

# NEWS RELEASE



CALIFORNIA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY since 1871

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## **CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ALONG WITH ENGAGING PROGRAMS HONORING CALIFORNIA'S FEMALE PIONEERS**

- *Walking tours, special presentations, book talks and discussion forums to focus on female pioneers and current entrepreneurs who shape California's history*
- *CHS to host three inspirational "We Are CA" evening events, with current Juana Briones exhibition as the backdrop will highlight remarkable California women entrepreneurs*

**San Francisco (March 11, 2014)** – The California Historical Society (CHS) is proud to celebrate Women's History Month with a series of special events and activities that shed new light on California's female pioneers and today's women entrepreneurs.

Throughout the month of March CHS will host special events, presentations, walking tours, book talks, lectures and special kid's programs on the transformative influence women have had and continue to have on California's history. Three special evening events are being planned as part of a speakers series called "We are CA" that will feature and celebrate California women entrepreneurs.

The month-long activities are an extension of the current CHS exhibition, *Juana Briones y Su California: Pionera, Fundadora, Curandera*, which celebrates the legacy of Juana Briones, one of the most significant Latina pioneers, entrepreneurs, and landowners in early California. The bilingual exhibition, presented in partnership with Stanford University and The Bancroft Library, runs through June 8, 2014. March also marks the birth date (March 12) of Juana Briones, which will be celebrated at various events throughout the month.

"With the exhibition honoring Juana Briones as a powerful and meaningful backdrop, we are honored to celebrate California women and the critical role they have played in shaping our State," said Dr. Anthea Hartig, Executive Director of the California Historical Society. "Our month-long celebration is open to all who want to understand the many contributions of California's pioneering women, and to see the rich connections to contemporary women leaders who continue to inspire us today."

Most activities take place at the California Historical Society and are open to the public. Additional information and registration details for the upcoming events can be found online at <http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/exhibitions/juana-briones>.

### **Women's History Month events with the California Historical Society include:**

- **Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 6:00 pm: Ten Lions Talks – Book Event.** Join Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz, Santa Clara University professors and authors of *Testimonios*, who will discuss the book and the lives of nineteenth-century women in California. Free for California Historical Society and Heyday members \$5 general admission California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco. In partnership with Heyday and Santa Clara University RSVP: <https://testimonios.eventbrite.com>

- **Thursday, March 13, 2014, 6:00 pm: We Are CA – A Celebration of Women Entrepreneurs --La Cocina.** Celebrate with women food entrepreneurs from California. Meet Constanza Ortiz, Maite Catering; Dilsa Lugo, Los Cilantros; and Guisell Osorio, Sabores del Sur. Learn about the non-profit organization La Cocina and hear about the triumphs and struggles of women who started their own food businesses here in California. Free for California Historical Society members \$5 general admission California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco. In partnership with La Cocina.
- **Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 6:00 pm: We Are CA—A Celebration of Women Entrepreneurs -- The Health and Wellness Businesswomen of Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center.** Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center will feature women business owners in the field of healing and wellness and discuss the successes and challenges in the industry. Free for California Historical Society members; general public, \$5.
- **Thursday, March 20, 2014, 6:00 pm: Third Thursdays – Tour the Exhibition.** Enjoy free tours of the exhibition with CHS Guest Concierges. Free event at California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco.
- **Thursday, March 27, 2014, 6:00 pm: We Are CA – A Celebration of Women Entrepreneurs -- La Cocina.** Learn about the non-profit organization La Cocina and meet Elvia Buendia, La Luna Cupcakes; Rosa Rodriguez, Sweets Collection; and Isabel Caudillo, El Buen Comer. Hear from women who started their food businesses and their triumphs and struggles. Free for California Historical Society members \$5 general admission California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco In partnership with La Cocina.
- **Sunday, March 30, 2014, 10:00am - 4:00pm In Their Shoes – A Walking Tour of East Bay's Briones Park.** Walk with CHS Archivist Marie Silva and John Muir Laws Nature Club through the East Bay's Briones Park. Free event at Briones Regional Park, Martinez, CA In partnership with John Muir Laws Nature Club.

**About the California Historical Society:** The California Historical Society is a 142-year-old, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. We hold one of the top research collections on California history, which includes over 35,000 volumes of books and pamphlets, more than 4,000 manuscript collections, and about 500,000 photographs documenting California's social, cultural, economic, and political history and development, including some of the most cherished and valuable documents and images of California's past. Learn more at [www.californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org).

**About the Exhibition: "Juana Briones y Su California: Pionera, Fundadora, Curandera,"** focuses on the life and times of Juana Briones (1802–1889)—pioneer, founder, healer—possibly San Francisco's first resident (when it was Yerba Buena) and one of the most important women in California in the mid-to-late 1800s. Her challenges and accomplishments are told in an engaging narrative and through paintings, maps, documents, and artifacts. The exhibit also traces the decades-long effort at the close of the twentieth century to oppose the destruction of the Juana Briones home site in Santa Clara County, demolished in 2011.