

# DIVERSITY CAFE

## THIS MONTH'S SPECIALS

National Women's  
History Month

### *Diversity Calendar*

**March 6, 2013** – In honor of International Women's Day, USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative will host a panel discussion. For more information, please visit <http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/113/event/897966>.

**March 17, 2013** – Farhang Foundation and LA County Museum of Art will celebrate the Iranian New Year, Nowruz, from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the LACMA. For more information, please call (323) 857-6000.

**March 20, 2013** – LA County Public Works Women's Leadership Council will celebrate Women's History Month in the Headquarters courtyard. The theme is "Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." For more information, please contact Christie Smith at (626) 458-4016.

**April 4, 2013** – The DPW Iranian-American Employees Committee will celebrate the Iranian New Year, "Nowruz," at Headquarters. The luncheon includes traditional Persian food, dancers, and musical performances. For more information, please contact Nick Kaveh at (626) 458-6562.

### Test Your Knowledge:

1. Who was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in physics in 1963 for discovering the structure of atoms?
2. Who was the female Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy credited with developing the COBOL computer language and with coining the phrase "debugging" to fix software?
3. Who was the first American woman in space?

(Answers below)

Answers: 1. Maria Goeppert Mayer 2. Rear Admiral Dr. Grace Hopper 3. Sally Ride, Doctor of Physics, Stanford University

## National Women's History Month

March is National Women's History Month. The 2013 National Women's History Month theme, "**Women's Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**" (STEM) honors generations of women who throughout American history have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder, and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions to the STEM fields.

Our STEM workforce is crucial to America's innovative capacity and global competitiveness. Yet women are vastly underrepresented in STEM jobs and among STEM degree holders despite making up nearly half of the United States workforce and half of the college-educated workforce. That leaves an untapped opportunity to expand STEM employment in the United States, even as there is wide agreement that the nation must do more to improve its competitiveness.

There are many possible factors contributing to the discrepancy of women and men in STEM jobs, including a lack of female role models, gender stereotyping, and less family friendly flexibility in the STEM fields. Women's History Month offers parents, public, and private school teachers from kindergarten through college an immense opportunity to showcase women leaders and to discuss the challenges -- perceived and real, internal and external -- to women making strides in these traditionally male occupational tracks.

## Director Farber Receives Local Heroes Award

LA County Public Works Director Gail Farber is the recipient of the KCET/Union Bank Local Heroes Award for **Women's History Month**. The awards celebrate the national commemorative heritage months and honor exemplary community leaders who strive to enrich the lives of others, and whose tireless contributions are inspiring hope in the minds and hearts of future generations. To date, more than 150 outstanding local heroes have been honored by the television network. Farber was nominated for her role as a female engineer in charge of the nation's largest public works agency, for leading and inspiring women to succeed in non-traditional roles, and her support of the Public Works Women's Leadership Council. During March, KCET will air a short video public service announcement about her during scheduled programming. The video can also be viewed at [http://www.kcet.org/social/local\\_heroes/](http://www.kcet.org/social/local_heroes/)

## Café Quote of the Month

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

- *Eleanor Roosevelt; Former First Lady of the United States*

# VISION

Creating communities...sustaining life

# MISSION

We provide public infrastructure and municipal services  
to protect and enrich the daily lives of over  
ten million people in Los Angeles County

# VALUES



Safety



Integrity



Teamwork



Transparency



Excellence



Employees



Sustainability

## CORE SERVICE AREAS

Public Buildings

Transportation

Waste Management

Development Services

Water Resources

Emergency Management

2013

