



Mental Health Mondays

World Behavior Analysis Day

Issue 32

March 20, 2023



March 20th: World Behavior Analysis Day

March 20th was selected as the annual celebration of World Behavior Analysis Day, honoring the science on the birthdate of [B.F. Skinner](#), the founder of contemporary behavior analysis.

In honor of Women's History Month, below are 3 notable women who have made major contributions to the world of behavior analysis:

Mary Whiton Calkins



Mary Calkins earned her Ph.D. under the pseudonym, "William James" at Harvard University. Harvard refused to issue the degree to Calkins on the grounds that Harvard did not accept women at that time. This didn't slow Calkins down. She is now considered one of the most important first-generation American psychologists. **She established one of the first psychological laboratories in the country at Wellesley College, published four books and over a hundred papers in psychology and philosophy, and she was ranked 12th in a list of the 50 most eminent psychologists in the United States in 1903.**

Marian Breland Bailey



Marian Breland Bailey worked closely with [BF Skinner](#) and others to become one of the most beloved behaviorists. She was essential in spreading the word of scientific and humane training techniques to many disciplines. In the 1960s, **Marian consulted with Gerard Bensberg to develop behavior modification techniques for training people with mental disabilities.** Through this, she was one of the first psychologists to use positive reinforcement to teach self-help skills to people with mental disabilities. Positive reinforcement is one of the many skills widely practiced through ABA therapy today!

Abigail Calkin



Abigail Calkin is a school psychologist and educator who specializes in behavioral science, inner behavior, and precision teaching research. She holds a Ph.D. in educational administration and school psychology from the University of Kansas under Ogden R. Lindsley. **She has written 45 articles in the educational and behavior analytic fields of precision teaching and precision inner behavior. Calkin has completed major research in military-related suicides and PTSD.**

Interested in a specific topic
or want to contribute to Mental Health Monday content?

Email: ddmail@dmh.mo.gov

Like Mental Health Mondays? Check out [Thursday Thoughts!](#)