

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

History

With the economic depression of the 1930's and World War II, women's rights issues were out of fashion. In the 1950 and 1960 housewives gave up intellectual and professional aspirations - Betty Friedan pointed to the "problem that has no name" which sparked women's liberation and helped to create awareness regarding women's issues and concerns.

In the 1970's in the United States, calls for inclusion of Black Americans and Native Americans in history helped women realize that they were invisible in most history courses. As a result of this movement many universities began to include more women's history courses and the field of women's studies was created.

Women's History Week celebration began in 1978 in California. Three years later the United States Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. Senator Orrin Hatch from Utah and Barbara Mikulski from Maryland were the sponsors of this resolution.

In 1987 congress expanded "Women's History Week" to a month. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then. To further extend women's history in the history curriculum, the President's Commission continued to meet through the 1990's. The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history: to take one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women, in hopes that the day will soon come when it's impossible to teach or learn history without remembering these contributions. To honor this special month, you are encouraged to explore the vast educational sites, in journal articles; internet web sites; television networks; newspaper features, etc. One of the major goals is to learn more about the important aspect of the history of all people.

Did You Know?

More American women work in the education, health services, and social assistance industries than in any other industry. These three industries employ nearly one-third of all female workers

The first country to grant women the right to vote in the modern era was New Zealand in 1893.

Women currently hold 17% of Congressional and Senate seats and 18% of gubernatorial positions in the U.S.

The most common cause of death for American women is heart disease, which causes just over 27% of all mortalities in females. Cancer ranks just below, causing 22% of female deaths.

While the population of males is slightly greater than females worldwide (98.6 women for every 100 men), there are roughly four million more women than men in the U.S. In the age 85-and-older category, there are more than twice as many women as men currently living in the U.S.

The first woman to run for U.S. president was Victoria Woodhull, who campaigned for the office in 1872 under the National Woman's Suffrage Association. While women would not be granted the right to vote by a constitutional amendment for nearly 50 years, there were no laws prohibiting a woman from running for the chief

In the U.S., Congress established a national week of recognition for women's history in 1981. This recognition, held during the second week of March, was later expanded into a full month by a congressional resolution in 1987. The month of March is now designated as National Women's History Month



NOTABLE WOMEN

Ellen Ochoa - *Astronaut - California*

Ochoa was the first female Hispanic astronaut who, in 1993, served on a nine-day mission aboard the shuttle Discovery.

Hillary R. Clinton – *Secretary of State – United States*

Clinton was a lawyer, senator, and US First Lady (1993–2000), is currently Secretary of State.

Martina Hingis – *Professional Tennis Player - Slovakia*

Hingis became the youngest No. 1 ranked player since the ranking system began in 1975; has won Wimbledon (1997), U.S. Open (1997) and 3 Australian Opens (1997-1999).

Coco Chanel – *Designer- France*

Chanel gave the world the little black dress, Chanel No. 5 perfume, and the revolutionary notion that style could be both classic and casual.

Iman – *Model - Somalia*

Iman was a high-fashion model from Somalia known for her lithe frame and serene good looks. Is a role model for women in her country and motivational speaker.

Colleen Pehrson – *Teacher – Utah*

Pehrson was a first-grade teacher from Monticello Elementary School/Mexican Hat in San Juan District. She drove 150 miles a day to make changes in students that other teachers said couldn't be achieved. Pehrson was the Huntsman Award Winner in 2009.

Betty Naomi Friedan - *American social reformer and feminist – Illinois*

In 1966 Friedan helped found the National Organization for Women (NOW) and served as its president until 1970.

Resources

<http://www.nwhp.org/>

<http://www.diversity.utah.edu/events/womensweek/2010/>

<http://www.history.com/topics/famous-firsts-american-womens-history>



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