

A Note from the President – LWV of Spartanburg County

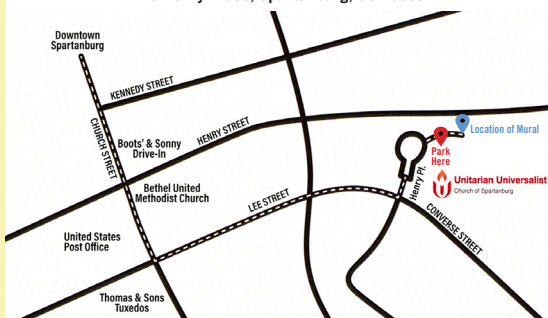
It has long been a dream of several members of the League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County to honor abolitionists and suffragists Angelina and Sarah Grimké and to acknowledge their connection to the Upstate. Local historian Alice Hatcher Henderson, Ph.D., often reminds us of their importance. The commissioning of this mural to celebrate the founding of the League of Women Voters when women finally won the vote 100 years ago, allowed us to act on our deep respect for these two extraordinary South Carolina women.

Karen Mitchell President, League of
Women Voters of Spartanburg County
www.lwvofspartanburg.org



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

"DETERMINED: A TRIBUTE TO THE GRIMKÉ SISTERS" MURAL
is located at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg
210 Henry Place, Spartanburg, SC 29306



**The League of Women Voters
is grateful to the following donors
who made this project possible.**

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Determined



**A TRIBUTE TO
THE GRIMKÉ SISTERS**
A Work of Public Art

The League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County celebrated the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote (1920-2020) by commissioning a mural in honor of Angelina and Sarah Grimké, South Carolina sisters who were both abolitionists and suffragists. It is on the Henry Street facing wall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 210 Henry Place, Spartanburg. A small park called the Grimké Connector will be developed at the site. It will link the Mary Black Rail Trail with the Mary H. Wright Greenway.



Determined: A Tribute to the Grimké Sisters honors the memory of Angelina and Sarah Grimké, South Carolina sisters who were both abolitionists and suffragists in the 19th century. In the 1830's they were castigated for speaking in public against slavery. "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes" by Sarah was an important early women's rights treatise. The Grimkés were part of the mass movement of black and white women within abolition who began blending their anti-slavery work with women's rights activism.

Angelina (1805-1879) and Sarah (1792-1873) were raised in a wealthy slave-owning family in Charleston but paid frequent visits as children to the family property near Cross Anchor in Spartanburg County called Belmont Farm. As young adults, they were repulsed by slavery and so they moved north to fight for abolition. Abolitionists and suffragists began to work together. After the Civil War, when African American men could vote (in some places), the Grimkés went to the polls and cast "fake" ballots in a women's box to show that women were willing to go to the polls and vote.

The sisters were working on ending slavery and winning the vote for women at a time when it was not considered appropriate for women to speak in public. Angelina was the first woman to speak to a state legislature in 1838 when she addressed a committee of the Massachusetts legislature.

These brave and courageous women knew that black lives matter in the 19th century and they acted on that belief. In the 1850's they discovered that they had three nephews from their brother's relationship with a mixed race woman. Sarah and Angelina paid for two of them to attend college. One graduated from Harvard and became a founder of the NAACP in the early 1900's. The other one graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and was the minister of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. for 40 years.

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"The Grimké sisters lead us still – to work with and for one another, without exception, without ceasing."

– Scott Neely, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church

About the Artist

Nancy Corbin was born in Ohio and moved to Spartanburg in 1976 with her husband Mike. Nancy studied art at the Toledo Museum of Art, Banff School of Fine Arts, the University of Cincinnati (BFA), the University of South Carolina (MA), Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Hemlock Studios, New York University, Ringling College of Art and Design, Savannah College of Art and Design, The Creativity Workshop in Barcelona, and Converse College.



After teaching in Spartanburg County School District Seven for 14 years, Nancy joined the Spartanburg Day School visual arts faculty in 1991, and taught a range of subjects from Studio Art to Art History from introductory levels to advanced placement. While at SDS she was awarded the Mildred Harrison Dent Endowed Chair, a position she held until she retired after 27 years at the school.

Nancy is currently at work in her studio behind Mayfair Lofts in Spartanburg, creating a series of figurative paintings celebrating our resilient and collaborative nature. She is a founding member of *Determined to Soar*, an initiative which amplifies women's voices.

Contact Nancy at: ncorbin222@gmail.com
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Mural painted by:
STEPHEN LONG and JEREMY KEMP