

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2026

WHEREAS, Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions and a month dedicated to reflecting on the often-overlooked contributions of women into the United States' history, culture and society. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the actual celebration came out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history, and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California in 1978. After a few years, the idea caught on to other communities, school districts and organizations across the country; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. In the following year, the US Congress followed suit and passed a resolution establishing a national celebration; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Women's History Month's theme is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" expands our understanding of sustainability beyond just environmental concerns. It encompasses financial sustainability, community resilience, leadership succession, and intergenerational equity. Whether developing green technologies, advancing economic justice, strengthening education systems, or building civic power – women are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation. This theme affirms that shaping a sustainable future means fostering systems that support both people and the planet; and

WHEREAS, since the Alameda County Board of Supervisors held its first meeting in 1855, there has been eight women who have served on this board that includes three women to date; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Supervisors is proud to recognize the numerous contributions, sacrifices, and dedication of women and women-led organizations in Alameda County.

THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California, does hereby proclaim the month of March 2026 as Women's History Month and encourages everyone to honor and celebrate women who have devoted their lives and contributions to making a lasting impact in our communities.

**DAVID HAUBERT, PRESIDENT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT**

**LENA TAM, VICE-PRESIDENT
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**ELISA MÁRQUEZ
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT**

**NATE MILEY
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT**

**NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT**

Women's History Month

March 2026

Dr. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua

WHEREAS, Women's History Month is observed annually in March to recognize and celebrate the contributions of women to history, education, innovation, and public life; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua** serves as Professor of Engineering at Ohlone College in Fremont, California, and has more than twenty years of experience in engineering and STEM education; and

WHEREAS, at Ohlone College, **Dr. Ekeng-Itua** serves as Principal Investigator for a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant supporting Smart Advanced Manufacturing Education in Silicon Valley, and leads apprenticeship and internship initiatives in engineering and advanced manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ekeng-Itua** developed and implemented a culturally responsive pedagogy in engineering education that has contributed to increased retention of women and other historically underrepresented students, and during her first two years at Ohlone College, enrollment in the engineering department more than doubled; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ekeng-Itua** has served as a two-time Visiting Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, leading research on factors influencing manufacturing productivity and smart microgrids in the United States and in emerging economies; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ekeng-Itua's** work in engineering education and advocacy for women has been recognized by the Society of Women Engineers with the 2018 Advocating Women in Engineering Award, by the American Society for Engineering Education with the 2017 Outstanding Teaching Award, and by the Multicultural Women Executive Leadership Foundation with the 2022 Courage in Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ekeng-Itua** serves as a Commissioner on the Economic Development Advisory Board for the City of Fremont and as an appointee of the California State Senate Rules Committee to the Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California, does hereby recognize and honor **Dr. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua** during Women's History Month for her documented contributions to engineering education, workforce development, research, and public service.

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Women's History Month

March 2026

Jennifer Hawkins

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors celebrates Women's History Month, we honor **Jennifer Hawkins** for her many years of service as a leader, her thoughtful work as a visionary, and for her commitment to the youth and family of the Union City Family Center; and

WHEREAS, **Jennifer Hawkins** has demonstrated passion for youth development, higher education, and youth/family/community empowerment through many nonprofit organizations, in school administration, and expanded learning environments throughout her career; and

WHEREAS, **Jennifer Hawkins** began her work with the Union City Family Center in 2014 and became the coordinator in 2021 helping to address urgent needs such as food, clothing, and housing navigation and implementing community support for parents and caregivers of children while supporting vision and oral health care for K-12 students; and

WHEREAS, **Jennifer Hawkins** has strengthened partnerships that provide academic support, enrichment programs, family literacy, basic needs assistance, mental and behavioral health support, housing resources, and other critical social services, ensuring all community members have the guidance and resources they need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, **Jennifer Hawkins** has had a direct hand in expanding the Union City Family Center's services from supporting nearly 1000 people per year to 4 times that many partners in a vast collaborative that has effectively addressed regional needs; and

WHEREAS, **Jennifer Hawkins** was awarded the 2022 Administrator of the Year award for the Region 6 Association of California School Administrators.

THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby honor **Jennifer Hawkins** during March 2026, Women's History Month and commend her for the tremendous impact she has made to the youth and family of the Union City Family Center.

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Women's History Month

March 2026

Jane Garcia

WHEREAS, as we celebrate Women's History Month, this Board of Supervisors honors **Jane Garcia** for her 48 years of service as a leader, visionary steward and for her lifelong commitment to health equity; and

WHEREAS, **Jane Garcia** has distinguished herself through her dedication to expanding access to high quality and culturally responsive healthcare to low-income, immigrant and historically underserved and underrepresented communities; and

WHEREAS, **Jane Garcia** is the pillar of La Clinica de la Raza, Inc. having started her career as an intern in 1978 and rose to the position as Chief Executive Officer in 1982. Under Ms. Garcia's leadership, La Clinica has grown from a small project of \$2 million annual budget into a health system of \$110 million annually, with over 1,000 staff. In addition, the clinic became one of the largest community-based health care centers in the San Francisco-Bay Area where it has expanded its services from a one-county operation to 35 sites in Alameda, Contra-Costa and Solano Counties and serves more than 328,000 patients every year; and

WHEREAS, **Jane Garcia** led the effort to provide culturally appropriate, linguistically competent and accessible care to largely low-income and immigrant communities. She was instrumental in positioning La Clinica as an "immigrant rights" health organization, including supporting our small, local and emerging businesses and hiring from within our local communities. Ms. Garcia is also a strong advocate for immigrant rights, safety net funding, language access, and fair health policy; including her participation in legal and policy challenges like opposition to California's Proposition 187 - restricting prenatal care for undocumented women; and

WHEREAS, **Jane Garcia** serves on numerous boards such as the California Primary Care Association as its President for 3 years, the California Endowment, Alameda Alliance for Health, Community Health Center Network, Community Clinic Consortium, Oakland Thrives Leadership Council, East Bay Health Workforce Partnership, and the Solano Coalition for Better Health; and

WHEREAS, **Jane Garcia** has been recognized locally and nationally including the Common Cause Award for Public Service Achievement, the Equal Rights Advocates Award for successfully seeing that every woman, man and child has access to culturally and linguistically health care regardless of ability to pay, and the Public Policy Award from the Prenatal Network of Alameda/ Contra-Costa Counties. Furthermore, Ms. Garcia was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, received the National Association of Community Health Centers 2010 Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award, the San Francisco Business Times Most Admired CEO and recognized as one of UC Berkeley's School of Public Health's 75 Influential Alumni.

THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California does hereby honor **Ms. Jane Garcia** during March 2026, Women's History Month in Alameda County and commend her steadfast dedication, profound impact on public health and for her exemplary service as a role model for generations to come. We congratulate and wish Ms. Garcia good health and happiness in her retirement.

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Women's History Month

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Teresita de Jesús

WHEREAS, Teresita de Jesús is an exceptional community leader from the unincorporated area of Alameda County who has dedicated more than 30 years to volunteer service, working tirelessly to empower immigrant families and advocate for the rights of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Teresita began her lifelong commitment to service at the age of 10, volunteering at her church and teaching literacy to adults, demonstrating an early dedication to uplifting others through education and compassion; and

WHEREAS, through leadership grounded in solidarity, empathy, and action, she has devoted her life to building stronger, more informed, and more inclusive communities across Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, Teresita founded Padres Guerreros, a community support network that for more than 13 years has supported families with children with disabilities and guided parents through Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade, **Teresita** has served on the Board of Directors of the Regional Center of the East Bay, where she represents and uplifts the voices of immigrants, Latino families with children who have intellectual and development disabilities, and she serves on the Board of United Seniors of Alameda County, promoting the well-being and empowerment of older adults; and

WHEREAS, Teresita is an active leader in community organizations including My Eden Voice and the Ashland Community Association, advocating for access to resources, civic participation, and equitable services for residents of the unincorporated areas; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, **Teresita** organized community networks to distribute food, essential resources, and access to vaccines for vulnerable families, and founded Tercera Edad en Acción, a program dedicated to supporting older adults facing social isolation, access barriers, and emotional health challenges, positively impacting hundreds of families.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby commend and congratulate **Teresita de Jesús**, for her extraordinary leadership, her unwavering commitment to social justice, and her lasting impact on the most vulnerable communities of Alameda County.

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Women's History Month

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Dr. Aisha Mays

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors proudly recognizes **Women's History Month**, a time to celebrate the achievements, leadership, and lasting contributions of women who strengthen our communities and inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Aisha Mays**, a Bay Area native, is a nationally and locally recognized innovative adolescent physician leader, author, professor, and researcher whose work is dedicated to uplifting youth who have been made most vulnerable by our society, with a particular focus on Black girls, Black young mothers, youth impacted by sex trafficking, and gender-expansive youth; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, **Dr. Mays** has served youth across the Bay Area and New York City, including as Medical Director of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center Health Clinic, a physician within the Oakland Unified School District School-Based Health Centers, and academic faculty within the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Mays'** philosophy centers reproductive justice and youth agency, advocating for empowering, accessible, youth-centered healthcare while addressing barriers to care and championing system-level policy change that improves health outcomes for young people; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the power, resilience, and self-determination of young people, **Dr. Mays** founded the Dream Youth Clinic in 2017 after recognizing the lack of truly youth-led and youth-designed healthcare services and the persistent inequities Black and Brown youth faced when accessing care; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Youth Clinic provides no-cost medical services for youth ages 12–24 throughout the Bay Area and centers reproductive justice principles, empowering young people to take agency over their health and futures while receiving compassionate, culturally responsive care, and recently opened a mobile clinic for sex-trafficked youth; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Mays** is a national expert and leader in the fields of youth and childhood sex trafficking and reframing the narrative of young motherhood, conducting research, developing programs and trainings, authoring works, delivering talks, and serving on local and national committees advancing reproductive justice and support for vulnerable youth; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Mays** also uses the power of media and digital platforms as tools for youth health education and empowerment, and her work and advocacy have been featured in outlets including The Oaklandside, Represent Collaborative, The Black Truth Project, KALW State of the Bay, The San Francisco Chronicle, and Ms. Magazine, helping elevate critical conversations about youth health and justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and District 5 Office hereby honor **Dr. Aisha Mays** for her extraordinary leadership, dedication to advancing reproductive justice, and unwavering commitment to uplifting and empowering young people throughout Alameda County and beyond.

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