

## ***Here's to the Women!***

from Mama Wanted to be a Rainbow Dancer  
This was the theme song of the Washington Women's Heritage Project  
and appeared on my first recording. I've added some verses.

Here's to the Women! (with new lyrics, 2010)©1982 Linda Allen  
History books give us historical facts  
Of soldiers and sailors and men with their axes  
But who filled their bellies, and who washed their clothes  
Who raised up the children, who nurtured their souls?

Without all the women, now, where would we be?  
Working and caring throughout history  
Their hands on the plow but their stories untold  
So here's to the women who shouldered the load

The wilderness held them in the palm of her hand  
It took more than muscle to settle this land  
Women together set straight to the task  
With schools and libraries, a city at last CHORUS

Some came here from Mexico, Norway, Japan  
To raise the good crops in this faraway land  
Some came here as picture brides, so little choice  
Some came as slaves with no hope and no voice

And deep in the forests, and out on the plains  
Some women were watching as new women came  
And some longed for friendship and offered a hand  
But politicians and soldiers soon bloodied the land CHORUS

Some women grew tired of having no say  
So they listened to Abigail, Emma and May  
For fifty long years they fought for the vote  
So their daughters could enter the future with hope

In hard times and good times the women would share  
Their songs and their stories, their loves and their fears  
And their history's recorded, the song never ends  
In the memory of mothers and sisters and friends CHORUS