

**PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY**

**August 20, 1995**

**Piano Prelude: Doleta Chapru**

**Welcome: Rick Ruecking, President**

**"Now Sing We of the Brave of Old,"  
Page 107, UU Hymnal  
Susan Hagstrom, Accompanist**

**Chalice Lighting**

**Joys and Sorrows**

**"Neither Abridged Nor Denied," a perspective on  
women's suffrage, presented by Pat Watkins**

**Discussion**

**Responsive Reading #721**

**Offering**

**Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

**Announcements**

**"Lift Every Voice and Sing,"  
Kay Frazier**

**Closing Words**

**Postlude**

SKETCH: S.B. Anthony 1872

A knock at the door. Opened by a woman. "YES?"

MAN: Are you Miss Anthony?

WOMAN: Which Miss Anthony do you want? I'm Susan Anthony, but my sister, Mary Anthony also lives here.

MAN: I wish to speak to both Miss Anthonys. I'm Chief Marshall Keeney of the Federal Court and ~~the~~ by order of the court, I must serve summonses to the sixteen women, who in defiance of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution went to the Rochester NY courthouse on November 1st, <sup>1872</sup> registered to vote, and then voted on November 5th

WOMAN: Only 16 summonses! Why, there were 50 of us who registered! Of course, only the ladies who live in my precinct managed to actually ~~achieve~~ <sup>vote</sup> ~~the voting~~. But, not because they didn't try!

MAN: Look! I'm not enjoying this part of my job, and what with it's being Thanksgiving Day, I could just give you the summons<sup>es</sup>, and you and your sister can come down to the station later, on your own.

WOMAN: On my own! Indeed not! I am an American citizen, and therefore have the right to vote; a right which the State cannot deny me. If either the State or the national government thinks differently, then you must arrest me. ~~be~~ and force me to appear in court and stand

(b)

Judge Hunt: Call your witnesses.

Attorney Henry Seldon: I call to the stand Miss Susan Anthony.

Judge Hunt: That will not be allowed!

Atty Seldon: (Aghast!) Why is that, your honor?

Judge Hunt: She is not a competent witness.

Atty Seldon: (Incredulous) Not competent!? Why on earth not, your Honor?

Judge Hunt: Because she is a woman! Please resume your seat, Miss Anthony.

Atty Seldon: I object, your honor

Judge Hunt: Your objection is overruled. Let us move on.

Both sides finished their arguments.

Judge Hunt: Gentlemen of the jury. ~~To~~ You need not retire from the courtroom, as there is no decision you must make. The jury's job is to ~~decide~~ consider questions of facts. There are no questions of facts in this case for you to consider. My job is to <sup>rule on</sup> ~~consider~~ questions of law. Since Miss Anthony's belief and the advice she took do not protect her in the act she committed, I direct you to give me a verdict of "guilty."

ATTY Selden: I object! I object! I object!

Judge Hunt: your objection is overruled! Overruled!

Clerk, you will read the <sup>statement</sup> ~~verdict to the~~  
~~jury~~ I'm handing you to the jury.

Clerk: (to <sup>(jury)</sup> audience) you say that you find the defendant guilty of the offense whereof she stands indicted, and so say you all.

Atty Seldon: your honor. I object again, and again, and I request an individual jury count and poll!

Judge Hunt: There will be no such poll! The jury is dismissed! Does the defendant have anything to say as to why sentence should not be pronounced.

Susan

Yes, your honor, I have many things to say: for in your ordered verdict of guilty, you have trampled under foot every vital principle of our government.

*"Your denial of my citizen's right to vote is the denial of my right of consent as one of the governed, the denial of my right to a trial by a jury of my peers . . . the denial of my sacred rights to life, liberty, property. . . ."*

*"All my prosecutors, from the 8th Ward corner-grocery-store politician who entered the complaint, to the U.S. Marshal, Commissioner, District Attorney, District Judge, and your Honor on the bench, not one is my peer, but each and all my political sovereigns. And had your Honor submitted my case to the jury, as was clearly your duty, even then I should have had just cause of protest, for not one of those men was my peer; but, native or foreign, white or black, rich or poor, educated or ignorant, awake or asleep, sober or drunk, each and every man of them was my political superior, hence, in no sense my peer."*

Judge Hunt: you have been tried according to the established forms of law!

Susan

By forms of law made by men, administered by men in favor of men, and against women. . . . Yesterday, that same man-made form of law declared it a crime . . . for you or me . . . to give a cup of cold water . . . to a panting fugitive while he was tracking his way to Canada. And every man and woman in whose veins coursed a drop of human sympathy violated that wicked law . . . and was justified in so doing.

"As then, the slaves who got their freedom must take it over, or under, or through the unjust forms of law, precisely so now must women, to get their right to a voice in this Government, take it; and I have taken mine, and mean to take it at every opportunity."

Judge Hunt: That is enough, Miss Anthony. Take your seat!

Susan

(she ignored him)

"When I was brought before your Honor for trial, I hoped for a broad and liberal interpretation of the Constitution and its recent Amendments, that should declare all U.S. citizens under its protecting aegis — that should declare equality of rights to all persons born or naturalized in the United States. But failing to get this justice — failing even to get a trial by a jury not of my peers — I ask not leniency at your hands, but to take the full rigors of the law."

Judge Hunt: you are hereby sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 + court costs

Susan:

"May it please your Honor," (said Susan calmly), "I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty . . . And I shall earnestly and persistently continue to urge all women to the practical recognition of the old revolutionary maxim, that "Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."

FOOTNOTE: Susan's sentence was never carried out and Judge Hunt took no steps to enforce it. The cases against the other 15 women were dropped.