



www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org

Pauli Murray saw injustice, then devoted her life to defeating it. Share her story and keep it alive.



Baltimore-born Pauli Murray used her brilliant intellect and deep sense of social justice to right wrongs. Public domain: By Carolina Digital Library and Archives - UNC University Library.

While some officials edit or revise online biographies such as that of Pauli Murray, it is impossible to erase the enormous impact that these individuals made on our world.

Pauli Murray was a twentieth-century human rights activist, legal scholar, feminist, author, poet, Episcopal priest, labor organizer, and multiracial Black, LGBTQ+ community member. Murray's writings, poems, speeches, sermons and unique strategies for fighting injustice remain a North Star for today's human rights activists.

At the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, we heed our mission to preserve women's history. Murray was:

- The first Black person to earn a JSD (Doctor of the Science & Law) from Yale. Civil rights lawyers refer to Murray's legal writing frequently, and it was used in the historic Brown vs. Board of Education decision that outlawed segregated public schools. Murray approached the law with an eye to the interconnectedness of race, gender, and other forms of discrimination. Her work influenced Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood Marshall
- A co-founder of National Organization for Women (NOW) and a vocal opponent of sexism in the civil rights movement
- The first Black person perceived as a woman to become an Episcopal priest. Murray's spirituality permeated throughout all of their advocacy
- A teacher at Brandeis University and developer of the first courses on African American Studies and Women's Studies. Murray also wrote two autobiographies, *Proud Shoes* and *Song in a Weary Throat*
- A close friend to Eleanor Roosevelt who also served as an advisor to Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy

Congress Lawyer Wins Merit Award



Miss Pauli Murray, a member of the legal staff of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress, won the 1946 Mademoiselle Merit Award for signal achievement in law. A graduate of Howard University law school and recipient of a Rosenwald Fellowship, Miss Murray was temporary Deputy Attorney General for the State of California before joining the staff of the American Jewish Congress to aid in its campaign against racial discrimination.

Read more and share Pauli Murray's extraordinary life history and share with your colleagues and friends:

[Pauli Murray's Literary Achievements](#), Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

[Jane Crow and the Story of Pauli Murray](#), Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

[Pauli Murray: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist and Civil Rights Activist](#)

[Who is Pauli Murray? Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice](#)

[Pauli Murray Center denounces removal of the priest's biography from National Park Service Website](#)

Image above right: Public domain by Library of Congress

Maryland's women lighthouse keepers braved the elements each and every day



Fanny Mae Salter's husband, Clarence Walter "Harry" Salter, the Turkey Point Lighthouse keeper at the time, died in 1925. Mrs. Salter then took over his duties until the light was automated in 1947 and she retired. She was the last female civilian lighthouse keeper in the U.S.

Image from USLHS: Fannie Mae Salter and son Bradley at the Turkey Point Lighthouse

One look at the Chesapeake Bay's shallow depths, sandbars and irregular coastline and it is easy to see why Maryland needed so many lighthouses during the 19th and 20th centuries. What's surprising, though, is how many women lighthouse keepers guided ships and likely saved untold lives during those years.

The **Chesapeake Chapter, U.S. Lighthouse Society** and their volunteer Jennifer Jones researched and assembled a listing of the Maryland and Virginia women who served as lighthouse keepers. We have highlighted the Maryland women and some of the lighthouses where they served. Their tenure ranged from a few months to decades. **Read more . . .**

ICYMI: See Anne Calamuci's 24 photographs that shine light on women artists over 55

In March 2025, we welcomed Anne Calamuci and her exhibit *Ageless Creativity* to the MWHC women artist exhibition series. This photographic show celebrated 24 vibrant, creative and full-of-life women over 55. See Anne's unique photos of all of the artists, including MWHC board member Kate Campbell Stevenson (below) and read their reflections on the importance of artistic expression.

Music and theater have been a constant joy throughout my life. They provide me comfort, and thrilling ways to emotionally connect, uplift and communicate with people. Art can reach audiences or viewers on a much deeper, emotional level, encouraging greater creativity, imagination and meaning.

Kate Stevenson 70



Donations and sponsorships support newsletters like this as well as Maryland Women's Heritage Center's ongoing programs and events.

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