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Beverly Wettenstein-A Woman's Book of Days

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1) June 22
speech

2) Write
Women's History
month

Doris
Betsy
Barbara W.

Amit

A WOMAN'S BOOK OF DAYS

June 1, 1995

Beverly Wettenstein
121 East 82nd Street
New York, New York 10028
(212) 861-5425

To: Alexis Herman, White House Public Liaison, c/o Doris Matsui

Fr: Beverly Wettenstein, Author, **A WOMAN'S BOOK OF DAYS** Diary

Re: National Women's Studies Assn. 16th Annual Conference
June 21-25 - University of Oklahoma, Norman

Featured speaker:

"A Progress Report on Women in Government, Professions & Trades; At Home, Work, School and Play."

As you know, I've tried to show the positive initiatives and appointments by the Clinton Administration. This could be an opportunity for you to showcase your efforts. Please submit most recent data, showing comparative progress of women, and facts on Administration, with dates and statistics, by Friday, June 9.

I'm also concerned about women and the vote. What are your plans to promote 75th anniversary of women's suffrage and efforts to encourage more women to register and vote and campaign agenda?

Also, a chronological listing (day, month, year) of significant milestones for women. I hope to develop a comprehensive report and welcome your complete information for consideration and presentation. More than 1200 members and guests are expected.

The National Women's Studies Assn. (NWSA) was formed in 1977 to further the social, political, and professional development of Women's Studies throughout the country and the world, at every educational level (college, elementary and secondary school), and in every educational setting (women's centers, libraries, etc.). Today, there are almost 700 Women's Studies programs, each incorporating numerous courses, nationwide.

My unique women's research data base, and active women's resource network, are updated daily.

Please add me to your press/event list to keep data base current.

Send most recent data by June 9, with contact name, telephone number and address:

Beverly Wettenstein, A WOMAN'S BOOK OF DAYS Diary
121 East 82 Street
New York, N.Y. 10028

Tel: 212/861-5425

Book may be ordered at bookstores or call 1-800-793-2665 (Crown).
ISBN: 0-517-59700.

Please give sources for data on women. Thank you.

Alexis is in book & has copy.

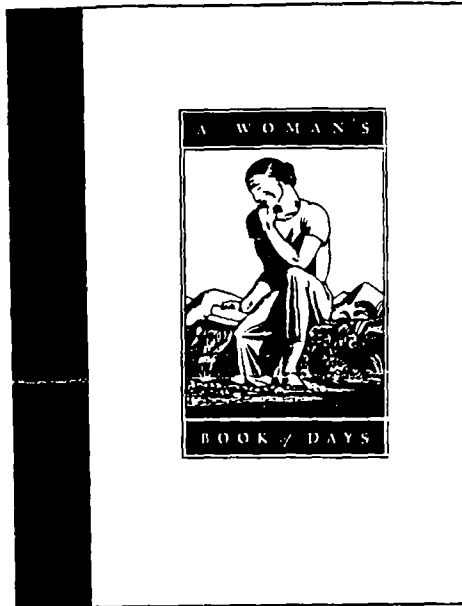
A WOMAN'S BOOK OF DAYS

By Beverly Wettenstein

A *Woman's Book of Days* is the only book of its kind—an encyclopedic day book designed to celebrate women: their history, leaders, and achievements. It is a birthday book that women will read as well as use.

Designed as an undated day book for keeping a permanent record of personal milestones, birthdays, and secret celebrations alongside those of distinguished women throughout history, *A Woman's Book of Days* is a treasury of information that pays daily homage to the women who have made a difference: to Hillary and Heloise, Anita Hill and Anita Baker, Dolly Madison and Dolly Parton, Billie Jean King and Billie Holiday. This diary chronicles women's progress in politics, education, art, literature, entertainment, sports, business, science, medicine, and religion. Together and independently, these pioneering women changed the world.

► **Beverly Wettenstein** is a marketing and communications/public relations executive who has worked for major corporations and nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and abroad. She lives in New York City.



Beverly Wettenstein

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121 East 82nd Street
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(212) 861-5425

June 1, 1995

To: Alexis Herman, White House Public Liaison, c/o Doris Matsui

Re: **National Women's History Month (March) Promotion Proposal**

As you know, Congress declared March to be National Women's History Month in the U.S. since 1987. Historically, since 1910, March 8 has been observed as International Women's Day worldwide.

Enclosed is background information on the program from the National Women's History Project, who initiated the program. They have a complete resource center to support this initiative.

A TV reporter asked me why Women's History Month gets so little attention. **My goal is to stimulate media support and raise public awareness and support to celebrate Women's History Month more broadly next March 1966.**

I welcome your counsel and input on White House/Administration support. This could involve Mrs. Clinton's agenda to support women's issues. Strategy would include national and local events and media support.

A recent study of new history textbooks found that less than 12% of references are to women. That's why I wrote A WOMAN'S BOOK OF DAYS Diary, to celebrate women every day!

I've been invited to speak at the National Women's Studies Assn. annual conference, June 22, at the Univ. Oklahoma, in Norman. I've also initiated on workshop on **"How to Celebrate and Promote Women's History Month in March."**

I look forward to discussing this further with you to see how we may develop a simplified program that can be adapted and enhance White House presence nationally and locally.

Ideally, such a proposal would be created soon to stimulate support and commence planning.

Recognizing that monthly women's magazines plan at least six months in advance, it is important to solicit support and participation as soon as possible.

I welcome your advice and counsel. Thank you for consideration.

Enclosures: Women's History Month information



National Women's History Project
7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492
707-838-6000 Fax: 707-838-0478

A WOMAN'S BOOK OF DAYS
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FURTHER INFORMATION:
Mary Ruthsdotter (707)838-6000

WHY A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH?

Since 1910, March 8 has been observed as International Women's Day by people around the world. That is why March was chosen to be National Women's History Month in the United States, declared as such by a biennial Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress since 1987.

The idea of creating such a focal celebration did not spring fully developed from the minds of its Congressional sponsors. Research to recover women's "lost" stories began on college campuses in the early 1970s. But in elementary and secondary school history textbooks, the imbalance remained glaring: women were outnumbered eleven to one.

In 1978, the founders of the National Women's History Project began asking the historical question, "But, what were the *women* doing?" And they've been sharing the answers about women's historic and contemporary contributions with the public ever since. Teachers, librarians, workplace program planners and others have responded enthusiastically, integrating events for National Women's History Month into their March calendars.

Women's history does not rewrite history, but it does add very different perspectives about what is historically significant. Traditionally, history has focused on political, military and economic leaders and events. That approach has virtually excluded women, both leaders and ordinary citizens, from history books. In addition to exploring the contributions of leaders in the public sphere, women's history also

-- MORE --

page 2: Why a National Women's History Month?

examines women's activities in the private sphere, and women's experiences at the crossroads where the two spheres meet and interact.

The National Women's History Project has become "the source" for help in exploring this expanded view of the past. If women's history is unknown territory for you, the National Women's History Project has good news! Their Women's History Catalog includes outstanding books for readers of all ages, as well as posters, videos, games, and detailed program planning guides for all audiences. For a copy of the Women's History Catalog, send \$1 to the National Women's History Project at 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492, or call (707)838-6000.

-- END --

*Resolucion del Congreso Designando
el Mes de Marzo Como
"Mes de la Historia de las Mujeres"*

Considerando que las mujeres americanas de todas las razas, clases sociales y origen étnico han contribuido históricamente al crecimiento y engrandecimiento de nuestra Nación, y siendo estas contribuciones innumerables, en algunos casos documentados, y en otros no;

Considerando que las mujeres americanas han tenido y siguen teniendo una posición crítica en la economía, la cultura, lo social, así como en cada aspecto de la vida de la Nación, constituyendo una parte significativa de la fuerza laboral dentro y fuera del hogar;

Considerando que las mujeres americanas han tenido un papel exclusivo en la historia de la Nación, representando la mayor parte de las fuerzas de trabajo voluntario de la Nación;

Considerando que las mujeres americanas fueron especialmente importantes en el establecimiento de instituciones filantrópicas, de caridad e instituciones culturales, en nuestra Nación;

Considerando que las mujeres americanas de todas las razas, clases sociales y origen étnico surgieron como líderes en la vanguardia de cada movimiento progresista de cambio social;

Considerando que las mujeres americanas han sido líderes, no sólo en su propia lucha por la igualdad de oportunidades y el derecho al voto, sino también en el movimiento abolicionista, el movimiento de emancipación, el movimiento obrero industrial, el movimiento por los derechos civiles y otras causas, especialmente el movimiento pacifista que crea una sociedad más equitativa y justa para todos; y

Considerando que más allá de estas contribuciones, el papel de la mujer Americana en la historia ha sido subestimado y omitido, tanto en la literatura, la enseñanza y el estudio de la historia Americana:

El Senado y la Cámara de Representates del Congreso de los Estados Unidos de América, reunido en asamblea, resuelve que marzo esta designado "Mes de la Historia de las Mujeres". El Presidente ha recibido autorización así como un pedido de formular una declaración para este mes pidiendo al pueblo de los Estados Unidos que observe este mes con actividades, ceremonias y programas apropiados.

translated by Silvina Rubinstein

*Congressional Resolution
Designating the Month of March as
"Women's History Month"*

Whereas American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

Whereas American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

Whereas American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation;

Whereas American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation;

Whereas American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

Whereas American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

Whereas despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that March is designated as "Women's History Month." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation for each of these months, calling upon the people of the United States to observe those months with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

*For more information contact:
National Women's History Project
7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492
707-838-6000*

THE HISTORY OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

As recently as the 1970s, 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.

Local Celebrations

In 1979, Molly MacGregor, then the director of the Sonoma County CSW, was invited to participate in a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, attended by the national leadership of organizations for women and girls. When MacGregor told the other participants about our county-wide Women's History Week celebration, these leaders decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations and school districts. They also agreed to support our efforts to secure an official Congressional Resolution declaring a "National Women's History Week." Together we achieved success! In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Ut) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md) co-sponsored the first such Joint Congressional Resolution.

Overwhelming Response

As word spread rapidly across the nation, equity specialists in many state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska, and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials and program ideas to thousands of schools. Community-based women's organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

The Entire Month of March

In 1987, at the request of museums, libraries, and educators across the country, the National Women's History Project asked Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March, allowing more time to explore the increasingly accessible field of women's history. 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 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. Many states and cities have instituted a "Women's Hall of Fame," or have published biographical materials about prominent women in the history of their particular locale. In many areas, state historical societies, women's organizations, and groups such as the Girl Scouts have worked together to develop joint NWHM programs. The efforts of 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.

For more information about National Women's History Month, or to receive a copy of the Women's History Resources catalog, contact: NWHP, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492, or call 707/838-6000.

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