

Friend of the Institute Donation Form

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*Please make checks out to "Women's Interfaith Institute" and mail to the Women's Interfaith Institute
P.O. Box 131, Seneca Falls N.Y. 13148*

The Institute is located next door to the Visitors' Center of the Women's Rights National Historical Park. The park preserves the Wesleyan Chapel, which in July 1848 hosted the first Women's Rights Convention. At this convention Elizabeth Cady Stanton read the *Declaration of Sentiments* that she and others had crafted, using the *Declaration of Independence* as her model.

In 1871 members of the congregation constructed a new church in the same block as their Wesleyan Chapel—the building in which our Institute is now housed. Inspired by the courageous congregation that made the radical and controversial first Women's Rights Convention possible, we are proud to carry forward into future years this heritage of pioneering leadership.



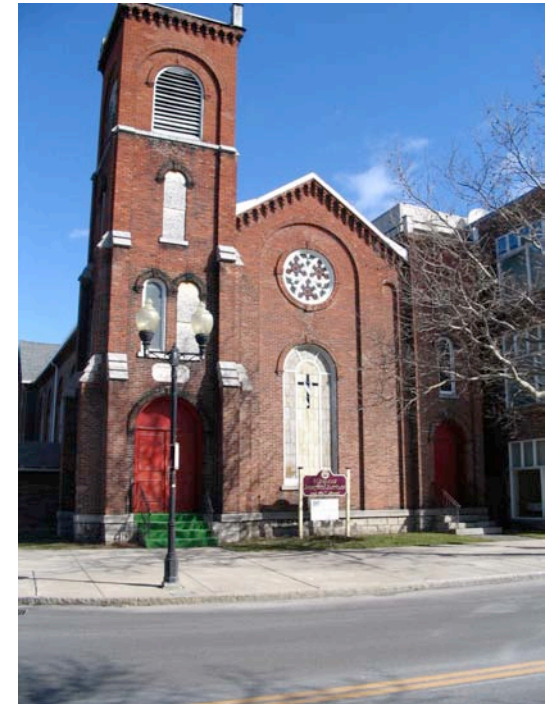
Board of Directors 2010

Rev. Allison Stokes, Ph.D.
Founding Director
Rev. Marilyn Foster, President/Treasurer
Jim Wagner

**Women's Interfaith
Institute
of the Finger Lakes**

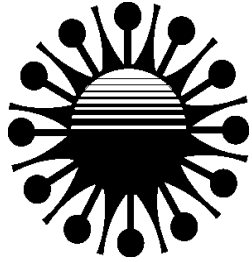
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www.womensinterfaithinstitute.org



"There is no better venue for an interfaith educational resource for women than the birthplace of women's rights."

NY State Senator Michael Nozzolio,
Opening celebration, June 18, 2003



Our Vision

The Women's Interfaith Institute focuses on women's empowerment for the world's betterment. Inspired by our foremothers, we are women supporting women of diverse faiths in generating spiritual leadership, scholarship and service. We are committed to "bringing peace to life" and to promoting pluralism, dialogue and understanding through all the gatherings, celebrations, seminars, workshops, retreats, and conferences we offer.

Our History

The Women's Interfaith Institute was founded in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts in 1992 under the leadership of Allison Stokes. After Allison moved to New York, she organized the Institute's Finger Lakes affiliate in 2002. Although the two non profit organizations are incorporated separately, we share a common mission. For information about the WII in the Berkshires see: www.womensinterfaithberkshires.org In February 2003, the WII in the Finger Lakes purchased the historic church next door to the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

The Fire

On March 5th, 2009 The Women's Interfaith Institute of the Finger Lakes suffered a devastating fire-- just three days after renovations on the Great Hall were complete. Nine companies of firefighters saved our building, but the damage was great. Over this past winter we have had the roof partially restored with NYS Main Street dollars.



Our goal for our historic building is to restore it to its original beauty, while making it a functional and fully accessible center for the pursuit of knowledge, nurture, spirituality and community.

Your donation toward the renovation would be greatly appreciated!

Upcoming 2010 Programs

(see our website for details)

During Convention Days:

Friday evening, July 16th

During Seneca Falls Dialogues:

Sunday afternoon, October 10th

Inspired by the spiritual and religious diversity of our foremothers, who gathered together around the table to nourish body, soul and mind, we invoke our Seneca Falls heritage to move us forward together in promoting interfaith dialogue, cooperation and peace.



"Abolitionists, women's rights activists, runaway slaves, friends and family gathered at the Mott's table."

Tapestry by Alice Gant, a gift to the Institute, depicting Lucretia Mott, her husband James, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth



The pulpit where Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood in 1848 is owned by the Institute.