Tuesday, March 8, marks the centennial celebration of International Women’s Day (originally called International Working Women’s Day). It is a global event that celebrates the economic, social, and political achievements of women. This year’s IWD theme is “Equal Access to Education, Training, Science and Technology: Pathway to Decent Work for Women.”

Improving working conditions for women and obtaining the right to vote spurred women’s activism in the United States and Europe in the early 20th century. In 1909, the Socialist Party of America declared February 28 to be National Women’s Day, which was observed until 1913. The following year, a Second Conference of Working Women met in Copenhagen, Denmark. One of the delegates, Clara Zetkin, a member of the Social Democratic Party in Germany, proposed that every year, in every country, and on the same day there should be a celebration of women—a “Women’s Day” to call attention to women’s grievances and to press their demands. Over one hundred women from seventeen countries attended this conference, and they unanimously approved Zetkin’s resolution to create an “International Women’s Day.”

International Women’s Day was observed for the first time in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland; Russia followed in 1913. In traditional observances men honored their wives, mothers, friends, and colleagues with flowers or small gifts. Since the early 20th century, observance of IWD has spread around the world to dozens of countries; it is an official holiday in twenty-seven nations. The United Nations designated the year 1975 as “International Women’s Year”; the UN continues to sponsor conferences and through its agencies works to advance women’s rights and full participation in political and economic processes.

In recent years IWD themes have included “Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities: Progress for All”; “Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women and Girls”; “Women and HIV/AIDS”; and “Investing in Women and Girls.” Since 1911 IWD has evolved from being a day devoted to pressing demands and addressing grievances into a day to celebrate women’s advancements. Yet, in recognizing the gains that women have made in the last century, problems persist.

On Tuesday, March 8 (and throughout Women’s History Month) I hope that you will reflect, celebrate, and be inspired by women’s achievements. There is still much work to do, though, to insure that women and girls have access to education and health care, are free from violence and oppression, and have the means to live productive and rewarding lives. “Think Globally and Act Locally!”

Lynn Rieff, Professor of History, Co-Director, Center for Women’s Studies
**Quotes**

- Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. 
  ~Helen Keller

- You must do the thing you think you cannot do.  ~Eleanor Roosevelt

- I, with a deeper instinct, choose a man who compels my strength, who makes enormous demands on me, who does not doubt my courage or my toughness, who does not believe me naïve or innocent, who has the courage to treat me like a woman.  ~Anais Nin

- Women really do rule the world. They just haven’t figured it out yet. When they do, and they will, we’re all in big, big trouble.  
  ~"Doctor Leon," drleons.com

**Upcoming Events**

**March 1**– 6:00-8:00 P.M. Cancer Caps
3:30-Speaker– Renee Johnson-Community Health & Dental speaking about HIV/AIDS Awareness

**March 3**– 6:00-8:00 P.M. Cancer Caps
5:00 Film Series– Speak

**March 8**– 10:30-2:00 P.M. International Women’s Day Celebration
3:30 P.M.– Speaker– Dr. Joyce McIntosh Women's Heart Health

**March 10**– 4:00-6:00 P.M. National Women's And Girls HIV Awareness Day– Handy Recreation Center
5:00 P.M. Film Series– Madea's Family Reunion

**March 12**– 12:30– Florence Lauderdale Public Library– Irene Latham– The Color of Lost Rooms

**March 15**– 6:00-8:00 P.M. Cancer Caps

**March 17**– 6:00-9:00 P.M. Cancer Caps
5:00 P.M. Film Series- Provoked

**March 23**– 7:00 P.M. A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer- GUC Performance Center
10:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M. Student Health Fair Atrium at GUC

**March 24**– 7:00 P.M. A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer- GUC Performance Center

**WOMEN IN HISTORY**

- **3/1/0752** (B.C.E)- Romulus, first king of Rome, celebrates the first Roman triumph after his victory over the Caeninenses, following the Rape of the Sabine Women

- **3/8/1884**- Susan B. Anthony addresses the U.S. House Judiciary Committee arguing for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote. Anthony’s argument came 16 years after legislators had first introduced a federal women’s suffrage amendment.

- **3/6/1921**– Police in Sunbury Penn issue an edict requiring Women to wear skirts at least 4 inches below the knee

- **3/25/1981**- Supreme Court rules women/minorities may get jobs if less qualified

- **3/9/1995**-the Alabama State Board of Education endorsed March 1995 as “Women’s History Month” in Alabama to appreciate the contributions of American and Alabama women. The Board encouraged the public schools to pay tribute to these women during this month-long celebration.

- **3/4/1997** - Brazil Senate allows women to wear slacks

**3/8/1995**

March 1995 as “Women’s History Month” in Alabama to appreciate the contributions of American and Alabama women. The Board encouraged the public schools to pay tribute to these women during this month-long celebration.
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FEATURED WOMAN: BARBARA JORDAN

Born Feb. 21, 1936 in Houston, Texas, Barbara Jordan was the first African American congresswoman to come from the Deep South. She attended Texas Southern University in Houston, becoming a member of the debate team that tied Harvard University. She attended Boston University Law School, where she was one of only two women—both African Americans from Houston—to graduate. She passed the Massachusetts bar exam but moved to Tuskegee Institute (later renamed Tuskegee University) in Alabama and taught there for one year. In 1962 and 1964 she was an unsuccessful candidate for the Texas House of Representatives, but she was elected in 1966 to the Texas Senate, the first African American member since 1883 and the first woman ever elected to that legislative body. Jordan remained in the Texas Senate until 1972, when she was elected to U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' 18th district. Jordan did not become a national figure until 1974, when her participation in the hearings held by the House Judiciary Committee on the impeachment of President Richard M. Nixon was televised nationwide. Her keynote address at the 1976 Democratic National Convention confirmed her reputation as one of the most commanding and articulate public speakers of her era. She decided not to seek a fourth term and retired from Congress in 1979. In that year also she published Barbara Jordan, a Self-Portrait. She then accepted a position at the University of Texas, Austin, where she taught at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs until her death Jan. 17, 1996. (http://www.biography.com/articles/Barbara-Jordan-9357991)

V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina

V-Day is a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sex slavery.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of The Vagina Monologues, A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer, Any One Of Us: Words From Prison, screenings of V-Day’s documentary Until The Violence Stops, and the PBS documentary What I Want My Words To Do To You, Spotlight Teach-Ins and V-Men workshops, to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. In 2010, over 5,400 V-Day benefit events took place produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world, in 130 countries from Europe to Asia, Africa and the Caribbean and all of North America. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In 2001, V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine’s “100 Best Charities;” in 2006 one of Marie Claire Magazine’s Top Ten Charities, and in 2010 was named as one of the Top-Rated organizations on Great Nonprofits. In eleven years, the V-Day movement has raised over $80 million and reached over 300 million people. In Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, V-Day commits ongoing support to build movements and anti-violence networks. V-Day was instrumental in the founding of Karama that works to build upon and strengthen efforts to end violence against women by bringing together local women’s organizations and other civil society groups in collaboration, analysis and advocacy at national, regional and international levels. (http://www.vday.org/about/more-about)
Where is the Women’s Center?

The Center for Women’s Studies is small, tan, stucco house located at 663 North Wood Ave., next to the large purple UNA sign and across the street from the BCM. If you still cannot locate the Center, please call (256) 765-6198/4380 and someone will gladly guide you here.

NOTES FROM THE COORDINATOR—Emily Horn Kelley

March is always a busy month here at the Center. We’ve celebrated the centennial of International Women’s Day and are Observing National Women’s and Girl’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day by participating in the festivities at the Handy Recreation Center on March 10. Our Cancer Caps industry continues to flourish; we have an active chapter of 1 in 4 which meets at the Women’s Center as does O.A.S.I.S. (the organization for non-traditional students). Finally, On March 23 and 24 The Women’s Center will be sponsoring our production of Eve Ensler’s A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer. The performances will be at 7:00 P.M. in the GUC Performance Center both nights, and tickets are $5 for students, $7 for everyone else. Every time the play is performed it changes, so if you saw it last spring, even the script is different this year. All the proceeds from this play go to the local Rape Response. Please make plans to attend and enjoy what promises to be an outstanding performance!

All of these activities come together to form an exciting month. The month closes with Spring Break (much needed by all, I’m sure), from which I expect to find each of you back here at school, safe, healthy and ready for classes on April 4. Have a great vacation!

Emily