

Oakland Centennial Suffrage Parade Sunday, October 2nd, 2011

To celebrate the Centennial anniversary of Women's Suffrage in California, where women won the right to vote in 1911, a series of special events are being held throughout California in September and October. Oakland's Centennial Suffrage Parade celebrates and reenacts the first suffrage parade in California that took place in Oakland. On August 23, 1908, 300 women marched down Oakland main streets to the Republican Convention at Ebell Hall to ask for a suffrage plank on their platform. Although the Republican representatives did not include suffrage in their platform, the message was delivered. Three years later, on October 10, 1911, the California Amendment for Suffrage did pass.

Participants: The Oakland Centennial Suffrage Parade Committee, made up of community leaders, historic associations, and civic organizations under the leadership of Sandra Threlfall, are engaged in outreach throughout Oakland and Alameda County inviting community groups and residents to join in this Suffrage celebration march. To date, the following Oakland leaders and organizations will participate marching with banners and in period costume: ACHS (Alameda County Historical Society), AAUW Oakland, LWV Oakland, NWHP, CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women), ACLU, Girl Scouts of America, OHA(Oakland Heritage Alliance), Hispanic Chamber, Cinnamon Girls, Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women Commissioners.

Individual Community Leaders include: Mayor Jean Quan; Vice Mayor Desley Brooks, Council members Jane Brunner, Nancy Nadel, Rebecca Kaplan, Patricia Kernighan, Libby Schaaf, City Auditor Courtney Ruby and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' President Nate Miley.

Program: The Parade will kick off from the Bandstand at 11:30 AM (near Fairyland) with words from Oakland Mayor Jean Quan celebrating the role of women in public life and policy since the passage of women's suffrage. The parade will go up Grand Avenue to the Pergola and return through the Park by the McElroy Fountain (built in 1911) to the Lakeside Park Bandstand for refreshments, words from other Oakland and Alameda County leaders and special "historic" speakers, and displays.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Parade participation is free, but sponsorships and donations are appreciated to defray permit and parade logistic costs. All Sponsorships and contributions are tax-deductible under the 501c3 status of Alameda County Historical Society: made payable to Alameda County Historical Society (ACHS), with the memo line saying Oakland Suffrage PARADE. Checks can be mailed to: ACHS, P.O. Box 13145, Oakland, CA 94661. All Donors will receive a receipt with donation information and tax ID number for Alameda County Historical Society. Sponsors and contributors will be acknowledged in press outreach, on the website, in parade program, and day of parade.

For more information: call 510/834-7640 or visit website
www.waterfrontaction.org/parade/

Additional Background:

- Parade celebrates the role of women in public life and policy since the passage of women's suffrage in California in 1911
- Living examples: in Oakland a woman Mayor with 6 of 8 council seats held by women
- California Senate has 40 seats and there are 12 women or 30%
- California Assembly has 80 seats and there are 21 women or 25.6%

Other Centennial Suffrage Events

Berkeley: The Solano Stroll, September 11th:

<http://lwvbae.org/SuffrageParadeInfo.pdf>

Sacramento October 9th and 10th :

<http://www.ca2011centennial.com/>

Torrance, CA, October 9th: Dangerous Women
of California <http://www.torrance.ca.lwvnet.org/>

National Women's History Project

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