**Overcoming**

**Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor in America, started her practice in New York in 1851. Not only was she unable to find patients - no one would even rent her a room once she mentioned that she was a doctor. After weeks of trudging the streets, she finally rented rooms from a landlady who asked no questions about what Elizabeth planned to do with them. Quaker women, who had always been receptive to the goal of equal rights, became Elizabeth’s first patients. But no hospital would allow her on its staff. Finally, with financial help from her Quaker friends, Elizabeth opened her own clinic in one of New York’s worst slums. The clinic opened in March, 1853. Elizabeth hung a sign out announcing that all patients would be treated free. Yet, for the first few weeks, no one showed up. Then one day a woman in such agony that she didn’t care who treated her, staggered up the steps and collapsed in Elizabeth’s arms. When the woman was treated and recovered, she told all her friends about the wonderful woman doctor on Seventh Street. The dispensary was soon going well, and eventually expanded into the New York Infirmary for Women and Children -- now a large and thriving hospital on East Fifteenth Street. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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 **Today, April 22nd, 2025, is International Mother Earth Day**

**For quotes, stories, funnies, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and statistics on this topic, I invite you to scroll down and check out the Nature section of documents and the Planet Earth document, and click open the document(s) of your choice!**

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**Alex Haley, was raised from infancy by his grandmother, because his mother had passed away and his father, a student in another state, was unable to care for him. As an adult, Haley served twenty years in the Coast Guard, then left to pursue a career as a free-lance writer in New York. The years after Haley left the Coast Guard were not easy, personally or financially. He endured times of overwhelming poverty. Yet Haley had a burning desire to become a successful and self-supporting writer. He committed himself to writing the stage of his family’s genealogy. Despite the hardship and lack of material resources, Haley spent twelve years writing Roots. Finally, seventeen years after he left the Coast Guard, Roots was published. The book was translated into thirty-seven languages and became the basis for two incredibly successful television miniseries. *(Elaine B. Travis, in Unity magazine)***

**April 29th, 2025 - first woman doctor in America *(Bits & Pieces)***

**April 22nd, 2025 - Nelson Mandela (Jake & Keith Provance, in Don’t Give Up, p. 11)**

**April 15th, 2025 - Hitler’s vengeance *(John O’Neil, in Leadership Aikido) 6189817 grace***

**April 8th, 2025 - Ludwig van Beethoven(2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 8)**

**April 1st, 2025 - Walt Disney (Jake & Keith Provance, in Don’t Give Up, p. 23)**

**March 25th, 2025 - **Constitution** (Michael Carlton, in Denver Post)**

**March 18th, 2025 - bristlecone pine tree (The Week magazine, September 2, 2011)**

**March 11th, 2025 - George Washington Carver *(John Whitcomb & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See, p. 149)***