

WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP IN HISTORY
Fall 2014 Lecture Series

Thursdays, October 23 to December 11, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 180 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

416-410-6204

www.learningunlimitedetobicoke.com

October 23 – Cleopatra and Boudicca: Two Queens Who Fought Rome

Though their resistance to Roman rule ended with defeat and suicide, they were political leaders who wielded power effectively and with broad popular support.

October 30 – Empress Matilda and Eleanor of Aquitaine: The Limits of Female Rule in Medieval England

Matilda's cousin Stephen seized power in England from her, prompting a twenty-year Civil War; the attempts of her son Henry II to control the parts of France belonging to his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine destroyed their marriage and his vast Anglo-French empire.

November 6 – “The Monstrous Regiment of Women”: The Rise of Female Rule in 16th Century Europe

The many female rulers of this period include Mary I and Elizabeth I of England, Mary Queen of Scots, Catherine de Medici in France, Margaret of Parma in the Netherlands.

November 13 – Russia's Age of Empresses: Catherine the Great and her Predecessors

The westernizing program of Peter the Great was most famously carried on by his great-granddaughter-in-law Catherine the Great. However, three other women who preceded her, also related to Peter, exerted their own influence on his legacy as well.

November 20- Dowager Empresses and Warrior Queens: Royal Female Rulers in China, Japan and India

On the throne or behind the scenes, women have wielded significant power in these three countries, whether as empresses in Japan, Warrior Queens in India, or mothers of the Emperor in China

November 27- Queen Victoria and the 19th Century Woman

The Queen's example had a profound impact on the daily lives of ordinary women. She made childbirth anesthesia socially acceptable and she popularized the white wedding dress, the modern idea of the family Christmas and the family vacation.

December 4- Three Queens: The Dutch Monarchy in the 20th Century

From 1890 to 2013, the Netherlands was ruled by three Queens: Wilhemina, Juliana and Beatrix, the longest period of continuous female rule in modern history.

December 11- The Stateswoman: Perceptions of Female Leadership in the 21st Century

Although female leaders are now an accepted political reality, they are still described in language applied to ruling Queens in past centuries: the former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was described as “the weeping widow”, recalling Victoria; Margaret Thatcher was “the Iron Lady”, evoking warrior queens of the past; and Golda Meir was called the “mother” of Israel (as the present Chancellor of Germany is referred to as “Mutti” Merkel).

Coordinator and Presenter: Dr. Carolyn Harris, University of Toronto

Researcher: Loretta Fines

Chairs: Loretta Fines and Sybil Wilkinson

Registration Fee: \$35.00 per person, per series