. "Flo-Jo" still holds the women's world record set in 1988 for the fastest 100 m and fastest 200m. Sadly she passed away in her sleep at age 38 after an epileptic seizure.

**Geraldine Ferraro** was a New York City businesswoman, author, and journalist elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She would become the first ever U.S. vice-presidential nominee in history as the running mate of former vice president and Minnesota's own Walter Mondale.

# Get to know your HRC members

**Lori Wolf**- I have been active in CWA since I started working for AT&T 14 years ago. I may be new to Collections, and local 7250 but I am very excited to Co-Chair the Human Rights Committee. I believe that dignity, empathy, and fairness should never be optional in the workplace, our communities, and in society as a whole. I look forward to growing this committee into something that can truly make a difference and bring people together for the common good.

**Jon Schaab**: Hola, Hello, Boozhoo, Hau & Nao Zong. My name is Jon Paul Schaab and I'm happy & glad to be part of the Human Rights Committee finally. I am not from the Twin Cities, but I was born and raised in Grey Eagle, MN. I go back and forth between family in W. St. Paul. I graduated in 1993 from Grey Eagle HS. After HS I decided against the military and chose Tech school in St. Cloud. I also lived in Kenosha, WI. While I didn't graduate from Tech School, I resorted to an array of trades and jobs to make ends meet.

I don't really know when I started to care and have deep feelings for Human rights. Our fellow Humans are going through so much at this time and since the beginning of time. It may have started by going frequently to the Pine Ridge Lakota Rez in South Dakota. Or maybe, it was living for a couple years on another Rez in northern Wisconsin or maybe from being in W. St. Paul all my life hanging with my cousins, but I will for the rest of my life have special heart for all

people that are oppressed or systematically swept under the rug and even beaten and murdered. So, you know I will always show up and show out for all people. I am so Proud of Minneapolis for the resistance in these dark days and know by Unity we will be heard and recognized for the change We all need in this world for Humanity's sake.

