

**CELEBRATING  
LEADING  
LADIES  
OF  
ILLINOIS**

Presented by:  
IAHCE District Directors  
2018 District Workshop



IAHCE

**August 2018 District Workshop Presentation**  
**Celebrating Leading Ladies of Illinois**

Introduction

“Illinois is where the nation’s greatest rivers meet. It’s where the largest Native American city once thrived. Where the most trains cross and daily flights soar. Where automobiles and hard roads got a start. Where sound movies began. Where a nuclear chain reaction was first controlled. Where the first transistor gave rise to the computer age. Where the theory of superconductivity was born. Where the biggest fair in the nation’s history was held. Where the mail-order catalog and the warehouse of goods behind it got its start. Where the Blues echo and comedy is king. Where more than a quarter million men volunteered to fight to end slavery and save the Union. Where the nation’s biggest plant helped make the world safe for democracy. Where the biggest restaurant company, biggest makers of mining equipment, aircraft, and tractors are based and where hundreds of start-up companies each year keep the engine humming. We are #IllinoisProud.” Did you know that among all the famous men and celebrated men in Illinois and our great nation we also have some celebrated and famous women such as:

1. Elizabeth Winters - Portrayed by Becky Thomas, District 1
2. Jane Addams/Hull House - Portrayed by Kathy Peterson, District 2/3
3. Francis Willard - Portrayed by Debbie Segrest, District 6
4. Clara Brian & Mrs. Spencer Ewing - Portrayed by Kathleen Emery, District 5
5. Elsie Mies - Portrayed by Mary Eustace, District 4
6. Betty White - Portrayed by Janel Kassing, District 7

(After the “Ladies” do their presentation, the following was read by Angela Hicks, 2nd Vice President.)

Today our Organization recites the Collect written in 1904 by Mary Stewart, a high school principal in Longmont, Colorado, and a member of women's clubs of town and country. “It was written as a prayer for the day. I called it a ‘Collect For Club Women,’ because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps they had need for special petition and meditation of their own. This must have been true for the Collect has found its way about the world, especially wherever English speaking women get together. Indeed it has been reprinted in many forms in many lands.”

Let’s end this program by reading the “Collect”.

Angela Hicks

IAHCE 2nd Vice President

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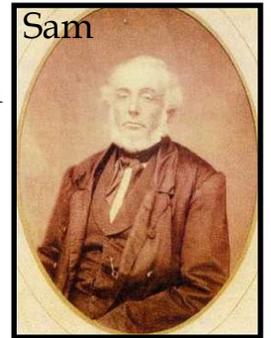
## My name is Elizabeth Winters of Elizabeth

My name is Elizabeth Winters of Elizabeth, Illinois. In the spring of 1832, I was among the settlers at the Apple River Fort during the Blackhawk War. My husband John and I came to the area in 1827 where we established ourselves in the community and had the first child born here.

We were accustomed to the peaceful Indians that were in the area, but in that year many communities built stockades to protect against renegade bands of Indians. Our families had moved into the Apple River Fort in May and lived there peacefully.



On June 24, 1832, the women were taking the children gooseberry picking when we heard the alarm of Indians approaching from the other direction. They were identified as Chief Blackhawk and about 200 warriors. My friend, Elizabeth Armstrong, picked up a used rifle and began shooting, when Sam Hughlett suggested that he shoot and she should load the rifle. By doing this, he kept a steady fire.



Elizabeth set to work organizing the rest of the women to help bring bullets and to assist loading rifles. The volley of fire lasted almost one hour. Chief Blackhawk retreated from the fort, but took provisions from surrounding houses. The families stayed in the fort until August when we felt it was safe to leave because Blackhawk had been captured.

The following years found business being built and a village was surveyed, platted and laid out. It wasn't until 1868 that it would become incorporated. The consensus of naming the town Elizabeth, was to honor Elizabeth Armstrong, Elizabeth Van Volkenburg and me, Elizabeth Winter, and the other women of the Apple River Fort skirmish.



Elizabeth Winter

Although my claim to fame is a lone attack from some mad and starving Indians, I feel honored to have been part of this portion of Elizabeth, Illinois history. As the mines played out and the stagecoaches were replaced by trains, I have disappeared into the vastness of time. But I am not dismayed, for the changes that have occurred over time has left my descendants, the town of Elizabeth to occupy one of the most beautiful locations in Illinois, resting in a basin at the crest of hill-tops and in turn surrounded by other hills. "The Gathering of Elizabeth's" is a festival to celebrate the heroic women who defended the fort that memorable day. *Come and be a part of "The Gathering of Elizabeth's" on August 11th, 2018 in Elizabeth, Il. Help us celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the village and honor the women that it was named after.*

Becky Thomas  
IAHCE District 1 Director  
2018 District Workshop

## Jane Addams

**1860**

I was born September 6 in Cedarville, IL. I was the 8th child. Sadly, my mother Sarah died in childbirth when I was 2 years old. My Father, John Huy Addams was my strongest supporter and greatest influence. He was a successful businessman with interest in timber, flour and wool. He was the president of the Second National Bank of Freeport. Politically, he was the founding member of the Illinois Republican Party, serving as an Illinois State Senator. Abraham Lincoln was a close personal friend and he helped him run for Senate and President. I was most proud when I found out that he had been a part of the Underground Railroad. I feel that is what pushed me toward being a charter member of NAACP.



**1889**



I purchased Hull House in Chicago with money left to me by my father after his death. I read an article in 1887 about a settlement house idea and traveled to London to see the theory in action. With my social work background and a passion for the theory, the mansion was purchased.

25 Women lived in the house and 2,000 people were served each week. I, and others, did studies in housing, fatigue, typhoid, garbage collection, cocaine, truancy and midwifery. The settlement offered a long list of services; night school for adults, a public kitchen, an art gallery and studios, a gym, a girl's club, library a book bindery, a music school, an employment bureau and a lunchroom. The Hull House settlement

expanded to a 13 building complex, which included a playground and summer camp.

## 1898

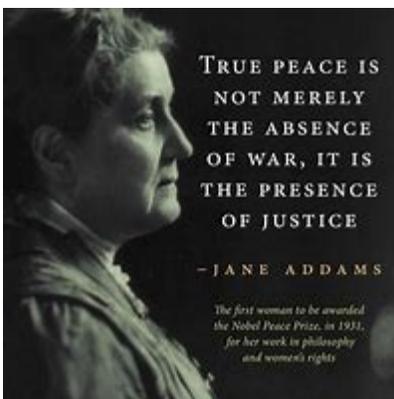
This marks the beginning of the Peace Movement phase that consumes the rest of my life. I joined the Anti-Imperialist League. Following this, I became highly supportive in the political career of Theodore Roosevelt.

January, 1915, I became the national chairman of the Women's Peace Party and went to Europe to attend the International Congress. I was elected to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. I was traveling constantly giving speeches in support of these ideals. At times, I was considered a pacifist and unpatriotic.

## 1931

So you will understand why I was amazed that I had been chosen as the Nobel Peace Prize winner. I was the first woman from the United States to win. My health had been poor my entire life but at this point I could not travel to receive the award. The money was donated to the League for Peace. I died of pancreatic cancer, May 2, 1935 in Chicago and rest in peace in Cedarville, IL.

Kathy Peterson  
IAHCE District Director 2/3  
2018 District Workshop



## Frances Willard



I, Frances Elizabeth Caroline Willard was a pioneer in the temperance movement and made contributions to women's higher education and suffrage.

I was born September 28, 1839 in Churchville, NY. My parents were Josiah Flint Willard and Mary Thompson Hill Willard. During my childhood, I lived in Oberlin, OH and Janesville, WI. I received most of my early schooling from my mother. While living in Wisconsin, we became Methodists. My mother was a teacher at Milwaukee Normal Institute. My sister, Mary, and I were students there. In 1858, we moved to Evanston, Illinois. There my sister and I attended North Western Female College. After graduating, I taught at various schools throughout the country. I was appointed President of Evanston College for Ladies in 1871, when it was first founded. When that college became Woman's College of Northwestern University in 1873, I was the first Dean of Women. However, that position did not last long, as the University President, Charles Henry Fowler, (whom I had been previously been engaged to, I being the one who broke off the impending marriage). Our confrontations were over my governance of the college.



After my resignation, I decided to focus on the women's temperance movement. In 1874, I took part in the founding convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union - the WCTU. I was elected as the first Corresponding Secretary. In 1876, I became head of the Publications Department, concentrating on the WCTU's weekly newspaper, The Union Signal. In 1885, I joined over 40 other women to found the Illinois Woman's Press Association.

In 1879, I became President of the National WCTU and held that post until death in 1898. I tirelessly worked for the temperance cause, including a 50 day speaking tour, traveled 30,000 miles a year, and averaged 400 lectures a year for 10 years.

**Frances Willard**

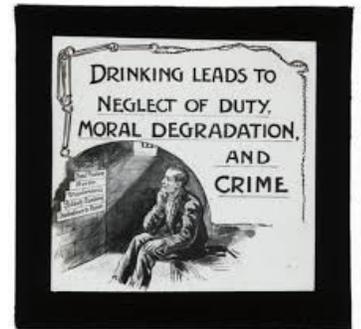
- Temperance and Women's Suffrage
- Formed Woman's Christian Temperance Union
- Helped lead to creation of 18<sup>th</sup> (prohibition-banning sale of Alcohol) and 19<sup>th</sup> amendments (women's suffrage)



Portrait of Frances Elizabeth Willard, 1838-1909. ©1999 SSO. Subvenger Library, Pacific Heights

As President, I argued for female suffrage based on "Home Protection", which I described as "the movement, the object of which is to secure all women above the age of 21 the ballot as one means for

the protection of their homes from the devastation caused by legalized traffic in strong drink". The devastation I spoke of referred to violent acts against women committed by intoxicated men, both in and outside the home. I argued that it was too easy for men to get away with their crimes without women's suffrage.



My work became international in 1883, with the circulation of the Polyglot Petition against the international drug trade. I joined May Wright Sewall at the International Council of Women meeting in Washington, DC to lay the permanent foundation for the National Council of Women of the United States. I was their first President in 1888.

There are several memorials pertaining to me -

A famous painting, *American Woman and her Political Peers*, features me surrounded by a convict, an American Indian, a lunatic, and an idiot. The image portrays one argument for women's right to vote, without it, the educated, respectable women were equal to the outcasts of society and The Frances Willard House Museum and Archives in Evanston, Illinois.

After my death, I was the first woman included among America's greatest leaders in Statuary Hall in Washington, DC.

The Frances E. Willard School in Philadelphia was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

The Frances Willard Schoolhouse in Janesville, WI was also added to the National Register in 1977.

The Frances E. Willard Temperance Hospital operated under my name from 1929 to 1936 in Chicago. It is now Loretto Hospital.

My life showed what all one person can accomplish when they put their minds and efforts to it.

Debbie Segrest  
IAHCE District 6 Director  
2018 District Workshop



McLean County Home Bureau  
By  
Clara R. Brian

The McLean County Home Bureau, formerly known as McLean County Home Improvement Association was organized during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.



Clara Brian

Mrs. Spencer Ewing, should get much credit for successfully launching this far reaching educational organization for rural women. She was a member of the state Food Conservation Committee in 1917 and found out that the Smith-Lever Bill made it possible for a county to have the services of a trained home economist. Enough prospective members had been secured to assure the completion of the organization. It was voted to secure the services of a home adviser. This person must have a degree in home economics and be willing to travel the county in the interest of better homemaking thru educational programs.

On April morning in 1918 in Salina, Kansas, where I was teaching at Kansas Wesleyan University, I received a letter from the state leader of Home Economics Extension work for the U of I. I was to report to her at the university the next week for the position of home advisor in Livingston County, IL. By May 1918, I was recommended to the McLean County Home Improvement Association Board, but only after having a month's rest! During the first weeks of work we had no projects started, no programs and no plan of work. We soon decided that to fulfill the organizations mission it would be necessary to take the information to the people.

Due to the war, there was a restriction on the use of wheat flour and the homemakers were having a difficult time making bread from the substitutes. The first lessons I gave were on “wheatless” breads or how to use the substitutes. Help was coming to the women when it was badly needed. The organization was to furnish transportation. If the place of the meeting could not be reached by train or traction service, one of the members would come to Bloomington and take me to the meeting and another would bring me home.

The Kiwanis Club came to the aid of the organization and purchased the first car used in the work. I did not know how to drive a car but, after an hour of instruction by a demonstrator, I was ready for the first trip in the new car.



July 15 was a memorable day. The meeting place was 35 miles away. There were no paved roads....just dirt. The county nurse went with me. The car was a Ford Coupe, 1918 model. With fear and trembling, we started on our journey. We hadn't gone far until it started to rain. The top was down. It had to come up. The shower was soon over, then we came to a part of the road under construction and a bridge was not there. It was necessary to drive down a steep embankment and up on the other side. Impossible. How did we know until we tried? Down and up without mishap, with a little more confidence in my driving ability. After the meeting, ready to start for home, the car would not start. A man came by and gave a few whirrs to the handle and we were on our way. A few more miles and the car stopped, now what..... nothing except an empty gas tank. An obliging farmer sold me five gallons

of gas and delivered it to the tank. This was our last interruption and we arrived in Bloomington tired but with a lot of good experience out of my first day with a car.

The subject of the July meeting was "Meatless Dinners" and in August "Sugarless Desserts". In September we discussed the need of hot lunches in the schools. Then came October and the never-to-be forgotten flu epidemic. All programs were discontinued and the Home Improvement members, city and county, joined with women of other organizations to help care for the sick. We furnished most of the food, all kinds of vegetables, milk, butter, chicken, and eggs came in abundance and in two weeks we had served 3,600 meals. Once again we had proven to the communities the value of a rural people organization.

With the first year completed the name was changed to Home Bureau. Now the real work began as we realized the need to schedule meetings and programs. We needed to work with other community activities to demonstrate how well women can plan and work together, whether it be for fun and recreation, raising money or in a time of disaster as sewing and knitting for a nation at war. Handicrafts lessons have opened new fields of activities for the busy homemaker and has helped her in discovering her creative abilities. This also helped her in selecting clothing and home furnishings.

There were always little funny incidents to lighten the more serious side of the work. Getting stuck in the mud or sliding off the road into a snow bank was not funny at the time, but it did give one something different to think about. Then there were the "ruts". How I longed for the ability to write and for the gift of oratory that I might give a lecture on "ruts". No it was not a monotonous life, but one full of challenges.

The years have come and gone. By 1945 there were 28 home bureau units in the county and 1,770 members. The organization had lived through 2 World Wars and its members have taken an active part as citizens of a nation at war.

In May of 1945, after 25 years of service in the field of Home Economics Extension work, I tendered my resignation to take effect September 1, 1945. This was not to say good-bye, but to take my place as a member of the greatest international organization, next to the church, that has been organized for women.

Kathleen Emery  
IAHCE District 5 Director  
2018 District Workshop

## Elsie Mies

Good morning. Please let me introduce myself. I am the spirit of Elsie Mies and she would be so happy to know that this many spirited women are here to continue the work of IAHCE.



Before I spook you out with spirits, please let me define my role as a spirit. One definition is “A spirit is the soul who has left us to guide us from Heaven.” Another definition states spirit means enthusiasm, energy, drive, warmth, spunk, and every other word we can find in the dictionary that describes Elsie Mies. My role is to show you that Elsie Mies was definitely spirited. YES, ELSIE HAS SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU?

Elsie received her formal education at what is now Northern Illinois State University. She became a school teacher and taught until she met and married the love of her life....Henry J. Mies. They moved to the Mies Homestead and settled down to married life. Well, saying Elsie “settled” is a bit inaccurate. She didn’t want to be totally dependent on anyone to take her where she wanted to go, so she became one of the first farm women in the area to learn to drive a Model T Ford. Look out world, here comes Miss Elsie!

Elsie and Henry moved to Pontiac, Illinois in the early 1920’s. She became one of the driving forces in creating the original Livingston Home Improvement Association. Hey, we could all use a little improvement, couldn’t we? In what later became the Livingston County Home Bureau, Elsie served as the President from 1922-24. (Isn’t it amazing that after all these years, many people still think of HCE as Home Bureau?)

With that ever-loving spirit, she became President of Illinois Home Bureau Federation followed by later becoming President of the American Farm Bureau Federation. (Yes, as her spirit, I sometimes become quite breathless trying to keep up with her!) ELSIE HAD SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU?

Elsie Mies became well-known as an excellent, invigorating speaker. She traveled extensively not only in Illinois but all over the United States and Canada spreading the word about what is now HCE.

One quote about Elsie sums up what we all cherish in our county board meetings. "Mrs. Mies had the striking ability as a committee member in bringing a discussion to the point of summing it up and moving on to the next areas of thought."

As her Spirit, she reminded me of this Swedish Proverb:

"Fear less, hope more, eat less, chew more, whine less, breathe more, talk less, say more, hate less, love more, and all good things will be yours."

Her spirit brought her in contact with members of Congress and members of the Cabinet. Her views were respected because she was interested and well-spoken of all issues of the day and not just feminist issues.

Elsie Mies had a straight forward and direct method of speaking that was special with a great sense of humor. She was a kind and thoughtful individual and a inspiring woman to all who met her. ELSIE HAD SPIRIT, WHAT ABOUT YOU ?

Elsie loved young people...which was a good thing since she and Henry had four children of their own. She once said that the only thing wrong with teenagers is that I am not one of them. (Oh Elsie, are you sure about that? I'm not sure I could keep up with you as a teenager!) But her love for them was genuine as she served as program counselor for the first Youth-Adult Conference at East Bay Camp, Lake Bloomington, Illinois. This was the beginning of Rural Youth Camp.

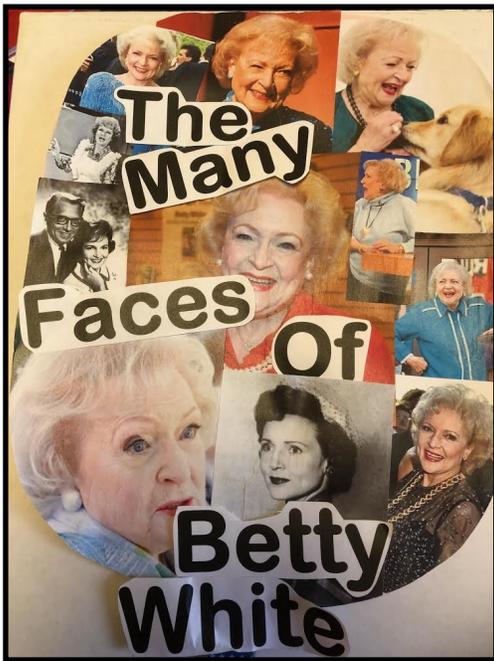
Yes, I am truly proud to be the Spirit of Elsie Mies. She was a strong supporter of women's interests but equally concerned about the affairs of the community, county, state and nation. SHE TRULY HAD SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU?

After her death on February 22, 1949, women around the state collected funds and invested them for the sole purpose of using the interest from this investment each year to obtain an outstanding speaker for Elsie Mies Day during our conference.

It is now up to us to keep the Spirit going. We need to press forward to enroll new members, make our lessons so relevant that our members hate to miss a meeting, encourage more of our members to take on leadership roles, and most of all, to come to our conferences to see and hear the warmth, enthusiasm and spirit of women all over the state. So let's hear it for the Spirit of Elsie Mies.

I'VE GOT SPIRIT, YES I DO! I'VE GOT HCE SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU?!!

Mary Eustace  
IAHCE District 4 Director  
2018 August Workshops



## Betty White

If you could have 2 people, living or dead, at your house for dinner....what would you serve? Yes, that is a quote from that darling of Golden Girls...Betty White!

I, Betty Marion White Ludden, was born on January 17, 1922 in Oak Park, IL. I have had the longest TV career of any female entertainer. I was one of the first women to have control both in front and behind the camera and I'm

recognized as the first woman to produce a sitcom contributing to my honorary title of Mayor of Hollywood in 1955. I have had roles as Sue Ann Nivens on "Mary Tyler Moore" for which I received 2 Emmys, as Rose Nyland on "Golden Girls", these both included on the list of 101 Best Written TV Sitcoms, and as Elsa Ostrovsky on "Hot in Cleveland". I was a regular guest on "Password", "Match Game" and "\$25,000 Pyramid" and received an Emmy for Outstanding Game Show Host for "Just Men". In my 75 year career, I've received 8 Emmys, 3 American Comedy Awards, 3 Screen Actor's Guild Awards and a Grammy. I have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame right next to my third husband, well known game show host, Allen Ludden. At age 88, I hosted Saturday Night Live, the oldest person to host.

I was the only child of Christine Tess and Horace Logan White. We moved to Los Angeles during the Depression. My dream was to become a forest ranger, but women were not allowed to be rangers and while writing and playing the lead in a graduation play, I discovered my fondness for performing. I made the rounds to movie studios, but after being told I was "unphotogenic", I turned to radio. I soon got my own radio show. Through the 50's and 60's, I was hostess and commentator on the Tournament of Roses Parade 19 times and then Macy's Thanksgiving Parade for 9.



From 1985 - 92, I played Rose on the "Golden Girls". I won an Emmy in 1985 and was nominated in the same category every year of the series' run. All these details really confuse me. (*Some needs to say from the audience... "Rose, you get confused opening a Ziploc bag!"*)

"Oh garconarknock!" You know what else confuses me? That a thermos can keep things cold one day and hot the next!

I married 3 times, the first two ending in divorce shortly after the marriage. Allen Ludden, being by most recognizable husband, and I were married on June 14, 1963. I rebuffed his marriage proposal initially, but he wore the engagement ring around his neck until I changed my mind. "Hootencoogles". He died of stomach cancer in 1981. I never had children, but I was stepmom to Allen's 3.



As an avid pet enthusiast and an animal health advocate, I hosted the series, "The Pet Set" in the early 70's. Animals are my biggest passion. I'm actually the luckiest old broad alive. Half my life is working in a profession I love and the other half is working with animals. I've donated tens of thousands of dollars to animal groups.

I received quite an honor on November 9, 2010 when the USDA Forest Service along with Smokey the Bear, made me an honorary forest ranger. "Oh, tooberburbles."

I'm considered the most popular and trusted celebrity among Americans according to a 2011 poll. I've published 7 books and in 2014, earned the 21st Emmy nod for "Off Their Rockers" and I hold the record for the longest span my many Emmy nominations cover, the 1st in 1951 and the last in 2014.

My key to aging has nothing to do with health food. I eat Red Vines, hot dogs, french fries and Diet Coke. Jane Leeves, one of my "Hot in Cleveland" co-stars, says "Maybe you're preserved because of all the preservatives!"

You know, "If there were no farms, there'd be no cows and chickens. If there were no cows and chickens, there'd be no milk and eggs. If there were no milk and eggs, there'd be no ice cream. If there was no ice cream, you wouldn't need to diet and then what would you do with the rest of your life?"

Janel Kassing  
IAHCE District 7 Director  
2018 District Workshop