

Women's History and Culture Center

December 2024 Newsletter



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Notes from the Editors

December is a continuation of November initiatives to connect with our loved ones, give thanks for our blessings, and reach out to those in need in our community. Please support the Salvation Army Bell Ringers as they ring bells from Black Friday November 29 to Christmas. These volunteers are not paid for their service; their reward is your smile when you make a donation.

As with Salvation Army, SafeNest has critical needs at this time of year and are looking for donations of hygiene products and clothing items for all sizes and ages. Their most critical need right now is for plus size clothing. Please note the SafeNest donation drop off box was recently moved and is now at the Mesquite Business Center, 526 Commerce Circle, across the street from Star Nursery.

Pages 11-12 is the third installment of a series of twelve articles in the newsletter celebrating women who were appointed heads of state in their respective countries in the month they were appointed. The appointments made in December go all the way back to 1997. Next month's issue will highlight women who were appointed head of state in January, and so on through the coming year. Please enjoy!!

Jean Watkins Kathy Bakken Susan Schubert Melissa Eligul
Editorial Staff

To make changes or additions to the information shown for your group on pages 6 through 9, please contact Melissa Eligul at whcc.eventcalendar@gmail.com. To add or change an event on the Room 23 or Room 18 schedule, or to reserve the WHCC plaza for an outdoor event, please contact Susan Schubert at whcc.susan.schubert@gmail.com.

To receive this newsletter by email or make comments, please email whccmesquitenv@gmail.com.

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WHCC Event/Class Details for December 2024

225 N. Willow St., Mesquite, NV, Room 18 & Room 23

DEC 2 (MON) at 2 PM: *Wondering Words Book Club* /

DEC 3 (TUE) 4 PM: *WHCC Board Meeting* / Jean Watkins (Room 18)

DEC 6, 13, 20 & 27 (FRI) 12:30 to 4 PM: *SAMBA Group* / Closed group

DEC 5 & 19 (THU) 3 PM: *Consciousness Circle* / Terrie McArthur

DEC 12 (THU) at 10 AM: *Desert Dames Bunco* / Rosealee Lee

DEC 8 (SUN) at 11 AM: *Love, Family Gathering* / Dana Long. To learn more about Love, Family, find them on Facebook or visit lovefamilynv.com for contact information.

DEC 8 (SUN) at 4 PM: *Mesquite Outdoor Group* / Gary Halverson / Closed group

DEC 9 & 16 (MON) at 1 PM: *BUNCO Babes* / Peggy Ramsey / Closed

DEC 11 (WED) at Noon: *WHCC Christmas Luncheon*

DEC 11 (WED) at 2 PM: *Desert Dames Book Club* / Sue Miller (Room 18)

DEC 11 (WED) at 6 PM: *Search & Rescue Board Meeting* / Larry McFarland

DEC 12 (THU) at 12:30 PM: *P E O Canasta* / Bev Valencia (Room 18)

DEC 16 (WED) at 3 PM: *Warrior Women Social* /

DEC 18 (WED) at 12 PM: *Wip-Its Cross Stitch Club* / Connie Fullmer (Room 18)

DEC 29 (SUN) 11 AM to 1 PM: *Love, Family Board Meeting* / Dana Long

Most classes and groups are on-going each month.

You can find updates to our newsletter and late breaking announcements
at whccmesquitenv.org.

Connect with us at whccmesquitenv@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2024 Calendar

Women's History and Culture Center

Visit our Website: whccmesquitenv.org
 and Facebook Group: @whccmesquitenv
 Connect with us at whccmesquitenv@gmail.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
By Appointment	By Appointment	Open Hours 11-3	Open Hours 11-3	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2 PM Wondering Word Book Club	4 PM WHCC Christmas Luncheon		3 PM Conscious Circle Book Club	12:30 – 4PM SAMBA Group (Closed)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11 AM – 1 PM Love, Family Gathering 4 PM Mesquite Outdoor Group	1 PM – Bunco Babes (Closed)		Noon WHCC Christmas Lunch 2 PM Desert Dames Book Club 6 PM Search & Rescue Board Meeting	10 AM Desert Dames Bunco 12:30 PM PEO Canasta	12:30 – 4PM SAMBA Group (Closed)	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	1 PM – Bunco Babes (Closed) 3 PM Warrior Women Social		12 PM Wip-Its Cross-Stitch Club	3 PM Conscious Circle Book Club	12:30 – 4PM SAMBA Group (Closed)	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Center Closed for Christmas	Center Closed for Christmas	Center Closed for Christmas	12:30 – 4PM SAMBA Group (Closed)	
29	30	31	27	28	29	30
11 AM - 1 PM Love, Family Board Meeting		Center Closed for New Years				

Meetings highlighted in red are held in Room 18. All other meetings are in Room 23.

WHCC Greeters and Volunteers meet at 4 PM on the second Monday of the month.

WHCC Board of Directors meet at 4 PM on Tuesday, 8 days after the Volunteer meeting.

Books at Our Center about Notable Women Born in December

Ella Baker (December 13, 1903 - 1986)

Civil rights leader in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the NAACP and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

We Who Believe in Freedom: The Life and Times of Ella Baker

Margaret Chase Smith (December 14, 1897 - 1995)

First woman elected to both houses of Congress, serving eight years in the House of Representative and twenty-four years in the Senate, representing the state of Maine.

No Place for a Woman: Margaret Chase Smith
She Persisted: Margaret Chase Smith

Margaret Mead (December 16, 1901 - 1978)

Renowned cultural anthropologist, author and lecturer

To Cherish the Life of the World: The Selected Letters of Margaret Mead

Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson (December 22, 1912 - 2007)

First Lady, civil rights advocate, National Chair of Head Start, focused on conservation, environmental, and anti-pollution efforts.

Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight

Sarah “Madam C.J.” Walker (December 23, 1867 - 1919)

The first woman and first African American woman self-made millionaire who revolutionized hair care and the cosmetics industry in early 20th century.

Louisiana Belle: A Snippet of the Life of Madam C.J. Walker
Self-Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker

Clara Barton (December 25, 1821 - 1912)

Founder and president of the American Red Cross, 1881 to 1904.

Clara Barton: Founder of the American Red Cross
Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War
Who was Clara Barton?



Happy Reading!

December Highlights in Women's History

- **December 1, 1955:** Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person; her arrest sparked the modern civil rights movement in the United States.
- **December 5, 1935:** Mary McLeod Bethune created the National Council of Negro Women.
- **December 7, 1941:** Capt. Annie Fox received the first Purple Heart awarded to a woman for her service while under attack at Pearl Harbor.
- **December 10, 1869:** Wyoming was the first territory to give women the right to vote.
- **December 10, 1938:** Pearl S. Buck received the Nobel Prize for Literature for *The Good Earth*.
- **December 11, 1911:** In Stockholm, Sweden, Marie Curie became the first person to be awarded a second Nobel prize.
- **December 12, 1989:** 69-year-old Leona Helmsley, the "Queen of Mean", received a four-year prison sentence, along with 750 hours of community service, and a \$7.1 million tax fraud fine in New York.
- **December 13, 1993:** Susan A. Maxman became the first woman president of the American Institute of Architects in its 135-year history.
- **December 14, 1961:** The President's Commission on the Status of Women was established to examine discrimination against women and ways to eliminate it.
- **December 14, 1985:** Wilma Mankiller was sworn in as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the first woman in modern history to lead a major Native American tribe.
- **December 17, 1993:** Judith Rodin was named president of the University of Pennsylvania, the first woman to head an Ivy League institution.
- **December 28, 1967:** Muriel Siebert became the first woman to own a seat on the N.Y. Stock Exchange.

Upcoming Community Events

DECEMBER 2024

December	All Month	Artists Association Christmas Boutique Open Mon-Sat from 10AM-4PM	Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
		Lucky 13 National Small Works Competition (Wall Art Only) Open Mon-Sat from 10AM-4PM	Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
		Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant Sign Ups Sign up period runs through December	
Dec TBA	9 AM	Jingle Bell Dash – 5K and Fun Run	Rec Center West Feld
Dec 3	Noon	Brown Bag Series – Shannon McConnell “NASA and Space Exploration”	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Dec 4 & 5 Wed & Thu	4 – 7 PM	Open Auditions Anne of Green Gables Show	Mesquite Community Theater 150 N Yucca
Dec 5 Thu	8 AM	What’s Happening Mesquite Reservations required 702-346-2902	Elks Lodge 545 Riverside
Dec 6 Fri	5 – 7 PM	Palette & Pour Party: Instructor- Chris Picior Theme: Wintery Cranberries	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
	5:30 PM	Parade of Lights – 2024 Theme: Winter Wonderland Food drive for Salvation Army	Staging at 100 Arrowhead
	Followed by	Photos with Santa & Mrs. Clause	At City Hall - 10 E Mesquite
Dec 6 & 7 Fri & Sat	1 PM	Mesquite Toes “’Tis the Season” Christmas Show”	Mesquite Community Theatre 150 N Yucca
Dec 7 Sat	1-3 PM	Candy Crafts with Judy (Sign Up at the Bar) Benefit for the Beaver Dam Santa Project	Elks Lodge 545 Riverside
	5-7:30 PM	Friends of Gold Butte 8th Annual Celebration & Auction	Fgb.betterworld.org On-line bidding starts Nov 22.
Dec 13 Fri	12-2 PM 5 – 7 PM	Mingle & Jingle Holiday Luncheon	Casablanca 950 W Mesquite
		Palette & Pour Party: Instructor- Vanessa Temple Theme: Frosty & Friend	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Dec 19 Thu	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Dec 20 Fri	5 – 7 PM	Palette & Pour Party: Instructor- Wendy Douglas Theme: Polar Friends	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Dec 27 Fri	5 – 7 PM	Palette & Pour Party: Instructor- Chris Picior Theme: Snowflakes	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite

JANUARY 2025

Jan 8 Wed	5:30 PM	Best of Mesquite Award Dinner Mesquite Chamber 702-346-2902	Eureka Casino Ballroom 275 Mesa Blvd
Jan 16 Thu	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: Casting Shadows	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Jan 17-19	Fri-Sun	Mesquite Motor Mania	Casablanca, 950 W Mesquite
Jan 19-Apr	All Month	Inspirational Women Display Women’s History and Culture Center	Mesquite Library Lobby
Jan 24-26	Fri-Sun	Hot Air Balloon Festival	Casablanca, 950 W Mesquite
Jan 27 Mon	Noon - 1 PM	Suffrage in Clark County, Past and Present Presentation by WHCC Staff	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite

FEBRUARY 2025

Feb	TBA	Kids for Sports Charity Golf Tournament Shotgun Start	Wolf Creek Golf Club Shanna 702-345-6707
Feb 14	AM	Mesa View Heart Walk	Rec Center, 10 W Old Mill Rd
Fri	PM	Denim and Diamonds Dinner Dance benefitting the Mesquite Showgirls	TBA
Feb 20	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: Touch of Red	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Feb 21 & 22	Fri 7 PM Sat 1 & 7 PM	18th Annual Western Roundup Cowboy Poets	Mesquite Community Theatre 150 N Yucca
Feb 23	10 AM	2025 Las Vegas Toy Show	Ahern Luxury Boutique Hotel
Sun			
Feb 24	Noon - 1 PM	History of Women Firefighters in Nevada Presentation by WHCC Staff	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Mon			

MARCH 2025

March	All Month	Decorate Saxon the Suffrage Cat Contest Sign up period runs to May	Women's History and Culture Center 225 N Willow #23
		Mesquite Senior Games Spring Season Poker, Bowling, Pickleball, Basketball, Tennis, Track & Field	Mesquiteseniorgames.org 702-345-3347
Mar TBA	Sat	Mesquite Showgirls Bingo Bash Fundraiser Reservations: 801-699-9947 or 702-420-4494	Elks Lodge 545 Riverside
Mar 3 & 5	9 AM	Beginning Line Dance New class starts	Mesquite Rec Center Dance Room
Mon & Wed			
Mar 15	8 AM	What's Happening Mesquite Reservations required 702-346-2902	Elks Lodge 545 Riverside
Sat			
Mar 6	8:30 AM	March Against Cancer Walk starts at 9 AM	Rec Center Outdoor field 100 W Old Mill
Thu			
Mar 20	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: Naturally Beautiful	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Thu			

APRIL 2025

April	All Month	Decorate Saxon the Suffrage Cat Contest Sign up period runs to May	Women's History and Culture Center 225 N Willow #23
		Mesquite Senior Games Spring Season Poker, Bowling, Pickleball, Basketball, Tennis, Track & Field	Mesquiteseniorgames.org 702-345-3347
		Artists Association Grand Bazaar	Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W Mesquite
Apr TBA	2 PM	Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant	Community Theatre, 150 N Yucca
Apr 4 & 5	1 PM	"Salute to America" Mesquite Toes Spring Spectacular	Community Theatre, 150 N Yucca
Fri & Sat			
Apr 17	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception Theme for the Month: Grand Bazaar	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Thu			

MAY 2025

May 15	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: Places To Remember	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Thu			

JUNE 2025

Jun 19 Thu	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: Life Is Music	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
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JULY 2025

Jul 17 Thu	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: Chasing the Sun	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
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AUGUST 2025

Aug 21 Thu	4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Award Ceremony Theme for the Month: The American West	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Aug 26 Tue	5 PM	Proclamation making August 26 “Women’s Equality Day in Mesquite”	City Council Chambers 2 nd Floor, 10 E Mesquite
Aug 27 Wed	TBA	Women’s History Museum Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting	225 N Willow #18

Monthly Meetings & Ongoing Community Events

MONDAY

2 nd Mon	6PM	Ham Radio Club	Airport Fire Station #2
3 rd Mon	11AM	Artists Association Monthly Meeting	Fine Arts Center Classroom

TUESDAY

1 st Tue	Noon	Brown Bag Cultural Series	Fine Arts Classroom, 15 W Mesquite
1 st & 3 rd Tue	2:30PM	City Council Technical Review	Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall
1 st Tue	5:30PM	Arts Council	Fine Arts Classroom, 15 W Mesquite
2 nd Tue	10AM	Conservative Club	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén
2 nd Tue	5:30PM	Cancer Peer-Led Discussion	Mesquite Library Community Room
2 nd Tue	5:30PM	MFA Photographic Society	Fine Arts Classroom, 15 W Mesquite
2 nd & 4 th Tue	Noon	Exchange Club	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén
2 nd & 4 th Tue	5PM	City Council	Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall
3 rd Tue	PM	Amateur Radio Club 801-643-4952	Airport Fire Station
3 rd Tue	6:30PM	VFW Meeting (Veterans of Foreign Wars)	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén

WEDNESDAY

Every Wed	5:30PM	Rotary Weekly Meeting	Usually at the Mesquite Library
1 st Wed	4 – 6 PM	Desert Dames Hump Day – Open event	Call 209-993-6907 for details
2 nd Wed	11:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce Luncheon	Various Locations
2 nd Wed	5 PM	Republican Women	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén

THURSDAY

1 st Thu	10AM	Mesquite Public Arts Commission	Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall
1 st Thu	6PM	Elks Lodge #2811	545 Riverside Rd, 702-345-2811
1 st & 3 rd Thu	11:30AM	Lions Club	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén
1 st & 3 rd Thu	5PM	Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant	Women's Center, 225 N Willow, #23
2 nd Thu	2PM	Mesquite Caregivers Support Group	Mesquite Library Learning Center
2 nd Thu	6PM	Desert Fox Flyers Radio Control Club	Beaver Dam Fire Station #1
2 nd Thu	9 AM – 1PM	Rotary Mesquite Reads Book Sale	College of So. NV, 140 N Yucca
2 nd Thu	Noon-5PM	Blood Drive www.redcrossblood.org	Rec Center
4 th Thu	12-1PM	Toastmasters	First Baptist Church, 830 E Hafén

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Every Sat	9AM	Desert Fox Flyers Radio Control Club	
1 st Sat	9-11AM	We Care For Animals Pet Adoptions	150 N Yucca, #1
3 rd Sat	5PM	RAISE Mesquite	Women's Center, 225 N Willow, #23

SUNDAY

Every Sun	3-4PM	Al-Anon Family Weekly Meeting	Veterinary Clinic, 371 Riverside #A
2 nd Sun	11AM	Love, Family Gathering	Women's Center, 225 N Willow, #23

WOMEN IN MALE DOMINATED FIELDS – POLITICAL LEADERS SERIES

#3: WOMEN APPOINTED HEAD OF STATE IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 1, **2019: Ursula von de Leyen**

13th President of the European Commission, serving from 2019 to today.

Von de Leyen served as Germany's Minister of Family Affairs and Youth from 2005 to 2009, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs from 2009 to 2013, and Minister of Defense from 2013 to 2019, the first woman to serve in that position. Ursula is #1 on Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women in both 2022 and 2023.

December 2, **1988: Benazir Bhutto**

11th and 13th Prime Minister of Pakistan, serving from 1993 to 1996 and earlier from 1988 to 1990.

Benazir was the first woman leader of a Muslim nation in modern history. She was repeatedly imprisoned and accused of corruption and nepotism, while at the same time pushing for reforms, including economic privatization, women's rights, civilian oversight of the military and opposition to growing Islamist violence. She was assassinated on December 27, 2007.

December 3, **1990: Mary Robinson**

7th President of Ireland, serving from 1990 to 1997, Ireland's first female President.

Robinson was Ireland's most popular president, at one point having a 93% approval rating among the electorate. She worked to decriminalize homosexuality, legalize contraception and divorce, enable women to sit on juries and secure the right to legal aid in civil legal cases in Ireland. She served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002.

December 7, **2022: Dina Boluarte**

64th President of Peru, serving from 2021 to today, Peru's first female President.

In her 50s, Boluarte's law career led her into politics where she served as Vice President under President Pedro Castillo until he was removed by a Congress that had impeached five presidents over a four-year period of time. Although Boluarte is not universally accepted as the democratically elected President of Peru, the United States does recognize her. Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela still recognize Castillo as president.

December 8, **1997: Jenny Shipley**

36th Prime Minister of New Zealand, serving from 1997 to 1999, New Zealand's first female Prime Minister.

Shipley entered parliament at age 35, serving in a number of ministerial positions before replacing Jim Bolger when he stepped down as Prime Minister in 1997. Shipley ran for Prime Minister in 1999 but lost to Helen Clark. It was the first New Zealand election in which the leaders of both major parties were women.

December 8, **2019: Sanna Marin**

46th Prime Minister of Finland, serving from 2019 to 2023, the third female Prime Minister of Finland, following Mari Kiviniemi (41st) and Anneli Jaatteenmaki (39th). The youngest Finnish prime minister in history, Sanna is changing what leadership looks like on the world stage. The coalition government she oversaw had a parliament that was 45.5% female, including five women leaders, many also in their 30s. In 2022 Marin announced Finland would apply for NATO membership and successfully joined NATO in 2023.

December 10, **1999: Helen Clark**

37th Prime Minister of New Zealand, serving from 1999 to 2008, New Zealand's second female Prime Minister. after Jenny Shipley (36th).

That Clark is New Zealand's fifth longest serving prime minister speaks volumes about her acumen, abilities and judgement. In 2009 Clark was appointed Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the first woman to lead that organization. During her tenure, the ratio of women to men at UNDP reached 50%, including at the most senior levels of the organization.

#3: WOMEN APPOINTED HEAD OF STATE IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**December 10, 2007: Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner**

President of Argentina, serving from 2007 to 2015, Argentina's second female PM after Isabel Peron. Due to term limits, Kirchner could not run for a third time as President, and ran instead for Vice President, serving from 2019 to 2023. She also served as first lady of Argentina when her husband Nestor Kirchner was President from 2003 to 2007. In 2022 she was sentenced to six years in prison and a lifetime ban from holding public office for corruption and is currently appealing that verdict.

December 11, 2020: Ingrida Simonyte

17th Prime Minister of Lithuania, serving from 2020 to today, the second female Prime Minister of Finland after Kazimira Purnskiene. (1st)

As a trained economist, Simonyte served as Director of the Tax Department, and Secretary and Minister of Finance. On the frontline of democracy in Europe, Simonyte has positioned Lithuania as a model for combining economic security with a values-based foreign policy, focused on rallying global support for Ukraine's fight against Soviet aggression, providing military, humanitarian and economic aid to Ukraine.

December 16, 2018: Salome Zourabichvili

5th Prime Minister of Georgia, serving from 2018 to today, the first female Prime Minister of Georgia. Salome had a 30-year diplomatic service career in several embassies, later serving as Ambassador to France from Georgia. She is fighting against a growing conservative trend in her country away from democracy to a more authoritarian form of government that would move Georgia away from the European Union to Russia.

December 18, 2007: Yulia Tymoshenko

10th and 13th Prime Minister of Ukraine, serving two terms in office, from 2007 to 2010 and also for 24 days in 2005. Yulia is the first and only woman in Ukraine to hold that position.

Yulia obtained a PhD in economics and served as president of United Energy Systems of Ukraine before entering Ukrainian parliament in 1996 and being appointed Deputy Prime Minister, and then Prime Minister,

December 19, 1997: Janet Jagan

6th Prime Minister of Guyana, serving from 1997 to 1999, the first female prime minister and first female president of Guyana, as well as Guyana's first Jewish and first U.S.-born leader.

Janet co-founded the People's Progressive Party (PPP) in 1950 to remove Guyana from British colonial rule. She was PPP General Secretary from 1950 to 1970 and Deputy Speaker of the Legislature in 1953. After Guyana became independent in 1966, Jagan served on the party's Central Committee until her death in 2009.

December 23, 2022: Natasa Pirc Musar

5th President of Slovenia, serving from 2022 to today, the first female president of Slovenia.

Musar has served as an attorney, author and host of Slovenia's central news program. She was Slovenia's Information Commission from 2004 to 2014 and president of the Slovenian Red Cross from 2015 to 2016. In 2014, Natasa formed her own law firm and has handled high profile legal cases and clients such as Melania Trump during her husband's term as U.S. President and Stanislav Vicovid, Ambassador to the U.S.

December 24, 2022: Maia Sandu

5th President of Moldova, serving from 2020 to today, the first female president of Moldova. She was also Moldova's 13th Prime Minister in 2019.

Sandu strongly supports Moldova joining the European Union, opposes Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has made anti-corruption, economic reform and liberalization a central part of her political platform. She is one of the most widely admired leaders in the part of eastern Europe that is in danger of being taken over by the Soviet Union, either through political or military means.