



# HISTORY ALIVE

## 2022

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# CHALLENGE: *Accepted!*

Hear their stories in their own words!

CHAUTAUQUA FESTIVAL  
**JUNE 9-19**



*Experience it in:*

- Greenville, SC
- Spartanburg, SC
- Asheville, NC
- Brevard, NC
- Athens, GA



General Eisenhower	p.6
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Houdini	p.10
Georgia O'Keeffe	p.12
Pauli Murray	p.14

Presented by:  
Greenville Chautauqua Society, Greenville SC  
Buncombe County Chautauqua Committee, Asheville, NC  
Spartanburg County Public Libraries, Spartanburg SC  
Transylvania County Library, Brevard NC  
Athens Chautauqua, Athens, GA



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HistoryComesAlive.org

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## CHALLENGE:

# Accepted!

We all face Challenge every day. We evaluate its difficulty, its importance to us, our own skills and courage. What often stops us from confronting it or taking it on? This year's characters faced different kinds of challenges in different ways. What they had in common was a clear vision and a dogged determination to see it through.

*Sometimes Challenge requires a leader who has the ability to motivate others to work together.*

**Eisenhower** was a genius at organization and logistics. Plus, he demonstrated both toughness and tact— to harness the skills of others to get a complex job done.

*Sometimes Challenge meets our own needs. Sometimes it benefits others.*

From a privileged family, **Robert Kennedy** believed, "For of those to whom much is given much is required." The turmoil of the 60s motivated his vision of equal opportunity for all.

*Sometimes Challenge meets our own needs and benefits others.*

Challenges surrounded **Pauli Murray** who was "armed with intelligence, a gift for words, and a fierce determination to make things right."

*Sometimes Challenge is a matter of survival – sometimes it's part of the job.*

As a magician, **Houdini** found a niche as a fearless escape artist, and then challenged himself constantly to live up to it.

*Sometimes it's a creative urge to do something better or just differently.*

**Georgia O'Keeffe** chose art as a career, became frustrated with expectations, and created her own style — an alternative to established ways of thinking about art.

This year, **Greenville Chautauqua** has faced the challenge to provide you with the 24th annual History Comes Alive Festival in the face of a pandemic that has stymied all arts organizations. We aim to maintain the high level of performance and stimulating audience interaction as always. But our special goal this year has been to keep you safe. ■



## Chautauqua is Interactive theater.

Our performances take you on an astonishing journey into the past — to laugh with Mark Twain — to dream with Martin Luther King, Jr. — to walk the Trail of Tears with the Cherokee -- to wonder with Rachel Carson. You become an "eyewitness" to History. Chautauqua performers are part scholar and part actor. Fascinated by their characters for years, they can answer your questions in the character's own words. Our programs reflect America's diversity and feature compelling discussion. And it's not a Chautauqua performance without audience participation. Prepare to meet some incredible people. Keep the questions coming and the conversation going!

## FROM THE EDITOR

Come to Chautauqua this June. Come for a day, a weekend, or a week. You can meet all five characters on either weekend or throughout the week. *But don't miss it!*

Sincerely,  
Sally Potosky



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE JUNE 9-19

## GREENVILLE, SC

- FRI 6/10 7:30p Houdini**  
Tent at Greenville Tech
- SAT 6/11 9:00a DISCUSSION: Georgia O’Keeffe**  
Senior Action, 3715 E North St
- 2:00p **Pauli Murray** (\*register)  
Hartness Arts Center, CCES
- 7:30p **Robert Kennedy**  
Tent at Greenville Tech
- SUN 6/12 2:00p Georgia O’Keeffe** (\*register)  
Hartness Arts Center, CCES
- 7:30p **Eisenhower**  
Tent at Greenville Tech
- MON 6/13 9:00a DISCUSSION: Houdini**  
Senior Action, 3715 E North St
- 7:30p **Georgia O’Keeffe**  
Mauldin Center,  
bring lawn seating
- TUE 6/14 9:00a DISCUSSION: Pauli Murray**  
Senior Action, 3715 E North St
- 11:30a **Eisenhower** (\*register)  
Centre Stage, 501 River St
- WED 6/15 11:30a Pauli Murray** (\*register)  
Phillis Wheatley Ctr,  
40 John McCarroll Way
- 7:30p **Eisenhower**  
Mauldin Center,  
bring lawn seating
- THU 6/16 9:00a DISCUSSION: Robert Kennedy**  
Senior Action, 3715 E North St
- 7:30p **Robert Kennedy**  
Mauldin Center,  
bring lawn seating
- FRI 6/17 9:00a DISCUSSION: Eisenhower**  
Senior Action, 3715 E North St
- 7:30p **Georgia O’Keeffe**  
Tent at Greenville Tech
- SAT 6/18 10:00a Eisenhower** special event  
Runway Café at Downtown  
Airport
- 2:00p **Robert Kennedy** (\*register)  
Hartness Arts Center, CCES
- 7:30p **Pauli Murray**  
Tent at Greenville Tech
- SUN 6/19 2:00p Houdini** (\*register)  
Hartness Arts Center, CCES
- 7:30p **Eisenhower**  
Tent at Greenville Tech

(\*Registration required these shows)  
Go to: [www.HistoryComesAlive.org](http://www.HistoryComesAlive.org)

## SPARTANBURG, SC

Headquarters Library  
151 South Church St, Spartanburg, SC 29306

- MON 6/13 3:00p Robert Kennedy**  
7:00p **Robert Kennedy**

- TUE 6/14 3:00p Georgia O’Keeffe**  
7:00p **Georgia O’Keeffe**

- WED 6/15 3:00p Houdini**  
7:00p **Houdini**

- THU 6/16 3:00p Eisenhower**  
7:00p **Eisenhower**

- FRI 6/17 3:00p Pauli Murray**  
7:00p **Pauli Murray**

(\*registration required all Spartanburg shows)  
Go to: [Library Calendar](http://LibraryCalendar)  
[www.spartanburglibraries.org](http://www.spartanburglibraries.org)

## ASHEVILLE, NC

Morris’ Pavilion, Warren Wilson College  
701 Warren Wilson Rd, Swannanoa, NC

- THU 6/9 3:00p Pauli Murray & Houdini \$10**

- FRI 6/10 3:00p O’Keeffe & Robert Kennedy \$10**

(\*Buy tickets in advance, none at the door.)

Go to: [www.HistoryComesAlive.org](http://www.HistoryComesAlive.org)  
[Buncombe Chautauqua](http://BuncombeChautauqua)

## BREVARD, NC

Transylvania County Library Amphitheater  
212 S Gaston St, Brevard, NC 28712

- MON 6/13 11:00a Eisenhower**

- TUE 6/14 7:30p Houdini**

- WED 6/15 7:30p Georgia O’Keeffe**

- THU 6/16 7:30p Pauli Murray**

- FRI 6/17 11:00a Robert Kennedy**

## ATHENS, GA

Morton Theatre  
195 W Washington St, Athens, GA 30601

- SUN 6/12 3:00p Pauli Murray**

- 7:00p **Robert Kennedy**



Funded in part by the Metropolitan Arts Council which receives support from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, Michelin North America, Inc, SEW Eurodrive and the South Carolina Arts Commission.



Traveling to Greenville and looking for a place to stay? Go to our website and check out our Plan Your Visit page.

# Scholar Performers



**LARRY BOUNDS**  
(Houdini) Greer SC

Larry Bounds has been a Chautauqua performer since 2002. Over the years he has portrayed Einstein, Churchill, Disney, Houdini, Crockett, Von Braun, Cronkite, and Andrew Jackson to numerous Chautauqua audiences nationwide. For 35 years he taught public high school. He was awarded his school's Teacher of the Year in 2003 and was recognized as one of *Parent Magazine's Educators Who Make a Difference*. He has performed as a professional magician since 1973, including 8 years with Ripley's Believe It or Not!



**LESLIE GODDARD**  
(Georgia O'Keeffe) Chicago IL

Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., is an award-winning actress and scholar who has been portraying famous women in history for more than a dozen years, appearing before audiences in more than 15 states. A lifelong resident of Illinois, she is the author of two books on Chicago history and currently works full-time as a living-history interpreter and public speaker. She holds a master's degree in theater from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in American studies and U.S. history from Northwestern University.



**JEREMY MEIER**  
(Robert Kennedy) OH

Jeremy Meier serves as the Chair of Fine and Performing Arts at Owens Community College in Northwest Ohio. Meier has created original solo performances for the Ohio Humanities on John Dillinger and Oliver Hazard Perry. In 2017, Meier was awarded a grant by Ohio Humanities to pilot the state's first Chautauqua Training Program for new scholars learning to develop original characters based on historical figures.



**DOUG MISHLER**  
(General Eisenhower) Reno, NV

Since 1993 Doug Mishler has been nationally recognized for "bringing history to life." Doug has presented figures from Nikita Khrushchev to Theodore Roosevelt, to Ernie Pyle, and P. T. Barnum. He portrays 24 historical figures, including Stonewall Jackson, Henry Ford, General Jack Pershing, Jacques Cousteau, and Pablo Picasso. Four years ago, he founded Restless Artists' Theatre. Mishler has taught American Cultural History at the University of Nevada for over 21 years.



**BECKY STONE**  
(Pauli Murray) Asheville, NC

Becky Stone is a former teacher of theater and chorus and theater appreciation in Fletcher, NC. While raising their four children, she and her husband started GreenPrints Magazine, a garden quarterly. Becky has been a regular storyteller-performer at the Biltmore Estate for many years. She has performed as a storyteller at schools, libraries, and festivals throughout Western North Carolina specializing in African American, Appalachian, and world tales. Her characters include: Pauli Murray, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Maya Angelou.





# The Characters

## GENERAL EISENHOWER (1890 - 1969)

Before Eisenhower was a President, he was a General – not just any General but the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in World War II. He'd have to coordinate land, air and sea forces of 12 nations in what became known as the largest amphibian invasion force in military history. He'd have to keep in check powerful egos, enormous logistics, and even the weather —Failure was not an option.



## ROBERT KENNEDY (1925 -1968)

When one hears the name Kennedy, most think of JFK or maybe even Jackie. But it was serious young Robert Kennedy who faced off with Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters during the Rackets Committee hearings of the late fifties and who, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, possessed a dissenting voice to which the President was willing to listen. He was 36 when he became the US Attorney General. At 40, he was elected US Senator. At 42, he was assassinated. What might have been had he finished the race?



## HARRY HOUDINI (1874 - 1926)

From his birth to his death, he led a life of mystery and controversy. He was a pioneering filmmaker and aviator. He debunked con men and fake mediums who used magician's tricks to cheat the public and was the frequent subject of their death threats. He trained police officers in improved restraint techniques and wrote a guide for surviving mine collapses. He was a world-renowned magician who challenged death as an escape artist.



## GEORGIA O'KEEFFE (1887 - 1986)

She was an independent woman who broke the rules and forged her own unique place in the world of arts Her works are bold, miraculous canvases that gave rise to her legend. Her innovative impressionist images challenged perceptions of realism. She not only painted the world around her, she created a world where gigantic, brilliant flowers and cow skulls rule their domain. Through her vision, they grew large to cover the canvas and expanded to become another world. She not only created her own style, she was also a principal figure of American Modernism.



## PAULI MURRAY (1910 - 1985)

She helped transform the law of the land, challenging both "Jim Crow" and "Jane Crow." The overturning of Plessy v. Ferguson and the success of Brown v. Board of Education were in part based on her legal tactic of challenging "separate" instead of "equal" and on her "States' Laws on Race and Color." Murray provided the argument Ruth Bader Ginsburg used to persuade the Supreme Court that the 14th Amendment protects not only Blacks but also women from discrimination. Her name now graces one of the Yale University's new colleges.



*"I do not give a damn about glory."*

**Dwight David Eisenhower**  
(1890–1969)

- 1915** — West Point graduate
- 1933-1939** — Chief military aide to General Douglas MacArthur and Military Advisor Philippines
- 1942** — Assistant Chief of Staff under General George Marshall
- 1942** — Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, North Africa
- 1943** — Appointed Brigadier General then Major General on same date  
Appointed Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces
- June 6, 1944** — Normandy invasion.
- Dec 1944** — 5 Star General of the Army
- May 1945** — Military Governor, U.S. Occupied Zone
- Nov 1945** — Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
- 1948-53** — President, Columbia University, New York City
- 1950-1952** — Supreme Allied Commander, NATO, then retired army
- 1953-1961** — President of the US
- 1961** — returned to active regular Army with rank of General of the Army by President John F. Kennedy

# Dwight D. Eisenhower

by Doug Mishler

Raised in Abilene Kansas to very devout parents, Ike learned discipline, hard work, and a strong sense of duty. Though he had a softer side, and even a wild one, few people knew how driven Ike was to prove himself over and over again. Whether climbing military flag poles or commanding the D-Day landing, it seemed the greater the challenge, the more he thrived. While never boisterous like his friend George Patton, nor bombastic like his mentor Douglas MacArthur, Ike had a relentless desire to be in the midst of the action. He just wanted to take on and to handle whatever was the next difficult, dangerous, or challenging situation.

Ike led a rather stable and religiously focused youth in Kansas. He was an athlete especially good at football since he loved the competition and the camaraderie of teamwork. Yet in Kansas he secretly walked on the wild side, as he was mentored—as he would be so often in his life—by several older men who taught him to be tough, a good shot, to cuss and smoke (traits that his parents condemned) and take on dares as a mark of manliness. At age 17 he wanted more, and the military seemed perfect. To the horror of his parents, he was appointed to West Point.

As he graduated from West Point in 1915, Ike was just an average student, but he excelled as a charismatic and decisive leader. Because peace time service was not particularly adventurous, he became a rather rambunctious 2nd Lieutenant who was always in trouble. He calmed somewhat when he married socialite Mamie Doud, but his desire for action never cooled. Though anxious to fight in The Great War, Ike's ability to organize and handle dozens of details simultaneously made him more valuable behind a desk at headquarters, so he was kept home while his friend George Patton went off to glory. Ike seethed but still served with excellence as aide to mentor-Generals Fox Conner, Pershing and MacArthur — and he moved up the military ladder. When he deemed the work too dull, he often thought about

resigning his commission. But he kept at it, and by 1941 he was a brigadier general working directly for his new mentor, Chief of Staff George C. Marshall.

As WWII commenced, he was kept in Washington again. Just as he considered resigning, Marshall finally sent him into action to command the invasions of North Africa and Sicily.

When the Allies combined forces for the Normandy Invasion, there were several candidates for Supreme Allied Commander. Ike was not a popular pick with more senior commanders, but Marshall trusted him to do what was necessary militarily without grandstanding. Ike didn't have as much battlefield experience, but he was a genius at logistics and organization. Plus, he had the strength of character, toughness, and tact to handle the job — and the other generals.

As Supreme Commander, Ike had

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***"For history does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid."***

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

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hard decisions to make. There were the prosaic but crucial logistic and supply challenges of hundreds of thousands of men fighting thousands of miles from production/supply centers. Harder was the titanic political challenge balancing Stalin against FDR against Churchill against De Gaulle. And this gargantuan political challenge paled before the challenge of handling the Prima Donnas he faced in the military, from Patton to Montgomery to De Gaulle, and even Omar Bradley. Then there was the personal anguish from every decision that sent young men to their deaths. Ike smoked, worried — and kept going.

After the war, Ike took on prestigious positions, but became restless with peacetime service. He served as Army Chief of Staff (1945–1948), as President of Columbia University, and then as the



June 6, 1945 — D-Day “Soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon a great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you!” — Eisenhower

But as he spoke, he carried in his pocket a slip of paper bearing much different, hand-written words — to be read if the Normandy invasion failed:  
*“Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available. The troops, the air, and the navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.”*

first Supreme Commander of NATO. 1952 was a Presidential Election year. Ike felt he had to run – that only he could bridge the two parties. He was the Centrist: able to counter the Conservatives who wished to go backwards, and to counter the Liberals who wanted to go too far. He was overwhelmingly elected, then re-elected by a landslide in 1956.

The Cold War was raging, bringing a host of foreign crises. He was instrumental in shoring up NATO and creating a host of other strategic alliances to contain the challenge of communism. In 1953, he forged an end to the seeming endless Korean War. He masterfully maintained world peace during the Berlin Airlift as well as the Suez & Hungarian crises.

Though he had amazing rates of success, even he might admit he failed against “Third World” challenges, commencing American involvement in Vietnam as well as instigating CIA actions that literally “killed” democracies in Iran, Guatemala, Congo, and Cuba -- where he instigated what became JFK’s fiasco at the Bay of Pigs.

Domestically, he slowly confronted the red scare fanaticism of Joe McCarthy, but brilliantly created America’s Interstate Highway system, and oversaw an economy of unprecedented growth. Though Ike was a moderate conservative he continued many New Deal programs and even expanded Social Security —to the horror of many Republicans. During the immense challenge of Civil Rights, he grudgingly aided the movement by sending troops to protect black students at Little Rock in 1957. He also responded to the shocking news of Sputnik and the space race by establishing NASA and strengthening science education through the National Defense Act.

In his epic 1961 farewell address, Eisenhower begged the nation to “guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence... by the military-industrial complex.” He feared it would lead to a society that values arms over the nation’s well-being.

Whether in war or peace, Ike was a towering figure devoted to his duty to America. ■



## GOOD READS

### **Eisenhower: Soldier and President**

by Stephen E. Ambrose (1991)

A classic and still pretty interesting. Plenty of great information and easy to read. Goes a bit overboard in places especially about WWII as Ambrose loves to do, but some nice nuggets about his early military career.

### **Eisenhower in War and Peace**

by Jean Edward Smith (2013)

Very solid recent work that has lots of insights about his youth, his marriage, and his regular life, as well as his time in politics and the military

### **The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950s**

by William Hitchcock (2018)

An interesting, strong work. Though primarily on his presidency, you get a real idea about the man and the issues he faced, and why he decided to do the things that he did — from hiring Nixon to fighting with Khrushchev. It’s all here.

### **Ike: An American Hero**

by Michael Korda (2007)

This source really is solid in covering every aspect of the Eisenhower story from his youth, his Mennonite parents, his career, and even his passion for golf.





*"Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."*

## **Robert Kennedy** (1925-1968)

**1951-52** — Attorney in the Criminal Division, Department of Justice

**1960** — *The Enemy Within* published, on pursuing racketeering factions

**1959-60** — Manages brother John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign

**1961-64** — U.S. Attorney General

**1961** — Sent U.S. Marshals to protect Freedom Riders

**1962** — Sent U.S. Marshals to enforce court order admitting James Meredith, an African American to the University of Mississippi

**November 22, 1963** — John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas

**1965-68** — U.S. Senator, New York

**1968** — Enters Democratic primary race for Presidential nomination

**April 4, 1968** — Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis. Robert pleads for non-violence, forgiveness and healing for the nation

**June 5, 1968** — Robert Kennedy assassinated in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles

# Robert Kennedy

by Jeremy Meier

*"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of those acts will be written the history of this generation."*

— Robert F. Kennedy. *To Seek a Newer World*, 1967

The third son of Joseph P. Kennedy, Robert was born into an impressive family legacy. Even now when many people hear the name "Kennedy," they first think of older brother JFK. For good reason, the excitement and interest in the New Frontier of the early '60s is tied to the dawning of the John F. Kennedy presidency.

When President Kennedy chose his younger brother as Attorney General, Robert Kennedy had already faced off with Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters during the Senate Rackets Committee hearings of the late '50s. As Attorney General, he vigorously enforced Civil Rights laws that protected African Americans.

He also was JFK's closest Cabinet advisor and confidant. Not wanting to repeat the Bay of Pigs fiasco, JFK turned to him to think through all possibilities before making decisions.

Robert was in the heated decision room meetings during The Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962. As RFK recounts in his memoir *Thirteen Days*, the discussions were ongoing over twelve continuous days, and the Executive Committee of the National Security Council "met, talked, argued, and fought together during that crucial period of time." In fact, President Kennedy was often not in these meetings as both he and Robert perceived that "personalities change when the President is present, and frequently even strong men make recommendations on the basis of what they believe the President wishes to hear." Younger brother Robert possessed a dissenting voice to which the President was open to listen. Although first in favor of a calculated military strike of the Cuban missile sites, Robert's perspective on the best plan of action shifted to the strategy outlined

by Robert McNamara—a quarantine of Cuba until the missile sites were disassembled. President Kennedy agreed as well. It was a big risk, but it enabled what resulted in a diplomatic solution.

The two brothers sat in the Oval Office on day nine of the Cuban Missile Crisis as Russian ships were heading straight for the quarantine line. Robert's descriptions of these moments highlight the tension in the room.

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*"I think these few minutes were the time of gravest concern for the President. Was the world on the brink of a holocaust? Was it our error? A mistake? Was there something further that should have been done? Or not done? His hand went up to his face and covered his mouth. He opened and closed his fist. His face seemed drawn, his eyes pained, almost gray. We stared at each other across the table. For a few fleeting seconds, it was almost as though no one else was there and he was no longer the President. Inexplicably, I thought of when he was ill and almost died; when he lost his child; when we learned that our oldest brother had been killed; of personal times of strain and hurt."*

— Robert Kennedy. *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*

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Events in the '60s shaped Robert both politically and personally:

**May 1963:** March on Washington and MLK Jr's I Have a Dream speech

**Nov 1963:** President John F. Kennedy assassination

**1964:** Lyndon Johnson ran for President; Robert went back to the US Senate.

And the turbulent '60s continued.

**1964:** Civil Rights Act passed

**1965:** U.S. troops to Vietnam

**1966-1968:** Draft protests

*"The final lesson of the Cuban Missile Crisis is the importance of placing ourselves in the other country's shoes."*  
—Robert F. Kennedy



1965: Malcolm X assassinated  
**Summer 1965:** Riots in Watts  
**April 1968:** Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated

Robert had been deeply affected by JFK's assassination, and now he felt angry and frustrated with injustices he saw. When Lyndon Johnson withdrew his candidacy for a second term as President, Robert announced his own Presidential campaign. It was to be a search for decency, and he saw himself as an agent for change.

- (1) He advocated for withdrawal from Vietnam
- (2) He saw voting rights as key to racial justice.
- (3) He demanded better living conditions and opportunities for minorities and for the poor.

On the way to address a crowd of African Americans, he first heard of MLK Jr.'s assassination. In breaking the news to them, he delivered a heartfelt speech revealing his own pain at his brother's

assassination. His plea to them not to turn to violence and hate was unforgettable.

One of his favorite quotes was from Albert Camus: "Perhaps we cannot prevent this world from being a world in which children are tortured. But we can reduce the number of tortured children. And if you don't help us, who else in the world can help us do this?"

Robert's 1968 presidential campaign included engagements at college campuses, rural villages, and major municipalities. He embraced the notion of being out among the people despite his shoes and his sport coat being ripped from his body on several occasions. He shrugged off advice that he maintain a safe distance from the crowds. One of his campaign workers compared his rallies to rock concerts.

On June 5, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy's campaign for the presidency was tragically cut short. History asks, What might have been, had he finished the race? ■



F-85 plane in Cleveland Park. It is a tribute to Maj Rudolf Anderson from Spartanburg, SC, the only fatality from the Cuban Missile Crisis. Not the U2 he was shot down in, but a replica of a plane he did pilot.

## GOOD READS

### ***The Last Campaign: Robert Kennedy and the 82 Days That Inspired America***

by Thurston Clarke (2008)

An account of Kennedy on the campaign trail with fascinating insights from the press pool who caravanned with the candidate.

### ***Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis***

by Robert F. Kennedy (1969 / Reprint 1999)

At first this was the only narrative available to the public. It is still a riveting account from the perspective of the man closest to President John F. Kennedy as he measured his options in a time of national crisis.

### ***Robert Kennedy And His Times***

by Arthur M. Schlesinger (2002)

Schlesinger was the biographer with the closest proximity to share the stories of the brothers Kennedy. He takes a look at Robert's life from boyhood through candidate for the presidency.

### ***Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit***

by Chris Matthews (2017)

A follow-up to Matthews' biography on John F. Kennedy, this book hones in on Robert's status of younger brother and family underdog. It views how Robert pushed steadfast into adulthood as a fraternal loyalist and then found his own voice and ambition after the tragic event in Dallas in November, 1963.

### ***The Promise and the Dream: The Untold Story of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.***

by David Margolick (2018)

In downtown Indianapolis stand two statues — King and Kennedy — each with an arm extending toward the other. The assassinations of both men in 1968 have linked them in American History. This book investigates their visions, the crossed paths and tentative relationship between the two in the early '60s, their widows' grief, and each man's impact on social justice and equality in America.



*"My brain is the key that sets me free."*

## Harry Houdini (1875-1926)

- 1874** — Born as Ehrich Weiss in Budapest, Hungary
- 1878** — Family moves to Appleton, Wisconsin
- 1888** — He adopts the name Houdini
- 1894** — Marries Bess and tours magic act in tent shows
- 1900** — Gains fame with escape act across Europe
- 1906** — Stages prison break for publicity in Washington, D.C.
- 1910** — First successful aviator? in Australia
- 1918** — Begins movie career
- 1924** — Exposes fake mediums for *Scientific American*
- 1926** — Dies in Detroit, Michigan, on tour



# Harry Houdini

by Larry Bound

Immigrants to the United States have always faced the challenge of being accepted by their fellow Americans. Ehrich Weiss (Harry Houdini) was born in Budapest, Hungary, the fourth son of a Jewish rabbi, and faced that challenge by simply re-inventing his own life story. He created the fiction that he was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, and that he was just another American kid from the great Midwest. It would not be until decades after his untimely death that his biographers discovered the true nature of his roots.

In fact, he came to America in 1878 when he was only four years old. His father took a job in Appleton as rabbi to a small congregation, but his limited English and old-fashioned, old-world style cost him that position. Struggling to support his family of five, Rabbi Weiss then relocated them all to New York in search of better opportunities but found none. Instead, one day he called his now adolescent boy to his sickbed and pledged him to care for his soon-to-be widowed mother. Harry accepted that challenge as well, and when he eventually achieved his great success, he literally showered his mother in gold coins!

During Houdini's early childhood in Appleton, he became fascinated with circus performers. He set up a trapeze from which he swung and mastered the trick of picking up pins upside down with his eyelids. (Do NOT try this at home, no matter how fun it may sound!) He then went on to master magic becoming "Houdini, the King of Kards." With his brother Theo and later with his young wife, Bess, he toured America in sideshows, circuses, and small theaters eking out a modest living. And finally, his hard work and determination paid off with his invitation to tour in a larger theater circuit.

The market for a young magician and his smiling wife-assistant was as limited at the end of the 19th century as it is

today in the 21st century. But Houdini was encouraged to focus on the kind of trick that was the centerpiece of his act — the trunk escape. He expanded his escape act to include handcuff, rope, and chain escapes. He challenged his audiences to bring their own cuffs, ropes, and locks, and he offered a prize to anyone who could restrain him in a way that prevented his escape. No one ever succeeded in holding "The Great Houdini... the King of Handcuffs."

Numerous tours of Europe made Houdini an international celebrity. He escaped from a prison cell at Scotland Yard

after being stripped naked and medically examined. He proved he was not guilty of false advertising of his amazing skills in a German court by escaping from within the judge's own locked safe. He became the world's most celebrated magical entertainer.

While touring France in 1909, Houdini saw the flight of a pioneering aircraft. Fascinated, he became a trained pilot and even bought a custom-made aircraft of his own- a French Voison for \$5000 (\$150,000 in today's money). He emblazoned the wings with his name. As Houdini completed his world tour, he also became the first successful pilot to fly the skies of the continent of Australia, a feat which he made sure to document on film.

Only recently, evidence has emerged suggesting that part of Houdini's rise to international stardom was secretly supported by American and British spymasters. Houdini, a native German speaker and skilled aviator, had carte blanche access to German military posts and airfields in the days leading up to the First World War. The evidence is intriguing, but Houdini never admitted to being a secret agent. Of course, a successful spy never would.

After World War I, Houdini tackled the movie business. In France in 1901

*"I always have on my mind the thought that next year I must do something greater, something more wonderful."*

— Harry Houdini



*"My chief task has been to conquer fear. The public sees only the thrill of the accomplished trick; they have no conception of the tortuous preliminary self-training that was necessary to conquer fear."*

— Houdini

he had starred in a 10-minute film, the *Wonderful Adventures of the Famous Houdini in Paris*. In 1918 he became an action/adventure film star in a 15-episode serial, *The Master Mystery*. Each episode ended with Houdini in an impossibly dangerous dilemma, and each episode began featuring his perilous escape. From 1919 to 1923 he starred in four feature films. One of his films even included the first humanoid-killer robot ever presented in the movies. Houdini's movie star recognition can still be seen memorialized on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. By the way, in the early 1920s, Houdini's most enthusiastic fan mail came from his many adoring admirers in Japan!

Following the tragic loss of life in WW I (with over 15 million deaths) and the pandemic of 1918-1919 (with over 25 million deaths), there arose a passionate interest in Spiritualism. Particularly attractive was the promise of possibly contacting the suddenly departed to find comfort and closure from their loss. To meet this demand, charlatans began numerous scams to separate the grieving from their money.

Houdini, ever close to his own dear

mother whose death years before had always haunted him, sought out people who promised contact with the spirits. With his years as a master magician, he immediately saw through their deceptions. Outraged as time after time he saw the bereaved deceived, Houdini began a campaign of exposing the frauds. He testified before

Congress, and he wrote the books *Miracle Mongers and Their Methods* (1920) and *A Magician Among the Spirits* (1924). But most of all, in

a series of incredible disguises he attended seances in every city his show toured and then exposed the names and details of the scammers from the stage each night.

Houdini received countless death threats from the con men and women who marketed deception as divinity. But Houdini continued his crusade against their dishonesty until his death on Halloween in 1926.

Houdini had promised his wife that if there was a way to return to the land of the living, he would — but he never did. Now, nearly a hundred years after his death, Houdini's name lives on as that of the world's greatest magician. ■

***"The secret of showmanship consists not of what you really do, but what the mystery-loving public thinks you do."***

— Harry Houdini

## GOOD READS

### ***Houdini: The Untold Story***

by Milbourne Christopher (1969)

Written by an accomplished magician, this text is the classic Houdini biography and the inspiration for many currently performing magicians.

### ***Houdini: A Pictorial Life***

by Milbourne Christopher (1976)

More than 250 photos and illustrations bring Houdini's world to life.

### ***Wild about Harry***

<https://www.wildabouthoudini.com/>  
(Website) by John Cox (2002-2021)

This website is kept very current with all things Houdini, including film clips.

### ***Miracle Mongers and their Methods***

by Harry Houdini (1921)

An exposé of the workings of con men.

### ***A Magician Among the Spirits***

by Harry Houdini (1924)

An exposé of fake mediums and how rigged seances are produced.

### ***The Secret Life of Houdini: The Making of America's First Super Hero***

by William Kalush and Larry Sloman (2006)

This biography also explores Houdini's possible role as an international spy prior to World War One.

### ***The Master Mystery***

(Film) Directed by Burton King.  
B.A.Rolfe Productions,  
Octagon Films, Inc. (1918)

An opportunity to watch Houdini in action, and this film features the first filmed modern robot character.

### ***Houdini: Art and Magic.***

by Brooke Kamin Rapaport. New York:  
The Jewish Museum (2010)

A lovely, well-illustrated text published in connection with a museum exhibition.

### ***Houdini!!!***

### ***The Career of Ehrich Weiss***

by Kenneth Silverman (1997)

This work corrected errors in the earlier Christopher texts and is considered one of the best.



*"I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life – and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing I wanted to do."*

## Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)

- 1905-06** — Studies at the Art Institute of Chicago
- 1912** — Experiments with abstract art
- 1914** — Studies at Teachers' College, Columbia University, NY, and meets Anita Pollitzer (suffrage activist originally from Charleston, SC)
- 1915** — Teaches art at Columbia College, SC
- 1918** — Moves to New York; moves in with Alfred Stieglitz
- 1923** — First major exhibition
- 1924** — Begins painting oversized flowers. Marries Alfred Stieglitz
- 1934** — Begins spending half her year in New Mexico
- 1946** — Exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art
- 1949** — Permanent move to New Mexico
- 1965** — Her largest work, the 8' x 24' painting *Sky Above Clouds IV*
- 1972** — Her last unassisted painting
- 1977** — Presidential Medal of Freedom

# Georgia O'Keeffe

by Leslie Goddard

In 2014, Georgia O'Keeffe's painting *Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1* (1932) was sold at auction for \$44.4 million. It was the highest price ever paid for a work by a female artist.

It was also the latest evidence of the enormous popularity of one of America's most celebrated artists. O'Keeffe's works hang in more than 40 museums, and posters of her paintings are among the most popular art reproductions available. The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, draws thousands of visitors annually.

Given O'Keeffe's popularity today, it can be hard to conceive the challenge she took on when she told a friend at age 11, "I'm going to be an artist." She later admitted she'd never even heard of a woman artist. Born in 1887, she grew up on a farm near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Her schoolbooks never mentioned female artists.

She faced the challenge head-on, first studying traditional art techniques at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Students' League in New York and then working as an advertising illustrator and art teacher. But she felt constrained when encouraged to copy other artists' styles and sought an alternative to established ways of thinking about art.

While working as an art teacher in Texas in the 1910s, O'Keeffe began exploring her own style in a series of abstract charcoal drawings. In 1915, she sent some of these charcoals to a friend, Anita Pollitzer. Pollitzer, unbeknownst to O'Keeffe, showed them to Alfred Stieglitz, the art dealer and well-known photographer. His New York art gallery, 291, was dedicated to showcasing works by cutting-edge European artists of the day and encouraging America's own modernist artists. Impressed, Stieglitz put some of O'Keeffe's charcoals in a group exhibition.

It was a transformative moment for O'Keeffe, who found in Stieglitz a supportive champion and friend. She soon became the only woman in the group

of American modern artists informally known as the Stieglitz circle.

In 1917, Stieglitz organized the first of 20 solo exhibitions he would do for her. The next year, he convinced her to move to New York and they eventually married. She frequently served as a model for him, posing for some 500 photographs by Stieglitz between 1917 and 1937.

In the 1920s, her own style continued to evolve as she painted abstract and magnified images of flowers, skyscrapers, and barns. Her lush, oversized flowers such as *Black Iris* (1926) and *Oriental Poppies* (1928), distinguished by their long, continuous brushstrokes and clear, vivid colors, remain favorites of her fans.

Critics often read her flower paintings through a sexualized, Freudian lens, a view she resisted. Throughout her life, she chafed against attempts to impose gendered interpretations on her art, aiming always to attain recognition as a great artist, not a great *female* artist.

O'Keeffe's life changed again in 1929 when a friend invited her to spend the summer at a New Mexico ranch, where she fell deeply in love with the landscape. The crystalline light brought out astonishing colors in the terra-cotta hills of smoked red, sun-bleached yellow and soft lavender, while the broad sky gave her the open space she craved. "[A]s soon as I saw it, that was my country," she said. "It fitted to me exactly."

O'Keeffe began spending a portion of each year in New Mexico, "tramping" through the hills with canvases and paint. She bought a small adobe summer house at the stunningly situated Ghost Ranch in 1940 and another in the small village of Abiquiu in 1945. Although this raised a new challenge in O'Keeffe's life, as her marriage strained under the pressure of her absences and his infidelities, her sense of what she needed prevailed.

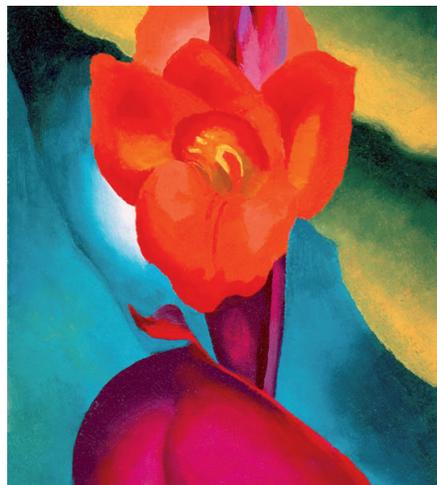
O'Keeffe's paintings of horse skulls, cow pelvises, and desert scenes soon became trademarks of her style. Like her



*"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way — things I had no words for." — Georgia O'Keeffe*

fame was firmly established, and major museums across the United States mounted exhibitions of her works. However, O'Keeffe began to have eye trouble. By 1971, she had lost all her central vision due to macular degeneration. Although virtually blind in her later years, she continued to create art until her death in 1986, at age 98.

She had not merely met the challenge; she had exceeded it. Her career as an artist spanned 70 years and resulted in more than 2,000 works. She is remembered today as one of the founders of modern art and a principal figure of American modernism. ■



*"I decided that if I could paint that flower in a huge scale, you could not ignore its beauty."*

oversized flower paintings, her New Mexico paintings fluctuate between the representative and the abstract. She zooms in on a view, magnifying its abstract shapes and simplifying its lines while heightening its colors to bring out an emotional effect.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York City mounted an O'Keeffe show in 1946, its first exhibition of a woman artist ever. Stieglitz died the same year. After wrapping up his affairs, O'Keeffe moved permanently to New Mexico.

O'Keeffe lived simply in New Mexico, splitting her time between her Ghost Ranch and Abiquiu homes. She grew her own vegetables, hand-ground wheat for bread and took long walks in the hills. She began to travel internationally, incorporating scenic vistas from Peru, Japan and other spectacular places into her art. Air travel inspired her to begin painting a series of aerial views of clouds and sky.

By the 1960s, Georgia O'Keeffe's

## GOOD READS

### **Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern**

by Wanda M. Corn (2017)

Lavish museum exhibition catalog. Explores O'Keeffe's modernist style in her art and her lifestyle.

### **Full Bloom: The Art and Life of Georgia O'Keeffe.**

by Hunter Drohojowska-Philp (2004)

Detailed biography by an art journalist, great insights into O'Keeffe's art.

### **Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life**

by Roxana Robinson (1999)

Well-researched, very readable biography, the first written with her family's cooperation.

### **Georgia O'Keeffe**

by Georgia O'Keeffe (1974)

Oversized book packed with stunning images of her art. Not a full autobiography, but delightful and insightful commentary.

### **Portrait of an Artist: A Biography of Georgia O'Keeffe**

by Laurie Lisle (1980) Reprint 1997

The first comprehensive biography of her. My favorite O'Keeffe biography.

### **Through Georgia's Eye**

by Rachel Victoria Rodriguez and Julie Paschkis (2006)

A short collage-filled picture book for very young readers. Approachable, inspiring.

### **Georgia O'Keeffe (Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artist)**

by Mike Venezia (1993)

Fun children's book. Intersperses images of O'Keeffe's art with whimsical cartoons and a biography of her life.





# Pauli Murray

by Becky Stone

*"There was pride on both sides of the Fitzgerald family, but my greatest inheritance, perhaps, was dogged persistence, a granite quality of endurance in the face of calamity."*

## Pauli Murray (1910-1985)

- 1933** — Graduated Hunter College
- 1938** — Rejected by University of North Carolina graduate school due to her race.
- 1940** — Arrested and jailed for protesting Virginia law requiring segregation on buses.
- 1941-44** — Howard Law School
- 1944** — Rejected by Harvard Law School's graduate program.
- 1951** — States' Laws on Race and Color
- 1961** — President's Commission on the Status of Women Committee on Civil and Political rights.
- 1964** — Co-author of *Jane Crow and the Law: Sex discrimination and Title VII*, parallels sex-based discrimination with Jim Crow laws.
- 1965** — First African-American to receive J.S.D. from Yale.
- 1966** — Co-founder the National Organization for Women (NOW).
- 1977** Ordained by the Episcopal Church.

Accepting challenges? Pauli Murray faced them repeatedly. She did not go looking for them. They found her. And when they found her, she took them head on. Armed with intelligence, a gift for words, and a fierce determination to make things right, Pauli sat down at her typewriter and "spoke" her mind.

For a higher education Pauli aimed for Columbia University but did not have the money or academic credentials from Hillside High School in Durham, N.C. She attended an extra year of high school in Brooklyn, living with some cousins. This qualified her for acceptance at Hunter College in New York City as an English Literature major with an emphasis on writing. Her first challenge — escaping the Jim Crow South — achieved.

Murray graduated from Hunter in 1933, in the midst of the Depression. She found a job in the Works Progress Administration teaching laborers. That led her to seek a graduate degree in social work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. On Dec. 2, 1938, the U.S. Supreme Court decided Missouri had to accept a black student into their university's law school. That gave her reason to hope that UNC would accept her as their first Negro student. Would her case in North Carolina be considered the same? Evidently not. Murray was rejected by UNC, claiming that the university was not allowed to accept students of her race.

Thus began her correspondence with the Dean of the graduate school and the President of the university, arguing that, as a qualified North Carolina-born candidate, she had a right to attend UNC. The letters drew the attention of local and national press. Murray was only too glad to take on the fight. She was a firm believer in "confrontation by typewriter." The NAACP considered taking her case until they realized her residency in New York weakened their argument. So, Pauli gave up her personal battle with Chapel Hill.

On Dec 5, at the same time Pauli was applying to UNC, President Franklin

Roosevelt accepted an honorary degree from Chapel Hill and spoke at the school, proclaiming it a progressive school. Murray took exception to that and wrote President Roosevelt a letter arguing her point of view — another "confrontation by typewriter." Murray sent a copy of that letter to the President's wife, thinking, if he never saw her letter, his wife would read it. She did and responded. Thus began a lifelong friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 1940, Murray challenged segregation on interstate public buses and was arrested. She wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt for help. The First Lady wrote back that she had no help to give because segregation was the law, and Pauli had broken the law. The NAACP attorneys met again to consider her case as the one to dismantle Jim Crow. They did not take on her case but were impressed with her arguments. They suggested she apply to Howard Law School.

Murray faced training for a predominantly male profession at a predominantly male school and now faced sexism. She called it "Jane" Crow - sister to "Jim." At the same time, she confronted racism in the Washington DC community. In 1943 (two decades before the sit-ins of the 60s) Murray organized student sit-ins at local restaurants that would not serve Negroes.

Murray continued to excel at academics and was the first woman to receive top honors at Howard. As the highest-ranking graduating senior, Pauli Murray received the Rosenwald Fellowship that traditionally led to graduate study at Harvard. She applied, only to have Harvard Law reject her application because of her sex. Murray got out her typewriter again and began a letter-writing campaign that led to controversial meetings and votes at the highest level of the Harvard Corporation. She almost won, but *almost* didn't count. Pauli used the Rosenwald Fellowship at the Boalt School of Law at the University of California in Berkeley.

On a trip back to Howard University, Murray asked Professor Robinson what



*It may be that when historians look back on 20th century America, all roads will lead to Pauli Murray... civil rights, feminism, religion, literature, law, sexuality – no matter what the subject, there is Pauli.*

— Caroline Ware, Historian

had happened to the paper she finished for his class while she was away studying in California. He gave her a copy and commented that her paper was used by the NAACP attorneys as the seminal idea in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Topeka, KS, 1954. The decision written by Chief Justice Earl Warren reflects Murray's thinking about violence dealt to American citizens by segregation. Ironically, she had been derided when she presented the paper to her senior seminar classmates at Howard.

The public may not have known her, but she was well-known in legal circles. In 1951 she compiled the *States' Laws on Race and Color* for the Women's Division of the Methodist Church. It became the "bible" for civil rights lawyers. Murray was instrumental in developing arguments in landmark cases involving women's rights, e.g. Ruth Bader Ginsburg's work on *Reed v. Reed*.

She played roles in establishing the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Organization for Women. Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women, asked Pauli Murray to serve as chair of the Committee on Women's Civil Rights. She was asked to write a "memo" regarding the justification for including women in the 1964 Civil Rights Act under Title

IX. The "memo" convinced Senator Everett Dirksen to vote for it.

And then, Murray had one last public challenge – the church.

It was Murray's personal spiritual needs that led her to seminary. But while studying there, she felt called to become a priest. Murray was angry and disappointed when she realized that ordained leadership in her spiritual home, the Episcopal Church, was denied to women. Again, she protested by writing letters to those in power and forced them to face this incongruity—this abuse of power—that made women "the other" and treated them as if they were spiritually bankrupt and emotionally incapable of leadership. The discussion was heated and intense, but after two General Conventions, the Episcopal Church decided to ordain women into the clergy. In 1977, the Episcopal Church ordained its first group of women, and Pauli Murray was the only African American among them.

Pauli was never discouraged by temporary defeats. She considered it progress when she could shift someone's thinking ever so slightly. Then she kept applying pressure with "dogged persistence," that trait she inherited from the Fitzgeralds. Victories she achieved set the stage for success for all women, all people of color, all citizens of this great country. ■

## GOOD READS

### ***The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice.***

by Patricia Bell-Scott (2016)

Chapters alternate between the two women. The reader learns as much about Eleanor Roosevelt as Pauli Murray, and an unlikely friendship suddenly becomes understandable.

### ***Pauli Murray: The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest, and Poet.***

by Pauli Murray (1989)

(Originally published: *Song in a Weary Throat*. 1987)

Murray's autobiography is filled with details that may seem overwhelming, but help you begin to understand her.

### ***Dark Testament and Other Poems***

by Pauli Murray (1970)

There are some powerful poems in her only collection. Some personal, some political, all movingly inspired.

### ***Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family***

Pauli Murray (1956)

Colorful characters that Pauli Murray clearly loves. Not all the memories are easy to handle, but there is joy told from a child's perspective.

### ***Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray***

by Rosalind Rosenberg (2017)

Reveals Murray's angst about her gender identity in a sympathetic way that changed my understanding of the issues involved in gender identity.

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***"One person plus one typewriter constitutes a movement."***

— Pauli Murray

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June 12

**Brevard**  
June 13-17

## *Do you remember?* Past Festivals

### 1999 American Humorists

Will Rogers, James Thurber, Langston Hughes, Mark Twain, Dorothy Parker

### 2000 Southern Writers

Zora Neale Hurston, Katherine Anne Porter, Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe

### 2001 American Renaissance

Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Louisa May Alcott, Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau

### 2002 Conceived in Liberty

Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth Freeman, Alexander Hamilton, Henry Laurens, John and Abigail Adams

### 2003 American Autobiography

Benjamin Franklin, Henry Adams, Andrew Carnegie, Pauli Murray, Mark Twain, Eleanor Roosevelt

### 2004 American Visions

Martin Luther King, Jr, Eugene Debs, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thomas Paine, John Winthrop, {Winter: Pauli Murray}

### 2005 The Civil War

Ambrose Bierce, Mary Chesnut, John C. Calhoun, Sam Watkins, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, {Winter: Bierce and Watkins}

### 2006 Great American Journeys

William Clark, Sequoyah, Herman Melville, Harriet Tubman, {Winter: Mary Ingles}

### 2007 The American Stage

Houdini, Paul Robeson, Lillian Hellman, Will Rogers, Mark Twain, {Winter: P.T. Barnum}

### 2008 America: The Land

John J. Audubon, Teddy Roosevelt, James Beckwourth, Rachel Carson, Black Elk, {Winter: Hudson River School Painters}

### 2009 America in Crisis

George Washington, Rosa Parks, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, {Winter: Wade Hampton/Robert E. Lee}

### 2010 American Imagination

Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, Emily Dickinson, Dr. Seuss, Langston Hughes, {Winter: Thomas Jefferson}

### 2011 Ideas that Changed America

John Muir, Frances Perkins, Albert Einstein, Mark Twain, W.E.B. Du Bois, {Winter: Jefferson/ Madison}

### 2012 They Came to America

Winston Churchill, Golda Meir, Lafayette, Carl Jung, Denmark Vesey, {Winter: Lafayette}

### 2013 American Legends

Davy Crockett, Susan B Anthony, Herman Melville, Malcolm X, {Winter: Benedict Arnold}

### 2014 Rising to the Occasion

Clara Barton, Patrick Henry, Robert Smalls, Harry Truman, {Winter: Marie Curie}

### 2015 America at the Movies

Walt Disney, Gordon Parks, Mary Pickford, Orson Welles, {Winter: Bette Davis}

### 2016 American Adventures

Amelia Earhart, Mark Twain, Matthew Henson, Wernher von Braun, {Winter: Meriwether Lewis}

### 2017 Power of Words

Abraham Lincoln, Walter Cronkite, Maya Angelou, Cesar Chavez, Rachel Carson, {Winter: Eleanor Roosevelt}

### 2018 Courage

Winston Churchill, Alice Paul, Francis Marion, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, {Winter: George Washington}

### 2019 It's Revolutionary!

Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Jackson, Jackie Kennedy, Malcolm X, Hamilton's Women, {Winter: Napoleon}

### 2021 Reinventing America

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, Rosa Parks, Hedy Lamar, {Winter: Teddy Roosevelt}