Truth, Sanger inducted into Women's Hall of Fame

By DAVID L. SHAW

SENeca FALLS — Sojourner Truth, a former slave who fought for freedom in the 1800’s, and birth control advocate Margaret H. Sanger were inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame last night.

The pair, the 28th and 29th inductees since 1973, had their lives depicted in a slide show before their awards were accepted by living relatives or representatives.

In accepting the award on behalf of her grandmother, New York City attorney Alexander C. Sanger praised her courage and convictions, and said she was “the consummate feminist, yet a contradiction by living in the age.”

“She sacrificed much in her personal life. She was an inspiration for what one woman can accomplish, and a warning of the costs of that success. She remains controversial today, yet when you honor her, you honor yourselves,” said Sanger.

Outside, two pro-life advocates distributed printed material that painted Sanger as favoring forced sterilization and for allegedly being a racist as “Planned Parenthood’s patron saint.”

Accepting the award for Sojourner Truth, who died in 1883, was Francis Valentine of Battle Creek, Mich., former secretary of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Association.

“We loved her very much and remember so many things she did. Her talks and deeds will long be remembered,” said Valentine.

The presentations were followed by a dramatic presentation of a play produced by actress Tula S. Mckinley.

Another part of yesterday’s events was a panel discussion on women’s rights movement. The discussion, the person in charge of Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s home at 32 Washington Street, said her former husband, Ralph of South Lake, Wash., came to the house.

Afterwards, an official of Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation, Inc., which wants to buy the house and turn it over to the National Park Service, expressed the hope that the house will be saved. One of the panelists was Hunt-Wilson of the Omaghi of American Historians. She said the history’s treatment of women has been guided by a fire at that are now changing as “social history” technique is being used.

She said the women of the present are not assigned roles if they meet specific criteria as women. With their role biographies, they discard much of their reviews and in favor of traditional: “There is a new developing history today that does away with the three P’s of power, pressure and periodization of past history.”

At left, marchers dressed in Civil War era uniforms formed one of the many units which joined yesterday’s parade in celebration of the induction of two more women into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls.

Below, at left, the Hall of Fame decorated for the big day. Ten-year-old Nancy Liddle and 8-year-old Marya Plotkin center, model bloomers, a popular item. Both young women are Eaton residents. At right, Tom Cunningham of Geneva,
anger inducted into Women's Hall

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Another part of yesterday's activities was a panel discussion on the women's rights movement. Prior to the discussion, the person in charge of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's former home at 32 Washington St., Morrie Smith, detailed how she and her former husband, Ralph Peters of Seattle, Wash., came to own the house.

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