



# Celebrating WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The National 2017 Theme:

*“Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business”*

The 2017 National Women's History Month honors women who have shaped America's history and its future through their public service and government leadership. Collectively women have dramatically influenced our public policy and the building of viable institutions and organizations. From championing basic human rights to ensuring access and equal opportunity for all Americans, they have led the way in establishing a stronger and more democratic country.

## HISTORY

March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, was first celebrated in 1911 in Europe. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights, especially woman suffrage, was a political hot topic.

With the economic depression of the 1930s which hit on both sides of the Atlantic, and then World War II, women's rights went out of fashion.

In the 1950s and 1960s the women's movement began a revival and interest in women's issues and women's history blossomed.

By the 1970s, there was a growing sense by many women that “history” as taught in school – and especially in grade school and high school – was incomplete with lack of attention to “her story” and made women invisible in most history courses. And so, in the 1970s, many universities began to include the fields of women's history and the broader field of women's studies.

In 1978 the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began a “Women's History Week” celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The response was positive and schools began to host their own Women's History Week programs.

The next year, leaders from the California group shared their project at a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but agreed to support an effort to have congress declare a National Women's History Week.

In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and the U.S. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, with wide support, for Women's History Month. The U.S. President has issued each year a proclamation of Women's History Month.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history. By taking one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women, the hope is that the day will come when it is impossible to teach or learn history without remembering those contributions.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**EURYDICE Women's History Month Gala Fundraiser March 8, 2017 • International Women's History Day**  
**5:30 P.M. ~ Gala Reception • Horton Art Gallery at San Joaquin Delta College**  
**7:00 P.M. ~ Drama Performance of *Eurydice* • Alfred H. Muller Studio Theatre at San Joaquin Delta College**

Written by Sarah Ruhl | Directed by Ashlee Temple

In *Eurydice*, Sarah Ruhl reimagines the classic myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine.

This is a special presentation for the Women's History Month Gala Fundraiser. Proceeds benefit San Joaquin Delta College Women's History Month Events and Delta Drama. **Tickets: \$50 (Purchase Tickets by March 1st - Must be 21 or older to attend Gala Reception) Catered by Delta College Culinary Arts and Serving LoCA Wines.**

**Tuleburg Press Announces the Publication of Mary Jo Gohlke's New Book *A Lady's Place***  
**March 29, 2017 • 1:00–3:00 P.M., Delta College Bookstore • Free & Open to the Public**

Mary Jo Gohlke will be reading from and signing copies of her new book, *A Lady's Place*, the story of Stockton's Philomathean Club and the women who founded and grew an educational and social organization – one that still exists today.

## RESOURCES

**The National Women's History Project** <http://www.nwhp.org>

*Founded in 1980, the National Women's History Project led the coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to designate March as National Women's History Month.*

**The National Women's History Museum** <http://www.nwhm.org/about-nwhm/>

The National Women's History Museum educates, inspires, empowers, and shapes the future by integrating women's distinctive history into the culture and history of the United States. This site is filled with online exhibits specifically about women.

**National Archives – Teaching With Documents: Woman Suffrage and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/woman-suffrage/ny-petition.html>

**San Joaquin County Historical Society** <http://sanjoaquinhistory.org/blog/?p=1987>

Access an article about a local heroine, Harriet Chalmers Adams, born in Stockton.

**Infoplease, a part of Family Education Network** <http://www.infoplease.com/womens-history-month/>

This site provides information about Women's History Month, biographies of famous women, quizzes and crosswords, stats and facts about women, and more.

**History.com** <http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history-month>

A resource for videos and photo galleries of speeches and documents.

**Lesson Planet: Where Teachers Go to Find, Learn, Plan & Inspire**

[http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?keywords=Womens&sort\\_by=ccss\\_affiliation&type\\_ids%5B%5D=357917](http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?keywords=Womens&sort_by=ccss_affiliation&type_ids%5B%5D=357917)

Teacher resources and lesson plans.



**San Joaquin County Office of Education**  
James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools