

GFWC & GFWC/CT Celebrates Women's History Month

“Women's History Month” is an annually declared month worldwide that highlights contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. March has been set aside as this month in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America.

The event traces its beginnings back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of the event, the United States Congress passed a resolution recognizing Women's History Week. This week was well received, and soon after schools, across the country began to have their own celebrations. The next year, leaders from the California group shared their project at the Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only became determined to begin their own local Women's History Week project, but also agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a national Women's History Month. In 1987 Congress expanded the focus to a whole month.

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institute and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1984 founded the “Women's History and Resource Center” to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of GFWC and women volunteers. WHRC documents the social and political contributions of GFWC clubwomen from 1890 to the present through GFWC Archives, related special collections and publications. Ms. Ellen M. Henrotin, GFWC President 1894-1898 said “I have faith to believe that what we have done is but the earnest of what we shall do.”

Visit our web sites to learn more www.gfwc.org and www.gfwcct.org.

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