

AMERICAN WOMEN CELEBRATE THE FREEDOM TO VOTE

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A young voter, Amanda Goldman-Petri, has expressed for many

what is an important awareness about the upcoming election --that tens of thousands of women struggled and sacrificed so that she can vote today.

October 17, 2012 ([datsyn.com](#)) - Petri's poem. "This Wet and Wrinkled Paper" is featured in a video published by Suffrage Wagon News Channel ([suffragewagon.org](#)), an online resource of news, stories and features celebrating women's freedom to vote today.

As the 2012 presidential election draws to a close, this one online news resource reminds modern women about the long hard struggle to win votes for women in a friendly, non partisan, and lighthearted way.

"My voter's card arrived today, and as I perused the tiny paper, wet and wrinkled from the rain, I felt the spirit of Grandma Edna watching over me," Goldman-Petri wrote. She highlights the long and difficult campaigning totaling 144 years since the Declaration of Independence and the 72 years since the Seneca Falls convention in 1848.

"They stood on soapboxes, signed petitions, rang doorbells, smiled and dialed. They marched, paraded. They waited. They waited, so I could have this paper."

American suffragists also went to jail to win the right to vote, a fact included in the news channel's content over the past three years it has been documenting the effort to win the vote that culminated in the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. The news, story, and video channel emphasizes that the Votes for Women movement has many lessons for women today in terms of spirit, determination, and courage.

Goldman-Petri continues: "Edna hitched a wagon, went from town to town. She raised her voice. 'We want a choice!' Edna didn't back down.

"How long must we wait for liberty?' she cried, and support appeared in waves. 'How long?' they screamed. And it echoed, 'till 1920 came."

Grandmother Edna Kearns, who is featured on the web site and in the poem, refers to one of the tens of thousands of women on the grassroots across the nation who were involved in the suffrage movement in the United States. While leaders like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton have considerable name recognition in the nation today, it's not as well known that the Votes for Women movement depended on thousands of community activists such as Edna Kearns.

The poem concludes: "My voter's card arrived today, so thank you Grandma Edna. I'll vote, I'll lead, and I'll succeed. I'll remember how you fought for me. And it's all because you believed, Women deserve liberty."

Grandmother Edna, as she's referred to by many, has been adopted by many young voters like Amanda Goldman-Petri, although she isn't a direct relative. Edna Kearns is, in fact, the grandmother of Marguerite Kearns, writer and editor of Suffrage Wagon News Channel, who says that she loves writing about the suffrage movement.

"What it took to win the vote hasn't been taught well in schools," Kearns says. "But this is changing. Women and men of all ages and backgrounds are intrigued when they find out about what it took to win the vote. And once they're aware, many women voters change their attitudes about voting because they appreciate the determination of the activists, whether or not their ancestors were actually involved in the movement. Their grandmothers and great grandmothers and family members certainly knew about the campaigning and urged their fathers, brothers, husbands and family members to vote for suffrage at the polls. It took a remarkable coalition of men and women to pull off this remarkable social change."

Suffrage Wagon News Channel ([suffragewagon.org](#)) has articles, videos, audio, interviews, twice-weekly posts, features, and more that highlight news and stories about the suffrage movement. The blog for Suffrage Wagon News Channel ([suffragewagon.org](#)) has a quarterly newsletter by subscription.

The news channel is inspired by a suffrage campaign wagon used by Edna Kearns in New York City and on Long Island in the early 20th century. For most of 2012, the wagon has been on exhibit at the state capitol in Albany, NY, and it's in the collection of the New York State Museum. ++

FOR MORE INFORMATION: The poem video, "This Wet and Wrinkled Paper," is also featured on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/82hLBtTK0T0>

For details about Suffrage Wagon News Channel: www.womenssuffrage.org

About Us:

Suffrage Wagon News Channel features news and stories about women's suffrage as a way of building leadership. One minute audio overview of our news and story platform. We are inspired by the horse-drawn suffrage campaign wagons that were used in parades, as speakers' platforms, in public relations' stunts, and in exhibits at county fairs and for community events. Suffrage activists also campaigned in automobiles, in parades, and on foot in the streets using soapboxes. Their use of horse-drawn wagons became a novelty as cars became more common. Suffrage wagons represented a way to get out the word and attract voters to listen to Votes for Women arguments.

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