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Women's History Month

By *Sophie Braccini*

"March is 'Women's History Month;' celebrated each year, worldwide, it highlights the contributions of women to society," Margaret De Priester told the Moraga Town Council. "It began in Sonoma County when, in 1979, the County Commission on the Status of Women initiated a 'Women's History Week', with class projects that focused on the accomplishments of women in our country." De Priester added that the popularity of women's history celebrations continues to spread across the world, as more people become aware of the contributions of women and girls.

"The White House, on the first day of this 2011 Women's History Month, released a report from the Progress Commission, which it calls 'the first comprehensive federal report on the status of women in almost 50 years'" added De Priester, a former mayor of Moraga and co-archivist of the Moraga Historical Society. "I would suggest that the Council declare the month of March 'Women's History Month' in Moraga as well."

"I thought that (De Priester's) proposal was wonderful and timely!" said Mayor Karen Mendonca after the meeting. "We are preparing a proclamation to be read at our next Town Council Meeting."

Women's History Month comes on the heels of International Women's Day (March 8), which was celebrated for the 100th time this year. That commemoration was born in Eastern Europe and Russia at the beginning of the 20th century and became more popular in the west when the United Nations invited member states to proclaim March 8 a day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

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