

# Maryland Women's

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, established in 1985 by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland, annually honors renowned Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural, and social life of the state and provide visible models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

Each year, Maryland women are selected for induction through a process that begins with an annual statewide call for nominations. An independent selection committee reviews the applications and selects four, five, or six women from the historical and contemporary categories. A special Hall of Fame induction ceremony is then held in Annapolis, Md., in March during Women's History Month.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame is housed at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center located in downtown Baltimore at 39 West Lexington Street. Come visit the Center and learn about these amazing women and their accomplishments!

This year's inductees include Lucy Diggs Slowe, Carol Greider and Barbara Holdridge (highlighted below), as well as Dr. Ligia Peralta, Gertrude L. Poe, and June A. Willenz (to be include in the next issue of "Focus on Women"). More information about the current and past Maryland Women's Hall of Fame inductees can be found at [www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org](http://www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org).

These six women will be officially inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on Tuesday, March 29, at 5:30 p.m. For more information, or to register to attend, call the Maryland Commission for Women at 410-767-3049.



Lucy Diggs Slowe lived in Baltimore, and graduated second in her class in 1904 from the Baltimore Colored School. She is credited for many "firsts."

She was one of the original 16 founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first sorority founded by African-American women, and one of the nine original founders of the sorority in 1908 at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

After graduation from Howard University, she returned to Baltimore to teach high school English. She continued working as an educator in Baltimore for several years, before returning to Washington, D.C.

A tennis champion, Slowe was the first African-American woman to win a major sports title when she won the American Tennis Association's first tournament in 1917.

In 1922, she was appointed the first Dean of Women at Howard University, and continued as a college administrator at Howard for 15 years until her death. She created and led two professional associations to support college administrators, the National Association of College Women and the Association of Advisors to Women in Colored Schools.

# Hall of Fame 2011

By Jill Moss Greenberg



Carol Greider is one of the world's pioneering researchers on the structure of chromosome ends known as telomeres. She received the 2009 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine along with colleagues Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak. (Greider and Blackburn were the first women to simultaneously win the prize in medicine.)

As a young girl growing up in Davis, Calif., she credits her father, a physicist at the University of California, and mother for her decision to go into science, and her father, especially, for influencing her attitude about academic science.

She continues to study the role of telomeres in DNA damage and cell death as a molecular biologist at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



Barbara Holdridge is co-founder of Caedmon Records, the pioneer in spoken-word recordings (now part of HarperCollins Publishers). The importance of Caedmon recordings in the history of the spoken word and contemporary culture has been widely acknowledged. Holdridge sold Caedmon Records in 1970, and went on to establish Stemmer House Publishers in 1975, the first general book publishing company in Maryland, printing both nonfiction and fiction works. She sold it upon retiring in 2003.

In addition, she is the recognized co-discoverer and researcher with her late husband of the 19th century American portrait painter Ammi Phillips. She has owned Stemmer House, a Georgian brick mansion in Owings Mills, Md., for 38 years.

For more information about the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, visit our website at [www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org](http://www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org), call 410-767-0675, or e-mail [mwhcjill@comcast.net](mailto:mwhcjill@comcast.net).

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is located at 39 West Lexington Street in Downtown Baltimore. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is free.