

## Legacies of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass Hailed at Annual Luncheon

Protesting is patriotic but requires persistence, journalist and author Elaine Weiss told guests Wednesday at the annual 2018 Susan B. Anthony Birthday Luncheon.

The annual luncheon is held each year in mid-February to celebrate Susan B. Anthony's birthday and to honor contemporary women who continue her legacy. In addition, Feb. 14, 2018, is the bicentennial of the date that Frederick Douglass chose as his birthday, and he was recognized as well.

Anthony and Douglass, who were friends, battled together and separately for justice. The issues and conflicts of their day seem fresh and new, speakers said.

Today is "another period of peril for our government by the people," said Weiss, who was the keynote speaker. She is the author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, a narrative account of the climax of the woman's suffrage movement; the book will be published by Viking in March.

"Rights we thought were secure — voting, citizenship rights, press freedom, women's rights — are endangered once again," she said.

She noted commonalities between the suffragists and today's protesters.

"They were the original 'she persisted,'" she said. "They didn't wear pink pussy hats but they did wear their marching clothes."



Elaine Weiss, journalist and author, speaks at the annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Luncheon on Feb. 14, 2018.

In turn, some of today's protesters borrow from the iconography of the suffrage movement.

The battle for suffrage took 70 years and three generations, and Anthony did not live to see the passing of the 19th Amendment, Weiss reminded those gathered at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center.

"There are important lessons to be learned from the history of the suffragists: that social change is slow and political change is hard, but persistence and commitment is essential," she said.

The annual birthday luncheon has grossed more than \$1 million for The National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House over the past 12 years. Roughly 13,000 people visited the house at 17 Madison St. last year.