Where to honor women's history

By Jim Byers

It's always worth celebrating National Women's History Month, which occurs every March. Given the tenor of the times and a certain five-letter hashtag on social media, it's an ideal time to visit places that celebrate women and women's issues. ¶ You may know of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, N.Y., site of the women's rights convention in 1848 that shook the state and, ultimately, the nation. ¶ About 50 miles northwest, in Rochester, N.Y., is the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House, which honors the leader who pushed for women's voting rights and other causes. ¶ Here are other places in the U.S. to celebrate women's accomplishments.

Canton, Ohio

Someday there may be a national monument to female presidents of the U.S. Until then, there's the First Ladies National Historic Site in Canton, where you can read about such notable first ladies as Martha Washington, Jackie Kennedy and Michelle Obama.

There are also some fun bits from lesser-known first ladies. Speaking of her husband, President Warren Harding, First Lady Florence Harding once said, "I put him in the White House. He does well when he listens to me and poorly when he does not."

Info: First Ladies National Historic Site, *nps.gov/fila*

Richmond, Calif.

Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park is on the shores of San Francisco Bay a few miles north of Oakland. You'll find exhibits detailing how 100,000 American women entered the work force during World War II and how Rosie the Riveter became a symbol of women working long hours to support the war effort on the home front.

Women in crowded factories also had serious issues with health and child care and faced dangerous conditions. The website for the park notes that between the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and the D-Day invasion in 1944, more people were killed in home-front industrial accidents than in military combat.

Info: Rosie the Riveter, *nps.gov/rori*

Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum is dedicated to creating awareness of feminism's cultural contributions as well as providing educational opportunities and exhibition space. Its centerpiece is a gallery devoted to feminist artist Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party."

The center also hosts the annual Sackler Center First Awards for women who are leading the way in various fields.

Honorees have included retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, newscaster Connie Chung, author Toni Morrison and Miss Piggy, who needs no introduction.

Info: Sackler Center, *brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa*

Lorton, Va.

In November 1917, women who picketed the White House to demand voting rights for women were arrested and sent to Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton. There they were beaten, kicked and choked during the "Night of Terror." It has since become a center for artists.

Info: *www.workhousearts.org*

Fort Worth

For something different, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth is deep in the heart of cowboy country. You'll find wonderfully rich stories of professional female bull riders and barrel racers.

One of the displays tells the story of Sandra Day O'Connor, "The Cowgirl Who Became a Justice." Honorees include country singer Reba McEntire and Frances Rosenthal Kallison, who co-founded the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Info: National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, *cowgirl.net*

Honolulu

Iolani Palace, the former Hawaiian royal home, is where Hawaiian Queen Lilliuokalani was kept under house arrest when the Americans pushed the royal family aside in the 1890s and declared the islands U.S. territory.

Plenty of men are represented in the stories told here, but Lilliuokalani and other powerful Hawaiian women have prominent roles in the displays. Cool fact: Lilliuokalani wrote the achingly beautiful "Aloha Oe."

Info: Iolani Palace, *www.iolanipalace.org*

Cleveland

Ohio weighs in with another special spot that celebrates women: the International Women's Air & Space Museum.

You'll find marvelous exhibits on the WASPs (Women Air Force Service Pilots), a group of female pilots formed in World War II to do jobs that freed male pilots for combat missions.

There are fabulous old photos and stories about Amelia Earhart and WASP members such as Margaret "Maggie" Ray Ringenberg, who flew more than 40,000 hours and circled the world twice.

Info: International Women's Air & Space Museum, *iwasm.org/wp-blog*

Washington, D.C., area

The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington has what's said to be the world's most important collection of art by women. The museum's website states that 51% of visual art is created by women but that only 5% of the art displayed in major museum collections is made by women.

Info: National Museum of Women in the Arts, *nmwa.org*

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va., is celebrating its 20th anniversary. It describes itself as "the only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America throughout history."

Info: Women in Military Service for America Memorial, *www.womensmemorial.org*

The Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington was named a national monument in 2016. The house was the headquarters of the National Woman's Party for nearly 90 years and was "the epicenter of the struggle for women's rights," its website says.

Info: Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, *www.nps.gov/bepa*

Los Angeles

The old Hotel Figueroa, just north of Olympic Boulevard, is open and taking reservations in time for National Women's History Month.

It was built in 1926 by the YWCA as a safehaven for women and hosted women's events and female artists over the years.

It became a Moroccan-themed hotel in the '70s but has been restored to Spanish Colonial style with sleek bars and stylish rooms.

Info: Hotel Figueroa, *hotelfigueroa.com*

The Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival runs March 22-25 at LA Live Regal Cinemas, 1000 W. Olympic Blvd.

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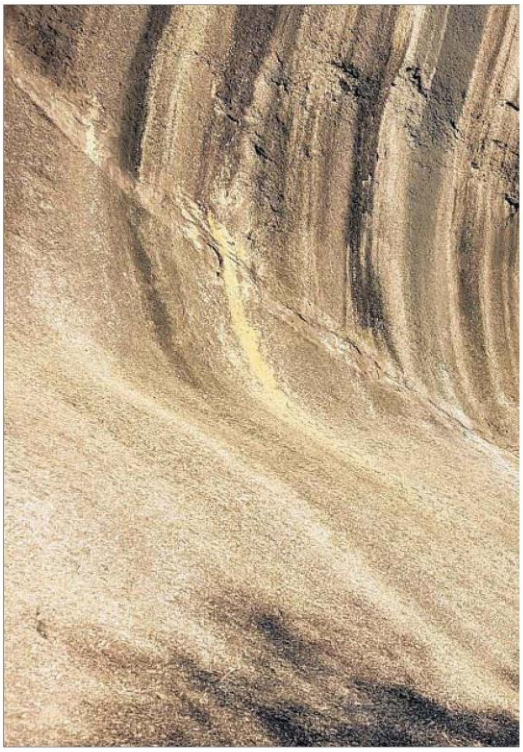
BETTY REID SOSKIN at Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, Calif., in 2016.



AUSTRALIA'S WILD WEST

By Margo Pfeiff >>> PERTH, Australia — Rainbow lorikeets and bright pink galah cockatoos flitted between eucalyptus trees and banksia blossoms that resembled giant yellow and orange candles. ¶ We were in the middle of Perth, prowling Kings Park and Botanic Garden, one of the world's largest city parks and a 1,003-acre urban oasis of wild creatures, wild landscapes and native wildflowers. ¶ Western Australia, or WA, isn't as well known as, say New South Wales, home to Sydney, or Victoria, where you'll find Melbourne. WA is the country's biggest state yet has only 10% of its population. ¶ Perth, its capital with 1.7 million residents, is one of the most remote cities on Earth, closer to Jakarta, Indonesia, than to Sydney, Australia's largest city a continent away. ¶ Within Perth's metro region are 19 white-sand Indian Ocean surfing beaches, vast green spaces, spotless urban trains, free downtown buses and more sunshine than any Australian capital city.

A massive riverfront renovation recently created open-air entertainment and leisure space, fantastic public art and architecture, bike paths, waterfront bars and restaurants.

Winery hopping

Photographer Jim Hutchison and I had a long-term dream to take a road trip from Perth to the state's South West, the only stretch of Australian coast we had never driven during 40 years of traveling and working Down Under.

The South West is remarkably diverse: It has more than 600 miles of coastline, six wine-growing regions, forests of towering Indigenous trees, national parks, wildlife and wide-open spaces that explode with wildflowers in spring.

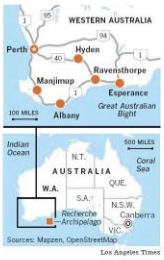
We left Perth in March, early autumn in Australia, on a three-hour drive on State Route 2 to the Margaret River. This farming, cheesemaking, craft beer and wine region is known for its tender Arkady lamb and delicious local freshwater crayfish called marron.

The epicenter of all things edible and artisanal was the lively weekend Margaret River Farmers' Market. We prowled the stalls for local produce, meats and artisanal goodies.

We settled into a Bramley Wood cottage on a farm three miles from the sea and sipped morning coffee as we watched kangaroos, peacocks and parrots graze alongside the neighbors' sheep.

Then we winery hopped, starting at award-winning Vasse Felix for a tasting and lunch overlooking the vineyards and finishing on Cape Mentelle Vineyards' sprawling lawn watching an outdoor evening movie while holding a glass of chilled Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc.

Throughout our week in the Margaret River, we walked and hiked sections of the 84-mile Cape to Cape Trail through coastal Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, along headlands and pristine beaches where we watched world-class surf breaking on the deserted sand.



When we finally finished at the trail's southern terminus at Cape Leeuwin lighthouse we treated ourselves to a three-hour, six-course gastronomic marathon at Voyager Estate Winery.

Forest walks

We set off again, this time driving inland on State Route 102, stopping for a tea and warm homemade scone breakfast at Cambray Farmhouse, an award-winning maker of sheep cheeses, including luscious Camembert and chili Gouda.

Lunch was at the Truffle & Wine Co. in Manjimup where, in season June through August, you can head out with the estate's dogs to find black truffles. We simply enjoyed them on a fresh pizza.

A downpour added a mysterious mist to the spectacular landscape of giant karri trees as we turned onto Highway 1 and into the Southern Forests, a collection of state forest reserves and national parks, spotting kangaroos and flocks of multicolored parrots.

There were many opportunities for forest walks and cycling, and it was even possible to climb some of the towering timbers originally used as fire lookouts in the 1940s. The biggest, known as the Gloucester Tree near Pemberton, is 200 feet tall.

Farther south, through dense forest and alongside the lovely waterways of Mount Frankland National Park, we reached the Walpole Wilderness Area, another patchwork of nature reserves and national parks where we strolled the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, a forest canopy 120 feet above ground, for breathtaking views of 400-year-old Red Tingle eucalyptus giants.

After reaching the southern coast, still on Highway 1, we turned east and headed toward a charming candlelight wine tasting at Singlefile Wines near Denmark, slowing on the way for a gang of emus strutting across the road.

After a 230-mile drive, we settled into a classic Victorian settler's cottage in Albany for the night. The historic town, a former whaling outpost, has convict jails, old taverns, galleries and a museum.

From Albany, we drove through Australia's Southern Wheat Belt, a farming region where wildflowers thrive along the roadside.

We stopped repeatedly to see the countless strange and fantastical blossoms. Western Australia has the world's largest collection of wildflowers, more than 12,000 species with over 60% found no-

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