

**Betty Bone Schliess (1923—)**



- Led the successful effort to have women ordained priests in the Episcopal Church in America

**Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)**



- The “traveling Preacher” and first African-American woman to speak publicly against slavery

**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)**



- First native-born American Saint

**Rev. Doctor Anna Howard Shaw (1847-1919)**



- Ordained minister, physician, ardent feminist—and first woman to earn the Distinguished Service Medal

plus,

**Jarena Lee.** First nationally known African-American female preacher

**Henrietta Szold,** founder of Hadassah

**Anne Hutchinson,** Puritan, wife, mother, religious leader

**Ann Lee,** founder of the American Shaker faith

and others.....

For further information and for group tours,

call 202-332-9010

# “American Women in Religion”

An exhibit celebrating notable and extraordinary American women in religion during:

**National Women’s History Month  
March 2009**

at

Christian Science Reading Room  
1782 Columbia Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(in Adams Morgan area)  
202-332-9010

*Open Monday through Friday 2:00-5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00–12:00 noon*

Presenting an exhibit

# “American Women in Religion”

March 1-31, 2009

**What:** A panel exhibit of notable and extraordinary women in religion who have left an indelible mark on history and society.

**Who:** The following pages give thumbnail sketches and details about some of the diverse women presented in the exhibit.

**Why:** To learn about, appreciate, and celebrate the lives, ideas, and accomplishments of notable and exceptional women in religion during National Women’s History Month.

## What is National Women’s History Month?

In March of 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Message to the American people encouraging the recognition and celebration of women’s historical accomplishments during the week of March 8th. In 1987, Congress passed a National Women’s History Month resolution. It was approved with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

Since 1992, a Presidential Proclamation has carried the directive for what is now a major national and international celebration. The theme for this year is: “Women Taking the Lead to Save a Planet”

**Antoinette Louisa (Brown) Blackwell  
1825-1921)**



- First woman minister of a recognized denomination

**Barbara Harris (1930—)**



- First woman Episcopal bishop

**St. Francis Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917)**



- First American to become a Saint

**Bishop Leontine Kelly (1920—)**



- First African-American woman to be elected bishop in the United Methodist Church

**Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)**



- Founded a lasting worldwide religion; spiritual healer; author of best-selling book on spiritual healing

**Rabbi Jane Sally Priesand (1946-)**



- Ordained the first woman rabbi in the United States