



Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. During Women's History Month and year-round, the Jane Addams Peace Association recognizes and uplifts women change-makers!

In March, we delve into current and past Jane Addams Children's Book Award-Winners and Honor Books that affirm and celebrate women and girls in history and the present. It is our mission "To deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action." Let us think and talk about how people can challenge gender stereotypes and bias against all hierarchies of power and opportunity and work for power and equality for all.

[Check Out Our Array of Books Here](#)

Bringing Peace into This Year's Women's History Month Through Reading

"I raise up my voice — not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard."

- Malala Yousafzai



***Malala's Magic Pencil*, by Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Kerascoët**

2018 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Winner

Audience: PK-2

Malala Yousafzai is a female education activist, winning the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize (also won by Jane Addams!) when she was just 17. *Malala's Magic Pencil* is the story of a young Malala in Pakistan, wishing that she had a magical pencil that would make her city beautiful and make everyone happier. As she starts to grow up, Malala realizes that she doesn't need a magic pencil to make her wishes come true and that she has the power to peacefully make change in the world.

[Find out more about this book](#)



***The Day War Came*, by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb**

2019 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Honoree

Audience: PK-2

Based on the poetry written by Nicola Davies, *The Day War Came* powerfully explains the ongoing refugee crisis to young learners. It centers around a young girl who is a refugee, displaced by war. She tries to find safety and access by fleeing but is met with people turning her away when she tries to ask for help.

[Find out more about this book](#)



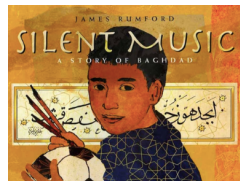
***Sitti's Secrets*, by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter**

1995 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Winner

Audience: PK-5

This beautifully illustrated picture book describes a young girl named Mona and her connection to her grandmother (her Sitti). Her grandmother lives in Palestine in a small village, and Mona recounts the time she went to visit her. Despite there being a language barrier, Mona and her grandmother still find ways to connect and share information. When Mona moves back home, she still feels connected to her grandmother.

[Find out more about this book](#)



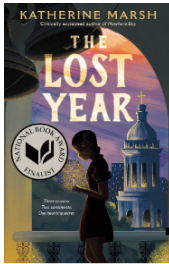
***Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad*, by James Rumford**

2009 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Honoree

Audience: Grades 1-5

This story revolves around a young boy named Ali who loves soccer and music, but whose main passion is calligraphy. He uses his artistic skill as an outlet as the violence and chaos of war start to increase in Baghdad. Ali's story includes gorgeous illustrations and examples of Arabic calligraphy.

[Find out more about this book](#)



***The Lost Year*, by Katherine Marsh**

2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Winner

Audience: Grades 4-8

Set during a stressful and isolating pandemic, Matthew is a middle schooler who feels lonely. His dad is overseas and he has a new addition to his family: his one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother. Matthew finds a black-and-white photo that belongs to his great-grandmother and discovers the truth about his past which will lead to the uncovering of a shocking secret. *The Lost Year* discusses the Holodomor, a famine that killed millions of Ukrainians.

[Find out more about this book](#)



***Ida in the Middle*, by Nora Lester Murad**

2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Finalist

Audience: Grades 7-12

Ida in the Middle is a magical story about mixed identities and navigating violence in the Middle East. Ida is Palestinian-American and faces discriminatory bullying from her peers in middle school. Ida discovers a jar of olives that came from her aunt in her family's village close to Jerusalem. Ida eats one of the olives and is transported to her family's village. What will Ida do when she is faced directly with Israeli violence?

[Find out more about this book](#)

Target Circle Donation Update!

**We've partnered
with Target Circle.**

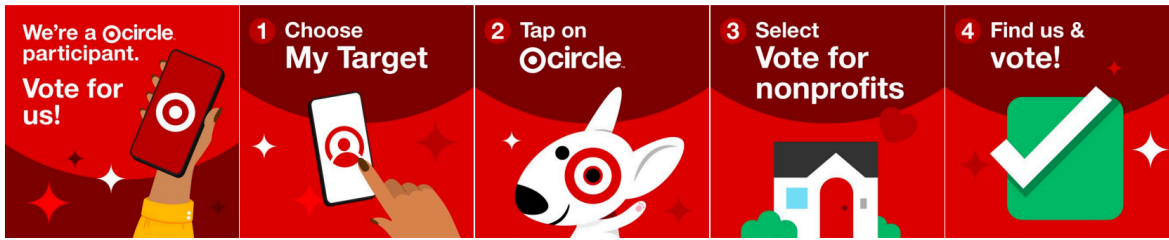
Vote by March 31.

circle NONPROFIT PARTNER



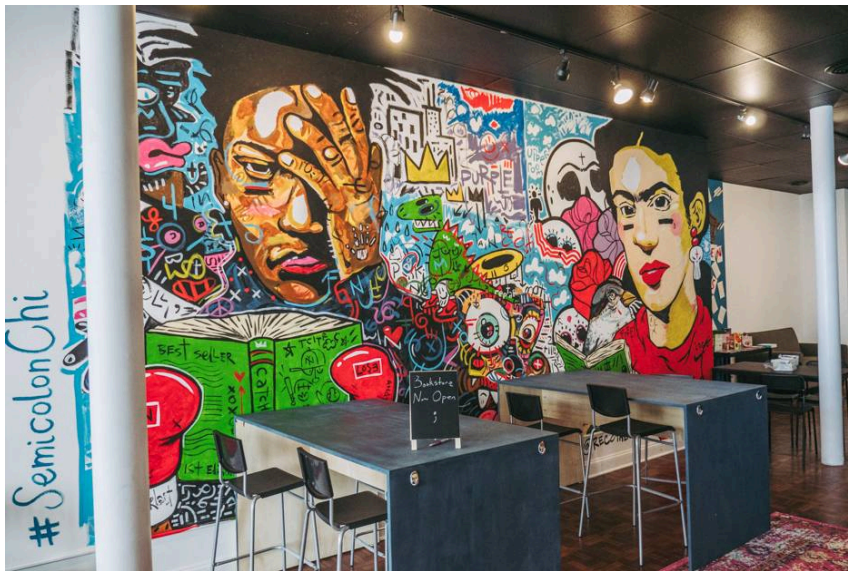
The Jane Addams Peace Association is a Target Circle™ participant!

Target Circle™ is a community giving program that supporting communities by teaming up with local and national nonprofits so guests can help direct how donations to the communities around them. As a Target Circle member you can earn a vote for each Target trip you make, then use those votes to direct Target to donate to The Jane Addams Peace Association. **We have received 623,788 to date in 26 markets across the U.S!** You have until Match 31 to vote for us! Register at: <https://www.target.com/circle>



Community Highlight

Semicolon Bookstore & Gallery



515 N. Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60642 (Currently pop-up and online only until August)

Established in 2019, Semicolon Bookstore & Gallery is "dedicated to bridging the literacy gap among minoritized communities by providing access TO and building interest IN books." The owner, an author and editor with a PhD in literary theory, Danielle Mullen, is making history by starting Semicolon. This bookstore is one of the first (the third, to be exact!) in Chicago owned by a Black woman.

Mullen also is committed to highlighting local Chicago artists, with ornate murals decorating the walls of the shop. Upstairs, there are reading sections dedicated to artists of color. Semicolon is also dedicated to supporting literacy efforts in Chicago public schools and supplies books to a program that sends books to incarcerated people in Illinois. As of now, they are operating through an online shop because they are transforming into a nonprofit, with plans to reopen their space in August.

[Learn More About This Bookstore Here](#)

Celebrating the Legacy of Jane Addams



As we celebrate Women's History Month, it is important to acknowledge the achievements and legacy of our namesake, Jane Addams. She was a feminist, a pacifist, and celebrated as the "mother of social work." Notably, she co-founded Chicago's Hull House with social reformer Ellen Starr which provided social services to poor families.

Jane Addams was also a pacifist and opposed war, speaking out against U.S. intervention in World War I. She believed that war caused social ills and resulted in the struggle of families across the world. More than just denouncing war, she believed in fundamental concepts such as freedom, kindness, and cooperation and used them as tools to change the world.

She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 for her work; as she was involved in the women's suffrage movement, advocated for the rights of women and children, and was involved in the Woman's Peace Party among many other pursuits.

Author Visit: Linda Williams Jackson

BOOKS IN THEIR HANDS

The Peace Association headed to Brooklyn, NY where author Linda Williams Jackson shared her book *Midnight Without a Moon*, a 2019 Honor Book with Mott Hall IV 6th graders on Pajama Day! Principal Marica Myrie and Vice Principal Lisa Salters invited us to stay and judge the classroom-decoration door competition each highlighting a different HBCU for Black History Month.



Left Image: Linda Williams Jackson, Middle Image: Middle school student, Linda Williams Jackson, Middle school student, Right Image: Staff and students with Linda Williams Jackson in the middle

Through our **Books in Their Hands** program, we bring authors and illustrators to low-income schools nationally to share their Jane Addams award-winning books and to speak directly with the students and teachers in the community. We also donate Jane Addams Children's Book Award commended titles into the hands of children.

Support Our Work!



Left to Right: Angela Medina, Lisa Salters, Tatesha Clark, Linda Williams Jackson

The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

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