NOTABLE WOMEN OF NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA

- Ernesta Ballard
- Carol Franklin
- Denise Scott Brown
- Violet Oakley
- Gertrude Houston Woodward
- Quita Woodward Horan
- Patricia Marian Cove
- Nancy Hubby
- Shirley Hanson
- Ann Spaeth
- Alice Lea Tasman
- Edith Emerson
- Lydia Morris
- Frances Anne Wister
- Margaret Esherick
- Dorothy Shipley White
- Vanna Venturi
- Constance Clayton
- Marie Jones
- Sioux Baldwin
- Barbara Crawford
- Ruth Kapp
Notable Women of Northwest Philadelphia

“I think the majority of effective leaders in our community are women, especially if you include length and continuity of service as a criterion of excellence.”
- Rob Fleming


Carol Franklin - Retired landscape architect and co-founder of the landscape design firm Andropogon.

Denise Scott Brown – One of the most influential architects and planners of the 20th century, of the firm Venturi, Scott Brown Associates.

Violet Oakley – A noted 20th century artist, principal artist for the largest number of murals in the Pennsylvania Capitol, and tenant of George and Gertrude Woodward.

Gertrude Houston Woodward - Actively participated in the numerous Woodward contributions to Chestnut Hill, including her leading role in the work of the Chestnut Hill Community Centre.

Quita Woodward Horan – Noted for her hands-on management of the Woodward House Corporation buildings and her deep-seated connections with the Chestnut Hill Conservancy.

Patricia Marian Cove – Astute and dedicated leader with the Chestnut Hill Business Association, the Chestnut Hill Community Association, and the Chestnut Hill Conservancy.

Nancy Hubby - A leader in saving the VFW Building, a founding President of the Chestnut Hill Historical Society and initiator of its first publication, “Chestnut Hill: An Architectural History,” along with subsequent key preservation projects over decades.

Shirley Hanson – Co-founder of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy (then the Historical Society) and co-authored with Nancy Hubby the classic book, Preserving and Maintaining the Older Home.

Ann Spaeth – Co-Founder of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, then the Chestnut Hill Historical Society

Alice Lea Tasman – Co-Founder of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, then the Chestnut Hill Historical Society

Edith Emerson - an American painter, muralist, illustrator, writer, who served as the vice-president, president, and curator of the Woodmere Art Museum in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1940 to 1978.

Lydia Morris – She and her brother bought property in Chestnut Hill and spent the rest of their lives tending to and building up extensive gardens that, by 1913, would occupy 166 acres and would eventually become the Morris Arboretum.

Frances Anne Wister – In 1931, along with 58 others, she created The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, where she was the first elected President.

Margaret Esherick – Commissioned The Esherick House in Philadelphia, one of the most studied of the nine built houses designed by American architect Louis Kahn.

Dorothy Shipley White - A noted scholar of French history and culture, she commissioned the Mitchell/Guirgola designed house at 717 Glengarry.

Vanna Venturi - One of the first prominent works of the postmodern architecture movement, the
Vanna Venturi House was designed by architect Robert Venturi for his mother, Vanna Venturi, and constructed between 1962 and 1964.

Constance Clayton - Philadelphia School District superintendent, in the 1980s.

Marie Jones - Editor of the Chestnut Hill Local in the 1980s.

Sioux Baldwin - Local naturalist and one-time director at Andorra Tree House.

Barbara Crawford - Art teacher at Chestnut Hill Academy, 1942-1990, who initially took over her husband's teaching job at CHA when he headed off to serve in WWII.

Ruth Kapp - Springside French teacher who lived in Southern France during the Holocaust, was given name Renee Hartz as part of her protection from Nazi persecution of Jews during the Resistance, and later moved to the U.S.