

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CELEBRATE THE 164<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION IN HISTORIC SENECA FALLS**

SENECA FALLS, NY, July 18, 2012 – One hundred and sixty four years ago, the first American Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. Over the course of two days, men and women gathered together at the Wesleyan Chapel to discuss "the social, civil, and religious condition of woman," and at the close of the convention, 100 people committed to working together to improve women's quality of life by signing the Declaration of Sentiments. Join us July 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, as we celebrate Convention Days 2012 and Strides for Women of All Ages.

The annual weekend of events kicks off at 4:30 pm on Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, with the presentation of the 2012 Community Service Award, honoring Peter & Sue Ellen Crego, at the Seneca Falls Historical Society (55 Cayuga Street). Later that evening, at 7:30 pm, The Women's Interfaith Institute welcomes Dr. Kathi Kern, Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Center of Learning and Teaching at the University of Kentucky, who will speak on her book, *Mrs. Stanton's Bible*. The first full-length study of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's revolutionary project, Kern's book traces the impact of Mrs. Stanton's religious dissent on the suffrage movement at the turn of the century (Heritage Area Conference Center, 115 Fall Street, Lower Level).

On Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, a full day of events for the entire family is planned. At 10:00 am, visitors are invited to walk in the footsteps of Elizabeth Cady Stanton during the annual commemorative procession from the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House (32 Washington Street) to Declaration Park at Women's Rights National Historical Park (136 Fall Street). All participants are encouraged to wear white to show the solidarity of sisterhood. At 11:00 am, the celebration continues at the Park with a reading of the Declaration of Sentiments by Melinda Grube as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, followed by a performance of *Womanspeak*, a reader's theatre presentation, at 11:45 am. Other events planned throughout the day include music; art workshops; a dialogue

between Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Melinda Grube) and Matilda Joslyn Gage (Pamela L. Poulin); a sidewalk festival, and more.

Weekend events will wrap up on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a presentation of *Marriage on the Street Corners of Iran* by Nadia Shahram (1:00 pm, Heritage Area Conference Center, 115 Fall Street, Lower Level); a first-person costumed interpretive program with Pamela L. Poulin as Matilda Joslyn Gage (2:00 pm, Women's Rights National Historical Park, 136 Fall Street); and an "Arts Afire" Art Exhibit Opening and Reception (3:00 pm, Women's Rights National Historical Park, 136 Fall Street).

All of the weekend's events are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule of events or more information about Convention Days, visit [www.conventiondays.com](http://www.conventiondays.com). For more information about our cultural partners, visit the Women's Rights National Historical Park, [www.nps.gov/wori](http://www.nps.gov/wori); the National Women's Hall of Fame, [www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org); the Seneca Falls Historical Society, [www.sfhistoricalociety.org](http://www.sfhistoricalociety.org); the Women's Interfaith Institute, [www.womensinterfaithinstitute.org](http://www.womensinterfaithinstitute.org); the Seneca Falls Visitor Center, [www.senecafalls.com/history-heritage.php](http://www.senecafalls.com/history-heritage.php); the Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, [www.senecamuseum.com](http://www.senecamuseum.com); the Seneca Falls It's a Wonderful Life Museum, [www.wonderfullifemuseum.org](http://www.wonderfullifemuseum.org); and the IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity, [www.idealeprosydignity.org](http://www.idealeprosydignity.org).

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**Convention Days, Inc. celebrates Seneca Falls, New York as a cornerstone of America's democratic tradition. We promote the region as the center for advancement of issues relating to human rights as reflected in the first American Women's Rights Convention of 1848.**