

Katherine



A Zine About Notable Katherines

Katherine



In kindergarten when we learned to write our names I came home exasperated and told my mom “I’m changing my name to Jan. It’s only three letters, J-A-N. Katherine is too long.” She told me that while Jan was much easier to write, Katherine would look much better painted with bold black letters on an office door. It changed my whole perception of my name. What had all day felt like a burden and chore had now become something special and interesting. I loved to see characters with my name in TV and movies. Once I learned to read, I would seek out books written by Katherines, Kathtyns, Katharines, and Catherines. Recently I saw a post that Katherine Parr was the first woman to write and publish under her own name in English in England and it got me thinking about all the other notable Katherines throughout history. I decided to collect a few into a zine. This is by no means an exhaustive list of notable Katherines but a peek into the wonderful world of people who share the name. I highly recommend seeking out information on more Katherines.

Katherine Switzer



#261

Katherine Switzer ran in the Boston marathon in 1967. She registered as K. V. Switzer. Race official, Jack Semple attempted to physically remove her as she ran. Women were not allowed to run in the marathon. He yelled "get the hell outta the race and give me those numbers!" Katherine's boyfriend, ex-football player Tom Miller, shoved Jack Semple to the side and sent him flying into the pavement. The Boston athletic association director was quoted as saying of Katherine running the race, "if that girl were my daughter, I would spank her." Katherine finished the race in 4 hours and 20 minutes. Women were still barred from running the race until 1972. Katherine ran in the marathon again after 1972. Her personal best time is 2:51:37. She ran the Boston marathon again in 2017 on the 50th anniversary of that first historic run under the same numbers, 261. After the race the Boston athletic association announced it would retire the number 261.

Katherine Johnson



An African American physicist and mathematician. Her math was a key component of NASA sending astronauts into Earth's orbit and to the moon.

Katherine Parr



Also spelled Catherine or Kateryn

She is the last woman married to Henry VIII and outlived him, but **MORE IMPORTANTLY** she is the first woman to write and publish under her own name in English in England

Katherine Jackson



The matriarch of the Jackson family. Katherine wanted to be a country singer when she was a kid but her dreams dimmed when she realized there weren't any famous Black country singers (representation matters!) She was in the high school band and she and husband Joe Jackson sang together in a duo. The couple went on to have 10 children together, 7 sons and 3 daughters. She tried to divorce Joe several times but always rescinded the divorce papers after she filled.

Catherine the Great



The longest ruling female leader of Russia. Her reign is known as the Catherinian Era. She established the Smolny Institute, which was a significant step in making education available for girls in Russia. This institute was only for the girls of nobility but later the Novodevichii Institute was founded for the daughters of commoners. She is also known for her writing of comedies, fiction, and memoirs.

Katherine Anne Porter



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Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, essayist, short story writer, novelist, and political activist.

Katherine Womeldorf Paterson



Raised by Christian missionaries, Katherine and her family moved 13 times between 1937 and 1950. Katherine was born in Huai'an, Jiangsu China in 1932. She spent much of her childhood in China. Her family fled once in 1937 because of the Japanese invasion, returning, this time to Shanghai only to have to leave again in 1940 because of war.

Her first novel, 'The Sign of the Chrysanthemum' was published in 1973. Her most famous book, Bridge to Terabitha was published in 1977. In 2010 she spent two years as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

Katherine Dunham



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American dancer, choreographer, and activist. She had one of the most successful dance careers of the 20th century. An anthropology and philosophy major at the University of Chicago, Dunham focused her studies on dances of the African diaspora. She did field work throughout the Caribbean. She studied ballet as an undergraduate. She started her own dance company and toured the world thru the 1950s. She founded her own dance school in New York. She was a cultural ambassador for LBJ and in 1992 at the age of 83 went on a hunger strike to protest the US treatment of Haitian refugees. She died in 2006 at the age of 96.

Kathryn "Kathy" Valentine



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Musician, songwriter, and bass player for the Go-Go's, the first all lady band to have a #1 album in the US. This band was a major part of the soundtrack of my 1980s childhood.

Katherine Siva Saubel



Was a Native American scholar, educator, tribal leader, author, and activist. She was dedicated to preserving her native language of Cahuilla. She started, while in high school by keeping a detailed record of the names and uses for plants she gathered with her mother. This notebook later became "Temalpakh: (From the Earth) Cahuilla Indian knowledge and usage of plants" a book filled with information that Saubel had carefully collected for years. She worked for decades to collect Cahuilla folklore and language and helped open the first nonprofit museum on an Indian reservation in 1965.

Katharine Hepburn



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An inspiration to all the butch katherines in the world. Once when Barbara Walters asked her why she never wore a skirt she said "I'll wear one to your funeral."

Catherine Nbereba



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Described by the Chicago Tribune as the greatest women's marathoner of all time. She is from Kenya and has won the Boston, Chicago, New York, Osaka, and Bogota marathons. She has won several Olympic metals: 3 silver and 2 gold.

Catherine de' Medici



She was an Italian noble woman who became the queen of France from 1547 until 1559 and was known for her ruthlessness. She is often credited with introducing culinary items from Italy to France such as the dinner fork, parsley, the artichoke, lettuce, broccoli, the garden pea, pasta, Parmesan, as well as the turkey and tomato of the New World. She has also received credit for introducing sauces and a variety of dishes such as duck à l'orange and deviled eggs even though there is no evidence to support this. Catherine was also said to be witch who indulged in the Occult because she failed to produce an heir the first ten years she was married to Henry II of France. More likely though, it was because of Henry's penile deformity.

Katherine Ferrers



Katherine was born May 4, 1634 to a noble family with a considerable fortune. Her father and grandfather died in 1640 making her the sole heir to their fortunes. Her mother remarried into a royalist family and soon after the first English civil war broke out in 1642. Then her mother died leaving Katherine an orphan. At barely 14, Katherine was married to 16-year-old Thomas Fanshawe, her stepfather's nephew. Thomas took control of her considerable fortune and quickly squandered it.

Legend has it that Katherine became a highwayman, turning to a life of crime to regain back some of her lost fortune. The cause of her early death at 26 has led to speculation. Was she shot in a robbery gone bad or did she die in childbirth while her husband was in jail?

Kathryn Harrison



I found Harrison's work because I have thing about reading books written by women named Katherine (or any other way it is spelled) I highly recommend *The Binding Chair* and *Poison*. Great heavily researched historical fiction novels that tell the story of women in their own voices in time periods where we rarely get to hear those voices.

Katherine as a Witch



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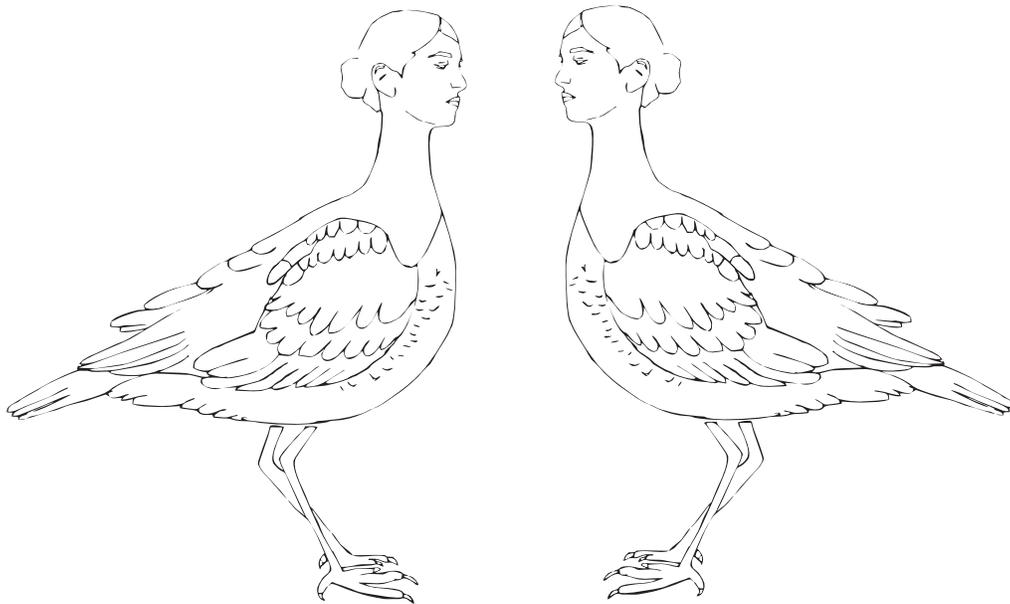
This is for all the katherines murdered by the church and the state as witches and heretics. Like Catherine Repond, a Swiss beggar woman who was tried and executed for witchcraft in 1731 because some dude, Bailiff Beat-Nicolas von Montenach, out hunting a fox said it cried out in a human voice when he shot it, Repond was nearby around the same time, Montenach spotted her soon after the fox ran away and claimed she had the same injuries as the fox so, she must have used sorcery to change herself into that fox.

Or Catherine Campbell, a servant girl who was tried and executed for witchcraft in 1696 because the daughter of the family she worked for told on her for stealing a drink of milk. According to this girl, Christian Shaw, Campbell put a curse on her in retaliation for being told on.

From 1450 to 1750 in Europe, an estimated 35,000 to 100,000 witches were executed. Those accused of being a witch tended to be from lower classes and were described as quarrelsome and aggressive in nature.

The strong, independent women of the world, we are the descendants of the unburnt witches, the witches who didn't make it but were able to pass down all their magical secret knowledge. Remember their legacy.

KM



Katherine Montalto is an artist, writer, and weirdo. A long time ago she was a chef. Her work has been featured in Detroit Metro Times, Arthopper, and Food Loves Beer Magazine. A zine she made when she was 14 is part of the 'Riot Grrrl Movement of the 90s' collection at Duke University. Her artwork is in the permanent collection of the MONA Museum of New Art Detroit. See her work at katherinemontalto.com

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