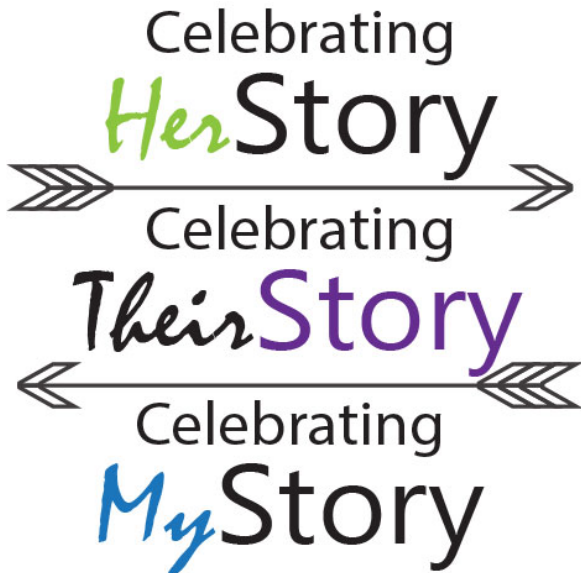


# WRC TODAY

.SPECIAL ISSUE.



## <sup>I Need</sup> Feminism Because...

The "I Need Feminism Because..." campaign links pressing women's and gender issues, and other forms of social inequity, to feminism and feminist history. Women's ability to vote, access education and own property are a result of feminism, and remind us of all that is still left to accomplish.

## Women's History

The first Women's History Month occurred in California March 8, 1978. This week was commissioned by the Education Task Force, of Sonoma County, in order to address the problem of women missing largely from history books. March 8 was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day.

The week was such a success that other schools began to have their own Women's History Weeks, the following year. At the same time, leaders from the California group shared their program at a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants joined and became dedicated to support an effort to have congress declare Women's History Week as a reoccurring national event.

The first Joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming a Women's History Week was cosponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) in 1981. The National Women's History project petitioned congress to expand the week to the whole month of March in 1987. Since then, bipartisan support has been given to approve the National Women's History Month Resolution each year.

Month Backstory

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

In recognition of Women's History Month the Women's Resource Center will be hosting several events throughout the month of March that you will be able to find in this special issue of the WRC Today.



*Vagina Monologues tickets are now on sale!*

Friday, April 3

Saturday, April 4

Lindou Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

\$5 (any student ID), \$8 (non-students)

Tickets available at the UNC Box Office 970-351-4849 or online at [www.unco.edu/tickets](http://www.unco.edu/tickets)

Tickets available at the door - CASH ONLY



# MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

According to the US Census Bureau, the average woman who works full time, year round, makes 78 percent (78 cents on the man's dollar) of what a man makes.

This average is calculated after considerations of race. The following is a breakdown of wage gap figures for women when factoring race identities compared to the man's dollar:

White men: \$1 (100%)

Asian American women: 90 cents (90%)

White women: 89 cents (89%)

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women: 65 cents (65%)

African American women: 64 cents (64%)

American Indian or Alaska Native women: 59 cents (59%)

Latina or Hispanic women: 54 cents (54%)

Think Progress.Org.

Wage Gap

## "THE NEW FEMINISM"

**Feministing** – <http://feministing.com>

**Finally, A Feminism 101 Blog** – <http://finallyfeminism101.wordpress.com>

Blogs

## Magazines

**Ms.** – <http://msmagazine.com/>

**Bitch** – <http://bitchmagazine.org/>

**Feminist Magazine** – <http://feministmagazine.org/>

Intersectional Blogs

**Racialicious** – <http://www.racialicious.com>

**Nerdy Feminist** – "Intersectionalism 101" <http://www.nerdyfeminist.com/2012/11/intersectionalism-101.html>

**Feminist Current** – "Marginalization is Messy: Beyond Intersectionality" <http://feministcurrent.com/8065/marginalization-is-messy-beyond-intersectionality/>

## Events of the Month!

### "I Need Feminism Because..." *Consciousness Raising Luncheons*

Join us at Scott-Willcoxon Hall as we discuss women and feminism in the media and mainstream pop culture. Lunch will be provided!

Thursday, March 12, 12p.m.-1p.m. Scott-Willcoxon

Hall Feminism in Pop Culture: Part 1

Wednesday, March 25, 12p.m.-1p.m. Scott-

Willcoxon Hall Feminism in Pop Culture: Part 2

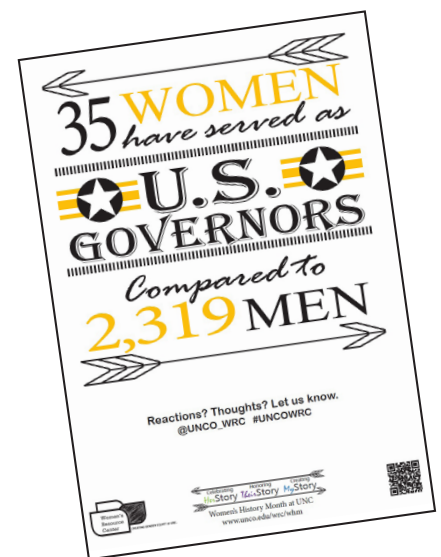
### Women's History Month Trivia

Stop by our interactive table display for an opportunity to learn more about women's rights history and feminism with the chance to win GREAT prizes!

March 4, 10, and 24, 11a.m.-1p.m.

1st floor in the UC

Stop by Scott-Willcoxon Hall during the month of March to check out our Women's History Month Timeline!



Make sure to be on the lookout for our Women's History Month campaign posters! There is a series of 5 posters around campus that highlight facts about the women's movement, feminism and women's history.



## RECOMMENDED HISTORICAL READINGS

de Beauvoir, Simone. (1949). "The Second Sex."

hooks, bell. (1981). "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and

Feminism." Koedt, Anne. (1971). "Lesbianism and Feminism."

Lorde, Audre. 1984). "Sister Outsider."

Mill, John Stewart. (1869). "The Subjection of Women."

Schneir, Miriam. (1992). "Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings."

Schneir, Miriam. (1994). "Feminism In Our Time: The Essential Writings, World War II to the Present."

Choice

Oppression

Access



Equity

Identity Politics



## RECOMMENDED CONTEMPORARY READINGS



Brownmiller, Susan. (1999). "In Our Time: Memoir of a Revolution."

Douglas, Susan J. (1995). "Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media."

hooks, bell. (2000). "Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics."

hooks, bell. (2000). "Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center."

Labaton, Vivien and Dawn Lundy Martin (Eds.). (2004) "The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism."

Rowe-Finkbeiner, Kristin. (2004). "The F Word:

Feminism on Par: Women, Politics, and the Future.

Intersectionality





# “THE GREAT EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED”

To be a woman in America at the close of the 20th century—what a good fortune. That’s what we keep hearing, anyway. The barricades have fallen, politicians assure us. Women have “made it,” Madison Avenue cheers. Women’s fight for equality has “largely been won,” Time magazine announces. Enroll at any university, join any law firm, apply for credit at any bank. Women have so many opportunities now, corporate leaders say, that we don’t really need equal opportunity policies. Women are so equal now, lawmakers say, that we no longer need an Equal Rights Amendment. Women have “so much,” former President Ronald Reagan says, that the White House no longer needs to appoint them to higher office. Even American Express ads are saluting a woman’s freedom to charge it. At last, women have received their full citizenship papers.

And yet...

Behind this celebration of the American woman’s victory, behind the news, cheerfully and endlessly repeated, that the struggle for women’s rights is won, another message flashes. You may be free and equal now, it says to women, but you have never been more miserable.

This bulletin of despair is posted everywhere—at the newsstand, on the TV set, at the movies, in advertisements and doctors’ offices and academic journals. Professional women are suffering “burnout” and succumbing to an “infertility epidemic.” Single women are grieving from a “man shortage.” The New York Times reports: Childless women are “depressed and confused” and their ranks are swelling. Newsweek says: Unwed women are “hysterical” and crumbling under a “profound crisis of confidence.” The health advice manuals inform: High-powered career women are stricken with unprecedented outbreaks of “stress-induced disorders,” hair loss, bad nerves, alcoholism, and even heart attacks. The psychology books advise: Independent women’s loneliness represents “a major mental health problem today.” Even founding feminist Betty Friedan has been spreading the word: she warns that women now suffer from a new identity crisis and “new ‘problems that have no name.’”

How can American women be in so much trouble at the same time that they are supposed to be so blessed? If the status of women has never been higher, why is their emotional state so low? If women got what they asked for, what could possibly be the matter now?

The prevailing wisdom of the past decade has supported one, and only one, answer to this riddle: it must be all that equality that’s causing all that pain. Women are unhappy precisely because they are free. Women are enslaved by their own liberation. They have grabbed at the gold ring of independence, only to miss the one ring that really matters. They have gained control of their fertility, only to destroy it. They have pursued their own professional dreams—and lost out on the greatest female adventure. The women’s movement, as we are told time and time again, has proved women’s own worst enemy (Faludi, ix-x).

The truth is that the last decade has seen a powerful counterassault on women’s rights, a backlash, an attempt to retract the handful of small and hard-won victories that the feminist movement did manage to win for women. This counterassault is largely insidious: in a kind of pop-culture vision of the Big Lie, it stands the truth boldly on its head and proclaims that the very steps that have elevated women’s position have actually led to their downfall.

[...] But what has made women unhappy in the last decade is not their “equality”—which they don’t yet have—but the rising pressure to halt, and even reverse, women’s quest for that equality. The “man shortage” and the “infertility epidemic” are not the price of liberation: in fact, they do not even exist. But these chimeras are the chisels of a society-wide backlash. [...] Identifying feminism as women’s enemy only furthers the ends of a backlash against women’s equality, simultaneously deflecting attention from the backlash’s central role and recruiting women to attack their own cause.

Some social observers may well ask whether the current pressures on women actually constitute a backlash—or just a continuation of American society’s long-standing resistance to women’s rights. Certainly hostility to female independence has always been with us. But if fear and loathing of feminism is a sort of perpetual viral condition in our culture, it is not always in an acute stage; its symptoms subside and resurface periodically (Faludi, xviii-xix).

Excerpts From:

Faludi, Susan. (1991). *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women*. New York, NY: Doubleday.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## -TIMELINE-

**1789** U.S. Constitution is ratified. The terms "persons," "people" and "electors" allow for interpretation of those beings to include men and women

**1837** Oberlin College in Ohio becomes first coeducational college in the U.S.

**1839** Mississippi becomes first state to grant married women right to hold property in their own names, independent of their husbands



**1843**



**1849**

**1840** Catherine Brewer becomes first woman to receive a bachelor's degree, from Georgia Female College (now Wesleyan College) in Macon, Ga.

**1843** Isabella Baumfree takes the name Sojourner Truth and goes on to become a famed abolitionist and women's rights activist

**1848** First women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to sign the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments

**1849** Elizabeth Blackwell becomes first woman to receive a medical degree, from Geneva Medical College (now SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.)

**1869** First women's suffrage law is passed, in territory of Wyoming

**1872** Susan B. Anthony is arrested for trying to vote

**1872** Victoria Claflin Woodhull becomes

first woman presidential candidate, for the Equal Rights Party

**1916** Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes first woman elected to Congress

**1920** 19th Amendment gives women right to vote

**1924** Miriam Ferguson (Texas) and Nellie Tayloe Ross (Wyoming) become first women elected governor



**1872**



**1916**

**1932** Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to fly solo across Atlantic

**1932** Hattie Caraway of Arkansas becomes first woman elected to Senate

**1933** Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins becomes first woman Cabinet member

**1934** Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans is first woman to serve on board of directors of major corporation, The Coca-Cola Company

**1938** Fair Labor Standards Act establishes minimum wage without regard to gender



**1932**

**1955** First lesbian organization in U.S., Daughters of Bilitis, is founded

**1963** Equal Pay Act is passed by Congress to close gender pay gap

**1963** Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* is published

**1964** Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex

**1967** Muriel Siebert becomes first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange

**1972** Title IX bans gender discrimination in federally funded education programs

**1972** Katharine Graham of The Washington Post Co. becomes first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company



**1972**

**1972** Shirley Chisholm becomes first major-party woman presidential candidate

**1973** In *Roe v. Wade*, Supreme Court protects woman's right to terminate pregnancy

**1977** Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Patricia Harris becomes first Black woman Cabinet member

**1978** Pregnancy Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination "on basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions"

# Check out our staff reflections about the significance of Women's History Month!



**Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa**

I chose Gloria, because I felt this was an opportunity to recognize a Chicana voice who has contributed to feminist theory and activism. It's vital that women of color experiences are shared, honored and recognized.

Women's History Month creates a spaces for me to be more intentional about reflecting upon and honoring the work of many who have contributed to the efforts towards achieving equity for women.

- Yvette Lucero-Nguyen, Director, WRC/SI

**Alice Paul**



I chose Alice Paul, a women's suffragist, because her passion for federally establishing the women's right to vote inspired me to become more aware of my identity as a woman and the struggles in past and present.

Women's History Month is important to me because it is a much-needed reminder to be grateful for our progress and take notice of where we need to go, to thank women who have fought so hard for equity and to inspire future advocates. Women's History Month also reminds me of other underrepresented gender identities, such as people who identify as genderqueer or trans\*. How are they included in these discussions and how can we band together?

- Lindsay Robertson, Graduate Assistant, SI



**Malala Yousafzai**

I chose Malala Yousafzai because being an Elementary Ed. major I really connect with her activism for female education and the fact that she won the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 17 really inspires me.

Women's history month is important to me because it give us a time to reflect on important women and events in history to see how far we have come and to help us realize how much we still need to accomplish.

- Ashlee George, Student Assistant

**Kimberlé Crenshaw**



Women's History Month is significant to me because it is an opportunity to honor the identities, experiences, and ideas that define womanhood in various ways. I chose Kimberlé Crenshaw because she coined the term Intersectionality as a theory to explore the ways in which different identities inform and affect each other, first through her analysis of Black women. The concept of Intersectionality and the celebration of Women's History Month serve as a reminder that there is no single definition of what it means to be a woman.

- Tyrell Allen, Graduate Assistant, WRC

**Ada Lovelace**



I chose Ada Lovelace, because she was a Mathematician, Writer and is considered the world's first computer programmer from the 1800's. She didn't allow society to dictate who she was or could be, and I find that incredibly inspiring as someone who is incredibly bad at math!

I feel Women's History Month is important, especially to a younger generation, because it highlights incredible women as role models. However, it also highlights the need for conversations on how we as women, young and old, view ourselves today.

- Sarah Witty, Administrative Assistant ,WRC/SI





### *Maya Angelou*

I chose Maya Angelou for my woman because her poetry is very inspiring and thoughtful. I feel she has a lot to say with the words she puts in her work. I also feel that Woman's History Month is significant to me because I understand that many woman before me fought for rights and recognition. I also understand that it is now my duty to stand up for what I believe in and things I am passionate about it.

- Lena Linares, Student Assistant

### *Helen Keller*



Top ten reasons I chose Helen Keller:

Many only know the story of her 'Miracle Worker,' Ann Sullivan, and how she taught Hellen to speak, read, and write. She had ability to see and speak before her illness (19months); after her illness she learned braille, sign, and lip reading through touch. She attended both an Institute for the Blind and a School for the Deaf in her early education.

She was the first deafblind person to earn a bachelor of arts degree. She attended Radcliffe College, a public women's liberal arts college. She was a member of the Socialist Party of America and the Industrial Workers of America. She was a political activist and campaigned for woman's suffrage, labor rights, socialism, disability rights, birth control. She was an author of 12 published books and many articles as well as a lecturer. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964 from President Lyndon B Johnson, one of the US' two highest civilian honors. She was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1965.

- Sarah Aragon, Leadership Coordinator, SI



### *Anne Frank*

I chose Anne Frank because she stayed strong and positive in a very depressing time. She spent two years in hiding and her patience is inspiring. She expressed herself through writing. She is a role model to me. "Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart," Frank. Women's History Month encourages me to keep reaching for my dreams. Many women have fought for me to do so, and it is important to recognize that.

- Ashley Montano, Student Assistant

### *Gloria Steinem*



Women's History Month provides us an opportunity to reflect upon the voices of those that came before us. Those that championed not only the rights of women, but the collective right for all to live free from oppression; who fought for choice, fought for the right to walk down the street without fear, fought for agency without restriction. Despite the progress of the movement, and the access to resources we enjoy as a result of this struggle, may we continue to be reminded that we have much to accomplish before we have achieved equity for all oppressed groups. Women's history month encourages me to reflect on the voices that were present, as well as the many voices that were absent, in our movement history and find strength moving forward in an intersectional feminism that is inclusive of all experiences and all struggle under a system of oppression. Gloria Steinem for me represents not only one of the most well-known voices in our movement history, she represents hope, change and the potential that exists for the eradication of all oppressions.

- Emily Hedstrom-Lieser, Assistant Director, WRC/SI

**Please look out for our end of the year staff reelections  
in the April newsletter!**

## THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

*The Women's Resource Center honors gender as a central identity, engages critical women's and gender issues, while challenging systems of inequity and advocating for change at the University of Northern Colorado.*

In addition to engaging women's and gender issues, some of the great resources offered by the Women's Resource Center include:

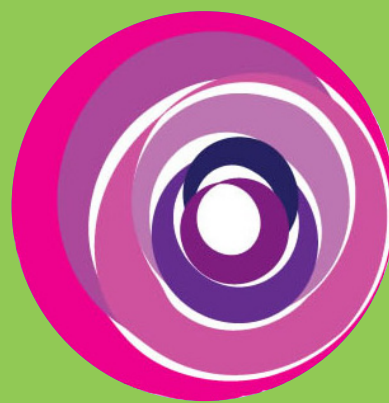
- A space to hang out and study
- Computer lab with free printing
- Library
- A facility and kitchen for events, study groups, and meetings
- Lactation station

The WRC also provides educational and awareness programming throughout the year.

**Contact us to get involved with events or volunteer at our center!**

## THE STRYKER INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Stryker Institute for Leadership Development supports the personal, social and academic achievement of underrepresented women-identified students at the University of Northern Colorado. We accomplish our mission by providing access to educational opportunities, cultivating leadership potential, fostering connectedness and community, and empowering women through encouragement and space for personal growth. For any questions about the Stryker Institute please contact the Leadership Coordinator at 970.351.2634 or stop by Scott-Willcoxon Hall.



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Contact Us!



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