


# SHE...

- Was the first African American woman in congress.
- Was the First African American woman to run for president for the democratic or republican party.
- Served 7 terms in the House of Representatives.
- Was the second African American in the New York State Legislature.
- Introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation and championed racial and gender equality, the plight of the poor, and ending the Vietnam War.
- Co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus.
- Was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, and after taking legal action, was permitted to make just one speech.

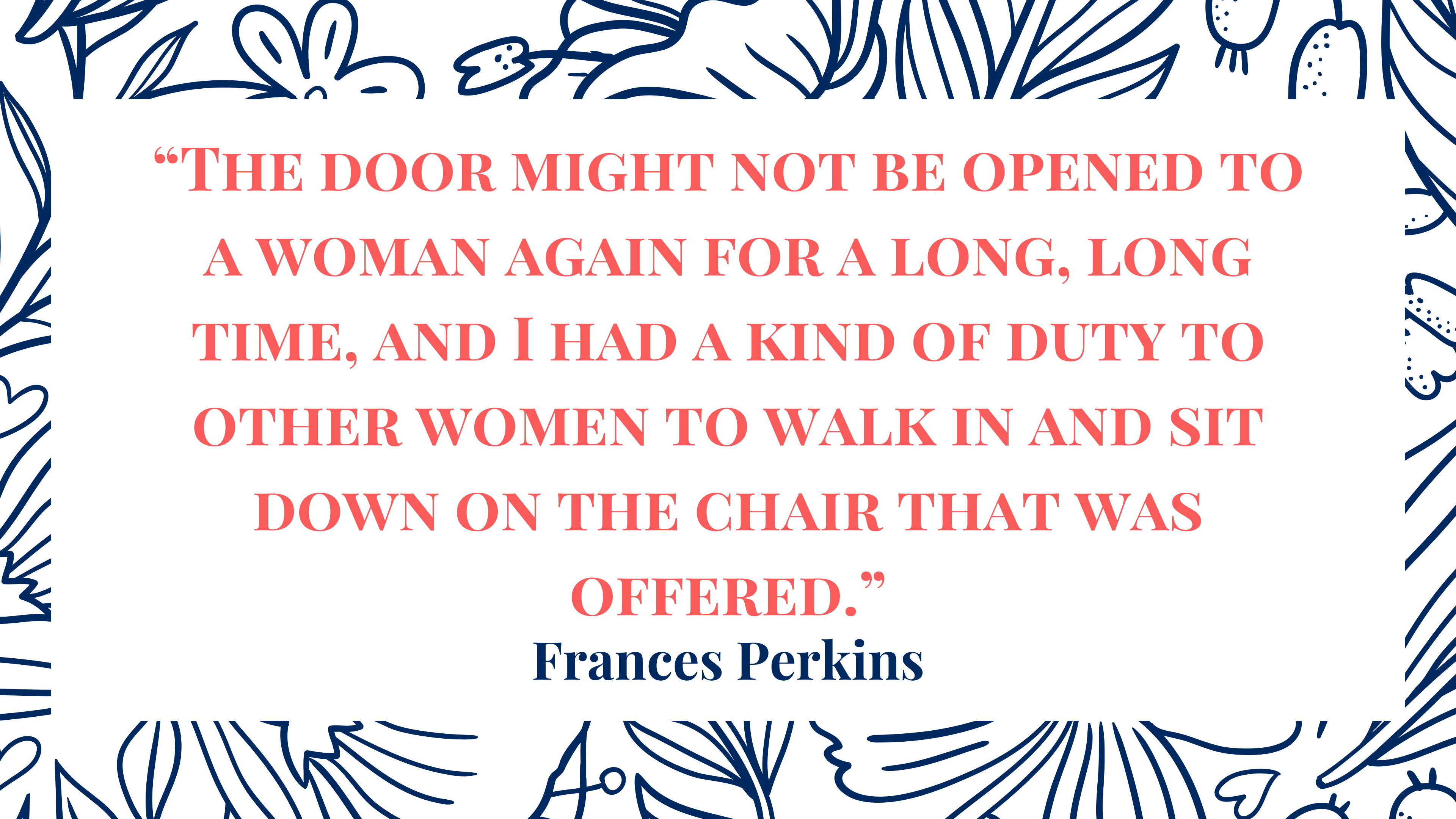
A decorative border in red line art style surrounds the text. It features various floral and leaf motifs, including what appears to be a tulip at the top right and various leaf shapes throughout.

**“I WANT TO BE  
REMEMBERED AS A  
WOMAN ... WHO DARED  
TO BE A CATALYST OF  
CHANGE.”**

**Shirley Chisholm**

# SHE...

- Became secretary of the New York Consumers' League.
- Investigated labor conditions and lobbied for the state legislature to restrict the hours of women working to 54 hours a week, which she was successful.
- Was appointed in 1918 as the first woman to serve on the New York State Industrial Commission.
- Became chair of the commission in 1926.
- Became industrial commissioner of the state of New York in 1928.
- Was reappointed to that office by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1929.
- Was the first female cabinet member in U.S. history and one of only two Roosevelt cabinet appointees to serve throughout his tenure.
- Wanted a commitment to support federal initiatives in the areas of unemployment relief and public works, insurance to guard workers against the hazards of old age and unemployment, and efforts to regulate child labor as well as wages and hours for adults.
- Wrote the book, *The Roosevelt I Knew*, lectured, and worked in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

A decorative border of blue line-art illustrations of various flowers and leaves surrounds the central text. The illustrations include tulips, daisies, and other stylized plants.

**“THE DOOR MIGHT NOT BE OPENED TO  
A WOMAN AGAIN FOR A LONG, LONG  
TIME, AND I HAD A KIND OF DUTY TO  
OTHER WOMEN TO WALK IN AND SIT  
DOWN ON THE CHAIR THAT WAS  
OFFERED.”**

**Frances Perkins**

# SHE...

- Was the African-American woman to hold a seat in the New York State Legislature.
- Ran in 1954 as the Democratic candidate for New York State Assembly in Harlem's Twelfth District. She won this election 22,401 to 6,177 votes.
- Brought forth more than 150 bills, many focusing on improving neighborhoods, public education and also focused on increasing civil rights.
- Was part of the Social Welfare, Institutions, Printing, Cities, and Problems of the Aging Committees in the New York State Assembly.
- Was appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller to be a Delegate at the White House Conference on the Aged in 1960.
- Was appointed to be State Commissioner of the Human Rights Division.

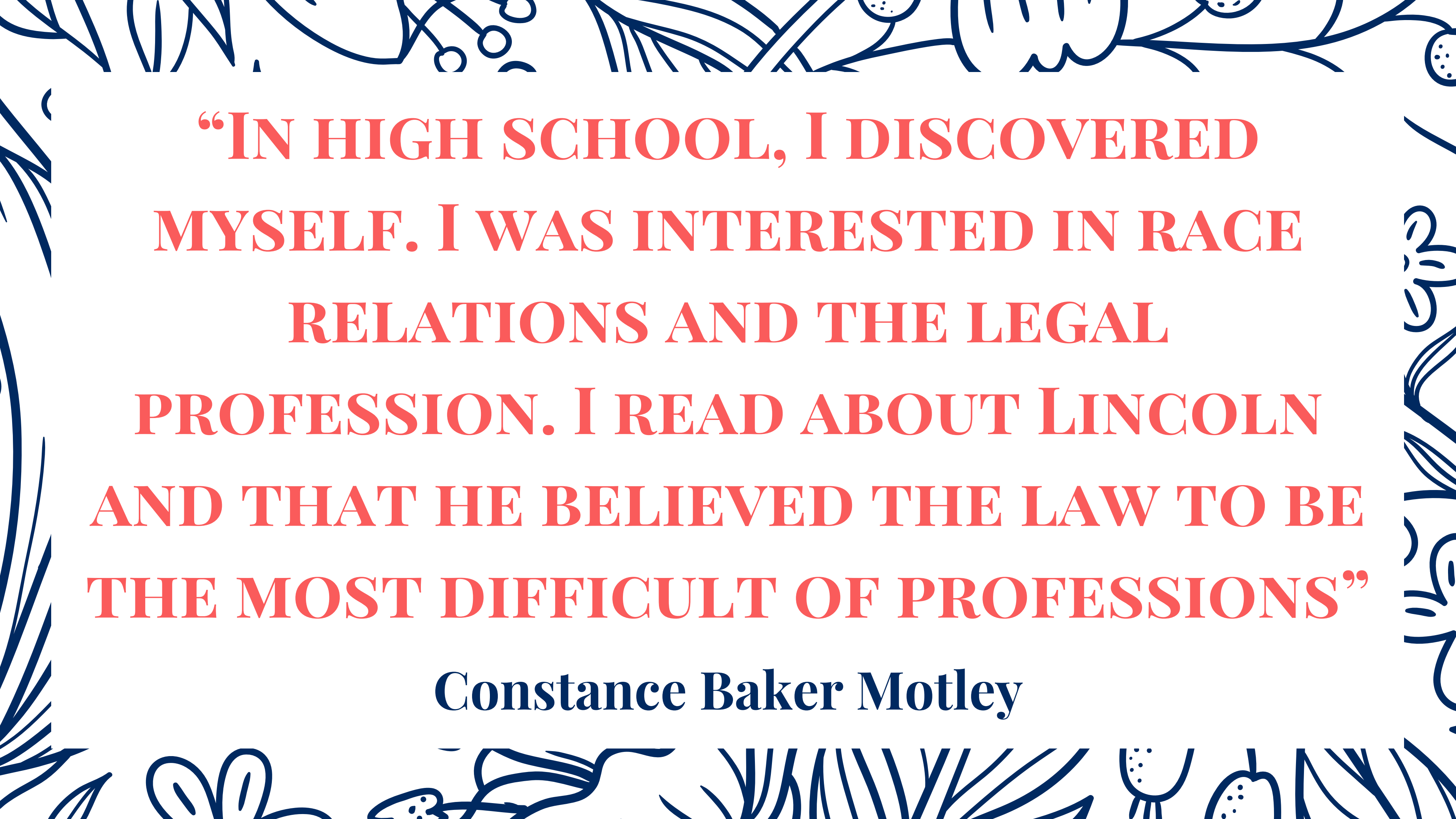
A decorative border of red line-art floral and leaf patterns surrounds the central text.

**“BESSIE ALLISON  
BUCHANAN...STILL REVERED  
AS A SYMBOL OF HARLEM’S  
CULTURAL VITALITY AND  
POLITICAL ACTIVISM”**

**Famous New Yorker Editorial on  
Shirley Chisholm**

# SHE...

- Was hired by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and served as their first female lawyer.
- Was the first African American woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court. She argued Meredith v. Fair, which enabled the first black student to attend the University of Mississippi in 1962.
- Went on to argue 12 Civil Rights cases, winning 9.
- Became the first African American woman to be elected to the New York State Senate.
- Became the first woman to be chosen as Manhattan Borough President.
- Was nominated by President Lyndon Johnson to serve as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. She was the first African American woman to serve as a federal judge.

A decorative border in dark blue ink, featuring stylized floral and leaf patterns that frame the central text.

**“IN HIGH SCHOOL, I DISCOVERED  
MYSELF. I WAS INTERESTED IN RACE  
RELATIONS AND THE LEGAL  
PROFESSION. I READ ABOUT LINCOLN  
AND THAT HE BELIEVED THE LAW TO BE  
THE MOST DIFFICULT OF PROFESSIONS”**

**Constance Baker Motley**



# SHE...

- Helped lead a citywide carmakers strike in 1905.
- Was a prominent member of the New York Women's Trade Union League, an organization that lent financial support to organizing efforts of female workers.
- Spoke at the First Convention of Women Trade Unionists, arguing that the enfranchisement of women was necessary to fully address poor working conditions.
- Was involved in the Uprising of the 20,000, a strike of female shirtwaist workers in New York City.
- Made a harsh speech during a memorial meeting after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. She had seen similar horrific conditions (no fire escapes, locked doors, etc.) at various factories around the City.
- Traveled around Ohio, convincing men to support the women's suffrage movement.

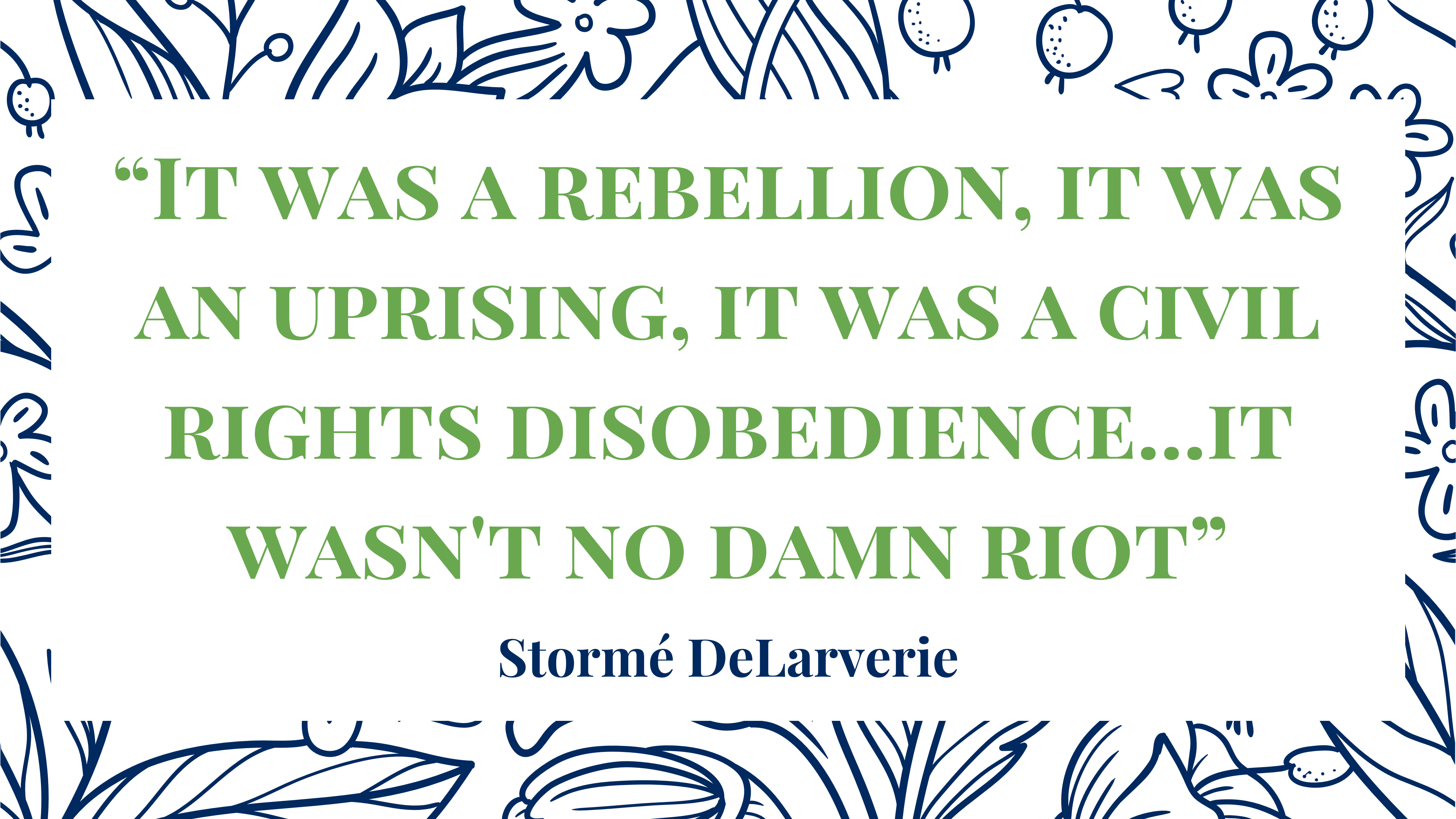
A decorative border of green line-art illustrations of various flowers and leaves surrounds the central text. The illustrations include tulips, daisies, and other stylized plants.

**“THE WOMEN WORKER  
NEEDS BREAD, BUT SHE  
NEEDS ROSES TOO”**

**Rose Schneiderman**

# SHE...

- Was involved in the Stonewall rebellion. While being abused by police, she urged the crowd to fight back when she yelled “Why don’t you guys do something?” After police put her in the back of a wagon, the crowd began intensely fighting back, becoming the uprising that it is known as today.
- Was a drag king MC for the Jewel Box Revue from 1955 to 1969. During this time she toured the Black Theater Circuit.
- Drew inspiration from Dinah Washington and Billie Holiday during her performances as a singer.
- Was involved in the Uprising of the 20,000, a strike of female shirtwaist workers in New York City.
- Worked as a bouncer for several lesbian bars in New York City.
- Became Vice President of the Stonewall Veterans' Association.

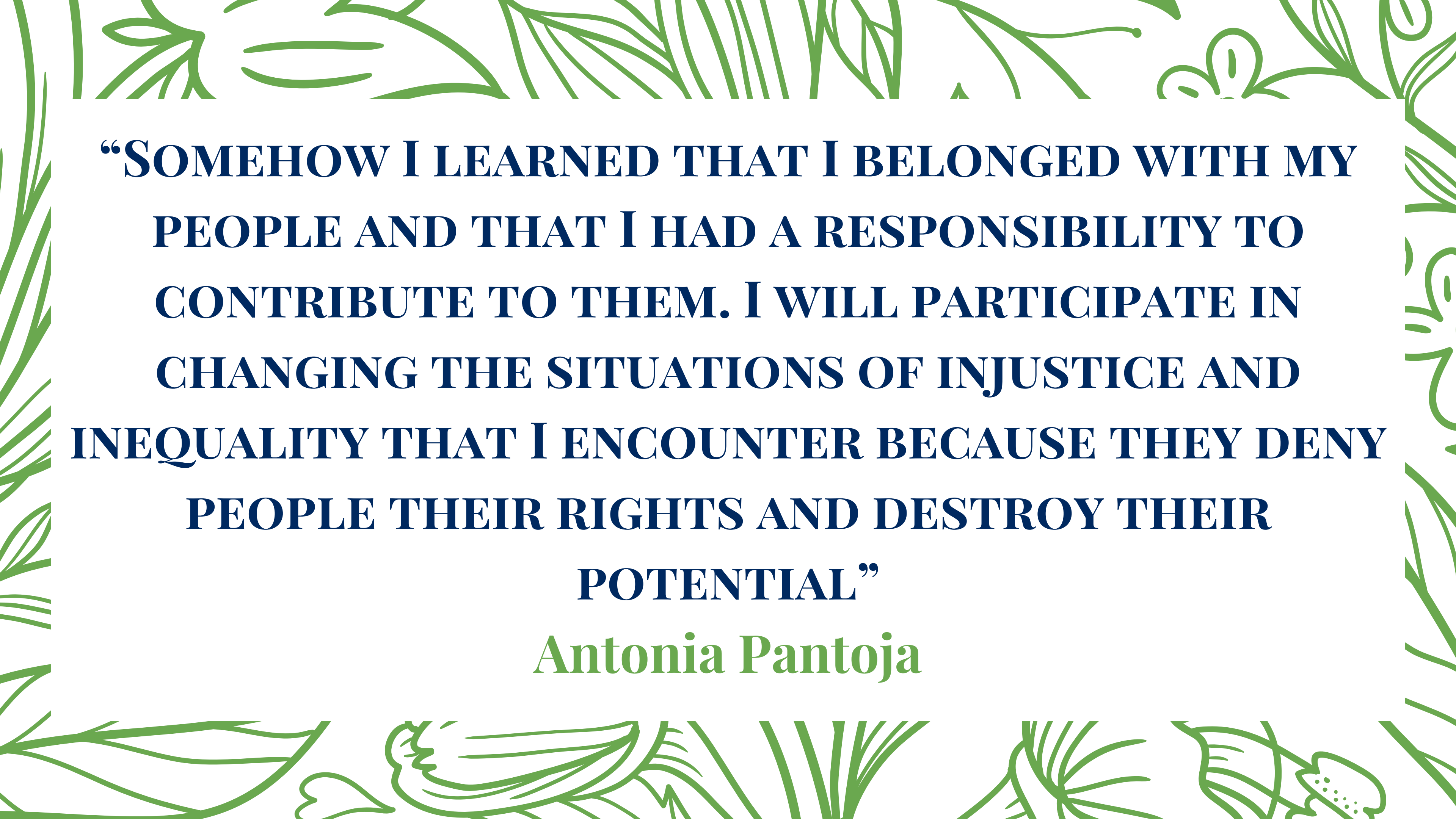
A decorative border in dark blue ink surrounds the text. It features stylized floral and leaf motifs, including what appears to be a hibiscus flower and various leaves and stems.

**“IT WAS A REBELLION, IT WAS  
AN UPRISING, IT WAS A CIVIL  
RIGHTS DISOBEDIENCE...IT  
WASN'T NO DAMN RIOT”**

**Stormé DeLarverie**

# SHE...

- Founded ASPIRA, a non-profit organization committed to assisting Puerto Rican and other Latinx youth in New York City with a positive self-image, community commitment, and education.
- Directed a project that resulted in the creation of the federal War on Poverty funded Puerto Rican Community Development Project. This project includes surveys and action plans in order to raise family income and youth educational levels.
- Served on a mayoral committee that recommended the decentralization of the school system.
- Established Boricua College, a college with three campuses in NYC.
- Worked as a bouncer for several lesbian bars in New York City.
- and ASPIRA filed a civil rights lawsuit demanding that New York City provide classroom instruction in transitional Spanish for struggling Latinx students.

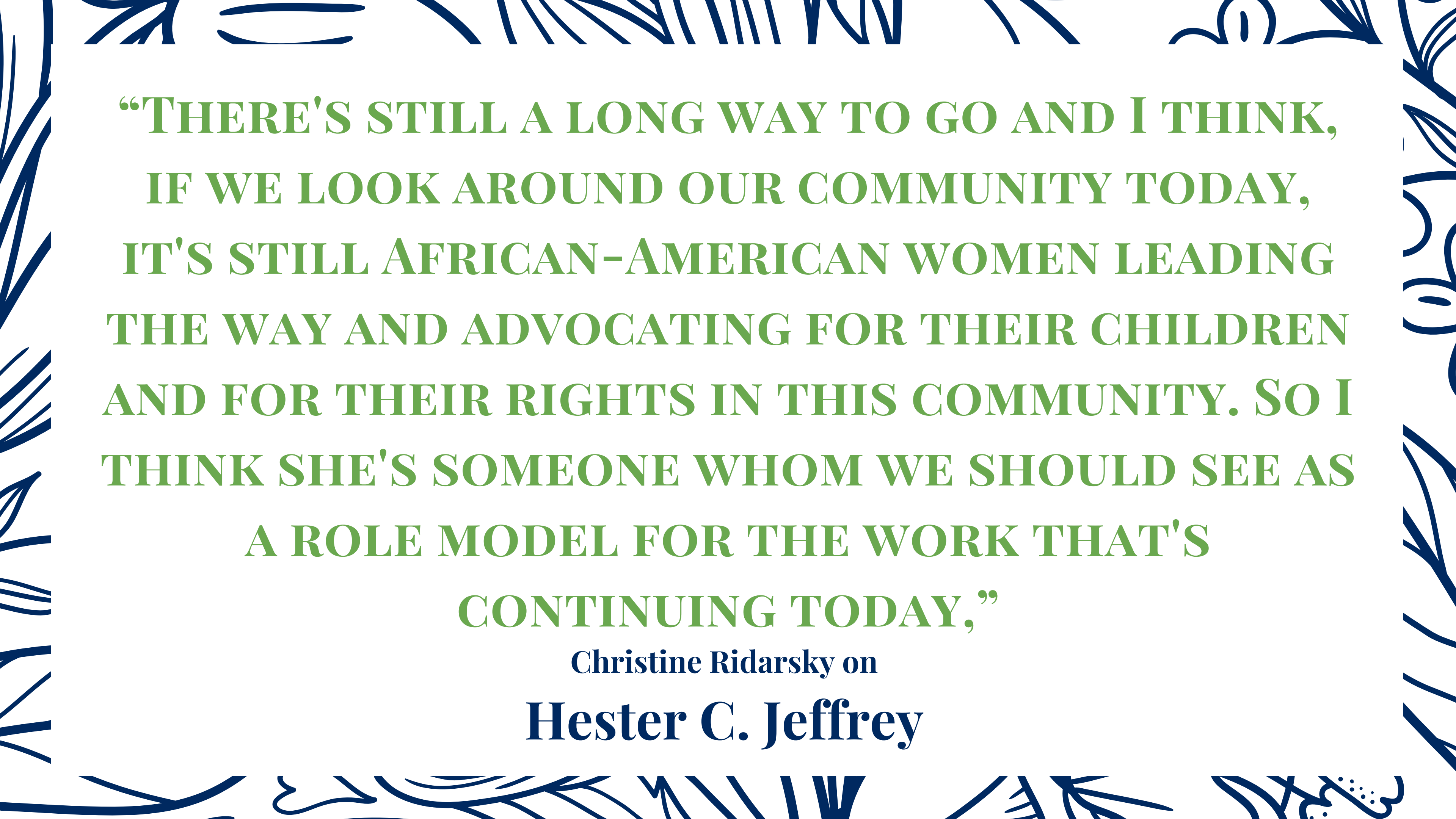
A decorative border of green line-art leaves and plants surrounds the text.

**“SOMEHOW I LEARNED THAT I BELONGED WITH MY  
PEOPLE AND THAT I HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO THEM. I WILL PARTICIPATE IN  
CHANGING THE SITUATIONS OF INJUSTICE AND  
INEQUALITY THAT I ENCOUNTER BECAUSE THEY DENY  
PEOPLE THEIR RIGHTS AND DESTROY THEIR  
POTENTIAL”**

**Antonia Pantoja**

# SHE...

- Was part of the Political Equality Club and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, an organization that was influential in social reform issues that came to prominence in the progressive era.
- Then became a national organizer for the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
- Helped create clubs for African-American women, including Susan B. Anthony Club for Black women.
- And the club supported women's suffrage and established a Mother's Council, a council that helped mothers with young children.
- Also created the Hester C. Jeffrey Club for young black women, which raised funds for women to take classes at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Helped raise funds for a monument of Frederick Douglass in her hometown of Rochester in 1897. This was the first monument for an African American.

A decorative border in dark blue ink, featuring stylized floral and leaf motifs that frame the central text.

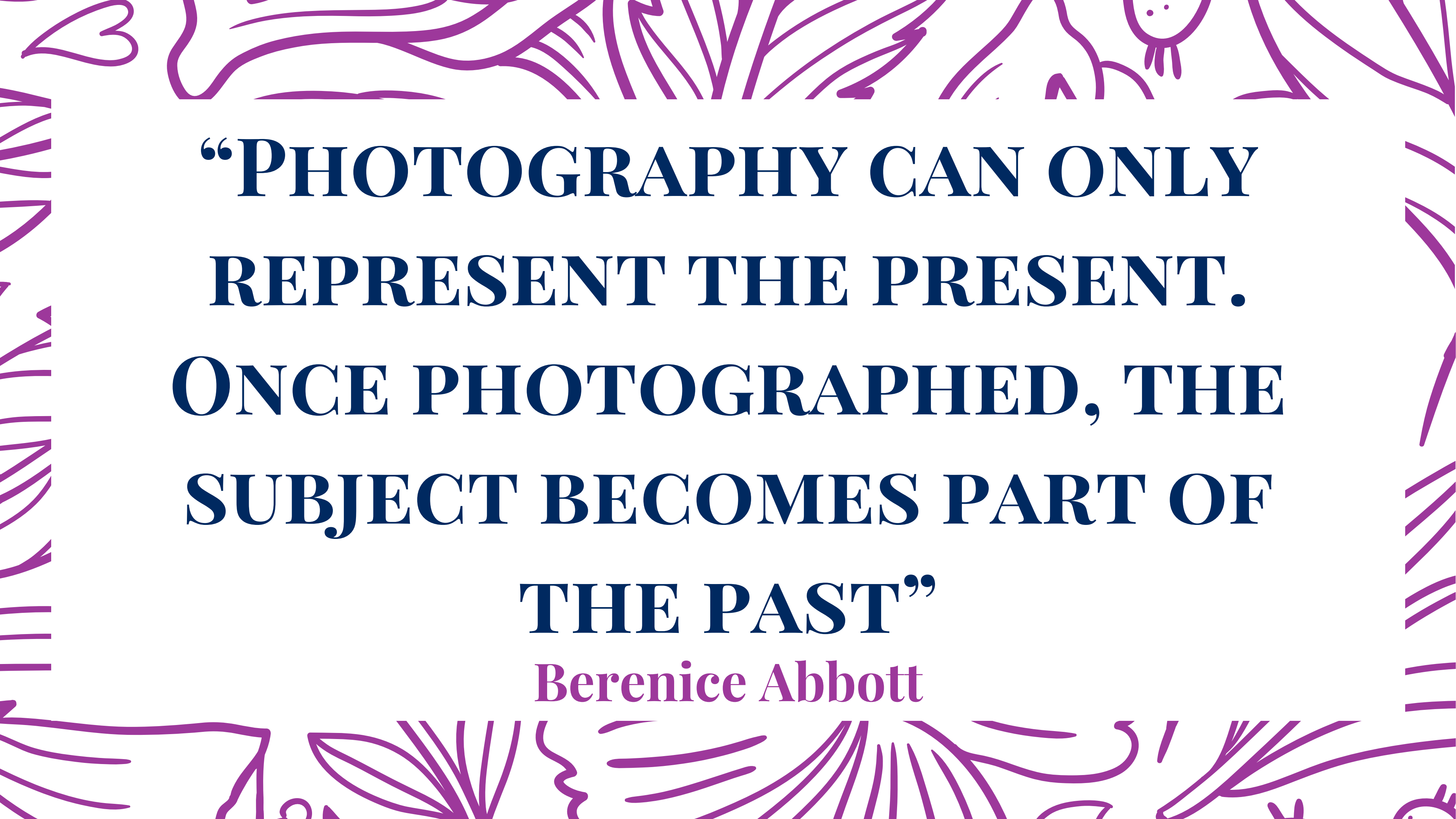
**“THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO AND I THINK,  
IF WE LOOK AROUND OUR COMMUNITY TODAY,  
IT'S STILL AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN LEADING  
THE WAY AND ADVOCATING FOR THEIR CHILDREN  
AND FOR THEIR RIGHTS IN THIS COMMUNITY. SO I  
THINK SHE'S SOMEONE WHOM WE SHOULD SEE AS  
A ROLE MODEL FOR THE WORK THAT'S  
CONTINUING TODAY.”**

**Christine Ridarsky on  
Hester C. Jeffrey**



# SHE...

- Is most well known for her documentation of New York City as it underwent a transformation into a modern metropolis.
- Was mainly inspired by Eugène Atget, a French photographer to whom Man Ray introduced her.
- Used a Century Universal camera, which produced 8 × 10-inch negatives for her New York City series.
- Had her first exhibition in New York entitled "Changing New York" at the Museum of the City of New York.
- Was not able to get financial assistance from organizations, so she supported herself by teaching at the New School of Social Research while working on her New York project for six years.
- Was hired by the Federal Art Project, a program that funded the continuation of her Changing New York Project.
- Resigned from the Federal Art Project in 1939 and she had 305 images at the Museum of the City of New York.

A decorative border in a vibrant purple color surrounds the text. It features stylized floral and leaf motifs, including what appears to be a sun-like flower at the top right and various leaf shapes throughout.

**“PHOTOGRAPHY CAN ONLY  
REPRESENT THE PRESENT.  
ONCE PHOTOGRAPHED, THE  
SUBJECT BECOMES PART OF  
THE PAST”**

**Berenice Abbott**

# SHE...

- Became the fifth black woman to make a record for tiny Cardinal Records in 1921.
- Recorded for Black Swan, an American jazz and blues record label founded in Harlem from 1921-1923.
- Played at the Plantation Club on Broadway in 1924.
- Later joined what was called the "white time" Keith Vaudeville Circuit. She performed for white audiences and received rave reviews in Chicago. In 1928, she earned an unheard-of salary of \$1,250.
- Performed in an all-black film called Rufus Jones for President.
- Became the first African American to star in her own television show: the Ethel Waters Show on NBC.
- Was the first African-American actress to star in a television series, Beulah, an ABC television show.
- Became the first Black woman to integrate Broadway's theater district.

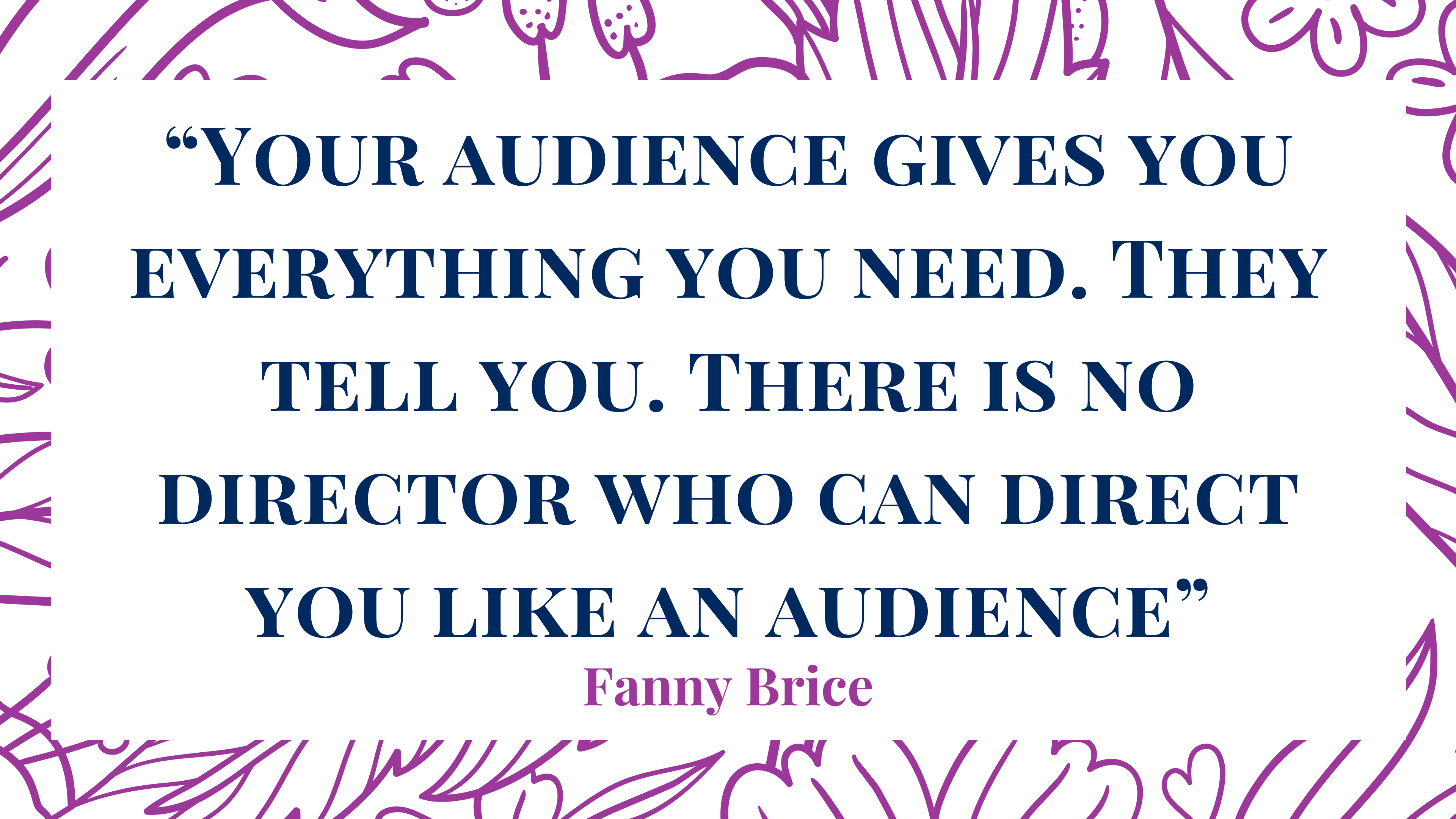
A decorative border in dark blue ink surrounds the text. It features stylized floral and leaf motifs, including what appears to be a cornucopia-like basket of produce at the top and various leafy plants at the bottom.

**“I HAVE NO ACTING TECHNIQUE.  
I ACT INSTINCTIVELY. THAT'S  
WHY I CAN'T PLAY ANY ROLE  
THAT ISN'T BASED ON  
SOMETHING IN MY LIFE.”**

**Ethel Waters**

# SHE...

- Began her work in the Ziegfeld Follies. She was hired to perform again in 1921 and was in the Follies, Broadway productions, until the 1930s.
- Sang “My Man”, the song that later became her signature song. This song became popular when she recorded it for the Victor Talking Machine Company. This recording won her a Grammy Hall of Fame Award.
- Made a radio presence as a bratty toddler named Snooks, a role she premiered in a Follies skit from the 1930s until her death in 1951.
- Developed an independent half-hour comedy radio program called The Baby Snooks Show. She was extremely committed to her role as Snooks.

A decorative border in a vibrant purple color surrounds the text. It features various floral and leaf-like motifs, including stylized flowers, leaves, and heart shapes, creating a delicate and artistic frame.

**“YOUR AUDIENCE GIVES YOU  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED. THEY  
TELL YOU. THERE IS NO  
DIRECTOR WHO CAN DIRECT  
YOU LIKE AN AUDIENCE”**

**Fanny Brice**

# SHE...

- Moved to New York City in order to perform in *The Four Marys*, a new American Ballet Theatre work.
- Joined Alvin Ailey Dance Theater.
- Played the roles that artistic director Alvin Ailey created for her for 15 years One of the most notable was her tour-de-force solo *Cry*, a 16-minute dance that Ailey choreographed as a birthday present to his mother.
- Appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world.
- Left Alvin Ailey in order to perform in the Broadway show, *Sophisticated Ladies*.
- Formed her own company, *The Jamison Project*.
- Returned to Alvin Ailey Dance Theater when founder Alvin Ailey asked her to proceed him as artistic director.
- She choreographed incredible dances for Alvin Ailey Dance Theater and brought the company to new heights for 21 years.
- Became the 50th inductee into the Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance.



**“DANCING IS BIGGER THAN THE PHYSICAL  
BODY. THINK BIGGER THAN THAT. WHEN  
YOU EXTEND YOUR ARM, IT DOESN'T STOP  
AT THE END OF YOUR FINGERS, BECAUSE  
YOU'RE DANCING BIGGER THAN THAT.**

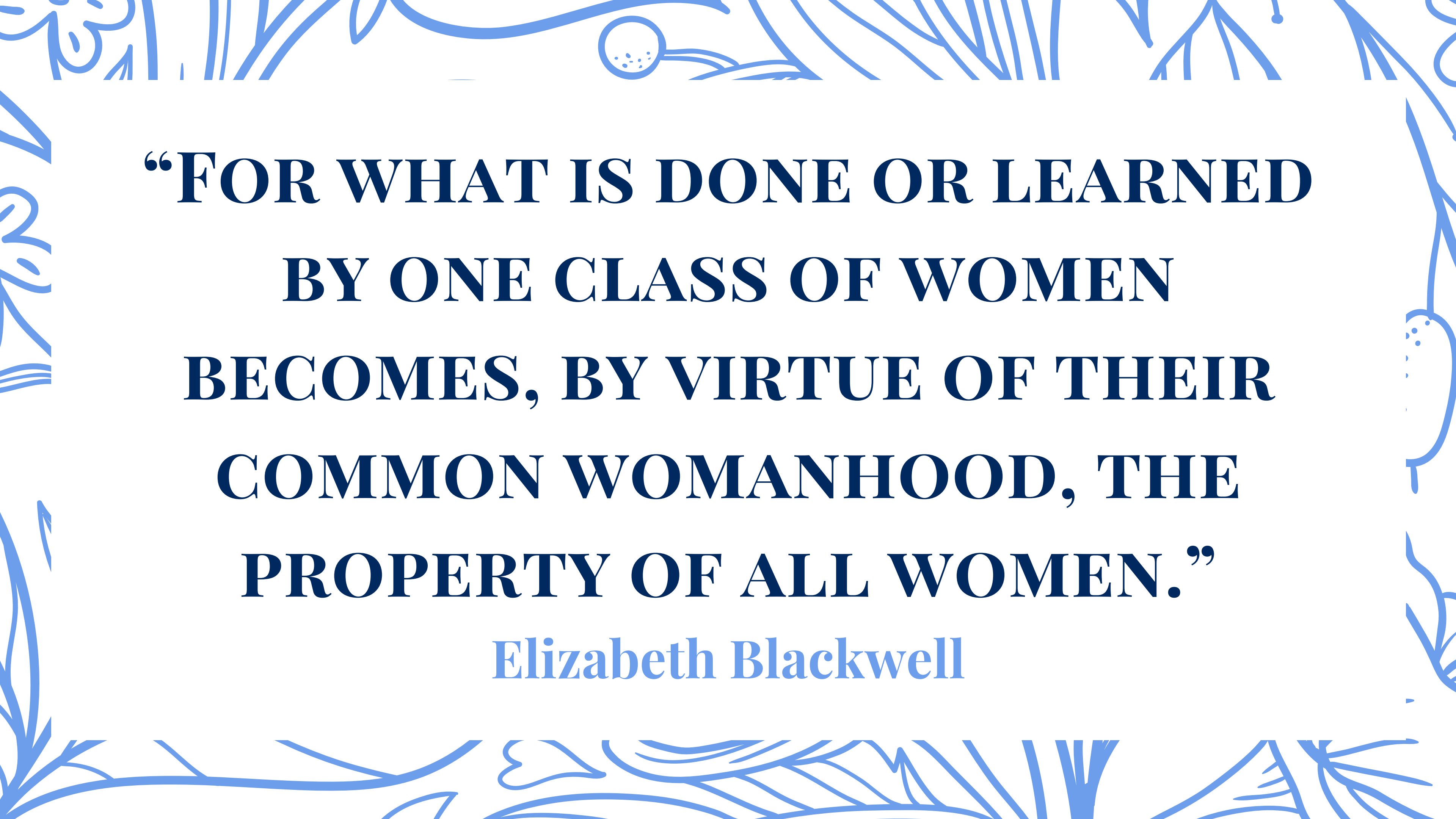
**YOU'RE DANCING SPIRIT”**

**Judith Jamison**



# SHE...

- Became the first woman in the United States to graduate from medical school and the first female modern-day doctor.
- Worked at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in England.
- Returned back to New York but she was refused jobs in the city's hospitals and dispensaries. When she attempted to start her own private practice, she was restricted from renting office space.
- Published a series of lectures: *The Laws of Life, with Special Reference to the Physical Education of Girls*.
- Became the first woman to have her name placed on the British medical register.
- Helped organize the Women's Central Association of Relief and the U.S. Sanitary Commission.
- Opened a Woman's Medical College in England.

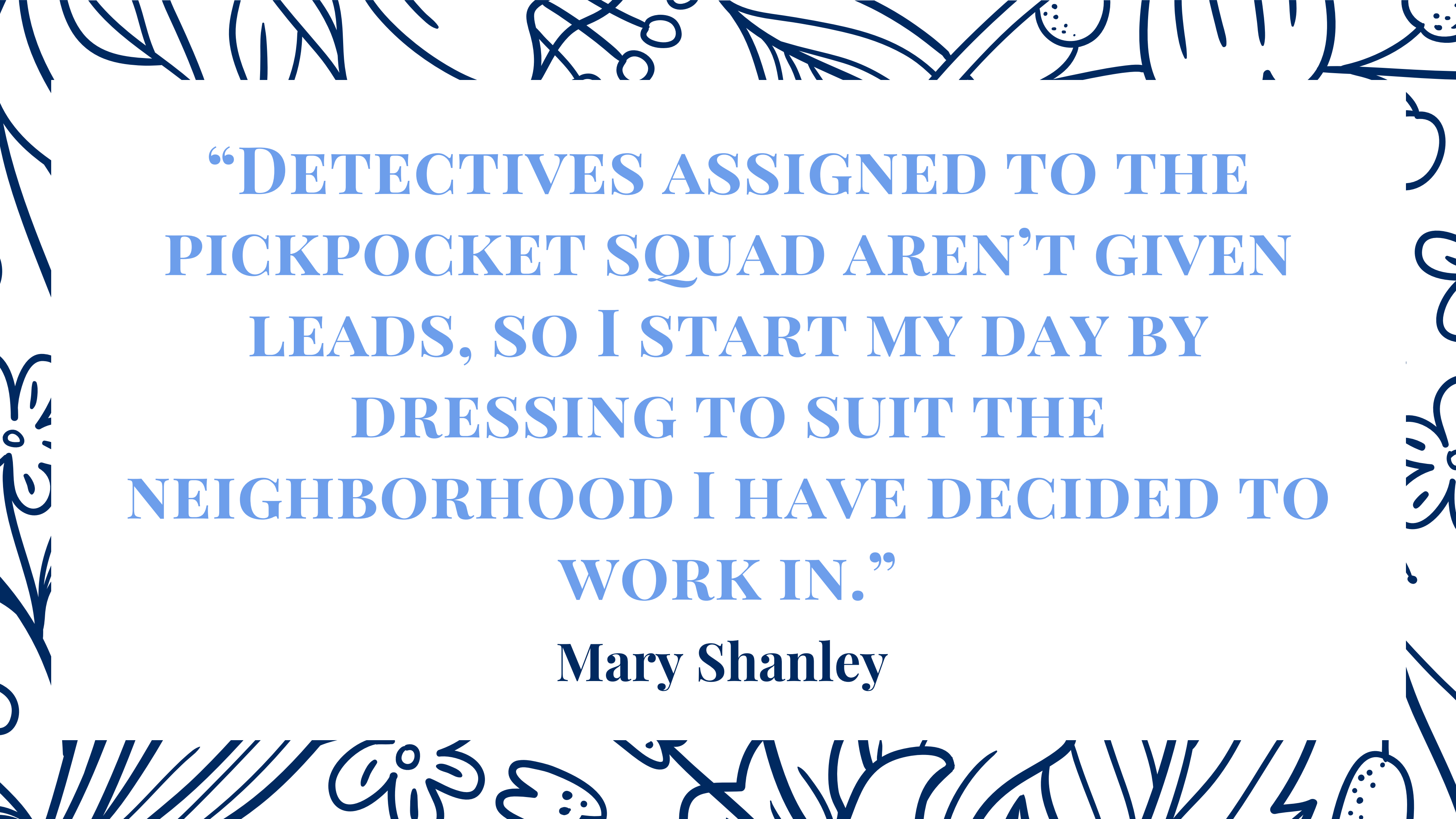
A decorative border in a light blue color surrounds the text. It features stylized floral and leaf patterns, including what appears to be a magnifying glass or a similar circular object at the top center, and various leaf shapes along the sides and bottom.

**“FOR WHAT IS DONE OR LEARNED  
BY ONE CLASS OF WOMEN  
BECOMES, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR  
COMMON WOMANHOOD, THE  
PROPERTY OF ALL WOMEN.”**

**Elizabeth Blackwell**

# SHE...

- Joined the New York Police Department in 1931.
- Was on the pickpocket detective squad in the NYPD.
- Favored using her gun while on the job, earning her the nickname "Dead Shot Mary."
- Earned a third-grade detective's shield when she was promoted.
- Arrested two stickup men by firing a warning shot in the air, and was promoted to second-grade detective. Mayor La Guardia granted her this rank and explained that it was an honor to be doing so.
- Earned first rank. She was the fourth woman in NYPD history to hold this rank.
- Is known as the first woman in the NYPD to capture and arrest a suspect.
- Is credited with over a thousand arrests during her career.

A decorative border of dark blue line art floral and leaf patterns surrounds the central text.

**“DETECTIVES ASSIGNED TO THE  
PICKPOCKET SQUAD AREN’T GIVEN  
LEADS, SO I START MY DAY BY  
DRESSING TO SUIT THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD I HAVE DECIDED TO  
WORK IN.”**

**Mary Shanley**

# SHE...

- Passed the written firefighter test when the New York Fire Department began allowing women to serve.
- Along with other women, sued the FDNY because she believed their physical abilities test did not measure the real abilities that the job demanded. The Court ruled in her favor and the FDNY changed their test.
- Was off duty on 9/11, but ran to the nearest firehouse and arrived at the site just as the North Tower collapsed. She spent the rest of 9/11 and many weeks following looking for survivors and remains.
- Retired with the rank of captain in 2006.
- Is a founding member and former president of the United Women Firefighters.
- Served as a trustee of the Women in Fire Service.
- Taught at the FDNY fire academy and the United States National Fire Academy.


A decorative border in a light blue color surrounds the text. It features stylized floral and leaf patterns, including what appears to be a lily or similar flower at the top and bottom, and various leaf shapes on the sides.

**“I REFUSED TO QUIT  
SOMETHING I LOVED BECAUSE  
SOME MEN FELT WOMEN  
SHOULDN'T BE DOING IT”**

**Brenda Berkman**

# SHE...

- Was hired by the New York City Police Department as police matron, someone who cleans jail cells and supervises inmates.
- Cracked the case that nobody else could when there was a case involving a bank robbery where people beat up clerks and stole \$25,000. 60 detectives were assigned to the case, but no one could solve the robbery. She went undercover as the suspect's maid and solved it.
- Was granted a first-grade detective shield by the NYPD after her work on that case, making her the first female detective to work in the NYPD
- Helped oversee the police department's newly created Women's Bureau to handle cases involving runaways, victims of domestic violence, and prostitutes.
- Assisted in making multiple high-profile arrests by working with prosecutors to investigate fraudulent medical practices.
- Retired in 1924

A decorative border in dark blue ink surrounds the text. It features stylized floral and leaf motifs, including what appears to be a tulip on the left and various leaf patterns on the right and bottom.

**“WOMEN MAKE STRONG  
DETECTIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR  
ABILITY TO SENSE THINGS FOR  
WHICH AT FIRST YOU HAVE NO  
ACTUAL PROOF”**

**Isabella Goodwin**