

COMIC BOOK

(and Other Female Figureheads of Virtue)

FEMALE SUPERHEROES THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

Produced & Presented by AAUW of NJ
SUSSEX COUNTY BRANCH
Linda Adams & Michele Guttenberger

In Collaboration with Bob Adams & Sean Hardy
Bob's Collectables



THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF
WONDER WOMAN
WAS IN
SENSATION COMICS



WONDER WOMAN WAS AN AMAZON GIRL

As Noted in Whoosh.org in its article BRAVE WOMEN WARRIORS OF GREEK MYTH: AN AMAZON ROSTER IAXS Research Project No. 326 By Julie Ruffell

Historically, Amazons were portrayed as beautiful women in Amazonomachies, which was an art form showing battles between the Amazons and Greeks.

Amazons were trained to use all weapons and especially in single combat. They were honorable, courageous, brave and represented rebellion against sexism.

Their tales spread quickly and soon stories of the Amazons were everywhere, including Africa, Asia, Europe, South America (the Amazon River was named after the female warriors), and North America in the mid-1900s with the comic book hero, Wonder Woman.





As a consultant to the company that became DC Comics, William Marston knew firsthand how popular Superman and Batman were. He was inspired to create a female superhero – Wonder Woman, who made her debut in December 1941.

Marston used the pen name Charles Moulton for his comic books and hired cartoonist Harry G. Peter to provide the artwork.

The Lasso of Truth is a fictional weapon wielded by DC Comics superheroine Wonder Woman, Originally named The Magic Lasso of Aphrodite, it is usually referred to as the Magic Lasso or Golden Lasso and forces anyone it captures to obey and **tell the truth**.

Interesting fact: Marston invented one of the first lie detectors

ROLE MODELS OF FEMALE HEROINES CHANGED ACCORDING TO THE DECADE



As the 70's transitioned into the 80's, women comic characters also evolved. Strong, well developed female heroes became more a rule and less the exception.

THANK YOU GAIL SIMONE & NICOLA SCOTT FOR YOUR FEMALE COMIC CREATIONS

Gail Simone and Nicola Scott, introduced new female characters. Some of these characters were aimed at younger female readers, like Stargirl and the newest Ms. Marvel.

Comics were starting to resonate with a representation of the greater population rather than a 'boys club'.

Also, let's not forget Louise Simonson. Where would the "Man of Steel" be without Weezie?



COURTNEY WHITMORE A.K.A. STARGIRL

Courtney began her comic book life as a spoiled step daughter of Pat Dugan a former S.T.R.I.P.E. Member. When she happens upon her step father's former secret life; she takes up the mantle of Stargirl to cause her stepfather grief.

Rather than punishing her, he builds an armored suit and accompanies her on her adventures; turning the dynamic of older hero and young sidekick on its head. The teen aged girl becomes the hero and the aging man, her sidekick.

The message DC Comics was presenting - that despite the reader's age or circumstances, each of them could be a hero

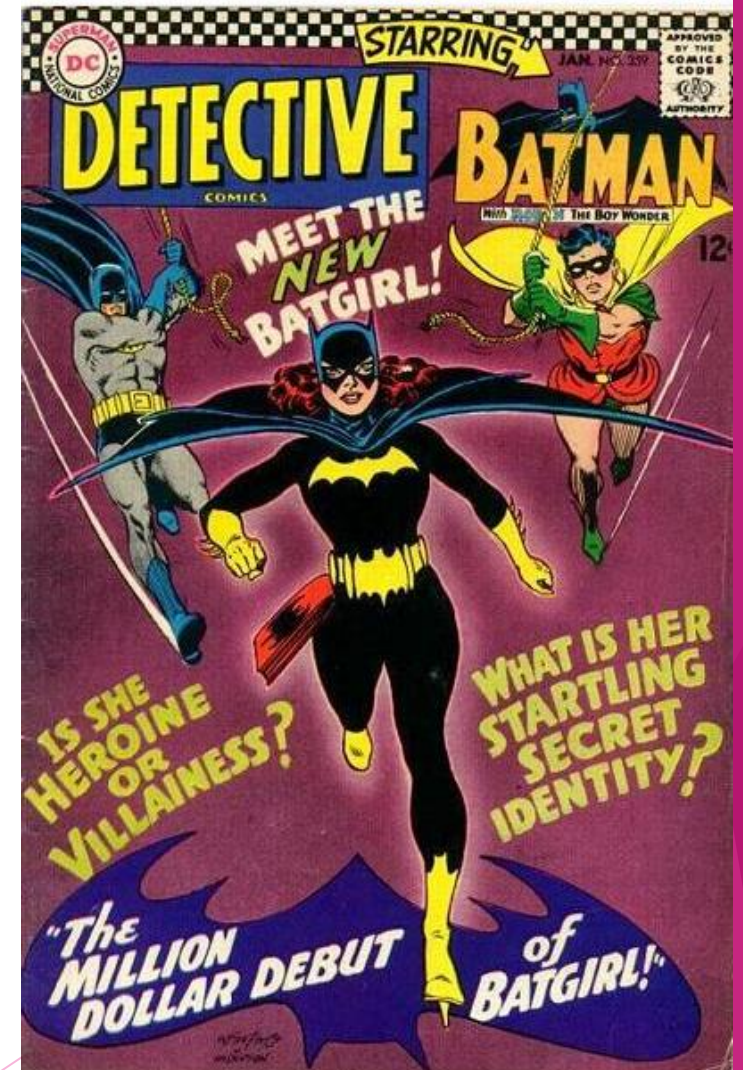


BARBARA GORDON A.K.A. BATGIRL

Batgirl's civilian identity was Barbara Gordon the daughter of Gotham City Police Commissioner James Gordon who rejected his daughter's application to join the police force.

Batgirl a.k.a. Ms. Gordon would become Dr. Barbara Gordon Ph.D. a career woman with a doctorate in library science, as well as being the head of Gotham City's public library, one of the largest public libraries in the DC Comics version of reality .

Noted by Arant, Wendi; Benefiel, Candace (2002) in the book The Image and Role of the Librarian.



BARBARA GORDON A.K.A. ORACLE

In 1988's *Batman: A Killing Joke*

The Joker shot an unarmed Barbara Gordon through the spine, leaving her a paraplegic.

Left paralyzed from the waist down, Barbara recreated herself as Oracle.

From her headquarters above Gotham City, she became the information broker of the Superhero community.

She proved that her intellect was uninhibited by her broken body, proving herself a match for heroes such as Batman and villains such as Lex Luther time and time again.





ORORO MONROE A.K.A. STORM

The 1980's.

Ororo Monroe was first brought to the world's attention in Giant Sized X-Men #1; recruited by Professor Xavier of the X-Men.

She was worshipped as a goddess in Africa due to her ability to control the weather; but found her place among the world's mightiest mutants.

Storm, as she became known, represented herself well through the 1970's and early 1980's. When one of the original X-Men was captured by a group of disenfranchised mutants living beneath Manhattan, Storm was one of the team that went in search of him.

Just a few issues later, Storm adopted her trademark Mohawk and rose to lead the X-Men, the first female leader in the team's history.

She continued to lead the team through losing and regaining her powers, as well as several world altering events. On a team that featured such strong personalities as Wolverine, Rogue and Cyclops, Storm led with a confidence and competence that made her role more than believable.

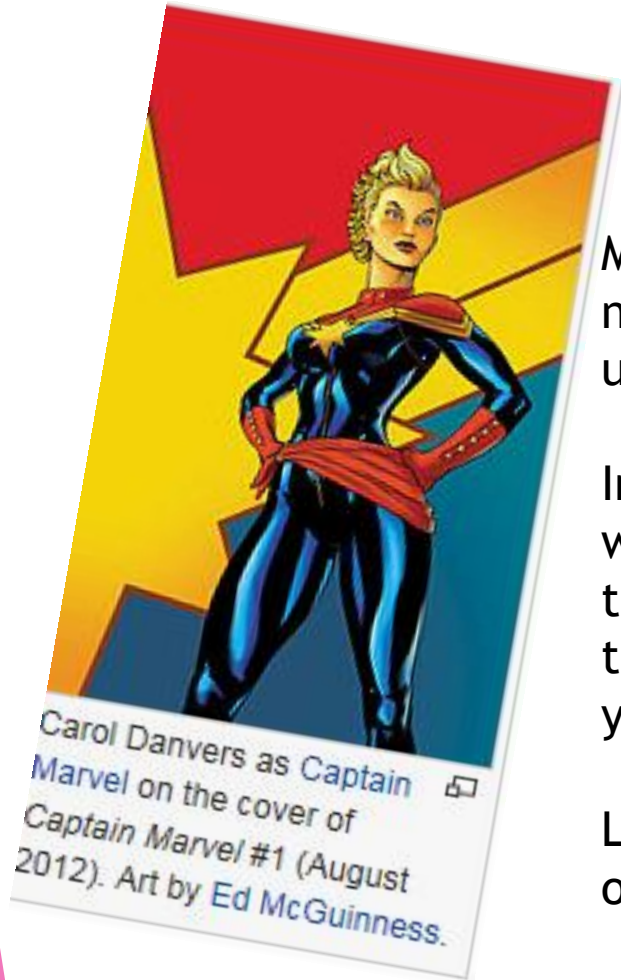
MS. MARVEL A.K.A. CAROL DANVERS MS. MARVEL A.K.A. KAMALA KHAN

Marvel launched their own teen aged heroine in the newest incarnation of Ms. Marvel. Kamala Khan grew up idolizing Carol Danvers, the original Ms. Marvel.

Inspired by her actions, when Khan discovered that she was an Inhuman with shapeshifting powers, she takes the name Ms. Marvel and seeks to bring honor to both the name and the women who have worn it over the years.

Like Stargirl, Ms. Marvel offers a window into the world of the youth of today.

Being a Muslim as well as a teen aged girl, Khan's story has a unique ability to touch on the issues of the day, issues of an ever narrowing world.



ELEKTRA IS AN OLYMPIC - LEVEL ATHLETE FROM MARVEL COMIC BOOKS TO A FILM STAR CHARACTER

Elektra is a kunoichi - female ninja assassin - of Greek descent. She wields a pair of bladed sai as her trademark weapon. She is an Olympic-level athlete, strong in gymnastics and swimming, with a high level in athleticism in human strength.

She is also able to keep to the shadows and move with such speed that she can remain unseen even in daylight.

Elektra moved from comic books to film. In 2003 this Marvel Comic character was played by actress Jennifer Garner. In an interview with Comic Book Resources she had this to say about her Elektra character:

"Well, I grew up in a family of three girls so we read "Seventeen. " We read "Little House on the Prairie." We didn't read comic books. I wish that I had because I think Elektra's incredibly empowering and now when I meet women who say, "Oh, Elektra! It's because of Elektra that I...", whatever, "Thought I could live on my own," or, "became physically fit," or whatever. I think that that's a pretty amazing thing for a comic book character to give a young woman. Now, of course, I've read her entire saga and her story is pretty epic. It's pretty fascinating."



JANET VAN DYNE A.K.A. THE WASP

BEING SMALL IS SUPER STUPENDOUS



Janet does not let her late father's scientific work to fight the dark forces end with his murder. Now she is the principal capital stakeholder of his enterprises. Her father's associate, Dr. Henry creates a substance called "Pym particles", which allows her to shrink, grow wings and become a fire blast of energy.

She was a founding member of the Avengers, appearing in the first issue and giving the team its name. At first she was the weak link of the team, but later becomes one of the smartest and craftiest of its members.

Despite the leaves of absence throughout the series, she is still one of the longest active members and has acted as leader of the team longer than any other member except for Captain America.

In Animation Comes The Burka Avenger

Burka Avenger is a multi-award winning Pakistani animated television series created and directed by famous Pakistani rock star and social activist, Aaron Haroon Rashid (AKA Haroon). It was produced at Unicorn Black Studios in Islamabad, Pakistan and currently airs on Geo Tez of Geo Network TV.

The show features Jiya, an "inspirational teacher whose alter ego is a burka-wearing superheroine. Jiya uses "Takht Kabaddi", a special martial art that incorporates books and pens, to fight crime.

Quoted as "Smart, colorful and provocative, this Pakistani-produced television program about a super-heroine sends a clear message about female empowerment that has the potential to affect an entire generation."

The Urdu language series first aired on 28th of July 2013. View the first episode with English subtitles on YouTube

<http://youtu.be/XahbqLdCVhE> In this episode Vadero Pajero and Baba Bandoor conspire to shut down the girls school. Burka Avenger comes to the rescue and saves the day



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

DECADES OF GIRL EMPOWERMENT STYLE ADVENTURE OF TRUTH & JUSTICE THAT INSPIRED HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW IN US ALL



Annie was introduced as a comic strip in the New York Daily News August 1924

"I talked to this little kid and liked her right away," Harold Gray said, "She had common sense, knew how to take care of herself. She had to. Her name was Annie. At the time some 40 strips were using boys as the main characters; only three were using girls. I chose Annie for mine, and made her an orphan, so she'd have no family, no tangling alliances, but freedom to go where she pleased."

Little Orphan Annie inspired a radio show in 1930, film adaptations by RKO in 1932 and Paramount in 1938 and a Broadway musical Annie in 1977 (which was separately adapted as a film by the same name, released in 1982). The strip's final end was on June 13, 2010.

Ironically, Little Orphan Annie was one of the few popular voices raised in opposition to the New Deal. Harold Gray, Annie's creator found FDR's mission ran in directions diametrically opposed to his ideas of self-sufficiency and the principles of free enterprise.

FEMALE ICONS WITH VIRTUES RIGHT ON THE MONEY



*Men, their rights, and nothing
more; women, their rights,
and nothing less.*

Susan B. Anthony

Oh Martha! It's Only Been You!



The only woman to appear on a United States banknote is Martha Washington (1731 - 1802), the wife of George Washington. She appeared on the obverse of the Series of 1891 banknote and on the reverse of the Series of 1896 educational banknote with George Washington. Both series were Silver Certificates

MORE ABOUT MARTHA -

THE MARRIAGES, THE MONEY, THE BEAUTY, THE BUSINESS BARGAINING, THE LOVE INTERESTS, &
THE WEDDING FASHION FIRSTS



When Martha married George Washington on January 6, 1759, she was a very wealthy widow with four children (only 2 survived childhood). He was a colonel in the British Royal Army, fighting the French and Indian Wars.

Dowager Martha Dandridge Custis efficiently ran the five plantations left to her by her late husband. She had the business savvy to bargain with London merchants for the best tobacco prices. Recent historians have revealed that she also loved gothic romance novels as well as the Bible.

Widow Martha was a stylish sophisticated beauty in her mid 20's when she married husband George Washington. Her wedding outfit included a pair of avant-garde deep purple silk high heel shoes that were studded with silver sequins.

The description of Martha's captivating beauty was told by another suitor who had greater wealth and stature than Washington -Charles Carter. He wrote to his brother about her beauty and how he desired to **"arouse a flame in her breast!"**

EVEN MORE ABOUT MARTHA -

THE BOREDOM OF IT ALL TO KEEP HER FIRST LADY GAME FACE



Martha Washington's sense of Lady Washington duty to this new nation kept her from living her own "La Dolce Vita" of the late 18th Century. As the first First Lady before the position was officially titled, she quotes:

"I live a very dull life here... indeed I think I am more like a state prisoner than anything else."

Insight on George Washington's love for her had long been kept secret from historians because, she burned all her personal letters from him shortly after his death. Hence, the staid, public personae of our First Lady written in history books may be a PR image of her she helped to create.

ALL THE FIRST LADIES MADE IT ON THE U.S. GOLD MINT TEAM -

THERE IS NO ALL U.S. PRESIDENTS GOLD COINS ISSUED - Wow ! IS THERE GENDER INEQUITY ON GOLD COIN MINTED CURRENCY?



LEWIS & CLARK BECAME FAMOUS BY ASKING A WOMAN FOR DIRECTIONS -



WHERE NOW SACAGAWEA? CAN YOU GET POMPY TO STOP CRYING?
IT TOOK ALMOST 200 YEARS TO SHOW OUR TOKEN OF APPRECIATION

(from who2.com) Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian who traveled with the Lewis and Clark expedition from 1804-1806.

She was the slave wife of the expedition's French-Canadian guide, Touissaint Charbonneau; the only woman in the party, she also carried with her an infant son, Jean Baptiste (nicknamed "Pompy").

Her native knowledge and her relations with her own tribe proved invaluable to the explorers as she traveled with them all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Sacagawea is depicted on the front of a U.S. gold dollar coin, which was first minted in the year 2000.

NOW TAKE THE QUIZ

QUESTIONS 1-5 FIND THE ANSWERS THROUGHOUT THE PRESENTATION

1. William Moulton Marston creator of the powers of Wonder Woman's golden lasso also conceived the first...
 - a. Jet propulsion cables
 - b. Lie detector device
 - c. Velcro like tape
2. In 2005 Actress Jennifer Garner played what female superhero?
 - a. Elektra
 - b. Ms. Marvel
 - c. Bat Girl
3. What career profile item does Barbara Gordon (Batgirl, Oracle) NOT have on file?
 - a. Expert on computer technology and forensic psychology
 - b. Sometimes-chairwoman of the Justice League
 - c. A rejection notice from the Gotham City Police Commissioner
4. Wonder Women was born an Amazon woman. Who were the original Amazon women?
 - a. Females born to mothers who shop online
 - b. An all-female crewed spaceship from Planet Amazon that crashed on Paradise Island
 - c. A nation of all-female warriors noted in ancient Greek mythology
5. What country is the cartoon series Jiya the teacher Burka Avenger - "Justice Peace & Education for All" from?
 - a. Pakistan
 - b. Nirvana
 - c. India

Hi I'm Liz and I aced this quiz & Won a Stargirl Action Figure



THE QUIZ CONT'D

QUESTIONS 6-10 REMEMBER THE ANSWERS ARE IN THE PRESENTATION

6. Sacagawea is on the US one dollar coin. She gave directions to what 2 guys?
 - a. Sears & Roebuck
 - b. Lewis & Clark
 - c. Lea & Perrins
7. Who was the only living woman (not an allegory figure) depicted on the face of a United States Bank note?
 - a. Martha Washington
 - b. Bonnie Parker
 - c. Susan B. Anthony
8. Today, who are the two most renowned women of comic creative writing?
 - a. Carmen Elektra & Barbara Gordon
 - b. Eleanor Pips & Gladys Knight
 - c. Louise Simonson & Gail Simone
9. Little Orphan Annie was a comic girl icon of remarkable free spirit but, her creator Harold Gray was against?
 - a. A US war budget for free nylon stockings to liberated East Europeans
 - b. FDR's New Deal
 - c. Free Enterprise Capitalism
10. Which female comic icon did not take up the fight for truth and justice?
 - a. Little Orphan Annie
 - b. Cat Woman
 - c. Wonder Woman





THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



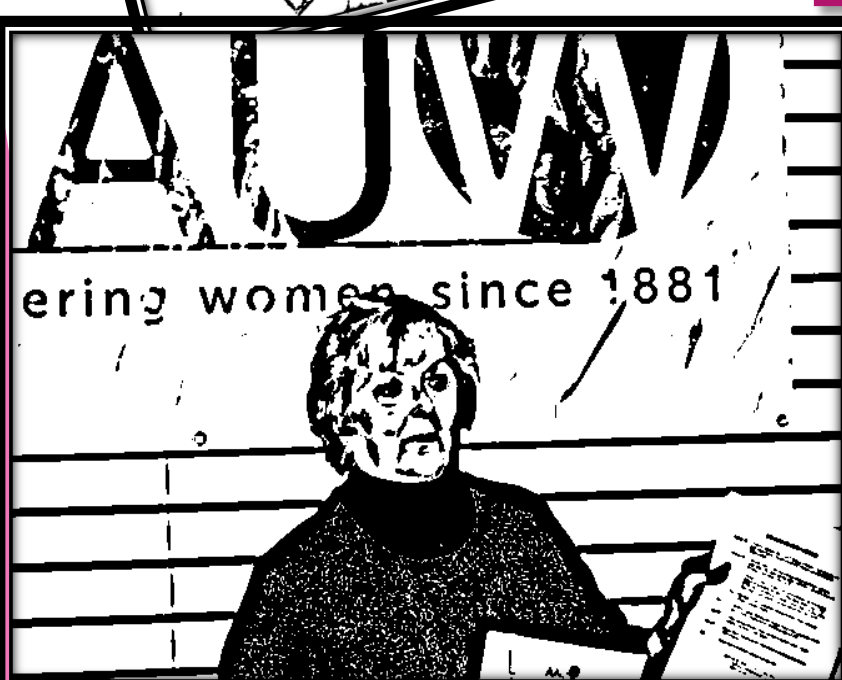
SUSSEX COUNTY BRANCH

PRESENTS FEMALE HEROINES THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

Freedom, Justice, Hope & Mindfulness
that the Sun will come out Tomorrow

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015 AT 2 PM
AT BOB'S COLLECTABLES

3640 RT 94 NORTH -HARDYSTON, NJ 07419
1 MILE NORTH OF THE 23/94 TRAFFIC LIGHT IN HAMBURG





That's all Folks!

