

StirFry Seminars

International Women's History Month: Women of StirFry Honor their Foremothers

International Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world, and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day began in Europe and America early in the 20th century as a call for women's suffrage, as well as the right to work, and other basic rights. As the century progressed through two world wars, the focus shifted more toward peace activism, as women lost their husbands and sons to seemingly endless war. In the 1960's and 70's, with the rise of the American Civil Rights Movement, Women's Liberation and other People's Struggles, many universities and local governments began to observe Women's History Week. Tireless work on the part of many women—and some men—resulted in Congressional recognition for Women's History Month, a UN Charter in 1945, and a hope that one day, we won't need a special month to celebrate the achievements and aspirations of all women—that every month will be Women's History Month.



I have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat.

—Rebecca West

Melissa Sweeney

"I have been in Sorrow's kitchen and licked out all the pots. Then I have stood on the peaky mountain wrapped in rainbows, with a harp and a sword in my hands."

—Zora Neale Hurston



Linda Compton

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

—Eleanor Roosevelt



Joan Nelson



Nadirah Gooden

"Well, you never get nothin' by bein' an angel child. You better change your ways, and then you'll get real wild. I'm gonna tell you somethin' wouldn't tell you no lie. Wild women are the only kind that really get by. 'Cause wild women don't worry, wild women never get the blues."

—Ida Cox

Women never have young minds. They are born three thousand years old.

—Shelagh Delaney



Allison Rolls

"Women are the only oppressed group in our society that lives in intimate association with their oppressors."

—Evelyn Cunningham



Rainbow Markell

Worldwide Celebrations

Hero's Day (Paraguay), Peasant's Day (Burma), Congolese Women's Day (Congo), St. Patrick's Day (Canada, Ireland, USA), Youth Day (Zambia) and the beginning of Spring!