

WHEN I STARTED WORKING
ON WOMEN'S HISTORY
ABOUT THIRTY YEARS AGO,
THE FIELD DID NOT EXIST.
PEOPLE DIDN'T THINK THAT
WOMEN HAD A HISTORY
WORTH KNOWING.

—GERDA LERNER, *WOMEN
AND HISTORY* (1986; 1993)
<http://www.infoplease.com/>

NEWSLETTER

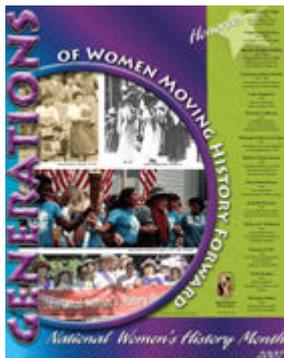
March 2007

March is National Women's
History Month

United States Celebrates Women's Achievements in March

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has since passed such a resolution every year. Congressional action is followed by a U.S. presidential proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

Since its founding in 1980, the [National Women's History Project](#) has recognized and celebrated the rich and varied contributions of women to the history and culture of the United States.



The 2007 Women's History Month theme, Generations of Women Moving History Forward, celebrates the wisdom and tenacity of prior and future generations of women and recognizes the power of generations working together.

According to the National Women's History Project, "the year 2007 presents special opportunities to highlight some critically important events in women's history, including the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the 30th anniversary of the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas.

"In 1957, the integration of Central High School helped ignite the Civil Rights Movement, and in 1977, the Houston Conference marked a high point in the influence of the Women's Rights Movement on the formation of government policy."

Recognizing these anniversaries helps "acknowledge and celebrate the courage, determination, and steadfastness of the women who spearheaded these events and in so doing moved history forward," according to the project.

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/womens_history_month.html

WOMEN of INFLUENCE



“Women are the real architects of society.”

Writer and abolitionist
Harriet Beecher Stowe

In recent years more and more societies all over the world have begun to recognize the vital contributions of women to commerce, their communities, and civic life. Whether it be Afghan women voting in a presidential election or women starting micro-businesses in Ethiopia, the worldwide trend toward greater equality is clear. Yet "the denial of women's basic human rights is persistent and widespread," as a 2005 United Nations Population Fund statement put it.

This publication offers a glimpse at how women in one country — the United States — have helped shape their society. These notable women — from the Native-American Sacagawea, who guided white settlers through a vast wilderness, to Sojourner Truth, who fought for the end of slavery and equal rights for all; to Rosalyn Yalow, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine for her research into a new technique for measuring substances in the blood — believed that they had a contribution to make and did not shrink from the obstacles in their way. This account of their accomplishments is a reminder that all societies benefit from the talents and expertise of their women.

You can find this publication online at:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/>

**AMERICAN CORNER BITOLA
MONTHLY PROGRAM – MARCH 2007**

Tuesday March 6th at 18:30 o'clock
English Conversation Hour *Please sign in to attend*

Wednesday March 7th at 14:00 o'clock
**““Summer Work/Travel in the United States: The Visa Process”
and Fulbright Scholarship Opportunities**
By Nik Granger, Vice Consul and Jeanne Clark, Assistant Public Affairs Officer US Embassy

Friday March 9th at 14:00 o'clock
Video Showing “The American Experience – Eleanor Roosevelt” Part 1

Tuesday March 13th at 18:30 o'clock
English Conversation Hour *Please sign in to attend*

Thursday March 15th at 18:00 o'clock
A Documentary Film Showing “Eroica”
An exciting reality-based film about four remarkable young American musicians

Tuesday March 20th at 18:30 o'clock
English Conversation Hour *Please sign in to attend*

Wednesday March 20th at 14:00 o'clock
Women’s History Month Quiz

Friday March 23rd at 14:00 o'clock
Video Showing “The American Experience- Eleanor Roosevelt” Part 2

Saturday March 24th at 14:00 o'clock
Children Story Telling Hour *Please sign in*

Tuesday March 27th at 18:30 o'clock
English Conversation Hour *Please sign in to attend*

Thursday March 29th at 18:00 o'clock
"Women, Society and the Future"
By Tara Lynn Trepanier, Peace Corps volunteer from Demir Hisar



Women's
History Month
QUIZ

The American Corner member who is the first to send all correct answers will receive a prize. The winner will be announced in the following Newsletter!

1. Which of these women made advancements of astronomical proportions in June 1963, when she became the first woman in space?
 Sally Ride Valentina Tereshkova Eileen Collins
2. In 1910 a pilot's license was granted to a woman for the first time. Who was the recipient?
 Harriet Quimby Amelia Earhart Raymonde de la Roche
3. Which of the following women was the first female U.S. Secretary of State?
 Madeline Albright Nancy Pelosi Condoleezza Rice
4. Which of these singers was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
 Janis Joplin Aretha Franklin Tina Turner
5. Who was the first woman awarded a Pulitzer Prize for fiction?
 Edith Wharton Willa Cather Pearl S. Buck
6. Who was Lewis and Clark's guide?
 Mary Crow Dog Sacajawea Sanapia

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBUARY 2007 PROGRAMS



Fulbright Visiting Professor Steven Foulke delivered an exceptional presentation in honor of African American History Month at the American Corner Bitola “**When Desegregation Came to Kansas: Brown v. Board of Education**” on February 15th. The audience had the opportunity to hear from a native Kansan about how this “unattractive” area of the country began developed with the Homestead Act and resulted in a high migration of African Americans to Kansas. Information on how “separate but equal” was implemented, the negative effect to the African American communities, and the famous Brown v. Board of Education case that was the turning point for new desegregation laws in the United States was

discussed. African American History Month was highlighted with this informative and benefical program and gave a clearer vision to the particapants of this crucial time in American history.

American Corner Bitola was the venue for 15 children to gather for **Children Story Telling Hour** and listen to classic American children’s stories from a native English speaker on February 17th. The children who ranged from 6 to 10 years old were delighted to be guests at the American Corner and have the opportunity to hear stories being read to them in English. The children were encouraged to be interactive and ask any questions if anything was unclear. Snacks and refreshments were served following the reading and the children had time to look through the collection of children’s books available.



Younger children who are just beginning their exposure to the English language have the opportunity to hear stories from a native English speaker in a relaxed atmosphere.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBUARY 2007 PROGRAMS



In continuance of honoring African American History Month, American Corner Bitola was the venue for an exhilarating presentation titled **“Toni Morrison: Winner of the Noble Prize for Literature”** with presenter Mary Ellen Schmider, PhD on February 22nd. Dr. Schmider spoke to an audience of over 45 people, comprised primarily of English high school students and AC members. Discussed was who Toni Morrison is, why she had to write her prize winning book “Beloved” and how slavery in American history is depicted in her writings. The many different styles or techniques in writing and how through literature

individuals have the opportunity to learn about history were also discussed. The discussion triggered several questions to be asked from the audience which proved that Dr. Schmider successfully delivered her message and opened minds to the importance of literature.

American Corner Bitola had the pleasure to host the presentation titled **“Oprah Winfrey and Others: Modern Black People Who Have Made Significant Contributions.”** with guest speaker Myra Michele Brown, Information Resource Officer from U.S. Embassy Rome on February 27th. Ms. Brown presented to the audience of 40 people several successful black women and their accomplishments as well as how they have benefited society. This event received media coverage from two local TV stations, ORBIS and TERA. The locals had an opportunity to hear from a successful African American woman about how neither race nor gender should influence the achievement of ones goals and provided real examples of this.



