

Ideas for a “Pink Tea” (Developed by WHC Board Member Sue Lean)

Although little known today, everyone once knew what a Pink Tea was. Ty Cobb famously said, “Baseball is a red-blooded sport for red-blooded men. It’s no Pink Tea and mollycoddles should stay out.”

Hardly material for the back of a fine pink invitation to formal tea party, but amusing for the Pink Tea Committee and guests at more informal events.

Possible Event Titles:

“Heyday of Huge Hats”

“A Step Back in Time”

“A Pink Tea in Celebration of the Centennial of Washington Women Winning the Vote”

“Afternoon Tea & Vintage Fashion Show”

Pink Invitations/Response Cards

“Vintage Dress Encouraged”

(1909/1910 Costume notes: Long skirts or dresses, long sleeved blouses with ruffles/lace, hats (broad brimmed with flowers, ribbons); all white or white top/black skirt often worn. See Yellow Pages for Costume Rentals)

(Need ticketing arrangements, possibly publicity, guest check list if there is a charge to come. For a large organization auction, pairs of tickets could be offered:

“Tea for You and Someone Special” or

“Mother, Sister, Daughter, Friend Tea”: Spring dresses encouraged / Bring a straw hat to decorate / Lunch and Music provided. Winning bidders get pretty invitation.)

Nametags

(if customary)

Pink Flowers

(Pink ruffled azaleas/foil covered pots, pink rhododendrons, pink roses)

Pink Napkins

Pink Tea Menu

(Need serving plan, servers. May ask volunteers to wear white blouses or shirts/black skirts or pants)

Tea Sandwiches

(Egg salad with lavender, cream cheese with cucumber and watercress, chicken salad with pecans; small/crustless)

Scones with Clotted Cream and Jam

Fresh Fruit

(on skewers an option)

Sweets

(Pink Frosted Desserts, Chocolate-laced Creampuffs, Petits fours, Lemon Bars, etc.)

Pink Punch**Pink Tea**

(Though modern, Starbuck’s Tazo Tea “Passion” is a rich dark pink in color and comes in purple packets, one of the suffrage colors. White and green colors were also used.)

Favors

(e.g., WA state shaped and pink rose shaped mints in small cello bags tied with pink ribbon, tea bag caddies, reproduction 1910 WA campaign postcards, small treasures)

Program Possibilities

(Printed Programs a nice souvenir and record)

Posting of Colors and Flag Salute

(if customary)

Invocation

(if customary)

MC/President/Hostess: “Welcome.....

We present to you today a Pink Tea as this was once the most formal, luxurious and important kind of tea. Sometimes women in attendance would speak among themselves of seeking the right to vote for women. If such a tea were held 100 years ago here in _____, it may have been something like this....(add Very Brief History/Organization Highlight(s)

Introduction of Guests

Public Officials

Visiting Officers

Special Guests

Introduction of Guests in Historic Costume

Historic Name (“as portrayed by _____” if desired)

(Examples: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Catharine Blaine, Abigail Scott Duniway, Nevada Bloomer, Carrie Chapman Catt, Emma Smith DeVoe, May Arkwright Hutton, Seattle Mayor Bertha Landes, local historical dignitaries _____)

Expressions of Appreciation to Pink Tea Committee Other Recognitions**PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES**

Induction of Officers Ceremonies

(as per organization's custom)

Historical Presentation/Reenactment

By Actor/Actresses/Speakers

Singing of Suffrage Songs or Old Favorites

By Singer, Singing Group or by Guests) For songs see:

<http://www.folkways.si.edu/albumdetails.aspx?itemid=963> or

www.washingtonwomenshistory.org

(Need Singers, music, copies for Guests if sung by Guests, Leader, Musical Instrument(s), Accompanist)

Poetry Reading

(See website: www.womenshistory.org)

Reading

"An Ounce of Persuasion is Worth a Pound of Coercion"

Postcards from the 1910 Campaign

(to be developed)

Presentation of Gift to/from Organization

(e.g., an antique for a historical home, a piece of equipment for a woman's shelter, a commitment to remodel something)

Report on Presentation of Historical Marker

(e.g., a special project by sponsoring organization)

Report on Presentation of Organization's Records to a Women's History Consortium Partner Repository

(Appreciative Response by person from chosen library, museum or archive)

Presentation of Prizes to Contest Winners

(e.g., essay or poster contest new or annually sponsored, "Write Women Back Into History" is the 2010 theme of the National Women's History Project www.nwhp.org)

Awards Presentation to Worthy Recipient(s)

(Need selection committee, tangible award to present possibly with inscription, certificates, speaker, notification of nominee and family, press release, press coverage etc.)

Door Prizes

(Need to select, have tickets/stubs container for drawing;
For centerpieces, stickers on bottom of saucers a possibility)

ACTIVITIES for an Informal Tea

Games

(Invite Guests to list Childhood Amusements including those from days of yore, prize for longest list; create a Toy Identification game from toy encyclopedia websites such as www.toynfo.com;
Alphabet Game with a word for each letter pertaining to a chosen theme, e.g., women in history, voting, things that come in the color pink.
Need paper, magazines to write on, pens/pencils, prizes)

Show and Tell

(Invite guests to “Step Back in Time” by bringing something for Show and Tell. Suggest selecting a category such as antiques, dolls & toys, china, handkerchiefs [white ones were waved in support of the vote], scrapbooks, photographs, vintage suffrage material and stories)

Skits

(Original or historical. Women campaigning for The Cause often participated in skits: see www.washingtonwomenshistory.org)

Decorating Straw Hats

(Invite Guests to bring a straw hat to decorate. Provide silk flowers, birds, French ribbon, wire, wire cutters, glue, hot glue guns, safe work surface, guidance)

Planting a Rose or a Rhododendron

Women and only women were allowed to vote for the Official State Flower for the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. The “Coast Rhododendron” (which is pink) was chosen rather than Clover. For the WA women’s suffrage centennial, a new rhododendron was introduced called “Emma and May” for WA leaders Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton. For eastern

Washington, a rose, a tree or another planting could be selected; need site preparation and planting plan)

Messages for the Future

(Write on pretty pink paper thoughts, predictions for posterity. Keep them to read in 2020 when the Federal Amendment passed enfranchising women under the United States Constitution)

FUNDRAISING OPTIONS

In Honor of The Cause of the Right to Vote for Women

100 Years of Women's Rights

(Organization's Own Cause / Contributions)

In Memory of a Special Member

Special Once in 100 Years Gift

Women's Rights Celebration

(Need plan, reason for special gift, publicity, speaker, type of fund, tax information, gift giving levels, response cards, envelopes etc.)

Closing Remarks

Finale

Think up Something Great

Singing

FAQs:

Did men go to Pink Teas? Sometimes, yes.

When women got the vote in Washington, could they vote for President, in federal elections?
Yes.

Other Centennial Celebration Fun:

Scavenger Hunt

Bicycle Race in Bloomers

Geocaching