



Felice Cohn (center) with members of the Reno Chamber of Commerce, early 1950s.
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society

1908, and the bar of the Supreme Court in 1916. As a lawyer, Cohn specialized in mining law, and she later became Nevada's first female Assistant U.S. Attorney. From 1912 to 1922 she held a variety of federal appointments, earning professional distinction and an invitation to the White House from President Woodrow Wilson.

Cohn's most lasting achievements, however, were her efforts on behalf of women's suffrage. As president of the Non-Militant Suffrage Association, she wrote Nevada's suffrage amendment, which was incorporated into the Nevada State Constitution in 1914. Additionally, she was a vocal advocate for child labor reform and adoption laws, and opposed legislation that was discriminatory against women.

For Felice, the term "pioneer" took on several layers of meaning. But it nevertheless remains an interesting paradox of women's history that when she began practicing law before the bar, as a member of the still-disenfranchised female population, she was denied the privilege of serving on a jury.

Assembly Joint and Concurrent Resolution No. 6

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. ARNOLD AND BYRNE

JANUARY 31, 1911

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Rules suspended, reading so far had considered first reading, rules further suspended, read second time by title, and referred to Committee on Elections.

ASSEMBLY JOINT AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RELATIVE TO AMENDING SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, PERTAINING TO THE RIGHT OF ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

Be it Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That section one of article two of the Constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. That at the general election to be held in this State on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1915, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this State for their adoption and approval an amendment to section one, article two, of the Constitution of the State of Nevada, and it is hereby proposed that section one, article two, be amended by inserting in lieu thereof the following, to be known as section one of article two of the Constitution of the State of Nevada:

Section 1. All citizens of the United States (not laboring under the disabilities named in this Constitution) of the age of

The Suffrage Amendment of the Nevada State Constitution was co-written by Felice Cohn in 1914. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society (Full text in Appendix.)

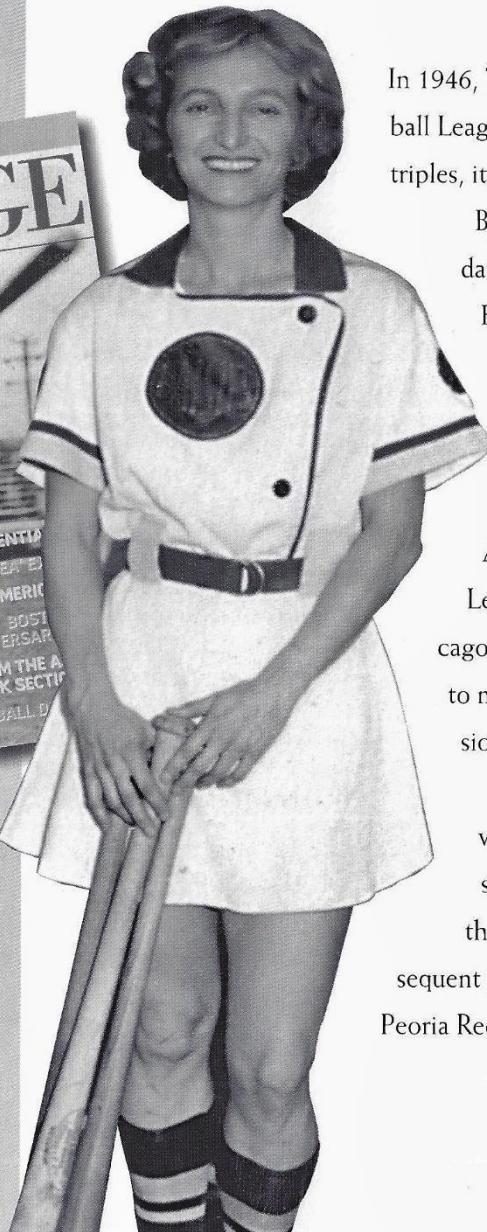
Tiby maintained the steadfast conviction that sports were a legitimate aspiration for a young woman, even one who was Jewish.



HERITAGE magazine (of the American Jewish Historical Society) featured an article about Jewish baseball players with Tiby Eisen on its cover, Fall 2005.

Thelma "Tiby" Eisen

THELMA "TIBY" EISEN (b. 1922) IN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN



In 1946, Thelma "Tiby" Eisen, the ace center fielder of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), stole 128 bases while playing for Peoria. Since she also led the league in triples, it was not a bad year for a Jewish girl from Los Angeles.

By the time she turned fourteen, while many of her friends were learning to cook and darn socks, this athletically precocious daughter of New York-born Dorothy (Schechter) Eisen and Austrian-born David Eisen was sliding into third base. But it is mildly amusing that the diminutive Eisen first contemplated a career with one of the first projected women's professional football teams. While ultimately the sport never caught on, Eisen's team did play a game in Guadalajara to a packed stadium.

With five other girls from California, Eisen was invited to try out for the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, formed during World War II by Chicago Cubs owner, Phil Wrigley. Wrigley hoped to maintain interest in the game while professional players were off fighting the war.

Eisen signed a contract with the Milwaukee Chicks, playing 107 games in 1944, stealing 91 bases, and leading the Chicks to the first of their three championships. In subsequent years the star center fielder played for the Peoria Redwings, and then played out the remainder

57 AA GABL										THELMA EISEN				Born: 5/11/22 Los Angeles, CA Height: 5'4" Weight: 130 Batted: Right Threw: Right		
YEAR	TEAM	BATTING RECORD										SB	BB	SO	AVG	
		G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB					
1944	Milwaukee	107	392	55	80	6	3	1	41	91	28	12	204			
1945	Grand Rapids	103	392	41	94	16	1	1	34	41	38	15	240			
1946	Peoria	99	363	68	93	3	9	2	30	128	52	10	256			
1947	Peoria/Fort Wayne	111	425	49	92	5	1	3	26	52	26	13	216			
1948	Fort Wayne	121	464	67	102	10	5	4	30	88	29	25	220			
1949	Fort Wayne	109	424	59	79	0	2	0	22	75	24	14	214			
1950	Fort Wayne	106	432	87	103	20	3	0	19	75	55	27	238			
1951	Fort Wayne	104	399	88	78	17	1	0	21	88	73	14	195			
1952	Fort Wayne	106	415	77	110	6	1	0	22	54	35	17	265			
Total		966	3706	591	830	85	23	11	242	674	372	164	.224			

"Tiby" was selected for the 1946 All-Star team. That year she tied for the league lead in triples and second in stolen bases. She played on the South American tour.

© 1995 Larry Fritsch Cards
Official Baseball Card Of The AAGPBL - Players Association

Tiby Eisen's trading card shows that 1946 was her most successful year, with a batting average of .256 and 30 RBIs. In that year she played the outfield in the All Star Game.



Milwaukee Chicks, 1944 (Eisen is in the back row, third from the right.)

of her career for Fort Wayne.

The AAGPBL teams played games every day, two on Sundays, riding buses through the night to their next destination. During her career with professional baseball—spanning the years 1944 to 1952—Eisen is credited with 1,857 putouts in 959 games, averaging 70 stolen bases a year.

Despite its financial benefits, Eisen's family did not share her enthusiasm for her chosen profession, instead expressing their concern that professional baseball was not a socially acceptable livelihood for a girl. They felt that sliding into a base, her uniform covered in dirt and grass stains, her knees skinned and bleeding, demonstrated a lack of regard for contemporary canons of femininity. But Eisen maintained the steadfast conviction that sports were a legitimate aspiration for a young woman, even one who was Jewish.

Perhaps anticipating this criticism Wrigley determined that his "all-American girls" live up to contemporary standards of femininity. The league required them to attend the Helena Rubenstein Salon for night time charm-school instruction in personal hygiene, proper dress, and etiquette.

Eisen continued to play softball after the AAGPBL was disbanded. Considered by many to be one of the league's top players, she was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. Tiby never married, and lives in California today, still dreaming about stealing home.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

The baseball movie is the successful fusion of two of America's favorite pastimes.

*But this film genre has come a long way from the romanticized *Pride of the Yankees* (1942) with Gary Cooper to the cheeky feminist *A League of Their Own* (1992). In the 1992 film, directed by Penny Marshall and starring Madonna, Geena Davis, and Rosie O'Donnell, the female stars spent months training to look like professional athletes.*

To prepare for the 1942 film about the legendary lefty Lou Gehrig, Gary Cooper, who had never swung a baseball bat, trained briefly with professional players, but to little avail. The hunky movie idol was right-handed and could not swing convincingly from the left side of the plate. Sam Wood, the film's director, came up with a brilliant suggestion: Cooper wore a reversed number 4 on his back, batted right-handed, and ran to third base. They then flipped the film to make it look like he was batting left and running to first.

*Their exploration
into the structure
of cancer cells . . .
resulted in new
chemotherapy
treatments for
leukemia and
other cancers.*

GERTRUDE BELLE ELION (1918–1999) CANCER RESEARCHER, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER



Elion, circa 1950.



*Gertrude Elion at work in her
lab in the 1980s*

As a young woman, after the death of her grandfather from stomach cancer and then losing her fiancé to a bacterial infection, Gertrude Elion determined that she was going to spend her life curing disease.

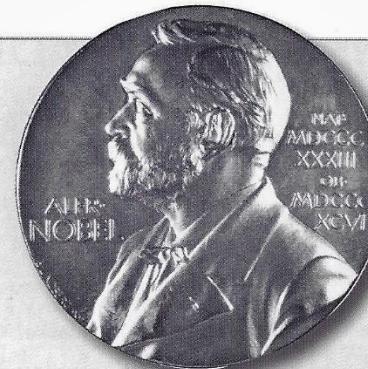
Gertrude, known to family and friends as "Trudy," was born in New York City, the child of East European immigrants. She graduated from the Walton School at the age of fifteen and entered Hunter College at the height of the Depression. In 1937 she graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in chemistry. She sought work in the field, but soon came to find that jobs for female chemists were nonexistent. Working first as a secretary, then teaching at a hospital and a high school, Trudy continued doing graduate work, and earned an MA from New York University in 1941.

Like many other women whose careers in science were swiftly curtailed by gender discrimination, Trudy's break came during World War II. Her initial jobs in the industry were less than gratifying, such as measuring the acidity of pickles and the color of mayonnaise. But in 1944 she was hired by the pharmaceutical company Burroughs Wellcome as the research assistant for George Hitchings, the Harvard-trained scientist who had already begun research into the metabolism of nucleic acids, the building blocks of DNA.

Trudy remained at Burroughs Wellcome for the next four decades. She began her doctoral work at Brooklyn Polytechnic, but it was cut short when she was forced

THE NOBEL PRIZE: AN AWARD LIKE NO OTHER

The Nobel Prize, regarded as the supreme commendation in the world today, is awarded annually to those who have done exceptional research, invented groundbreaking techniques or equipment, or made outstanding contributions to society. The five awards, in physics, chemistry, medicine or physiology, literature, and peace, were instituted in 1901 by Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist and the inventor of dynamite. He was appalled by the destructive uses of his invention and was determined to honor those who served mankind. The formal award ceremony is held annually on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.



THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

The medal of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences represents Nature in the form of a goddess resembling Isis, emerging from the clouds and holding in her arms a cornucopia. The veil covering her face is held up by the Genius of Science.

The inscription reads: *Inventas vitam juvat excoluisse per artes.* ("And they who bettered life on earth by new found mastery.") Literally: inventions enhance life which is beautified through art.

The words are taken from Vergilius Aeneid, the sixth song, verse 663: "Lo, God-loved poets, men who spake things worthy Phoebus' heart; and they who bettered life on earth by new-found mastery."

The name of the laureate is engraved on the plate below the figures, and the text "REG. ACAD. SCIENT SUEC" stands for The Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

to choose between the program and her job. Between 1944 and 1967, the year Trudy became the head of their department of experimental therapy, she and Hitchings collaborated on ground-breaking research. Their exploration into the structure of cancer cells and the compounds inhibiting their growth resulted in new chemotherapy treatments for leukemia and other cancers. Other discoveries included immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplants and rheumatoid arthritis and an antiviral agent to fight herpes. Trudy was involved also in the early stages of AZT development for AIDS patients.

In 1983 Trudy retired from Burroughs Wellcome, but she continued to serve as a consultant to many organizations, including the World Health Organization and the American Association for Cancer Research. Throughout her scientific career, Trudy was the recipient of dozens of honors and awards, including her induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1991. But her most prestigious honor came in 1988 when Gertrude Elion, George Hitchings, and Sir James Black together won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for their pioneering and life-saving work in drug research.

She imbued her writing with an abiding reverence for the potential of America.

EDNA FERBER (1885–1968)

AMERICAN STORYTELLER

Edna Ferber was one of the most prolific and commercially successful novelists of the first half of the twentieth century, and was a member of the celebrated and elitist Algonquin Round Table. Yet, ironically, she always felt like an outsider. It was perhaps her traumatic experiences with racial prejudice growing up in America's heartland that were etched into her psyche, but she nevertheless imbued her writing with an abiding reverence for the potential of America. Her immensely popular works celebrated strong women and the hope for the alleviation of the racial divide, winning her a Pulitzer prize and collaborative relationships with some of America's foremost playwrights.

Edna was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the daughter of Julia (Neumann) and Jacob Ferber. The family was in search of financial stability, but had little success. They moved frequently, to Ottumwa, Iowa, and then to Appleton, Wisconsin, where Edna ended her formal schooling and secured a position writing for the *Appleton Daily Crescent*. Throughout the family's sojourns in small-town America, the young Edna was often subjected to anti-Semitic taunts, which left indelible scars. Several years later, the *Chicago Tribune* refused to give her a position because she was a woman. The discriminatory experiences of anti-Semitism and sexism helped her distill her narrative voice, filling her writing with strong women and the racially downtrodden.

Edna gained recognition with the publications of *Dawn O'Hara* (1911) and her *Emma McChesney* stories (1915), and in 1924 she won the Pulitzer for *So Big*. Each is the story of a strong female protagon-



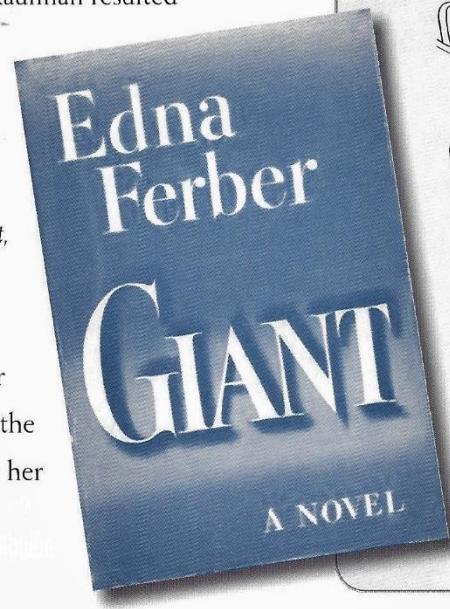
Edna Ferber, 1959

Young Edna Ferber

nist who must overcome the enormous social obstacles encountered by women. These successes were followed by *Show Boat* (1926), *Cimarron* (1929), and, much later, *Giant* (1952). These novels all explored racial discord, including miscegenation (inter-racial marriage), a legal and cultural taboo. Edna's characters reflect the multi-ethnic experience, outsiders in search of acceptance.

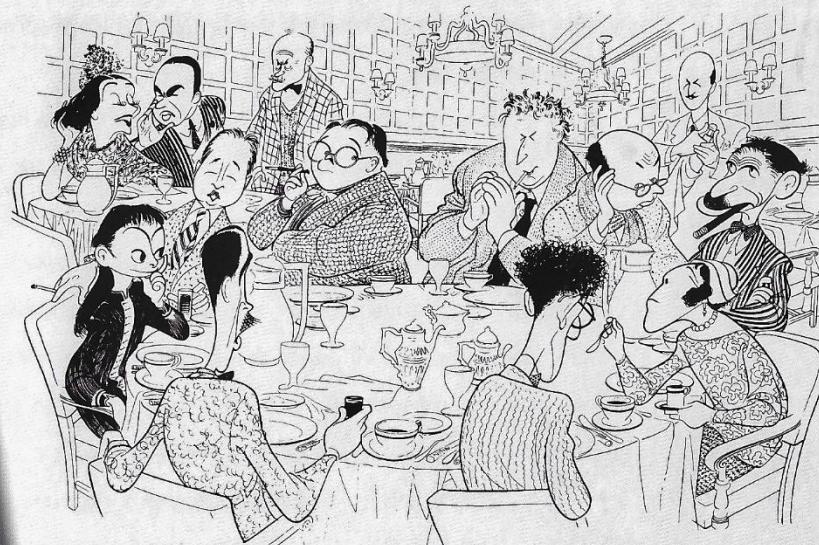
By the mid-1920s, Edna was living in New York and was regarded by many as the greatest American woman novelist of the day. She joined the famous Algonquin Round Table, where some of New York's most brilliant and successful playwrights, novelists, and actors engaged in witty, charming, and often brutal repartee. Her association with fellow member George S. Kaufman resulted in a number of collaborations for the stage, including *Dinner at Eight*, *Stage Door*, and *The Land is Bright*. In the 1950s, several of Edna's novels—*Cimarron*, *Showboat*, and *Giant*—were adapted for the screen.

Edna never married, but her enduring love for America, both the ideal and the real, remained with her until her death.



THE ALGONQUIN ROUND TABLE

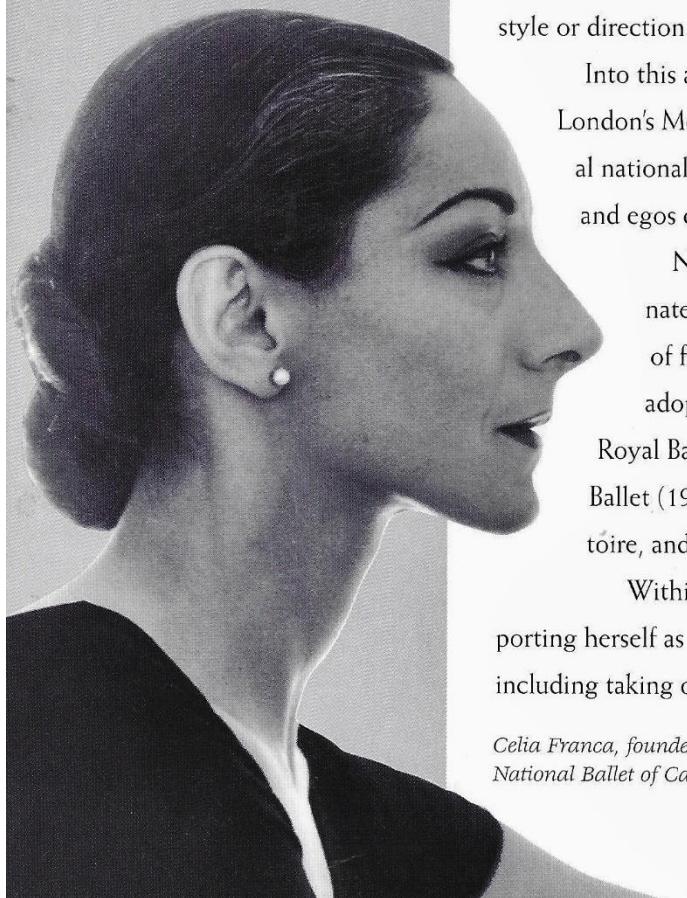
Edna Ferber called them "The Poison Squad." It all began one afternoon with a roast of New York Times drama critic Alexander Wollcott. A number of famous New York writers met up at the Algonquin Hotel on 44th Street and had such a rollicking good time that they decided to meet again the next day. By the mid-1920s the Round Table was famous, and it became a ritual for more than a decade. The original group (listed below) was joined by occasional invited guests who shared in the humorous or bitingly vicious repartee. Often their comments and spats appeared in one another's columns. The collection of highly verbal and creative minds sometimes resulted in collaborative works, such as those of George Kaufman and Edna Ferber. A decade after it started, in part due to hardship caused by the Depression and because many of its members had relocated to Hollywood, the Algonquin Round Table was over.



Al Hirschfeld's famous cartoon of the Algonquin Round Table
(Seated at the table, clockwise from left: Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, Alexander Wollcott, Heywood Broun, Marc Connelly, Franklin P. Adams, Edna Ferber, George S. Kaufman, Robert Sherwood. In back from left to right: frequent Algonquin guests Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt, Frank Browninshield, and Frank Case.)

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*Franca forged
a creative (and
sometime volatile)
complex of talent,
ambition and
shrewdness into
a world class
cultural institution.*



CELIA FRANCA (1921–2007)

FOUNDER OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL BALLET

In the mid-twentieth century, ballet in Canada was a loose configuration of small local dance troupes and ballet schools, with occasional brief tours by European companies. There were also a number of talented dancers spread out in communities from the Maritime Provinces to Western Canada creating local sensations but with little uniformity in style or direction.

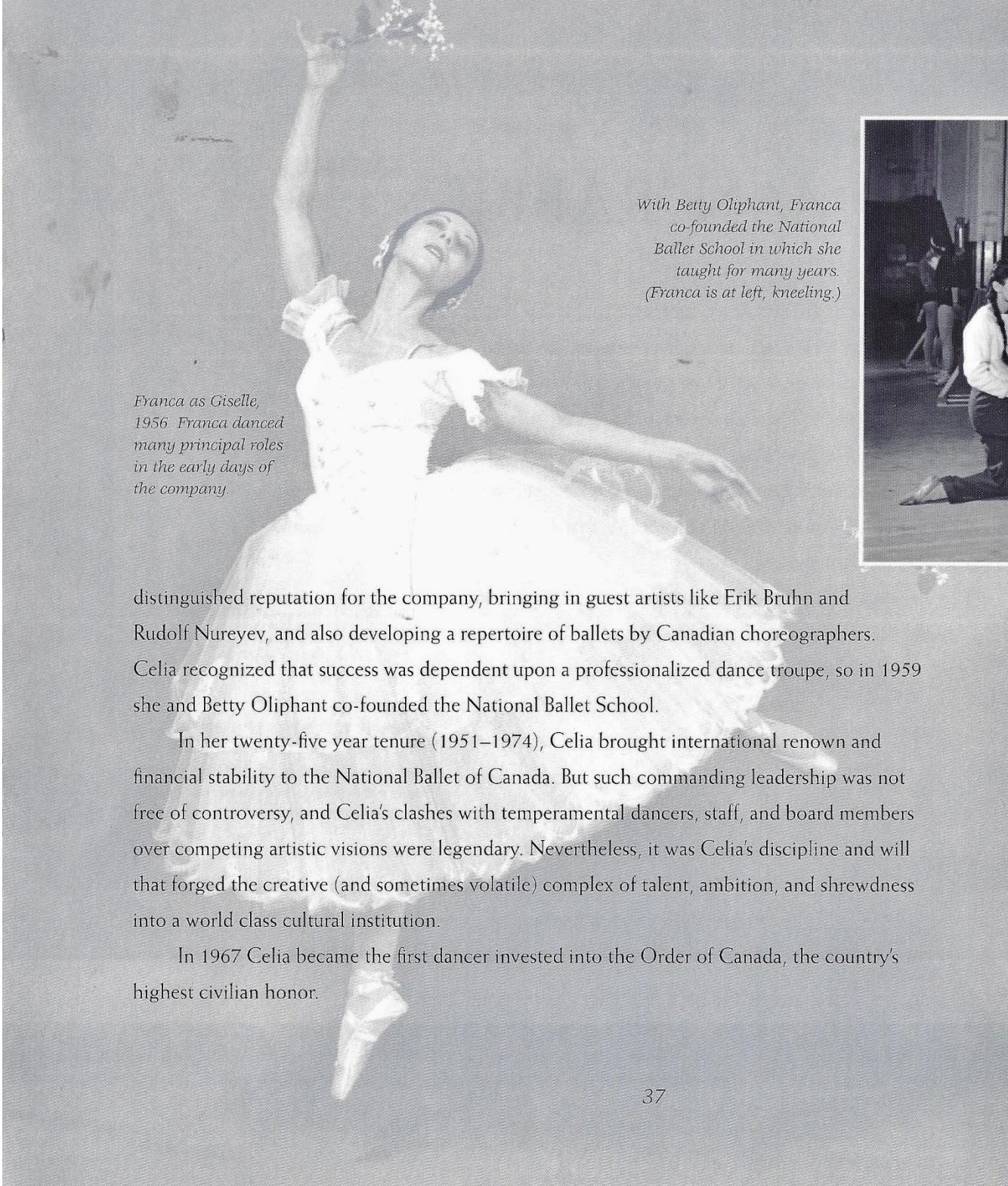
Into this amorphous tangle of talent, Celia Franca, soloist and ballet mistress of London's Metropolitan Ballet, was imported for the purpose of creating a professional national ballet company. It took several decades—with scores of bruised muscles and egos cluttering the course—but Celia achieved this monumental task.

Nita Celia Franks was born in London, the daughter of East European immigrants. She was already fascinated by dance as a small child, and despite her parents' skepticism about its value, she began lessons at the age of four. She made her dance debut in 1936, and became a soloist with the Ballet Rambert (1936–1938). She adopted the stage name Celia Franca, and then became the leading dramatic dancer at Sadler's Wells (now the Royal Ballet). After that she was a dancer and teacher with Ballet Jooss (1947), and then with the Metropolitan Ballet (1947–1949). By the time Celia departed for Canada, she had performed many works in the classical repertoire, and was beginning to excel as a teacher and dance company organizer.

Within ten months of Celia's arrival in Toronto, she established the fledgling National Ballet of Canada, supporting herself as a secretary at Eaton's department store. She was forced to operate the company on a shoestring budget, including taking on principal roles in early productions of *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*. But gradually she developed a

*Celia Franca, founder of the
National Ballet of Canada*





Franca as Giselle, 1956. Franca danced many principal roles in the early days of the company.

With Betty Oliphant, Franca co-founded the National Ballet School in which she taught for many years. (Franca is at left, kneeling.)

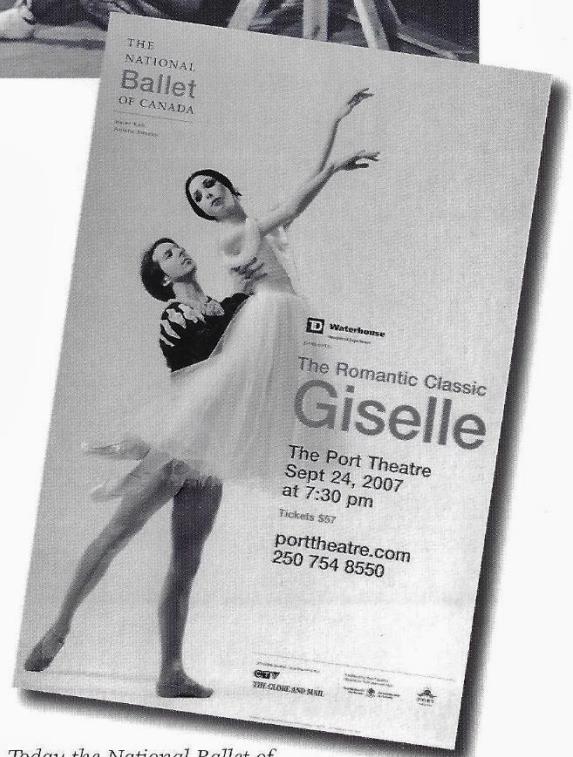


distinguished reputation for the company, bringing in guest artists like Erik Bruhn and Rudolf Nureyev, and also developing a repertoire of ballets by Canadian choreographers.

Celia recognized that success was dependent upon a professionalized dance troupe, so in 1959 she and Betty Oliphant co-founded the National Ballet School.

In her twenty-five year tenure (1951–1974), Celia brought international renown and financial stability to the National Ballet of Canada. But such commanding leadership was not free of controversy, and Celia's clashes with temperamental dancers, staff, and board members over competing artistic visions were legendary. Nevertheless, it was Celia's discipline and will that forged the creative (and sometimes volatile) complex of talent, ambition, and shrewdness into a world class cultural institution.

In 1967 Celia became the first dancer invested into the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honor.



Today the National Ballet of Canada is a world class dance company.

This "latter-day Deborah" delivered a Rosh Hashanah sermon to a packed crowd of one thousand listeners.



Ray Frank Litman

RAY FRANK (1861–1949)

FIRST WOMAN “RABBI”

Eighty-two years before the ordination of the first American female rabbi, Ray Frank, referred to by local newspapers as "Lady Rabbi" and "latter-day Deborah," delivered

a Rosh Hashanah sermon to a packed crowd of one thousand in Spokane, Washington. She preached the following morning and again on Yom Kippur. Within a brief period of time, Frank's reputation as a preacher spread throughout the region as she helped struggling young traditional and Reform congregations to heal ideological rifts and create successful local communal and religious institutions.

There may not be any significance to the fact that Ray Frank, born and raised in a religious home in San Francisco, was the great-great-granddaughter of the Vilna Gaon (Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon).

Vilna Gaon (Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon). She attended public school, and upon graduation moved to Nevada, where she taught in both public and religious schools for a number of years.

Later, in 1890, while writing for several northern Californian newspapers, she arrived in Spokane on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Discovering that there was neither a synagogue nor communal plans for High Holiday services, she offered to deliver a sermon if the community could provide a minyan. A special evening edition of the *Spokane Falls Gazette* announced that

WORK OF A WOMAN RABBI

Ray Frank's Opinions on Large Subjects.

Believes in the Intellectual Woman at Home.

A Young Jewish Enthusiast Who Lectures on Art, Religion and the Family.

"The home before everything," says Miss Ray Frank, the remarkable young woman who has been a teacher, lecturer and orator, and who has written many other things that have taken her far and wide over the country.

The contradiction between herself and her theories has been a source of trouble to her with a few words of explanation. Miss Frank's aims and hopes are high, her studies are thorough, and she is as astonished as if she did not find the world hereafter to be the place for the well-qualified professional woman as well as the wife in the traditional sense.

"In no walk of life," she said, "can a woman be more useful than in the highest degree in the true sense. A mother whose work is the training of young minds will be of more value to the world, the State and the State, cannot bring too much mental equipment to her work."

"Women should be one-abled in being

only domestic. The fact is the other way now. There are still unfeeling, they are beginning to feel how important women are, and the facts are. They must be known, and the time is near that every innovation, every change is to be made. The woman is the most intellectual life in the streets."

"I work especially chiefly to the Jewish woman, who, through all the ages, has been the backbone, the foundation of the family. Will she now, at this late day, when her intellects are equal to those of men, stand on an equal with that of men, forsooth her husband will be the man who has fulfilled so long and so nobly?"

Miss Frank speaks with a depth of knowledge and a clearness of expression. Her words flow with a dull red, constant glow, and the light of her eyes, which never loses itself in vacuity, seems to come from the sun—it is always enlivened by a rich human sympathy. Her voice is strong, clear, and ringing, and veiled with the absent gaze of the earnest and dreamy, now shilling brilliant with hope, with the glow of purpose.

"I am asked what I am trying to do in all this work of mine," she concluded. "I want to have the Jew understand himself as a man and realize himself as a man to society in general. I want him to understand that he must stand the Jew as a man and to know that he must stand the Jew as a man to adhere to the old faith, but must nothing else, and that he must stand the Jew as a man to understand himself and to be worthy of his great race."

MISS RAY FRANK.

Ray Frank is quoted by the San Francisco Bulletin (November 15, 1895): "The home before everything." Her views on women were complex and sometimes contradictory.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RAY FRANK MILESTONES OF JEWISH FEMINIST HISTORY

1972 *Sally Priesand is ordained as the first woman rabbi at Hebrew Union College. Ezrat Nashim calls for egalitarian reform in the Conservative movement.*

1973 *The first National Conference on Jewish Women is held in New York City. Response: A Contemporary Jewish Review devotes an entire issue to Jewish feminism: "The Jewish Woman: An Anthology" (Summer 1973).*

1976 *"Through the Looking Glass," a conference on women's spirituality, brings 1,500 women to Boston. Lilith, the first Jewish feminist publication, is founded. The first feminist seder is held in New York City.*

1977 *The Jewish Theological Seminary convenes its Commission on the Ordination of Women as Rabbis.*

1979 *Drisha Institute, the first center for women's advanced study of classical Jewish texts, is founded.*

1985 *Amy Eilberg is ordained as the first female Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary.*

1993 *Anne Lapidus Lerner is the first woman to be appointed vice chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary.*

1995 *The Jewish Women's Archive, the first research facility of its kind, is established in Brookline, Massachusetts.*

1996 *JOFA, The Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance is established.*

2002 *Rela Geffen is appointed president of Baltimore Hebrew University, the first woman to head a Jewish institution of higher learning.*

2006 *Dina Najman is the first Orthodox woman appointed "spiritual leader" of Kehillat Orach of Manhattan.*

she would be preaching that evening. Over a thousand Jews and non-Jews attended the service.

Her fame caught the eye of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, president of Hebrew Union College, who praised her pioneering spirit in his own publication *The American Israelite*. In 1893, Frank delivered the opening prayer and a formal address, "Women in the Synagogue," at the first Jewish Women's Congress, held during the Chicago World's Fair. Demand continued for her services, including an offer by a Reform congregation in Chicago to serve as its full-time spiritual leader, which she declined.

While Ray Frank's career paralleled the emergence of women in the public realm, particularly in newly established women's organizations that promoted social reform, their participation did not extend to the domain of the synagogue and public ritual. Those boundaries remained firmly intact until the onset of Jewish feminism in the early 1970s.

In fact, when Ray Frank married Dr. Simon Litman, a professor of economics, in 1901, she ceased her dual careers. She did continue to teach privately in her home, and in her own Reform congregation and community. Her career as a preacher was short and largely forgotten, only to be recovered by later generations of Jewish feminist historians.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1893, 10 A.M.

PRAYER

RAY FRANK, OAKLAND

Almighty God, Creator and Ruler of the universe, through those justice and mercy this first convention of Jewish women has been permitted to assemble, accept our thanks, and hearken, O Lord, to our prayer.

In times past, when storms of cruel persecution drove us toward the reefs of adversity, seemingly overwhelmed by misfortune, we had faith in Thee and Thy works, ever trusting and believing that Thou ordainest all things well. Because of this faith, we feel that Thou hast, in the course of events, caused this glorious congress to convene, that it may give expression to that which shall spread broadcast a knowledge of Thee and Thy deeds.

Grant, then, Thy blessing upon those assembled, and upon the object of their meeting. May the peculiar circumstances, which have brought together, under one roof, both Catholic and Jew, who, for centuries, have been seeking to serve Thee, though in different ways, be a promise of future peace. Grant, we beseech Thee, that this convention may be productive of that which is in accordance with Thy will.

Bless, O Lord, this our country and the President thereof, and all the people of the land. May love and peace be the heritage of men, to remain with them forever. Amen

Text of prayer given by Ray Frank at the Jewish Women's Congress in Chicago, 1893.

Text of prayer given by Ray Frank at the Jewish Women's Congress in Chicago, 1893