HUMANITIES NEW YORK SCHOLAR DR. SALLY ROESCH-WAGNER TO SPEAK AT THE NIAGARA FALLS UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HERITAGE MUSEUM – “WOMEN VOTED BEFORE COLUMBUS”

On March 26, 2018, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Dr. Sally Roesch-Wagner, historian and executive director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, Inc., will present on the rich interaction between the Haudenosaunee People and the early women’s suffragists in New York State. The event will take place at the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center at 825 Depot Avenue West, in Niagara Falls, New York, and is part of the New York State Women’s Suffrage Centennial lecture series for Niagara University. Roesch-Wagner has argued that this connection with Haudenosaunee women provided the model for the suffragists towards granting women equal access to all parts of American society. “The amazing fact to me,” Roesch-Wagner says, “is that we in the United States will be celebrating our 100 years of having the vote in 2020 while Haudenosaunee women right here have had political voice for 1,000 years.  Suffragists learned about women's rights from seeing their example.” Roesch-Wagner is the author of multiple books, and teaches in the University Honors Program at Syracuse University, as well as the St. John Fisher College Executive Leadership Program. She speaks around the country about the Haudenosaunee women’s influence on women’s rights and suffrage movements in the United States, the life of suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage, and the linkages between Gage and feminism in her son-in-law, L. Frank Baum’s works, most notably *The Wizard of Oz*. She also serves a public scholar for Humanities New York. This program is sponsored by Niagara University, including the women’s studies program and the Improvement of Teaching fund, as well as the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area and the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center. The event is free and open to the public and there is free parking on site. Large bus groups should rsvp to Dr. Shannon Risk at srisk@niagara.edu.