



The National Women's History Project web site supports Women's History Month. The web site address is www.nmwh.org.

Women's History Month

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Europe first celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 1911.

In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights were a political "hot topic." Woman's suffrage was a priority of many women's organizations. Women, as well as men, wrote books on the contributions of women to history.

Because of the economic depression of the 1930s, women's rights issues moved from the forefront of America's interests.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Betty Friedan pointed to the "problem that has no name," the boredom and isolation of the middle-class housewife who often gave up intellectual and professional aspirations. This started the revival of the women's movement.

During the 1970s, many universities

began to include the topic of women's history and the broader field of women's

"Women never have a half-hour in all their lives (excepting before or after anybody is up in the house) that they can call their own, without fear of offending or of hurting someone. Why do people sit up so late, or, more rarely, get up so early? Not because the day is not long enough, but because they have no time in the day to themselves."

- Florence Nightingale, 1852

studies.

In 1978, in California, the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began a Women's History Week celebration to coincide with International Women's Day.

In 1981, Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week.

Finally, in 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, with support for Women's History Month. The President also issues a proclamation annually for Women's History Month.

In honor of Women's History Month, the District Federal Women's Program will sponsor a Lunch and Learn on

March 28, 2001, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Clock Tower Building in Conference Room A, B and C. Nick Tarpein, from Nick Tarpein's School of Karate, will speak on self-defense and present a short karate demonstration. 🏪