

WO+manifesto

NEWSLETTER OF THE MSU WOMEN'S CENTER

March/ April, 2011

Women's History Month: Thirty Years Strong

By Diveena Marcus

When I use the word synchronistic, I assume most of us know what it means. It was a word developed by psychologist Carl Jung at the turn of the century. During that era, there was much hope for positive change all around the world. People had begun to realize that their world was getting smaller, and they started to become more globally interactive. Today most of us look at our world inclusively. We acknowledge the various peoples and intellectual communities with whom we share our planet, and know more about their various struggles for civil and human rights. As Simone De Beauvoir points out in *The Second Sex*, women were implicitly excluded from the human race whereas the male sex explicitly held the racial definition. The Women's Suffrage movement (or the "Woman Movement" as it was offered referred to at the turn of the century) changed the very definition of "human" to actually include both genders, which opened the door to a more inclusive vision of 'people.'

Women's History Month is the celebration that honors this acknowledgement. Our society has changed in the past century, and in many ways, we have lost the pomp and circumstance that denote meaningful passages of historical significance. Participating in this celebration of Women's History Month helps us embrace all aspects of our lives as well as the past, the present, and the future.

I chose the word "synchronistic" because I feel it has been a synchronistic event in writing this article. I popped in to visit the

Women's Center and to offer my services as a volunteer, and Betsy asked me to write this article. Thus I decided to look into the history of our historical month. In researching it, I discovered that this is in fact, the 30th anniversary of the celebration of National Women's History Month. The recognition of the need for a celebration dedicated to women's history was first conceived in the 1970's in California. It was created, in fact, in Sonoma County, within my ancestral Coast Miwok original peoples homelands. It was here in 1978 that the Education Task Force of Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women created an official "Women's History Week" surrounding International Women's Day on March 8th. It was so successful that schools developed their own Women's History Week programs. The following year, facilitators of the task force from California shared their project at a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. Other participants at the institute became so supportive of the project they decided to petition Congress to declare an official National Women's History Week. In 1981, a Congressional resolution proclaimed Women's History Week, and by 1987, it was brought to congress where both the House and the Senate approved the celebration of Women's History for the entire month of March.

The National Women's History Month project will celebrate its 30 year anniversary with the theme: "Our History is Our Strength." The sponsors of this year's grand celebration are: The Library of Congress, National Endowment of the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian

Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and will highlight the themes of past projects of achievements.

A visit to the Women's History Month Project website offers access to the exhibits and collections in honor of the project hosted by the Library of Congress and the National Gallery of Art. A special art exhibit, "The Guerrilla Girls: Do Women have to be Naked to get into the Metropolitan Museum?" will be shown at the National Gallery of Art, and documents such as an itinerary of the many historical sites of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Massachusetts and New York will be hosted by the National Parks. Exhibits and information about women's cultural, historical, and political contributions as well as information about women at war and in the arts are included as well. Also on the site are podcasts, videos, featured artists, musicians, an online exhibit to Emilia Earhart's home and a National Gallery exhibit of women portrayed in the arts throughout history. My favorite is the performance page featuring musical artists who have contributed to our country's cultures in the areas of Blue Grass, Appalachian, and a Native American women's collection that are hosted by

the Smithsonian Institution. The site includes event listings throughout the month as well as sponsor links to events that are being hosted as well. The month of March is filled with an abundance of rich resources to be integrated into our lives and personal histories as we celebrate those women before us who we can learn about from the National Women's History Project. Look around and you will find this opportunity to honor and celebrate women throughout history at MSU, in the media, and countless supporting institutions and organizations. Let's Celebrate!

The National Women's History Project
3440 Airway Drive, Suite F
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone: (707) 636-2888 Fax: (707) 636-2909
Email: nwhp@aol.com
<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>

Diveena Marcus is a graduate student in the Native American Studies program. She obtained her BA degree in Philosophy and a Minor in Women's Studies from the University of Hawaii. She graduates this spring 2011.

Women's Center Staff

Betsy Danforth has been the director of the MSU Women's Center for nineteen years. She is originally from New York City, and studied Women's Studies and History at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA. She has been a Bozeman resident for 25 years where yoga, reading, volunteering for local non-profits, hiking, playing volleyball, cooking, and spending time with good friends and her partner are a few of her favorite activities.

Assistant Krystal Fischer is a senior working on a double major in Business Management and Political Science, and a minor in the Entrepreneurship program and History. In her spare time she loves reading biographies, watching The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, and football.

Assistant Kelsey Joronen is a Graduate Student studying Architecture here at MSU. She is originally from Livingston, Montana, and enjoys the great outdoors. Other hobbies include reading, spending time with friends, and being creative.

Volunteer Annah Arrasmith is a junior studying food and nutrition here at MSU. Annah grew up in Livingston and enjoys playing tennis, volleyball, exploring the Gallatin and Paradise Valleys, and back packing.

Women's Center On-Line!

Check out new additions to our website @<http://www.montana.edu/wwwomen/> AND, we are on Facebook! Show how much you "Like" us! @

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MSU-Womens-Center/55313816866>

Maestra/Teacher

A Documentary Film by Catherine Murphy The Literacy Project in collaboration with ICAIC

CUBA'S ROAD TO LITERACY: A LEADERSHIP MODEL FOR WOMEN WORLDWIDE

**Coming to MSU: FREE PUBLIC EVENT ON MONDAY MARCH 28 at 7:30 pm
Literacy Fair at 7 PM Montana State University SUB BALLROOMS**

The Cuban Literacy Campaign in 1961 was one of the farthest-reaching and most successful literacy campaigns to date, one of the pinnacle moments in the social history of the Americas. *Maestra*, a 30-minute documentary, tells the story of the campaign through personal stories of women literacy workers who went to the mountains and valleys across the island to teach—and found themselves deeply transformed in the process.



Photo courtesy of Liborio Noval

Over half of the newly literate adults were women. Many of them learned to read the alphabet—and write their own names—for the first time. And for the young women from the cities who left their homes and went to the mountains to teach, the campaign remains one of the most important experiences of their lives. It was the first time in Cuban history that thousands of young women broke free from many key limitations that they faced as women and went out on their own. Many said it was the first time they felt “independent, capable, and free.”

The literacy campaign workers are now in their 60s, 70s and 80s. They are living treasures and their stories must be documented and shared. Exploring this moment through oral testimonies, this documentary explores the connections between national liberation and personal liberation, and the importance of empowering women and girls. Based in living history, *Maestra* also aims to spark contemporary political dialogue, reflection, and strategies for positive social change.

“In an age when so many teenagers—especially girls—are afflicted with low self-esteem, the Literacy Project shows how a whole generation of Cuban youth blossomed by venturing out to the countryside to spread the gift of literacy. Proving the old adage that it is better to give than receive, this film shows how a government mission to help the poorest lifts the entire society to new heights. Watch [Maestra] and rejoice.”

Medea Benjamin, Founder, Code Pink: Women for Peace, and Global Exchange;
National Advisory Board, US Women and Cuba Collaboration

“This film brought tears to my eyes. Thank you. It is beautiful.”

Alice Walker, Writer and Peacemaker, Author of *The Color Purple*

Contact Information & DVD trailer preview: www.theliteracyproject.org
info@theliteracyproject.org

DETAILS ON OUR WEB SITE WWW.WOMENANDCUBA.ORG

Our History is Our Strength

Women's History Month 2011

Wednesday, March 9th, Sack Lunch Seminar "Who said That? Speeches and Oral Interpretations throughout Herstory"

Noon, SUB 168

In honor of National Women's History Month, students from Bozeman High School's Speech and Debate Team will present oral interpretations and speeches given by women throughout history. Come see these terrific performances by students directed by the team's coach, James Maxwell.

Wednesday, March 23rd, Sack Lunch Seminar "Feminism, Backlash, and the Rise of the New Right-Wing in Contemporary Japan"

Noon, SUB 168

Following the Beijing International Women's Conference in 1995, feminism began to become mainstreamed in Japan, with new equity laws being passed throughout the country. Following this, an extensive campaign against feminism was initiated by the self-described "grassroots right-wing movement," led by the religious right. Tomomi Yamaguchi, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, will discuss this backlash against feminism, and feminist supporters' reaction to this phenomenon, in contemporary Japan.

Wednesday, March 30th, Sack Lunch Seminar "Pow-Wow Etiquette 101"

Noon, SUB 233

This wonderful presentation, featuring a wide variety of traditional pow-wow outfits and dancers, will be interactive and focus on the protocol, history, and contemporary and traditional features that take place within a pow-wow celebration.

Wednesday, March 30th, Gender Equity and the Status of Women in Cuba and the United States: A Panel Discussion and Reception

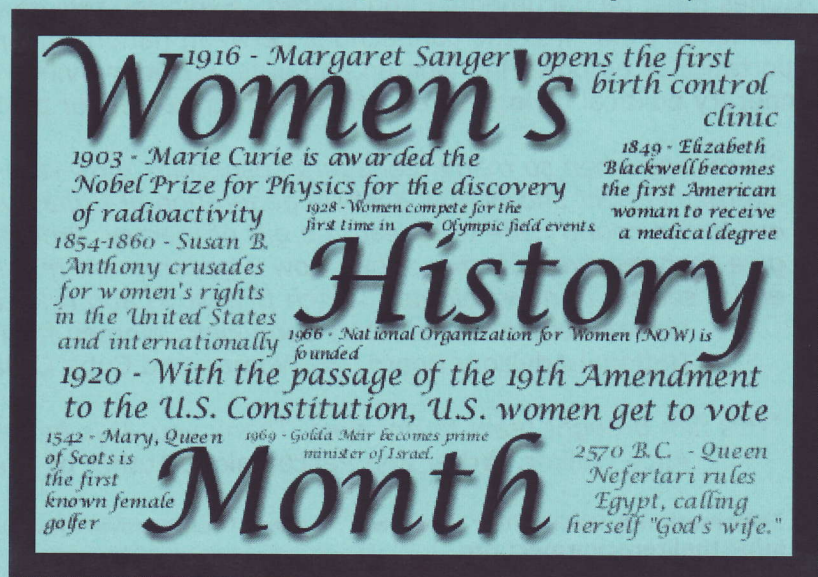
4-6 p.m. in the SUB Procrastinator Theater

Join us for this very special event with a welcome by MSU President Cruzado, and a panel discussion featuring Cuban feminist, educator and activist, Norma Guillard; U.S. filmmaker Catherine Murphy; MSU Professor of Modern Languages, Patricia Catoira; MSU Professor of Sociology, Leah Schmalzbauer; and MSU President Waded Cruzado. This event is co-sponsored with the Office of the President, the Diversity Awareness Office, Women's and Gender Studies, Bozeman Business and Professional Women, and the Maestra Film and Speaking Tour sponsors. Also, please join us for the President's reception in the Leigh Lounge.

Thursday, March 31st, Women's History Reception and Student of Achievement Award Ceremony

5:30 p.m., Great Room, Foundations Bldg, 1501 South 11th

Join us for the 19th annual Women's History Month Reception and presentation of our Student of Achievement Awards—an event co-sponsored with our friends in the Alumni Affairs. Our keynote speaker this year will be MSU alum Meghan Huntoon, creator of MSU's chapter of Triota, the National Women's and Gender Honor Society.



ALL EVENTS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN'S CENTER

The VOICE Center

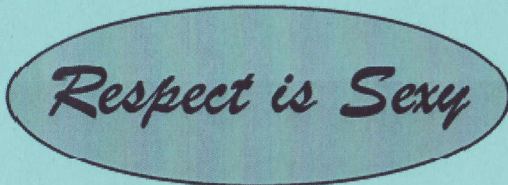
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Montana State University



Speak Out, TBTN, and Rock Against Rape!

Join us Wednesday, April 13th, as we demonstrate against violence against women. We're hosting a Speak Out in the SUB, where survivors and their supporters can share their stories of trauma and strength. Then march with us to the Baxter as we Take Back the Night, and join us for a celebration of survival as we Rock Against Rape. All events are free and open to the public!



WTF! Film Series

Students Against Sexual Assault and Montana Advocates for Sexual Health are cosponsoring a film series exploring Women and Their Future. Three films about how women are viewed by society are screening in March and April.

All films are at the Procrastinator Theater, and admission is free.

12th and Delaware

What happens when a crisis pregnancy center opens across the street from an abortion provider?

Orgasm, Inc

Is it really a "condition" when a woman doesn't want to have sex?

Daddy, I Do

Is abstinence-only sex education really the solution?



March 2011

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <i>12th and Delaware</i>	10	11	12
13	14-18 ... SPRING BREAK!					19
20	21	22	23 <i>Orgasm, Inc.</i>	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2011

					1	2
3	4	5	6 Sack Lunch Seminar: Surviving to Thriving <i>Daddy, I Do</i>	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Speak Out! (SUB Ballroom C) Take Back the Night! Rock Against Rape!	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**ROCK
AGAINST
RAPE**

April is
Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Students Against Sexual Assault

Want to get involved in these events? SASA meets every other Wednesday, and everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is March 23rd, and we'll be planning the Speak Out and Take Back the Night. Email sasamsu@gmail.com for more information!

the **VOICE CENTER**

empowerment
information.

24 Hour Support Hotline
406-994-7069

Daytime Office Number
406-994-7662

Anonymous Support Email
msuvoice@gmail.com

Montana Advocates for Sexual Health presents

WTF!

Women & Their Future

Film Series

March 9th

March 23rd

April 6th

12th and Delaware

Orgasm, Inc.

Daddy, I Do

The abortion battle continues to rage in unexpected ways on one corner in an American city.

Revealed! The pharmaceutical industries race to control female sexuality.

The Purity Ball—protecting virginity or hurting a daughter's self image as a woman?

All films are FREE and start at 7pm in the Procrastinator Theater.
Discussion panels follow each film.

Also sponsored by:

The MSU Women's Center

Students for Choice

Students Against Sexual Assault

M MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY
Women's Center
372 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717-2100

Return Service Requested