

Focus

By
**Dr. Carrie L.
George**



National Women's History Week Begins March 3

Contacts with significant persons in Atlanta have led me to believe that we are not very aware of National Women's History Week Observance. To bring us up-to-date let me share with you a few facts.

National Women's History Week began in 1982 and is annually proclaimed by joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress, as well as by the Governors and Legislature of nearly every state in the United States.

The purpose of the observance is to raise the awareness of persons, both female and male, as to the wealth of women's history that has been omitted from standard history textbooks. obvious one day is not enough to cover the history of women's contributions to the life and work of America, but the initial exposure will inspire students, teachers and the publics to seek to discover more about the struggles women have had to be free to fully participate in all phases of American life.

The National Women's History Week Project (located in Santa Rosa, Ca.) that has been quite successful in its observances suggests the following for the five-day project: (1) A day for an overview of the NWHW, (2) A day for women of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds when each group will tell of its cultural heritage, (3) A day for local histories of women paying tribute to women

of your own city or town, (4) A day for women and politics when emphasis should be given to the first organized women's movement in the U.S. that started at Seneca, Falls, N.Y. and the connection it had with women in politics today and (5) A day for women's artistic contributions, highlighting the contributions of women in the areas of dance, art, literature, poetry and music.

The annual observance of NWHW is always the week that includes March 8th, International Women's Day, a day celebrating women's contributions in the organized WHW for these reasons: to underline the international connections between and among all women; to emphasize a multi-cultural approach to women's history; and to celebrate women as workers world-wide.

The next five observances will be: March 2-8, 1986; March 8-14, 1987; March 6-12, 1988, March 5-11, 1989 and March 4-10, 1990. Knowing the schedule early will help organizations begin early to plan for a meaningful and fruitful celebration.

(Correction: The caption of February 24, FOCUS should have been "NON-BLACK" instead of "NON-WHITE" FRIEND DESERVES A PLACE DURING BLACK HISTORY OBSERVANCE." Sorry for the error.)