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News Release

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October 20, 2010

May's Vote Play Celebrates Women's Suffrage in Washington



Barbara Callander and Toni Douglass bring a little-known episode in Washington's history to colorful life when they perform the play, "May's Vote," at the Mountain View Timberland Library on Thursday, November 4 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Like all library programs, the presentation is free of charge.

A century ago, prim and proper Emma Smith DeVoe and outrageous, flamboyant May Arkwright Hutton worked side by side - but seldom eye to eye - to win the vote for women in Washington State. DeVoe, based in western Washington, was a suffrage organizer trained by Susan B. Anthony. She believed that in order to win the vote, it was imperative to approach men in a ladylike manner: "You have to persuade them, convince them, argue their resistance down." Hutton, rags-to-riches Spokane millionaire and ex-mining camp cook, disagreed: "No, you gotta charm the pants off 'em. You don't focus on the issue; you distract 'em from it!"

May's Vote presents Emma and May from their respective childhoods through the noisy public struggle that ended with the vote for women in Washington State in 1910, and demonstrates that we do not always have to agree in order to achieve a common goal.

Douglass and Callander have both acted in theaters nationwide. Douglass, a playwright, actor, and drama teacher, premiered May's Vote at the 1989 Centennial ceremonies in Olympia at the Secretary of State's invitation. In writing the script, Douglass made extensive use of diaries and letters that the suffragists' wrote from the time of their childhoods through their private and public adult lives. Callander has held classes and workshops for arts organizations and is a professional actor. In 1995, she organized a festival for the Seattle celebration of the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment for which she received an award from the National Women's History Project.

The [Mountain View Timberland Library](http://www.MountainViewTimberlandLibrary.org) is at 210 Silverbrook Road, Randle. For more information, please call the library at (360) 497-2665 or go to www.TRL.org.