Week of March 8, 2021



INTERNATIONA WOMEN'S

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Hedy Lamarr

IN CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, WE WANTED TO SHARE A FEW AMAZING WOMEN INVENTORS.

Information retrieved from www.amightygirl.com, February 26, 2021

Hedy Lamarr (1914 - 2000) Spread-spectrum Technology

She was one of the most glamorous stars of the black and white film era — and she was also one of the minds behind an invention that provided the foundation for GPS, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi technology! Austrian-American actress Hedy Lamarr was also a gifted mathematician and engineer, and when World War II broke out, she wanted to make a contribution to the war effort by improving torpedo technology. Working with musician and composer George Antheil, Lamarr developed the idea of "frequency hopping," which could encrypt torpedo control signals, preventing enemies from jamming them and sending the torpedoes off course. Although Lamarr and Antheil were granted a patent for the idea in 1942, the US Navy ignored their technology for 20 years, finally putting it to use during a 1962 blockade of Cuba. Since then, though, Lamarr's spread-spectrum technology has become the foundation for the portable devices that we use every day, for which she was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame 2014.

Patricia Bath (b. 1942) Cataract Surgery

Since she entered the field of ophthalmology, Patricia Bath has been breaking new ground! She was the first black person to serve as an ophthalmology resident at New York University and the first woman on staff at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, but most importantly for this discussion, she was the first African-American female doctor to receive a patent for medical purposes. That patent was for the Laserphaco Probe, a medical device she invented in 1981 that quickly and painlessly uses a laser to dissolve cataracts in the eye, then irrigates and cleans the eye to make inserting a replacement lens quick and easy. The Laserphaco Probe is now used internationally as a quick and safe way to prevent blindness due to cataracts. She is also the inventor of a new discipline, community ophthalmology, which is dedicated to ensuring that all members of the population have access to eye and vision care. Even if people can't afford an operation, Bath believes that ophthalmologists should do all they can to care for their vision; after all, she says, "The ability to restore sight is the ultimate reward."



Patricia Bath

Mary Anderson (1866 - 1953) Windshield Wipers



Mary Anderson

Can you imagine driving a car in bad weather without windshield wipers? Until Mary Anderson thought of them, that was the only option! Anderson was already a real estate developer and rancher when she visited New York City in 1902 and rode on a trolley car where the driver had to open the panes of the front window in order to see through falling sleet. As soon as she returned home to Alabama, she set to work conceiving a solution. Her device used a lever inside the vehicle to control a rubber blade on the windshield; similar devices had been made earlier, but Anderson's was the first effective model. Amazingly, car manufacturers initially didn't see the value in her invention; one Canadian firm declined her invention in 1905, saying "we do not consider it to be of such commercial value as would warrant our undertaking its sale." However, in 1922, Cadillac became the first car manufacturer to include a windshield wiper on all its vehicles, and after Anderson's patent expired, they quickly became standard equipment.

Sarah Breedlove / Madam C. J. Walker (1867 - 1919) First Female Self-made Millionaire

Sarah Breedlove was the first child of her family born after the Emancipation Proclamation — and she would go on to become the first female self-made millionaire in the United States! Married and widowed by the age of 20, she was working as a laundress when she realized that she, and many other black women, struggled with hair loss and scalp diseases due to a lack of indoor plumbing and harsh ingredients in hair products. Over several years, she developed her own line of hair care products specifically designed for African American hair, and branded them with her new identity as Madam C. J. Walker; the title was deliberately chosen to evoke Parisian luxury. (continued)



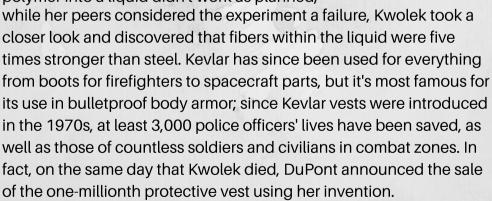
Madame C.J. Walker

When her line was ready for sale, she also set up a college to train "hair culturists," creating a new employment opportunity for thousands of African American women. As her wealth and influence grew, Madam Walker brought them to bear on social and political issues and made donations to African American schools, orphanages, and retirement homes. Her legacy, thought, is one of perseverance; she famously said, "If I have accomplished anything in life it is because I have been willing to work hard."

Stephanie Kwolek

Stephanie Kwolek (1923 - 2014) Kevlar

Chemist Stephanie Kwolek was working on an alternative for steel in radial car tires when she developed a fiber credited with saving thousands of lives: Kevlar. Born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Polish immigrants, Kwolek originally planned to become a doctor, but after accepting a research position with DuPont in 1946 to save up for medical school, she discovered a passion for chemistry research that led to a 40-year career. She invented Kevlar in 1964 when an experiment with turning a solid polymer into a liquid didn't work as planned;





Crisis and Family Resources

Bakersfield Behavioral 661-398-1800

Kern County Crisis Line 800-991-5272

National Alliance on Mental Health 800-950-NAMI (6264)

Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255

CA Youth Crisis Hotline 800-843-5200

TrevorLifeline (LGBTQ+) 866-488-7386

Kern Helpline (CAP-K) 211 (Food Distribution Info)

Kern County Family Justice Center 661-868-8410

Alliance Against Famiy Violence 800-273-7713

Department of Human Services Cal Fresh 661-631-6062

> Medi-Cal 661-631-6807

If someone is in immediate danger, please call 911

Our Mission

To be committed to the wellness of individuals, their families, and the community through prevention, intervention, treatment, and education.

Girl Power Puzzle

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Word List

Ambitious Beautiful Bright Charming Classy Clever Determined Devoted Educated Enthusiastic Graceful Impressive Motivated Patient Persevering Positive

Pragmatic Professional Remarkable Resilient Responsible Smart Tenacious

HOW TO CONTACT US

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