

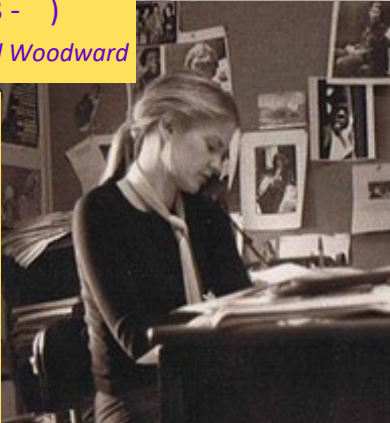


**Creem**

### Susan Whittall (1953 - )

*Birmingham Theater, 211 S. Old Woodward*

- \* Born in Philadelphia, but has been a lifelong Birmingham resident
- \* During the 1970s, developed her rock journalism career at *Creem Magazine* in Birmingham
- \* Became editor of *Creem*-one of few women to have run a rock magazine
- \* Author of several award-winning books on American musicians, including Little Willie John, women of Motown, and Joni Mitchell



### Jaan Uhelszki (1952 - )

*Birmingham Theater, 211 S. Old Woodward*

- \* Grew up in Detroit-loved rock music, went to work for *Creem Magazine* at an early age
- \* Helped break the gender barrier in rock journalism, writing in her early twenties for *Creem*
- \* Highly respected career as a rock critic, writing for *Rolling Stone* and other publications
- \* Continues to write and produce in the field of music journalism



### Mary Utter (1857-1947)

*Downtown Birmingham*

- \* Was granddaughter of Birmingham's first murder victim (Polly Utter) killed in 1825 and prompting the formation of Greenwood Cemetery
- \* Was involved in village politics; won primary election and ran for county clerk shortly after women got the vote in 1922
- \* Political career included numerous county and township positions
- \* Represented Birmingham's democratic party and was sent to Washington in a political capacity when FDR was elected
- \* Traveled extensively to Cuba, Hawaii, and Panama



### Hope Ferguson Halgren Lewis (1897-1992)

*Municipal Bldg, 151 Martin*

- \* Valedictorian, BHS (1915)
- \* Active in women's suffrage movement before 1920
- \* First woman elected to Birmingham commission (1929) (shown in background photo with fellow commissioners; encouraged to run for office by friend Ruth Shain)
- \* Held office in AAUW, Village Players, Community House
- \* Helped organize Birmingham's first senior center

### Florence 'Twink' Willett (1915-2002)

*Municipal Bldg, 151 Martin*

- \* Was member of Planning Board and Birmingham City Commission before becoming Mayor of Birmingham in 1961
- \* First woman mayor in Michigan; participated in numerous multi-mayor events and conferences
- \* Raised a family during her public office and sought to model what was possible for young women
- \* Faced constant media scrutiny of dress and role of mother



556 W. Maple  
Birmingham, MI 48009

248-530-1928  
museum@bhamgov.org  
www.bhamgov.org/history/museum

- \* Followed in Baldwin's footsteps to galvanize/ improve the community for women and families
- \* Co-founded local chapter of AAUW
- \* Founded The Community House
- \* Leader/educator in international relations
- \* With husband Charles, transformed the downtown civic area of Birmingham



### Ruth Shain

**(1886-1980)**

*Community House  
380 S. Bates*

# WOMEN'S HISTORY WALKING TOUR



## EMPOWERMENT OF BIRMINGHAM WOMEN 1820S-1970S

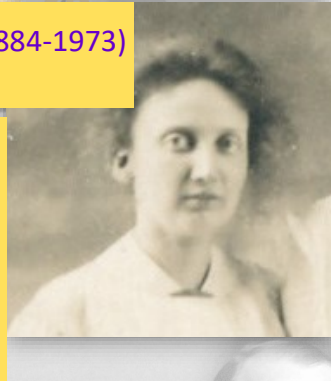


# EMPOWERMENT OF BIRMINGHAM WOMEN IN A MALE-DOMINATED WORLD, 1820S-1970S

## Marion Clizbe Allen (1884-1973)

*Allen House, 556 W. Maple*

- \* Only daughter of W.D. Clizbe, prominent village politician
- \* As wife of Harry Allen, became 'first lady' of the new City of Birmingham
- \* Struggled to help son James overcome polio and become a successful lawyer and politician
- \* Sold Allen House and property to the city to become a historical park and public resource



## Margaret, Sarah & Olive Prindle (1800s)

*Hunter House, 550 W. Maple*

- \* Three sisters who married into the Hunter and Hamilton families, first settlers in Birmingham
- \* Faced difficult pioneer lives, loss of children, and struggles to establish the community
- \* Olive died fairly young; Sarah and Margaret later; all buried in Greenwood Cemetery



## Alice Carter Fouracre

(1886-1964)

*Hunter House, 550 W. Maple*

- \* A skilled English seamstress who narrowly escaped passage on the Titanic
- \* Husband Albert Fouracre worked on Birmingham's DUR; lived in the Hunter House
- \* Lost infant daughter Edna to the Spanish flu pandemic in 1920



## Bess Levinson Levin (1898-1985)

*Quarton Bldg, 142-144 W. Maple*

- \* Grew up in Birmingham; graduated from Birmingham High School, and U-M
- \* After marriage to Saul Levin, became prominent in Detroit's Jewish community
- \* Mother and campaign supporter to congressional sons Carl and Sander Levin
- \* Taught at Detroit's International Institute; frequently hosted foreign diplomats

## Jane Briggs Hart (1912-2015) *Briggs Bldg, 111 S. Old Woodward*

- \* At age 18 (1939) she became a licensed pilot and entered air races
- \* Became the first licensed woman helicopter pilot

- \* Board member and convention delegate for Birmingham's League of Women Voters in the 1950s
- \* Member of 'Mercury 13' group of women astronaut trainees in the early 1960s; testified before congress to encourage the inclusion of women in the formal space program
- \* Founding member of the National Organization for Women



## Gitel Felhender Levinson

(1875-1972) *Ford Bldg, 101-167 W. Maple*

## Martha Baldwin

(1842-1913) *500 W. Maple*

- \* Member and national delegate, Michigan Equal Suffrage Association
- \* Formed Oakland County Suffrage Association
- \* Activist/advocate/founder of Baldwin Public Library
- \* Championed public health and initiated public water works
- \* Instrumental in women's athletics and education



- \* Part of wave of Russian/Eastern European Jews fleeing oppression in 1880s
- \* Came to Detroit alone at age 14 to join a brother; spoke no English
- \* Moved to Birmingham after marriage to Morris Levinson, pioneer Birmingham merchant
- \* Raised four children here, all civic leaders
- \* Kept kosher household and maintained strong traditional Jewish identity

