

“Are Women People?”

The Journey for Voting Rights

IHC Free Public Programs Summer 2019

The Idaho Humanities Council will offer three special evening programs exploring the topic “Are Women People?” *The Journey for Voting Rights* at Boise State University’s Student Union Bishop Barnwell Room. The public programs are part of a weeklong institute for Idaho teachers examining not only the history leading up to the passage of women’s voting rights, but also voting rights following the 19th amendment.

Though part of the institute, the programs are **free** to the public.

Monday, July 15th, 7pm
Sally Roesch Wagner, “So You Thought You Knew About Women’s Fight for Women’s Rights”



Wagner will deliver the keynote speech examining struggles leading up to the 19th amendment, including women voting in the colonies, fights for equal pay for equal work, demands for reproductive rights and an end to sex trafficking. In the institute’s central text which she edited, titled *The Women’s Suffrage Movement*, Wagner shakes up the narrative about the women who made the movement possible with a collection of letters, speeches, and news reports from nearly a century of activism.

Tuesday, July 16th, 7pm
Susan Swetnam, “Tools for the Journey: How Women’s Clubs Fostered the Suffrage Movement Nationally and in Idaho”



Swetnam will deliver a talk exploring the national and Idaho women's club movement. She notes that while the organizations were not explicitly feminist or overtly dedicated to women’s rights, participating in them provided attitudes and skills that proved essential in the fight for suffrage, accustoming women to civic activism, research, and public speaking. She will focus on the stories of particular women’s clubs in Idaho and the important work they accomplished.

Thursday, July 18th, 7pm
David Adler, “A Constitutional Odyssey: Securing Passage of the 19th Amendment”



Securing women's right to vote represented one of the greatest story lines in the evolution of American Constitutionalism. A nation that denied the franchise to half of its population mocked democratic values and the principle of equal protection of the law. Adler’s presentation exploring the ratification of the amendment emphasizes how winning rights in America requires persistence.