



**Tomorrow: Come for a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon!**



Join us tomorrow, **Sunday, July 25 at 3pm** for a celebration of the reopening of the museum and the kick-off event for our new series of public programs, *Arts at the Willard House*. This outdoor re-creation of a nineteenth-century "literary and musical entertainment" will feature storytelling pieces adapted and performed by Fiona Maxwell and American parlor guitar music performed by the Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo.

Frances Willard described nineteenth-century Evanston as the "literary center of the great Northwest" and "a paradise for women." Evanston housed a vibrant community of women elocutionists and musicians. In homes, voluntary societies, and schools, women and girls gained skills in self-expression and collaboration that they used to fight for gender equality and social reform. Through her teaching, public speaking, and writing, Willard helped lay the foundation for successive generations of socially conscious and artistically innovative women in Evanston and around the world.

Our event is called *A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon* in reference to entertainments held at many Chicago settlement houses during the 1890s. Evanston women often organized or performed at these gatherings, which were intended to foster "good fellowship" across boundaries of age, gender, class, race, ethnicity, and religion. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience the history of women's artistry and activism!

**The event is free and welcomes audience members of all ages.** Attendees are asked to bring their own seating and spread out across the lawn.

You can find more information and a sneak peek of the program [here](#).

We encourage donations to support our free public programs. You can make a donation [here](#).

**Summer Tours and Looking Ahead to Fall**

As we wrap up our first month of summer tours, we are very grateful for the enthusiastic response we've received. Don't forget to schedule a tour before the season's over – August will be full of special suffrage-related tour offerings. Stay tuned for more updates!



Once school resumes, we'll be giving tours for groups of students aged 12 and up. We currently have a limited capacity of 5 visitors at a time, but we can stagger the scheduling to accommodate larger groups. **We are accepting reservations for fall tours now, so book a tour for your group or class today!**



Tours are available by reservation only. Thursday and Sunday afternoons are preferred, but there is some scheduling flexibility. Visitors should request a tour at least 48 hours in advance using our [online reservation form](#) or by calling (847) 328-7500. Tour fees are \$15 per person. Admission is free for students at all levels. Payment must be made online or over the phone once the tour day and time has been confirmed.

Please note that health and safety measures will be in place. At this time, tour groups will be limited to 5 visitors, and no children under 12 years old will be admitted. Visitors and staff must wear masks, practice social distancing, and stay home if not feeling well.

We look forward to seeing you at the Willard House soon!

**Suffrage Preview: Seneca Falls and the International Council of Women**

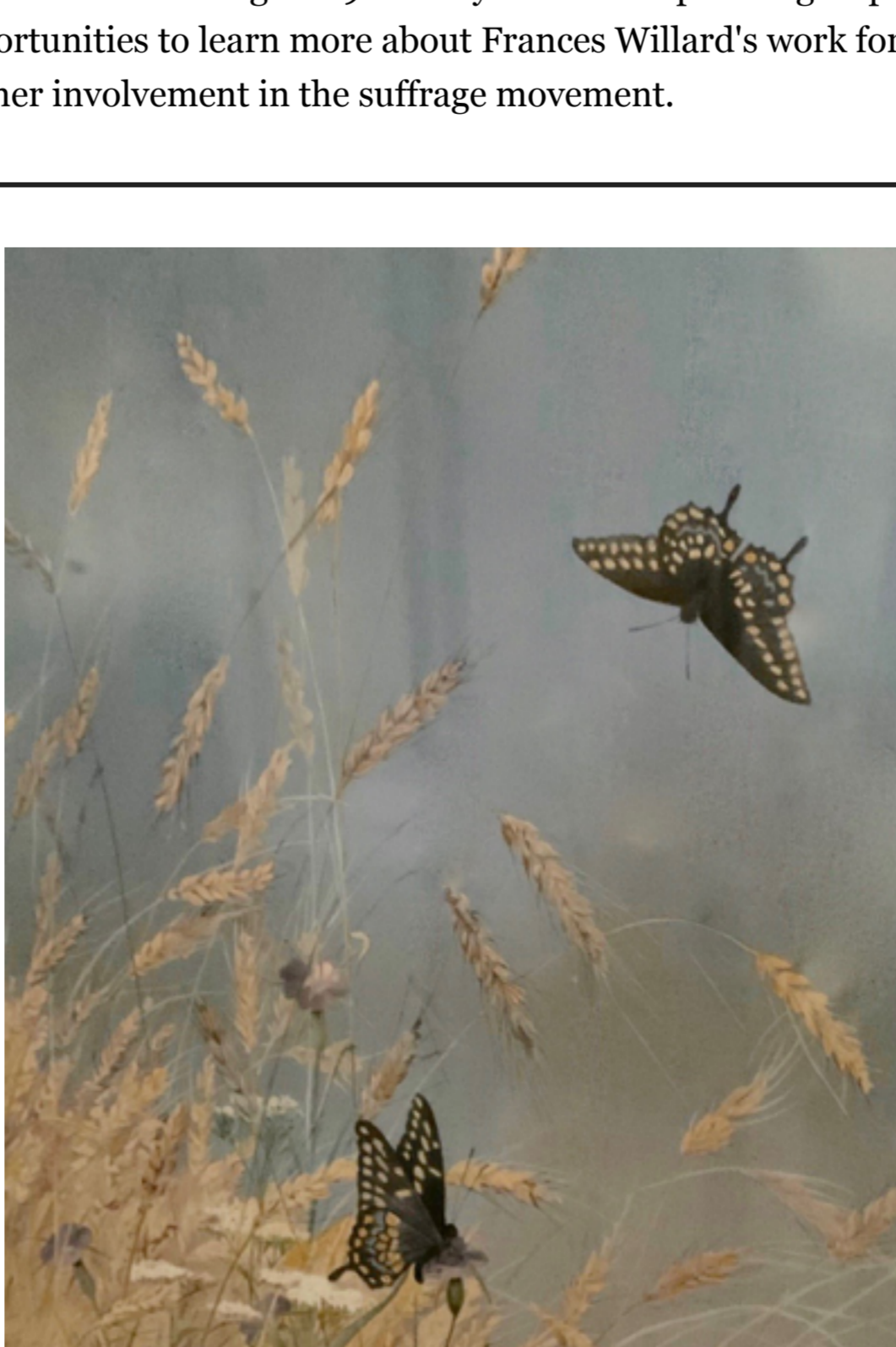
July 19 marked the 173rd anniversary of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. Gathered in the Wesleyan Chapel at Seneca Falls, New York, women's rights activists and abolitionists made speeches decrying the political, social, and economic oppression of women. The convention produced the Declaration of Sentiments, which, modeled on the Declaration of Independence, stated: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal."

Frances Willard was only 9 years old during the summer of Seneca Falls and was not present at the convention. But she did attend the founding meeting of the International Council of Women, which was established during the 40th anniversary celebration of Seneca Falls in 1888. Through her leadership positions in the National and World WCTU, Willard built on the legacy of Seneca Falls and became one of the preeminent women's rights advocates of her generation.



The founding of the International Council of Women, Washington D.C., 1888. Frances Willard is seated in the second row, third from left.

August is suffrage month at the Willard House, in honor of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in August 1920. Stay tuned for upcoming in-person and virtual opportunities to learn more about Frances Willard's work for women's rights and her involvement in the suffrage movement.



July print from the Willard House Dining Room

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