

# Historical Nonfiction



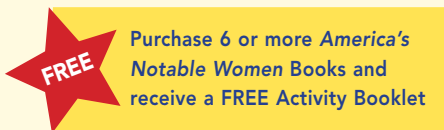
## Women of the Golden State: 25 California Women You Should Know

By Linda Crotta Brennan and Others  
Illustrated by Lisa Greenleaf

RL 5.5 – ages 9 and up  
Interest level: grades 5 and above  
(136 pages)

The profiled California women are strong, creative, and tenacious. These short, biographical profiles are perfect for units on character education.

ISBN 0-9723410-6-4..... \$16.00



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### Featuring 25 California Women

**Ethel Percy Andrus:** *A Life of Service to Others*

**Judith Baca:** *Healing with Art*

**Charlotta S. Bass:** *Journalist and Activist*

**Juana Briones:** *One of San Francisco's First Residents*

**Marcy Carsey:** *TV Producer*

**Louisa Clappe:** *"Dame Shirley" of the Gold Rush*

**Anita L. DeFrantz:** *Olympian*

**Alice Eastwood:** *Plant Pioneer*

**Mabel Fairbanks:** *Skater Breaks the Ice Barrier*

**Betty Ford:** *First Lady of the United States*

**Dian Fossey:** *Protector of the Mountain Gorilla*

**Jessie Anne Frémont:** *Explorer's Wife and Writer*

**Dolores Huerta:** *Activist for Migrant Workers*

**Billie Jean King:** *Tennis Ace and Activist*

**Maxine Hong Kingston:** *Writer of the Chinese American Experience*

**"Sox" Kitashima:** *Righting the Wrongs for Japanese Americans*

**Dorothea Lange:** *Changing the World Through Photography*

**Ruth Law:** *Daring Aviator*

**Biddy Mason:** *Freed Slave, Wealthy Landowner, Philanthropist*

**Janice Mirikitani:** *Word Warrior*

**Charlie Parkhurst:** *Legendary Stagecoach Driver*

**Nancy Pelosi:** *First Woman Speaker of the House*

**Sally Ride:** *First Woman Astronaut*

**Maria Shriver:** *Journalist and First Lady of California*

**Maud Younger:** *Millionaire Waitress*



**Bridget “Biddy” Mason** was one of the first African American women to own property in California. She called her first piece of land her homestead.



To get to California, **Jessie Anne Frémont** traveled by steamship to a port on the Caribbean Sea in Panama. Then she used a boat, canoe, and mule to cross the isthmus to get to Panama City.



**Alice Eastwood** added over 300,000 plants to the Academy’s collection after the earthquake. She named 125 new species of plants growing in California.



In 1920, **Maud Younger** drove her convertible across country from California to Washington D.C., with only her dog for company. This was a dangerous trip in a time before paved roads.

**Dorothea Lane’s** photograph of the Migrant Mother appeared in papers across the country. Americans were horrified that the people picking their food crops were starving. The government rushed 20,000 pounds of food to California to feed the workers.



Olympic skaters Tai Babilonia, Randy Gardner, Scott Hamilton, Kristi Yamaguchi, and Debi Thomas were coached by **Mabel Fairbanks**.



**Betty Ford** was the first First Lady to be in a television sitcom. She was in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*.



The **Dolores Huerta** Foundation’s mission is “To inspire and motivate people to organize sustainable communities to attain social justice.”

**Nancy Pelosi** was the first Californian and the first Italian American to become Speaker of the House.



**Billie Jean King** earned money doing odd jobs to buy a racquet for her first tennis lesson. It cost \$8.00 and had maroon strings.



**Marcy Carsey** objected to stereotypes. She changed Bill Cosby’s character from a chauffeur to a doctor, and objected to the “dumb blonde” character in *Third Rock from the Sun*.



**Maria Shriver** is the best-selling author of six books. Maria wrote *What’s Heaven?* when NBC would not let her do a program on heaven and death. “In journalism, ... you don’t have a voice. You are a messenger,” Maria said. Writing gave Maria her own voice.