

Literary Luncheon Program Booklet Sponsorship

We are printing a program to celebrate “California Women Suffrage Centennial: 1911 – 2011 Votes for Women” in conjunction with our 2011 Literary Luncheon. Our goal is to have the program booklet be an educational piece as well as a **celebration** of the Suffrage movement in California.

For a \$50.00 donation you can help provide the information for the booklet – either by choosing one of the statements below **or** creating one of your own. Your generous donations will help us spread the education re: California Women’s Suffrage.

October 11, 1911 California became the 6th state to grant women the vote; following in the footsteps of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington. Although the 1st women’s rights convention was held in 1858 in Seneca Falls, NY – the west took the lead in the suffrage movement.

_____ Emily Pitts Stevens published the first journal for women’s suffrage in the west. With a keen passion for the abuses women endured in an uncaring society, she formed organizations and provided printing opportunities to employ and train young women. She also pioneered a public evening school for girls in 1867.

_____ Mrs. Julia Stevens Fish Schlesinger, editor and publisher of The Carrier Dove expanded her Oakland publishing business to San Francisco in 1870. The Carrier Dove was second only to Emily Pitts Stevens’ The Pioneer pushing forward women’s right to vote in California.

_____ Senator Aaron A. Sargent (Nevada City, CA) was the 1st person in the entire Congress who uttered the word “suffrage” and wrote a suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

_____ Ellen Clark Sargent became the link between suffragists in California and Washington, D.C. Mrs. Sargent was President of the California Woman Suffrage Association in 1896 and the Sargent home was one of the main headquarters for the suffrage vote. Ellen Clark Sargent died just days before California women won their right to vote October 10, 1911. A memorial, the 1st given to a woman at that time, was held with Governor Hiram Johnson honoring her achievements in Union Square, San Francisco.

_____ Mary McHenry Keith – 1st woman graduate of the Hastings School of Law in 1881 used her knowledge of the law for a commitment to women’s suffrage. William Keith, an ardent suffragist, and Mrs. Keith opened their home to members of the suffrage movement from beginning to end. Mrs. Keith was the

leader of the 1911 suffrage campaign and her hometown of Berkeley, CA called her “Berkeley’s Mother of Suffrage.”

_____ Mrs. Katherine Reed Balentine edited and published (at her own expense) the 1st suffrage paper on the Pacific Coast which she called “The Yellow Ribbon”.

_____ Senator Bell of Pasadena proposed our amendment in the California Legislature and pledged his best efforts to secure its’ passage. Lieutenant Governor Wallace and the Honorable Frank Jordan, Secretary of State, were likewise dedicated to our amendment’s passage.

_____ Berkeley was the only town in the counties of Alameda and San Francisco that voted for suffrage – not only in 1896 but again in 1911. The men of Berkeley, California grabbed hold of the woman suffrage cause and never let go.

_____ Southern California Suffrage Leader and California’s 1st woman Lawyer Clara Shortridge Foltz figured prominently in the 1911 campaign. When she moved to Los Angeles, Clara Foltz devoted the full resources of her law practice to suffrage. It was the votes from the men of Los Angeles and the “cow counties” that created the majority vote for suffrage; hence, the influence of California’s “Portia of the Pacific” can not be underestimated.

_____ Lillian Harris Coffin was the chief lobbyist for the California Equal Woman Suffrage Association who led the 1st (and only) suffrage march in California in Oakland in 1908. She taught women how to lobby, to organize, and to exert their leadership on behalf of suffrage.

_____ Selina Solomons was a pioneer in suffrage. As a speaker, who held only a high school diploma, her fiery liveliness established her credibility as a feminist. She opened the Votes-for-Women Club in a large loft in San Francisco and turned it in to a headquarters for suffrage. Selina wrote a suffrage play, The Girl From Colorado, a light romantic comedy about Auntie Suffridge’s conversion from non-suffrage to suffrage. In 1912 she published How we Won the Vote.

_____ Elizabeth Lowe Watson was president of the California Equal Suffrage Association aka The California Woman Suffrage Association from 1909 – 1911.

_____ Minna O’Donnell represented the vigorous level of labor’s support on behalf of woman suffrage in San Francisco from 1909 – 1911, when the union Labor Party’s candidate Patrick McCarthy was mayor of the city. He came out for woman suffrage. Minna joined Louise LaRue in leadership of the Wage Earner’s Suffrage League.

_____The women's suffrage amendment came up for a vote January 26, 2010, the debate being led by Senator Lee Gates, noted orator from the South, and carried with the sweeping victory of 35-5.

_____In San Francisco, in 1908, Maud Younger pioneered a waitresses union and became president of the local. She advocated the amendment for the eight-hour work day for women. The amendment, along with the women's right to vote, passed on October 11, 1911. Having won suffrage in California, she joined the national campaign for the 19th amendment in Washington, D.C.

_____Mrs. Rhoda Ringrose appealed to the Bishop of San Francisco area Catholic Church to take up the cause of suffrage in the pulpit. Because he prohibited it – it kept the priests who were against suffrage from talking against it. (Her plan to begin with?)

_____John D. Spreckels, eldest son of the sugar millionaire Claus Spreckels, was the editor of The Call which advocated women's suffrage and provided a historical trail of the activities of the women's suffrage campaign of 1911. The Call distinguished itself as separate from the liquor establishment in San Francisco when it declared its aggressive support for suffrage on the front page of the Sunday edition, August 6, 1911. The Call predicted that suffrage would win by 4,000 votes! The final margin was 3,587.

_____Newspaper men Ernest L. Simpson, Fremont Older, Edward F. Cahill, Robert J. Burdette, F. Marriott, Theodore Stanton and Harry Cowell used their words and their considerable influence urging the people to "go forward" with suffrage.

_____March 28, 1912 heralded an historic first action for the women of California. This was the 1st time in their lives they could vote!

The AAUW-LB Literary Luncheon, and its' program, benefits the American Association of University Women Laguna Beach Foundation (AAUW-LBF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization tax ID 33-0915388.

Please check the statement above that you would like to "sponsor" for the program and return with your \$50.00 check payable to AAUW-LBF – mail to: Dr. Kimberly Salter, 31462 Flying Cloud Drive, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Any questions contact Dr. Salter at (949) 230-1169 or kimsalter@cox.net