



Who is Betty Friedan?

"The only kind of work which permits an able woman to realize her abilities fully, to achieve identity in society in a life plan that can encompass marriage and motherhood, is the kind that was forbidden by the feminine mystique, the lifelong commitment to an art or science, to politics or profession."

— Betty Friedan

Friedan's life in brief

- Betty Friedan co-founded the National Organization of Women with 27 other women and men.
- In 1952, Betty Friedan was fired from the union newspaper, *UE News*, when she was pregnant with her second child.
- Friedan's most famous book, "The Feminine Mystique," began as an article based on a survey of women's satisfaction with their lives. The article was submitted to numerous women's magazines and turned

down by each editor. Friedan expanded the article into the book, which was published in 1963. "The Feminine Mystique" became a best seller and a catalyst for the feminist revolution.

- The book depicted the roles of women in industrial societies, and, in particular, the full-time homemaker role, which Friedan saw as stifling.
- Friedan died at her home in Washington, D.C. Feb. 4, 2006, of congestive heart failure. It was her 85th birthday.