



American
Association
of
University
Women



the CONNECTION Centennial Event Edition

1921 -
2021

empowering women since 1881

<https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net>

Sunday, November 14, 2021

The Harrisburg Branch of the American Association of University Women culminated a year of events commemorating its hundred years' endurance as a force for women in the greater Harrisburg area with a private presentation of

Voice of One: Violet Oakley Unveiled
by local playwright Cindy Dlugolecki
with Stephanie Via as Violet Oakley

1921



2021



A woman inspired by deep spiritual convictions, Violet Oakley rose to become one of America's most important twentieth-century artists. Breaking down barriers to women in her field, she received a commission to create many of the murals that decorate the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, becoming the "Michelangelo of Harrisburg".

A devoted Christian Scientist,

Oakley was also a committed humanitarian and activist for global peace. Cindy Dlugolecki's one woman play explores her life long struggles, private and public, and how her mural research created in her a lifetime admiration of and devotion to William Penn and his choice to embody the Quaker ideals in creating Pennsylvania. Ms.Via skillfully brought Violet's passions to life .



Stephanie Via as Violet Oakley being intimate with her audience.

Ms.Oakley explains her work "Divine Law," a concept which she felt was both the Alpha and Omega of law. Violet fervently believed the evolution of law, depicted in her PA Supreme Court murals, would lead to eventual world peace.



After enjoying the presentation, you are encouraged to read two of the primary texts Ms.Dlugolecki used in her research to create her work:

A Sacred Challenge, published by the Capitol Preservation Committee in Harrisburg and ***The Red Rose Girls***, by Alice A.Carter.

Reflections on
A Grande Event



Stephanie Via as Violet Oakley (seated). Kathleen Gorak, AAUW Carlisle President; Cindy Dlugolecki; Marcia Hajduk, Harrisburg 100th Anniversary Chair; Ann Pehle, AAUW Pennsylvania President; Christine Zuzack, AAUW Harrisburg President.



Formal Moments



Christine Zuzack, Harrisburg Branch President, led the Commemorative Toast.



Marcia Hajduk, Christine Zuzack and Stephanie Via as Violet Oakley.

Presenting our 100th Anniversary Committee: l-r. Mary Kratzer, Erica Voss-Meloy, Marcia Hajduk-Chair; Lee Johnson, Kathy Silks, Rosemary Cahill, Carol Stark, Carol Nechemias.



Fantastic Food



Two of our snowbirds were still in town to enjoy the festivities.

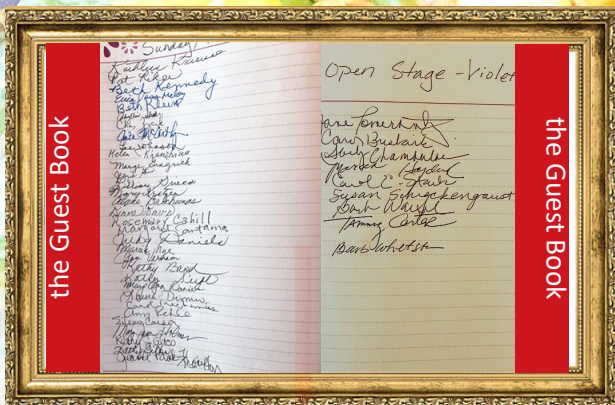


There was so much to smile about at this once in a life-time event!



Our Branch members are friends in and out of Branch events - looking great, ladies, in the ambient glow!

with Soft Lighting



Branch members pose for candid and catch up on life while enjoying the catered brunch.





100th Anniversary Chair, Marcia Hajduk, takes a break from her duties to enjoy the fabulous food.



Carol Stark and Kathy Gates - the ladies who work on our Branch PR.

and Conversation



Our faces show how very enthused we were to be out and about again. The whole affair received unanimous approval from all members in attendance.



Time was well spent making new and renewing old friendships in the Open Stage Court Street Cabaret and Studio Theater areas which had been set up for our dining pleasure.



The audience seating of the Studio Theater as well as all of the The Court Street Cabaret were converted to brunch seating to accomodate our members. We filled the entire facility!



It was ao good to see friends made a day of it. What a great way to get out - and the weather co-operated, too.



above left: Cindy Dlugolecki and Stephanie Via (as herself) look pleased with the results.

left: Susie Freedman, owner of *The Venusian Table* and caterer for our brunch, and a staffer take a well deserved break.

Rosemary Cahill, Erica Voss-Meloy and Mary Kratzer - members of the 100th Anniversary Committee . Thank you for your hard work to make this landmark year a success.

The Venusian Table is located in the West Shore Farmers Market. 900 Market St, Lemoyne, PA 17043.(717)737-1328.



American Association
of
University Women
Harrisburg Branch
1921 - 2021

*Celebrating 100 Years in the
Harrisburg Area*

with the presentation of
Voice of One: Violet Oakley Unveiled
by local playwright Cindy Dlugolecki

Groundbreaker. Feminist. Artist. Visionary.
Thank you for joining us as we experience Violet Oakley as she
shares with us the secrets embedded in her art - the murals
which now adorn the Pennsylvania State Capitol, and details her
personal and public challenges as the first American woman to
receive a public mural commission.
Truly a woman who embodied AAUW's philosophies.



Violet Oakley explains "lady in blue," the centerpiece of the *International Understanding and Unity* mural which can be seen in the Pennsylvania Senate Chamber

