



Women's Suffrage Commission

Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote

2017 Annual Report



Letter from the Chair

I'm proud to share the accomplishments of the New York State Women's Suffrage Commission in its first year of programs. The Commission was established by legislation to:

“plan and execute an organized series of statewide programs that celebrate the accomplishment of women’s suffrage and the central role of New Yorkers and New York state in this milestone, while also helping shape the future to ensure a more just and equitable society for all.”

One hundred years from that important victory, we are still working toward equal rights. And we are living through our own revolution as the #MeToo movement finally breaks down a culture of sexual harassment and assault that has hurt and stifled the potential of women and girls for far too long.



Since officially launching programs in March – Women’s History Month – the Commission has reached thousands of New Yorkers through conferences, exhibits, and programs throughout the state. Some of our programs focused on suffrage history, while others focused on contemporary issues facing women today as we continue to follow the trail blazed by the women – and enlightened men – who came before us. The Commission has also served as a convener of the state’s major cultural and historical institutions to coordinate and maximize impact of programming.

The highlight of the year was our celebration of New York’s suffrage centennial on November 6th. We lit up 30 major landmarks throughout the state in purple and gold, gathered nearly 600 women leaders at an official centennial celebration in New York City, announced the building of two new statues (Sojourner Truth in Ulster County and Rosalie Jones on Long Island), and launched a challenge calling on New Yorkers to look for the lost Declaration of Sentiments in their archives and storage, as well as in their hearts and minds (#FindtheSentiments).

As we look toward the national suffrage centennial in 2020, we will continue to highlight the leading role of New Yorkers in our nation’s journey to build a more perfect union.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hochul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lieutenant Governor

Highlights

Website

In March, the Commission launched its website: ny.gov/suffrage. The website includes profiles of New York suffragists, links to historic suffrage sites across the state, and a calendar of events. From March to December, our website received 89 event submissions from local organizations hosting suffrage events, including libraries, historical associations, and colleges.

Capitol and Empire State Plaza Exhibits

The exhibit, “New York State Women’s Suffrage 1917 – 2017 | The Fight for the Vote and the March for Full Equality,” located in the East Gallery of the Capitol, opened in March and will stay on display through early January. It traces the almost 70-year struggle for the vote and highlights the lives of 12 influential suffragists and the role they played in securing the vote.

The exhibit features the “Spirit of 1776” wooden suffrage wagon in which a Long Island Suffragist and her eight-year-old daughter traveled throughout Long Island and Manhattan during the summer of 1913 to spread the importance of votes for women, a 1917 banner carried by Suffragists, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s 1854 address to the New York State Legislature.



Throughout the month of March, special one-hour Capitol tours focused on the suffrage movement were available to visitors.

The exhibit “Women’s Suffrage in New York State,” located in the Capitol corridor which connects the state house to the Empire State Plaza, includes imagery of pro- and anti-suffrage propaganda with historic photographs of the women who organized and marched until the vote was won. The exhibit remains on display as of this publishing.

Girl Scouts Partnership

In March, the Commission partnered with all seven Girl Scouts councils across New York to launch a suffrage centennial [patch program](#). By working to earn the patch, girls learn about the history of the women’s movement in New York and envision how they can lead for justice.

The program garnered extensive coverage in local press, and by the end of summer, more than 1,000 girls had already earned the patch, and Girl Scouts councils across the country are looking to replicate the program.



#TheNext100 Film Series

Women Make Movies is a non-profit media arts organization that facilitates the production, promotion, distribution and exhibition of independent films and videotapes by and about women. The organization was founded in 1972 to address the under representation and misrepresentation of women in the media industry.

From June to September, the Commission partnered with Women Make Movies on #TheNext100 Film Series, organizing screenings and discussions in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island.

The documentaries featured included Lily Rivlin's *Heather Booth: Changing the World*, an inspiring story about the impact one person can make; Civia Tamarkin and Luchina Fisher's *Birthright: A War Story*, about how state legislation across the United States is increasingly limiting women's agency over decisions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, and Shola Lynch's *Chisholm '71: Unbought and Unbossed*, which documents Shirley Chisholm's historic presidential campaign.



Matilda Joslyn Gage Center

The Matilda Joslyn Gage Center had an amazing plethora of events surrounding the centennial of women's suffrage in New York State. The celebration began October 12th with an interactive program called *Witness to Injustice: Unraveling Historic Native & U.S. Relations*. This inter-active group exercise raised awareness of the history of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the part of the world now known as the United States. It was held by NOON (Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation).

The exhibit *The Haudenosaunee Confederacy: Leading the Way to Women's Rights* opened on October 14th, which included Haudenosaunee and non-native speakers and screening of the film *Under the Husk* about the Rite of Passage ceremony and discussion with the Mohawk filmmaker and girls featured in the film who went through the ceremony.

On November 6th, the Center – in partnership with the YWCA and the Palace Theater – held the *100 Years of Women's Suffrage in NYS Celebration*, which included a screening of the movie *Suffragette*, the Haudenosaunee exhibit, and the suffrage exhibit from the NY State Museum.

On November 7th, the Center held a reception with Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, who traveled the state honoring suffragists including Matilda Joslyn Gage at their homes and resting places.

This project (in its whole) was supported by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a network of historic sites and museums dedicated to interpreting themes of human rights through dialogue-based approaches, Humanities New York, and the New York Women's Suffrage Commission.

Vote Centennial Classroom Projects

In September, the Commission launched the New York Women's Vote Centennial Project, a partnership with the American Federation of Teachers and First Book, a nonprofit social enterprise that provides new books, learning materials, and other essentials to children in need. The project invited teachers to develop classroom projects and activities focusing on women's history, civic engagement, the democratic process, equal rights, or a related topic.

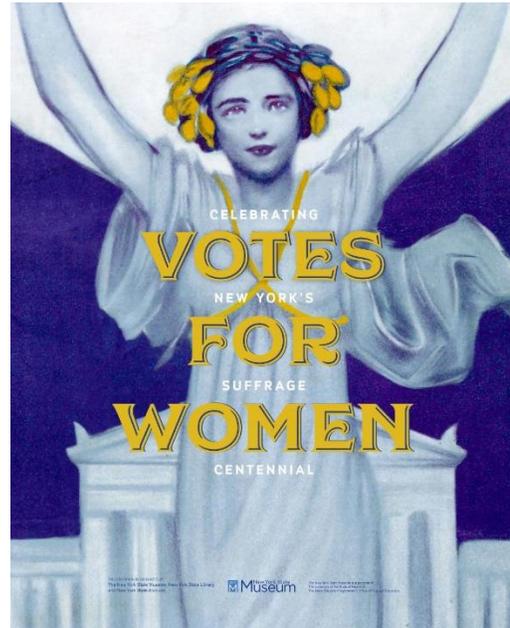
Fifteen classroom projects were selected and will be implemented across the state through early 2018. Projects include a school-wide inclusion fair, learning about women's history through photography, and learning about the democratic process by writing letters about local issues to elected officials.

Participating schools are in Binghamton, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Gloversville, Guilderland, Manhattan, Queens, Rochester, Silver Creek, Spring Valley, Staten Island, Tupper Lake, and Union Springs.

Votes for Women Exhibit

Commission member Jennifer Lemak curated the *Votes for Women* exhibit, which opened on November 4th at the State Museum and will remain on display until May.

The exhibit “will celebrate the centennial of women’s suffrage in New York State and raise public awareness of the struggle for women’s suffrage and equal rights in New York State from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention through 1917 when New York State granted women the right to vote. The exhibition will also address the nationally significant role of New York State leaders in regards to women’s rights and the feminist movement through the early 21st century.” In addition to public programs, the Museum has created a six-panel traveling exhibition that can be lent to local libraries and museums, and released a Suffrage Educator’s Guide for K-12 teachers.



Marking the New York State Suffrage Centennial

To mark the New York suffrage centennial on November 6th, 30 landmarks across the state were lit up in purple and gold:

New York City

- One World Trade Center
- Empire State Building
- 4 Times Square
- Kosciuszko Bridge
- Con Edison Clock Tower
- Bank of America Tower

Buffalo/Western New York

- Niagara Falls
- Buffalo City Hall Dome
- Roswell Park Sign
- M&T Bank
- One Canalside
- Seneca One Tower
- Electric Tower
- Buffalo News

Rochester

- Tower 280
- One East Avenue
- The Metropolitan
- High Falls
- Rundel Memorial Building

Syracuse

- New York State Fair Gates
- National Grid Building
- Crouse Hospital Tower
- Barclay Damon Building
- Onondaga Courthouse
- Carnegie Building
- Bernthal Way
- Syracuse University Hendricks Chapel
- Syracuse University Hall of Languages

Albany

- Alfred E. Smith Building
- SUNY Building

In addition, Lieutenant Governor Hochul was joined by Representative Carolyn Maloney, Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and other elected officials at the official suffrage centennial celebration in New York City, where she announced the State will build two statues in commemoration of suffragists Sojourner Truth and Rosalie Gardiner Jones.



The statue of Sojourner Truth will be sited on the Empire State Trail in Ulster County, where she was born. Truth was born into slavery circa 1797, sold three times, and escaped to freedom in 1826. She went on to become a noted abolitionist and women's rights advocate until her death in 1883.

The statue of Rosalie Gardiner Jones will be built in Cold Spring Harbor State Park on Long Island. Known as "General Jones," she was born and lived in Cold Spring Harbor and was respected for leading suffrage "pilgrims" on marches from New York City to Albany and Washington, DC in support of women's suffrage.

The State will issue a call for submissions to select the designs of each statue. There are currently 25 statues on New York State property, including only two women: Dr. Mary Walker, a civil war surgeon, in Albany; and frontierswoman Mary Jemison in Letchworth State Park. With the addition of the new statues of Truth and Jones, the total number of statues of women on New York State property will double.

Commemorative “I Voted” Stickers

November 7th, the day after the state’s suffrage centennial, was Election Day in New York State. To raise awareness about this historic milestone among New Yorkers, the Commission donated more than **two million** commemorative “I Voted” stickers to all 62 county boards of election in the state, to be distributed to voters on Election Day.

The sticker design was selected via online voting between September 25th and September 29th and received more than 18,000 votes.

The design features “General” Rosalie Jones, a New York suffragist and organizer. In December, 1912, Jones led a 150 mile-long hike, on foot, from New York City to Albany to deliver a petition to Governor-elect Sulzer, who expressed support for women’s suffrage.

Also on November 7th, Lieutenant Governor Hochul traveled from her native Buffalo to Rochester and Fayetteville honoring suffragist leaders Mary Burnett Talbert, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joslyn Gage at their resting places.



Academic Conferences

The Commission also co-sponsored a series of academic conferences, including the two-day *Women in Politics: Past, Present, & Future* held at the Roosevelt Library and at SUNY New Paltz (April), CUNY's 13th Annual Women's Leadership Conference held at Hunter College in Manhattan (October), and The New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network's Suffrage Centennial Conference held at the State Museum in Albany (November).

Note

This report is not comprehensive. Each Commission member, through their own organizations and personal efforts, has made significant contributions to commemorating the suffrage centennial through local events, innovative programs, and through their writing.

Commission Meetings

March 1, Albany
June 27, New York City
August 30, Syracuse

Contact

To learn more about the New York State Women's Suffrage Commission, please visit www.ny.gov/suffrage or e-mail us at suffrage@exec.ny.gov

Commission Members



Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul

New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul was elected in 2014. Prior to her role as a statewide official, she was elected at both the Federal and local level – she was a Member of Congress in New York’s 26th Congressional District, served as Erie County Clerk, and began her career in public office on her local town board.

The Lieutenant Governor chairs the Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Councils, which have reinvented economic development by empowering local leaders in business and academia, not bureaucrats in Albany. This strategy has brought more jobs than ever before to New York State.

As the highest ranking female elected official in New York State, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul is committed inspiring a new generation of women to enter public service or aspire to leadership within their chosen field through the #NYWomenLead initiative. The Lieutenant Governor spearheads the Administration’s key efforts to advance gender equality, including the Enough is Enough campaign to combat sexual assault on college campuses and efforts to eliminate the wage gap. In 2016, she was elected chair of New York State’s Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission.



Senator Betty Little

Senator Betty Little is serving her seventh term representing the residents of the 45th Senate District, which comprises Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and parts of St. Lawrence and Washington Counties.

Prior to first winning election to the State Senate in November 2002, Senator Little served in the New York State Assembly for seven years.

Senator Little's seventh term builds on many legislative successes. They include: adoption of an initiative that encourages local governments to work cooperatively and share services to save tax dollars; reform of the adverse possession law to ensure greater fairness for property owners; a law to restrict the sale, possession and importation of invasive species; creation of the Adirondack Community Housing Trust; passage of the historic Timber Theft Law; and expanding net metering to encourage investment in renewable power production including solar, wind and waste energy.

Senator Little also sponsored two Constitutional Amendments, approved by the public in 2013, to help homeowners, the economy and environment in the Adirondacks.

The mother of an active-duty combat veteran, Senator Little was honored to sponsor Patriot Plans I and II, which expanded benefits and services available to New York's military personnel and their families. Senator Little also proudly sponsored a law designating the Adirondack Northway, I-87, the "Adirondack Veterans' Memorial Highway" in honor of all New York veterans who have served our country.

Senator Little serves as chair of the Housing, Construction and Community Development Committee. In addition, she is a member of the following Senate committees: Crime Victims, Crime and Correction; Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Education; Energy and Telecommunications; Environmental Conservation; Finance; Health and Rules.

Senator Little first began public service as a member and later Chair of the Town of Queensbury Recreation Commission. In 1986, she was elected as an At-Large-Supervisor to the Warren County Board of Supervisors for the Town of Queensbury, where she served on various committees, including the Warren County Recycling Advisory Committee which she organized and chaired, and as County Budget Officer in 1990 and 1991.

Senator Little has earned numerous awards and distinctions during her years of public service. In 1992, she was the recipient of the prestigious Liberty Bell Award for Community Service and in 1997 she was awarded the Adirondack Girl Scouts' Women of Distinction Award. In 2000, Senator Little received the Public Service Sector Partnership Award from the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council. The Community Health Care Association of New York State presented Senator Little with their Legislative Leadership Award in February 2005. Also in 2005, she was recognized as Legislator of the Year by Families Together in New York State for her advocacy on behalf of families with children suffering from emotional and behavioral disabilities.

In May of 2006, the New York State Economic Development Council presented Senator Little with their Advance New York Leadership Award. In 2007, she was awarded the Charles Stewart Parnell Award by the American-Irish Legislators Society of New York State.

For her advocacy on behalf of armed services men and women she was presented the Mary G. Roebling Distinguished Service Award in 2011 by the Association of the United States Army First Region.

The New York State School Boards Association presented her with their State Leader of the Year Award for her exemplary advocacy on behalf of public education. She also has been honored by the New York State Farm Bureau as a member of their "Circle of Friends" throughout her years of service in the Legislature.

In December 2007, Senator Little was awarded an honorary doctorate by her alma mater, the College of Saint Rose.

Born in Glens Falls, New York, Senator Little is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy and the College of Saint Rose with a degree in Elementary Education. A former teacher and realtor, she resides in Queensbury. Senator Little is the mother of six children, Elizabeth, David, Robert, Thomas, Carolyn and Luke, and the proud grandmother of seventeen.



Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Velmanette Montgomery is recognized for her effective leadership and steadfast commitment to her constituents of north and central Brooklyn as well as to New Yorkers statewide.

In her role as the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Children and Families, Senator Montgomery is committed to helping young people achieve positive outcomes through reform of the State's juvenile justice, foster care and adoptive care systems. Senator Montgomery continues to be one of New York's leading proponents of school-based health care as a model system for delivering comprehensive primary and mental health services to children of all ages, in the school setting where youth spend most of their day. The Senator's Teen Health Agenda includes legislation that requires, among other things, the teaching of age appropriate, medically accurate sexuality education in kindergarten through 12th grade. Senator Montgomery is the co-sponsor of the law that allows for the certification of nurse practitioners, and she spearheaded the campaign to stem the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users through legalized needle exchange programs.

As a respected advocate for criminal justice reform and a member of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, Senator Montgomery sponsored a law that prevents New Yorkers from being arbitrarily denied a license to barber or practice cosmetology just because they spent time in prison. She also authored a law that prohibits the shackling of a pregnant woman in prison while being transported to the hospital to deliver her baby.

Other recent Montgomery laws include a measure that prevent the NYS Office of Children and Families from posting the home address or personal information of day care

providers on the Internet; a proposal that provided over \$400 million in federal funding for the repair of NYCHA buildings, and a law that prohibits employers from discriminating in the granting of funeral or bereavement leave to its employees who are in a committed same-sex relationship. Also, in 2012, Senator Montgomery sponsored a law to support New York's primary industry, agriculture, by requiring the State's Procurement Council to include a member of a non-profit organization that represents New York's farming communities.

Standing Committee Assignments 2013:

Ranking Democrat, Children and Families; Agriculture; Crime Victims, Crime and Correction; Education; Finance; Health; Rules.



Lourdes Zapata

Lourdes Zapata joined Empire State Development (ESD) in October 2014 as the new Executive Director of the Division for Minority and Women's Business Development. As Executive Director, Zapata is responsible for the development of the statewide MWBE procurement policy as required by Article 15A of the Executive Law and reflective of New York State Governor Cuomo's priority to promote equality of economic opportunities for Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MWBEs) and to eliminate barriers to their participation in obtaining State contracts. In her role, Zapata oversees the Division's certification, compliance and business development activities, and works with State Commissioners and the Legislature on matters affecting the MWBE community. Zapata is dedicated to efforts to achieve the Governor's goals, and is committed to ensuring that minorities and women have their fair share of contracting opportunities with the State of New York. Prior to joining ESD, Zapata served as Senior Vice President for the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBRO).

In this role, Zapata oversaw the community and economic development programs as well as real estate development activities. In addition to supervising the management of more than 750 units of affordable, market rate and special needs housing, she was also responsible for the creation and operations of numerous economic development programs in the Bronx targeted to businesses throughout New York State, particularly MWBEs. Zapata also previously served as Community Development Director for the City of Newburgh in Orange County, New York. Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, Zapata holds a master's degree in Public Administration from New York University and a bachelor's degree in Law and Society/Women's Studies from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.



Superintendent Noemi “Ami” Ghazala

Noemi “Ami” Ghazala is the superintendent of Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York.

Ami’s National Park Service (NPS) journey started at the Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum where she spotlighted the forgotten stories at “The Island of Hope/The Island of Tears”. In 2007, she wrote a children’s book called, “From Many Lands, The Ellis Story.”

In 2008, she transferred to Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve located in New Orleans. As Education Coordinator and later District Supervisor, she focused efforts on bringing urban children from the Ninth Ward to their local national park while providing them with opportunities for education and employment.

She was promoted to Chief of Education and Resources Management at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in 2010. In Dayton, she worked closely with the local community to reopen African-American poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar’s home to the public.

A graduate of St. John’s University, Ami traveled overseas as a freelance photojournalist focusing much of her writing on women’s issues. Other private sector experiences include published writings and photo-essays in Egypt, managing a small business in New York City, and teaching overseas and in the United States.



Commissioner Rose Harvey

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated Rose Harvey to serve as Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in January 2011.

Previously, Ms. Harvey held multiple leadership positions with The Trust for Public Land for 27 years, beginning as a community organizer and rising to Senior Vice President and Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region and finally as National Director of Urban Programs. Serving as Regional Director for 17 years, she led a 50 person staff in an eight-state region that, each year, purchased about \$75 million of conservation lands and, annually designed and developed 10 to 12 new urban parks with and for underserved communities. She holds a B.A. from Colorado College and an M.E.S. from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (FES).



Commissioner RoAnn Destito

In May 2011, the NYS Senate unanimously confirmed Governor Cuomo’s nomination of RoAnn M. Destito as Commissioner of the Office of General Services. Citing her experience as a 19-year member of the New York State Assembly, Cuomo stated, “Commissioner Destito will play a crucial role in modernizing our state operations and helping to restore performance to state government. She will use her wealth of experience, business acumen, and good judgment to cut costs throughout government and deliver more for the people of New York.”

Commissioner Destito is leading transformational changes at the Office of General Services as it implements programs in support of Governor Cuomo's vision to change the way government does business and make it more effective, efficient, and responsive to the needs of citizens. Destito is intensifying OGS' focus on procuring services and commodities at best value and maximizing the use of state-owned and leased office space. As a longstanding public servant, Destito is committed to Governor Cuomo's call to restore public trust and create a government that New York can be proud of.

From Rome, New York, Destito was elected to represent the 116th Assembly district (Oneida County) in 1992. During her time in the Assembly, she worked to advance and strengthen the state's procurement practices, opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses, and support for military families.

Beginning in 2001, Destito served as chairwoman of the Assembly Standing Committee on Governmental Operations, which provides legislative and budget oversight to the Office of General Services. Her experience on this committee gave Destito the unique opportunity to work with OGS on legislation related to procurement lobbying, energy policy, emergency contracting, and leasing transactions.

Commissioner Destito holds a degree in Industrial Relations from LeMoyne College. Prior to her election to the Assembly, she worked at the Muscular Dystrophy Association, SUNY College of Technology, and was president of the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley. Destito is the first woman to be confirmed as OGS Commissioner.



Dr. Eve Waltermaurer

Dr. Eve Waltermaurer was appointed to the Commission by the Speaker of the Assembly. Dr. Waltermaurer holds a PhD in Epidemiology from the University at Albany’s department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She currently serves as a Senior Researcher at SUNY New Paltz’ Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives and the Institute for Family Health. Dr. Waltermaurer’s personal research agenda centers primarily on women’s health and women’s status in the United States and globally.

Dr. Waltermaurer provides evaluation, research and statistical consultancy for a number of community based, health and governmental agencies, and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS) to assist in defining research agendas, refining methodology, and disseminating information.

Among her publications include numerous academic papers related specifically to women's issues including domestic violence, contraception and breastfeeding. She published a book in 2013 that looks at the intersection between health and crime (Routledge/Taylor Francis). In 2010 she created and directed a documentary film about women's sexual exploration (Films for the Humanities).

Dr. Waltermaurer is the principal researcher responsible for the Women@Work (Times Union) View on Women (VOW) poll for New York disseminated throughout 2017 in association with the New York State Centennial of Women's Suffrage.



Christina Lotz

Christina Lotz was appointed to the position of Seneca County Clerk by Governor Pataki in May of 1996. She ran her first campaign that same year and was successful with a win in November of 1996. She is so proud to be the first woman elected to the position of Seneca County Clerk. She is finishing her fifth term, and is looking forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Seneca County. Ms. Lotz has lived in Seneca County her entire life, and has raised her children in the Town of Seneca Falls, with her husband Gerald Drake.



Dr. Jennifer Lemak

Jennifer Lemak is the Chief Curator of History at the New York State Museum. Prior to this appointment she served there as Senior Historian/Curator of Social History. In 2012, she curated the New York State Museum's exhibition and catalog, *An Irrepressible Conflict: the Empire State in the Civil War* and has written on the Civil War Centennial in New York State. Lemak is the author of *Southern Life, Northern City: The History of Albany's Rapp Road* (SUNY Press, 2008) and several articles on the Great Migration to Upstate New York. Her current projects include curating the Votes for Women exhibition at the New York State Museum. Lemak also serves as the Commissioner of Education's representative on the New York State Board for Historic Preservation and serves on the advisory board of the University at Albany's Center for Applied Historical Research. She earned her MA in Public History and PhD in American History from the University at Albany. In 2014, she was admitted to the New York Academy of History.



Susan Zimet

Susan Zimet is the Founder and President of 2020: Project Women, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, celebrating, and promoting the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote. As a former Ulster County Legislature and Town Supervisor of New Paltz, Zimet decided that there was not enough attention being paid to this historic upcoming centennial anniversary and specifically the suffragettes who had fought so hard to make holding such offices possible to women. With this in mind, and in partnership with the

Susan B. Anthony House and Museum, Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, the Gage Home and the AAUW, 2020: Project Women was founded in 2008.

Susan is also authoring a book for young adults based in the history of the suffrage movement, scheduled for publish by Penguin Random House in 2018.

While passionate about 2020: Project Women and the mission of the organization, she is equally as invested in the issue of hunger. In 2015, Susan joined the Hunger Action Network of New York State as their Executive Director, where she works with private and governmental agencies to increase funding for food banks, emergency food providers, and to help lift people out of poverty.

Prior to Hunger Action, Susan held elected office, representing New Paltz as either its Town Supervisor or Ulster County Legislature from 1996 through 2015. During this time, Susan became a leading spokesperson and advocate for the issues she believes in, including women's rights, property tax reform, protecting the environment and opposing hydro-fracking. In fact, in 2013, Susan helped found an organization called Frack Action, and was an executive producer on a series of commercials lobbying against the dangerous practice, starring high-powered actors Ethan Hawke and Mark Ruffalo.

Susan also is the co-author of *The Great Cover Up: A Condom Compendium*, the first book written on the subject of safe sex during the HIV and AIDS epidemic, published in 1989. During this time, she also served as an adjunct professor at SUNY New Paltz, teaching Advertising and Marketing courses, while also overseeing the colleges international marketing internship program.

Prior to that, Susan served as VP, Associate Media Director at Grey Advertising, overseeing many blue chip clients including General Foods and Timex. Susan is a mother of two and lives with her husband, Steve.



Kathleen Neville

Kathleen Neville is a member of the board of directors for Humanities New York.

A public relations and brand marketing professional, she is a widely known authority on gender equality and workplace discrimination. Founder of the Champion Conduct® transformational learning model developed to educate youth and student athletes on issues of conduct, Title VII and Title IX discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment and bullying,

she was named by French publication *Le Figaro Magazine* as the leading authority on sexual harassment in the U.S.

She serves as a senior advisor to the National Football League's head of football operations and was responsible for creating the NFL's first dedicated workplace policy guidelines on gender equality and sexual harassment for all active NFL players, coaches, clubs and employees.

Prior to establishing her own firm in 1996, Neville served as a Senior Vice President at Hill and Knowlton International Public Relations in the New York Office. She previously served as director for Shea's Performing Arts Center, a historic landmark theatre in Buffalo, NY and also served as a senior consultant at Ketchum Public Relations in Washington, D.C.

Author of two non-fiction books on gender equality and sexual harassment in the workplace, *Corporate Attractions: The New Sexual and Social Rules for Men and Women on the Job* and *Internal Affairs*, Kathleen has also written several articles on workplace gender equality for major publications such as "American Lawyer" and provided excerpts for major college textbook publishers.

Kathleen has appeared as a guest expert and commentator on gender issues and workplace discrimination for various television and radio programs including Good Morning America, The Today Show in NY, CBS This Morning, National Public Radio, NewsHour on PBS, Oprah, CNN, NBC and ABC networks. She has also been quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, Agence France Presse, The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times and numerous other media outlets around the world.

Founder of the Millie Neville Senior Champion Scholarship Award mentoring initiative, she is the past founder of the Women in Touch mentoring program for high school senior girls, a past recipient of the Buffalo NOW "Women Helping Women" Award and was also named Business and Professional "Career Woman of the Year" for Western New York. Kathleen was tapped by the late founder of the NYC Women's Agenda to help develop the first of its kind partnership between mobile phone companies and victims of domestic violence; providing at risk women throughout all NYC boroughs with mobile phones. She was a lead contributor to the late NYS Governor Mario Cuomo's Task Force on Sexual

Harassment and also served as vice president of a women's grassroots advocacy group, (WAGES) Women's Advancement for Good Employment Standards in Washington D.C. Formerly in both television and radio broadcasting, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the Rochester Institute of Technology and received a Master of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a graduate fellowship in English from Niagara University. She is a member of Kappa Gamma Pi, the national graduate honor society for Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Kathleen is past Chair and a board member of the bi-national Niagara Falls Bridge Commission. She also serves on the Board of Selectors of the National Jefferson Awards Foundation for Public Service, the Board of Trustees for Niagara University, and the Board of Trustees for the Wilson Community Library and is a member of the Author's Guild and the American Society of Journalists and Authors.



Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner

Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner is Executive Director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation. Awarded one of the first doctorates in the country for work in women's studies (UC Santa Cruz) and a founder of one of the first college-level women's studies programs in the United States (CSU Sacramento), Dr. Wagner currently serves as an adjunct faculty member in The Renée Crown University Honors Program, Syracuse University and the St. John Fisher Executive Leadership Program.

Author of numerous women's history books and articles telling the "untold stories", her recent publications center on the Haudenosaunee influence on the women's rights movement.

She wrote the faculty guide for Not for Ourselves Alone, Ken Burns' documentary on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and appeared in that film and other PBS women's history programs. Dr. Wagner was selected as one of "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's E-News in 2015. Founder and Executive Director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Center for Social Justice Dialogue in Fayetteville, New York, and author of articles on historic house museums, she received the Katherine Coffey Award for outstanding service to museology from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums in 2012.



Deborah Hughes

Deborah L Hughes is President & CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House. During her tenure, the Anthony Museum has grown museum attendance 157%, completed a major phase of restoration to the National Historic Landmark, secured its Absolute Charter as a Museum, and increased annual revenue 400%. Hughes holds a Bachelor of Science in world religion and church history from the University of Oregon, Eugene, and a Masters of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester. She is an ordained minister, and has served

churches in Michigan and New York. For eight years, she was on the executive staff of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of American Baptist Churches in NY, NY, administering death, disability, and pension benefits and leading seminars on retirement planning. She holds a Certificate in Fundraising Management from Indiana University/Purdue, and was the Vice President for Development at Colgate Rochester Crozer.



Dare Thompson

I am serving on the Commission as President of the League of Women Voters of New York State. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. is the living legacy of the women's suffrage movement in the U.S. since the LWV was created within the National American Woman Suffrage Association. I have been an active League volunteer since 1972, serving as president in Rhode Island, vice president in Ohio, and now president here. I have also been local president of chapters in Swarthmore, PA; Utica-Rome, NY; Delaware, OH; and most recently the Mid-Hudson Region in NY.

I am also connected to women's suffrage as a Quaker who graduated from Swarthmore College where Lucretia Mott was a founder and Alice Paul was a graduate. I am Assistant Clerk of the Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting and an active leader in the New York Yearly Meeting.

I also have a Masters in Teaching from Oberlin College and started my career as a teacher. Since the 1980s I have been the executive director of three arts organizations.