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E-Newsletter | October 2011

Celebrating Women and Making History

2011 National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Weekend in Seneca Falls, New York

On October 1, 2011, the National Women's Hall of Fame inducted eleven women into the Hall at its home in downtown Seneca Falls, New York - the "Birthplace of Women's Rights." Each year the Hall inducts both historical women and present day women who are role models who have made, or continue to make a difference in all of our lives. This year's inductees were: St. Katharine Drexel, Dorothy Harrison Eustis, Dr. Loretta C. Ford, Abby Kelley Foster, Helen Murray Free, Billie Holiday, Coretta Scott King, Lilly Ledbetter, Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Dr. Donna E. Shalala, and Kathrine Switzer. Congratulations to all 2011 NWHF Inductees!

As part of the induction weekend festivities, the cast of Mosaic and their parents traveled from Colorado to Seneca Falls to present the fabulous play *Mosaic: Voices of Women's Suffrage*. Written by three students in the summer of 2010 (Jessica Miller, Liesl Jensen and Nicole Polglaze) and produced by Jen Myronuk, Executive Director of Her Story Media, *Mosaic* showcases the vibrant life stories of three American suffragists - Julia Ward Howe, Caroline Churchill and Alice Paul - in their own words. Through historic portrayal in period costumes, the play features monologues and speeches in conversation over tea as each suffragist shares her own unique life perspective of the events from 1848 until 1920, when the 19th Amendment passed granting U.S. women the right to vote. The Seneca Falls cast of *Mosaic* (Jessica Miller, Liesl Jensen and Trine Jensen, our understudy) performed at both the Seneca Falls Middle School and at the First Presbyterian Church -- the birthplace of the Equal Rights Amendment. Their performances received accolades and rave reviews. The production would not have happened without the dedication of our co-producer and production manager, Patti Miller, the many contributions of Chris and Pete Jensen, and our fabulous costume designer Annabel Reader and theatrical & script coach Susan Marie Frontczak. We also want to thank Kathy Jans-Duffy of the Seneca Falls Historical Society for providing the tea set and wonderful



Cast of Mosaic at the National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Weekend 2011

At the NWHF Induction Ceremony, we heard the life stories and diverse accomplishments of the 2011 Hall Inductees -- from advancements in nursing to witnessing the civil rights movement to advocating for equal pay and breaking the glass ceiling for women marathon runners, it was truly an inspiring weekend! We want to thank Chris Moulton, Amanda Bishop and Board of Directors of the NWHF for inviting the cast + crew of Mosaic to perform -- and especially a huge thanks to Jill for providing the introduction and opportunity for the Mosaic cast and family members to participate in the NWHF Induction Weekend 2011!



Cast of Mosaic standing outside the future home of the National Women's Hall of Fame.

If you haven't yet visited the Hall in person or want to learn more about these and other inductees, be sure to review the NWHF web site at www.greatwomen.org.

Jill is a member of NWHF Board of Directors and is actively engaged in assuring that funds can be raised to move the Hall to a marvelous new facility -- the historic Seneca Knitting Mills Factory (pictured left with the cast of Mosaic). Funds are needed to completely remodel and restore this historic building in the center of Seneca Falls for future generations to come.

Seneca Falls and the Birthplace of Women's Rights

Seneca Falls held the first Women's Rights Convention on July 19-20, 1848 at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott met in London in 1840 at the World Anti-Slavery Convention. Mott was a delegate who was denied a seat because she was a woman (along with all other women delegates). Stanton was there on her honeymoon. Already an avowed activist, Stanton had removed the word "obey" from her wedding ceremony and sought to promote equality between women and men. Mott and Stanton decided that they would advocate for women's rights upon their return to the U.S.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

In 1848, while Lucretia Mott was visiting her sister Martha Coffin Wright in Waterloo, New York, Stanton (who had three children by this time), Mott, Wright, Mary Ann M'Clintock and Jane Hunt put together the plan for the Seneca Falls Convention. The event was announced five days in advance and notice was placed in the newspaper, the Seneca County Courier. Lucretia Mott's husband, James Mott, chaired the convention as wo men at that time had little, if any experience speaking in public.

"The Declaration of Sentiments", the document that would define the meeting, was prepared in advance. Based on the Declaration of Independence, the document was radical in many ways. Not only did it advocate for women's right to vote, it also stated that "men and women are created equal." Not everyone in attendance wanted the document to advocate for women's rights, but Frederick Douglass argued forcefully that the words stay in the document. Of the 300 attendees (men and women),

100 would sign the Declaration of Sentiments.

Today the document is engraved on a water wall at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls. Recently renovated and now open to the public, visitors can stand inside the original Wesleyan Chapel; the foundation is still intact and several walls have been re-constructed.

These women could not have imagined that the fight to win women the right to vote would take 72 years! But, they certainly knew that big goals start with the first step. With our deep gratitude, we salute these amazing women on whose shoulders we stand.



Wesleyan Chapel, Seneca Falls, NY

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

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