

84-98



**"SOUTHERN SISTERS: HEROINES MAKING HISTORY"**

**March 8 - 10, 1985**

**Charlotte, N.C.**

*to celebrate*

*International Women's Day*

**Friday, March 8: 8:00 PM**

Concert: "THE HARAMBEE SINGERS"

**Saturday, March 9: 1:00 - 6:00 PM**

Conference: "HEROINES MAKING HISTORY"

**Sunday, March 10: 2:00 - 5:00 PM**

"Central America Emergency Run, Walk, Roll"



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# International Women's Day

On March 8, 1857, women textile and garment workers in New York staged a demonstration for better working conditions, more pay and an end to the 12-hour day. Three years later they formed their own union to continue their struggle for equality on the job.

Again in 1908, thousands of women from New York's garment industries walked off the job, demanding better working conditions, an end to child labor and the right to vote.

The militancy of these women workers in their struggle for equality led to the recognition of March 8th as "International Women's Day" and its observance spread to other countries.

This year we honor the special contributions of women from South Africa, the American South, and Latin America by highlighting the work of several "Southern Sisters" who provided outstanding leadership to the struggles for freedom, equality and world peace.

## International Women's Day In Charlotte

- 1978—Film Benefit for ERA: "Harlan County, U.S.A."
- 1979—Dr. Elizabeth Koontz, "Women in the 80%"
- 1980—Sonja Johnson, Mormons for ERA  
Maurine Hedgepath, J.P. Stevens worker  
Film: "Norma Rae"
- 1981—Roses for Rosie celebration  
Film: "Rosie the Riveter"
- 1982—"Peace is a Woman's Issue"  
Play by Ruth Sloane-Dew  
Concert by "Sweet Honey in the Rock"  
Benefit for the Jobs with Peace Campaign
- 1983—"Women in the Labor Movement: Their Quest for  
Jobs, Peace and Equality"  
Conference speaker Evelyn Lowery
- 1984—"Karen Silkwood Day: A Tribute to Working Women"

# HEROINES MAKING HISTORY

Our celebration this year seeks to bring a new awareness that everyday women are creators of culture and history, as we examine the threads of human experience that bind the women of today's South with our sisters across the centuries and the continents of Africa and Latin America.

Traditionally, women are portrayed as "vessels of culture"--passing on traditions, values, knowledge through their children. Only the powerful Queens and wives of Presidents and rich men are seen as "making significant contributions". Our society promotes the superwoman, celebrity and box office star. Even political candidates and female astronauts are "making history" for other women.

Our program--through music, skits and discussion--celebrates the ordinary everyday woman, the housewives and textile workers, field hands and slaves, waitresses and nurses'aides, who are also creators of history.

These are the women who stand up to oppression because they have a dream of freedom; the women who work the land to survive; the women who feed the family spiritually as well as physically; the women who spin the yarn and weave the cloth; the women who care for the young and the elderly.

We will honor several "Heroines" who have provided outstanding leadership in the struggles for freedom, equality, and world peace.

These women never appear in the newspapers or history books; no one ever names a building after them or places a monument in their honor. Rarely are their names recorded; but their stories and songs have reached our generation through oral tradition, and we seek to pass them on so that their contributions to history can inspire all of us, regardless of sex, race or nationality, to reach toward higher goals for humanity.

## "THE HARAMBEE SINGERS"

Formed in the mid 1960's out of the Southern Freedom Movement, The Harambee Singers combine their talents as signers, song-writers and collectors of oral tradition to present a dynamic musical statement about the Black experience. Their concert and workshop will bring to life the history of a people through many centuries and traversing three continents--Africa, Latin America and the American South. During their workshop on Saturday afternoon (March 9) they will explore the origins and meanings of the songs, involving the audience in a sharing experience.

"Harambee" is a Swahili word from East Africa meaning "coming together". Through their music The Harambee Singers reveal the wholeness of women who are committed to family, to their community, and to peace and freedom in the world.

# City of Charlotte, North Carolina Proclamation

WHEREAS, International Women's Day is a celebration of the contributions of working women of all nationalities; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day commemorates two demonstrations on March 8, 1857, and again on March 8, 1908, by women textile workers seeking better working conditions unions, and an end to child labor; and

WHEREAS, "Southern Sisters: Heroines Making History" is the theme of this year's local celebration, and

WHEREAS, this celebration is dedicated to the women of South Africa, Latin America and the American South for their contributions to the movements for freedom, peace and equality.

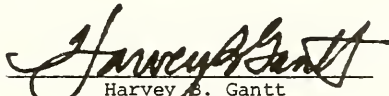
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey B. Gantt, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim March 8-10, 1985, as

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

in Charlotte, and urge our citizens to join with the International Women's Day Committee in recognizing the contributions of working women.

WITNESS MY HAND and the official seal of the City of Charlotte.



  
Harvey B. Gantt  
Mayor

# Sponsors

International Women's Day Committee  
in cooperation with  
North Carolina Humanities Committee  
Women's Studies Program of UNCC  
Charlotte Central Labor Council  
International Association of Machinists  
and Aerospace Workers Local 1725  
United Rubber Workers Local 850  
Communication Workers of America Local 3650  
United Food & Commercial Workers Local 525  
Communication Workers of America Local 3603  
Charlotte Equal Rights Congress  
with the support of  
Clergy and Laity Concerned  
Charlotte NOW (National Organization for Women)  
CITCA (Carolina Interfaith Taskforce on  
Central America)  
Charlotte SANE  
American Federation of Teachers  
Carolina Community Project

## Committee

Charles Adams	Julie Misegades
Andrea Cooper	Stella Nkomo
Brenda Freeland	Darnel Robertson
Eileen Hanson	Sue Royer
Ann Horne	Carol Senay
Mary Lerner	Eveline Stewart
Jeffrey Lerner	Judy Vaughan
Leslie Hill-Davidson	Mary Wells
Thelma McKoy	Claudette Patterson

### North Carolina Humanities Committee

Assisted by a grant from the N.C. Humanities Committee a state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The N.C. Humanities Committee is a foundation, supported by federal tax funds and private gifts, whose purpose is to encourage and assist public educational activities for adults. The opinions and conclusions expressed in the program do not necessarily represent the view of the NCHC or the National Endowment.



Charlotte Maxeke Day Care Center

## Charlotte Maxeke

Charlotte Maxeke was born in 1874 in South Africa, and educated in mission schools. She toured Canada, England and the U.S. as part of an African choir, and received a scholarship to Wilberforce University, a black college in Ohio.

She returned to South Africa in 1901 to begin active pioneer work for the AME Church and married an AME minister. Together they became involved in the African National Congress, a major liberation movement in South Africa founded in 1912. She was involved in the anti-pass campaigns and was president of the African Women's League, where she pressed for abolishing the pass laws and led a delegation of women to the prime minister's office to voice their opposition to Apartheid--especially its impact on the lives of women.

Charlotte continued her struggle against the oppression of Apartheid, becoming a leader in church work and social service. At a time when hardly any black women had entered the professions, she set up an employment bureau for Africans--indeed, she has been described as the first Africa social worker in South Africa. She was particularly concerned with the impact of Apartheid on the structure and stability of the African family and the effects of the migrant labor system--accute poverty, lack of political rights, poor housing.

Charlotte Maxeke died in 1939 at age 65. But her spirit and courage live today in the Charlotte Maxeke Day Care Center. This Day Care Center was established in Tanzania by the African National Congress Women's Section to help care for the children of parents who are either in exile or away on scholarships or other ANC missions. Your donations tonight will be used to help provide material support for the mothers and children who reside at the center.

SPONSORED BY: Monroe Gilmour, Jr.

## Sojourner Truth

“Look at me! Ain’t I a woman?  
Nobody ever helped me into  
carriages or over mud puddles,  
or gave me any best place . . .  
and ain’t I a woman?  
Look at me! Look at my arm!  
I have ploughed, and I have  
planted, and I have gathered  
into barns . . . and ain’t  
I a woman? . . . I have borne  
thirteen children and  
seen them most all sold into  
slavery and when I  
cried out with a mother’s grief,  
none but Jesus heard me.  
And ain’t I a woman?”

Sojourner Truth, Women’s Rights Convention,  
1851.



**F**ew women in those days dared to speak in meetings. She rose and walked deliberately to the front. “. . . every eye was fixed on this almost Amazon form, which stood nearly six feet high, head erect, and eye piercing the upper air like one in a dream. At her first word, there was a profound hush.” The dynamic personality of **Sojourner Truth** (1797-1883) captured the imagination of those who heard her crusade for the rights of blacks and women. A slave in New York State for forty years, she escaped and took a name derived from the meaning she was to give her life. She had acquired knowledge of the

Bible and traveled as a preacher before converting most of her energies to the antislavery cause. Because of her fearless disposition and gifts of wit and song, her lectures drew large crowds. At times, she shared the platform with Frederick Douglass. She also collected food and clothing for black soldiers during the Civil War and entertained the troops with songs. She worked as “counselor to the freed people” for the Freedmen’s Relief Association during Reconstruction, offered her support at women’s suffrage conventions, and was instrumental in integrating public transportation in the nation’s capital.





## Ella May Wiggins

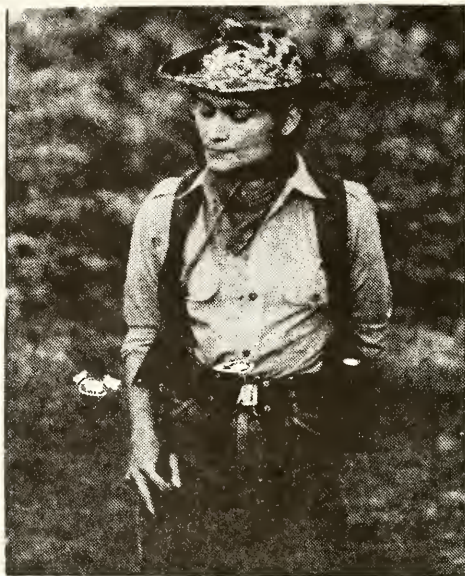
Ella May Wiggins was a millhand in Bessemer City, N.C. Four of her 9 children fell ill with whopping cough and she had no medicine. She said:

"I was working nights and nobody to do for them...I asked the super to put me on day shift, but he wouldn't... So I had to quit and then there wasn't anything for my children, not even to keep 'em alive. That's why I'm for the union, so's I can do better for them."

The workers went on strike April 1, 1929, seeking better wages and working conditions, and union recognition. It was a bitter strike; the National Guard was called in to protect the millowners interests, aided by hired gangs who beat and kidnaped union supporters.

Ella May spread her beliefs in the union through songs she sang at union meetings. She went about trying to organize the black workers, who held the most menial of jobs. On the way to a union rally September 14, 1929, a gang of thugs stopped the truck of union supporters and shot Ella May through the heart. No one was ever convicted of her murder.

Brave heart, songstress of mill workers, pioneer organizer of blacks, Ella May Wiggins took her place among labor's martyrs. May she long be remembered!



*Captured Salvadoran Janet Samour Hasbun.*

## YANET SAMOUR HASBUN AND MAXIMINA REYES VILLATORO

These two Latin American heroines were captured by the National Guard of El Salvador on December 30, 1984. On January 2, 1985, they were placed in the custody of the Central High Command of the Army, where they were subjected to heavy physical and psychological torture. Neither has been brought before a court of law. We do not know where they are, or if they are still alive.

Companeras Yanet (34) and Maximina (26) joined the national liberation movement in El Salvador because they wanted to see a better life for their people, who were living in poverty and oppression, while a few rich families owned everything.

The U.S. government has continued to support the Salvadorean Army, which has committed many human rights violations, such as the torture of these two women. Even as prisoners, they should have the right to trial.

An international solidarity movement is campaigning to secure their release. Petitions will be available at the International Women's Day program through CITCA, Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America.



## Moranda Smith

Moranda Smith was born June 3, 1915, in Winston-Salem, N.C. She worked at the Reynolds plant, where 12,000 black and white workers labored under miserable conditions: Black women were relegated to the hot and dusty stemmeries, and when a union started in 1943, they became the backbone of the movement.

Moranda joined with her co-workers to organize Local 22 of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America (CIO). Local 22 organized classes and registered 6,000 black voters. In 1947 they helped elect two pro-labor councilmen, one black and one white, in Winston-Salem.

A gifted speaker and hard worker, Moranda became a political leader and organizer, sharing her vision of workers' strength through united action. As educational director of her Local, and Regional Director of FTA in the southeast, she became the highest ranking black woman in the labor movement in the 1940's. Addressing the CIO Convention in 1947, she called on northern workers to take action against lynchings and fascism in the South

She died of a stroke April 13, 1950, at only 35. 8,000 people came to her funeral, including Paul Robeson who sang a farewell to Sister Smith. Co-workers collected funds to place a memorial on her grave. It reads:

"Here rests a courageous leader who devoted her life to the struggles of all workers--Negro and White. Her memory will live on to inspire others in the cause of achieving world peace and a happy life for all of toiling humanity."

In support of  
International Women's Day

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# AFL-CIO



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# UNCC WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

## celebrates Women's History Month

### Women's Herstory Week

#### March 25-29, 1985

- Mon. March 25: Carey Sutton Rowe Hall  
"Whatever Happened to  
My Sidesaddle?" 8:00 pm
- Tues. March 26: Verta Taylor  
"The Women's Movement in Cone 8 & 9  
the Fifties: Did it Exist?" 12:30 pm
- Katherine Hepburn Film Festival  
"Woman of the Year" McKnight  
"Pat and Mike" 5:00 pm  
"Adam's Rib"
- Wed. March 27: "Generations of Daughters" Lucas Room  
Awards Luncheon 12 Noon
- Thurs. March 28: Workshops by the Mecklenburg  
Women's Commission  
"Superwoman Syndrome" Cone 5 & 6  
"Job Skills and Harassment Cone 3 & 4  
on the Job" 12:30 pm
- "Moving in Herstory/  
Vera Orlock Dancing" Rowe Hall  
8:00 pm
- Fri. March 29: Maria Hudson film Cone 5 & 6  
"Writing the Quiet History: 10:00 am  
Women in Charlotte, N.C."
- Katherine Hepburn Film Festival McKnight  
(re-run of above) 12 Noon

All programs are open to the public. For more information about "Women's Herstory Week" or about UNCC Inter-disciplinary minor in Women's Studies, contact Ann Carver, 597-4208.

# "SOUTHERN SISTERS: HEROINES"

**Friday, March 8: 8:00 PM**

**Concert: "THE HARAMBEE SINGERS"**

*Dedicated to the Women of South Africa*

Welcome--Eileen Hanson  
Welcome to Little Rock Church  
Dedication--Stella Nkomo  
Concert--The Harambee Singers

The Concert this evening will benefit the Charlotte Maxeke Day Care Center run by the Women's Section of the African National Congress of South Africa. Tax deductible contributions may be made payable to "The Africa Fund", and left at the exits.

Following the concert there will be a discussion in the front part of the church with The Harambee Singers and Sandra Govan, Assistant Professor of English at UNCC, who will lead a dialogue around the themes presented in tonight's concert. Please join us.

**Saturday, March 9: 1:00 - 6:00 PM**

**Conference: "HEROINES MAKING HISTORY"**

*Dedicated to the Women of the American South*

Welcome--Leslie Hill-Davidson  
Dedication--Eileen Hanson  
"Living Heroines" from North Carolina  
\* Louise Sellers of the Five-Points/Biddleville  
Community Organization  
\* A Representative of the United Farmers Organization

## WORKSHOPS:

1st session (1:30-3:00 PM):

- 1) Music for Cultural Survival--The Harambee Singers
- 2) Pay Equity: Issue for Women in the '80s--Bea Quirk, N.C. NOW Task Force on Women & the Economy, Mecklenburg Women's Commission; and June Kimmell, Regional Coordinator of the N.C. Council on the Status of Women.
- 3) Women in South Africa--Tandi Gcabashe of South Africa, American Friends Service Committee (a brief film will be shown)

# WOMEN MAKING HISTORY"

## WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

2nd Session (3:00-4:30 PM):

- 1) Organizing for Survival--Barbara Armstrong, Volunteer, Carolina Community Project, facilitator
- 2) "Right-to-Know"-Hazards on the Job and in the Community--Bill Brawley, Charlotte Labor Council and Community Coalition for R-T-K legislation
- 3) Women in Latin America--Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (includes slideshow)

Buffet in the Fellowship Hall

"Historical Heroines"

- \* Sojourner Truth - by Denise Joseph
- \* Ella May Wiggins - by Sandra Gray
- \* Moranda Smith - by Claudette Patterson

International Women's Day Drawing:

1st prize--\$100

2nd prize--framed poster from ReadyArt

3rd prize--gift certificate, Undercover Book Source

Woman of the year Award--presentation of nominees by previous Women of the Year Elizabeth Evans (1984) and Clara Williams (1983)

Closing Remarks--Leslie Hill-Davidson

**Sunday, March 10: 2:00 - 5:00 PM**

**"Central America Emergency Run, Walk, Roll"**

*Dedicated to the Women of Latin America*

Join the Emergency Run for Central America at the 9 mile mark (Sam Wilson & Wilkinson Blvd, 2 PM), 4 mile mark (Ashley Rd & Wilkinson, 3 PM), or 1 mile mark (S. Tryon and Morehead, 4 PM), continuing to a rally at 700 E. Trade at 4:30 PM. A Covered Dish dinner follows at 2300 E 7th. (Carolina Community Project). This historic run from California to Washington, D.C. calls for no U.S. military intervention in Central America. Walkers and those in wheelchairs are welcome, especially from the 1 mile mark.

# C.W.A Local 3650

Our Local once again congratulates you and joins with you in this celebration. This year we would like to ask for your support during the process of selecting your Long Distance Telephone Company by staying with a company that has helpful, friendly Operators. You can make sure that you will continue to **CALL AND BUY UNION!**



**Communication Workers of America**

Local 3650

221 S. Church St.

Charlotte, N.C. 28202



# SANE

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CITCA meets every Monday at 7:30 pm  
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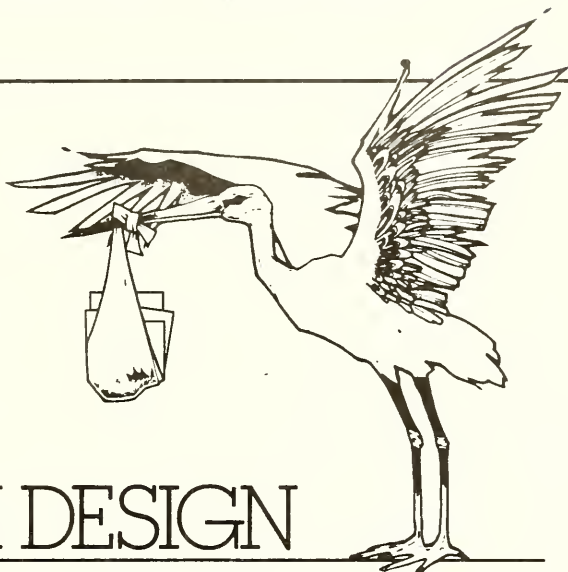


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ERC is a council of organizations and individuals.

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- \* fighting injustice in the legal system
- \* exposing police brutality
- \* supporting the Voting Rights Act
- \* opposing the resurgence of the KKK
- \* founded International Women's Day in Charlotte
- \* brought national attention to cases of Eddie James Carthan (Tchula, Miss.), Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder (Pickens County, Ala.), and John McCombs (Charlotte, N.C.).
- \* founded "Juneteenth" celebration in Charlotte
- \* working for international peace with justice

**COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF AMERICA  
LOCAL 3603**

ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

TINA LOVING

AS OUR CANDIDATE FOR WOMAN OF THE YEAR



5108 Monroe Road—Charlotte, N.C.—28205  
The Community-Minded Union

**LOCAL 525  
UFCW**

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS

P.O. Box 571

Asheville, N.C. 28802

Congratulates the Beverly Nursing Homes  
Negotiating Committee on winning their  
first Union Contract and on their nomination  
for "Women of the Year".



# Woman of the Year Award

The Woman of the Year Award was established in 1979 to honor a working woman who had not been previously recognized for her contribution to improving the quality of life on the job and in the community.

1979--Sadie Grigg

1982--Carrie Graves

1980--Eileen Hanson

1983--Clara Williams

1981--Evelyn Arant

1984--Elizabeth Evans

## 1985 Woman of the Year Nominees

BEVERLY NURSING HOMES UNION NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE, representing 300 workers in four nursing homes in Charlotte and Rock Hill, struggled for over a year to reach a contract with their employer. The Committee suffered insults, humiliation, and set backs, but they held their heads high and hung in there, fighting for the interests of their co-workers and showing that there is strength through unity. They finally won the first union contracts in the Beverly chain in the Carolinas. The Committee consists of Carolyn Cunningham Joris Wallace and Barbara Butler (Hospitality Care); Carrie Jackson (Beverly Manor); Eveline Stewart, Shirleana Dover and Hazel Pickett (Providence); Mildred Morton, Mary Hemphill and Hattie Long (Meadow Haven); assisted by Lois Felder and Eileen Hanson of the United Food & Commercial Workers Union. They are nominated for "Women of the Year" by co-worker Claudette Patterson (Hospitality Care).

KATIE CLAWSON is "one of the warmest, most generous and knowledgeable people I know," says Kathryn Shirbey, who nominated her. Katie is training co-ordinator at Child Care Resources, Inc., where she touches indirectly the lives of almost every child in day care in Charlotte. She has worked with children for over 20 years. She is an elder at Grier Heights Presbyterian Church and president of United Presbyterian Women, and also finds time to serve of a number of boards and committees serving young children.

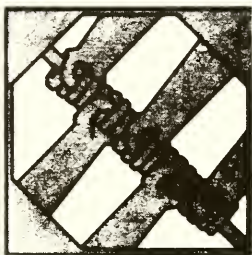
LAVERNE GALLANT was nominated by Belveia Benzenhafer, her childhood friend since they attended Morehead School for the Blind. "Laverne has shown great courage and faith in dealing with her husband's severe illness, all the while giving support and encouragement to everybody else," says Belveia. "Laverne has faced many hard times, but instead of giving up, they have made her stronger. She makes you feel comfortable and secure." Laverne is active in the National Federation of the Blind.

BETTY JO HALL works as a cashier and snack bar attendant at the Airport. To Audrey Macon, who nominated her, she is the "Working Woman's Woman", performing everyday acts of compassion and caring that deserve special praise. She's the first to offer a needed ride, or a willing ear to a troubled friend. She refuses to pass on gossip, and is a woman of pride, integrity and intelligence. "Uninformed people would call Betty Jo an ordinary woman. For those of us privileged to be the recipients of her generous and compassionate spirit, she's a woman extraordinaire," says Audrey.

LINDA KLEIN is an attorney who champions the poorer person's point of view. If her clients cannot afford the legal fees, Linda asks them to do volunteer work in a charitable or political group as part of their payment due. This practice isn't making her rich, but wealth is not her goal in life. Linda is active in Handicapped Organized Women (HOW), N.C. Civil Liberties Union, and serves on the Board of the Afro-American Cultural Center. "It's delightful to know someone who uses her profession in such a practical and unconventional way," says Julie Misegades, who nominated her.

TINA LOVING has been a member of the Communication Workers of America for 20 years, serving as Job Steward, Editor, Grievance Committee Chair, and for 15 years as Business Administrator serving 2,000 members of CWA Local 3603 on a daily basis. She was the first woman in the Local to be elected Executive Vice-President. She also serves as Chairperson of the Cabarrus County Board of Education, implementing many progressive programs in the schools. "She is a role model to other women in all lines of work, She is professional, dedicated and accomplishes much," according to her Local Union that nominated her.

TERRY ZWEBER is a certified nurse-midwife, skillfully helping parents feel comfortable about having their babies at home. With two other midwives Terry started the Birth Inn in Charlotte, and is a certified Lamaze educator. "Terry has helped so many babies come into this world safely and without violence, I would like to join hundreds of grateful mothers in saying 'thank you' to her," says Julie Misegades, who nominated her.



## We Salute International Women's Day

Carolina Community Project  
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most powerful weapons" / Gandhi

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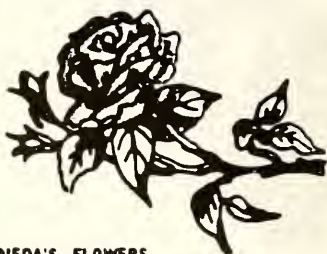
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# Acknowledgements

Charlene Price  
Fran Saxon  
Angela Philpott  
Bill Brawley  
Tandi Gcabashe  
Louise Sellers  
Bea Quirk  
June Kimmel  
Margorie Storch  
Viola Brown  
Lucille Gwynn  
Karl Korstad  
Bob Korstad  
Dr. Ann Carver  
Dr. Bertha Maxwell  
Dr. Schely Lyons  
James Gaines  
Arthur Griffin  
Audrey Harvey

Rev. Clifford Jones  
Friendship Baptist Church  
Rev. William White and members  
Little Rock AME Zion Church  
Carolina Community Project  
Gold Bond Building Products  
Automated Copy Center  
Krogers Save-On  
Harris-Teeter  
Charlotte Observer-Larry Toppman  
Charlotte Post--Bill Johnson  
WPEG-State Alexander  
WFAE-Kathy Merritt  
WCCB-Charlene Price  
WSOC-Jean Bohn  
WEZC-Tony Trueblood  
WQCC-Wayne Hammond  
WCGC-Ron Davis

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## **The North Carolina Humanities Committee**

In response to a growing awareness of the plight of human life in the modern world, many are looking with hope to the humanities—the academic disciplines that focus on questions of value and meaning: history, literature, philosophy, comparative religions and the like.

The mission of the North Carolina Humanities Committee is expressed in the general theme "The Humanities and Modern Life." Under this theme, the Committee encourages and supports programs that draw upon the humanities and teachers in the humanities to examine and to illuminate problems and dimensions of life, culture and society. Our overall purpose is to develop within the general public and among academics an appreciation of the humanities as an essential resource in human life, both private and public.

Utilizing federal monies made available by the National Endowment of the Humanities and gifts from private sources in North Carolina, we make grants to non-profit organizations for humanities programs. Each sponsoring organization receiving assistance from the Committee is expected to match dollar-for-dollar the award—either with cash or with donated services in-kind.

The Committee is composed of 24 citizens who serve without any pay and a small staff. The Committee's office is located in 112 Foust Building on the campus of UNC-Greensboro (27412). Our telephone number is (919) 379-5325.





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