

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CELEBRATE THE 162ND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION IN HISTORIC SENECA FALLS**

SENECA FALLS, NY, June 29, 2010 – One hundred and sixty two years ago, the first American Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. After 70 more years of struggle, protest, and advocacy, American women were *finally* given the right to vote. Join us July 16th – 18th in historic Seneca Falls as we celebrate Convention Days 2010, *Votes for Women: 90 Years Later*.

"This year's events truly offer something for everyone. We hope that both individuals and families will attend one or both days of celebration, as a fun and educational way to commemorate the monumental events that took place in Seneca Falls. We encourage everyone to come and be a part of history," said Christine Moulton, President of the Convention Days Committee.

The annual weekend of events kicks off at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 16th, with the presentation of the 2010 Community Service Award, honoring Dr. Herb & Becky Holden, at the Seneca Falls Historical Society (55 Cayuga Street). Later that evening, at 7:30 pm, Reverend Allison Stokes of the Women's Interfaith Institute presents "Drawing Inspiration from our Pioneering Foremothers – from the first Women's Rights Convention to the first Parliament of World's Religions" (Trinity Episcopal Church, Fall Street at Trinity Lane).

On Saturday, July 17th, 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 the First Presbyterian Church (23 Cayuga Street). All participants are encouraged to wear white to show the solidarity of sisterhood. At 11:00 am, the celebration continues at the church, as the National Women's Hall of Fame presents 2009 Inductee and keynoter, Karen DeCrow, speaking on "The Woman's Vote". Events at the church resume at 2:00 pm with an endorsement of

the ideas put forth in the Declaration of Sentiments, the seminal document introduced at the 1848 convention. At 2:30 pm, a panel discussion around the theme of the weekend, *Votes for Women: 90 Years Later*, takes place. Other events planned throughout the day include walking tours; a discussion and book signing with Sharon Harris, Ph.D., author of *Dr. Mary Walker: An American Radical, 1832-1919*; children's programming and historical readings.

Sunday, July 18th features a 9:00 am non-denominational Sunday service on the banks of the Erie Canal. Join Reverend Allison Stokes and special guest, 1994 National Women's Hall of Fame Inductee, Reverend Betty Bone Schiess, in People's Park for a time of quiet reflection and thanksgiving. In the afternoon, visitors can enjoy a 12:00 pm ice cream social and picnic in People's Park, as well as a 2:00 pm game of ladies vintage base ball with teams from Genesee Country Village and Museum. Spectators are encouraged to join in the action and "play ball" with these teams! The afternoon also includes a reader's theatre presentation of *Womanspeak*, music by the Seneca Singers, and programming by the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

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. For more information about our cultural partners, visit the National Women's Hall of Fame, www.greatwomen.org; the Seneca Falls Heritage Area Visitor Center, www.senecafalls.com/history-heritage.php; the Seneca Falls Historical Society, www.sfhistoricalociety.org; the Women's Interfaith Institute, www.womensinterfaithinstitute.org; and the Women's Rights National Historical Park, www.nps.gov/wori.

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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.