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## E-Newsletter | May 2011

## Celebrating Mother's Mother's Day

The U.S. Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance. Many women who were mothers have made significant contributions to the quality of life and standard of living that women in the U.S. enjoy today. In this edition of the ENewsletter, we feature three very different mothers: writer and suffragist Julia Ward Howe, cofounder of the field of industrial engineering Lillian Moller Gilbreth, and feminist Betty Friedan.



"Battle Hymn of the Republic." Howe, the mother of seven children, was a writer of poetry, drama, and occasional travel articles for the *Atlantic Monthly*. She was also active in the suffrage movement and a founder of the New England Women's

Club. The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" made Howe one of the most famous women of the 19th century. For the forty years after her husband's death, Howe traveled the world seeking women's rights and social reforms. She was a driving force behind the establishment of Mother's Day. Howe was the first woman elected to the Society of Arts and Letters. In addition, her biography, written by her children, received the Pulitzer Prize.

Referred to as the "first lady of engineering", Lillian Moller Gilbreth

founded the field of industrial engineering with her husband Frank. A pioneer in industrial and organization psychology, Gilbreth was also the mother of twelve children, made famous by the books and movies "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "Belles on Their Toes". The family experiences contributed to her theories of time and motion. Gilbreth was the first woman member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the first female professor in the



engineering school at Purdue University. She is known for her design of kitchens and appliances and created new techniques to help disabled women accomplish household tasks. A U.S. postage stamp was issued in her honor in 1984.



Betty Friedan

Mother of three children, **Betty Friedan** was a leader in the feminist movement and author of *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). This book is often regarded as theimpetus for the resurgence of the women's movement. It is regarded as one of the mostinfluential nonfiction books of the 20th century, sold more than 3 million copies and has been reprinted in many languages. Friedan was also a founding member of the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), and the National Women's Political Caucus. Friedan served as the firstPresident of NOW and worked to secure legal equality for women.

We are proud to present these amazing women - and mothers - during the month of May when we celebrate mothers. Make sure that you take time

during this month to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the many mothers (and women) around us!

Order a copy of *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* for your mom or favorite woman through Amazon.com or your favorite online reseller.

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America www.herstoryatimeline.com

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