

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Christine M. Moulton, President
Convention Days, Inc.
Phone: 315.568.8060
Cell: 315.224.2326**

**CELEBRATE THE 163RD ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION IN HISTORIC SENECA FALLS**

SENECA FALLS, NY, July 13, 2011 – One hundred and sixty three 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 15th and 16th as we celebrate Convention Days 2011 and the rededication of the Wesleyan Chapel.

"This year's commemoration shines a much needed spotlight on the historical events that took place in Seneca Falls. Those events are a celebration of progress, as well as a reminder of the challenges still facing women today. We hope everyone will join us in reflecting on the courage, spirit, and pride present in Seneca Falls from the first women's rights convention to today," said Christine Moulton, President of the Convention Days Committee.

The annual weekend of events kicks off at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 15th, with the presentation of the 2011 Community Service Award, honoring Jeb & Diana Becker, at the Seneca Falls Historical Society (55 Cayuga Street). Later that evening, at 7:30 pm, The Women's Interfaith Institute presents "God's Women", one of Reverend Anna Howard Shaw's most popular lectures. The program will feature Dr. Melinda Grube as Shaw, with an introduction by Dr. Allison Stokes (Seneca Falls Heritage Conference Center, 115 Fall Street).

On Saturday, July 16th, a full day of events for the entire family is planned. At 9:30 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 10:00 am, the celebration continues at the Park with a musical introduction performed in period costume by *The Hutchinson Family Revival*, followed by the rededication of the Wesleyan Chapel, with Coline Jenkins, Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Congressman Richard Hanna at 11:00 am. At 12:00 pm, visitors are invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Wesleyan Chapel. Other events planned throughout the day include a reading of the Declaration of Sentiments; a discussion and book signing with Carol Faulkner, author of *Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America*; a ladies vintage base ball game with teams from Genesee Country Village and Museum, and more.

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 Women's Rights National Historical Park, www.nps.gov/wori; the National Women's Hall of Fame, www.greatwomen.org; the Seneca Falls Historical Society, www.sfhistoricalsociety.org; the Women's Interfaith Institute, www.womensinterfaithinstitute.org; the Seneca Falls Visitor Center, www.senecafalls.com/history-heritage.php; the Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, www.senecamuseum.org; the Seneca Falls It's a Wonderful Life Museum, www.wonderfullifemuseum.org; and the IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity, www.idealeprosydignity.org.

#

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.