

The League of Women Voters Dallas Gazette

Friday, February 11, 2011 – Vol. 1 No. 3

*Principle, not policy: justice not favors. -- men, their rights and nothing more: women, their rights and nothing less.**

*Motto of *The Revolution* newspaper published in 1868, a short-lived newspaper on suffrage and women's rights that was a joint effort by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Ellen Van Raalte Karelsen Solender was born in New York in 1923, just three years after women got the right to vote in the U.S. The daughter of a member of the League of Women Voters, she experienced political discussions throughout her childhood. She was educated first in Ethical Culture Society schools, where principles of equality were highly prized, and later at Ohio's Oberlin College, a major innovator in education for students of color and women. After college she worked at AT&T's Bell Labs.

When World War II ended, Ellen married Robert L. Solender, one of her Oberlin classmates, and in 1949 they moved to Dallas, where she worked at the Wall Street Journal until the first of her three children was born. She also joined the League of Women Voters, became Vice President for Programs in 1959, worked on significant Texas issues including the right of women to serve on juries enacted in 1954, and repeal of the Poll Tax, fully repealed in 1966.

Ellen noticed that when she dealt with government staff on behalf of the League, her questions were not taken seriously, so she decided to improve her credentials. With three kids in school (Eliza, Tom and Katie), and being twice the age of most of her fellow students, she went to SMU Law School, graduated in the top ten percent of her class, and passed the bar in 1971.

For Ellen, law school was an education in more than just the law. Twelve women started with her in law school, but only five finished. In the 1970's in Dallas, women were not welcome in large law firms, and no firm or even the district attorney's office hired Ellen or her female classmates. Ellen took a part-time job teaching legal writing at the SMU Law School and also worked with Hope Cottage, the adoption agency, and on a project for Southwestern Medical School. Soon SMU asked her to teach more, and she became a full-time faculty member. In 1977, **she became the second woman to receive tenure in the history of the SMU Law School.**

At SMU Ellen was able to make significant contributions to equality and the protection of equality by working to change the predominantly male law student's perceptions of women. She also became a mentor to female students and to her female colleagues on the faculty. She felt that the university and the legal profession desperately needed more women and she encouraged women to enter law school and stay the course, often against great odds and prejudice. Her advice played a significant role in the careers of many lawyers and judges in Texas. **Fifteen of the judges in Dallas County today are her former students.**

Ellen also devoted time to committee and faculty meetings to guide SMU policies on issues of equal pay and sexual harassment, and for many years she worked closely with her friend and colleague Professor Joseph McKnight, Director of the Texas Family Law Project.

She continued community involvement in many roles, including serving as Vice-Chair of the City of Dallas' Fund solicitation Board in 1974, and she has been **on the City's Domestic Violence Task Force since it was formed in 1987.**

When she retired from active teaching in 1994, SMU established the *Ellen K. Solender Institute in Free Speech and Mass Media Law.*

Past Recipients of the Susan B. Anthony Award

- 1997 Elizabeth Cowles
- 1998 Cathy Wilkins-Moffitt
- 1999 Joanne Hill
- 2000 Elizabeth Johannaber
- 2001 Catalina E. Garcia-Gary, M.D.
- 2002 Rebecca Russell Sykes
- 2003 Suzanne Ahn, M.D (Deceased)
- 2004 Vivian Castleberry and Louise Raggio (Deceased)
- 2005 Patricia M. Patterson
- 2006 Essie Reed
- 2007 Laura V. Estrada
- 2008 Virginia B. Whitehill
- 2009 Cecilia Guthrie Boone
- 2010 Julie Lowenberg

Join the union, girls, and together say Equal Pay for Equal Work - Susan B. Anthony

**Distinguished speakers at the
Susan B. Anthony
Award Luncheon**

As an SMU professor, Ellen K. Solender nurtured many students who have gone on to have noted careers. One of those former students is one of our speakers. **Judge Hockett** says that Ellen "is the reason she is a judge."

Detective Sheila Greene will speak about Ms. Solender's impact and service with implementing the Domestic Violence Task Force

Ellen's great niece, **Felicia Chase Goodman** will speak on the future for women and women's issues.

Speakers' Biographies

Felicia Chase Goodman

Born and raised in Waco, Texas, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Development from Vanderbilt University, and she earned a Master of Public Health in maternal and child health from Columbia University. She has served as an AmeriCorps Program Officer at the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. She worked for Population Communications International, a non-profit organization that uses social marketing to deliver health messages around the world, Felicia has been a volunteer and ardent supporter of Planned Parenthood since high school, and joined its staff in 2007 as the Director of Organizational Development. In April of 2010 she became Chief Executive Officer of Waco's Planned Parenthood affiliate.

Felicia is the immediate past president of the Lake Brazos Rotary Club, on the board of the Dr. Pepper Museum, a LEAD mentor to two Waco High seniors, and a member of the KWBU (Waco's NPR) Advisory Council.

Detective Sheila Greene

Detective Greene is a 20-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department, where she is currently assigned to the Family Violence Unit. She investigates all types of crimes related to domestic violence. Sheila has extensive experience developing and delivering training programs related to personal safety, child safety, crime prevention, crime watch and assisting neighborhoods with specific crime problems. She is a certified instructor through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) for the Dallas Police Department. Detective Greene is a regular trainer for the Dallas Police Academy and throughout the State of Texas for the Family Violence Regional Training Program at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. She is an instructor for the Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigators Course (SAFVIC) Program, designed to provide law enforcement officers around the state with the tools they need to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault and family violence.

A new state law on strangulation was passed in September 2009. This law is particularly important in domestic violence cases. Detective Greene is one of the leading experts on enforcement of this law and has been conducting extensive training about this law throughout the state. She is a member of the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force.

Hon. Lori Chrisman Hockett

Judge Hockett was elected by the voters of Dallas County in November 2006 and reelected in November 2010 to the 255th Family District Court.

Judge Hockett is Board Certified in Family Law. She serves on the Dallas County Juvenile Board.

She was a Dallas County assistant district attorney from 1989 to 1993, including time served as lead attorney for Child Protective Services in Dallas County family courts.

She was the sole practitioner at her own firm, focused on divorce and custody suits, discovery and child advocacy issues. Portion of her practice was dedicated to collaborative law cases.

She received her B. A. degree from Baylor University in 1984 and her Law degree from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1989. She was *Texas Monthly* "Texas Super Lawyer" in 2004 and 2005.

★★★★

Susan Brownell Anthony

February 15, 1820 - March 13, 1906

Quaker, teacher, temperance and abolition organizer, women's rights leader who took suffrage petitions door-to-door, published *The Revolution* newspaper, and spoke across the country for 30 years, advocating equal pay for equal work and encouraging women to form unions. Because she was a woman, she was not allowed to speak at temperance rallies. This experience, and her acquaintance with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, led her to join the women's rights movement. Ignoring opposition and abuse, Anthony traveled, lectured and canvassed across the nation for the vote. She also campaigned for the abolition of slavery, women's rights to their own property and earnings, and women's labor organizations. In 1900, Anthony persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women.

Called 'The Invincible' and 'The Napoleon' of the woman's rights movement, Susan B. Anthony was the driving force and single-minded champion of the Nineteenth Amendment.

**The League of Women Voters of Dallas
Education Fund
15th Annual Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon
Friday, February 11, 2011**

Program

Registration and Silent Auction

Welcome

Sandy Greyson
President LWV-Dallas

Lunch

Presentation of Award

Sandy Greyson

Acceptance of Award

Ellen K. Solender

Introduction of Speakers and Emcee

Sandy Greyson
Hon. Lori Chrisman Hockett
255th Family District Court Judge

Sheila Greene
Detective, Dallas Police Department

Felicia Chase Goodman, MPH

Closing Comments

Sandy Greyson

Birthday Menu

Salad of Spinach, Asian Pear, Toasted Pine Nuts, Tomato and Chives
Balsamic Vinaigrette

Chicken Forestiere
Seared Breast of Chicken with Cultivated Mushrooms, Scallions, Tomato and Tarragon Ragout
Angel Hair Pasta
Burgundy Sauce

Chocolate Mousse Cake

Rolls & Butter
Iced Tea, Water & Coffee

We salute Ellen K. Solender and send our warmest wishes on her receipt of this prestigious and well-deserved award.

With love from her New York family:
Sylvia Solender Shapiro
Elsa and Steve Solender
Ellen and Harvey Hirsch
Felice and Darrell Friedman

The Thursday Unit of the League of Women Voters of Dallas
Salutes

Ellen K. Solender

And sends a "Thank You" to Ellen and her generation of the League Women Voters of Dallas and Texas for their significant achievements.

Let us never forget that the League played a crucial role in these milestones:

1949 - Legislation to ensue secret ballots in Texas

1949 - Legislation to establish Juvenile Courts

1954 - Passage of the State Constitutional Amendment enabling women in Texas to serve on juries

1966 - Final and full abolition of the Poll Tax in Texas

Local donors provide support to the 15th Annual Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon

The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund recognizes the following donors for their generous support:

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Lupe Valdez
Molly Van Ort
Mary Vogelson


Community leaders lend their names to the luncheon

The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund gives thanks to **Luncheon Chairs Rose Harder & Katherine Homan**, **Honorary Co-Chairs Eliza, Tom and Katie Solender** and the following **Honorary Host Committee** for their support of the 15th Annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon.

Jeanne Fagadau, Ann Folz, Joyce Forney, Genie Fritz, Dr. Elba Garcia, Susybelle Gosslee, Adlene Harrison,

Sue Lichten, Barbara Lischer, Julie Lowenberg, Michelle Manners, Jane Pak, Jan Sanders, Norma Stone,

Mary Suhm, Lupe Valdez, Mary Vogelson, and Jane Wetzel



SEWELL SALUTES
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DALLAS



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Congratulations, Ellen

*Thank you for your work
on behalf of all of us*



Sarah Jacobus

CONGRATULATIONS, ELLEN

To a most deserving person

and a dear friend.

Ann Folz



SAVE THE DATE

September 21, 2011, 11:30 AM – 1 PM

for the

**3rd Annual Peacemakers Luncheon
celebrating the United Nations
International Day of Peace**

At

**The Tower Club
1601 Elm Street, Dallas**

Dear Ellen,
Congratulations on receiving the prestigious Susan B. Anthony Award.



CITY OF DALLAS

You have worked for so many years to make Dallas a better city for all of its residents, not matter one's race or gender. I know you consider serving the city you love a high honor, as do I.

The City of Dallas appreciates you for your unflagging dedication to so many worthy causes and issues and your steadfast fight for equality. Your efforts and actions have benefitted the greater community and have inspired others to service, an everlasting legacy. The ripples of your passion, dedication and inspiration continue to spread, year after year.

On behalf of the City of Dallas, thank you for your tireless efforts. We salute you for receiving this great honor.

With great respect and admiration,
Mary K. Suhm, Dallas City Manager

The League of Women Voters Dallas Education Fund appreciates the contributions of the following Friends

Martha Adamson
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Gayle Hurst

The Sam & Irene Kogutt Philanthropic Fund
Nina Perl
Jan Sanders
Jennifer Wise
Jean Wolf
Jerry Zurn

We at the SMU Dedman School of Law are so proud of Ellen!

Professors:

Maureen Armour

Gail Daly

Linda Eads

Gregory Ivy

Tom Mayo

Fred Moss

Paul Rogers

Mary Spector

Beth Thornburg

Peter Winship

Dear Ms. Solender:

Thank you for your advocacy and hard work against domestic violence.

You are an inspiration!

Saludos y Gracias,

Elba Garcia

Congratulations, Ellen

We applaud your many accomplishments and contributions.

Hank and Barbara Lischer

Congratulations, Ellen!

Charles and Jane Pak

Best Wishes, Ellen

From

Mother Wetzel

CONGRATULATIONS

Ellen K. Solender

2011 Susan B. Anthony Award Recipient

Southern Methodist University
Women's Symposium

PO Box 750172

Dallas, TX 75275

214.768.4796

www.smu.edu/womsym



46th Annual
Women's Symposium
March 2, 2011

featuring

Julie Powell

Author of the national best seller
"Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking
Dangerously". Her book was
eventually adapted into the
movie "Julie and Julia".

Register online now!

www.smu.edu/womsym

Texas Historical Marker honoring the role of Dallas women in achieving full suffrage rights for Texas women was dedicated October 14, 2010 outside the Dallas County Old Red County Courthouse.

County Judge Jim Foster, Commissioner John Wiley Price and LWV-Dallas President Sandy Greyson spoke at the occasion, in addition to Clare Buie Chaney, Ph.D., Immediate Past Vice Chair of the Dallas County Historical Commission, who oversaw the researching and funding of this project. Michael Lowenberg presided, as Chair of the Dallas County Historical Commission, which is the gatekeeper for the historical markers issued by the Texas Historical Commission.

Wording on the marker - The first organized effort on behalf of women's suffrage in Texas occurred in 1893, when the Texas Equal Rights Association (T.E.R.A), later known as the League of Women Voters of Texas, was formed at a convention held at Dallas' Windsor Hotel. Of the forty-eight charter members of the organization, fourteen were Dallasites. In October of that year, T.E.R.A. leaders helped to organize the Texas Woman's Congress, which met at the State Fair in Dallas. During this period, a weekly suffrage column, entitled "Women in Public" was published in the Dallas Morning News. Suffrage advocates continued their work into the 20th century.

On March 13, 1913, forty-three Dallas women gathered to establish the Dallas Equal Suffrage Association (D.E.S.A.), which became the League of Women Voters of Dallas in October 1919. Many of the women had participated in previous suffrage organizations; younger members were eager to contribute to the cause. The group elected Margaret Bell Houston Kaufman, granddaughter of Sam Houston, as its first president. During World War I, D.E.S.A. officers served as leaders in local wartime organizations while continuing to advocate the cause of women's suffrage. During the 1918 Texas gubernatorial campaign, members of D.E.S.A. procured signatures of over 10,000 Dallas County women on a petition backing a primary suffrage bill. The bill passed, enabling Texas women to vote in primary elections. Dallas County suffragists registered over 16,000 women to vote in the July 1918 primary election. The nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution allowed women to vote on August 26, 1920. This act was the culmination of years of struggle and effort put forth by the suffragists of Dallas County and the nation.



Getting Ready for May Elections

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Last day to file to place on Ballot | Monday, March 14, 2011 |
| First day to apply for ballot by mail | Tuesday, March 15, 2011 |
| Last day to register to vote | Thursday, April 14, 2011 |
| First day of early voting | Monday, May 2, 2011 |
| Last day to apply for ballot by mail (Received, not postmarked) | Friday, May 6, 2011 |
| Last day of early voting | Tuesday, May 10, 2011 |
| Local General Election | May 14, 2011 |

Suffrage is the pivotal right. – Susan B. Anthony

Volunteers are our heroines

The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund thanks the many volunteers who participated in the planning and execution of the 15th Annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon.

Without their efforts it would not have happened.

Thank you for coming today to honor Ellen K. Solender and the work of the League of Women Voters of Dallas. **Please take this opportunity to consider becoming a member and help us** encourage informed participation in government through our candidate debates, issue forums, helpful Website, Voters Guide, early voting and Election Day hotline, voter registration of citizens, elected official contact information, and publication of issue studies.

Katherine Homan – Vice President of Organization, League of Women Voters of Dallas

Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for women! There is so much yet to be done. - Susan B. Anthony