

# March 2009



## **2009 Theme:**

***"Get to Know the Women Who've Changed Our World."***

## **History of National Women's History Month**

### **The Beginning**

As recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978. We chose the week of March 8 to make International Women's Day the focal point of the observance. The activities that were held met with enthusiastic response, and within a few years dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week, over one-hundred community women participated in the Community Resource Women Project, an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries, and we were staging a marvelous annual parade and program in downtown Santa Rosa, California.

### **The Entire Month of March**

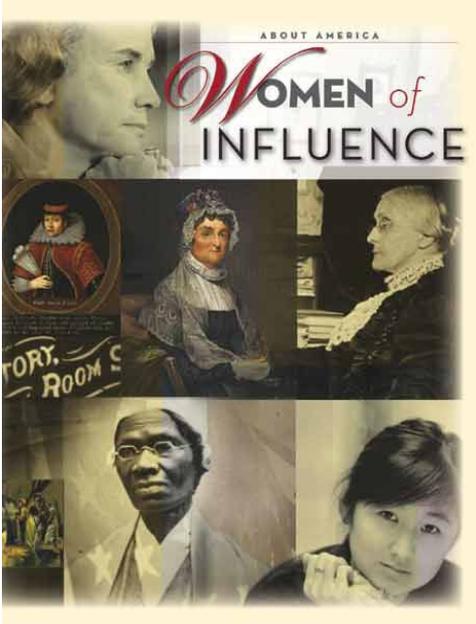
In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

### **Growing Interest in Women's History**

The popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage. A President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America recently sponsored hearings in many sections of the country. It took reports about effective activities and institutions that are promoting women's history awareness and heard recommendations for programs still needed. The Women's Progress Commission will soon begin hearings to ascertain appropriate methods for identifying and then preserving sites of importance to American women's history. In many areas, state historical societies, women's organizations, and groups such as the Girl Scout of the USA have worked together to develop joint programs. Under the guidance of the National Women's History Project, educators, workplace program planners, parents and community organizations in thousands of American communities have turned National Women's History Month into a major focal celebration, and a springboard for celebrating women's history all year 'round.

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php>

# Women of Influence



*This collection chronicles how 21 notable American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature, and even in war.*

*What you will find inside:*

- **[Guiding Lights to a New World](#)**  
Native-American women help the new nation
- **[The Colonial Era](#)**  
Religious freedom advocate, poet made huge contributions
- **[Birth of a Nation](#)**  
Champion of women's rights, defender of a nation
- **[Breaking the Chains of Slavery](#)**  
Women were vital to the emancipation movement
- **[A Woman's Right to Vote](#)**  
Seneca Falls Convention declaration set agenda for the movement
- **[A Role in Government](#)**  
Women who have enriched political life
- **[Expanding Horizons](#)**  
U.S. women pioneer in more fields of endeavor

Go to [www.america.gov/publications/books/women-of-influence](http://www.america.gov/publications/books/women-of-influence) to learn more!



It's spring and everyone has serious cabin fever. But it's not *quite* picnic weather yet. So how can you plan some quick springtime outings? Dress in layers to be prepared for changeable spring weather and get creative. Here are some activities that can get you out of the house and reacquaint you with your neighborhood.

### *Sounds of spring*

Get out in the neighborhood and collect these spring sounds. Can you hear...

Frogs or toads, A clap of thunder, Music from an open car window, A woodpecker, A bird singing, Kids playing in the playground

### *Sights of spring*

Can you see spring around you? Collect these sightings...

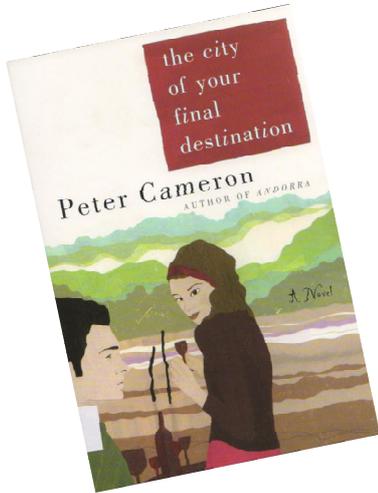
A plant emerging from the ground, A bud on a tree or bush, A flower in bloom, People sitting outside, Open windows, Open coats, Spring flowers, Spring fruit



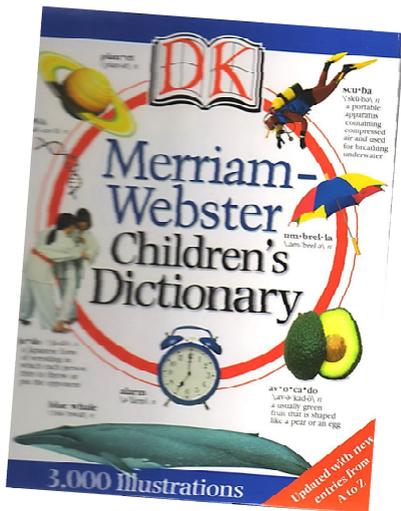
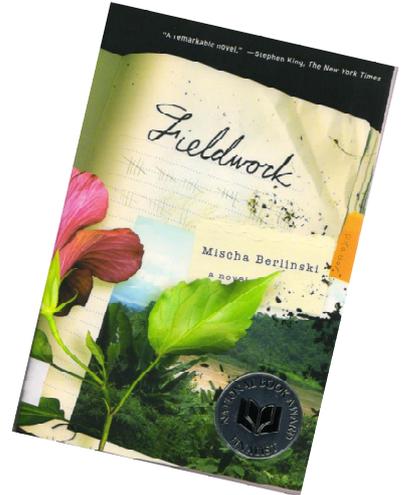
# New Book at American Corner



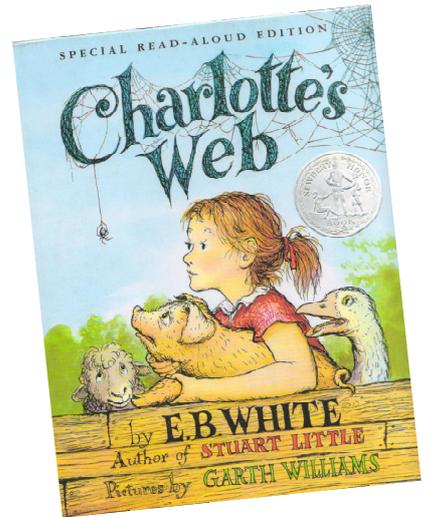
We have received over 65 new books on our shelves



Fiction...



Children's...



Art...and much more

