

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHAT IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:

Ever since 1987, the month of March has been declared Women's History Month in the United States. The third month of the year is dedicated to celebrating women's contributions to culture, history, and the world.

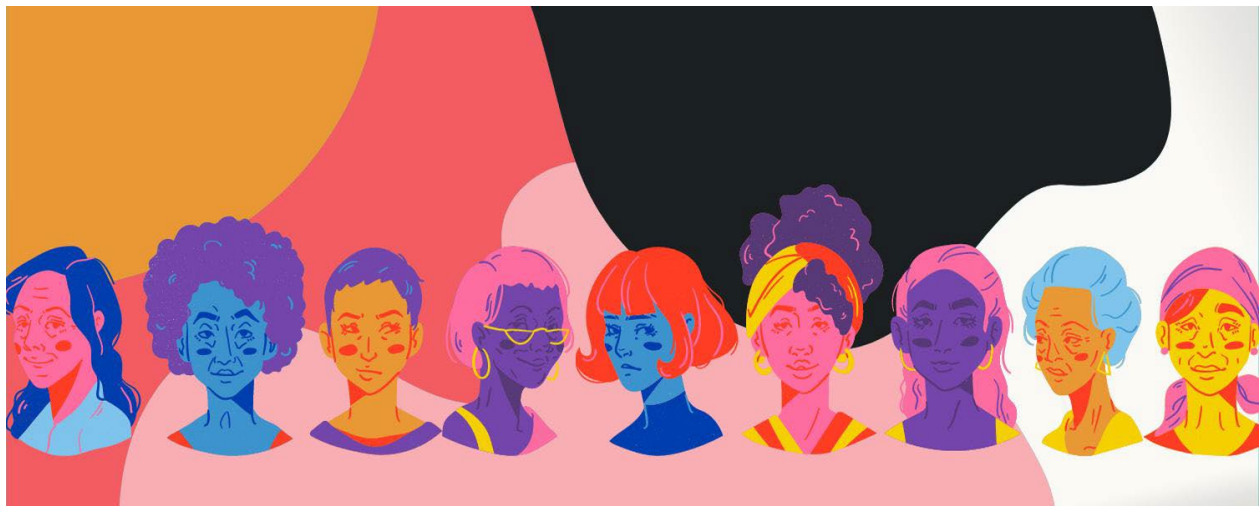


HOW THE HOLIDAY CAME TO BE:

Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned and created a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. They have chosen the week of March 8 to celebrate because it is aligned with International Women's Day (this holiday was first observed in 1911). The movement spread across the

country and others wanted to take part in their own celebrations in regards to the theme.

In February 1980, the 44th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, declared that the week would become a national holiday. Similarly in the following year, Congress petitioned to transform the celebratory week into a month. Today, March is spent acknowledging and appreciating women's excellence and achievements.



The United Nations has supported International Women's Day since 1975. They validated the holiday "to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to

acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.”

WHO AND HOW IT'S CELEBRATED:

Many countries around the world celebrate Women’s History Month such as Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Germany, and so on. Because this holiday specifically acknowledges women’s impact to their community, women being celebrated around the world may differ from country to country.

For example, women Canada may celebrate are the Famous or Valiant Five. This group was made up of five Canadian suffragists who fought for women’s rights: Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy, and Irene Parlby (left to right) .



Whereas in America, the women who fought for women’s rights were Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady

Stanton, Ida B. Wells, and Lucy Stone (left to right). Both groups of women were important for the change in our world, but some groups are more relevant in certain places than others.



The holiday is celebrated with demonstrations, educational initiatives, and customs such as gift giving with goods and flowers.

HOLIDAY TRADITION:

The National Women’s History Alliance creates a yearly theme for Women’s History Month. The year 2021’s theme was “Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced.”

This year of 2022, the theme is “Women Providing Healing,

Promoting Hope.” The subject was inspired by “both a



tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both a healing and hope throughout history.”

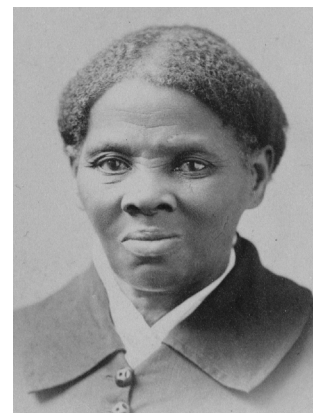
WOMEN TO CELEBRATE:



Eunice Shriver was a powerful advocate for children’s health and founder of the Special Olympics



Harriet Tubman helped slaves escape to the North for freedom





Madeleine Albright was the first woman U.S. secretary of state in 1997

Mia Hamm led the U.S. national soccer team to two world championships and two Olympic medals



Jackie Joyner became the first woman to win two consecutive Olympic gold medals in the heptathlon. She won 6 Olympic medals in total and was voted *Sports Illustrated's* Women's Greatest Female Athlete of all time

Pearl S. Buck was the first American writer to win a Nobel Prize in literature



Harper Lee wrote best-selling novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1961

Emily Dickinson became one of America's greatest poets





Candace Pert was the neuroscientist who discovered the opiate receptor of the brain

Marie Curie discovered the elements radium and polonium and coined the term “radioactivity.” Curie additionally won a Nobel Prize in physics and chemistry.

