

Family Resource Center

Prevention Services Network

Partnering, Supporting, Nurturing

The History of Women's History by Borgna Brunner



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Before 1970, women's history was rarely the subject of serious study. As historian Mary Beth Norton recalls, "only one or two scholars would have identified themselves as women's historians, and no formal doctoral training in the subject was available anywhere in the country." Since then, however, the field has undergone a metamorphosis. Today almost every college offers women's history courses and most major graduate programs offer doctoral degrees in the field.

The Women's Movement

Two significant factors contributed to the emergence of women's history. The women's movement of the sixties caused women to question their invisibility in traditional American history texts. The movement also raised the aspirations as well as the opportunities of women, and produced a growing number of female historians. Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, one of the early women's historians, has remarked that "without question, our first inspiration was political. Aroused by feminist charges of economic and political discrimination . . . we turned to our history to trace the origins of women's second-class status."

New Social History

Women's history was also part of a larger movement that transformed the study of history in the United States. "History" had traditionally meant political history—a chronicle of the key political events and of the leaders, primarily men, who influenced them. But by the 1970s "the new social history" began replacing the older style. Emphasis shifted to a broader spectrum of American life, including such topics as the history of urban life, public health, ethnicity, the media, and poverty.

The Personal Is Political

Since women rarely held leadership positions and until recently had only a marginal influence on politics, the new history, with its emphasis on the sociological and the ordinary, was an ideal vehicle for presenting women's history. It has covered such subjects as the history of women's education, birth control, housework, marriage, sexuality, and child rearing. As the field has grown, women's historians realized that their definition of history needed to expand as well—it focused primarily on white middle-class experience and neglected the full racial and socio-economic spectrum of women.

Women's History Month

The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. The week including March 8, [International Women's Day](#), was selected. In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month.

Read more: [History of Women's History Month](#)

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womensin-tro1.html#ixzz1EuqNaTHC>

When I started working on women's history about thirty years ago, the field did not exist. People didn't think that women had a history worth knowing.
 —Gerda Lerner,
Women and History
 (1986; 1993)

Getting Organized and Free of Clutter

Do you have make-up in your bathroom vanity that you purchased in college, and clothes from high school? If so, you are not alone, but might find the following tips from Family Circle magazine, useful to simplify your life and bring some order to chaos.

Pull all those cleaning supplies from under the kitchen sink and put them in the rooms where they are used. Put the shower and toilet cleaning items in the bathroom, and the wood cleaning items inside a cabinet in the dining or living room. They are easier to access and the kitchen cabinet will have more room.

Keep extra trash bags in the bottom of the trash can. After taking out the garbage, you have the next one ready for use.

Keep a small, attractive container, near the door or wherever you first peruse your mail. Toss in junk mail or unwanted flyers as soon as they arrive.

Reduce the clutter in your linen closet by keeping only three sets of sheets per bed. You then have one on the bed, one in the laundry, and one on the shelf. For a very neat look, fold the linens and put them inside one of the pillow cases. You have the entire set in one neat package.

Sort through your holiday décor at a time when you are not in the midst of holiday madness. Get

rid of the half burned candles, cracked or broken ornaments, and small pieces of unused wrapping paper that you think will fit a package next year. Consider donating the decorations you never use. If you didn't like them enough to display them last year, you probably won't display them next year either.

Stop hoarding supermarket plastic bags, and carryout food containers. Unless you use them for leftovers, recycle what you can and get rid of the rest. Instead, invest in a new square set of containers in two sizes that you are most likely to use. Square ones stack a little easier and reducing the size selection helps avoid wasting time looking for tops.

Don't let huge bulk purchases take up all your cabinet space. Are you storing 12 boxes of macaroni and cheese because it was on sale? Consider creating a "Sam's closet" or "Costco shelving unit" in the garage to store all your bargains.

Keep a few bins in the garage for unwanted or unused items to be donated to Goodwill or similar programs for resale. It is a good practice to establish with children to teach them to focus on the act of giving. It also helps them stay organized, not a bad habit to instill while they are young.



Turn the Town Blue

2011 Child Abuse & Neglect (CAN) Prevention Campaign

April is Child Abuse & Neglect **Prevention** Month
Kenosha cares! Show your support of prevention by “going blue.”

Join us to raise awareness and share the message that **prevention** works by turning
Kenosha County **BLUE** during the month of April.

Wear a **Blue Ribbon** for the month.

Tie **blue ribbons** on trees.

Paint a **blue ribbon** on the windows of your home or workplace.

Hang paper **blue ribbons** everywhere

Use your imagination and **Go Blue!**

Participants in this campaign who send us a picture electronically will be showcased on
Facebook at The Art of a Strong Family Art Contest. Send your pictures to
Terry.Cina@expresspros.com

You are invited to attend:
“The Art of a Strong Family”
Artist Awards and CAN Prevention Ceremony
Thursday, April 7th at 4:30 PM
Kenosha Public Museum
5500 First Avenue
Dahlmer Chrysler Room

Join us for light refreshments, view the artwork from the “The Art of a Strong Family”
High School art contest, and hear how Kenosha County is innovative in finding ways
to support the **prevention** of child abuse and neglect. It begins with the building of
positive relationships that support healthy social/emotional growth, and we all have a
part to play.

Please RSVP to: Karyn van Heijningen at 262 945-0241 or kvanheijningen@psgqip.com

Turn the Town Blue campaign is a collaborative effort by Kenosha County Department of Human Services Division of Children
and Family Services, Kenosha County Division of Health, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin-Kenosha Child Advocacy Center, Community Impact Pro-
grams, Inc., Kenosha County Prevention Services Network, Kenosha Unified School District #1, Children’s Service Society of Wisconsin, United Hospi-
tal System, Express Employment Services, and the Kenosha Association for the Education of Young Children.



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Saturday
		1. Peanut lovers' day.	3. The Star Spangled Banner became our national anthem this day in 1931.	4. March is music in our schools month.	5. The Iditarod, the dog sled racing event that is 1,150 mi. long starts this day in Anchorage, Alaska.	5. National Weather Persons' Day. Let the kids attempt to predict the weather or keep a weather chart.
6. March is national social workers' month.	7. Do some spring cleaning this week.	8. International Women's Day.	10. March was named for the Roman god, Mars.	11. Johnny Appleseed Day.	12. Girl Scouts met for the first time this day in 1912.	12. Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809. February was selected as Black History Month in his honor.
13. Daylight Savings Day. Yippee!	14. National pi day. Why? Because 3.14 is the value of pi.	15. Ides of March, the first day of the ancient Roman new year.	17. Happy St. Patty's Day. Be Irish for a day, wear green and celebrate.	18. Sparky the Firedog was established as a mascot of the National Fire Protection Agency.	19. Full Moon.	19. *Macon Bolling Allen was the first African American to pass the bar and practice law in the U.S. in 1845.
20. Vernal Equinox, the first day of spring. It's been a long winter!	21. Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685.	22. National Goof off day. Let something on your 'to-do' list slide today.	24. Harry Houdini was born in 1874. Learn a magic trick in his honor.	25. National Family Day. Have dinner together and enjoy each other.	26. Robert Frost was born in 1874. Read his beautiful poetry. He's an American gem.	26. Tell a fairy tale day. There are so many wonderful stories to choose from. Share your favorite with the kids.
27. Photography day. Take a picture of something you love.	28. March is national poetry month. Write a poem.	29. National nutrition month. Don't eat any junk food today.	31. March is Irish American Heritage Month.			

Social/emotional competence: Understanding humor

According to “Kidshealth” (<http://kidshealth.org>), young children laugh about 200 times a day and adults laugh only 15 to 18 times. Humor develops in young children as their knowledge of the world expands and they gain an understanding of language. Very young children are usually amused by seeing you do something physical to them. It could be moving their legs around as you change a diaper, or ‘walking’ your fingers up their arms or legs. They also like auditory stimulation, like when you sing a silly song, or surprise them with goofy noise or a pretend sneeze. Somewhere around 9 to 15 months, children know enough to recognize when something is out of place or unexpected, such as putting your socks on your hands, or a shoe on your head, and think it is funny.

Toddlers like physical humor also, and usually find a game of “peek a boo” hilarious. This is the age that language skills begin to develop, and toddler like silly songs and rhyming words. You also

may notice at this age that they begin to try to make you laugh. They may try to tickle you, make funny faces, or put on your shoes in hope to get a smile or laugh from you.

Preschoolers find pictures that are out of the ordinary funnier than an actual joke. A dog wearing sunglasses or a pig that says, ‘moo’, will delight this age. They are also more aware of body functions, and will find bodily noises and bathroom humor very funny. If current movies are any indication, there is a large segment of the adult population that have never arisen above this level.

It is never too young to start developing a sense of humor in your child. Babies respond to smiles and laughter and when you respond to them a strong bond develops. Being playful and humorous with your children helps them take a lighter attitude on life. Learning to notice what delights your child helps you as a parent enjoy them and understand what brings them joy.

Be encouraging of your children’s attempts at humor. Have you ever had a joke you thought was funny, just go flat, and no one laughs? It is awkward and embarrassing. The same is true for a child who does his best to draw a silly picture or tell you a “knock knock” joke that makes no sense. Laugh anyway. There is no harm done.

Be a good role model however and do not encourage mean spirited, racist, or off color jokes. Let children know that jokes played on other people can be harmful, and help them develop the boundaries they need to distinguish between humor and hurt.

Humor is social. Things seem funnier when you hear other people laughing. Take time to have fun as a family. Read funny books, see funny movies and share jokes. Humor is a good stress reliever and we can all use a good laugh in tough times.

Parenting Classes

*The **Nurturing Parent Program** focuses on child development, rules, morals and values, rewards and punishments, redirection and routines, plus many other issues that parents deal with on a daily basis.*

Classes are eleven weeks long

and are held at the PSN Family Resource Center, 8600 Sheridan Rd.

The next available class will be held on Wednesdays, March 2nd to May 11th from 9:00-10:30 am

Register by calling Kenosha Area Family & Aging Services, Inc. at 658-3508 ext. 214

Interesting Facts About Women

New Zealand was the first country to grant women the right to vote (1893). The United Arab Emirates were the latest in 2006. Saudi Arabia is the only country that does not allow its women to vote. Women in the United States were first given the right to vote in 1920 after the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Besides New Zealand, the U.S. trailed, Australia (non-aboriginal women won the vote in 1902, aboriginal women did not vote until 1962), Finland, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Austria, Germany, Poland, Russia and the Netherlands! Because of the large number of American women taking jobs in the war industries during World War II, the National War Labor Board urged employers in 1942 to voluntarily make "adjustments which equalize wage or salary rates paid to females with the rates paid to males for comparable quality and quantity of work on the same or similar operations."

Most employers did not agree to this "voluntary" request, and when the war ended most women were pushed out of their new jobs to make room for returning veterans.

Until the early 1960s, newspapers published separate job listings for men and women. Jobs were categorized according to sex, with the higher level jobs listed almost exclusively under "Help Wanted—Male." In some cases the ads ran identical jobs under male and female listings—but with separate pay scales. Separate, of course, meant unequal: between 1950 and 1960, women with full time jobs earned on average between 59–64 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earned in the same job.

It wasn't until the passage of the Equal Pay Act on June 10, 1963 (effective June 11, 1964) that it became illegal to pay women lower rates for the same job strictly on the basis of their sex. Demonstrable differences in seniority, merit, the quality or quantity of work, or

other considerations might merit different pay, but gender could no longer be viewed as a drawback on one's resumé.

The wage gap has narrowed, but it is still significant. Women earned 59% of the wages men earned in 1963; in 2008 they earned 77% of men's wages—an improvement of about half a penny per dollar earned every year.

A variety of explanations for the persistent wage gap have been offered. One is that older women are factored into the wage gap equation, and many of these women from an older generation work in jobs still subject to the attitudes and conditions of the past. In contrast, the rates for young women coming of age in the 1990s reflect women's social and legal advances. In 2005, for example, women under 25 working full-time earned 93.2% of men's salaries compared to those 25 and older, who earned 79.4% of what men made. We can only hope that the gap ceases to exist in the next generation.

(This information comes from <http://www.infoplease.com>)

Kenosha's Early Education Program (4K)

Kenosha Unified School District currently offers early education programming for children turning four on or before September 1st, at 21 schools and 19 child care programs. Right now, families with children in this age group may register for programs to be offered beginning in September. Flyers in both Spanish and English are available at the PSN Family Resource Center. If you work with families with children in this age group, encourage them to register. Quality early childhood learning experiences are especially critical for children who may not have those opportunities at home. Early entry into formal programming can help address needs to prepare children for future success at school. (Continued on page 7)

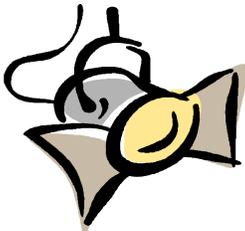
Kenosha's Early Education Program (from page 6)

Participation in an early education program helps children build social and emotional competence. Some families in our community are isolated and the children do not have an opportunity to interact with other children. Learning to play sounds ridiculous, but the reality is that some children do not know how to play with others. This hinders their ability to learn other skills necessary for school success. Quality early learning programs lay the foundation for later learning.

Registration packets can be picked up at any participating elementary school or childcare center. Details are on the flyer. They should be returned to that same location. Packets may also be picked up at the Educational Support Center in Rm. 105 or at the front desk. **Enrollment kick off is March 2, 3 and 4.** Enrollment is done on a first come first served basis. Child must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2011. Questions please call 359.7760.

Take advantage of this opportunity to give Kenosha's children a strong start toward school success.

PREVENTION SERVICES NETWORK



Spotlight Series

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
12:00 Noon

Karin Kirchmeier, Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc.
will provide tips on

"Potty Training"

A potty training door prize will be provided to one lucky participant.

PSN Spotlight Series is held in the
PSN Family Resource Center,
8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha.

Lunch will be provided. Register by calling 697-4651.
Come join us!

The mission of the PSN Family Resource Center is to provide programs and services that build on family strengths through prevention, education, support and networking in collaboration with other resources in the community.

The PSN Family Resource Center,
located in the Kenosha County Human Services Building at 8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha,
is open every **Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00**
for parents to drop in and talk to someone about parenting concerns,
pick up information about community resources,
and find out about programs and services of the PSN.

Partnering with the community to strengthen families...
Supporting families to achieve optimum success...
Nurturing parents to be strong caregivers, resilient to abuse and neglect...

TO VIEW PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE PSN NEWSLETTER, LOG ON TO
<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/dhs/Divisions/CFS/Newsletter/index.php>

Kenosha Public Library Events!

Use Your Noodle

Monday, March 21, 6:30 pm,
Southwest Library, 7979 38th Avenue

It is National Noodle Month, so come on over to the library for a heaping plateful of stories and songs. We will be using our own "noodles" to figure out how to not be like the "noodleheads" in the stories we will be hearing. Stay to create a nifty noodle craft.. Children 3 and older and Families are welcome

March Into Spring

Tuesday, March 22, 7:15 pm,
Southwest Library, 7979 38th Avenue

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to be in a marching band, come listen and play with the 7th and 8th grade band from KTEC School. The students will be sharing the sound of their instruments and then will have you accompany them with rhythm instruments as we March into a new season and welcome in spring.
Everyone Welcome

Two new series of **Women's Circle** will begin this month.

Series 1 meets on Thursdays
March 24th through April 28th
From 12:00 to 1:00

The topic is
You matter more than you think

Series 2 meets on Mondays
March 28th through May 2nd
From 12:00 to 1:00

The topic is **Communication**

Lunch is included
Call 697-4536 for further information or to register.





COME-LEARN-GROW

March 2011

Parent Talk Lunch

Parent Talk Lunch is a community collaborative lunch sponsored by Prevention Services Network, the Kenosha County Division of Health, Goodwill Industries, Early Head Start and Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc. These organizations provide funds and staff time to bring a weekly lunch to parents served at the Kenosha County Human Services Building, 8600 Sheridan Road, in Room North Two.

LUNCH is FREE but registration is required
Call A Child's Place Child Care Center at 697-4754 to reserve a lunch.
 There is no guarantee of lunch if you are not pre-registered. Also, child care is free if spots are available. Call A Child's Place at 697-4754 to reserve childcare.
 Call Kathy Burns, PSN Outreach Specialist with questions: 697-4628.

Each week a nurse from the Kenosha County Division of Health presents on a health related issue and the other partner agencies present on other issues pertinent to families.

The third and fourth Wednesday lunches of each month will be partially dedicated to a new program called, "Positive Solutions for Families." This program is based on the Pyramid Model of social emotional development and will help parents get a deeper understanding about how their children relate to others inside and outside their families.

The presentations will be interactive and lots of fun. You just might receive a prize for attending.

Wednesdays from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	
March 2nd	Dental Health
March 9th	Going Green
March 16th	<i>No Lunch Today</i>
March 23rd	Parent Connections
March 30th	Parent Connections

