

H E N R Y M O R R I S O N

FLAGLER MUSEUM

— PALM BEACH, FLORIDA —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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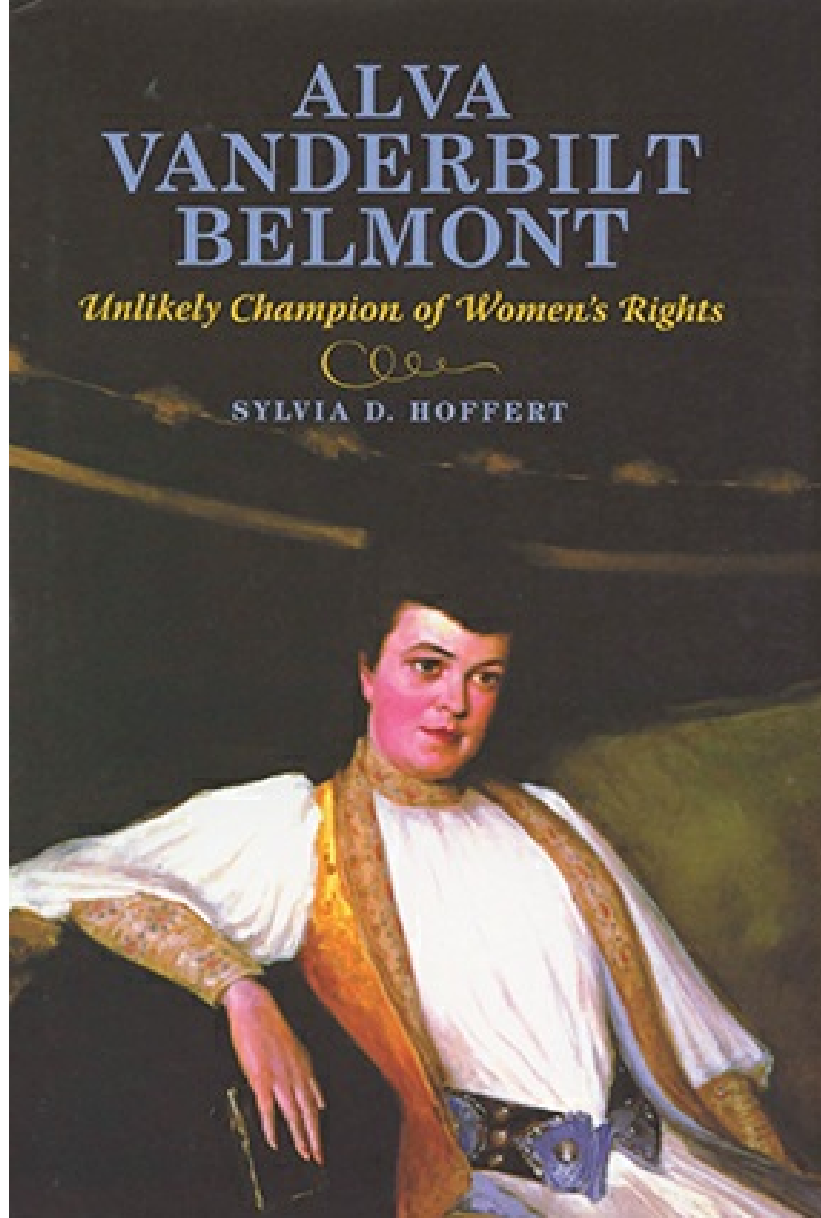
(651) 655-2833

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Special Lecture

Alva Vanderbilt Belmont:

Unlikely Champion of Women's Rights



Palm Beach, FL - On January 19th at 6:00p.m. The Flagler Museum will host a Special Lecture, *Alva Vanderbilt Belmont: Unlikely Champion of Women's Rights*. Tickets are free for Museum Members at the Sustaining level and above, \$10 for Individual, Family, and Life Members, and \$20 for non-members.

Dr. Sylvia Hoffert, Professor at Texas A&M, and author of *Alva Vanderbilt Belmont: Unlikely Champion of Women's Rights* will present the lecture.

Born Alva Erskine Smith to an affluent cotton broker on January 17, 1853, in Mobile, Alabama, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont led a fascinating life. Educated in France, where her family moved after the Civil War, Alva returned to the United States in the early 1870s, settling in New York City with her mother and sisters. In 1875 she married William K. Vanderbilt, grandson of transportation tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt, and immediately set about to advance her and her husband's status by commissioning Richard Morris Hunt to design their mansion on Fifth Avenue, and later a summer home in Newport, inspired by the

Petit Trianon at Versailles and known as Marble House.

Alva Vanderbilt shocked society in March 1895 when she divorced Vanderbilt and married one of her former husband's friends Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont, taking up residence across the street in Newport in Belcourt Castle.

Following Oliver Belmont's death in 1908, Alva invested her time and fortune in service of the struggle for women's suffrage and rights, founding the Political Equality Association in New York City, and later becoming involved in the National Women's Party. Following the ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote in 1920, Alva took over the leadership of the NWP and helped establish its new headquarters in Washington, D.C.

For more information, or to purchase tickets please call the Flagler Museum at (561) 655-2833 or visit www.FlaglerMuseum.us.

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About The Flagler Museum

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the New York Herald as "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world." Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs. The Museum is located at One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 5:00 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 13-17, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and children under six are free. For more information visit www.flaglERMuseum.us or call (561) 655-2833.

To schedule a media visit contact publicaffairsdirector@flaglERMuseum.us.

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