



# Women's History Month



Credit: Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma

## Lifting the Voice of a Nation: Chickasaw Storyteller Te Ata

Navigating the liminal space between Native (First) American and white communities, Mary Frances "Te Ata" Thompson Fisher was raised on the stories and songs of her Chickasaw culture. Te Ata was born December 3, 1895 in Emet, Oklahoma. Her father was the last treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation and her uncle, the last governor.

The first Native American woman to receive a theatre degree from the Oklahoma College for Women, Te Ata worked a Chautauqua circuit and developed her storytelling style using readings, music, and dance. Te Ata eventually moved to New York City where she performed in several Broadway shows before leaving to develop her own one-woman show of Native American songs and stories. Te Ata became a highly sought-after entertainer for the city's elite. Indeed, in 1933 she performed for Franklin Roosevelt's first state dinner and again at their Hyde Park home on the occasion of a state visit from the king and queen of Great Britain.

An extensive tour of Europe saw Te Ata perform for heads of state and royalty, and her travels throughout the US and South America allowed her to collect hundreds of stories and traditions from numerous native populations which she incorporated into her performances.

In 1976 Te Ata was awarded Woman of the Year by *The Ladies Home Journal* and was the first person to be named an "Oklahoma Treasure" in 1987. By popularizing Native American oral traditions, Te Ata became an unwitting civil-rights activist and icon during a time of overwhelming racism and discrimination against American Indians.

Te Ata Fisher was 99 when she passed away in Oklahoma City in 1995. Her performances live on in the film *God's Drum*, and in 2017 the Chickasaw Nation released a film based on her life, simply titled *Te Ata*. She leaves an enduring and indelible legacy in Oklahoma and beyond and cemented the importance of a vibrant Native American culture that has endured for centuries.



## Clay Bowl is Back!

**It's time to purchase your tickets for Greater Lafayette's premier lunchtime event, Clay Bowl Giving Project!**

A remarkable display of creativity and compassion, Clay Bowl Giving Project is YWCA Greater Lafayette's spring fundraiser. Now in its 19th year, the Greater Lafayette Clay Guild is back with an astounding array of handmade bowls - and you get to choose your own to take with you!

Join us from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on April 26 for a delicious lunch, networking, and the opportunity to select your very own handmade bowl. Tickets are \$30 if purchased online before the event and \$35 at the door. A carry-out option is available. Additional bowls will be available for purchase at the event for \$20 each.

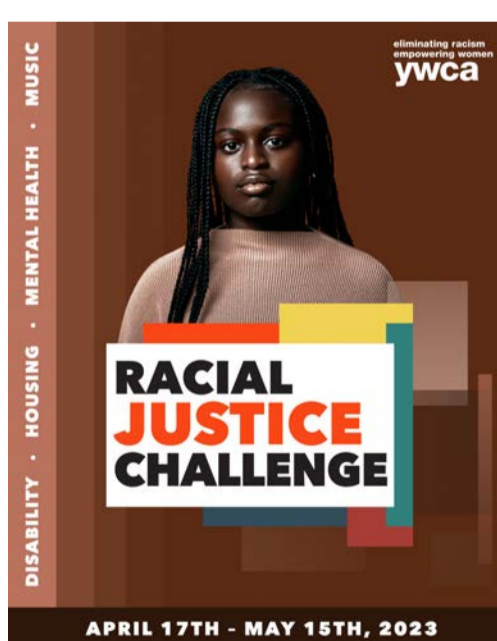
[Visit the Clay Bowl website for more information and to purchase tickets.](#) All proceeds from this event go directly to support the programs and services of YWCA Greater Lafayette.



## It's Time to Sign up for the Racial Justice Challenge

YWCA is excited to announce the launch of the [YWCA Racial Justice Challenge](#) to begin on April 17, 2023. The Racial Justice Challenge is the action component for the "Until Justice Just Is" campaign, which will run throughout the month of April to raise awareness of systemic racism and how each of us can take action to advance justice.

The Racial Justice Challenge is designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership. The Challenge works to foster personal reflection, encourage social responsibility, and motivate participants to identify and act on ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.



Topics for this year include Mental Health, Music, Housing, and Disability. The unique virtual learning community provides app-based articles, podcasts, and videos for 21 days and a virtual space for open discussion of these topics. We hope you will join us by signing up for the [Racial Justice Challenge here](#).



## 2023 Salute To Women Nominations are Open

Join us on June 22 for the 49th Annual Salute To Women! This signature event has provided women who lead and serve Tippecanoe and surrounding counties with a place to be celebrated, their achievements applauded, and their tireless work recognized. We are currently accepting nominations for the 49th cohort. If you know an exceptional woman worthy of this award, please visit our [website](#) for information on how to nominate them! Deadline for nominations is April 3, 2023.

# YOUR IMPACT

When one of our Domestic Violence clients succeeds, we all do. Your support of YWCA Greater Lafayette helps to ensure the future of the work we do. Stories like this are the reason we show up every day:

From an Advocate: "An employee at WorkOne learned of Dress for Success because a recent graduate used the program and shared with WorkOne that it was a great experience and that they wanted to say thank you to Angie. The client is transgender and was really anxious about using a service like Dress for Success, but said it was incredible for her and helped her confidence."

**With your generosity, we can help even more women and children have the safe, stable lives they deserve. Give your gift today!**

[Donate](#)

## YWCA Around Town

Things were starting to ramp up this February!



YWCA welcomed Tippecanoe Child Abuse Prevention Council (TCAP) and their SuperHero Saturday on February 18. Families enjoyed food, games, crafts, a bounce house, and of course, SUPERHEROES!



The Oxford Police Department, The Oxford Lions Club, and YWCA are making progress toward eradicating domestic violence.



Sexual Assault Advocate Ashley presenting at the Clinton County Coalition meeting.



Shelter residents posted 28 ways to love yourself - just in time for Valentine's Day.



Floyd doing his thing at the Diversity Roundtable meeting this month.



Sexual Assault Advocates Bree and Ashley distributed goodie bags for their office mates at Healthy Communities of Clinton County.

## CURRENT ASSOCIATION AND SHELTER NEEDS

YWCA Greater Lafayette welcomes donations, and we accept a wide variety of items to help keep our buildings maintained and our programs and services impactful. Please visit the [Shelter and Association Needs](#) page for more information regarding donations and a current list of needs, or shop our [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

**Urgent needs this month include:**

- **Trash bags (small and large)**
- **Box fans**
- **Paper plates, bowls, cups, spoons, and forks**
- **Full-size body wash**
- **Laundry soap (five-gallon buckets preferred), softener, and dryer sheets**
- **Coats (all sizes)**
- **Winter gloves**

## Upcoming Events

[April 26 - Clay Bowl Giving Project - purchase tickets here](#)

[April 17 - Racial Justice Challenge - sign up here](#)

[June 22 - Salute to Women - nominate a woman here](#)

*YWCA Greater Lafayette is on a mission! For almost a century we have been the leader in serving our community as we work to eliminate racism and empower women. Your gift will help support ongoing programs focused on protecting and promoting dignity, peace, justice, and freedom for women and families within the Greater Lafayette community and throughout Indiana's central region. We simply could not do this important work without you! Give today and change tomorrow!*

[Make a Donation](#)

