



Mendocino County Public Health Department

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Dr. Andrew Coren, County Health Officer



Press Release

Not for op-ed

Date: March 3, 2023

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Notice: Mendocino County Public Health Celebrates Women's History Month in March.

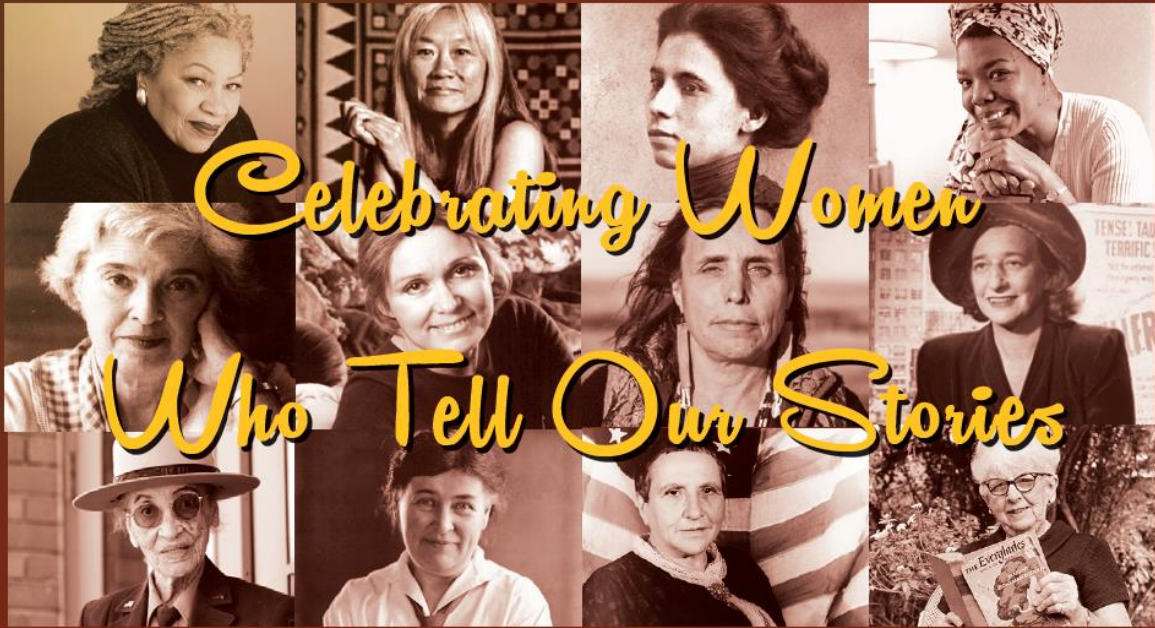
Women's History Month in the U.S. began in 1978 as "Women's History Week," an idea from the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. After a successful celebration in Sonoma County, dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week. Over one-hundred community women participated by doing special presentations in classrooms throughout the country.

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, one of the Sonoma County leaders, participated in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, which was chaired by historian Gerda Lerner and attended by national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When the participants learned about Women's History Week, they decided to start similar celebrations within their own organizations, communities, and school districts. They also agreed to support an effort to secure a "National Women's History Week."

In February 1980 President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th, 1980, as National Women's History Week. By 1986, 14 states had declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year.

Mendocino County Public Health joins the National Women's History Alliance by supporting their theme for 2023, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." For more information visit the [National Women's History Alliance](https://www.historyalliance.org/) website.

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nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org